

Proof

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} + C \right) = \frac{(n+1)x^{n+1-1}}{n+1} = x^n$$

EXAMPLES

1. The gradient of a curve is given by $\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x^2 + 8x$. If the curve passes through the point $(1, -3)$, find the equation of the curve.

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= 6x^2 + 8x \\ y &= 6\left(\frac{x^3}{3}\right) + 8\left(\frac{x^2}{2}\right) + C \\ \therefore y &= 2x^3 + 4x^2 + C \end{aligned}$$

The curve passes through $(1, -3)$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore -3 &= 2(1)^3 + 4(1)^2 + C \\ &= 2 + 4 + C \\ -9 &= C \end{aligned}$$

Equation is $y = 2x^3 + 4x^2 - 9$.

2. If $f''(x) = 6x + 2$ and $f'(1) = f(-2) = 0$, find $f(3)$.

Solution

$$\begin{aligned} f''(x) &= 6x + 2 \\ f'(x) &= 6\left(\frac{x^2}{2}\right) + 2x + C \\ &= 3x^2 + 2x + C \end{aligned}$$

Now $f'(1) = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } 0 &= 3(1)^2 + 2(1) + C \\ -5 &= C \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore f'(x) = 3x^2 + 2x - 5$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= 3\left(\frac{x^3}{3}\right) + 2\left(\frac{x^2}{2}\right) - 5x + C \\ &= x^3 + x^2 - 5x + C \end{aligned}$$

Now $f(-2) = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } 0 &= (-2)^3 + (-2)^2 - 5(-2) + C \\ &= -8 + 4 + 10 + C \end{aligned}$$

$$-6 = C$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore f(x) &= x^3 + x^2 - 5x - 6 \\ f(3) &= 3^3 + 3^2 - 5(3) - 6 \\ &= 27 + 9 - 15 - 6 \\ &= 15 \end{aligned}$$

2.12 Exercises

- Find the primitive function of
 - $2x - 3$
 - $x^2 + 8x + 1$
 - $x^5 - 4x^3$
 - $(x - 1)^2$
 - 6
- Find $f(x)$ if
 - $f'(x) = 6x^2 - x$
 - $f'(x) = x^4 - 3x^2 + 7$
 - $f'(x) = x - 2$
 - $f'(x) = (x + 1)(x - 3)$
 - $f'(x) = x^{\frac{1}{2}}$
- Express y in terms of x if
 - $\frac{dy}{dx} = 5x^4 - 9$
 - $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^{-4} - 2x^{-2}$
 - $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x^3}{5} - x^2$
 - $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2}{x^2}$
 - $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^3 - \frac{2x}{3} + 1$
- Find the primitive function of
 - \sqrt{x}
 - x^{-3}
 - $\frac{1}{x^8}$
 - $x^{-\frac{1}{2}} + 2x^{-\frac{2}{3}}$
 - $x^{-7} - 2x^{-2}$
- If $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^3 - 3x^2 + 5$ and $y = 4$ when $x = 1$, find an equation for y in terms of x .
- If $f'(x) = 4x - 7$ and $f(2) = 5$, find $f(x)$.
- Given $f'(x) = 3x^2 + 4x - 2$ and $f(-3) = 4$, find $f(1)$.
- Given that the gradient of the tangent to a curve is given by $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2 - 6x$ and the curve passes through $(-2, 3)$, find the equation of the curve.
- If $\frac{dx}{dt} = (t - 3)^2$ and $x = 7$ when $t = 0$, find x when $t = 4$.