



Mathematical Analysis

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Chapter 1 Set Theory

1.1 Properties of Suprema and Infima

Theorem 1.1.1

Let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a real-valued function. We have the following equation.

$$\sup_{x \in X} f(x) - \inf_{x \in X} f(x) = \sup_{x, y \in X} [f(x) - f(y)] \quad (1.1)$$



Proof Let M and m denote

$$M = \sup_{x \in X} f(x) \quad \text{and} \quad m = \inf_{x \in X} f(x)$$

We have

$$f(x) - f(y) \leq M - m \quad \forall x, y \in X$$

It then follows that

$$\sup_{x, y \in X} [f(x) - f(y)] \leq M - m \quad (1.2)$$

On the other hand, given $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $x, y \in X$ such that

$$f(x) > M - \varepsilon/2 \quad \text{and} \quad f(y) < m + \varepsilon/2 \quad (1.3)$$

It follows that

$$\sup_{x, y \in X} [f(x) - f(y)] \geq f(x) - f(y) > M - m - \varepsilon$$

Because

$$\sup_{x, y \in X} [f(x) - f(y)] > M - m - \varepsilon$$

holds for any $\varepsilon > 0$, we have

$$\sup_{x, y \in X} [f(x) - f(y)] \geq M - m \quad (1.4)$$

Then, equation (1.1) follows from (1.2) and (1.4). ■

Chapter 2 Numerical Sequences and Series

We are interested in real or complex-valued sequences and series.

2.1 Infinite Series

The next theorem tells us that we can add two convergent series term by term. And we can also multiply a convergent series by a constant.

Theorem 2.1.1

If $\sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ are two convergent series, then the series $\sum(\alpha a_n + \beta b_n)$ also converges where α and β are constants. Furthermore, we have

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}(\alpha a_n + \beta b_n) = \alpha \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n + \beta \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n$$



Proof



2.2 Subseries

Think about summing up countably many (real or complex) numbers:

$$a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, \dots$$

If you do not have to sum them up in order one by one, how many ways can you think of? For example, one way is to first sum up all the terms with odd indices:

$$s_1 = a_1 + a_3 + \dots + a_{2k-1} + \dots$$

and then all the terms with even indices:

$$s_2 = a_2 + a_4 + \dots + a_{2k} + \dots$$

Finally, the total sum is $s_1 + s_2$. As a matter of fact, there are more ways of summing these numbers than one can imagine at first thought, some of which may be difficult to describe. The need for a precise description of summing countably many numbers in the way we want gives rise to the concept of **subseries**.

Suppose s is the sum we will obtain by summing up the numbers in the way we like. A natural question to ask is whether $\sum a_n$ converges to s . The answer is yes by Theorem 2.2.2, which we will soon show provided that $\sum a_n$ converges absolutely.

Definition 2.2.1

Let $f : \mathbb{N}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^*$ be an **injective/one-to-one** function whose domain is \mathbb{N}^* and whose range $f(\mathbb{N}^*)$ is a subset of \mathbb{N}^* . Let $\sum a_n$ and $\sum b_n$ be two series such that

$$b_n = a_{f(n)}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}^*$$

Then we say $\sum b_n$ is a **subseries** of $\sum a_n$.



To understand the definition, we note that a subseries of $\sum a_n$ can be constructed in the following way. Given a sequence

$$a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, \dots$$

We first extract a subsequence $\{a_{k_n}\}$ out of it:

$$a_{k_1}, a_{k_2}, \dots, a_{k_n}, \dots$$

where $k_n < k_{n+1} \forall n \in \mathbb{N}^*$. And then we rearrange this subsequence into

$$a_{g(k_1)}, a_{g(k_2)}, \dots, a_{g(k_n)}, \dots$$

where g is a bijection from $\{k_n \mid n \in \mathbb{N}^*\}$ to itself. If we define $f(n) = g(k_n)$, then $\sum_{a_{f(n)}}$ is precisely a subseries of $\sum a_n$.

