

SECTION 3.4 CHAIN RULE

1. For each function below, write it as a nontrivial composition of functions in the form $f(g(x))$.

(a) $H(x) = \sqrt[3]{4-2x} = (4-2x)^{1/3}$

outside $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x} = x^{1/3}$
 inside $g(x) = 4-2x$

$$H'(x) = \underbrace{\frac{1}{3}(4-2x)^{-2/3}}_{f'(g(x))} \cdot \underbrace{(-2)}_{g'(x)}$$

(b) $H(x) = \tan(2-x^4)$

outside $f(x) = \tan x$
 inside $g(x) = 2-x^4$

$$H'(x) = \underbrace{\left[\sec^2(2-x^4) \right]}_{f'(g(x))} \cdot \underbrace{(-4x^3)}_{g'(x)}$$

(c) $H(x) = e^{2-2x^3}$

outside $f(x) = e^x$
 inside $g(x) = 2-2x^3$

$$H'(x) = \underbrace{\left(e^{2-2x^3} \right)}_{f'(g(x))} \cdot \underbrace{(-6x^2)}_{g'(x)}$$

(d) $H(x) = \frac{4}{x+\sin(x)} = 4(x+\sin x)^{-1}$

outside $f(x) = \frac{4}{x} = 4x^{-1}$
 inside $g(x) = x+\sin x$

$$H'(x) = 4 \cdot \underbrace{(-1)(x+\sin x)^{-2}}_{f'(g(x))} \cdot \underbrace{(1+\cos x)}_{g'(x)}$$

2. Complete the Chain Rule (using both types of notation)

• If $F(x) = f(g(x))$,

then $F'(x) = f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$

• If $y = f(u)$ and $u = g(x)$,

then $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$

3. Return to problem 1 above and find the derivatives.

4. For each problem below, find the derivative.

(a) $z(t) = (2x^3 - 5x)^7$

$$z'(t) = 7(2x^3 - 5x)^6(6x^2 - 5)$$

(b) $x(\theta) = \cos^3(\theta) = (\cos\theta)^3$

$$x'(\theta) = 3(\cos\theta)^2(-\sin\theta) = -3\sin\theta(\cos\theta)^2$$

(c) $y = x^2 - 3\sin(x^3)$

$$y' = 2x - 3 \cdot \cos(x^3)(3x^2) = 2x - 9x^2 \cos(x^3)$$

(d) $y = 10e^{\sqrt{x}} = 10e^{(x^{1/2})}$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 10 \cdot e^{x^{1/2}} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2}\right) = \frac{5e^{\sqrt{x}}}{\sqrt{x}}$$

(e) $f(x) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{x^2-4}} = \sqrt{2}(x^2-4)^{-1/2}$

$$f'(x) = \sqrt{2} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) (x^2-4)^{-3/2} (2x) = \frac{-\sqrt{2}x}{(x^2-4)^{3/2}}$$

(f) $g(x) = \frac{\sec(x^2+2)}{12} = \frac{1}{12} \sec(x^2+2)$

$$g'(x) = \frac{1}{12} \left(\sec(x^2+2) \tan(x^2+2) \right) (2x) = \frac{x}{6} \sec(x^2+2) \tan(x^2+2)$$

(g) $k(s) = \frac{A^2}{B+Cs} = A^2(B+Cs)^{-1}$

$$k'(s) = A^2(-1)(B+Cs)^{-2}(C) = \frac{-A^2C}{(B+Cs)^2}$$