

## 1 PROPERTIES OF THE DERIVATIVE

1. The *Chain rule* states that

$$D(f \circ g)(\mathbf{x}_0) = Df(g(\mathbf{x}_0))Dg(\mathbf{x}_0),$$

where  $g : U \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $f : V \subset \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^p$  are differentiable functions and  $g(U) \subset V$ , so that composition is well defined.

2. Special cases of the chain rule:

- Along a path  $\langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle$  parametrized by  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ , the derivative of the composition  $h(t) = f(x(t), y(t), z(t))$  is given by

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \frac{dz}{dt}.$$

- If  $f$  is a function of  $u, v, w$  which are in turn functions of  $x, y, z$  i.e. if we define the composition as

$$h(x, y, z) := f(u(x, y, z), v(x, y, z), w(x, y, z)),$$

then the partial derivatives of  $h$  are given by

$$\frac{\partial h}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial u} \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial v} \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial f}{\partial w} \frac{\partial w}{\partial x}$$

## 2 PRACTICE PROBLEMS

1. Suppose  $g(u)$  is a differentiable function and let  $f(x, y) = g(x^2 + y^2)$ . If  $u = x^2 + y^2$ , show that

$$\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}\right)^2 = 4u \left(\frac{dg}{du}\right)^2$$

2. A fighter plane, which can shoot a laser beam straight ahead, travels along the path  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle t - t^3, 12 - t^2, 3 - t \rangle$ . Show that the pilot cannot hit any target on the  $x$ -axis.
3. Use sine and cosine to parametrize the intersection of the surfaces  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  and  $z = 4x^2$  (Refer Figure 1).

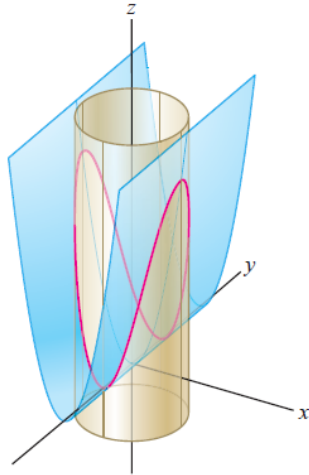


Figure 1:

4. Verify the chain rule for  $f(u, v) = uv$  where

$$u(x, y) = x^2 - y^2 \quad v(x, y) = x^2 + y^2$$

5. Suppose a duck is swimming in the circle  $x = \cos t, y = \sin(t)$ , while the temperature  $T = x^2 e^y - xy^3$ . Find  $dT/dt$ :
- (a) by the Chain Rule
  - (b) by expressing  $T$  in terms of  $t$  and differentiating.