MATH 321 Notes

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Quotes of the day: 01/08/2024 by Dr. Joshua Zahl

"Sometimes MVT stands for most valuable theorem."

"LaTeXis the language math is written in."

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1 320 Review

Definition: Differentiable at point

Recall for some $f : [a, b] \to \mathbb{R}$, $c \in [a, b]$, we say that f is *differentiable at c* if $\displaystyle\lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$ exists (as a real number); we denote this by $f'(c)$.

This is a very elementary definition of what it means for something to be differentiable, but we look a bit deeper into what it means for the limit of a function. In particular, consider the case of the limit mentioned in the definition; what does it mean for this limit to exist?

- It satisfied the $\varepsilon - \delta$ definition of a limit.

- c is a limit point in $[a, b]$; in a metric space this means that any ball about the point c has a non empty intersection with the set $[a, b]$.

- $g(x) = \dfrac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$ is a function with domain $[a, b] \backslash \{c\}$.

We might ask ourselves why go through all these layers of abstraction, when the high school definition of a limit works. Well, we have to make sure that the high school definition is consistent with what we have laid out so far: for any $c \in (a, b)$, the high school definition is just fine, but back then we had to separately check the end-points $c = a$ and $c = b$ with one sided limits, which we don't have to do when we satisfy one of the things laid out above. Hence, it is worth to delve into the abstraction.

Definition: Differentiable on a set

If $f : [a, b] \to \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable at *every* point $c \in [a, b]$, then we say f is differentiable on $[a, b]$, and this gives us a new function $f' : [a, b] \to \mathbb{R}$.

Furthermore, we can keep iterating this definition: if f' is differentiable at $c \in [a, b]$, we write $f''(c) = (f')'(c)$.

Notation 1. Some alternate notations for derivatives are:

- $f(c), f'(c), f''(c), \ldots$

- $f^{(0)}(c), f^{(1)}(c), f^{(2)}(c), \ldots, f^{(k)}(c)$.

Food for thought. Why have co-domain $\mathbb{R}$? Why not $\mathbb{C}$, or some arbitrary field F? Why not a general set/metric space?

Similarly, why make the domain a closed interval? Why not a more general subset of $\mathbb{R}$, or even $\mathbb{C}$? Why not a general set/metric space?

We cannot really have a notion of a derivative in a topological space, because in a TS we have no notion of a distance, only open and closed sets, so it does not really make sense to be talking about the rate of change of something as we get closer to a point. This is not a complete answer, but it's hard to give a better answer at this point in time. If we google a topological derivative, there might be some constructions that come close, but nothing that is a true generalization of a derivative using arbitrary topological spaces.

> **Theorem: Rolle's theorem**
>
> Let $f : [a, b] \to \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable with $f(a) = f(b)$. Then, there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f'(c) = 0$.

We go on to showcase one of the more important theorems in differentiation:

> **Theorem: Taylor's theorem**
>
> Let $f : [a, b] \to \mathbb{R}$, and $n \geq 0$ be an integer. Suppose that f is $(n + 1)$ times differentiable on $[a, b]$. Let x_0 and x be points in $[a, b]$ with $x_0 \neq x$. Then, there exists a point c strictly between x_0 and x such that
>
> $$f(x) = \underbrace{\left[\sum_{k=0}^{n} \frac{f^{(k)}(x_0)}{k!}(x - x_0)^k \right]}_{P_n(x)} + \frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{(n+1)!}(x - x_0)^{n+1}. \tag{$\dagger$}$$

Call $P_n(x)$ the "degree n Taylor expansion of f around x_0".

Note (Choice of notation). While choosing notation, we have many things competing for the "attention" of the notation; for example in case of $P_n(x)$, technically it is dependent on n, f, x_0, so it should be $P_n^{f, x_0}(x)$, but this is clunky. As we do more math, we get better with choosing what information notation should encode, and what can be omitted. In this particular case, we would generally know the f and x_0 and the more important part that needs to be encoded is the degree.

Food for thought. Let $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ which is infinitely differentiable. Suppose $f^{(k)}(0) = 0$ for all k; is it true that f must be the zero function?

