

Let $g(x) = x^2\sqrt{f(x)}$, where f is a differentiable function such that $f(1) = 4$ and $f'(1) = 1$. Find $g'(1)$.

$$\begin{aligned}g(x) &= x^2\sqrt{f(x)} \\ &= x^2[f(x)]^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ g'(x) &= \underbrace{2x[f(x)]^{\frac{1}{2}}}_{\text{Product rule}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}[f(x)]^{\frac{1}{2}}f'(x)}_{\text{Chain rule}}x^2 \\ &= 2x\sqrt{f(x)} + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{f(x)}}\right)f'(x)x^2 \\ g'(1) &= 2(1)\sqrt{f(1)} + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{f(1)}}\right)f'(1)(1)^2 \\ &= 2(1)\sqrt{4} + \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{4}}\right)(1)(1)^2 \\ &= 4 + \frac{1}{4} \\ &= \frac{17}{4}\end{aligned}$$

Product rule (*derivative of first times second plus derivative of second times first*). Notice the use of the chain rule when taking the derivative of the “second function.” Since we don’t know what the “inner” function $f(x)$ is, we just write $f'(x)$ for its derivative.

Substitute values given in question.