Example 2.1 Consider the series $\sum a_n = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} i^n$. We write down its first several terms:

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} i^n = i + (-1) + (-i) + 1 + i + (-1) + (-i) + 1 + \dots$$

Let

$$f(n) = 2n - 1 + 2 \times (-1)^{n-1}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}^*$$

Note that f is injective. The following expression of f is more intuitive:

$$f(n) = \begin{cases} 2n + 1, & n \text{ is odd} \\ 2n - 3, & n \text{ is even} \end{cases}$$

The first several values of f are

$$f(1) = 3, \quad f(2) = 1, \quad f(3) = 7, \quad f(4) = 5, \dots$$

Hence, the subseries $\sum a_{f(n)}$ is

$$\sum a_{f(n)} = (-i) + i + (-i) + i + \dots$$

Theorem 2.2.1

If $\sum a_n$ converges absolutely, then every subseries $\sum b_n$ also converges absolutely. And we have

$$\left| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \right| \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |b_n| \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n| \quad (2.1)$$



Proof Suppose $b_k = a_{f(k)}$ $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$. Let integer n be fixed, and let $N = \max\{f(1), \dots, f(n)\}$. Then we have

$$\left| \sum_{k=1}^n b_k \right| \leq \sum_{k=1}^n |b_k| \leq \sum_{k=1}^N |a_k| \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |a_k|$$

Since

$$\left| \sum_{k=1}^n b_k \right| \leq \sum_{k=1}^n |b_k| \leq \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |a_k|$$

holds for every $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, we conclude that $\sum b_n$ converges absolutely. Then by sending $n \rightarrow \infty$, we see that (2.1) indeed holds. ■

To sum up

$$a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n, \dots$$

we first *partition* them into several (possibly countably infinitely many) subseries

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{f_1(n)}, \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{f_2(n)}, \dots, \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{f_k(n)}, \dots$$

After that, we sum up all the subseries. Suppose the final sum is s , the next theorem says if $\sum a_n$ converges absolutely, then it must also converge to s . In other words, we can sum up an absolutely convergent series in whatever way we want without changing its sum!

Theorem 2.2.2

Let $\{f_1, f_2, \dots\}$ be a countable collection of functions defined on \mathbb{N}^* , each having the following properties:

1. f_k is injective,
2. the range $f_k(\mathbb{N}^*)$ is a subset of \mathbb{N}^* , and
3. the collection of all function ranges form a partition of \mathbb{N}^* , that is, $\biguplus_{k=1}^{\infty} f_k(\mathbb{N}^*) = \mathbb{N}^*$.

Suppose that $\sum a_n$ is an absolutely convergent series. Let $b_k(n)$ be defined by

$$b_k(n) = a_{f_k(n)}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}^*, \quad k \in \mathbb{N}^*$$

Then

1. each $\sum_n b_k(n)$ is an absolutely convergent subseries of $\sum a_n$, and
2. if we let $s_k = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_k(n)$, then $\sum s_k$ converges absolutely to the same sum as $\sum a_n$, that is, $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} s_k = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n$.



Note Pay attention to how the properties of f_k being injective and $\biguplus_{k=1}^{\infty} f_k(\mathbb{N}^*) = \mathbb{N}^*$ are used in the proof below.

Proof The first statement that $\sum_n b_k(n)$ is an absolutely convergent subseries of $\sum a_n$ immediately follows from Theorem 2.2.1. We now prove 2.

We first show that $\sum s_k$ converges absolutely. The p -th partial sum of $\sum |s_k|$ satisfies

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^p |s_k| &= |s_1| + \dots + |s_p| \\ &= \left| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_1(n) \right| + \dots + \left| \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_p(n) \right| \\ &\leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |b_1(n)| + \dots + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |b_p(n)| \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (|b_1(n)| + \dots + |b_p(n)|) \end{aligned}$$

where the last equality follows from Theorem 2.1.1 since every series $\sum_k |b_k(n)|$ converges. For any

given $q \in \mathbb{N}^*$, we always have

$$\sum_{n=1}^q (|b_1(n)| + \cdots + |b_p(n)|) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|$$

because $\sum_{n=1}^q (|b_1(n)| + \cdots + |b_p(n)|)$ is just a sum of finitely many terms of the series $\sum |a_n|$. Letting $q \rightarrow \infty$, we obtain

$$\sum_{k=1}^p |s_k| \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (|b_1(n)| + \cdots + |b_p(n)|) \leq \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|$$

Hence, all partial sums of $\sum |s_k|$ are bounded above by $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} |a_n|$. Therefore, the series $\sum |s_k|$ converges, i.e., $\sum s_k$ converges absolutely.

