

GTU, Fall 2020, MATH 101

The Chain Rule

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Chain rule says that the derivative of the composite is derivative f' of the outside function evaluated at the inside function $g(x)$, multiplied by the derivative $g'(x)$ of the inside function.

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

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Let $u = 5x + 2$ and $y = u^7$.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \frac{du}{dx} = (7u^6)(5) = 35(5x + 2)^6.$$

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$$* \frac{d}{dx} |u| = \frac{u}{|u|} \frac{du}{dx} \text{ (the Absolute Value Rule)}$$

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$$= \frac{7x^4 - 2x^2 - 1}{2(x^3 - x)^{1/2}}.$$

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An equation for the tangent line is:

$$y - 1 = -6(x - 2) \text{ or } y = -6x + 13.$$