

CHAPTER THREE

Differentiation of Functions

In this chapter, we discuss the notions of sequences and convergence of sequences to give the definition of derivative in a space \mathbb{R} with usual metric space.

Definition 3.1: Let I be an open interval in \mathbb{R} and $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a real valued function. Let $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a sequence in I such that $x_n \rightarrow x_0$ for some $x_0 \in I$ and $x_n \neq x_0$. Then we say that f is differentiable at x_0 or it has a derivative at x_0 if and only if the sequence $\left\{\frac{f(x_n)-f(x_0)}{x_n-x_0}\right\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is convergent to the same value λ in \mathbb{R} , for each sequence $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in I where $x_n \rightarrow x_0$ and is denoted by $\left.\frac{df}{dx}\right|_{x=x_0}$ or $f'(x_0)$, so usually we can write

$$\lambda = f'(x_0) = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{x - x_0}$$

Definition 3.2: Let $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a real valued function define on an open interval I . Then we say that f is differentiable on I , if f is differentiable at each $x \in I$.

Example 3.3: By using the definition of differentiation if $f(x) = x^2$, then show that $\frac{df}{dx} = 2x \quad \forall x \in D_f$.

Solution: Let $\{x_n\}$ be any sequence in D_f such that $x_n \rightarrow x$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Then the sequence

$$\left\{\frac{f(x_n)-f(x)}{x_n-x}\right\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} = \left\{\frac{(x_n)^2-x^2}{x_n-x}\right\} = \{x_n + x\}.$$

Since $x_n \rightarrow x$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, therefore $\{x_n + x\} \rightarrow 2x$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Then $f'(x) = 2x$.

Theorem 3.4: If f is differentiable at x_0 , then f is continuous at x_0 .

Proof: Let f be a differentiable at x_0 . Then the sequence $\left\{\frac{f(x_n)-f(x_0)}{x_n-x_0}\right\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is convergent to the same value λ in R_f , for each sequence $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in D_f where $x_n \rightarrow x_0$, by using some properties of sequence we get that the multiplication of both $\left\{\frac{f(x_n)-f(x_0)}{x_n-x_0}\right\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{x_n - x_0\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is also convergent sequence.

Then $\frac{f(x_n)-f(x_0)}{x_n-x_0}(x_n - x_0) = f(x_n) - f(x_0)$, is converges.

Which mean that the function $f(x_n)$ is converges to $f(x_0)$, by theorem 1.6 we get that f is continuous at x_0 .

Remark 3.5: The converse of theorem 3.4 is not true in general.

For Example:

Let $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $f(x) = |x|$, discuss continuity and differentiability of the function f at $x = 0$.

Solution:

Since $f(x) = |x|$, is continuous for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$, then $f(x) = |x|$ is continuous at $x = 0$ but is not differentiable at $x = 0$, here we have to show that there exists at least two sequence $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{y_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, where $x_n \rightarrow 0$ and also $y_n \rightarrow 0$.

While $\left\{\frac{f(x_n)-f(0)}{x_n-0}\right\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \lambda_1$ and $\left\{\frac{f(y_n)-f(0)}{y_n-0}\right\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \rightarrow \lambda_2$ and $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$.

Put $\{x_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} = \left\{\frac{1}{n}\right\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\{y_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}} = \left\{-\frac{1}{n}\right\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$.

So it is clear that $\frac{1}{n} \rightarrow 0$ and $-\frac{1}{n} \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

While $\frac{f(x_n)-f(0)}{x_n-0} = \frac{\left|\frac{1}{n}\right|}{\frac{1}{n}} = \frac{\frac{1}{n}}{\frac{1}{n}} = 1$, and $\frac{f(y_n)-f(0)}{y_n-0} = \frac{\left|\frac{-1}{n}\right|}{\frac{-1}{n}} = \frac{\frac{1}{n}}{\frac{-1}{n}} = -1 \neq 1 = \frac{f(x_n)-f(0)}{x_n-0}$, which mean that f is not differentiable at $x = 0$.

Differentiation and Arithmetic Operation (H.W)

The following theorem should be familiar from calculus.

