



## LEIBNITZ THEOREM

**Statement:**

If  $f$  and  $g$  are functions of a variable  $x$ , then  $n$ th derivative of  $(f \cdot g)$  can be defined as

$$(f \cdot g)^{(n)} = f^{(n)} g + {}^n C_1 f^{(n-1)} g^{(1)} + {}^n C_2 f^{(n-2)} g^{(2)} + \dots + {}^n C_{n-1} f^{(1)} g^{(n-1)} + f g^{(n)}$$

where  $(f \cdot g)^{(n)} = D^n (f \cdot g)$ ,  $D^n = \frac{d^n}{dx^n}$  and  ${}^n C_r = \frac{n!}{(n-r)! r!}$

**Proof:**

Suppose that  $P(n)$  represents the proposition

$$(f \cdot g)^{(n)} = f^{(n)} g + {}^n C_1 f^{(n-1)} g^{(1)} + {}^n C_2 f^{(n-2)} g^{(2)} + \dots + {}^n C_{n-1} f^{(1)} g^{(n-1)} + f g^{(n)} \rightarrow (1)$$

**For  $n = 1$ :**

First derivative of  $(f \cdot g)$

$$\begin{aligned} (f \cdot g)^{(1)} &= D(f \cdot g) \\ &= f^{(1)} g + f g^{(1)} \end{aligned} \rightarrow (2)$$

On substituting  $n = 1$  in (1), we get

$$(f \cdot g)^{(1)} = f^{(1)} g + f g^{(1)}$$

which is same as (2)

$P(n)$  is true for  $n = 1$ .

**For  $n = 2$ :**

Second derivative of  $(f \cdot g)$

$$\begin{aligned} (f \cdot g)^{(2)} &= D^2 (f \cdot g) = D \{D(f \cdot g)\} \\ &= D(f^{(1)} g + f g^{(1)}) \\ &= f^{(2)} g + f^{(1)} g^{(1)} + f^{(1)} g^{(1)} + f g^{(2)} \\ &= f^{(2)} g + 2f^{(1)} g^{(1)} + f g^{(2)} \end{aligned} \rightarrow (3)$$

Substituting  $n = 2$  in (1), we get

$$\begin{aligned}(f \cdot g)^{(2)} &= f^{(2)}g + {}^nC_1 f^{(1)} g^{(1)} + fg^{(2)} \\ &= f^{(2)}g + 2f^{(1)} g^{(1)} + fg^{(2)}\end{aligned}$$

which is same as (3).

**For  $n = k$ :**

Suppose that  $P(n)$  is true for  $n = k$ .

$$(f \cdot g)^{(k)} = f^{(k)}g + {}^kC_1 f^{(k-1)} g^{(1)} + {}^kC_2 f^{(k-2)} g^{(2)} + \dots + {}^kC_{k-1} f^{(1)} g^{(k-1)} + fg^{(k)}$$

**For  $n = k + 1$ :**

We prove that  $P(n)$  is true for  $n = k + 1$

$$\begin{aligned}(f \cdot g)^{(k+1)} &= D^{k+1} (f \cdot g) = D \{D^k (f \cdot g)\} \\ &= D \{f^{(k)}g + {}^kC_1 f^{(k-1)} g^{(1)} + {}^kC_2 f^{(k-2)} g^{(2)} + \dots + {}^kC_{k-1} f^{(1)} g^{(k-1)} + fg^{(k)}\} \\ &= D(f^{(k)}g) + {}^kC_1 D(f^{(k-1)} g^{(1)}) + {}^kC_2 D(f^{(k-2)} g^{(2)}) + \dots + {}^kC_{k-1} D(f^{(1)} g^{(k-1)}) \\ &\quad + D(fg^{(k)}) \\ &= f^{(k+1)}g + f^{(k)} g^{(1)} + {}^kC_1 f^{(k)} g^{(1)} + {}^kC_1 f^{(k-1)} g^{(2)} + {}^kC_2 f^{(k-1)} g^{(2)} + {}^kC_2 f^{(k-2)} g^{(3)} \\ &\quad + \dots + {}^kC_{k-1} f^{(2)} g^{(k-1)} + {}^kC_{k-1} f^{(1)} g^{(k)} + f^{(1)} g^{(k)} + fg^{(k+1)} \\ &= f^{(k+1)}g + ({}^kC_0 + {}^kC_1)f^{(k)} g^{(1)} + ({}^kC_1 + {}^kC_2)f^{(k-1)} g^{(2)} + \dots \\ &\quad + ({}^kC_{k-1} + {}^kC_k)f^{(1)} g^{(k)} + fg^{(k+1)}\end{aligned}$$

since  ${}^nC_{r-1} + {}^nC_r = {}^{n+1}C_r$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned}(f \cdot g)^{(k+1)} &= f^{(k+1)}g + {}^{k+1}C_1 f^{(k+1-1)} g^{(1)} + {}^{k+1}C_2 f^{(k+1-2)} g^{(2)} + \dots + {}^{k+1}C_k f^{(1)} g^{(k+1-1)} + fg^{(k+1)}\end{aligned}$$

$P(n)$  is true for  $n = k + 1$

Hence  $P(n)$  is true for all positive integral values of  $n$ .

