

3.7 The Chain Rule (part 2)

remember, all basic rules remain the same, just need the extra $\frac{du}{dx}$ to account for the fact that u is not just x

e.g. $\frac{d}{dx} u^n = n u^{n-1} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sin(u) = \cos(u) \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^u = e^u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$$

example

$$y = \sqrt{3x + 2e^{8x}} = \underbrace{(3x + 2e^{8x})}_{u}^{1/2}$$

in the form of u^n
deriv. is $n u^{n-1} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$

$$y' = \frac{1}{2} (3x + 2e^{8x})^{-1/2} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (3x + 2e^{8x})$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (3x + 2e^{8x})^{-1/2} \cdot \left(3 + 2 \underbrace{\frac{d}{dx} e^{8x}} \right)$$

another chain rule

form e^u deriv. is $e^u \frac{du}{dx}$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (3x + 2e^{8x})^{-1/2} \cdot (3 + 2 \cdot e^{8x} \cdot (8))$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (3x + 2e^{8x})^{-1/2} (3 + 16e^{8x}) = \frac{3 + 16e^{8x}}{2\sqrt{3x + 2e^{8x}}}$$

example

$$y = [(x+8)(x^2+6)]^8$$

form: u^8 deriv. $8u^7 \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$

$$y' = 8 [(x+8)(x^2+6)]^7 \cdot \underbrace{\frac{d}{dx} [(x+8)(x^2+6)]}_{\text{product rule or multiply out first then differentiate}}$$

product rule or
multiply out first then differentiate

$$= 8 [(x+8)(x^2+6)]^7 \cdot \left[(x+8) \frac{d}{dx} (x^2+6) + (x^2+6) \frac{d}{dx} (x+8) \right]$$

$$= 8 [(x+8)(x^2+6)]^7 \cdot [(x+8)(2x) + (x^2+6)(1)]$$

$$= 8 [(x+8)(x^2+6)]^7 \cdot [2x^2 + 16x + x^2 + 6]$$

$$= 8 [(x+8)(x^2+6)]^7 (3x^2 + 16x + 6)$$

Example If $f(-8) = -9$, $f'(-8) = 7$ and $g(x) = \sin(\pi f(x))$

Find $g'(-8)$

$g(x) = \sin(\overbrace{\pi f(x)}^u)$ form: $\sin(u)$ deriv. is $\cos(u) \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$

let's find $g'(x)$

$$g'(x) = \cos(\pi f(x)) \cdot \frac{d}{dx}[\pi f(x)]$$

$$g'(x) = \cos(\pi f(x)) \cdot \pi f'(x)$$

$$g'(-8) = \cos(\pi \cdot \underbrace{f(-8)}_{-9}) \cdot \pi \underbrace{f'(-8)}_7$$

$$= \cos(-9\pi) \cdot 7\pi$$

$$= (-1) \cdot 7\pi = -7\pi$$

example

$$y = \tan^5(\sin(9x))$$

$$= \underbrace{[\tan(\sin(9x))]^5}_u \quad \text{form: } u^5 \quad \text{deriv. } 5u^4 \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$y' = 5 [\tan(\sin(9x))]^4 \cdot \frac{d}{dx} [\underbrace{\tan(\sin(9x))}]$$

form: $\tan(u)$ deriv. $\sec^2(u) \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$

$$= 5 [\tan(\sin(9x))]^4 \cdot \sec^2(\sin(9x)) \cdot \frac{d}{dx} \underbrace{\sin(9x)}$$

form: $\sin(u)$

deriv. $\cos(u) \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$

$$= 5 [\tan(\sin(9x))]^4 \cdot \sec^2(\sin(9x)) \cdot \cos(9x) \cdot 9$$

$$= 45 \tan^4(\sin(9x)) \cdot \sec^2(\sin(9x)) \cos(9x)$$

example

$$\text{if } f(x) = e^{e^{e^x}} \quad \text{find } f'(0)$$

$$f(x) = e^{\underbrace{(e^{e^x})}_u}$$

form: e^u deriv. is $e^u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$

$$f'(x) = e^{e^{e^x}} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} \left(\underbrace{e^{e^x}}_u \right)$$

deriv. $e^u \frac{du}{dx}$

$$= e^{e^{e^x}} \cdot e^{e^x} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (e^x)$$

$$f'(x) = e^{e^{e^x}} \cdot e^{e^x} \cdot e^x$$

$$f'(0) = e^{e^{e^0}} \cdot e^{e^0} \cdot e^0 = e^e \cdot e = e^{e+1}$$

How do we know when to use the Chain Rule?

technical answer: with any composite functions (functions of functions)

more practical answer: ~~when~~ if you wonder if chain rule is needed, it is because if you use the chain rule even when you don't have to, the answer is still right.

for example, $y = \sin(\overset{u}{x})$ form: $\sin(u)$ deriv $\cos(u) \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$
 $= \sin(u)$ with $u = x$

$$y' = \cos(u) \cdot \frac{du}{dx} = \cos(u) \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(x)$$

$$= \cos(x) \cdot (1) = \cos(x) \text{ as expected}$$

but if chain rule is needed but you don't use it, answer is wrong

for example, $y = \sin(x^2)$ $u = x^2$ $\sin(u)$

$$y' = \cos(u) \cdot \frac{du}{dx} = \cos(x^2) \cdot (2x)$$

← will be missing if Chain Rule not used

When in doubt, Chain it out

example

$$y = \sec(9x^3 + x^2) \cdot e^{9x^3}$$

$$y = \underbrace{\sec(9x^3 + x^2)}_{f(x)} \cdot \underbrace{(e^{9x^3})}_{g(x)}$$

form: product of two functions
 $f(x) \cdot g(x)$

$$y' = \sec(9x^3 + x^2) \cdot \underbrace{\frac{d}{dx}(e^{9x^3})}_{e^u} + e^{9x^3} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{d}{dx} \sec(9x^3 + x^2)}_{\sec(u)}$$

$$= \sec(9x^3 + x^2) \cdot e^{9x^3} \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(9x^3) + e^{9x^3} \cdot \sec(9x^3 + x^2) \tan(9x^3 + x^2) \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(9x^3 + x^2)$$

$$= \sec(9x^3 + x^2) \cdot e^{9x^3} \cdot 27x^2 + e^{9x^3} \cdot \sec(9x^3 + x^2) \tan(9x^3 + x^2) (27x^2 + 2x)$$

example

$$y = \frac{e^{3x^2+2}}{\cos(\sin(x^2))}$$

quotient to start

$$y' = \frac{\cos(\sin(x^2)) \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(e^{3x^2+2}) - e^{3x^2+2} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} \overbrace{\cos(\sin(x^2))}^{\cos(u)}}{[\cos(\sin(x^2))]^2}$$

$$= \frac{\cos(\sin(x^2)) \cdot e^{3x^2+2} \cdot 6x - e^{3x^2+2} \cdot -\sin(\sin(x^2)) \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(\sin(x^2))}{[\dots]^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{d}{dx}(\sin(u)) \\ &= \cos(u) \cdot \frac{du}{dx} \\ &= \cos(x^2) \cdot 2x \end{aligned}$$