

1. Quiz 4 over 3.2 and 3.4
2. HW over 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 due Wednesday, Oct. 12, 11:55PM
3. Tests will be returned [REDACTED] during recitations
4. Retest on Friday, Oct. 7, 7-9PM in BLOC 102

Section 3.5 **The Chain Rule**

If the derivatives  $g'(x)$  and  $f'(g(x))$  both exist, and  $F = f \circ g$  is the **composite function** defined by  $F(x) = f(g(x))$ , then  $F'(x)$  exists and is given by the product

$$\boxed{[f(g(x))]' = F'(x) = f'(g(x))g'(x)}$$

$f$  is the outer function  
 $g$  is the inner function

**Example 1.** Suppose that  $F(x) = f(g(x))$ , where  $g(2) = 5$ ,  $g'(2) = 4$ ,  $f(2) = 3$ ,  $f'(2) = -2$ , and  $f'(5) = 11$ . Find  $F'(2)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F'(x) &= f'(g(x))g'(x) \\ F'(2) &= \underbrace{f'(g(2))}_{5} \underbrace{g'(2)}_{4} \\ &= \underbrace{f'(5)}_{11} (4) \\ &= (11)(4) = \boxed{44} \end{aligned}$$

If  $n$  is any real number and  $u = g(x)$  is differentiable, then

$$\boxed{\frac{d}{dx}[g(x)]^n = n[g(x)]^{n-1}g'(x)}$$

General Power Rule

$$f(x) = x^2 + 3x - 2, \quad g(x) = \sin x$$

$$f(g(x)) = \sin^2 x + 3\sin x - 2 \quad (\text{plug } \sin x \text{ for } x \text{ into the equation of } f)$$

$$g(f(x)) = \sin(x^2 + 3x - 2)$$

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$$f(x) = \tan x, \quad g(x) = \sqrt{x}$$

$$f(g(x)) = \tan(\sqrt{x})$$

$$g(f(x)) = \sqrt{\tan x}$$

Example 2. Find the derivative of each function

1.  $y = \sec(2x)$   
inner  
outer

$$(\sec x)' = \sec x \tan x$$

$$y' = \sec(2x) \tan(2x) (2x)'$$
$$= \boxed{2 \sec(2x) \tan(2x)}$$

2.  $y = \sin(x^2)$   
outer  
inner

$$y' = \cos(x^2) (x^2)'$$
$$= \boxed{2x \cos(x^2)}$$

3.  $y = (1 + \cos^2 x)^6$  inner outer

Do the General Power Rule first:

$$\begin{aligned}
 y' &= 6(1 + \cos^2 x)^5 (1 + \cos^2 x)' \\
 &= 6(1 + \cos^2 x)^5 (2 \cos x)(\cos x)' \\
 &= \boxed{6(1 + \cos^2 x)^5 (2 \cos x)(-\sin x)}
 \end{aligned}$$

4.  $y = (1 + \sqrt{x^2 + 2})^3$

General Power Rule first:

$$\begin{aligned}
 y' &= 3(1 + \sqrt{x^2 + 2})^2 (1 + \sqrt{x^2 + 2})' \\
 &= 3(1 + \sqrt{x^2 + 2})^2 (\sqrt{x^2 + 2})'
 \end{aligned}$$

General Power Rule again

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 3(1 + \sqrt{x^2 + 2})^2 \frac{1}{2} (x^2 + 2)^{-1/2} (2x)' \\
 &= \frac{3}{2} (1 + \sqrt{x^2 + 2})^2 (x^2 + 2)^{-1/2} (2x) \\
 &= \boxed{3(1 + \sqrt{x^2 + 2})^2 (x^2 + 2)^{-1/2} (x)}
 \end{aligned}$$

5.  $y = \sqrt[4]{\frac{t^3 + 1}{t^3 - 1}} = \left(\frac{t^3 + 1}{t^3 - 1}\right)^{1/4} = \frac{(t^3 + 1)^{1/4}}{(t^3 - 1)^{1/4}} = (t^3 + 1)^{1/4} (t^3 - 1)^{-1/4}$

General Power Rule first:

$$\begin{aligned}
 y' &= \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{t^3 + 1}{t^3 - 1}\right)^{1/4 - 1} \left(\frac{t^3 + 1}{t^3 - 1}\right)' \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{t^3 + 1}{t^3 - 1}\right)^{-3/4} \frac{(t^3 + 1)'(t^3 - 1) - (t^3 - 1)'(t^3 + 1)}{(t^3 - 1)^2} \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{t^3 + 1}{t^3 - 1}\right)^{-3/4} \frac{3t^2(t^3 - 1) - 3t^2(t^3 + 1)}{(t^3 - 1)^2} \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{t^3 + 1}{t^3 - 1}\right)^{-3/4} \frac{3t^2 t^3 - 3t^2 - 3t^2 t^3 - 3t^2}{(t^3 - 1)^2} \\
 &= \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{t^3 + 1}{t^3 - 1}\right)^{-3/4} \frac{-6t^2}{(t^3 - 1)^2} = -\frac{3t^2}{2} \frac{(t^3 + 1)^{-3/4}}{(t^3 - 1)^{2-3/4}} \\
 &= -\frac{3t^2}{2} \frac{(t^3 + 1)^{-3/4}}{(t^3 - 1)^{5/4}} = \boxed{-\frac{3t^2}{2(t^3 + 1)^{3/4}(t^3 - 1)^{5/4}}}
 \end{aligned}$$

6.  $y = \sin^2(\cos 4x)$  General Power Rule first:

$$\begin{aligned}
 y' &= 2 \sin(\cos 4x) \left[ \sin(\cos 4x) \right]' \\
 &= 2 \sin(\cos 4x) \cos(\cos 4x) \left[ \cos 4x \right]' \\
 &= 2 \sin(\cos 4x) \cos(\cos 4x) (-\sin 4x) (4x)' \\
 &= \boxed{-8 \sin 4x \left[ \sin(\cos 4x) \right] \left[ \cos(\cos 4x) \right]}
 \end{aligned}$$

**Example 3.** Find the equation of the tangent line to the curve  $y = \frac{8}{\sqrt{4+3x}}$  at the point (4,2).

$$y = \frac{8}{\sqrt{4+3x}} \text{ tangent line to } y=f(x) \text{ @ } (a, f(a))$$

$$f(x) = 8(4+3x)^{-1/2} \quad a=4, f(a)=2$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f'(x) &= 8 \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) (4+3x)^{-1/2-1} (4+3x)' \\
 &= -4 (4+3x)^{-3/2} (3) = \frac{-12}{(4+3x)^{3/2}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$f'(4) = \frac{-12}{(4+4(3))^{3/2}} = -\frac{12}{16^{3/2}} = -\frac{12}{64} = -\frac{3}{16}$$

$$\boxed{y = -\frac{3}{16}(x-4) + 2}$$