Suppose $\sum a_n$ converges to sum a . Given $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$\left| \sum_{n=1}^q a_n - s \right| < \varepsilon/2 \quad \forall q \geq N \quad (2.2)$$

For any integer $j \in \mathbb{N}^*$, there exists a *unique* integer $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$j \in f_k(\mathbb{N}^*)$$

since $\biguplus_{k=1}^{\infty} f_k(\mathbb{N}^*) = \mathbb{N}^*$. (Existence of k is due to $\bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} f_k(\mathbb{N}^*) = \mathbb{N}^*$, and the uniqueness follows from the fact that these function ranges are mutually disjoint.) Furthermore, there exists a *unique* integer $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$f_k(n) = j$$

since f_k is injective. Therefore, any integer j can uniquely determine a pair (k, n) and hence we can define a function $g : \mathbb{N}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{N}^* \times \mathbb{N}^*$ by

$$g(j) = (k, n)$$

satisfying

$$f_k(n) = j$$

Recall how we chose the integer N . Write

$$g(1) = (k_1, n_1), \dots, g(N) = (k_N, n_N)$$

Let

$$K = \max\{k_1, \dots, k_N\} \quad \text{and} \quad M = \max\{n_1, \dots, n_N\}$$

We claim that

$$\left| \sum_{k=1}^p \sum_{n=1}^q b_k(n) - s \right| < \varepsilon/2 \quad \forall p \geq K \quad \forall q \geq M \quad (2.3)$$


The proof of (2.3) is left as an exercise. See Exercise 2.1. Letting $q \rightarrow \infty$ in (2.3) yields

$$\left| \sum_{k=1}^p \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_k(n) - s \right| \leq \varepsilon/2 < \varepsilon \quad \forall p \geq K$$

Recall each subseries $\sum_n b_k(n)$ converges absolutely, and $s_k = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_k(n)$. Hence, we have

$$\left| \sum_{k=1}^p s_k - s \right| < \varepsilon \quad \forall p \geq K$$

Note that the choice of K only depends on ε (through N). Therefore, the series $\sum s_k$ indeed converges to sum a . ■

 **Exercise 2.1** Complete the above proof by proving the inequality (2.3).

Solution For each $j \in \{1, \dots, N\}$, we have $g(j) = (k, n)$ where k and n satisfy

$$f_k(n) = j, \quad k \leq K \quad \text{and} \quad n \leq M$$

This implies

$$\{f_k(n) \mid 1 \leq k \leq p, 1 \leq n \leq q\} \supset \{1, \dots, N\}$$


provided that $p \geq K$ and $q \geq M$. Inequality (2.3) then immediately follows from (2.2) since

$$\sum_{k=1}^p \sum_{n=1}^q b_k(n) = \sum_{k=1}^p \sum_{n=1}^q a_{f_k(n)}$$

is a sum of terms including the first N terms of $\sum a_n$.

2.3 Double Series


Theorem 2.3.1

Suppose double series $\sum a_{m,n}$ consists of non-negative terms. Then it converges if and only if the set of its partial sums is bounded above. 

Proof

The absolute convergence of a double series will also imply convergence of itself. ■

Theorem 2.3.2

A double series $\sum a_{m,n}$ converges if it converges absolutely. 

Proof

Chapter 3 Limits and Continuity

3.1 Limit of a Function

Proposition 3.1.1

Let f and g be complex-valued functions defined on a subset A of a metric space (X, d) , and p a limit point of A . If $\lim_{x \rightarrow p} f(x) = 0$ and g is bounded, then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow p} f(x)g(x) = 0$$



Proof



3.2 Computing Limits

The basic rules of computing limits are listed in the next theorem.

