

14.5: The Chain Rule

Composition

$$y = f(g(t))$$

Chain Rule for functions of a single variable: If $y = f(x)$ and $x = g(t)$ where f and g are differentiable functions, then y is indirectly a differentiable function of t and

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt}$$

EXAMPLE 1. Let $z = x^y$, where $x = t^2$, $y = \sin t$. Compute $z'(t)$. $t > 0$

From Calc 1

$$z = (t^2)^{\sin t} = \underbrace{t^2}_{x}^{\sin t} = e^{2 \ln t \sin t} \Rightarrow$$

$$x = g(t) = 2 \ln t \sin t$$

$$z = f(x) = e^x$$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{dz}{dx} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{e^x}{e^x} \cdot (2 \ln t \sin t + 2 \ln t \cos t) = (t^2)^{\sin t} \left(\frac{2}{t} \sin t + 2 \ln t \cos t \right)$$

Assume that all functions below have continuous derivatives (ordinary or partial).

- CASE 1: $z = f(x, y)$, where $x = x(t)$, $y = y(t)$ and compute $z'(t)$.

$$z(t) = f(x(t), y(t))$$

Chain Rule:

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt}$$

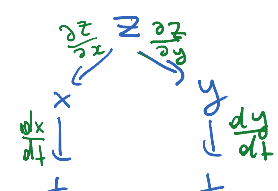
Proof

at the point $(x_0, y_0) = (x(t_0), y(t_0))$

$$\frac{\Delta z}{\Delta t} = z_x \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} + z_y \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta t} + \epsilon_1(x, y) \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} + \epsilon_2(x, y) \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta t}$$

$$\lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta z}{\Delta t} = z_x \frac{dx}{dt} + z_y \frac{dy}{dt}$$

Tree diagram



SOLUTION OF EXAMPLE 1:

Using Calc 3

$$z = x^y, \quad x(t) = t^2, \quad y(t) = \sin t$$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} x'(t) + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} y'(t) = y x^{y-1} \cdot 2t + \ln x \cdot x^y \cos t$$

$$(x^n)' = n x^{n-1}$$

$$(a^x)' = \ln a \cdot a^x$$

↪ $e^{\ln a \cdot x}$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^y) = y x^{y-1} \quad x'(t) = 2t$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x^y) = \ln x \cdot x^y \quad y'(t) = \cos t$$

$$(a^x) = \ln a \cdot a^x$$

$e^{\ln a \cdot x} \Rightarrow$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (xy) = \ln x \cdot x^y \quad y'(t) = \cos t$$

$$= \sin t \cdot \underbrace{(t^2)^{\sin t - 1} \cdot 2t}_{\frac{2t^{2\sin t - 2 + 1}}{2(t^2)^{\sin t}} = 2t^{2\sin t - 1} \cdot \frac{1}{t}} + \frac{\ln t^2}{2 \ln t} \cdot (t^2)^{\sin t} \cdot \cos t = (t^2)^{\sin t} \left(\frac{2}{t} \sin t + 2 \ln t \cos t \right)$$

substitute $x(t)$ & $y(t)$

the same as in ex. 1

EXAMPLE 2. The radius of a right circular cone is increasing at a rate of 1.8 cm/s while its height is decreasing at a rate 2.5 cm/s. At what rate is the volume of the cone changing when the radius is 120 cm and the height is 140 cm.

$$V(r, h) = \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h$$

volume

$$r = r(t), h = h(t), \quad r_0 = 120, h_0 = 140$$

$$r_0 = r(t_0), h_0 = h(t_0)$$

This is what we want to find

$$\frac{dr}{dt}(t_0) = 1.8, \quad \frac{dh}{dt}(t_0) = -2.5$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} V(t_0) = \frac{\partial V}{\partial r}(r_0, h_0) \frac{dr}{dt}(t_0) + \frac{\partial V}{\partial h}(r_0, h_0) \frac{dh}{dt}(t_0) = (*)$$

