

Lecture - 11 Chain Rule in Multivariable and Intro to Gradient.

Chain Rule

In single variable case Suppose  $g$  is a function of  $h$  which in turn is a function of  $x$ . In other words if for  $g(h(x))$

then 
$$\frac{dg}{dx} = \frac{dg}{dh} \cdot \frac{dh}{dx}$$

An example: Let  $g = h^2$  and  $h(x) = \log_e x$

then  $g(h(x)) = (\log_e x)^2$

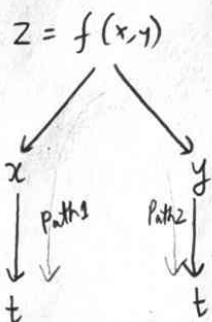
and 
$$\frac{dg}{dx} = \frac{dg}{dh} \cdot \frac{dh}{dx} = 2h \cdot \frac{1}{x} = 2 \log_e x \cdot \frac{1}{x}$$

In 2 variables we have :

(Case 1) If  $z = f(x, y)$  and  $x = g(t)$ ,  $y = h(t)$  then

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

To Remember



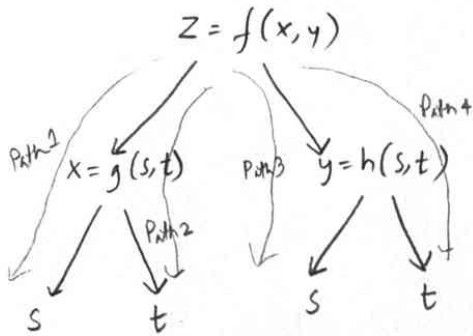
Add all paths, where in each path take product of derivatives

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt}}_{\text{Path 1}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt}}_{\text{Path 2}}$$

Case 2

$$z = f(x, y)$$

$$\text{and } x = g(s, t) \quad , \quad y = h(s, t)$$



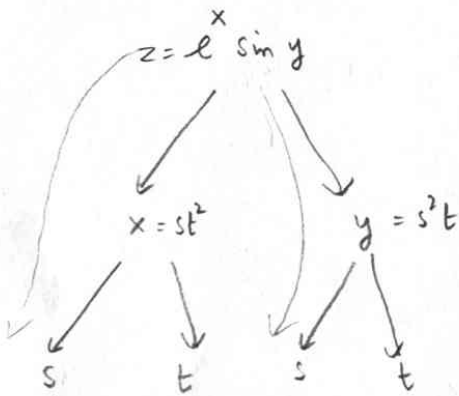
$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial s} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial s}}_{\text{Path 1}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial s}}_{\text{Path 3}}$$
$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = \underbrace{\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial t}}_{\text{Path 2}} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial t}}_{\text{Path 4}}$$

Example

$$z = e^x \sin y$$

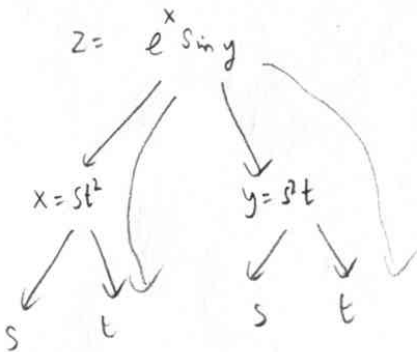
$$x = st^2 \quad , \quad y = s^2 t$$

Find  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial s}$  and  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial t}$



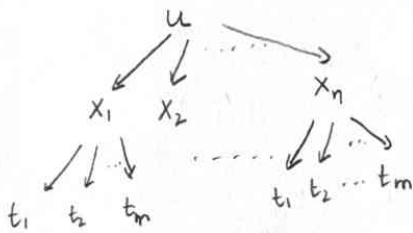
$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial s} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial s}$$
$$= e^x \sin y \cdot t^2 + e^x \cos y \cdot 2s$$
$$= t^2 \cdot e^{st^2} \sin(s^2 t) + 2s \cdot e^{st^2} \cos(s^2 t)$$

$$\frac{\partial z}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial t}$$
$$= e^x \sin y \cdot 2t + e^x \cos y \cdot s^2$$
$$= 2te^{st^2} \sin(s^2 t) + s^2 \cdot e^{st^2} \cos(s^2 t)$$



## Chain Rule General Version

If  $u(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$  and  
 $x_1(t_1, \dots, t_m)$   
 $x_2(t_1, \dots, t_m)$   
 $\vdots$   
 $x_n(t_1, \dots, t_m)$

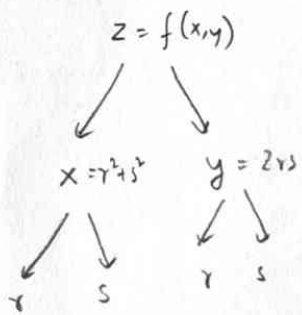


$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t_i} = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_1} \cdot \frac{\partial x_1}{\partial t_i} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_2} \cdot \frac{\partial x_2}{\partial t_i} + \dots + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x_n} \cdot \frac{\partial x_n}{\partial t_i}$$

## Iterated Chain Rule

Suppose  $z = f(x, y)$  and  $x = r^2 + s^2$ ,  $y = 2rs$

Find  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial r}$  and  $\frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial r^2}$



$$(1) \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot (2r) + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} (2s)$$

$$(2) \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{\partial z}{\partial r} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[ 2r \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + 2s \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \right]$$