Theorem 3.6: If f and g are differentiable at x_0 , then so are $f + g$, $f - g$, and fg , with

a) $(f + g)'(x_0) = f'(x_0) + g'(x_0)$.

b) $(f - g)'(x_0) = f'(x_0) - g'(x_0)$.

c) $(fg)' = f'(x_0)g(x_0) + f(x_0)g'(x_0)$.

d) The quotients f/g is differentiable at x_0 if $g(x_0) \neq 0$, with

$$\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)'(x_0) = \frac{f'(x_0)g(x_0) - f(x_0)g'(x_0)}{(g(x_0))^2}.$$

Lemma 3.7: If f is differentiable at x_0 then

$$f(x) = f(x_0) + [f'(x_0) + E(x)](x - x_0)$$

Where E is defined on a neighborhood of x_0 and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} E(x) = E(x_0) = 0$$

Proof: Define

$$E(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{(x - x_0)} - f'(x_0), & x \in D_f \text{ and } x \neq x_0, \\ 0 & x = x_0 \end{cases}$$

If $x \neq x_0$ then $E(x) = \frac{f(x)-f(x_0)}{(x-x_0)} - f'(x_0)$,

then $f(x) = f(x_0) + [f'(x_0) + E(x)](x - x_0)$ and (3) is obvious if $x = x_0$.

Then $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} E(x) = 0$. We define $E(x_0) = 0$, to make E continuous at x_0 .

Theorem 3.8: (The Chain Rule)

Suppose that g is differentiable at x_0 and f is differentiable at $g(x_0)$. Then the composite function $h = f \circ g$, defined by $h = f(g(x))$, is differentiable at x_0 , with $h'(x_0) = f'(g(x_0))g'(x_0)$.

Proof

Since f differentiable at $g(x_0)$ by lemma 3.7 implies that

$$f(t) - f(g(x_0)) = [f'(g(x_0)) + E(t)](t - g(x_0))$$

Where

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} E(t) = E(g(x_0)) = 0$$

Letting $t = g(x)$,

$$f(g(x)) - f(g(x_0)) = [f'(g(x_0)) + E(g(x))](g(x) - g(x_0))$$

Since $h(x) = f(g(x))$, this implies that

$$\frac{h(x) - h(x_0)}{x - x_0} = [f'(g(x_0)) + E(g(x))] \frac{g(x) - g(x_0)}{x - x_0}$$

since g is differentiable at x_0 then g is continuous at x_0 (by theorem 3.4) and Theorem 12. imply that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} E(g(x)) = E(g(x_0)) = 0$$

Therefore $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{h(x) - h(x_0)}{x - x_0} = f'(g(x_0))g'(x_0)$.

Then $h'(x_0) = f'(g(x_0))g'(x_0)$.

Applications of Differentiation

Definition 3.9: A function f has an absolute maximum (or global maximum) at c if $f(c) \geq f(x)$ for all x in D , where D is the domain of f . The number $f(c)$ is called the maximum value of f on D . Similarly, f has an absolute minimum at c if $f(c) \leq f(x)$ for all x in D and the number $f(c)$ is called the minimum value of f on D . The maximum and minimum values of f are called the extreme values of f .

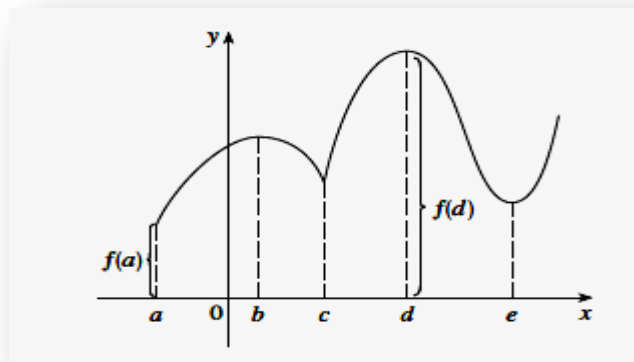


FIGURE 1
Minimum value $f(a)$,
maximum value $f(d)$

Definition 3.10: A function f has a local maximum (or relative maximum) at c if $f(c) \geq f(x)$ where x near c [this means that $f(c) \geq f(x)$ for all x in some open interval containing c]. The number $f(c)$ is called the maximum value of f on D . Similarly, f has a local minimum at c if $f(c) \leq f(x)$ when x near c .

The Extreme Value Theorem 3.11:

If f is continuous on a closed interval $[a, b]$ then f attains an absolute maximum value $f(c)$ and an absolute minimum value $f(d)$ at some number c and d in $[a, b]$.

Fermat's Theorem 3.12:

If f has a local maximum or minimum at c and if $f'(c)$ exist, then $f'(c) = 0$.