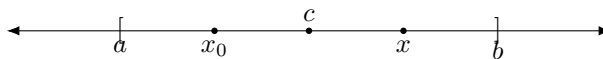> **Quotes of the day: 01/10/2024**
>
> No quotes today :(

Figure 1: Visualization of points in Taylor's theorem.

Proof. We start by noting that for $n = 0$, *eq.* ($\dagger$) says $f(x) = f(x_0) + f'(c)(x - x_0)$.

Define $A \in \mathbb{R}$ by

$$f(x) - P_n(x) = \frac{A}{(n+1)!}(x - x_0)^{n+1}.$$

Our goal here is to show that there exists a c between x_0 and x such that $f^{(n+1)}(c) = A$.

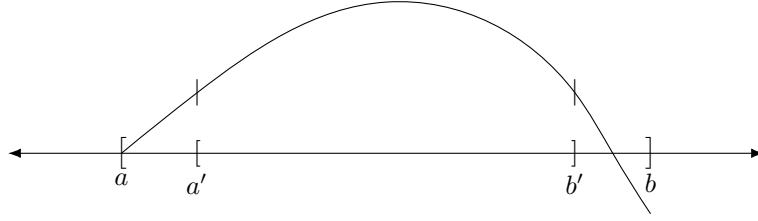Define $g(t) = f(t) - P_n(t) - \dfrac{A}{(n+1)!}(t - x_0)^{n+1}$.

Figure 2: Visualization of how we shrink the interval to possibly apply Rolle's theorem.

Observe

$$
\begin{aligned}
g(x_0) &= f(x_0) - P_n(x_0) \\
&= f(x_0) - f(x_0) - 0 \\
&= 0,
\end{aligned}
$$

so $g(x) = 0$ by definition of A. Hence, for $j = 0, \ldots, n$,

$$
\begin{aligned}
g^{(j)}(x_0) &= f^{(j)}(x_0) - P_n^{(j)}(x_0) - \frac{d^j}{dt^j}\left\{ \frac{A}{(n+1)!}(t - x_0)^{n+1} \right\}\Big|_{t=x_0} \\
&= f^{(j)}(x_0) - f^{(j)}(x_0) - 0 \\
&= 0,
\end{aligned}
$$

which tells us that $g^{(n+1)}(t) = f^{(n+1)}(t) - 0 - A$. Now, our goal is to find a c such that $g^{(n+1)}(c) = 0$.

Note that

$g(x_0) = 0, g(x) = 0$ by Rolle's thoerem, there exists c_1 between x_0 and x such that $g'(c_1) = 0$.

$g'(x_0) = 0, g'(x) = 0$ by Rolle's thoerem, there exists c_2 between x_0 and c such that $g''(c_2) = 0$.

$\vdots$

$g^{(n)}(x_0) = 0, g^{(n)}(x) = 0$ by Rolle's thoerem, there exists c_{n+1} between x_0 and c_n such that $g^{(n+1)}(c_{n+1}) = 0$.

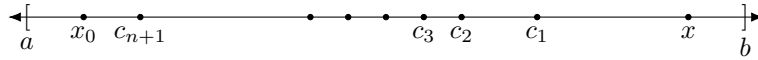Finally, set $c := c_{n+1}$ to conclude the proof. $\qquad\square$

Figure 3: Visualization of the iterative process to find c_{n+1}.

Example 1. Why is Taylor's theorem so useful? We look at a few examples which illustrate this: set $x_0 = 0$,

1. f is a polynomial of degree D; $P_n(t)$ will be the first terms of f up to degree n.

2. If $f(t) = e^t$, we get

$$
P_n(t) = \frac{1}{0!} + \frac{t}{1!} + \frac{t^2}{2!} + \frac{t^3}{3!} + \cdots + \frac{t^n}{n!}.
$$

3. If $f(x) = \sin x$, we get

$$
P_n(t) = 0 + t + 0 - \frac{t^3}{3!} + 0 + \frac{t^5}{5!} + \ldots
$$