



< Previous



Next >

# 1. Differentials

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Recitation due Oct 5, 2021 20:30 IST



Practice

Chain Rule Problem



▶ 1:05 / 1:05

▶ 2.0x

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So in part a, we just want to compute the total differential  $dz$  in terms of  $dx$  and  $dy$ . So  $u$  and  $v$  aren't going to enter into the picture. And then in part b, we're going to compute the partial derivative, partial  $z$ , partial  $u$ , in two different ways. First, we're going to compute it using the chain rule, and then we're going to compute it using total differentials. And so we'll substitute in some of the work that we had in a to solve that part. So why don't I pause-- why don't you pause the video now, and work on the problem. We'll check back and we'll do it.

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Differentials and Chain Rule

2/2 points (graded)  
Suppose

$$z = x^2 + y^2 \tag{6.213}$$

and

$$x = u^2 - v^2, \quad y = uv \tag{6.214}$$

- (a) Write the total differential  $dz$  in terms of  $dx, dy$ .  
(Don't forget to use  when multiplying differentials.)

$dz =$   ✔ Answer: 2\*x\*dx + 2\*y\*dy

? INPUT HELP

- (b) Compute  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial u}$ . Your answer may contain  $u, v, x$  and/or  $y$  (the grader will make the substitution  $x = u^2 - v^2$  and  $y = uv$  when checking your answer). Check your answer in two ways: using the chain rule and differentials.

$\frac{\partial z}{\partial u}$

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$\frac{\partial z}{\partial u} =$ 

$4*x*u+2*y*v$

✓ Answer:  $4*u*x + 2*v*y$

? INPUT HELP

The answer is given in the following video.

Solution:

Using differentials, we have

$$dz = z_x dx + z_y dy. \tag{6.215}$$

Therefore,

$$dz = 2x dx + 2y dy \tag{6.216}$$

Then, using the chain rule, we have

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial u} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial u}. \tag{6.217}$$

Substituting the appropriate partial derivatives, we obtain

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial u} = 4ux + 2vy. \tag{6.218}$$

Alternatively, one may use total differentials. The general strategy is to make the necessary substitutions in the expression for  $dz$ , and then extract the coefficient on  $du$ , which must be the desired partial derivative.

From above, we have

$$dz = 2x dx + 2y dy \tag{6.219}$$

From  $x = u^2 - v^2$  and  $y = uv$  we have

$$dx = 2u du - 2v dv \tag{6.220}$$

and

$$dy = v du + u dv. \tag{6.221}$$

Now substituting the values for  $dx$  and  $dy$  into  $dz$  we obtain

$$dz = 2x (2u du - 2v dv) + 2y (v du + u dv) \tag{6.222}$$

Collecting like terms:

$$dz = (4xu + 2vy) du + (2yu - 4xv) dv \tag{6.223}$$

Thus, we obtain  $\frac{dz}{du} = 4xu + 2vy$ .




Calculator



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You have used 1 of 5 attempts

 Answers are displayed within the problem

Chain Rule Problem Solution



 10:21 / 10:21

 2.0x









sides

is essentially the same expression.

So that means, if we want to compute parcels  $z$  partial  $u$ , then that's just equal to this coefficient here.

So we get that partial  $z$  partial  $u$  is  $4xu$  plus  $2$ --

that should be  $v$ . One of those is an  $x$ .

Let's see.

So what where did this come from?

Yeah, one of those is an  $x$ , sorry.

STUDENT: It's a  $y$ .

PROFESSOR: It's a  $y$ ,  $2vy$ .

Now, just as a sanity check, why don't we go back to the middle of the board.

And we'll see that we got the same thing.

Video

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Chain Rule Problem 2

1/1 point (graded)

Suppose  $f(x, y, z)$  is a function such that  $\nabla f = \begin{pmatrix} xy + z \\ x^2 + 5y \\ -x \end{pmatrix}$ . Suppose that  $x, y$ , and  $z$  all depend on  $t$  via

$x = t, y = t^2, z = t^3$ . Find  $\frac{df}{dt}$ .

$\frac{df}{dt} =$   ✔ Answer: 11\*t^3

? INPUT HELP

Solution:

By the chain rule, we have

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

(6.224)

We are given:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = xy + z, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x^2 + 5y, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = -x$$

 Calculator

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Then, from  $x = t, y = t^2, z = t^3$ , we obtain

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2t^3, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 6t^2, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = -t$$

(6.226)

and

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 1, \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = 2t, \quad \frac{dz}{dt} = 3t^2$$

(6.227)

Therefore,

$$\frac{df}{dt} = (2t^3)(1) + (6t^2)(2t) + (-t)(3t^2) = 11t^3$$

(6.228)

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