

MATH20410 (W25): ANALYSIS IN \mathbb{R}^n II (ACCELERATED)

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CONTENTS

1. Single-Variable Differential Calculus	2
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1. SINGLE-VARIABLE DIFFERENTIAL CALCULUS

In this chapter, we consider mainly functions of the form $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, where I is an interval, e.g., (a, b) , $[a, b]$, (a, ∞) , \mathbb{R} . This is the function we have in mind unless otherwise stated.

Definition 1.1 (Differentiability). We say f is **differentiable at** $x \in I$ if the limit

$$f'(x) := \lim_{t \rightarrow x} \frac{f(t) - f(x)}{t - x} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + h) - f(x)}{h}$$

exists. In this case, we call $f'(x)$ the derivative of f at x . Moreover:

- We say that f is **differentiable** if $f'(x)$ exists for each $x \in I$.
- We say f is **continuously differentiable** ($f \in C^1$) if $f' : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous.

Example 1.2.

- $f(x) = |x|$. Differentiable on $\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$.
- $f(x) = \begin{cases} x \sin \frac{1}{x}, & x \neq 0 \\ 0, & x = 0 \end{cases}$. Continuous but not differentiable at 0.
- $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x}, & x \neq 0 \\ 0, & x = 0 \end{cases}$. Differentiable everywhere (in particular at 0), but $f \notin C^1$.

Proposition 1.3 (Rules for computing derivatives).

- (i) *Linearity.* $(af + bg)' = af' + bg'$ (if f' and g' exist, such requirements are hereafter omitted).
- (ii) *Product rule.* $(fg)' = f'g + fg'$.
- (iii) *Quotient rule.* $(f/g)' = (f'g - fg')/g^2$.¹
- (iv) *Chain rule.* $(f \circ g)' = (f' \circ g) \cdot g'$.

¹Low dhigh minus high dlow. Not “Hai di lao”...

Proof. We prove the quotient rule; the remaining are left as exercises. Starting from the definition

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{f}{g} \right)'(x) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow x} \frac{\frac{f}{g}(t) - \frac{f}{g}(x)}{t - x} \\ &= \lim_{t \rightarrow x} \frac{\frac{f(t)}{g(t)} + \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} - \frac{f(x)}{g(t)} + \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}}{t - x}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that

$$\frac{\frac{f(x)}{g(t)} + \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}}{t - x} = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)g(t)} \frac{g(x) - g(t)}{t - x}$$

and we have

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

□