

SECTION 3.4 THE CHAIN RULE

1. For each function $H(x)$ below, write it as a (nontrivial) composition of functions in the form $f(g(x))$.

(a) $H(x) = \tan(2 - x^4)$

$f(x) = \tan x$
 $g(x) = 2 - x^4$

(b) $H(x) = e^{2-2x}$

$f(x) = e^x$

$g(x) = 2 - 2x$

2. Complete the Chain Rule (using both types of notation)

• If $F(x) = f(g(x))$,

then $F'(x) = [f'(g(x))] [g'(x)]$

• If $y = f(u)$ and $u = g(x)$,

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

3. Find the derivative of the function. You do not need to simplify your answer.

(a) $y = \sqrt[3]{4 - 2x} = (4 - 2x)^{1/3}$ $f = x^{1/3}$ $g = 4 - 2x$

$y' = \frac{1}{3} (4 - 2x)^{-2/3} (-2) = -\frac{2}{3} (4 - 2x)^{-2/3}$

(b) f g
 $f(x) = 0.04 \sin(3x + e^x)$

$f'(x) = (0.04) (\cos(3x + e^x)) (3 + e^x)$

(c) $x(t) = \frac{e^{-\pi t^2/10}}{100}$ (Don't use the quotient rule here!)

$$x(t) = \frac{1}{100} e^{(-\frac{\pi}{10})t^2}$$

$$x'(t) = \frac{1}{100} \left(e^{-\frac{\pi}{10}t^2} \right) \left(-\frac{\pi}{10} \cdot 2t \right) = \frac{-\pi}{500} e^{-\frac{\pi}{10}t^2}$$

(d) $g(x) = \frac{50\sqrt{2}}{x + \tan x}$ (Don't use the quotient rule here!)

$$g(x) = 50\sqrt{2} (x + \tan x)^{-1}$$

$$g'(x) = (50\sqrt{2}) (-1) (x + \tan x)^{-2} (1 + \sec^2 x)$$

4. Suppose that $f(x) = x^3$, $g(x) = \cos(x)$ and $h(x) = 7 + e^x$.

(a) Find $F(x) = f(x)(g(h(x)))$, then find its derivative.

$$F(x) = x^3 \cos(7 + e^x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} F'(x) &= 3x^2 \cos(7 + e^x) + x^3 (-\sin(7 + e^x)) (e^x) \\ &= 3x^2 \cos(7 + e^x) - x^3 e^x \sin(7 + e^x) \end{aligned}$$

(b) Find $G(x) = f(g(x)h(x))$, then find its derivative.

$$g(x)h(x) = (\cos x)(7 + e^x) = 7 \cos x + e^x \cos x$$

$$G(x) = (7 \cos x + e^x \cos x)^3$$

$$\begin{aligned} G'(x) &= 3(7 \cos x + e^x \cos x)^2 (-7 \sin x + e^x \cos x - e^x \sin x) \\ &= 3(e^x \cos x - (7 + e^x) \sin x) (7 \cos x + e^x \cos x)^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$h(x) = 7 + e^x$$

(c) Find $K(x) = \frac{g(x)}{h(f(x))}$, then find its derivative.

$$h(f(x)) = 7 + e^{x^3}$$

$$\text{So } K(x) = \frac{\cos x}{7 + e^{x^3}}$$

$$\text{So } K'(x) = \frac{(7 + e^{x^3})(-\sin x) - (\cos x)(e^{x^3}(3x^2))}{(7 + e^{x^3})^2}$$



(d) Find $G(x) = f(g(h(x)))$, then find its derivative.

$$G(x) = (\cos(7 + e^x))^3$$

$$G'(x) = 3(\cos(7 + e^x))^2(-\sin(7 + e^x))(e^x)$$

$$= -3e^x \sin(7 + e^x) [\cos(7 + e^x)]^2$$