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Section 4.6 - THE POWER OF A FUNCTION RULE



Recall: **Power Rule:** If $y = ax^n$ then $\frac{dy}{dx} = nax^{n-1}$

Product Rule: If $y = f(x) \cdot g(x)$ then $\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) \cdot g(x) + g'(x) \cdot f(x)$

Extended Product Rule: If $y = f(x) \cdot g(x) \cdot h(x)$ then

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x) \cdot g(x) \cdot h(x) + g'(x) \cdot f(x) \cdot h(x) + h'(x) \cdot f(x) \cdot g(x)$$

Ex. 1. Differentiate each of the following using the **Product Rules** and **Power Rule**.

a) $y = (3x^3 - 2x^2 - 1)^3$

Solution:

$$y = (3x^3 - 2x^2 - 1) \cdot (3x^3 - 2x^2 - 1) \cdot (3x^3 - 2x^2 - 1)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = (9x^2 - 4x) \cdot (3x^3 - 2x^2 - 1)^2 + (9x^2 - 4x) \cdot (3x^3 - 2x^2 - 1)^2 + (9x^2 - 4x) \cdot (3x^3 - 2x^2 - 1)^2$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3(9x^2 - 4x)(3x^3 - 2x^2 - 1)^2$$

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = 3(3x^3 - 2x^2 - 1)^2(9x^2 - 4x)$$

b) $y = [f(x)]^4$

Solution:

$$y = [f(x) \cdot f(x) \cdot f(x)] \cdot f(x)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = [f'(x) \cdot [f(x)]^2 + f'(x) \cdot [f(x)]^2 + f'(x) \cdot [f(x)]^2] \cdot f(x) + f'(x) \cdot [f(x)]^3$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3f'(x) \cdot [f(x)]^2 \cdot f(x) + f'(x) \cdot [f(x)]^3$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3f'(x) \cdot [f(x)]^3 + f'(x) \cdot [f(x)]^3$$

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = 4[f(x)]^3 \cdot f'(x)$$

POWER OF A FUNCTION RULE: If $y = [f(x)]^n$ then $\frac{dy}{dx} = n[f(x)]^{n-1} \cdot f'(x)$

If $y = au^n$ then $\frac{dy}{dx} = nau^{n-1} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$

Ex. 2. Differentiate each of the following using the **Power of a Function Rule**.

a) $y = [f(x)]^4$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 4[f(x)]^3 \cdot f'(x)$$

b) $y = (3x^3 - 2x^2 - 1)^3$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3(3x^3 - 2x^2 - 1)^2(9x^2 - 4x)$$

POWER OF A FUNCTION RULE

$$\text{If } y = a[f(x)]^n \text{ then } \frac{dy}{dx} = na[f(x)]^{n-1} \cdot f'(x)$$

Ex. 2. Use the **Power Rule** or **Power of a Function Rule** to find the derivative.

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

$$f(x) = \frac{9x^0}{4x^2} - \frac{1x^0}{x^3} + \frac{1x^0}{x^1}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{9}{4}x^{-2} - x^{-3} + x^{-1}$$

$$f'(x) = -\frac{9}{2}x^{-3} + 3x^{-4} - x^{-2}$$

$$\therefore f'(x) = -\frac{9}{2x^3} + \frac{3}{x^4} - \frac{1}{x^2}$$

b) $y = (2x+1)^6$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 6(2x+1)^5 \cdot 2$$

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = 12(2x+1)^5$$

c) $f(x) = (-x^4 - \pi^4)^4$

$$f'(x) = 4(-x^4 - \pi^4)^3 (-4x^3 + 0)$$

$$f'(x) = -16x^3(-x^4 - \pi^4)^3$$

d) $y = [(3-x)^3 - x]^2$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2[(3-x)^3 - x] [3(3-x)^2(-1) - 1]$$

$$= 2[(3-x)^3 - x] [-3(3-x)^2 - 1]$$

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = -2[(3-x)^3 - x] [3(3-x)^2 + 1]$$

e) $y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2x-1}}$

$$y = (2x-1)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

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

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

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{(2x-1)^3}}$$

f) $g(x) = \frac{-3}{(x^2-4)^2}$

$$g(x) = -3(x^2-4)^{-2}$$

$$g'(x) = 3(x^2-4)^{-2}(2x)$$

$$g'(x) = 6x(x^2-4)^{-2}$$

$$g'(x) = \frac{6x}{(x^2-4)^2}$$

Ex. 3. Use the **Power Rule**, **Power of a Function Rule** and **Product Rule** to differentiate each function. Express your answer in **simplified factored form**.