Theorem 3.2.1

Let f and g be complex-valued functions defined on a subset S of a metric space (X, d) . Let p be an accumulation point of S , and suppose that the following limits exist:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow p} f(x) = a \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow p} g(x) = b$$

We have

1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow p} [f(x) \pm g(x)] = a \pm b$,
2. $\lim_{x \rightarrow p} f(x)g(x) = ab$,
3. $\lim_{x \rightarrow p} f(x)/g(x) = a/b$ provided that $b \neq 0$.



3.3 Continuous Functions

The next theorem states that the composite function of continuous functions is also continuous.

Theorem 3.3.1

Let (X, d_X) , (Y, d_Y) and (Z, d_Z) be metric spaces. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g : Y \rightarrow Z$ be functions, and let $h = g \circ f$ be the composite function defined on X . If f is continuous at $p \in X$, and g is continuous at $f(p)$, then h is continuous at p .



Proof Given $\varepsilon > 0$, since g is continuous at $f(p)$, there exists some $\delta' > 0$ such that

$$d_Y(y, f(p)) < \delta' \implies d_Z(g(y), g(f(p))) < \varepsilon \quad (3.1)$$

And since f is continuous at p , there exists some $\delta > 0$ such that

$$d_X(x, p) < \delta \implies d_Y(f(x), f(p)) < \delta' \quad (3.2)$$

Now, choosing $x \in X$ satisfying $d_X(x, p) < \delta$, and then applying (3.2) followed by (3.1), we have

$$d_Z(g(f(x)), g(f(p))) < \varepsilon$$

This is precisely $d_Z(h(x), h(p)) < \varepsilon$. Hence, h is continuous at p . ■

Theorem 3.3.2

Let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a real-valued continuous function from a metric space X to \mathbb{R} . Let $K \subset X$ be a compact subset. Then there exist points $p, q \in K$ such that

$$f(p) = \sup f(K) \quad \text{and} \quad f(q) = \inf f(K)$$



3.4 Continuity of Composite Functions

Theorem 3.4.1

Let (X, d_X) , (Y, d_Y) and (Z, d_Z) be metric spaces. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g : f(X) \rightarrow Z$ be functions. If f is continuous at point $p \in X$ and g is continuous at $f(p)$, then the composite function $f \circ g$ is continuous at p . ♥

3.5 Connectedness

Theorem 3.5.1 (Intermediate Value Theorem)

Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a real-valued continuous function. Suppose that $f(a) \neq f(b)$, and y is some number in between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$. Then there exists an interior point $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f(c) = y$. ♥

Proof ■

3.6 Monotonic Functions

Theorem 3.6.1

If f is increasing on $[a, b]$, then $f(c+)$ and $f(c-)$ both exist for every $c \in (a, b)$, and we have

$$f(c-) \leq f(c) \leq f(c+)$$

As the endpoints, we have $f(a+)$ and $f(b-)$ both exist and

$$f(a) \leq f(a+) \quad \text{and} \quad f(b-) \leq f(b) \quad (3.3)$$

Analogous results exist for f being a decreasing function. ♥

Proof We only prove this theorem for increasing functions. Let $c \in (a, b)$ be an interior point.

(Existence of $f(c-)$) Define a set

$$A = \{f(x) \mid a \leq x < c\}$$

Note that A is bounded above by $f(c)$ since f is increasing. Then A has the least upper bound, say $\alpha = \sup A$. We want to show that $f(c-)$ exists and equals α . Given $\varepsilon > 0$, by the property of α , there exists $x_\varepsilon = (c - \delta) \in [a, c)$ such that (δ depends on ε)

$$f(c - \delta) > \alpha - \varepsilon$$

Because f is increasing, we have

$$\alpha \geq f(x) \geq f(c - \delta) > \alpha - \varepsilon \quad \forall x \in (c - \delta, c)$$

This implies that

$$|f(x) - \alpha| < \varepsilon \quad \forall x \in (c - \delta, c)$$

Hence, α is the left-hand limit of f at $x = c$, i.e., $f(c-) = \alpha$. Recall A is bounded above by $f(c)$. We have $\alpha \leq f(c)$, i.e.,

$$f(c-) \leq f(c)$$

(Existence of $f(c+)$) Define

$$B = \{f(x) \mid c < x \leq b\}$$

Let β be the greatest lower bound of B . A similar argument shows that $f(c+)$ exists, and $f(c+) = \beta$ with

$$f(c) \leq f(c+)$$

(Existence of $f(a+)$ and $f(b-)$) The existence of $f(a+)$ and $f(b-)$ along with (3.3) can be proved by the exact argument as before. ■

Chapter 4 Differentiation

Let our exploration begins with real-valued functions defined on real numbers.

