If we define ε to be 0 when $\Delta x = 0$, then ε becomes a continuous function of Δx. Thus, for a differentiable function f, we can write

5 $$\Delta y = f'(a)\,\Delta x + \varepsilon\,\Delta x \qquad \text{where} \quad \varepsilon \to 0 \text{ as } \Delta x \to 0$$

and ε is a continuous function of Δx. This property of differentiable functions is what enables us to prove the Chain Rule.

Proof of the Chain Rule Suppose $u = g(x)$ is differentiable at a and $y = f(u)$ is differentiable at $b = g(a)$. If Δx is an increment in x and Δu and Δy are the corresponding increments in u and y, then we can use Equation 5 to write

6 $$\Delta u = g'(a)\,\Delta x + \varepsilon_1\,\Delta x = [g'(a) + \varepsilon_1]\,\Delta x$$

where $\varepsilon_1 \to 0$ as $\Delta x \to 0$. Similarly

7 $$\Delta y = f'(b)\,\Delta u + \varepsilon_2\,\Delta u = [f'(b) + \varepsilon_2]\,\Delta u$$

where $\varepsilon_2 \to 0$ as $\Delta u \to 0$. If we now substitute the expression for Δu from Equation 6 into Equation 7, we get

$$\Delta y = [f'(b) + \varepsilon_2][g'(a) + \varepsilon_1]\,\Delta x$$

so

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = [f'(b) + \varepsilon_2][g'(a) + \varepsilon_1]$$

As $\Delta x \to 0$, Equation 6 shows that $\Delta u \to 0$. So both $\varepsilon_1 \to 0$ and $\varepsilon_2 \to 0$ as $\Delta x \to 0$. Therefore

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \to 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \lim_{\Delta x \to 0} [f'(b) + \varepsilon_2][g'(a) + \varepsilon_1]$$

$$= f'(b)g'(a) = f'(g(a))g'(a)$$

This proves the Chain Rule.

3.6 Exercises

1–6 Write the composite function in the form $f(g(x))$. [Identify the inner function $u = g(x)$ and the outer function $y = f(u)$.] Then find the derivative dy/dx.

1. $y = \sin 4x$

2. $y = \sqrt{4 + 3x}$

3. $y = (1 - x^2)^{10}$

4. $y = \tan(\sin x)$

5. $y = \sqrt{\sin x}$

6. $y = \sin\sqrt{x}$

7–42 Find the derivative of the function.

7. $F(x) = (x^3 + 4x)^7$

8. $F(x) = (x^2 - x + 1)^3$

9. $F(x) = \sqrt[4]{1 + 2x + x^3}$

10. $f(x) = (1 + x^4)^{2/3}$

11. $g(t) = \dfrac{1}{(t^4 + 1)^3}$

12. $f(t) = \sqrt[3]{1 + \tan t}$

13. $y = \cos(a^3 + x^3)$

14. $y = a^3 + \cos^3 x$

15. $y = \cot(x/2)$

16. $y = 4 \sec 5x$

17. $g(x) = (1 + 4x)^5(3 + x - x^2)^8$

18. $h(t) = (t^4 - 1)^3(t^3 + 1)^4$

19. $y = (2x - 5)^4(8x^2 - 5)^{-3}$

20. $y = (x^2 + 1)\sqrt[3]{x^2 + 2}$

21. $y = x^3 \cos nx$

22. $y = x \sin\sqrt{x}$

23. $y = \sin(x \cos x)$

24. $f(x) = \dfrac{x}{\sqrt{7 - 3x}}$

25. $F(z) = \sqrt{\dfrac{z - 1}{z + 1}}$

26. $G(y) = \dfrac{(y - 1)^4}{(y^2 + 2y)^5}$

27. $y = \dfrac{r}{\sqrt{r^2 + 1}}$

28. $y = \dfrac{\cos \pi x}{\sin \pi x + \cos \pi x}$

29. $y = \tan(\cos x)$

30. $y = \dfrac{\sin^2 x}{\cos x}$

31. $y = \sin\sqrt{1 + x^2}$

32. $y = \tan^2(3\theta)$

33. $y = (1 + \cos^2 x)^6$

34. $y = x \sin \dfrac{1}{x}$

35. $y = \sec^2 x + \tan^2 x$

36. $y = \cot(x^2) + \cot^2 x$

37. $y = \cot^2(\sin \theta)$

38. $y = \sin(\sin(\sin x))$

39. $y = \sqrt{x + \sqrt{x}}$

40. $y = \sqrt{x + \sqrt{x + \sqrt{x}}}$

41. $y = \sin(\tan \sqrt{\sin x})$

42. $y = \sqrt{\cos(\sin^2 x)}$

43–46 ||| Find an equation of the tangent line to the curve at the given point.