Proof:

suppose that f has local maximum at c , then according to Definition $f(c) \geq f(x)$ if x is sufficiently close to c , and if h is sufficiently close to 0 , with h being positive or negative ,then

$$f(c) \geq f(c + h)$$

And therefore

$$f(c + h) - f(c) \leq 0 \quad \dots \dots \dots 1$$

We can divide both sides of an inequality by a positive number .thus, if $h > 0$ and h is sufficiently small , we have

$$\frac{f(c + h) - f(c)}{h} \leq 0$$

Taking the right-hand limit of both sides of this inequality, we get

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(c + h) - f(c)}{h} \leq \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} 0 = 0$$

But since $f'(c)$ exist, we have

$$f'(c) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(c + h) - f(c)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(c + h) - f(c)}{h}$$

And so we have shown that $f'(c) \leq 0$.

If $h < 0$, then the direction of the inequality(1) is reversed when we divided by h :

$$\frac{f(c + h) - f(c)}{h} \geq 0 \quad h < 0$$

So taking the left-hand limit ,we have

$$f'(c) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(c + h) - f(c)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(c + h) - f(c)}{h} \geq 0$$

We have shown that $f'(c) \geq 0$ and also that $f'(c) \leq 0$.Then $f'(c) = 0$.

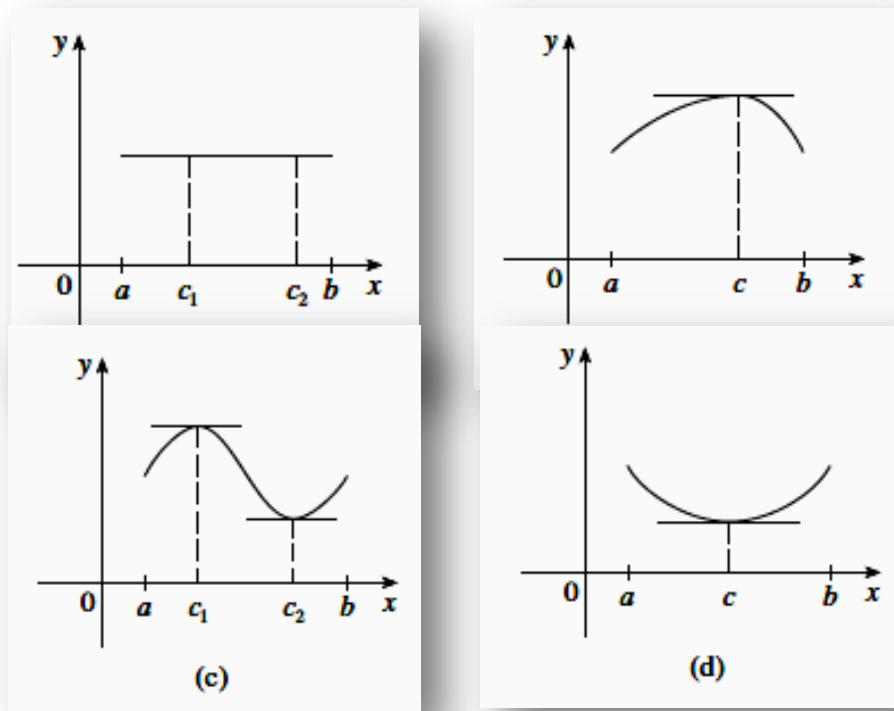
Definition 3.12: A critical number of a function f is a number c in the domain of f such that either $f'(c) = 0$ or $f'(c)$ does not exist.

Mean Value Theorems

Rolle's Theorem 3.13: Let f be a function that satisfies the following three hypotheses :

1. f is continuous on the closed interval $[a,b]$.
2. f is differentiable on the open interval (a,b) .
3. $f(a) = f(b)$

Then there exists c in (a,b) such that $f'(c) = 0$.



(Figure 2)

Proof: There are three cases

Case I: If $f(x) = k$, a constant. Then $f'(x) = 0$,

so the number c can be taken to be any number in (a, b) .

Case II: If $f(x) > f(a)$ for some x in (a, b) [as in figure 2 (b) or (c)]

By the Extreme Value Theorem (which we can apply by hypothesis 1), f has a maximum value somewhere in $[a, b]$. since $f(a) = f(b)$, it must attain this maximum value at a number c in the open interval (a, b) . Then f has a local maximum at c and, by hypothesis 2, f is differentiable on (a, b) and c in (a, b) then f is differentiable at c . Therefore, $f'(c) = 0$ by Fermat's Theorem.

