



$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^n) = nx^{n-1}$$

Mathematics 6.3 – The Chain Rule

WORKSHEET

*Practice
Progress
Success*

1 Derivatives of $\sin x$ and $\cos x$

Differentiate the following.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| a) $y = \sin x$ | d) $y = \cos(3x)$ |
| b) $y = \cos x$ | e) $y = \sin(x + 1)$ |
| c) $y = \sin(2x)$ | f) $y = \cos(4x - 2)$ |

2 The chain rule (polynomials)

Differentiate the following, using the chain rule.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| a) $y = (2x + 1)^3$ | d) $y = (x^2 + 1)^4$ |
| b) $y = (5x - 3)^3$ | e) $y = (4 - 3x)^6$ |
| c) $y = (3x + 4)^5$ | f) $y = (2x - 5)^7$ |

3 Chain rule with trigonometric functions

Differentiate the following.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| a) $y = \sin(3x)$ | d) $y = \cos(4x - 3)$ |
| b) $y = \cos(5x)$ | e) $y = \sin(x^2)$ |
| c) $y = \sin(2x + 1)$ | f) $y = \cos(3x^2)$ |

4 Mixed functions

Differentiate the following.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| a) $y = (x^2 + 1)^3$ | d) $y = \cos(3x - 1)$ |
| b) $y = (3x - 2)^4$ | e) $y = \sin(2x + 3)^5$ |
| c) $y = \sin(x^2 + 1)$ | f) $y = (1 + \cos x)^3$ |

5 More trigonometric examples

Differentiate the following.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| a) $y = \sin(5x^2)$ | d) $y = \cos(x^2 - 3x)$ |
| b) $y = \cos(2x^2 + 1)$ | e) $y = \sin(3x - 1)^4$ |
| c) $y = \sin(1 - 2x^2)$ | f) $y = \cos(4 - 3x^2)$ |

6 Composite functions

Differentiate the following.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| a) $y = (x^2 + 3x + 1)^4$ | d) $y = \sin(2x^2 + 3x + 1)$ |
| b) $y = (3x^2 - 2x)^5$ | e) $y = \cos(5x^2 - x + 2)$ |
| c) $y = \sin(3x^2 - 2x + 1)$ | f) $y = (4 - x^2)^6$ |

7 Problem solving

- a) Given $y = \sin(ax + b)$, where a and b are constants,
find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ in terms of a and b .
- b) Given $y = (kx + 1)^n$, where k and n are constants,
find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ in terms of k , n and x .
- c) The function $y = \sin(x^2 + 2x)$.
Find the gradient of the curve at the point $x = 1$.
- d) The function $y = \cos(2x^2 - 3x)$.
Find the gradient of the curve at the point $x = 0$.

8 Extension

- a) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for $y = \sin(x^2 + 1)^3$.
- b) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for $y = \cos(3x^2 + x)^4$.
- c) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for $y = \sin(2x^2 - 4x + 3)$.
- d) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for $y = (1 + \cos(2x))^5$.
- e) Find the value of $\frac{dy}{dx}$ at $x = 2$ for $y = \sin(x^2 - 3x)$.
- f) Given $y = \cos(x^2 + 1)$, find the gradient of the curve at the point where $x = -1$.

Key skills practised:

- ☐ differentiate sine and cosine functions
- ☐ use the chain rule with the substitution u
- ☐ differentiate trigonometric functions using the chain rule
- ☐ differentiate composite polynomial functions using the chain rule
- ☐ apply the chain rule in more complex contexts

*“Practice builds
understanding.”*