43. $y = (1 + 2x)^{10}$, $(0, 1)$

44. $y = \sin x + \sin^2 x$, $(0, 0)$

45. $y = \sin(\sin x)$, $(\pi, 0)$

46. $y = \sqrt{5 + x^2}$, $(2, 3)$

47. (a) Find an equation of the tangent line to the curve $y = \tan(\pi x^2/4)$ at the point $(1, 1)$.

(b) Illustrate part (a) by graphing the curve and the tangent line on the same screen.

48. (a) The curve $y = |x|/\sqrt{2 - x^2}$ is called a **bullet-nose curve**. Find an equation of the tangent line to this curve at the point $(1, 1)$.

(b) Illustrate part (a) by graphing the curve and the tangent line on the same screen.

49. (a) If $f(x) = \sqrt{1 - x^2}/x$, find $f'(x)$.

(b) Check to see that your answer to part (a) is reasonable by comparing the graphs of f and f'.

50. The function $f(x) = \sin(x + \sin 2x)$, $0 \leqslant x \leqslant \pi$, arises in applications to frequency modulation (FM) synthesis.

(a) Use a graph of f produced by a graphing device to make a rough sketch of the graph of f'.

(b) Calculate $f'(x)$ and use this expression, with a graphing device, to graph f'. Compare with your sketch in part (a).

51. Find all points on the graph of the function

$$f(x) = 2 \sin x + \sin^2 x$$

at which the tangent line is horizontal.

52. Find the x-coordinates of all points on the curve $y = \sin 2x - 2 \sin x$ at which the tangent line is horizontal.

53. Suppose that $F(x) = f(g(x))$ and $g(3) = 6$, $g'(3) = 4$, $f'(3) = 2$, and $f'(6) = 7$. Find $F'(3)$.

54. Suppose that $w = u \circ v$ and $u(0) = 1$, $v(0) = 2$, $u'(0) = 3$, $u'(2) = 4$, $v'(0) = 5$, and $v'(2) = 6$. Find $w'(0)$.

55. A table of values for f, g, f', and g' is given.

x	$f(x)$	$g(x)$	$f'(x)$	$g'(x)$
1	3	2	4	6
2	1	8	5	7
3	7	2	7	9

(a) If $h(x) = f(g(x))$, find $h'(1)$.

(b) If $H(x) = g(f(x))$, find $H'(1)$.

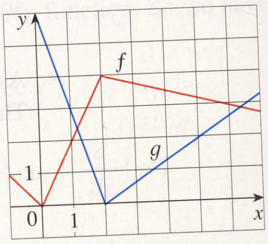
56. Let f and g be the functions in Exercise 55.

(a) If $F(x) = f(f(x))$, find $F'(2)$.

(b) If $G(x) = g(g(x))$, find $G'(3)$.

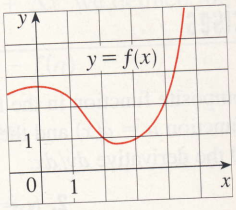
57. If f and g are the functions whose graphs are shown, let $u(x) = f(g(x))$, $v(x) = g(f(x))$, and $w(x) = g(g(x))$. Find each derivative, if it exists. If it does not exist, explain why.

(a) $u'(1)$ (b) $v'(1)$ (c) $w'(1)$



58. If f is the function whose graph is shown, let $h(x) = f(f(x))$ and $g(x) = f(x^2)$. Use the graph of f to estimate the value of each derivative.

(a) $h'(2)$ (b) $g'(2)$



59. Use the table to estimate the value of $h'(0.5)$, where $h(x) = f(g(x))$.

x	0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6
$f(x)$	12.6	14.8	18.4	23.0	25.9	27.5	29.1
$g(x)$	0.58	0.40	0.37	0.26	0.17	0.10	0.05