Case III: If $f(x) < f(a)$ for some x in (a, b) [as in figure 2(c) or (d)]. By the Extreme Value Theorem, f has a minimum value in $[a, b]$ and since $f(a) = f(b)$ it attains this minimum value at a number c in (a, b) . Then f has a local minimum at c and by hypothesis 2, f is differentiable on (a, b) and c in (a, b) then f is differentiable at c . Therefore, $f'(c) = 0$ by Fermat's Theorem.

Theorem 3.14:(Lagrange's Mean Value Theorem Or First Mean Value Theorem)

Let f be continuous on $[a, b]$, and differentiable on (a, b) . Then there exists c in (a, b) such that

$$\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} = f'(c) \quad \text{or equivalently} \quad f(b) = f(a) + (b - a)f'(c).$$

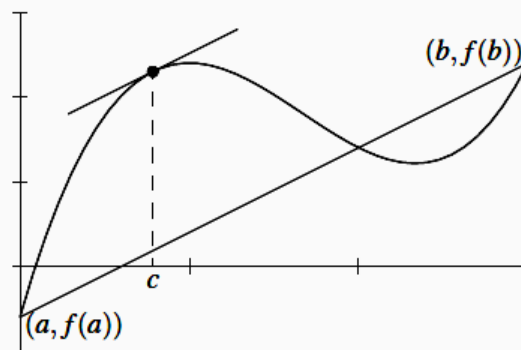


Figure 4.3: Graphical interpretation of the mean value theorem.

Proof

The theorem following easily from Rolle's Theorem.

Define the function $g: [a, b] \rightarrow R$

$$g(x) = f(x) - f(b) + (f(b) - f(a)) \frac{b-x}{b-a}.$$

Then we know that g is a differentiable function on (a, b) and continuous on $[a, b]$ such that

$g(a) = 0$ and $g(b) = 0$. Thus there exist $c \in (a, b)$ such that $g'(c) = 0$.

$$0 = g'(c) = f'(c) + (f(b) - f(a)) \frac{-1}{b-a}.$$

Then $f(b) - f(a) = (b - a)f'(c)$.

For a geometric interpretation of the mean value theorem see figure 3. The idea is that the value $\frac{f(b)-f(a)}{b-a}$ is the slope of the line between the point $(a, f(a))$ and $(b, f(b))$. Then c is the point such that $f'(c) = \frac{f(b)-f(a)}{b-a}$, that is the tangent line at the point $(c, f(c))$ has the same slope as the line between $(a, f(a))$ and $(b, f(b))$.

Example 3.15:

Verify Lagrange's Mean Value Theorem for the function $f(x) = x(x - 1)(x - 2)$ in $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$.

Solution

Since f is a polynomial then f is continuous in $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$ and differentiable in $(0, \frac{1}{2})$.

Thus there exists c in $[0, \frac{1}{2}]$ such that $\frac{f(\frac{1}{2})-f(0)}{\frac{1}{2}-0} = f'(c)$ (1)

Now $f'(x) = (x - 1)(x - 2) + x(x - 1) + x(x - 2)$

then $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 6x + 2$, $f(0) = 0$ and $f(\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{3}{8}$.

From(1), $\frac{3}{8} = \frac{1}{2}(3c^2 - 6c + 2)$ then $12c^2 - 24c + 5 = 0$

Then $c = (6 \pm \frac{\sqrt{21}}{6})$, only $1 - \frac{\sqrt{21}}{6}$ lies in $(0, \frac{1}{2})$.

Hence we get $c = 1 - \frac{\sqrt{21}}{6}$ and the theorem is verified.

Some Useful Deduction From The Mean Value Theorem

Proposition 3.16:

Let I be an interval and let $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a differentiable function such that $f'(x) = 0$ for all x in I . Then f is constant.

Proof

By contrapositive. Suppose that f is not constant, then there exist x and y in I such that $x < y$ and $f(x) \neq f(y)$ then f restricted to $[x, y]$ satisfies the hypotheses of the first mean value theorem. Therefore there is a $c \in (x, y)$ such that
$$f'(c) = \frac{f(y) - f(x)}{y - x},$$

then $f(y) - f(x) = f'(c)(y - x)$.

Since $y \neq x$ and $f(y) \neq f(x)$ then $f'(c) \neq 0$.

Proposition 3.17:

Let $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a differential function and f is increasing if and only if $f'(x) \geq 0$ for all $x \in I$.

Proof:

Suppose that f is increasing and differential function then for all x and c in I

we have
$$\frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} \geq 0$$

Then
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} = f'(c) \geq 0$$

Hence $f'(c) \geq 0$.

