

Calculus jingles – musical mnemonics for remembering various derivative rules

power rule (220 section 1.3)

Take the exponent and put it in the front,
then minus 1 and put it to the right and up.

© 2009 Tim Pilachowski

general power rule (220 section 1.6) [chain rule applied to power functions]

Take the exponent and put it in the front,
then minus 1 and put it to the right and up,
theeeeenn,
multiply by the derivative of the inside.

© 2009 Tim Pilachowski

product rule (220 section 3.1)

Now let's use the product rule:
first times second-prime plus second times first-prime.

© 2009 Tim Pilachowski

quotient rule (220 section 3.1)

Start with the bottom times the top-prime
minus the top times the bottom-prime;
put the whole thing over the bottom squared. That's
the derivative of a quo-
tient!

© 2009 Tim Pilachowski

chain rule (220 section 3.2)

Differentiate the outside, put the inside back in, theeeeeen,
multiply by the derivative of the inside.

© 2009 Tim Pilachowski

derivatives of sine and cosine (221 section 8.3)

The derivative of sine is cosine,
but the derivative of cosine is negative sine.

© 2008 Tim Pilachowski