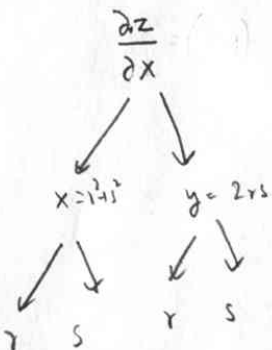
(Product rule)

$$= 2r \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \right) + 2 \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \cdot 1 + 2s \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left[ \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \right] + \frac{2 \partial z}{\partial y} \left[ \frac{\partial s}{\partial r} \right]$$

$$= 2r \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \right] + 2 \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + 2s \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} \right) \cdot \frac{\partial y}{\partial r} \right] +$$

$$= 2r \left[ \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} \cdot 2r + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x \partial y} \cdot 2s \right] + 2 \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + 2s \left[ \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x \partial y} \cdot 2r + \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} \cdot 2s \right]$$

$$= 4r^2 \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x^2} + 8rs \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial x \partial y} + 4s^2 \frac{\partial^2 z}{\partial y^2} + 2 \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$$



## Implicit Function, Chain Rule

① If  $y = f(x)$  given implicitly as  $F(x, y) = 0$  and  $y$  is defined implicitly in terms of  $x$  then

$$F(x, y)$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dx} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{dy}{dx} = - \frac{\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}}{\frac{\partial F}{\partial y}} = - \frac{F_x}{F_y}}$$

Example :

Find  $y'$  if  $x^3 + y^3 = 6xy$ .

Write  $F(x, y) = x^3 + y^3 - 6xy = 0$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = - \frac{\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}}{\frac{\partial F}{\partial y}} = - \frac{3x^2 - 6y}{3y^2 - 6x}$$

② If  $z = f(x, y)$  is given implicitly as  $F(x, y, z) = 0$

$$F$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dx} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$$

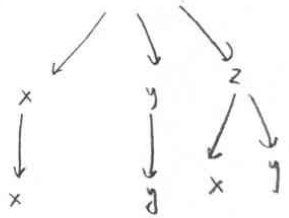
$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{dx}{dy} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dy} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial z}{\partial y}$$

This gives

$$\boxed{\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = - \frac{\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}}{\frac{\partial F}{\partial z}}, \quad \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = - \frac{\frac{\partial F}{\partial y}}{\frac{\partial F}{\partial z}}}$$

Example  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial y}$  when  $x^3 + y^3 + z^3 + 6xyz = 1$

Let  $F(x, y, z) = x^3 + y^3 + z^3 + 6xyz - 1 = 0$



$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \cdot \frac{\partial x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} \cdot \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = - \frac{\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}}{\frac{\partial F}{\partial z}}$$

hence,  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial x} = - \frac{3x^2 + 6yz}{3z^2 + 6xy}$

Similarly  $\frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = - \frac{\frac{\partial F}{\partial y}}{\frac{\partial F}{\partial z}} = - \frac{3y^2 + 6xz}{3z^2 + 6xy}$

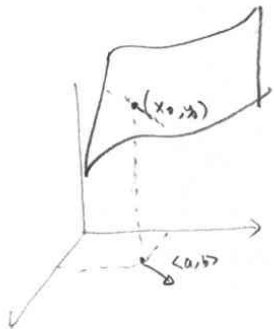
### Introduction to gradient

If  $f(x, y)$  is a function of two variables then

$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$  and  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$  are the derivatives along  $\begin{matrix} x \\ \langle 1, 0 \rangle \end{matrix}$  and  $\begin{matrix} y \\ \langle 0, 1 \rangle \end{matrix}$  respectively.

Suppose I ask : What is the derivative along a direction  $\vec{u} = \langle a, b \rangle$  ?

In other words ?  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + ha, y_0 + hb) - f(x_0, y_0)}{h}$



Ans: Its given by

$$D_{\vec{u}} f(x, y) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \cdot a + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \cdot b$$

where  $\vec{u} = \langle a, b \rangle$  is a unit vector.

In order to write it more neatly we imagine the "derivative" being a vector and the directional derivative being the dot product:

$$D_{\vec{u}} f(x,y) = \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right\rangle \cdot \langle a, b \rangle$$
$$= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} a + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} b$$

The vector  $\left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right\rangle$  is called the gradient denoted  $\vec{\nabla} f$ .

It allows us to treat the derivative as a vector function.

Example: Find the directional derivative of  $f(x,y) = x^2y^3 - 4y$  at  $(2,-1)$  along  $\vec{v} = 2\hat{i} + 5\hat{j}$ .

Ans: Convert  $\vec{v}$  to unit vector  $\vec{u} = \frac{\vec{v}}{\|\vec{v}\|} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{29}}\hat{i} + \frac{5}{\sqrt{29}}\hat{j}$

$$\vec{\nabla} f = \left\langle \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right\rangle = \langle 2xy^3, 3y^2x^2 - 4 \rangle$$

$$D_{\vec{u}} f(x,y) = \langle 2xy^3, 3y^2x^2 - 4 \rangle \cdot \left\langle \frac{2}{\sqrt{29}}, \frac{5}{\sqrt{29}} \right\rangle$$

$$D_{\vec{u}} f(2,-1) = \langle -4, 8 \rangle \cdot \left\langle \frac{2}{\sqrt{29}}, \frac{5}{\sqrt{29}} \right\rangle$$
$$= \frac{32}{\sqrt{29}}$$