



planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

fractional differentiation

Canonical name	FractionalDifferentiation
Date of creation	2013-03-22 16:18:46
Last modified on	2013-03-22 16:18:46
Owner	Wkbj79 (1863)
Last modified by	Wkbj79 (1863)
Numerical id	21
Author	Wkbj79 (1863)
Entry type	Definition
Classification	msc 26A06
Synonym	Grunwald-Letnikov differentiation
Related topic	HigherOrderDerivativesOfSineAndCosine
Defines	fractional derivative
Defines	left-hand Grunwald-Letnikov derivative
Defines	left hand Grundwald Letnikov derivative
Defines	right-hand Grundwald-Letnikov derivative
Defines	right hand Grundwald-Letnikov derivative

The idea of Grunwald-Letnikov differentiation comes from the following formulas of <http://planetmath.org/BackwardDifferencebackward> and forward difference . Within this entry,  $[\cdot]$  will be used to denote the greatest integer function and  $\Gamma$  will be used to denote the gamma function.

### Backward difference

$$D_-(f)(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x) - f(x-h)}{h} \quad (1)$$

$$D_-^n(f)(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h^n} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-1)^k n!}{k!(n-k)!} f(x-kh) \quad (2)$$

For derivatives of integer orders, we only requires to specifies one point  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Fractional derivatives, like fractional definite integrals, require an interval  $[a, b]$  to be specified for the function  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  we are talking about.

### Definition 1: Left-hand Grunwald-Letnikov derivative

$$D_-^p(f)(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h^p} \sum_{k=0}^{\left[\frac{b-a}{h}\right]} \frac{(-1)^k \Gamma(p+1)}{k! \Gamma(p-k+1)} f(x-kh) \quad (3)$$

### Forward difference

$$D_+(f)(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \quad (4)$$

$$D_+^n(f)(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h^n} \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{(-1)^k n!}{k!(n-k)!} f(x+(n-k-1)h) \quad (5)$$

### Definition 2: Right-hand Grunwald-Letnikov derivative

$$D_+^p(f)(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h^p} \sum_{k=0}^{\left[\frac{b-a}{h}\right]} \frac{(-1)^k \Gamma(p+1)}{k! \Gamma(p-k+1)} f(x+(m-k-1)h) \quad (6)$$

### Theorem 1: Properties of fractional derivatives

- Linearity:  $D_{\pm}^p(af + bg)(x) = aD_{\pm}^p(f)(x) + bD_{\pm}^p(g)(x)$  where  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  are any real constants
- Iteration:  $D_{\pm}^p D_{\pm}^q(f)(x) = D_{\pm}^{p+q}(f)(x)$

- Chain rule:  $\frac{d^\beta f(g(x))}{dx^\beta} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma(1+\beta)}{\Gamma(1+k)\Gamma(1-k+\beta)} \frac{d^{\beta-k} 1}{dx^{\beta-k}} \frac{d^k f(g(x))}{dx^k}$
- Leibniz Rule:  $\frac{d^\beta (f(x)g(x))}{dx^\beta} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma(1+\beta)}{\Gamma(1+k)\Gamma(1-k+\beta)} \frac{d^k f(x)}{dx^k} \frac{d^{\beta-k} g(x)}{dx^{\beta-k}}$

**Theorem 2: Table of fractional derivatives**

- $D_{\pm}^{\alpha}(x^p) = \frac{\Gamma(p+1)x^{p-\alpha}}{\Gamma(p-\alpha+1)}$  where  $\alpha, p \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\Gamma(x)$
- $D_{\pm}^{\alpha}(e^{\lambda x}) = \lambda^{\alpha} e^{\lambda x}$  for all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$
- $D_{\pm}^{\alpha}(\sin x) = \sin\left(x + \frac{\alpha\pi}{2}\right)$
- $D_{\pm}^{\alpha}(\cos x) = \cos\left(x + \frac{\alpha\pi}{2}\right)$
- $D_{\pm}^{\alpha}(e^{ix}) = \cos\left(x + \frac{\pi\alpha}{2}\right) + i \sin\left(x + \frac{\pi\alpha}{2}\right)$