

4.2 Derivatives of products and quotients—continued.

Review of rules:

Constant rule: $\frac{d}{dx}ku(x) = ku'(x)$.

Sum/Difference rules: $\frac{d}{dx}u(x) \pm v(x) = u'(x) \pm v'(x)$.

Product rule: $\frac{d}{dx}u(x)v(x) = u(x)v'(x) + u'(x)v(x)$.

Reciprocal rule: $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{v(x)} = \frac{-v'(x)}{v(x)^2}$.

Quotient rule: $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{u(x)}{v(x)} = \frac{v(x)u'(x) - u(x)v'(x)}{v(x)^2}$.

Proof of product rule.

If $f(x) = u(x)v(x)$, then $f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x+h)v(x+h) - (u(x)v(x))}{h} =$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x+h)v(x+h) - u(x+h)v(x) + u(x+h)v(x) - u(x)v(x)}{h} =$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left[u(x+h) \left(\frac{v(x+h) - v(x)}{h} \right) + \left(\frac{u(x+h) - u(x)}{h} v(x) \right) \right] =$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} u(x+h) \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{v(x+h) - v(x)}{h} + \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{u(x+h) - u(x)}{h} v(x) =$$

$$u(x)v'(x) + u'(x)v(x).$$

4.3 The Chain Rule.

Composition: $(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x))$.

Example: $f(x) = x^2 - 1$, $g(x) = \sqrt[3]{x} = x^{1/3}$;

$(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x)) = (\sqrt[3]{x})^2 - 1 = x^{2/3} - 1$ **and** $(g \circ f)(x) = \sqrt[3]{x^2 - 1}$

Then $(f \circ g)(3) = 3^{2/3} - 1 = 1.0801$, **but** $(g \circ f)(3) = \sqrt[3]{3^2 - 1} = \sqrt[3]{8} = 2$.

Let f and g be differentiable functions.

Consider variables $y = g(x)$, $z = f(y) = f(g(x))$, $k = g(x+h) - g(x)$;

note that $g(x+h) = y+k$ **and** $k \rightarrow 0$ **as** $h \rightarrow 0$ **because** g **is continuous.**

$$\begin{aligned}
 (f \circ g)'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(f \circ g)(x+h) - (f \circ g)(x)}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(g(x+h)) - f(g(x))}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(g(x+h)) - f(g(x))}{g(x+h) - g(x)} \frac{g(x+h) - g(x)}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(y+k) - f(y)}{k} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(x+h) - g(x)}{h} \\
 &= f'(g(x))g'(x)
 \end{aligned}$$

This is the Chain Rule: $(f \circ g)'(x) = f'(g(x))g'(x)$.

“The derivative of a composition is the product of the derivatives, but with the derivative of the outer function f evaluated at the value of the inner function g .”

Chain Rule: $(f \circ g)'(x) = f'(g(x))g'(x)$.

Examples.

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^2 - 1)^{1/3} = \frac{1}{3}(x^2 - 1)^{-2/3} \frac{d}{dx}(x^2 - 1) = \frac{1}{3}(x^2 - 1)^{-2/3} 2x$$

More generally, $\frac{d}{dx}(g(x))^n = n(g(x))^{n-1}g'(x)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{x^3 + x + 1} \right) &= \frac{d}{dx} ((x^3 + x + 1)^{-1}) = \\ &= -(x^3 + x + 1)^{-2} (3x^2 + 1) = \frac{3x^2 + 1}{(x^3 + x + 1)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

More generally, $\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{g(x)} \right) = \frac{d}{dx} g(x)^{-1} = -g(x)^{-2} g'(x) = -\frac{g'(x)}{g(x)^2}$,

which is the **Reciprocal Rule**.

Instead of memorizing the **Quotient Rule**, you can derive it from the **Chain Rule** and **Product Rule**:

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

The Chain Rule in Leibniz notation:

Let $z = f(y)$, $y = g(x)$, so $z = f(g(x))$.

$$\frac{dz}{dx} = (f(g(x)))' = f'(g(x))g'(x) = \frac{dz}{dy} \frac{dy}{dx}.$$

“If z changes a times as fast as y , and y changes b times as fast as x , then z changes ab times as fast as x .”

Textbooks problem 55, p.233: $L =$ length, $w =$ weight, $t =$ time.

For the African wild dog, $L = 2.472w^{2.571}$, (length in mm, weight in kg). For a dog less than one year old, the weight is estimated by $w = .265 + .21t$ (linear growth; t in weeks). How fast is the length of a 25-week-old dog changing?

We want $\frac{dL}{dt}$ when $t = 25$.

At this time, we have $w = .265 + .21 \cdot 25 = 5.515$.

Chain Rule: $\frac{dL}{dt} = \frac{dL}{dw} \frac{dw}{dt} =$

$$(2.472)(2.571)w^{1.571} \cdot .21 = 1.335(5.515)^{1.571} = 19.52 \text{ mm/wk}$$