

Section 4.3: The Chain Rule

Section Objectives:

- Know how to use the chain rule to find the derivative of functions which are compositions.

Practice Problems

Practice, Practice, Practice!

1. Find the derivative of $f(x) = (3x + 2)^3$.

$$3(3x+2)^2 (3)$$

2. Find the derivative of $f(x) = e^{5x^2+2}$.

$$e^{5x^2+2} (10x)$$

3. Find the derivative of $f(x) = \sqrt{e^{4x}} = (e^{4x})^{1/2}$ or e^{2x}

$$= \frac{1}{2} (e^{4x})^{-1/2} \frac{d}{dx} (e^{4x})$$

$$= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{e^{4x}}} \cdot e^{4x} \cdot 4 = \boxed{2\sqrt{e^{4x}}}$$

so $f(x) = \boxed{2e^{2x}}$
note: $\sqrt{e^{4x}} = e^{2x}$

4. Find the derivative of $f(x) = e^x(\ln(x) + 7x^2)$.

product rule

$$e^x \left(\frac{1}{x} + 14x \right) + e^x (\ln(x) + 7x^2)$$

5. Find the derivative of $f(x) = \sqrt{\sqrt{x^3+1}+1} = (\sqrt{x^3+1} + 1)^{1/2}$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left((\sqrt{x^3+1})^{1/2} + 1 \right)^{-1/2} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} \left((\sqrt{x^3+1})^{1/2} + 1 \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left((\sqrt{x^3+1})^{1/2} + 1 \right)^{-1/2} \left(\frac{1}{2} (\sqrt{x^3+1})^{-1/2} (3x^2) \right)$$

6. Find the derivative of $f(x) = \frac{e^x+2}{x^3+2x+\ln(x)}$.

quotient rule

$$\frac{(x^3 + 2x + \ln x)(e^x) - (e^x + 2)(3x^2 + 2 + \frac{1}{x})}{(x^3 + 2x + \ln x)^2}$$

$$= \frac{3x^2}{4(\sqrt{\sqrt{x^3+1}+1})(\sqrt{x^3+1})}$$

7. The demand for a product is given by

$$p(x) = \frac{3000}{\ln(x^2 + 1)},$$

where x is the number of items sold in thousands and p is the price, in dollars.

(a) Find and interpret $p(12)$ and $p'(12)$. What are the units?

$$p(12) = \frac{3000}{\ln(12^2 + 1)} = \$600.82$$

when 12,000 items are sold the price is \$600.82 per thousand.

$$P(x) = 3000 (\ln(x^2 + 1))^{-1}$$

$$P'(x) = -3000 (\ln(x^2 + 1))^{-2} \cdot \frac{d}{dx} (\ln(x^2 + 1))$$

$$= -3000 (\ln(x^2 + 1))^{-2} \cdot \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} \cdot 2x$$

$$P'(x) = \frac{-6000x}{\ln(x^2 + 1)^2 (x^2 + 1)}$$

$$P'(12) = \frac{-6000(12)}{(\ln(145))^2 (145)}$$

$$= \$-20.05 / \text{thousand units}$$

when 12000 units are sold price must decrease at rate of -20.05 per thousand units sold

(b) Find the revenue function $R(x)$. Then find $R(12)$ and $R'(12)$. Give an interpretation and find the units.

$$R(x) = x \cdot p(x) = \frac{3000x}{\ln(x^2 + 1)} \quad R(12) = \$7233.66$$

When 12,000 units are sold the revenue is \$7233.66. (units: dollars)

to sell additional 1000 units.

$$R'(x) = \frac{\ln(x^2 + 1)(3000) - (3000x) \frac{1}{x^2 + 1} (2x)}{\ln(x^2 + 1)^2}$$

units: \$ per thousand units

thousand units

$$R'(12) = \$1802.70$$

When 12,000 units sold revenue is increasing at rate of \$1802.70 per additional 1000

More Practice from Textbook 4.3: You should do as many problems from each set (1-36, 37-44, 45-48), as needed until you are comfortable with these techniques. 37-44 are good practice for application problems.

Unit sold.

units: dollars / 1000 units.