Multivar. chain rule

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial r} = \frac{2}{3} \pi r h \Rightarrow \frac{\partial V}{\partial r}(120, 140) = \frac{2}{3} \pi \cdot 120 \cdot 140$$

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial h} = \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial V}{\partial h}(120, 140) = \frac{1}{3} \pi \cdot 120^2$$

$$\text{Plug into } (*): \frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{2}{3} \pi \cdot 120 \cdot 140 \cdot \underbrace{1.8}_{\frac{dr}{dt}} + \frac{1}{3} \pi \cdot 120^2 \cdot \underbrace{(-2.5)}_{\frac{dh}{dt}} =$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \pi \cdot 1200 \left(\frac{14 \cdot 3.6}{50.4} - \frac{12 \cdot 2.5}{6.5 = 30} \right) = 400 \pi \cdot 20.4 = 8160 \pi$$

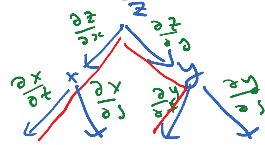
- CASE 2: $z = f(x, y)$, where $x = x(s, t)$, $y = y(s, t)$ and compute z_s and z_t .

Chain Rule:

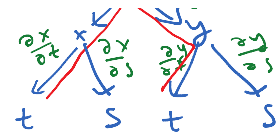
$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial s}$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial t}$$

Tree diagram:



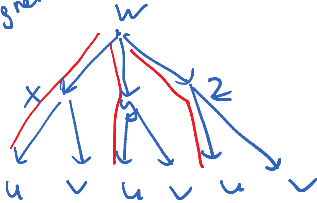
$$\frac{\partial s}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial x}{\partial x} \frac{\partial s}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial y}{\partial y} \frac{\partial s}{\partial t}$$



— the paths from z to t

EXAMPLE 3. Write out the Chain Rule for the case where $w = f(x, y, z)$ and $x = x(u, v)$, $y = y(u, v)$ and $z = z(u, v)$.

Tree diagram

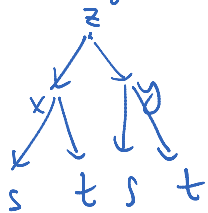


$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial z}{\partial u}$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial v} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial z}{\partial v}$$

compared to the first formula u is replaced by v everywhere

Tree diagram



EXAMPLE 4. If $z = \sin x \cos y$, where $x = (s - t)^2$, $y = s^2 - t^2$ find $z_s + z_t$.

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial s} = \cos x \cos y \cdot 2(s-t) +$$

$$+ (-\sin x \sin y) \cdot 2s$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = \cos x \cos y \cdot 2(s-t) \cdot (-1) +$$

$$+ (-\sin x \sin y) \cdot (-2t)$$

$$z_s + z_t = -\sin x \sin y (2s - 2t) = 2(t-s) \sin((s-t)^2) \sin(s^2 - t^2)$$

EXAMPLE 5. Show that

$$g(s, t) = f(\underbrace{s^2 - t^2}_x, \underbrace{t^2 - s^2}_y)$$

satisfies the equation

$$g_x + g_y = 0$$

$$g(s, t) = f(\underbrace{s^2 - t^2}_x, \underbrace{t^2 - s^2}_y)$$

satisfies the equation

$$t \frac{\partial g}{\partial s} + s \frac{\partial g}{\partial t} = 0. \quad \text{— linear PDE of first order.}$$

$$\text{Set } \begin{cases} x = s^2 - t^2 \\ y = t^2 - s^2 \end{cases}$$

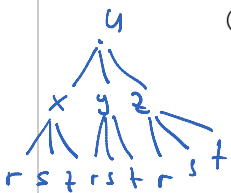
$$t \times \frac{\partial g}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot 2s + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot (-2s) \quad \begin{matrix} \times t \\ + \\ \times s \end{matrix}$$

$$+ s \times \frac{\partial g}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot (-2t) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot (2t)$$

$$t \frac{\partial g}{\partial s} + s \frac{\partial g}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot 2st + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot (-2st) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot (-2ts) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot 2ts = 0$$

