

1. Let  $f(x) = \ln(x)$ ,  $g(x) = x^2 + 3x$ , and  $h(x) = \cos(x)$ . Find the following compositions and derivatives.

(a)  $(f \circ g)(x)$ ,  $(f \circ g)'(x)$

i.  $(f \circ g)(x)$ :

$$(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x)) = f(x^2 + 3x) = \ln(x^2 + 3x).$$

ii.  $(f \circ g)'(x)$ :

We know from the chain rule that

$$\begin{aligned} (f \circ g)'(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} f(g(x)) \\ &= f'(g(x))g'(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{g(x)} \cdot (2x + 3) \\ &= \frac{1}{x^2 + 3x} \cdot (2x + 3) \end{aligned}$$

(b)  $(g \circ f)(x)$ ,  $(g \circ f)'(x)$

i.  $(g \circ f)(x)$ :

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x)) = g(\ln(x)) = (\ln(x))^2 + 3(\ln(x)).$$

ii.  $(g \circ f)'(x)$ :

From the chain rule, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (g \circ f)'(x) &= \frac{d}{dx} (g(f(x))) \\ &= g'(f(x))f'(x) \\ &= (2u + 3) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{x}\right), \text{ where } u = f(x) \\ &= (2\ln(x) + 3) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \end{aligned}$$

(c)  $(h \circ g)(x)$ ,  $(h \circ g)'(x)$

i.  $(h \circ g)(x)$ :

$$(h \circ g)(x) = h(g(x)) = h(x^2 + 3x) = \cos(x^2 + 3x).$$

ii.  $(h \circ g)'(x)$

The chain rule tells us

$$\begin{aligned}(h \circ g)'(x) &= \frac{d}{dx}(h(g(x))) \\ &= h'(g(x))g'(x) \\ &= \sin(g(x))(2x + 3) \\ &= \sin(x^2 + 3x)(2x + 3)\end{aligned}$$

2. Find the derivatives of the following functions.

(a)  $(3x^2 + 2)^{14}$

We can write this as  $f(u(x))$ , with  $u(x) = 3x^2 + 2$  and  $f(u) = u^{14}$ . Therefore, the chain rule tells us that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx}(3x^2 + 2)^{14} &= f'(u)u'(x) \\ &= 14u^{13} \cdot (6x) \\ &= 14(3x^2 + 2)^{13}(6x)\end{aligned}$$

(b)  $\ln(\sin x)$

Write this as  $f(u(x))$ , with  $u(x) = \sin(x)$  and  $f(u) = \ln(u)$ . Therefore, the chain rule tells us that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx}(\ln(\sin(x))) &= f'(u)u'(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{u} \cdot \cos(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sin(x)} \cos(x) \\ &= \frac{\cos(x)}{\sin(x)} \\ &= \cot(x) \text{ (cotangent of } x \text{ is defined to be } \cos(x)/\sin(x)\text{.)}\end{aligned}$$

(c)  $3 \cos(\sqrt{x})$

Write this as  $f(u(x))$ , with  $u(x) = \sqrt{x}$  and  $f(u) = 3 \cos(u)$ . The chain rule says

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(3 \cos(\sqrt{x})) &= f'(u)u'(x) \\ &= -3 \sin(u) \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(x^{1/2}) \\ &= -3 \sin(\sqrt{x}) \cdot \frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2} \\ &= -\frac{3 \sin(\sqrt{x})}{2 \sqrt{x}} \end{aligned}$$

(d)  $e^{(x^2)}$

Write this as  $f(u(x))$ , with  $u(x) = x^2$  and  $f(u) = e^u$ .

If it helps you to see the outer and inner functions, use Maple notation for the exponential function:

$$e^{x^2} = \exp(x^2) \implies u(x) = x^2, f(u) = \exp(u).$$

The chain rule says

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(e^{(x^2)}) &= f'(u)u'(x) \\ &= e^u \cdot 2x \\ &= 2xe^{x^2} \end{aligned}$$

(e)  $(e^x)^2$

- **Method 1:** Use exponential laws to rewrite this as  $e^{2x}$ . Then write this as  $f(u(x))$ , with  $u(x) = 2x$  and  $f(u) = e^u$ . Then the chain rule tells us that

$$\frac{d}{dx}(e^{2x}) = f'(u)u'(x) = e^u \cdot 2 = 2e^{2x}.$$

- **Method 2:** Just proceed completely straightforwardly. Write  $(e^x)^2$  as  $f(u(x))$ , with  $u(x) = e^x$  and  $f(u) = u^2$ . Then using the chain rule,

$$\frac{d}{dx}((e^x)^2) = f'(u)u'(x) = 2u \cdot e^x = 2(e^x)(e^x) = 2e^{2x}.$$

(f)  $\tan(3x^3 + 7x)$

Write this as  $f(u(x))$  with  $u(x) = 3x^3 + 7x$  and  $f(u) = \tan(u)$ . Then from the chain rule, we have

