

Section 3.5

Solutions and Hints

by Brent M. Dingle

for the book:
Calculus, Early Vectors
by James Stewart.

This section covers the Chain Rule. If you think too hard about it, this will be confusing. One way I have found useful to think about it goes like this:

Say you have a function $F(x)$ where there is obviously an “outside” function with “stuff” inside. For example:

$$F(x) = \sqrt{x^2 + 1}.$$

The “outside” function would be the square root and the “stuff” inside would be $x^2 + 1$. Let $O(stuff)$, that’s “oh of stuff,” be the outside function.

Step 1:

Now we know how to find the derivative of $O(stuff) = \sqrt{stuff} = (stuff)^{1/2}$.
That would just be: $O'(stuff) = (1/2) * (stuff)^{-1/2}$.

Step 2:

And we know how to take the derivative of $stuff = x^2 + 1$.
That would just be $stuff' = 2x$.

Answer:

And believe it or not that is all we need to do. Because $F'(x) = O'(stuff) * stuff'$.
Or more specifically

$$F'(x) = [(1/2) * (stuff)^{-1/2}] * 2x, \quad \text{notice here } stuff = x^2 + 1$$
$$F'(x) = [(1/2) * (x^2 + 1)^{-1/2}] * 2x \quad \text{so we can put that back in to get:}$$

So in sum if you are given a function:

$$F(x) = O(stuff)$$

Then

$$F'(x) = O'(stuff) * (\text{the derivative of } stuff)$$

11. Find the derivative of the given function.

$$g(x) = \sqrt{x^2 - 7x}$$

Rewrite this as: $g(x) = (x^2 - 7x)^{1/2}$

So for this one our outer function is square root, $O(stuff) = (stuff)^{1/2}$.

And $stuff = x^2 - 7x$.

Our final answer will be $O'(stuff) * (\text{derivative of } stuff)$

Let's make a table:

$O(stuff) = (stuff)^{1/2}$	$stuff = x^2 - 7x$
$O'(stuff) = \frac{1}{2} * (stuff)^{-1/2}$	$stuff' = \text{derivative of } stuff$
$O'(stuff) = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) * \left(\frac{1}{stuff^{1/2}}\right)$	$= 2x - 7$

By the Chain Rule:

$$g'(x) = O'(stuff) * (\text{derivative of } stuff)$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) * \left(\frac{1}{stuff^{1/2}}\right) * (2x - 7), \quad \text{and put } x^2 - 7x \text{ in for } stuff$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) * \left(\frac{1}{(x^2 - 7x)^{1/2}}\right) * (2x - 7), \quad \text{simplify and combine things}$$

$$= \frac{2x - 7}{2\sqrt{x^2 - 7x}}$$

$$g'(x) = \frac{2x - 7}{2\sqrt{x^2 - 7x}}$$

26. Find the derivative of the given function.

$$y = \tan(x^2) + \tan^2(x)$$

Finding the derivative of $\tan(x^2)$:

Here the outer function $O(\text{stuff}) = \tan(\text{stuff})$. And the stuff = x^2 .

$$\begin{array}{lll} O(\text{stuff}) & = \tan(\text{stuff}) & \text{stuff} = x^2 \\ O'(\text{stuff}) & = \sec^2(\text{stuff}) & \text{stuff}' = 2x \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Derivative of } \tan(x^2) &= O'(\text{stuff}) * \text{stuff}' \\ &= \sec^2(\text{stuff}) * 2x && \text{Put } x^2 \text{ in for stuff.} \\ &= \sec^2(x^2) * 2x \\ &= \mathbf{2x * \sec^2(x^2)} \end{aligned}$$

Finding the derivative of $\tan^2(x)$:

Notice $\tan^2(x) = \tan(x) * \tan(x)$, so we could apply the Product Rule, but we may also apply the Chain Rule if you think like: $\tan^2(x) = [\tan(x)]^2$

Let our outer function be “squared.” So $O(\text{stuff}) = (\text{stuff})^2$. And stuff = $\tan(x)$.

$$\begin{array}{lll} O(\text{stuff}) & = (\text{stuff})^2 & \text{stuff} = \tan(x) \\ O'(\text{stuff}) & = 2 * (\text{stuff})^1 & \text{stuff}' = \sec^2(x) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Derivative of } \tan^2(x) &= O'(\text{stuff}) * \text{stuff}' \\ &= [2 * \text{stuff}] * \sec^2(x), && \text{put } \tan(x) \text{ in for stuff.} \\ &= \mathbf{2 * \tan(x) * \sec^2(x)} \\ &= 2 * \sin(x) / \cos^3(x) \end{aligned}$$

Finding y' :

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \tan(x^2) + \tan^2(x) \\ y' &= [\text{derivative of } \tan(x^2)] + [\text{derivative of } \tan^2(x)] \\ y' &= [2x * \sec^2(x^2)] + [2 * \tan(x) * \sec^2(x)] \end{aligned}$$

OR rewriting stuff:
$$y' = \frac{2x}{(\cos(x^2))^2} + \frac{2 * \sin(x)}{(\cos(x))^3}$$