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EXAMPLE 6. If $u = x^2y + y^3z^2$, where $x = rse^t$, $y = r + s^2e^{-t}$, $z = rs \sin t$, find u_s when $(r, s, t) = (1, 2, 0)$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial z}{\partial s} = 2xy re^t +$$

$$+ (x^2 + 3y^2z^2) 2se^{-t} + 2y^3z \cdot r \sin t \quad = (*)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial s}(1, 2, 0) \quad ? \quad (r, s, t) = (1, 2, 0) \Rightarrow$$

$$(x, y, z) = (rse^t, r + s^2e^{-t}, rs \sin t) \Big|_{(r, s, t) = (1, 2, 0)} = (1 \cdot 2 \cdot \frac{e^0}{1}, 1 + 2^2 \cdot \frac{e^{-0}}{1}, 1 \cdot 2 \cdot \frac{\sin 0}{0}) = (2, 5, 0)$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial s}(1, 2, 0) = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 5 \cdot \frac{1e^0}{1} + (2^2 + 3 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 0) \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot \frac{e^{-0}}{1} + \frac{2 \cdot 5^3 \cdot 0 \cdot 1 \sin 0}{0}$$

plug in (*)
 $(r, s, t) = (1, 2, 0)$ & $(x, y, z) = (2, 5, 0)$

$$= 20 + 16 = \boxed{36}$$

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Implicit differentiation: Suppose that an equation

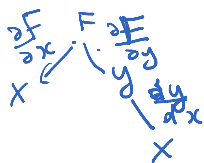
$$F(x, y) = 0$$

Example $x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0$

defines y implicitly as a differentiable function of x , i.e. $y = y(x)$, where $F(x, y(x)) = 0$ for all x in the domain of $y(x)$. Find y' :

$$F(x, y(x)) = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} F(x, y(x)) = \frac{d}{dx} 0 = 0$$

On the other hand, we can use the chain rule:



$$\frac{d}{dx} F(x, y(x)) = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

If $\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \neq 0$, then $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}}{\frac{\partial F}{\partial y}} = -\frac{F_x}{F_y}$

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EXAMPLE 7. Find y' if $x^4 + y^3 = 6e^{xy}$. ($\Rightarrow x^4 + y^3 - 6e^{xy} = 0$)

$$F(x, y) = x^4 + y^3 - 6e^{xy}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{F_x}{F_y} = -\frac{4x^3 - 6ye^{xy}}{3y^2 - 6xe^{xy}}$$

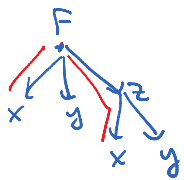
Suppose that an equation

$$F(x, y, z) = 0$$

defines z implicitly as a differentiable function of x and y , i.e. $z = z(x, y)$, where

$$F(x, y, z(x, y)) = 0$$

for all (x, y) in the domain of z . Find the partial derivatives z_x and z_y :



$$0 = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x}$$

Chain rule

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = -\frac{F_x}{F_z}$$

$$0 = \frac{\partial F}{\partial y}$$

Chain rule

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = -\frac{F_y}{F_z}$$

Assume that $F_z \neq 0$

EXAMPLE 8. If $x^4 + y^3 + z^2 + xye^z = 10$ find

(a) z_x and z_y $F = x^4 + y^3 + z^2 + xye^z - 10$

$$z_x = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = -\frac{F_x}{F_z} = \frac{4x^3 + ye^z}{2z + xye^z}$$

$$z_y = \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = -\frac{F_y}{F_z} = \frac{3y^2 + xe^z}{2z + xye^z}$$

$$x_y = \frac{-F_y}{F_z} = -\frac{F_y}{F_z} = \frac{-y}{2z+xye^z}$$

(b) x_y and x_z

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial y} = -\frac{F_y}{F_x} = -\frac{3y^2+xe^z}{4x^2+ye^z}$$

$$\frac{\partial x}{\partial z} = -\frac{F_z}{F_x} = \dots$$