

When you are done with your homework you should be able to...

- π Use the chain rules for functions of several variables
- π Find partial derivatives implicitly

Warm-up: A conical tank (with vertex down) is 10 feet across the top and 12 feet deep. If water is flowing into the tank at a rate of 10 cubic feet per minute, find the rate of change of the depth of the water when the water is eight feet deep.

THEOREM: CHAIN RULE: ONE INDEPENDENT VARIABLE

Let $w = f(x, y)$, where f is a differentiable function of x and y . If $x = g(t)$ and $y = h(t)$, where g and h are differentiable functions of t , then w is a differentiable function of t , and

$$\frac{dw}{dt} = \frac{dw}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{dw}{dy} \frac{dy}{dt}$$

This can be extended to any number of variables. If $w = f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$, you would have

$$\frac{dw}{dt} = \frac{dw}{dx_1} \frac{dx_1}{dt} + \frac{dw}{dx_2} \frac{dx_2}{dt} + \dots + \frac{dw}{dx_n} \frac{dx_n}{dt}$$

Example 1: Find $\frac{dw}{dt}$ (a) using the appropriate chain rule and (b) by converting w to a function of t before differentiating.

a. $w = \cos(x - y)$, $x = t^2$, $y = 1$

b. $w = xyz$, $x = t^2$, $y = 2t$, $z = e^{-t}$

THEOREM: CHAIN RULE: ONE INDEPENDENT VARIABLE

Let $w = f(x, y)$, where f is a differentiable function x and y . If $x = g(s, t)$ and $y = h(s, t)$, such that the first partials dx/ds , dx/dt , dy/ds , and dy/dt all exist,

then $\frac{dw}{ds}$ and $\frac{dw}{dt}$ exist and are given by

$$\frac{dw}{ds} = \frac{dw}{dx} \frac{dx}{ds} + \frac{dw}{dy} \frac{dy}{ds} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{dw}{dt} = \frac{dw}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{dw}{dy} \frac{dy}{dt}$$

This can be extended to any number of variables. If w is a differentiable function of the n variables where each x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n is a differentiable function of the m variables t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m , then for $w = f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$, you would have

$$\frac{dw}{dt_1} = \frac{dw}{dx_1} \frac{dx_1}{dt_1} + \frac{dw}{dx_2} \frac{dx_2}{dt_1} + \dots + \frac{dw}{dx_n} \frac{dx_n}{dt_1}$$

$$\frac{dw}{dt_2} = \frac{dw}{dx_1} \frac{dx_1}{dt_2} + \frac{dw}{dx_2} \frac{dx_2}{dt_2} + \dots + \frac{dw}{dx_n} \frac{dx_n}{dt_2}$$

⋮

$$\frac{dw}{dt_m} = \frac{dw}{dx_1} \frac{dx_1}{dt_m} + \frac{dw}{dx_2} \frac{dx_2}{dt_m} + \dots + \frac{dw}{dx_n} \frac{dx_n}{dt_m}$$

Example 2: Find dw/ds and dw/dt using the appropriate chain rule, and evaluate each partial derivative at the given values of s and t .

Function

Point

$$w = y^3 - 3x^2y \quad s = 0, \quad t = 1$$

$$x = e^s, \quad y = e^t$$

THEOREM: CHAIN RULE: IMPLICIT DIFFERENTIATION

If the equation $F(x, y) = 0$ defines y implicitly as a differentiable function of x , then

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{F_x(x, y)}{F_y(x, y)}, \quad F_y(x, y) \neq 0.$$

If the equation $F(x, y, z) = 0$ defines z implicitly as a differentiable function of x and y , then

$$\frac{dz}{dx} = -\frac{F_x(x, y, z)}{F_z(x, y, z)} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{dz}{dy} = -\frac{F_y(x, y, z)}{F_z(x, y, z)}, \quad F_z(x, y, z) \neq 0.$$

Example 3: Differentiate implicitly to find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

$$\cos x + \tan xy + 5 = 0$$

Example 4: Differentiate implicitly to find the first partial derivatives of z .

$$x \ln y + y^2 z + z^2 = 8$$

Example 5: The radius of a right circular cone is increasing at a rate of 6 inches per minute, and the height is decreasing at a rate of 4 inches per minute. What are the rates of change of the volume and surface area when the radius is 12 inches and the height is 36 inches?