

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

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \Big|_{x=x_0} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} \Big|_{t=t_0}$$

$x_0 = g(t_0)$

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

Calc 1 solution:

$$z = (t^2)^{\sin t} = t^{2 \sin t} = e^{2 \ln t \sin t}$$

plug $x(t)$ & $y(t)$

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

$z = e^u$, where $u = 2 \ln t \sin t$

$$= e^u \left(\frac{2}{t} \sin t + 2 \ln t \cos t \right) = e^{2 \ln t \sin t} \left(\frac{2}{t} \sin t + 2 \ln t \cos t \right)$$

Assume that all functions below have continuous derivatives (ordinary or partial).
 $z(t) = f(x(t), y(t))$

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

Chain Rule:

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

Proof: $\frac{\Delta z}{\Delta t} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0) \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0) \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta t} + \epsilon_1(x, y) \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} + \epsilon_2(x, y) \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta t}$

$\downarrow t \rightarrow t_0$ $\downarrow t \rightarrow t_0$ $\downarrow t \rightarrow t_0$

$z'(t_0)$ $x'(t_0)$ $y'(t_0)$

SOLUTION OF EXAMPLE 1:

Table: $z = x^y$, $x = t^2$, $y = \sin t$

$(x^n)' = n x^{n-1}$
 $(e^x)' = \ln e \cdot e^x$
 $(\ln x)'$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt} = y x^{y-1} \cdot 2t + \ln x \cdot x^y \cdot \cos t$$

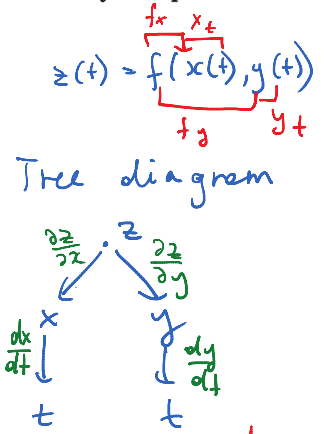
$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x^y) = y x^{y-1}$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x^y) = \ln x \cdot x^y$$

$x_0 = x(t_0)$, $y_0 = y(t_0)$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} \Big|_{t=t_0} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \Big|_{(x,y)=(x_0,y_0)} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} \Big|_{t=t_0} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \Big|_{(x,y)=(x_0,y_0)} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt} \Big|_{t=t_0}$$

$x = t^2$
 $y = \sin t$



$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (x^y) = \ln x \cdot x^y$$

$$x = t^2 \\ y = \sin t$$

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

$\left. + 2 \ln t \cdot \cos t \right)$, which coincides with the previous answer

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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.

$$\underbrace{V(r, h)}_{\substack{\text{the volume of} \\ \text{the cone}}} = \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h$$

$$r = r(t), h = h(t) \\ r_0 = 120, h_0 = 140 \\ r_0 = r(t_0), h_0 = h(t_0)$$

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

We are asked to find $\frac{dV}{dt} \Big|_{t=t_0}$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} \Big|_{t=t_0} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial r}(120, 140) \cdot \underbrace{\frac{dr}{dt}(t_0)}_{1.8} + \frac{\partial V}{\partial h}(120, 140) \cdot \underbrace{\frac{dh}{dt}(t_0)}_{-2.5} =$$

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

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

$$= \frac{2}{3} \pi \cdot 120 \cdot 140 \cdot 1.8 - \frac{1}{3} \pi \cdot 120^2 \cdot 2.5 = \frac{1}{3} \pi \cdot \frac{120 \cdot 10}{1200} \left(\frac{14 \cdot 3.6}{50.4} - \frac{12 \cdot 2.5}{6.5 = 30} \right) =$$

$$= 400 \pi \cdot 20.4 = \boxed{8160 \pi}$$

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

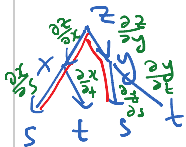
Tree diagram

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:



then are

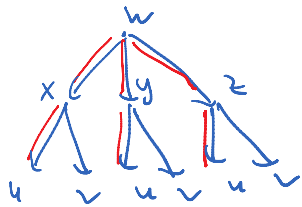
s t s^2 t^2

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

then are 2 paths to arrive from z to s

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 $z = z(u, v)$.

$$w = f(x(u, v), y(u, v), z(u, v))$$



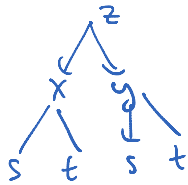
$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial z}{\partial u} \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial v} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial z}{\partial v} \quad (2)$$

↓
replace
 u by v in (1)

Tree diagram

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



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

→ when we sum up

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

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = -\sin x \sin y (2s - 2t) = 2(t-s) \sin[(s-t)^2] \sin(s^2 - t^2)$$

$x = (s-t)^2$
 $y = s^2 - t^2$

EXAMPLE 5. Show that

$$g(s, t) = f\left(\frac{s^2 - t^2}{x}, \frac{t^2 - s^2}{y}\right)$$

satisfies the equation

$$t \frac{\partial g}{\partial s} + s \frac{\partial g}{\partial t} = 0 \rightarrow \text{linear 1st order PDE}$$

satisfies the equation

$$t \frac{\partial g}{\partial s} + s \frac{\partial g}{\partial t} = 0 \rightarrow \text{linear 1st order}$$

PDE

partial differential equation

$$x = s^2 - t^2$$

$$y = t^2 - s^2$$

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

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

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

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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 $(r, s, t) = (1, 2, 0)$

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

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

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

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

$$= (1 \cdot 2 \cdot \underbrace{e^0}_1, 1 + 2^2 \cdot \underbrace{e^{-0}}_1, 1 \cdot 2 \cdot \underbrace{\sin 0}_0) = (2, 5, 0) \rightarrow \begin{matrix} x=2 \\ y=5 \\ z=0 \end{matrix}$$

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial s} (1, 2, 0) = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 5 \cdot 1 \cdot \underbrace{e^0}_1 + (2^2 + 3 \cdot 5^2 \cdot 0^2) \cdot 2 \cdot 2 \cdot \underbrace{e^{-0}}_1 + \underbrace{2 \cdot 5^3 \cdot 0 \cdot 1 \cdot \sin 0}_0 = 20 + 16 = \boxed{36}$$

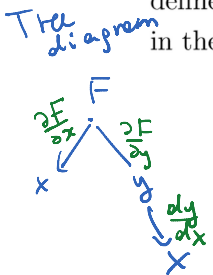
Implicit differentiation: Suppose that an equation

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

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' :

Implicit Function Thm

If $\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \neq 0$ then locally one can solve this equation for y as a function of x



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

chain rule

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} = 0 \Rightarrow$$

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

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

1 1 F(x, y) = x^4 + y^3 - 6e^{xy}

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

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

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

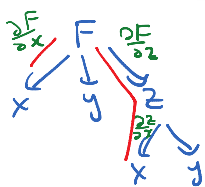
Suppose that an equation

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

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 :



$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} g(x, y) = 0 \quad \text{Chain rule}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} g(x, y) = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = -\frac{F_x}{F_z}$$

$\text{if } \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} \neq 0$

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

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

(a) z_x and z_y

$$F = x^4 + y^3 + z^2 + xye^z - 10$$

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

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

(b) x_z and x_y

(b) x_y and x_z

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

$$x_z = \frac{\partial x}{\partial z} = -\frac{F_z}{F_x} = \frac{2z + xy e^z}{4x^3 + ye^z}$$