

11.5 Chain Rule

Introduction

There are several versions of the Chain Rule for multi variable functions. Each of these versions give a rule for differentiating a composite functions.

Chain Rule Case 1

$z = f(x, y)$ with $x, y = g(t), h(t)$, meaning that x & y are both functions of t . Then z is a differentiable function of t . Assume that f_x & f_y are continuous so f is differentiable.

$$z = f(x, y), \quad x = g(t), \quad y = h(t)$$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = z_x \frac{dx}{dt} + z_y \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt}$$

Ex 1

If $z = x^2y + 3xy^4$, where $x = \sin 2t$ & $y = \cos t$, find $\frac{dz}{dt}$ when $t = 0$.

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = 2xy + 3y^4, \quad \frac{dx}{dt} = 2 \cos 2t \quad \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = x^2 + 12xy^3, \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = -\sin t$$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = (2xy + 3y^4)(2 \cos 2t) + (x^2 + 12xy^3)(-\sin t)$$

$$t = 0, \quad x = \sin 0 = 0, \quad y = \cos 0 = 1$$

$$\left. \frac{dz}{dt} \right|_{t=0} = (0 + 3)(2 \cdot 1) + (0 + 0)(-\sin 0) = \boxed{6}$$

Ex 2

$PV = 8.31T$. Find the rate at which the pressure is changing when the temperature is $300K$ and increasing

at a rate of $0.1K/s$ and the volume is $100L$ and increasing at a rate of $0.2L/s$.

$$T = 300, \frac{dT}{dt} = 0.1, V = 100, \frac{dV}{dt} = 0.2$$

$$P = 8.31 \frac{T}{V}$$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = P_T \frac{dT}{dt} + P_V \frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{\partial P}{\partial T} \frac{dT}{dt} + \frac{\partial P}{\partial V} \frac{dV}{dt}$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial T} = 8.31 \frac{T}{V}, \frac{dT}{dt} = 0.1 \quad \frac{\partial P}{\partial V} = -2 \frac{8.31T}{v^2}, \frac{dV}{dt} = 0.2$$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = 0.1 \left(\frac{8.31}{100} \right) - 0.2 \left(\frac{8.31(300)}{100^2} \right) = \boxed{-0.04155}$$

The pressure is decreasing at a rate of about $0.042kPa/s$

Chain Rule Case 2

Suppose that $z = f(x, y)$ is a differentiable function of x & y , where $x = g(s, t)$ & $y = h(s, t)$ are differentiable functions of s & t . Then

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial s} = z_x x_s + z_y y_s = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial s}$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = z_x x_t + z_y y_t = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial t}$$

Ex 3

If $z = e^x \sin y$, where $x = st^2$ & $y = s^2t$, find $\frac{\partial z}{\partial s}$ & $\frac{\partial z}{\partial t}$.

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial s} := \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = e^x \sin y, \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} = t^2, \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = e^x \cos y, \frac{\partial y}{\partial s} = 2st$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial s} = t^2 e^x \sin y + 2ste^x \cos y$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial z}{\partial s} = t^2 e^{st^2} \sin(s^2t) + 2ste^{st^2} \cos(s^2t)}$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} := \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = e^x \sin y, \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} = 2ts, \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = e^x \cos y, \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = s^2$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = 2ste^x \sin y + s^2 e^x \cos y$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = 2ste^{st^2} \sin(st^2) + s^2 e^{st^2} \cos(st^2)}$$

General Version

Suppose that u is a differentiable function of the n variables x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n and each x_i is a differentiable function of the m variables t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m .

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t_i} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_1} \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial t_j} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_2} \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial t_j} + \dots + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_n} \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial t_m}$$

for each $j = 1, 2, \dots, m$.

Ex 4

If $u = x^4y + y^2z^3$, where $x = rse^t$, $y = rs^2e^{-t}$, & $z = r^2s \sin t$, find $\frac{\partial u}{\partial s}$.

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} \frac{\partial z}{\partial s}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial u}{\partial s} = (4x^3y)(re^t) + (x^4 + 2yz^3)(2rse^{-t}) + (3y^2z^2)(r^2 \sin t)}$$

Implicit Differentiation

Suppose an equation of the form $F(x, y) = 0$ defines y implicitly as a differentiable function of x .

If F is differentiable and $\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \neq 0$, then

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{F_x}{F_y}$$

Ex 5 Find y' if $x^3 + y^3 = 6xy$, $F(x, y) = x^3 + y^3 - 6xy = 0$

$$F_x = 3x^2 - 6y \quad F_y = 3y^2 - 6x$$

$$y' = -\frac{3x^2 - 6y}{3y^2 - 6x} = \boxed{-\frac{x^2 - 2y}{y^2 - 2x}}$$

Suppose z is given implicitly as $z = f(x, y)$ by an equation of the form $F(x, y, z) = 0$. If F & f are differentiable and $\frac{\partial F}{\partial z} \neq 0$, then

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = -\frac{\partial F_x}{\partial F_z} \quad \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = -\frac{F_y}{F_z}$$

Ex 6

Find $\frac{dz}{dx}$ if $x^3 + y^3 + z^3 + 6xyz = 1$

$$F(x, y, z) = x^3 + y^3 + 6xyz - 1 = 0$$

$$F_x = 3x^2 + 6yz \quad F_z = 3z^2 + 6xy$$

$$\frac{dz}{dx} = -\frac{3x^2 + 6yz}{3z^2 + 6xy} = \boxed{-\frac{x^2 + 2yz}{z^2 + 2xy}}$$