4.1 Definition of Derivative

Observe the slopes of secant lines (displayed as dashed lines) of the curve shown in Figure 4.1

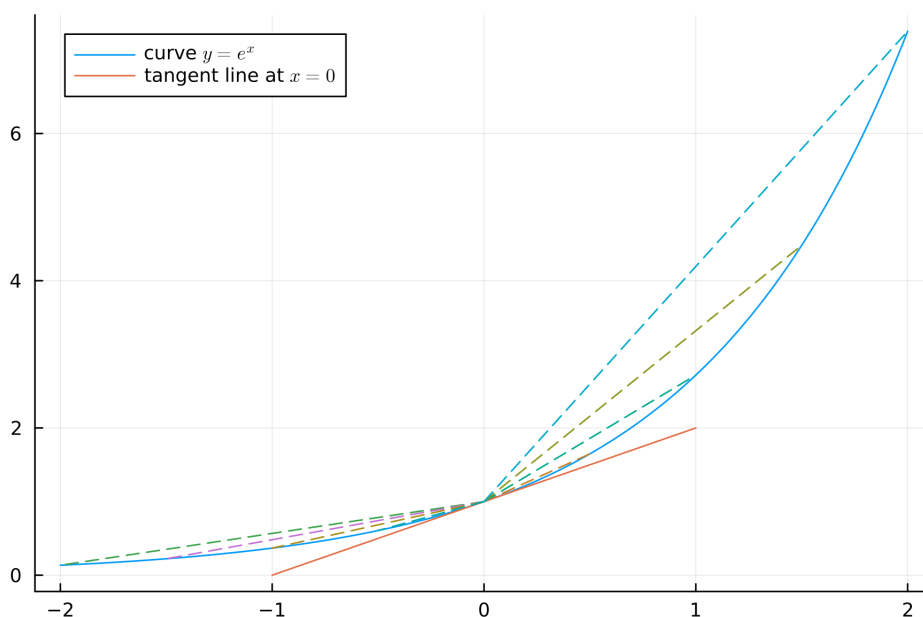


Figure 4.1: Secant lines and a tangent line of curve $y = e^x$.

All secant lines have a common point of intersection, $(0, 1)$. And as the other intersection point gets closer and closer to $(0, 1)$, the slope of the secant line tends to converge to some number. This number, the limiting slope, is precisely the **derivative** of this curve/function at $x = 0$, which we shall soon define. We can draw a straight line passing through the point $(0, 1)$ with the limiting slope. This line is then called the tangent of the curve at point $(0, 1)$, as illustrated in Figure 4.1.

Definition 4.1.1

Let f be defined on an open interval (a, b) , and let $c \in (a, b)$ an interior point. Then f is said to be **differentiable** at c if the limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$$

exists. This limit, denoted by $f'(c)$, is called the **derivative** of f at point c .



If $f'(c)$ exists $\forall c \in I$ for some interval I , then we can define a function f' on I , which is called the derivative of f . Here the word *derivative* means a function instead of just a number.

The definition of derivatives we present here involves the limit obtained by letting one point approach the other one, $x \rightarrow c$. For computational convenience, we can treat the derivative of f at c as

the limit of the fraction $[f(c+h) - f(c)]/h$ as $h \rightarrow 0$. That is, the limit is reached when the distance between points x and c , $h = |x - c|$, is small. The following proposition states this idea formally.

Proposition 4.1.1

Let f be defined on (a, b) . Then f is differentiable at $c \in (a, b)$ if and only if

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h} \quad (4.1)$$

exists. In that case, $f'(c) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} [f(c+h) - f(c)]/h$.

