

1. Each of the following functions can be written as a composition. Find  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  so that the following function is of the form  $f(g(x))$ . Then, find the derivative of the function using the chain rule.

(a)  $y = (2x + 1)^2$ . Can you take the derivative another way to check your work? How many ways can you take this derivative?

(b)  $y = \sin(4x)$

(c)  $y = \sqrt{2 + x^2} + (2 + x^2)^3$

(d)  $y(z) = \sqrt{\frac{z-1}{z+1}}$

**Solution.**

(a) Let  $f(x) = x^2$  and  $g(x) = 2x + 1$ . Then  $f(g(x)) = (2x + 1)^2 = y(x)$ . Using the chain rule and the formulas  $f'(x) = 2x$  and  $g'(x) = 2$ , we have:

$$y'(x) = (f(g(x)))' = f'(g(x))g'(x) = 2(2x + 1) \cdot 2 = 8x + 4.$$

(b) Let  $f(x) = \sin(x)$  and  $g(x) = 4x$ . Then  $f(g(x)) = \sin(4x) = y(x)$ . Using the chain rule and the formulas  $f'(x) = \cos(x)$  and  $g'(x) = 4$ , we have:

$$y'(x) = (f(g(x)))' = f'(g(x))g'(x) = \cos(4x) \cdot 4 = 4 \cos(4x).$$

(c) Split up the function as a sum when taking the derivative.

$$y'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \sqrt{1 + x^2} \right) + \frac{d}{dx} \left( (2 + x^2)^3 \right).$$

For the first function, take  $f(x) = \sqrt{x} = x^{1/2}$  and  $g(x) = 1 + x^2$ ; then  $f'(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2}$  and  $g'(x) = 2x$ . For the second function, take  $f(x) = x^3$  and  $g(x) = 2 + x^2$ . Then  $f'(x) = 3x^2$  and  $g'(x) = 2x$ . Then, from the chain rule on each derivative:

$$\begin{aligned} y'(x) &= \frac{1}{2}(1 + x^2)^{-1/2}(2x) + 3(2 + x^2)^2(2x) \\ &= x(1 + x^2)^{-1/2} + 6x(2 + x^2)^2. \end{aligned}$$

(d) Let  $f(z) = \sqrt{z} = z^{1/2}$  and  $g(z) = \frac{z-1}{z+1}$ . Then  $f'(z) = \frac{1}{2}z^{-1/2}$  and  $g'(z) = \frac{(z+1)-(z-1)}{(z+1)^2} = \frac{2}{(z+1)^2}$ . From the chain rule:

$$\begin{aligned} y'(z) &= f'(g(z))g'(z) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{z-1}{z+1} \right)^{-1/2} \cdot \frac{2}{(z+1)^2} \\ &= \left( \frac{z+1}{z-1} \right)^{1/2} \cdot \frac{1}{(z+1)^2} \end{aligned}$$

2. A differentiable function  $f$  satisfies  $f(3) = 5$ ,  $f(\frac{1}{9}) = 7$ ,  $f'(3) = 11$ , and  $f'(\frac{1}{9}) = 13$ . Let  $g(x) = f(\frac{1}{x^2})$ . Find the equation to the tangent line of  $y = g(x)$  when  $x = 3$ .

**Solution.** The tangent line passes through the point  $(3, g(3)) = (3, f(\frac{1}{9})) = (3, 7)$ . Using the chain rule, noting that  $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{x^2} = \frac{d}{dx} x^{-2} = -2x^{-3}$ , we find the derivative

$$y'(x) = g'(x) = f'(\frac{1}{x^2}) \cdot (-2x^{-3}).$$

The slope of the tangent line is then:

$$y'(3) = f'(\frac{1}{9}) \cdot (-2) \cdot (\frac{1}{9})^{-3} = 13 \cdot (-2) \cdot 9^3 = -18954.$$

And therefore the equation of the tangent line is

$$T(x) = -18954(x - 3) + 7.$$

3. Suppose  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are functions whose values and derivatives at  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1$  are given in the following table.

| $x$ | $f(x)$ | $g(x)$ | $f'(x)$        | $g'(x)$        |
|-----|--------|--------|----------------|----------------|
| 0   | 1      | 1      | 5              | $\frac{1}{3}$  |
| 1   | 3      | -4     | $-\frac{1}{3}$ | $-\frac{8}{3}$ |

We define the following functions:

- $v(x) = f(g(x))$
- $w(x) = g(f(x))$
- $p(x) = f(x)g(x)$
- $q(x) = \frac{g(x)}{f(x)}$

Determine  $v(0), w(0), p(0), q(0)$  and  $v'(0), w'(0), p'(0), q'(0)$ . If there isn't enough information to compute a value, state so.

