

SECTION 3-6: THE CHAIN RULE

1. Recall Two Versions of the Chain Rule

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

$$\boxed{B} \quad \begin{aligned} y &= f(u) \\ u &= g(x) \end{aligned} \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$$

2. Understanding what the "formulas" in the book are trying to communicate:

(Thm 3.10)

Chain Rule for Composition of Three Functions

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\tan(g(x))] = \sec^2(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$$

$$\text{If } k(x) = h(f(g(x)))$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\tan(u)] = \sec^2(u) \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{then } k'(x) &= h'(f(g(x))) \cdot \frac{d}{dx} [f(g(x))] \\ &= h'(f(g(x))) \cdot f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x) \end{aligned}$$

The goal is to help you read math textbooks. Can you produce the "secant" rule?

3. Find the derivatives for each function below:

$$\rightarrow \text{(a) } f(\theta) = 4 \tan(\theta/\pi) = 4 \cdot \tan\left(\frac{1}{\pi} \theta\right)$$

$$f'(\theta) = 4 \cdot \sec^2\left(\frac{1}{\pi} \theta\right) \cdot \frac{1}{\pi} = \frac{4}{\pi} \sec^2\left(\frac{1}{\pi} \theta\right)$$

$$\rightarrow \text{(b) } g(t) = \sqrt[5]{\sin(7t)} = (\sin(7t))^{1/5}$$

$$\text{(follow the "rule")}: g'(t) = \frac{1}{5} (\sin(7t))^{-4/5} (\cos(7t)) \cdot 7 = \frac{7 \cos(7t)}{5 (\sin(7t))^{4/5}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(just think about it)}: g'(t) &= \frac{1}{5} (\sin(7t))^{-4/5} \cdot \frac{d}{dt} [\sin(7t)] = \frac{1}{5} (\sin(7t))^{-4/5} \cdot \cos(7t) \cdot \frac{d}{dt} [7t] \\ &= \frac{1}{5} (\sin(7t))^{-4/5} \cos(7t) (7) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{(c) } h(x) = \sin\left(x^2 - \frac{1}{x^2+x}\right)$$

$$= \sin\left(x^2 - (x^2+x)^{-1}\right)$$

$$h'(x) = \cos\left(x^2 - (x^2+x)^{-1}\right) \cdot \frac{d}{dx} \left[x^2 - (x^2+x)^{-1}\right]$$

$$= \cos\left(x^2 - (x^2+x)^{-1}\right) \cdot \left(2x - (-1)(x^2+x)^{-2} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (x^2+x)\right)$$

$$= \cos\left(x^2 - (x^2+x)^{-1}\right) (2x + (x^2+x)^{-2} (2x+1)) \quad * \text{ See Note on last page!}$$

4. (Some additional independent practice) Find the derivatives.

(a)  $f(x) = (\sec(3x) + \csc(2x))^5$

$$f'(x) = 5(\sec(3x) + \csc(2x))^4 \cdot (3\sec(3x)\tan(3x) - 2\csc(2x)\cot(2x))$$

(b)  $g(x) = \frac{\cot(x^2+1)}{x^3+1}$

$$g'(x) = \frac{(x^3+1)(-\csc^2(x^2+1)(2x)) - \cot(x^2+1)(3x^2)}{(x^3+1)^2}$$

(c)  $h(x) = (2x-1)^3(2x+1)^5$

$$h'(x) = \underbrace{3(2x-1)^2}_{f'} \underbrace{(2)}_g \underbrace{(2x+1)^5}_f + \underbrace{(2x-1)^3}_f \cdot \underbrace{5 \cdot (2x+1)^4}_{g'} \cdot \underbrace{(2)}_g$$

5. Find all  $x$ -values where the tangent to  $f(x) = (x^2 - 4)^3$  is horizontal.

$f' = 0$

$$f'(x) = 3(x^2-4)^2(2x) = 6x(x^2-4) = 0$$

So  $x=0$  or  $x^2-4=0$ .

$x^2-4=0$  when  $x^2=4$  or  $x=\pm 2$

Answer:  $f(x)$  has a horizontal tangent when  $x = -2, 0, 2$ .

6. Use the table below to evaluate the derivatives of the given functions at the indicated value.

$x$	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$	$g(x)$	$g'(x)$
-1	2	-1	0	1
0	1	2	3	4
1	-1	-2	-3	-4
2	0	4	-1	2

(a)  $h(x) = f(g(x))$  at  $a = 2$ .

$$h'(x) = f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x); h'(2) = f'(g(2)) \cdot g'(2) = f'(-1) \cdot 2 = -2$$

(b)  $k(x) = f(x)g(x^2)$  at  $a = 1$

$$k'(x) = f'(x) \cdot g(x^2) + f(x) \cdot g'(x^2)(2x)$$

$$k'(1) = f'(1) \cdot g(1) + f(1) \cdot g'(1)(2 \cdot 1) = (-2)(-3) + (-1)(-4)(2) = 6 + 8 = 14$$

# Note

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

$$= \sin\left(x^2 - (x^2+x)^{-1}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} h'(x) &= \cos\left(x^2 - (x^2+x)^{-1}\right) \cdot \frac{d}{dx} \left[ x^2 - (x^2+x)^{-1} \right] \\ &= \cos\left(x^2 - (x^2+x)^{-1}\right) \cdot \left( 2x - (-1)(x^2+x)^{-2} \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(x^2+x) \right) \\ &= \cos\left(x^2 - (x^2+x)^{-1}\right) \left( 2x + (x^2+x)^{-2} (2x+1) \right) \end{aligned}$$

This was our answer.  
It is correct.

Do you see the difference between the correct answer (above) and the incorrect answer below?

$$h'(x) = \cos\left(x^2 - (x^2+x)^{-1}\right) \left( 2x - (-1)(x^2+x)^{-2} \right) \underline{\underline{(2x+1)}}$$

● Look at the parantheses.

In the two expressions (correct + incorrect) compare what the term "2x+1" is multiplied by.