

**Lesson 10:** Chain Rule Handout

**Reference:** Briggs's "Calculus: Early Transcendentals, Second Edition"

**Topics:** Section 12.5: The Chain Rule, p. 907 - 916

**Theorem 12.7. p. 908 Chain Rule (Two Intermediate and One Independent Variable)**

Let  $z = z(x, y)$  be a differentiable function of  $x$  and  $y$  on its domain, where  $x = x(t)$  and  $y = y(t)$  are differentiable functions of  $t$  on an interval  $I$ . Then

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt}$$

**Note:** A useful way to remember this theorem is to use the *tree diagram*:

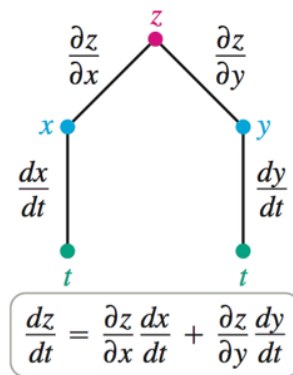


Figure 12.54

**Theorem. p. 908 Chain Rule (Three Intermediate and One Independent Variable)**

Let  $w = w(x, y, z)$  be a differentiable function of  $x$ ,  $y$  and  $z$  on its domain, where  $x = x(t)$ ,  $y = y(t)$  and  $z = z(t)$  are differentiable functions of  $t$  on an interval  $I$ . Then

$$\frac{dw}{dt} = \frac{\partial w}{\partial x} \frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial y} \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} \frac{dz}{dt}$$

**Note:** A useful way to remember this theorem is to use the *tree diagram*:

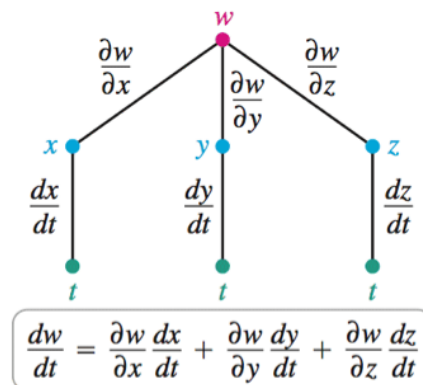


Figure 12.55

**Theorem 12.8.** p. 909 *Chain Rule (Two Intermediate and Two Independent Variable)*

Let  $z = z(x, y)$  be a differentiable function of  $x$  and  $y$  on its domain, where  $x = x(s, t)$  and  $y = y(s, t)$  are differentiable functions of  $s$  and  $t$ . Then

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial s}, \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial t},$$

**Note:** A useful way to remember this theorem is to use the *tree diagram*:

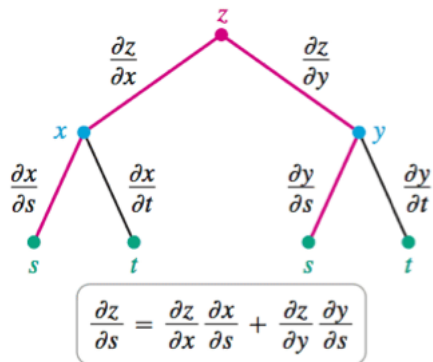


Figure 12.57

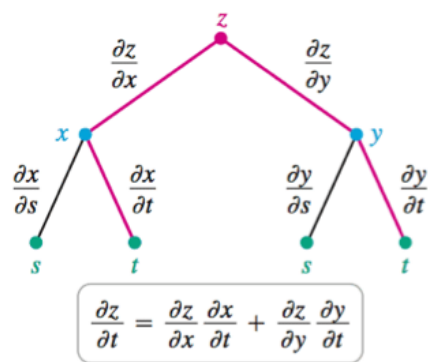


Figure 12.58

**Theorem.** p. 909 *Chain Rule (Three Intermediate and Two Independent Variable)*

For this situation, we can draw the following *tree diagram*:

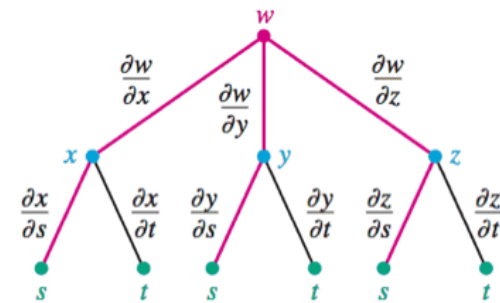


Figure 12.59

**Theorem 12.9.** p. 911 *Implicit Differentiation*

Let  $F$  be differentiable on its domain and suppose that  $F(x, y) = 0$  defines  $y$  as a function of  $x$ . Provided that  $F_y \neq 0$ , then

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{F_x}{F_y}$$