Proof Suppose f is differentiable at c . For an arbitrary $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$|x - c| < \delta \implies \left| \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} - f'(c) \right| < \varepsilon$$

Let number h be such that $|h| < \delta$. Then since $|(c+h) - c| = |h| < \delta$, we have

$$\left| \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h} - f'(c) \right| = \left| \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{(c+h) - c} - f'(c) \right| < \varepsilon$$

This implies the limit (4.1) exists, and it equals $f'(c)$.


Conversely, suppose the limit (4.1) exists, say it equals L . Then for $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$|h| < \delta \implies \left| \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h} - L \right| < \varepsilon$$


Choose x such that $|x - c| < \delta$, we have

$$\left| \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} - L \right| = \left| \frac{f(c + (x - c)) - f(c)}{x - c} - L \right| < \varepsilon$$

Therefore, the limit $[f(x) - f(c)]/(x - c)$ exists, which is equal to L . By the definition of derivatives, f is differentiable at c , and $f'(c) = L$. ■

 **Exercise 4.1** Calculate the derivative of e^x at $x = 0$.

[Hint: You may use the fact $e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 1 + x + \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{6}x^3 + \dots$]

 **Exercise 4.2** Calculate the derivative of

$$f(x) = x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x^2} \mathbb{1}\{x \neq 0\} = \begin{cases} x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x^2} & x \neq 0 \\ 0 & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

at $x = 0$.

Solution We have

$$\frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = h \sin \frac{1}{h^2}$$

Note the limit of the above expression is zero as $h \rightarrow 0$ by Proposition 3.1.1 since $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} h = 0$ and $\sin(1/h^2)$ is bounded by 1. Hence, $f'(0) = 0$ by Proposition 4.1.1.

The graph of $f(x)$ is shown in Figure 4.2. As we can see, $f(x)$ is clamped between curves $y = x^2$ and $y = -x^2$ with the same tangents $y = 0$ at $x = 0$. And we have shown $f'(0) = 0$, which means that the tangent of $f(x)$ is also $y = 0$ at $x = 0$. What conjecture can you make?

Moreover, we observe that $f(x)$ crosses its tangent line at $x = 0$ infinitely many times. This example shows that the tangent line does not have to touch the curve only at one point.

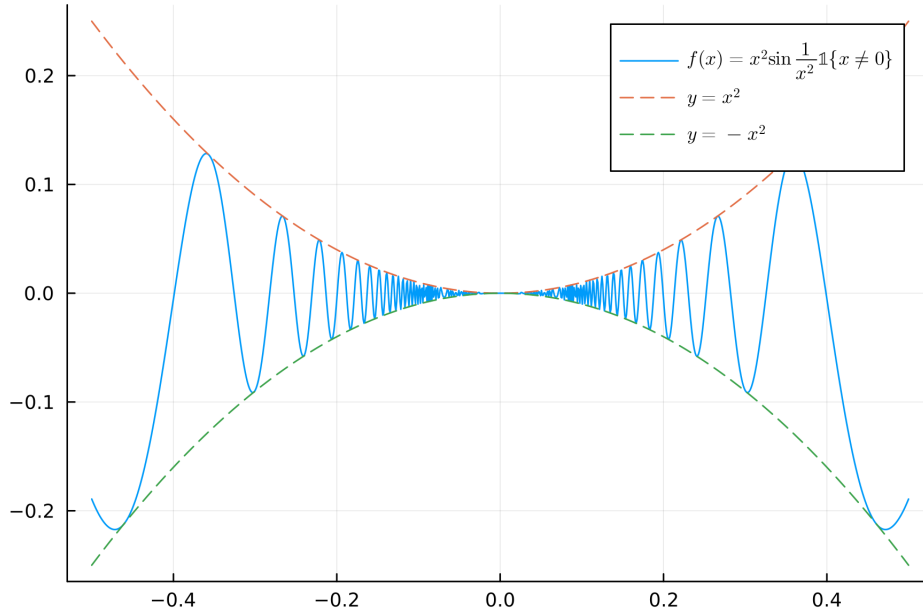


Figure 4.2: Graph of $f(x) = x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x^2} \mathbb{1}\{x \neq 0\}$.