a) $s = t^4(1-4t^2)^3$

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = 4t^3(1-4t^2)^3 + 3(1-4t^2)^2(-8t) \cdot t^4$$

$$= 4t^3(1-4t^2)^3 - 24t^5(1-4t^2)^2$$

$$= 4t^3(1-4t^2)^2 [(1-4t^2) - 6t^2]$$

$$\therefore \frac{ds}{dt} = 4t^3(1-4t^2)^2(1-10t^2)$$

$$b) f(x) = \underbrace{(2x-1)^5} \cdot \underbrace{(2-3x)^3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \underbrace{5(2x-1)^4(2)} \cdot \underbrace{(2-3x)^3} + \underbrace{3(2-3x)^2(-3)} \cdot \underbrace{(2x-1)^5} \\ &= \underline{10(2x-1)^4(2-3x)^3} - \underline{9(2-3x)^2(2x-1)^5} \\ &= (2x-1)^4(2-3x)^2 [10(2-3x) - 9(2x-1)] \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore f'(x) = (2x-1)^4(2-3x)^2(29-48x)$$

$$c) y = \frac{(3-x)^2}{(3x-2)^3}$$

$$y = \underbrace{(3-x)^2} \cdot \underbrace{(3x-2)^{-3}}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \underbrace{2(3-x)(-1)} \cdot \underbrace{(3x-2)^{-3}} - \underbrace{3(3x-2)^{-4}(3)} \cdot \underbrace{(3-x)^2}$$

$$= -2(3-x)(3x-2)^{-3} - 9(3x-2)^{-4}(3-x)^2$$

$$= -(3-x)(3x-2)^{-4} [2(3x-2) + 9(3-x)]$$

$$= -(3-x)(3x-2)^{-4}(-3x+23)$$

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = + (3-x)(3x-2)^{-4}(3x-23) \text{ or } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{(3-x)(3x-23)}{(3x-2)^4}$$

$$d) y = \sqrt[3]{\frac{1+x^2}{1-2x^2}} \rightarrow y = \left(\frac{1+x^2}{1-2x^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \rightarrow y = \frac{(1+x^2)^{\frac{1}{3}}}{(1-2x^2)^{\frac{1}{3}}}$$

$$y = (1+x^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} \cdot (1-2x^2)^{-\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{3}(1+x^2)^{-\frac{2}{3}}(2x) \cdot (1-2x^2)^{-\frac{1}{3}} - \frac{1}{3}(1-2x^2)^{-\frac{4}{3}}(-4x) \cdot (1+x^2)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

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

$$= \frac{2}{3}x(1+x^2)^{-\frac{2}{3}}(1-2x^2)^{-\frac{4}{3}} \left[(1-2x^2) + 2(1+x^2) \right]$$

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

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = 2x(1+x^2)^{-\frac{2}{3}}(1-2x^2)^{-\frac{4}{3}} \text{ or } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2x}{(1+x^2)^{\frac{2}{3}}(1-2x^2)^{\frac{4}{3}}}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2x}{\sqrt[3]{(1+x^2)^2} \cdot \sqrt[3]{(1-2x^2)^4}}$$

Section 4.6 – THE CHAIN RULE



If $y = ax^n$ then $\frac{dy}{dx} = nax^{n-1}$

If $y = a[f(x)]^n$ then $\frac{dy}{dx} = na[f(x)]^{n-1} \cdot f'(x)$

If $y = au^n$ then $\frac{dy}{dx} = nau^{n-1} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$

Ex. 1. Find the rate of change of $f(t) = \left(\frac{\pi-t}{6\pi+t}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$ at $t = 2\pi$.

$$f(t) = \left(\frac{\pi-t}{6\pi+t}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$f'(t) = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{\pi-t}{6\pi+t}\right)^{-\frac{2}{3}} \cdot \frac{-1(6\pi+t) - 1(\pi-t)}{(6\pi+t)^2}$$

$$f'(2\pi) = \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{-\pi}{8\pi}\right)^{-\frac{2}{3}} \cdot \frac{-8\pi + \pi}{(8\pi)^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \left(-\frac{1}{8}\right)^{-\frac{2}{3}} \cdot \frac{-7\pi}{64\pi^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} (-8)^{\frac{2}{3}} \cdot \frac{-7}{64\pi}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \times \frac{4}{1} \times \frac{-7}{16 \cdot 64\pi} \quad \therefore f'(2\pi) = \frac{-7}{48\pi}$$

$$= \frac{-7}{48\pi}$$



Ex. 2. The **radius** of a **circular** oil slick on a body of water is increasing at a **rate of 2 m/min**. Find the **rate of change of area** of the oil slick when its **radius is 50 m**.

