

3.6 Day 3: Chain Rule with THREE compositions

recall $d/dx(f(g(x))) = f'(g(x)) g'(x)$ but if we have more than 2 compositions chain rule still applies

such as $d/dx[h(f(g(x)))] = h'(f(g(x))) f'(g(x)) g'(x)$

We could do the same thing for 4 or 5 or ... compositions.

$$\frac{d}{dx} [k(l(m(p(f(g(x))))))] = k'(l(m(p(f(g(x)))))) \cdot l'(m(p(f(g(x)))))) \cdot m'(p(f(g(x)))) \cdot p'(f(g(x))) \cdot f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x) \dots$$

Oct 14-10:24 AM

Example: Find the derivative of $y = \cos^3(2x^2 - 5)$

$$y = [\cos(2x^2 - 5)]^3$$

$$y' = 3[\cos(2x^2 - 5)]^2 (-\sin(2x^2 - 5)) (4x)$$

$$y' = -12x \cos^2(2x^2 - 5) \sin(2x^2 - 5)$$

Example: Find the derivative of $y = \sqrt{\sec(2x)}$

$$y = (\sec(2x))^{1/2}$$

$$y' = \frac{1}{2} (\sec(2x))^{-1/2} \sec(2x) \tan(2x) \cdot 2$$

$$y' = \sec^{-1/2}(2x) \sec(2x) \tan(2x)$$

$$\text{or } y' = \sec^{1/2}(2x) \tan(2x) \text{ or } y' = \tan(2x) \sqrt{\sec(2x)}$$

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