

Check Your Understanding

1. Given that $f(x) = 2x^2(x^3 - 3)$, find $f'(x)$ in two different ways.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \textcircled{1} \quad f'(x) &= (x^3 - 3) \cdot \frac{d}{dx} 2x^2 + 2x^2 \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (x^3 - 3) \\
 &= (x^3 - 3) \cdot 2 \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (x^2) + 2x^2 \cdot (3x^2 + 0) \\
 &= (x^3 - 3) \cdot 2 \cdot 2x + 2x^2 \cdot (3x^2) \\
 &= 4x(x^3 - 3) + 6x^4 \\
 &= 4x^4 - 12x + 6x^4 \\
 &= \boxed{10x^4 - 12x}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \textcircled{2} \quad &\text{Simplify first by distributing} \\
 &\text{"Rewrite"} \\
 f(x) &= (2x^2)(x^3 - 3) \\
 &= 2x^5 - 6x^2 \\
 f'(x) &= \boxed{10x^4 - 12x}
 \end{aligned}$$

2. Find $\frac{dg}{dt}$ using the product rule if $g(t) = \frac{e^t}{t^2}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 g(t) &= \frac{e^t}{t^2} = e^t \cdot t^{-2} \\
 \frac{dg}{dt} &= (e^t) \frac{d}{dt} (t^{-2}) + (t^{-2}) \frac{d}{dt} (e^t) \\
 &= e^t \cdot -2t^{-3} + t^{-2} \cdot e^t \\
 &= e^t (-2t^{-3} + t^{-2}) \\
 &= e^t \left(\frac{-2}{t^3} + \frac{1}{t^2} \right) \\
 &= e^t \left(\frac{-2}{t^3} + \frac{1}{t^2} \cdot \frac{t}{t} \right) \quad \text{"1 in"} \\
 &= \boxed{e^t \left(\frac{-2+t}{t^3} \right)} = \boxed{\frac{(t-2)e^t}{t^3}}
 \end{aligned}$$

3. Find $f'(x)$ if $f(x) = 4x^3 \ln x$

$$f'(x) = 4x^3 \cdot \frac{d}{dx} \ln x + \ln x \cdot \frac{d}{dx} 4x^3$$

$$= 4x^3 \cdot \frac{1}{x} + \ln x \cdot 12x^2$$

$$\text{"1 out"} = 4x^2 \cdot \frac{x}{x} + 12x^2 \ln x$$

$$= \boxed{4x^2 + 12x^2 \ln x} \text{ or } \boxed{4x^2(1 + 3 \ln x)}$$

both are fine!

4. If $f(x) = xe^x$, report each. Hint: Look back. Look forward.

a. $f'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} xe^x$

$$= x \cdot \frac{d}{dx} e^x + e^x \cdot \frac{d}{dx} x$$

$$= x \cdot e^x + e^x \cdot 1$$

$$= \boxed{xe^x + e^x}$$

b. $f''(x) = \frac{d}{dx} xe^x + \frac{d}{dx} e^x$

$$= \boxed{\text{Answer to part a}} + e^x$$

$$= xe^x + e^x + e^x = \boxed{xe^x + 2e^x}$$

c. $f'''(x) = \frac{d}{dx} xe^x + \frac{d}{dx} 2e^x$

$$= \boxed{\text{Answer to part a}} + 2 \cdot e^x$$

$$= xe^x + e^x + 2e^x = \boxed{xe^x + 3e^x}$$

d. $f^{(100)}(x) = \boxed{xe^x + 100e^x}$ generalizing the above.

e. $f^{(n)}(x) = \boxed{xe^x + ne^x}$