

Let  $y = \frac{1}{a-bx}$ . Prove  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = \frac{n! b^n}{(a-bx)^{n+1}}$  (\*) for  $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$

Base case:  $n=1$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LHS} &= \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} \left\{ (a-bx)^{-1} \right\} = -(a-bx)^{-2} (-b) \\ &= \frac{b}{(a-bx)^2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{RHS} = \frac{1! b}{(a-bx)^{1+1}} = \frac{b}{(a-bx)^2} = \text{LHS}.$$

So (\*) is proved for base case  $n=1$ .

Let  $y = \frac{1}{a-bx}$ . Prove  $\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = \frac{n! b^n}{(a-bx)^{n+1}}$   $\textcircled{*}$  for  $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$

General case: Suppose  $\textcircled{*}$  is true for  $n=k$  for some  $k$ .

So we may assume  $\frac{d^k y}{dx^k} = \frac{k! b^k}{(a-bx)^{k+1}}$   $\textcircled{a}$

R.T.P.  $\textcircled{*}$  true for  $n=k+1$ :

RTP  $\frac{d^{k+1} y}{dx^{k+1}} = \frac{(k+1)! b^{k+1}}{(a-bx)^{k+2}}$   $\textcircled{**}$

LHS of  $\textcircled{**}$  =  $\frac{d^{k+1} y}{dx^{k+1}}$

$$= \frac{d}{dx} \left\{ \frac{d^k y}{dx^k} \right\}$$

$$= \frac{d}{dx} \left\{ k! b^k (a-bx)^{-k-1} \right\} \text{ by allowed } \textcircled{a}$$

$$= k! b^k (-k-1) (a-bx)^{-(k+2)} (-b)$$

$$= \frac{k! b^k (k+1)b}{(a-bx)^{k+2}}$$

$$= \frac{(k+1)! b^{k+1}}{(a-bx)^{k+2}}$$

$$= \text{RHS of } \textcircled{**}$$

So if  $\textcircled{*}$  is true when  $n=k$ , then  $\textcircled{*}$  is proved true for  $n=k+1$  also.

$\textcircled{*}$  is true for base case  $n=1$ , so we have proved  $\textcircled{*}$  true for all  $n=1, 2, 3, \dots$ .  $\square$