**Example 7.4:**

Find the fourth derivative of  $x^4 \sin x$  with respect to  $x$ , using Leibnitz theorem

**Solution:**

$$\begin{array}{ll} f(x) = \sin x & , \quad g(x) = x^4 \\ f^{(1)}(x) = \cos x & , \quad g^{(1)}(x) = 4x^3 \\ f^{(2)}(x) = -\sin x & , \quad g^{(2)}(x) = 12x^2 \\ f^{(3)}(x) = -\cos x & , \quad g^{(3)}(x) = 24x \\ f^{(4)}(x) = \sin x & , \quad g^{(4)}(x) = 24 \end{array}$$

By Leibnitz theorem

$$\begin{aligned} (f \cdot g)^{(4)} &= f^{(4)}g + {}^4C_1f^{(3)}g^{(1)} + {}^4C_2f^{(2)}g^{(2)} + {}^4C_3f^{(1)}g^{(3)} + fg^{(4)} \\ &= x^4 \sin x - 16x^3 \cos x - 72x^2 \sin x + 96x \cos x + 24 \sin x. \end{aligned}$$

**Example 7.5:**

Find nth derivative of  $x^4 \sin x$ .

**Solution:**

$$\begin{array}{ll} f(x) = \sin x & , \quad g(x) = x^4 \\ f^{(1)}(x) = \cos x & , \quad g^{(1)}(x) = 4x^3 \\ f^{(2)}(x) = -\sin x & , \quad g^{(2)}(x) = 12x^2 \\ f^{(3)}(x) = -\cos x & , \quad g^{(3)}(x) = 24x \\ f^{(4)}(x) = \sin x & , \quad g^{(4)}(x) = 24 \\ f^{(n)}(x) = \sin\left(x + \frac{n\pi}{2}\right) & \end{array}$$

By Leibnitz theorem

$$(f \cdot g)^{(n)} = f^{(n)}g + {}^nC_1f^{(n-1)}g^{(1)} + {}^nC_2f^{(n-2)}g^{(2)} + {}^nC_3f^{(n-3)}g^{(3)} + {}^nC_4f^{(n-4)}g^{(4)}$$

{The fifth and higher derivative of  $g$  is zero}

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**Example 7.7:**

If  $y = a \cos (\log x)$ , show that

$$x^2 y^{(n+2)} + (2n + 1) xy^{(n+1)} + (n^2 + 1) y^{(n)} = 0$$

**Solution:**

$$y = a \cos (\log x)$$

Differentiate with respect to  $x$

$$y^{(1)} = -a \frac{1}{x} \sin (\log x)$$

$$xy^{(1)} = -a \sin (\log x)$$

Again differentiate with respect to  $x$

$$y^{(1)} + xy^{(2)} = -a \frac{1}{x} \cos (\log x)$$

$$y^{(1)} + xy^{(2)} = -\frac{1}{x} (a \cos (\log x))$$

$$y^{(1)} + xy^{(2)} = -\frac{1}{x} y$$

$$x^2 y^{(2)} + xy^{(1)} + y = 0 \quad \rightarrow (1)$$

By Leibnitz theorem

$$(f \cdot g)^{(n)} = f^{(n)} g + {}^n C_1 f^{(n-1)} g^{(1)} + {}^n C_2 f^{(n-2)} g^{(2)} + \dots + f g^{(n)}$$

*n*th derivative of equation (1).

$$(x^2 y^{(2)})^{(n)} + (xy^{(1)})^{(n)} + (y)^{(n)} = 0$$

Applying Leibnitz theorem, we get

$$[y^{(n+2)} x^2 + {}^n C_1 y^{(n+1)} (2x) + {}^n C_2 y^{(n)} (2)] + [y^{(n+1)} x + {}^n C_1 y^{(n)} (1)] + y^{(n)} = 0$$

$$x^2 y^{(n+2)} + 2nxy^{(n+1)} + (n^2 - n)y^{(n)} + xy^{(n+1)} + ny^{(n)} + y^{(n)} = 0$$

$$x^2 y^{(n+2)} + (2n + 1)xy^{(n+1)} + (n^2 - n + n + 1)y^{(n)} = 0$$

$$x^2 y^{(n+2)} + (2n + 1)xy^{(n+1)} + (n^2 - n)y^{(n)} = 0$$

**EXERCISE**

**Find the 4<sup>th</sup> derivative of the following functions.**

(1)  $F(x) = x^4 e^{6x}$

(2)  $F(x) = \sin x \cos x$

(3)  $F(x) = (x - 1)^7 \cos x$

**Find the 6<sup>th</sup> derivative of the following functions.**

(4)  $F(x) = x^2 \sin x$

(5)  $F(x) = x^4 e^{ax}$

(6)  $F(x) = (x - 5)^7 \cos 5x$

**Find the n<sup>th</sup> differential coefficient of the following functions.**

(7)  $F(x) = x^3 \cos x$

(8)  $F(x) = x^2 \log x$

**(9) show that**

$$x^2 y^{(n+2)} + (2n + 1) xy^{(n+1)} + (n^2 + 1) y^{(n)} = 0$$

if  $y = \sin(\log x) + \cos(\log x)$

**(10) If  $y = ae^{bx^2+1}$ , then show that**

$$y^{(n+2)} - 2bxy^{(n+1)} - 2b(n+1)y^{(n)} = 0$$

**(11) If  $y = ae^{\log x+b}$ , then show that**

$$x^2 y^{(n+2)} + (2n + 1) xy^{(n+1)} + (n^2 + 1) y^{(n)} = 0$$