Given $\frac{dr}{dt} = 2 \text{ m/min}$

Find $\frac{dA}{dt}$ when $r = 50 \text{ m}$

$A = \pi r^2$
 differentiate w.r.t. "t"

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = 2\pi r \frac{dr}{dt}$$

if $r = 50$; $\frac{dr}{dt} = 2$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = 2\pi(50)(2)$$

$$= 200\pi$$

\therefore when the radius is 50m the area is changing at an exact rate of $200\pi \text{ m}^2/\text{min}$ or an approximate rate of $628.3 \text{ m}^2/\text{min}$.

THE CHAIN RULE IN LEIBNIZ NOTATION

If y is a function of u and u is a function of x , then

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

If y is a function of u and u is a function of v and v is a function of x , then

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

Ex. 3. Use the **chain rule** to find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ at $x=1$ if $y=2u^3+3u^2$ and $u=x+\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx} \\ &= (6u^2+6u) \left[1 - \frac{1}{2(\sqrt{x})^3} \right] \\ \text{at } x=1, u &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= 36 \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \right) \\ &= 18 \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = 18 \text{ at } x=1$$

$$\begin{aligned} y &= 2u^3 + 3u^2 \\ \frac{dy}{du} &= 6u^2 + 6u \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{at } x=1 \\ u &= (1) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1}} \\ &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u &= x + x^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ \frac{du}{dx} &= 1 - \frac{1}{2} x^{-\frac{3}{2}} \\ &= 1 - \frac{1}{2(\sqrt{x})^3} \end{aligned}$$

Ex. 4. Use the **chain rule** to find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ at $x=4$ if $y = \frac{12}{(1+2u)^3}$, $u = 1 - \frac{2}{v^2}$ and $v = 2x - 3\sqrt{x}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dv} \cdot \frac{dv}{dx} \\ &= \frac{-72}{(1+2u)^4} \cdot \frac{4}{v^3} \cdot \left(2 - \frac{3}{2\sqrt{x}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{at } x=4, v=2, u=\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{-72 \cdot 4}{16 \cdot 8} \cdot \left(2 - \frac{3}{4} \right) \\ &= -\frac{9}{4} \times \frac{5}{4} \\ &= -\frac{45}{16} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{45}{16} \text{ at } x=4$$

$$\begin{aligned} y &= 12(1+2u)^{-3} \\ \frac{dy}{du} &= -36(1+2u)^{-4} (2) \\ &= \frac{-72}{(1+2u)^4} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} v &= 2x - 3x^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \frac{dv}{dx} &= 2 - \frac{3}{2} x^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ &= 2 - \frac{3}{2\sqrt{x}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} u &= 1 - 2v^{-2} \\ \frac{du}{dv} &= 4v^{-3} \\ &= \frac{4}{v^3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{if } x=4 \\ v &= 8 - 6 \\ &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{if } v=2 \\ u &= 1 - \frac{2}{4} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

THE CHAIN RULE FOR A COMPOSITE FUNCTION

$$\text{If } y = f(g(x)) \text{ then } \frac{dy}{dx} = f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$$

"The derivative of a composite function is the derivative of the outer function with respect to the inner function times the derivative of the inner function with respect to x."

Ex. 5. Let $y = g(h(x))$ where $h(x) = \frac{x^2}{x+2}$. If $g'\left(\frac{9}{5}\right) = -2$, find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ when $x = 3$.

$$y = g(h(x))$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = g'(h(x)) \cdot h'(x)$$

at $x = 3$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = g'(h(3)) \cdot h'(3)$$

$$= g'\left(\frac{9}{5}\right) \cdot \frac{21}{25}$$

$$= \frac{-2}{1} \times \frac{21}{25}$$

$$= \frac{-42}{25}$$

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-42}{25} \text{ when } x=3.$$

$$h(3) = \frac{(3)^2}{(3)+2}$$

$$= \frac{9}{5}$$

$$h(x) = \frac{x^2}{x+2}$$

$$h'(x) = \frac{2x(x+2) - 1(x^2)}{(x+2)^2}$$

$$h'(3) = \frac{(6)(5) - 9}{25}$$

$$= \frac{21}{25}$$