

Find the derivative: $\frac{d}{dx}[(x^2 + 4x)(5x + 6)^4]$

To take the derivative, we need to write the function as a product with

$$u = x^2 + 4x \quad v = (5x + 6)^4$$

The product rule requires the derivative of each of these factors. The derivative of the first factor is

$$u' = 2x + 4$$

The second factor is a bit more complicated and requires the use of the chain rule. Rewrite the factor as a composition $f(g(x))$ with

$$g(x) = 5x + 6$$

$$f(x) = x^4$$

The derivative of these functions are

$$g(x) = 5x + 6 \rightarrow g'(x) = 5$$

$$f(x) = x^4 \rightarrow f'(x) = 4x^3$$

Apply the chain rule to obtain

$$v' = \underbrace{4(5x + 6)^3}_{f'(g(x))} \cdot \underbrace{5}_{g'(x)}$$

Now put this derivative into the product rule with the derivatives above,

$$\frac{d}{dx}[(x^2 + 4x)(5x + 6)^4] = \underbrace{(5x + 6)^4}_v \cdot \underbrace{(2x + 4)}_{u'} + \underbrace{(x^2 + 4x)}_u \cdot \underbrace{20(5x + 6)^3}_{v'}$$

to give the derivative we are looking for. This can be simplified by factoring $(5x + 6)^3$ from each term, but we'll stop here since the derivative has been completed.