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\tan(3x^3+7x)) = f'(u)u'(x) = \sec^2(u) \cdot (9x^2+7) = (9x^2+7) \sec^2(3x^3+7x).$$

(g)  $\cos(8^x)$

Write this as  $f(u(x))$  with  $u(x) = 8^x$  and  $f(u) = \cos(u)$ . Then the chain rule implies

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cos(8^x)) = f'(u)u'(x) = -\sin(u) \cdot \ln(8)8^x = -\ln(8)8^x \sin(8^x).$$

(h)  $8^{\cos(x)}$

Write this as  $f(u(x))$  with  $u(x) = \cos(x)$  and  $f(u) = 8^u$ . Then the chain rule gives us

$$\frac{d}{dx}(8^{\cos(x)}) = f'(u)u'(x) = \ln(8)8^u \cdot -\sin(x) = -\ln(8) \sin(x) 8^{\cos(x)}.$$

(i)  $\tan(\sin(3x))$

Write this as  $f(u(x))$  with  $u(x) = \sin(3x)$  and  $f(u) = \tan(u)$ . Then the chain rule tells us

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\tan(\sin(3x))) = f'(u)u'(x) = \sec^2(u)u'(x).$$

**BUT**  $u(x)$  is itself a composition. We can do this without the chain rule, using some of our old rules, but just for practice:

Write  $u(x) = \sin(3x)$  as  $g(v(x))$  with  $v(x) = 3x$  and  $g(v) = \sin(v)$ . Then the chain rule says

$$u'(x) = g'(v)v'(x) = \cos(v) \cdot 3 = 3 \cos(3x).$$

Putting it all together,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\tan(\sin(3x))) = \sec^2(u)u'(x) = \sec^2(\sin(3x)) \cdot 3 \cos(3x) = 3 \sec^2(\sin(3x)) \cos(3x).$$

(j)  $e^{\cos(3x)}$ 

Write this as  $f(u(x))$  with  $u(x) = \cos(3x)$  and  $f(u) = e^u$ . Then by the chain rule,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(e^{\cos(3x)}) = f'(u)u'(x) = e^u \cdot u'(x).$$

Write  $u(x) = \cos(3x)$  as  $g(v(x))$  with  $v(x) = 3x$  and  $g(v) = \cos(v)$ . Then

$$u'(x) = g'(v)v'(x) = -\sin(v) \cdot 3 = -3\sin(3x).$$

Thus putting it all together,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(e^{\cos(3x)}) = e^u \cdot u'(x) = e^{\cos(3x)} \cdot -3\sin(3x) = -3\sin(3x)e^{\cos(3x)}.$$

(k)  $(\sin(3x^2))^2$ 

Write this as  $f(u(x))$  with  $u(x) = \sin(3x^2)$  and  $f(u) = u^2$ . Therefore, from the chain rule

$$\frac{d}{dx}((\sin(3x^2))^2) = f'(u)u'(x) = 2u \cdot u'(x).$$

Write  $u(x) = \sin(3x^2)$  as  $g(v(x))$  with  $v(x) = 3x^2$  and  $g(v) = \sin(v)$ . The chain rule tells us that

$$u'(x) = g'(v)v'(x) = \cos(v) \cdot 6x = 6x \cos(3x^2).$$

Putting it all together,

$$\frac{d}{dx}((\sin(3x^2))^2) = 2u \cdot u'(x) = 2\sin(3x^2) \cdot 6x \cos(3x^2) = 12x \sin(3x^2) \cos(3x^2).$$

(l)  $\sqrt{\ln(x^2 + 2x)}$ 

I can write this as  $f(u(x))$ , with  $u(x) = \ln(x^2 + 2x)$  and  $f(u) = \sqrt{u} = u^{1/2}$ . Therefore the chain rule tells us that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(\sqrt{\ln(x^2 + 2x)}) &= f'(u)u'(x) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}u^{-1/2} \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(\ln(x^2 + 2x)) - \text{Use the chain rule again!} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(\ln(x^2 + 2x))^{-1/2} \cdot \frac{1}{x^2 + 2x} \cdot (2x + 2) \end{aligned}$$