Conversely

Suppose that $f'(x) \geq 0$ for all $x \in I$. Let $x > y$ in I . Then by the first mean value theorem there is some $c \in (x, y)$ such that

$$f(x) - f(y) = f'(c)(x - y)$$

Since $f'(c) \geq 0$ and $x - y > 0$, then $f(x) - f(y) \geq 0$.

So f is increasing.

Proposition 3.18 (H.W)

Let $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a differential function and f is decreasing if and only if $f'(x) \leq 0$ for all $x \in I$.

Theorem 3.19: (Cauchy Mean Value Theorem OR Second Mean Value Theorem)

If f and g are continuous on the closed interval $[a, b]$ and differentiable on the open interval (a, b) , then

$$[g(b) - g(a)]f'(c) = [f(b) - f(a)]g'(c)$$

for some c in (a, b) .

Proof The function

$$h(x) = [g(b) - g(a)]f(x) - [f(b) - f(a)]g(x)$$

Is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) ,

and $h(a) = h(b) = g(b)f(a) - f(b)g(a)$.

Therefore, Rolle's Theorem implies that $h'(c) = 0$ for some c in (a, b) .

since $h'(c) = [g(b) - g(a)]f'(c) - [f(b) - f(a)]g'(c)$

then $0 = [g(b) - g(a)]f'(c) - [f(b) - f(a)]g'(c)$

therefore, $[g(b) - g(a)]f'(c) = [f(b) - f(a)]g'(c)$.

Example 3.20:

Verify the Cauchy's mean value theorem for the functions x^2 and x^3 in $[1, 2]$ and also find c of this theorem.

Solution

Let $f(x) = x^2$ and $g(x) = x^3$. Since $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are both polynomial functions, so they are continuous on $[1, 2]$ and differentiable on $(1, 2)$.

Also $g'(x) = 3x^2 \neq 0$ for any point in $(1, 2)$.

Hence by Cauchy's mean value theorem there exists at least one number c in $(1, 2)$ such that $[g(2) - g(1)]f'(c) = [f(2) - f(1)]g'(c)$

Then $(8 - 1)2c = (4 - 1)3c^2$, therefore $c = \frac{14}{9}$ lies in $(1, 2)$.

Hence Cauchy's mean value theorem is verified.

The Intermediate Value Theorem 3.21: (W.H)

Suppose that f is continuous on the closed interval $[a,b]$ and let N be any number between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$ where $f(a) \neq f(b)$. Then there exist a number c in (a, b) such that $f(c) = N$.

Example 3.22:

Prove that the equation $x^3 + x - 1 = 0$ has exactly one real root.

Solution First we use the Intermediate Value Theorem to show that a root exist .

Let $f(x) = x^3 + x - 1$.Then $f(0) = -1 < 0$ and $f(1) = 1 > 0$.

Since f is polynomial ,it is continuous, so the Intermediate Value Theorem state that there is a number c between 0 and 1 such that $f(c) = 0$. Thus, the given equation has a root.

To show that the equation has no another real root, we use Rolle's Theorem and by contradiction suppose that it had two roots a and b .Then $f(a) = 0 = f(b)$ and since f is polynomia, it is differentiable on (a,b) and continuous on $[a,b]$, Thus by Rolle's Theorem

there is a number c between a and b such that $f'(c) = 0$, But

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 + 1 \geq 1 \quad \text{for all } x$$

(since $x^2 \geq 0$) so $f'(x)$ can never be 0 .This gives a contradiction .Therefore the equation can't have two real root.

Exercises:

Q1:

Test if Lagrange's Mean Value Theorem holds for the function $f(x) = |x|$ in the interval $[-1,1]$.

Q2:

Applying Lagrange's Mean Value Theorem to the function defined by $f(x) = \tan^{-1}x$ in $[u, v]$, show that $\frac{v-u}{1+v^2} < \tan^{-1}v - \tan^{-1}u < \frac{v-u}{1+u^2}$, if $0 < u < v$.

Q3:

Discuss the applicability of Rolle's Theorem to $f(x) = 2 + (x - 1)^{\frac{2}{3}}$ in $[0,2]$.

Q4:

Verify whether the function $f(x) = \sin x$ in $[0, \pi]$ satisfies the condition of Rolle's Theorem and hence find c as prescribed by the theorem.

Q5:

Show that $\frac{\sin\alpha - \sin\beta}{\cos\beta - \cos\alpha} = \cot\theta$, where $0 < \alpha < \theta < \beta < \frac{\pi}{2}$.

By Cauchy's Mean Value Theorem.