OR rewriting stuff:
$$y' = \frac{2 * (x * \cos^3(x) + \sin(x) * \cos^2(x^2))}{\cos^2(x^2) * \cos^3(x)}$$

$$y' = [2x * \sec^2(x^2)] + [2 * \tan(x) * \sec^2(x)]$$

34. Find the derivative of the given function.

This one requires the chain rule to be applied several times. So don't get confused.

$$y = \sin^2(\cos 4x)$$

The outer function $O(\text{stuff}) = \sin^2(\text{stuff})$ and $\text{stuff} = \cos(4x)$

$$O(\text{stuff}) = \sin^2(\text{stuff}) \qquad \text{stuff} = \cos(4x)$$

Notice to find O' we need to apply the Chain Rule again:

$$O(\text{stuff}) = \sin^2(\text{stuff}) = [\sin(\text{stuff})]^2$$

Let the outer function $F(\text{more_stuff}) = (\text{more_stuff})^2$ and $\text{more_stuff} = \sin(\text{stuff})$

$$F(\text{more_stuff}) = (\text{more_stuff})^2 \qquad \text{more_stuff} = \sin(\text{stuff})$$

$$F'(\text{more_stuff}) = 2 * (\text{more_stuff}) \qquad \text{more_stuff}' = \cos(\text{stuff})$$

$$\begin{aligned} O'(\text{stuff}) &= F'(\text{more_stuff}) * \text{more_stuff}' \\ &= 2 * \text{more_stuff} * \cos(\text{stuff}), \qquad \textit{put } \sin(\text{stuff}) \textit{ in for more_stuff} \\ &= 2 * \sin(\text{stuff}) * \cos(\text{stuff}) \end{aligned}$$

So now we have for $y = \sin^2(\cos 4x)$:

The outer function $O(\text{stuff}) = \sin^2(\text{stuff})$ and $\text{stuff} = \cos(4x)$

$$O(\text{stuff}) = \sin^2(\text{stuff}) \qquad \text{stuff} = \cos(4x)$$

$$O'(\text{stuff}) = 2 * \sin(\text{stuff}) * \cos(\text{stuff})$$

But we need to apply the chain rule to find stuff'

$$\text{stuff} = \cos(4x)$$

Let the outer function $G(\text{more_stuff}) = \cos(\text{more_stuff})$ and $\text{more_stuff} = 4x$

$$G(\text{more_stuff}) = \cos(\text{more_stuff}) \qquad \text{more_stuff} = 4x$$

$$G'(\text{more_stuff}) = -\sin(\text{more_stuff}) \qquad \text{more_stuff}' = 4$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{stuff}' &= G'(\text{more_stuff}) * \text{more_stuff}' \\ &= -\sin(\text{more_stuff}) * 4, \qquad \textit{put in } 4x \textit{ for more_stuff.} \\ &= -\sin(4x) * 4 \\ &= -4 * \sin(4x) \end{aligned}$$

So now we have for $y = \sin^2(\cos 4x)$:

The outer function $O(\text{stuff}) = \sin^2(\text{stuff})$ and $\text{stuff} = \cos(4x)$

$$O(\text{stuff}) = \sin^2(\text{stuff}) \qquad \text{stuff} = \cos(4x)$$

$$O'(\text{stuff}) = 2 * \sin(\text{stuff}) * \cos(\text{stuff}) \qquad \text{stuff}' = -4 * \sin(4x)$$

And we arrive at:

$$\begin{aligned} y' &= O(\text{stuff}) * \text{stuff}' \\ &= [2 * \sin(\text{stuff}) * \cos(\text{stuff})] * [-4 * \sin(4x)], \qquad \textit{put in } \cos(4x) \textit{ for stuff} \\ &= [2 * \sin(\cos(4x)) * \cos(\cos(4x))] * [-4 * \sin(4x)] \\ &= -8 * \sin(\cos(4x)) * \cos(\cos(4x)) * \sin(4x) \end{aligned}$$

$$y' = -8 * \sin(\cos(4x)) * \cos(\cos(4x)) * \sin(4x)$$

60. Suppose that $w = u \circ v$ and $u(0) = 1$, $v(0) = 2$, $u'(0) = 3$, $u'(2) = 4$, $v'(0) = 5$ and $v'(2) = 6$. Find $w'(0)$.

Much of the information given is just for distraction.

$w = u \circ v$ is the same as saying: $w(x) = u(v(x))$

So the outer function is $u(\text{stuff})$ and the stuff = $v(x)$.

$$\begin{aligned} O(\text{stuff}) &= u(\text{stuff}) & \text{stuff} &= v(x) \\ O'(\text{stuff}) &= u'(\text{stuff}) & \text{stuff}' &= v'(x) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} w'(x) &= O'(\text{stuff}) * \text{stuff}' \\ &= u'(\text{stuff}) * v'(x) & \text{and we can put } v(x) \text{ in for stuff} \\ &= u'(v(x)) * v'(x) \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} w'(0) &= u'(v(0)) * v'(0) & \text{we just put zero in for } x \text{ everywhere} \\ & & \text{we are given } v(0) = 2 \text{ and } v'(0) = 5 \\ &= u'(2) * 5 & \text{and we are given } u'(2) = 4 \\ &= 4 * 5 \\ &= 20 \end{aligned}$$

$w'(0) = 20$