4.1.1 One-Sided Derivatives and Infinite Derivatives

So far, the point at which the derivative is defined has to be an *interior* point. Sometimes, we are required to consider the derivatives at the endpoints of the interval. For example, as we shall see in more detail in Chapter 6, we need to take the derivative of function $F(x) = \int_a^x f(t)dt$ at $x = a$. Hence, we are motivated to define the **one-sided derivatives**.

If we consider the derivative of f , f' as a function, then $f'(x)$ may tend to infinity as x approaches an endpoint. In addition, sometimes we need to interpret the meaning of vertical tangent lines. This leads to the definition of **infinite derivatives**.

Definition 4.1.2

Let f be defined on a closed interval I . Suppose f is continuous at point $c \in I$. Then f is said to have a **right-hand derivative** at c if the right-hand limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$$

exists as a finite number, or the limit is ∞ or $-\infty$. This right-hand derivative shall be denoted by $f'_+(c)$. The **left-hand derivative**, denoted by $f'_-(c)$, is defined similarly. In addition, if c is an interior point, and $f'_+(c) = f'_-(c) = \infty$, then we write $f'(c) = \infty$. $f'(c) = -\infty$ is similarly defined.



Remark Note that though we write $f'(c) = \infty$ or $f'(c) = -\infty$, we do not say f is differentiable there.

It is not very intuitive to imagine, at first thought, a continuous function having infinite derivatives. But there are quite a lot of such examples.

Example 4.1 The first example is constructed by cutting a circle in the middle. If we cut a circle in half and stick the lower half to the right of the upper one, then we have a function with a vertical

tangent line in the middle. The explicit expression of this function is

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{1 - (x - 1)^2} & 0 \leq x \leq 2 \\ -\sqrt{1 - (x - 3)^2} & 2 < x \leq 4 \end{cases}$$

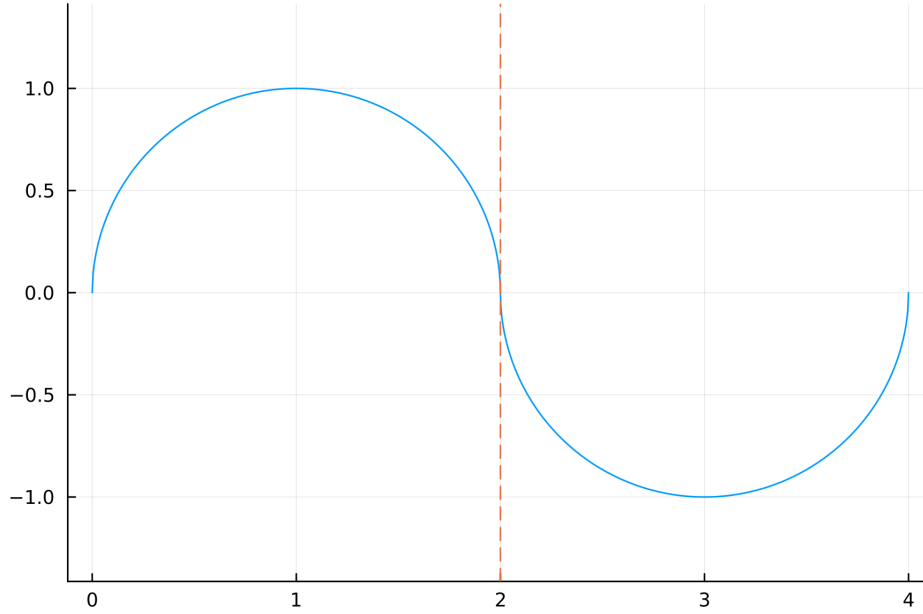


Figure 4.3: Graph of $f(x) = \sqrt{1 - (x - 1)^2} \mathbb{1}\{0 \leq x \leq 2\} - \sqrt{1 - (x - 3)^2} \mathbb{1}\{2 < x \leq 4\}$.

The function is continuous and one can show that $f'(2) = -\infty$.

Example 4.2 The following next example includes both positive and negative intuitive derivatives, and a point at which the right and left-hand side derivatives are ∞ and $-\infty$, respectively. Consider the function

$$f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x^2(x - 1)(x - 2)}$$

Its graph is shown in Figure 4.4.

