The Quotient Rule

Just as we use the 'product rule' to differentiate a 'product', we use the 'quotient rule' to differentiate a 'quotient' (i.e. division).

The quotient rule:

If
$$y = \frac{u}{v}$$
 then $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{v\frac{du}{dx} - u\frac{dv}{dx}}{v^2}$

1. If
$$y = \frac{x}{2x+5}$$
, find $\frac{dy}{dx}$

Memorisation Tips:

"Bottoms first!" The denominator (v) is the first term seen in the new denominator and numerator. The denominator gets squared. Note that in the numerator, we have — instead of the + seen in the Product Rule.

2. Find the stationary point of
$$y = \frac{\sin x}{e^{2x}}$$
 , $0 < x < \pi$

Test Your Understanding

Edexcel C3 Jan 2012 Q1a

Differentiate with respect to x, giving your answer in its simplest form,

$$(b) \frac{\sin 4x}{x^3}.$$

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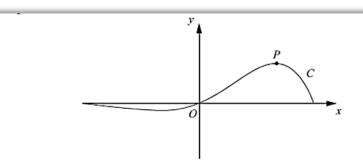


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows a sketch of the curve C which has equation

$$y = e^{x\sqrt{3}} \sin 3x, -\frac{\pi}{3} \le x \le \frac{\pi}{3}.$$

- (a) Find the x-coordinate of the turning point P on C, for which x > 0. Give your answer as a multiple of π .
- (b) Find an equation of the normal to C at the point where x = 0.