

MATH 2B Review: Chain Rule

Facts to Know:

Derivative formula for composition of functions.

$$\text{Chain Rule 1: } \frac{d}{dx} f(g(x)) = f'(g(x)) g'(x)$$

$$\text{Chain Rule 2: } \underbrace{y = f(u)} \text{ and } \underbrace{u = g(x)}, \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$$

\uparrow chain

Examples:

1. Find the derivative of $y = e^{6x}$. $= f(g(x))$

$$f(x) = e^x$$

$$g(x) = 6x$$

$$f'(x) = e^x$$

$$g'(x) = 6$$

$$y = f(u) = e^u$$

$$u = g(x) = 6x$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(g(x)) g'(x) = e^{6x} \cdot 6 = \boxed{6e^{6x}}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx} = e^u \cdot 6 = 6e^u = \boxed{6e^{6x}}$$

2. Find the derivative of $y = \sin^3(2x)$. $= (\sin(2x))^3 = f(g(h(x)))$

$$f(x) = x^3$$

$$g(x) = \sin(x)$$

$$h(x) = 2x$$

$$f'(x) = 3x^2$$

$$g'(x) = \cos(x)$$

$$h'(x) = 2$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(g(h(x))) = f'(g(h(x))) \frac{d}{dx} g(h(x))$$

$$= f'(g(h(x))) g'(h(x)) h'(x)$$

$$= 3(\sin(2x))^2 \cdot \cos(2x) \cdot 2$$

$$= \boxed{6 \cos(2x) \sin^2(2x)}$$