

Day 5/6: 2.5 The Chain Rule

The Derivative of Composite Functions

Using the Chain Rule ("proper" way using Leibniz notation)

Rule 8 The Chain Rule

If f is differentiable at the point $u = g(x)$, and g is differentiable at x , then the composite function $(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x))$ is differentiable at x , and

$$(f \circ g)'(x) = f'(g(x))g'(x)$$

In Leibniz notation, if $y = f(u)$ and $u = g(x)$, then $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$

where $\frac{dy}{du}$ is evaluated at $u = g(x)$

$$y(x) = (2 - x^3)^{50} \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$y(u) = u^{50}, \quad u = 2 - x^3$$

$$y'(x) = y'(u) \cdot u'$$

$$= 50 u^{49} \cdot (-3x^2)$$

$$= 50 (2 - x^3)^{49} (-3x^2)$$

$$= -150x^2 (2 - x^3)^{49}$$

$$\text{or } y = [g(x)]^n$$

$$y' = n [g(x)]^{n-1} \cdot g'(x)$$

$$y = (2 - x^3)^{50}$$

$$y' = 50 (2 - x^3)^{49} (-3x^2)$$

$$= -150x^2 (2 - x^3)^{49}$$

$$x = -2$$

$$u = 1$$

Ex: Use the chain rule, in Leibniz notation, to find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ at the given value of x :

$$y = u(u^2 + 3)^3, u = (x+3)^2, x = -2$$

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

$$y' = [1(u^2+3)^3 + u(3)(u^2+3)^2 \cdot 2u] (2)(x+3)$$

$$= [(1+3)^3 + 3(1+3)^2 \cdot 2] [2](-2+3)$$

$$= [64 + 54][2]$$

$$= (118)(2) = 236$$

Ex: Find the derivatives of the following:

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{(3-4x)^2} = (3-4x)^{-2}$$

$$g'(x) = -2(3-4x)^{-3}(-4) \\ = \frac{8}{(3-4x)^3}$$

$$f(x) = \overset{p}{(x^3-5)^4} \overset{q}{(2-3x^2)^2}$$

$$f'(x) = \underbrace{4(x^3-5)^3}_{p'}(3x^2)'(q) \\ + p(2)(2-3x^2)'(-6x)$$

$$f'(x) = 6x^2(x^3-5)^3(2-3x^2)^2 + (-12x)(x^3-5)^4(2-3x^2)$$

$$= 6x(x^3-5)^3(2-3x^2)[x(2-3x^2) - 2(x^3-5)]$$

$$= 6x(x^3-5)^3(2-3x^2)(2x - 3x^3 - 2x^3 + 10)$$

$$= 6x(x^3-5)^3(2-3x^2)(-5x^3 + 2x + 10)$$

We can also use the quotient rule

Find the derivative and simplify

a. $f(x) = (2x - 5)^3(3x^2 + 4)^5$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 3(2x-5)^2(2)(3x^2+4)^5 + (2x-5)^3(5)(3x^2+4)^4(6x) \\ &= 6(2x-5)^2(3x^2+4)^5 + 30x(2x-5)^3(3x^2+4)^4 \\ &= 6(2x-5)^2(3x^2+4)^4 [3x^2+4 + 5x(2x-5)] \\ &= 6(2x-5)^2(3x^2+4)^4 (13x^2 - 25x + 4) \end{aligned}$$

\hookrightarrow does not factor.

b. $g(x) = 8x^3(4x^2 + 2x - 3)^5$

$$\begin{aligned} g'(x) &= (24x^2)(4x^2+2x-3)^5 + (8x^3)(5)(4x^2+2x-3)^4(8x+2) \\ &= 8x^2(4x^2+2x-3)^4 [3(4x^2+2x-3) + 5x(8x+2)] \\ &= 8x^2(4x^2+2x-3)^4 (52x^2 + 16x - 9) \end{aligned}$$

\hookrightarrow expand and simplify.

c. $y = (5+x)^2(4-7x^3)^6$

$$\begin{aligned} y' &= 2(5+x)(4-7x^3)^6 + (5+x)^2(6)(4-7x^3)^5(-21x^2) \\ &= 2(5+x)(4-7x^3)^5 [4-7x^3 + (3)(-21x^2)(5+x)] \\ &= 2(5+x)(4-7x^3)^5 (4-7x^3 - 315x^2 - 63x^3) \end{aligned}$$

d. $h(x) = \frac{6x-1}{(3x+5)^4} = 2(5+x)(4-7x^3)^5 (-70x^3 - 315x^2 + 4)$

$$\begin{aligned} h'(x) &= \frac{6(3x+5)^4 - (6x-1)(4)(3x+5)^3(3)}{(3x+5)^8} \\ &= \frac{6(3x+5)^3 [3x+5 - 2(6x-1)]}{(3x+5)^8} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{6[-9x+7]}{(3x+5)^3}$$

$$e. y = \frac{(2x^2-5)^3}{(x+8)^2}$$

$$y' = \frac{3(2x^2-5)^2(2)(x+8)^2 - (2x^2-5)^3(2)(x+8)}{(x+8)^4}$$

$$= \frac{2(2x^2-5)^2(x+8) [3(x+8) - (2x^2-5)]}{(x+8)^4}$$

$$= \frac{2(2x^2-5)^2(-2x^2+3x+29)}{(x+8)^3}$$

$$f. p(x) = \frac{-3x^4}{\sqrt{4x-9}} = -3x^4(4x-9)^{-1/2}$$

$$p'(x) = -12x^3(4x-9)^{-1/2} - 3x^4(-\frac{1}{2})(4x-9)^{-3/2}(4)$$

$$= -12x^3(4x-9)^{-1/2} + 6x^4(4x-9)^{-3/2}$$

$$= -6x^3(4x-9)^{-3/2} [2(4x-9) - x] = \frac{-6x^3(7x-18)}{(4x-9)^{3/2}}$$

$$g. r(x) = \left(\frac{2x+5}{6-x^2}\right)^4$$

$$r'(x) = 4 \left(\frac{2x+5}{6-x^2}\right)^3 \left(\frac{2x+5}{6-x^2}\right)' \rightarrow \text{use the quotient rule to find the last part}$$

$$= 4 \left(\frac{2x+5}{6-x^2}\right)^3 \left[\frac{2(6-x^2) - (2x+5)(-2x)}{(6-x^2)^2} \right] = \frac{4(2x+5)^3(2x^2+10x+12)}{(6-x^2)^3}$$

$$= \frac{8(2x+5)^3(x^2+5x+6)}{(6-x^2)^3}$$

$$h. t(x) = \left[\frac{1}{(4x+x^2)^3}\right]^3 = (4x+x^2)^{-9}$$

$$t'(x) = -9(4x+x^2)^{-10}(4+2x)$$

$$= \frac{-18(x+2)}{(4x+x^2)^{10}}$$

$$= \frac{8(2x+5)^3(x+2)(x+3)}{(6-x^2)^3}$$