

SECTION 3-6: THE CHAIN RULE

Read Section 3.6. Work the embedded problems.

1. Two Versions of the Chain Rule

A

$$\frac{d}{dx} [f(g(x))] = f'(g(x))g'(x)$$

(In words) Take derivative of outside function w/inside unchanged. Then multiply by derivative of inside function.

B If $y=f(u)$ and $u=g(x)$ then

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

Leibniz notation

2. Use version **B** to find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ if $y = 3\sqrt{u}$ and $u = \cos(x) + 1$.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx} = \left(3 \cdot \frac{1}{2} u^{-\frac{1}{2}}\right) (-\sin(x) + 0)$$

$$= -\frac{3}{2} (\cos(x) + 1)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sin(x) = \frac{-3 \sin(x)}{2 \sqrt{\cos(x) + 1}}$$

3. For each function below, decompose the function into the form $y = f(u)$ and $u = g(x)$ and then find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ using version **B**.

(a) $y = (3x - 5)^8$

$u = g(x) = 3x - 5$

$y = f(u) = 1 + u^8$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx} = (0 + 8u^7)(3) \\ &= 8(3x - 5)^7(3) \\ &= 24(3x - 5)^7 \end{aligned}$$

(b) $y = \frac{1}{x^3 + \tan(x)}$

$u = g(x) = x^3 + \tan(x)$

$y = f(u) = \frac{1}{u} = u^{-1}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx} = (-u^{-2})(3x^2 + \sec^2(x)) \\ &= -(x^3 + \tan(x))^{-2} (3x^2 + \sec^2(x)) \\ &= \frac{-(3x^2 + \sec^2(x))}{(x^3 + \tan(x))^2} \end{aligned}$$

4. Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ using version [A].

$$(a) y = \left(\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{x^2}{3}\right)^4 = \left(x^{-2} + \frac{1}{3}x^2\right)^4$$

$$y' = 4\left(x^{-2} + \frac{1}{3}x^2\right)^3 \cdot \left(-2x^{-3} + \frac{2}{3}x\right)$$

(b) $y = \cos(2x)$

$$y' = \left(-\sin(2x)\right) \cdot (2) = -2\sin(2x)$$

(c) $y = \sqrt{x^2 + \sin(x)} = \left(x^2 + \sin(x)\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$

$$y' = \frac{1}{2} \left(x^2 + \sin(x)\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} (2x + \cos x) = \frac{2x + \cos x}{2\sqrt{x^2 + \sin(x)}}$$

(d) $y = x \tan\left(\frac{\pi x}{4}\right) = x \cdot \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4}x\right)$

product rule and chain rule

$$y' = 1 \cdot \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4}x\right) + x \cdot \left(\sec^2\left(\frac{\pi}{4}x\right)\right) \frac{\pi}{4} = \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4}x\right) + \frac{\pi}{4}x \sec^2\left(\frac{\pi}{4}x\right)$$

(e) $y = \frac{x}{\sin^2(x)} = \frac{x}{(\sin(x))^2} = x(\sin x)^{-2}$

quotient + chain

(prod + chain)

$$y' = \frac{(\sin(x))^2 \cdot 1 - x \cdot 2(\sin(x))^1 \cos(x)}{(\sin(x))^4}$$

$$= \frac{\sin(x) [\sin(x) - 2x \cos(x)]}{(\sin(x))^4}$$

$$= \frac{\sin x - 2x \cos(x)}{(\sin(x))^3}$$

$$y' = 1 \cdot (\sin(x))^{-2} + x \cdot (-2)(\sin(x))^{-3} (\cos(x))$$

$$= \frac{1}{(\sin(x))^2} - \frac{2x \cos(x)}{(\sin(x))^3}$$

$$= \frac{\sin(x) - 2x \cos(x)}{(\sin(x))^3}$$