**Solution.** We use the chain rule for the first two, product rule for the third one, and the quotient rule for the last one.

- $v'(0) = f'(g(0))g'(0) = f'(1)(\frac{1}{3}) = 3 \cdot (\frac{1}{3}) = 1.$
- $w'(0) = g'(f(0))f'(0) = g'(1) \cdot 5 = (-\frac{8}{3}) \cdot 5 = -\frac{40}{3}.$
- $p'(0) = f'(0)g(0) + f(0)g'(0) = 5 \cdot 1 + 1 \cdot (-\frac{1}{3}) = 5 - \frac{1}{3} = \frac{14}{3}.$
- $q'(0) = \frac{f(0)g'(0) - g(0)f'(0)}{f(0)^2} = \frac{1 \cdot (\frac{1}{3}) - 1 \cdot 5}{1^2} = -\frac{14}{3}.$

4. Compute the derivative of  $y = \tan(\sqrt{1+x^2})$ .

**Solution.** Chain rule (2×).

$$y'(x) = \sec^2(\sqrt{1+x^2}) \cdot \frac{1}{2}(1+x^2)^{-1/2} \cdot (2x) = \frac{x}{\cos^2(\sqrt{1+x^2})\sqrt{1+x^2}}.$$

5. Compute the derivative of  $h(x) = \left(\frac{\sec(x)}{1+x^2}\right)^{1/3}$ .

**Solution.** Chain rule.

$$h'(x) = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{\sec(x)}{1+x^2}\right)^{-2/3} \left(\frac{(1+x^2)\sec(x)\tan(x) - 2x\sec(x)}{(1+x^2)^2}\right).$$

6. Compute the derivative of  $y = \tan((\sin(2x))^2)$ .

**Solution.** Chain rule.

$$y'(x) = \sec^2(\sin(2x)^2) \cdot 2\sin(2x) \cdot \cos(2x) \cdot 2.$$

7. Find  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  if  $y = (3x + \tan(x))^3$ .

**Note:** On exams, especially for complex problems such as this, you must write your algebra in a neat and organized manner in order to receive credit!!

**Solution.** First, we have by the chain rule,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3(3x + \tan(x))^2(3 + \sec^2(x)).$$

Then by the product rule and chain rule,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} &= 3 \cdot 2(3x + \tan(x))(3 + \sec^2(x))(3 + \sec^2(x)) + 3(3x + \tan(x))^2(2\sec(x) \cdot \sec(x)\tan(x)) \\ &= 6(3x + \tan(x))(3 + \sec^2(x))^2 + 6(3x + \tan(x))^2 \sec^2(x)\tan(x) \end{aligned}$$

8. Consider the curve defined by  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ .

(a) Is  $y$  a function of  $x$ ? How can you see this graphically? How can you see this algebraically?

**Solution.** No, the unit circle does not pass the “vertical line test.” For example, the line

$$x = 0$$

passes through *two* points on the circle,  $(0, 1)$  and  $(0, -1)$ , not one. Algebraically, solving for  $y$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}y^2 &= 1 - x^2 \\ \Rightarrow y &= \pm\sqrt{1 - x^2}.\end{aligned}$$

Each  $x$ -coordinate determines two possible values of  $y$ , not 1.

(b) Solve for  $y$  as a function of  $x$  on the bottom half of the circle. Find  $y'$ .

**Solution.** Solving  $y^2 = 1 - x^2$  for the “top half,” where  $y \geq 0$ , we have  $y = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$ . Now we may use the chain rule:

$$y' = \frac{1}{2}(1 - x^2)^{-1/2}(-2x) = \frac{-x}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}.$$

(c) Solve for  $y$  as a function of  $x$  on the top half of the circle. Find  $y'$ .

**Solution.** Solving  $y^2 = 1 - x^2$  with  $y \leq 0$  gives us  $y = -\sqrt{1 - x^2}$ . The derivative is now:

$$y' = \frac{x}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}.$$

(d) Use implicit differentiation to find  $y'$ . How does this answer relate to your answer from the previous parts?

