

D E E P   L E A R N I N G

# Single-variable chain rule

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# Single-variable Chain Rule

Notation

$$y = f(g(x)) \quad (f \circ g)(x)$$

Derivative

$$y' = f'(g(x))g'(x) \quad \longrightarrow \quad u = g(x)$$

Formulation of the single-variable chain rule

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$y = f(g(x)) = \sin(x^2):$$

1. Introduce Intermediate variable      Let  $u = x^2$

$$u = x^2 \quad (\text{relative to definition } f(g(x)), g(x) = x^2)$$

$$y = \sin(u) \quad (y = f(u) = \sin(u))$$

2. Compute derivative

$$\frac{du}{dx} = 2x \quad (\text{Take derivative with respect to } x)$$

$$\frac{dy}{du} = \cos(u) \quad (\text{Take derivative with respect to } u \text{ not } x)$$

$$y = f(g(x)) = \sin(x^2):$$

3. Combine

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \frac{du}{dx} = \cos(u)2x$$

4. Substitute

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \frac{du}{dx} = \cos(x^2)2x = 2x\cos(x^2)$$

Visualize the overall expression

$$\begin{array}{c}
 y = \sin \\
 \uparrow \\
 u = \text{square} \\
 \uparrow \\
 x
 \end{array}
 \left\{
 \begin{array}{l}
 \frac{dy}{du} \\
 \frac{du}{dx}
 \end{array}
 \right.$$

**Forward differentiation from  $x$  to  $y$**

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{du}{dx} \frac{dy}{du}$$

**Backward differentiation from  $y$  to  $x$**

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \frac{du}{dx}$$

# Advantage

$f_4(f_3(f_2(f_1(x)))) \longrightarrow \text{Easy}$

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$$y = f(x) = \ln(\sin(x^3)^2):$$

1. Introduce intermediate variables.

$$\begin{aligned} u_1 &= f_1(x) = x^3 \\ u_2 &= f_2(u_1) = \sin(u_1) \\ u_3 &= f_3(u_2) = u_2^2 \\ u_4 &= f_4(u_3) = \ln(u_3) \quad (y = u_4) \end{aligned}$$

2. Compute derivatives.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} u_1 &= \frac{d}{dx} x^3 = 3x^2 \\ \frac{d}{du_1} u_2 &= \frac{d}{du_1} \sin(u_1) = \cos(u_1) \\ \frac{d}{du_2} u_3 &= \frac{d}{du_2} u_2^2 = 2u_2 \\ \frac{d}{du_3} u_4 &= \frac{d}{du_3} \ln(u_3) = \frac{1}{u_3} \end{aligned}$$

3. Combine four intermediate values.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{du_4}{dx} = \frac{du_4}{du_3} \frac{du_3}{du_2} \frac{du_2}{du_1} \frac{du_1}{dx} \\ &= \frac{1}{u_3} 2u_2 \cos(u_1) 3x^2 = \frac{6u_2 x^2 \cos(u_1)}{u_3}\end{aligned}$$

4. Substitute.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{6 \sin(u_1) x^2 \cos(x^3)}{u_2^2} = \frac{6 \sin(x^3) x^2 \cos(x^3)}{\sin(u_1)^2} \\ &= \frac{6 \sin(x^3) x^2 \cos(x^3)}{\sin(x^3)^2} = \frac{6 x^2 \cos(x^3)}{\sin(x^3)}\end{aligned}$$



# Visualization

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 y = r_4 & \ln & & & \frac{du_4}{du_3} \\
 & \uparrow & & & \\
 r_3 & \text{square} & & & \frac{du_3}{du_2} \\
 & \uparrow & & & \\
 r_2 & \sin & & & \frac{du_2}{du_1} \\
 & \uparrow & & & \\
 r_1 & \text{cube} & & & \frac{du_1}{dx} \\
 & \uparrow & & & \\
 & x & & & 
 \end{array}
 \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{c} \ln \\ \text{square} \\ \sin \\ \text{cube} \\ x \end{array}} \right\}$$

THANK  
YOU

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