

Constant multiple rule

$$\frac{d}{dx} (c \cdot f(x)) = c \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (f(x))$$

Prove it. And explain the geometric intuition.

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Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dx} (c \cdot f(x)) \\ &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{c f(x + \Delta x) - c f(x)}{\Delta x} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} c \left(\frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x} \right) \\ &= c \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (f(x)) \end{aligned}$$

Geometric explanation:

The derivative is the slope of the tangent line at that point.

The constant c stretches the function $f(x)$ in the y -axis, which also increases the slope by the constant c .