

Last Lecture.

Final is over 5.1 through 5.4 and 6.1

Theorem 6.1.10: The Chain Rule

Recall:

$f(x) = x^n$ implies $f'(x) = nx^{n-1} \forall n \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$

Let: I, J be intervals in \mathbb{R} and $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g : J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where $f(I) \subset J$

Also,

Let: $c \in I$

If $f'(c)$ exists and $g'(f(c))$ exists, then $(g \circ f)'(c) = g'(f(c)) * f'(c)$

Proof.

Since $g'(f(c))$ exists,

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow f(c)} \frac{g(y) - g(f(c))}{y - f(c)} = g'(f(c))$$

Define the function $h : J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ where

$$h(y) = \frac{g(y) - g(f(c))}{y - f(c)}$$

if $y \neq f(c)$, and

$$h(y) = g'(f(c))$$

if $y = f(c)$.

Notice that $\lim_{y \rightarrow f(c)} h(y) = g'(f(c)) = h(f(c))$ (1)

Since $f(c) \in J$, which is an interval, $f(c)$ is a limit/accumulation point of J .

Recall: I is an interval if where ever $x_1, x_2 \in I$, $x_1 < x_2$, and $x_1 < x < x_2$ then $x \in I$

Then, by Theorem 5.2.2(a)(d),

(a) h is continuous at $f(c)$

(d) $\lim_{y \rightarrow f(c)} h(y) = h(f(c))$

h is continuous at $f(c)$.

Also, since f is differentiable at c , it follows by Theorem 6.1.6 that f is continuous at c .

Also, h is continuous at $f(c)$.

By Theorem 5.2.12, $h \circ f$ is continuous at c .

By Theorem 5.2.2 (a)(d), we see that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} (h \circ f)(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} h(f(x)) = h(f(c)) = g'(f(c)) \text{ from (1)}$$

Now, let $x \in I$ with $x \neq c$.

Then,

$$(g \circ f)(c) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{(g \circ f)(x) - (g \circ f)(c)}{x - c} = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{g(f(x)) - g(f(c))}{x - c} \quad (2)$$

Notice that $h(y)(y - f(c)) = g(y) - g(f(c))$, $\forall y \in J$.

Thus,

$$h(f(x))[f(x) - f(c)] = g(f(x)) - g(f(c)) \quad (3)$$

Substituting **(3)** into **(2)** yields that

$$(g \circ f)'(c) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{h(f(x))[f(x) - f(c)]}{x - c} = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} [h(f(x))] \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \left[\frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} \right] = g'(f(c)) * f'(c)$$

Hence, result.

You might be wondering, though, why can't you do this?

$$(g \circ f)'(c) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \left[\frac{g(f(x)) - g(f(c))}{x - c} * \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{f(x) - f(c)} \right] = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \left[\frac{g(f(x)) - g(f(c))}{f(x) - f(c)} \right] * \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \left[\frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} \right]$$

You can't let $f(x) - f(c) = 0$. It might be 0.

□