**Solution.** We start with  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ , viewing  $y = y(x)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx}(x^2 + y^2) &= \frac{d}{dx}(1) \\ \Rightarrow 2x + 2yy' &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow 2yy' &= -2x \\ \Rightarrow y' &= \frac{-2x}{2y} = \frac{-x}{y}.\end{aligned}$$

In order to find  $y'$  as a function of  $x$ , we have to find  $y$  as a function of  $x$ . Like before, we can either choose  $y = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$  or  $y = -\sqrt{1 - x^2}$ . Plugging the second formula for  $y$ , for example, we find  $y'$  from part (c):

$$y' = \frac{-x}{y} = \frac{-x}{-\sqrt{1 - x^2}} = \frac{x}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}.$$

9. Use implicit differentiation to find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  if  $y^2 + xy = 4x^2$ .

**Solution.** Chain rule and product rule. Remember we are assuming  $y$  is a function of  $x$ :  $y = y(x)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx}(y^2 + xy) &= \frac{d}{dx}(4x^2) \\ 2yy' + y + xy' &= 8x \\ (2y + x)y' &= 8x - y \\ y' &= \frac{8x - y}{2y + x}.\end{aligned}$$

We have found  $y'$  as a function of  $(x, y)$ .

10. Use implicit differentiation to find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  if  $\cos\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = x \sin(y)$ .

**Solution.** Take the derivative of both sides of the equation  $\cos\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = x \sin(y)$  with respect to  $x$ . Then solve for  $y'$ .

$$\begin{aligned} -\sin\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) \cdot \frac{y - xy'}{y^2} &= \sin(y) + x \cos(y)y' \\ \Rightarrow -\sin\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) \cdot \frac{y - xy'}{y^2} &= \sin(y) + x \cos(y)y' \\ \Rightarrow -\sin\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{y} - \frac{x}{y^2}y'\right) &= \sin(y) + x \cos(y)y' \\ \Rightarrow \frac{-1}{y} \sin\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) + \frac{x}{y^2} \sin\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) y' &= \sin(y) + x \cos(y)y' \\ \Rightarrow \left(\frac{x}{y^2} \sin\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) - x \cos(y)\right) y' &= \sin(y) + \frac{1}{y} \sin\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) \\ \Rightarrow y' &= \frac{\sin(y) + \frac{1}{y} \sin\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)}{\left(\frac{x}{y^2} \sin\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) - x \cos(y)\right)}. \end{aligned}$$

11. Find the equation of the tangent line to the curve defined by  $\cos(x^2y) = 3xy^2 + y$  at the point  $(0, 1)$ .

**Solution.** First, we use implicit differentiation to find  $dy/dx$  as a function of  $(x, y)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} -\sin(x^2y)(2xy + x^2y') &= 3y^2 + 6xyy' + y' \\ \Rightarrow -2xy \sin(x^2y) - x^2 \sin(x^2y)y' &= 3y^2 + (6xy + 1)y' \\ \Rightarrow -2xy \sin(x^2y) - 3y^2 &= (x^2 \sin(x^2y) + 6xy + 1)y' \\ \Rightarrow y' &= \frac{-2xy \sin(x^2y) - 3y^2}{x^2 \sin(x^2y) + 6xy + 1} \end{aligned}$$

Now plug in  $(x, y) = (0, 1)$ .

$$y'(0, 1) = \frac{-2(0)(1) \sin((0)^2(1)) - 3(1)^2}{(0)^2 \cdot 0 + 6(0)(1) + 1} = -3.$$

The tangent line has slope  $y'(0, 1) = -3$  and passes through the point  $(0, 1)$ . The equation of this line is

$$T(x) = -3(x - 0) + 1 = -3x + 1.$$

12. Find a point on the curve  $x^2 = y^3 + y + 2$  and use implicit differentiation to find the equation of the tangent line through that point.

**Solution.** Let's try setting  $y = 0$  and see if we can solve for  $x$ . We obtain  $x^2 = 2$ , and  $x = \sqrt{2}$  is a solution of this equation. Therefore  $(x, y) = (\sqrt{2}, 0)$  is a point on the curve.

Implicit derivative:

$$2x = 3y^2y' + y' \quad \Rightarrow \quad y' = \frac{2x}{3y^2 + 1}.$$

Inserting  $(x, y) = (\sqrt{2}, 0)$ , we have:

$$y' = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{3(0)^2 + 1} = 2\sqrt{2}.$$

Using the point-slope equation of a line, we find the tangent line is:

$$y = 2\sqrt{2}(x - \sqrt{2}) + 0.$$