It is an exercise to show $f'(1) = -\infty$ and $f'(2) = \infty$. We now consider the one-sided derivatives at $x = 0$. We have

$$\frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{(x - 1)(x - 2)}{x}}$$

Letting $x \rightarrow 0^+$ leads to $f'_+(0) = \infty$, while $x \rightarrow 0^-$ yields $f'_-(0) = -\infty$. Hence, we say the derivative of f does not exist at $x = 0$.

4.2 Derivatives and Continuity

The next theorem helps to reduce some theorems on derivatives to theorems on continuity.

Theorem 4.2.1

Let f be a function defined on (a, b) , and $c \in (a, b)$ a fixed point in that interval. We have the following statements:

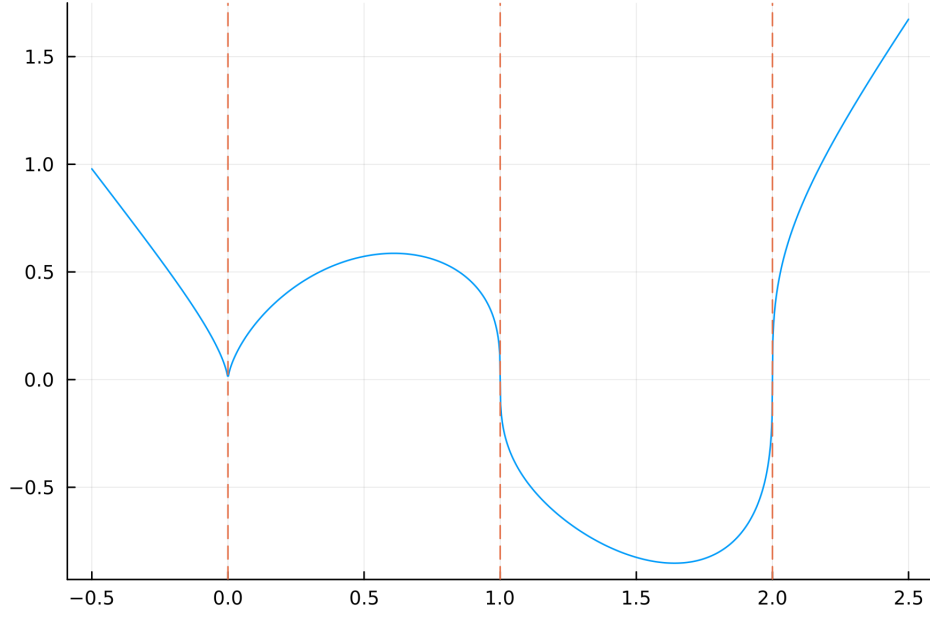


Figure 4.4: Graph of $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x^2(x-1)(x-2)}$.

1. If f is differentiable at c , then there exists a function ϕ on (a, b) which is continuous at c , and satisfies

$$f(x) - f(c) = (x - c)\phi(x) \quad \forall x \in (a, b) \quad (4.2)$$

And $f'(c) = \phi(c)$.

2. Conversely, if there exists a function ϕ on (a, b) which is continuous at c , and satisfies (4.2), then f is differentiable at c with $f'(c) = \phi(c)$.



The function ϕ is precisely the slope of function f 's secant line.

Proof (Proof of 1) Suppose f is differentiable at c . Define

$$\phi(x) = \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}, \quad x \neq c \quad \text{and} \quad \phi(c) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$$

Note that $\phi(c)$ is well-defined since the limit (which equals $f'(c)$) indeed exists by the definition of the derivative of f at c . Notice also that by defining function ϕ in this way, it is automatically continuous at c . And of course, the equation (4.2) holds.

(Proof of 2) It follows from (4.2) that

$$\phi(x) = \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} \quad \forall x \neq c$$

Since ϕ is continuous at c , by sending $x \rightarrow c$, we have

$$\phi(c) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \phi(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$$

This implies f is differentiable at c , and $f'(c) = \phi(c)$. ■

With the help of Theorem 4.2.1, we can easily show that f must be continuous at c if it is differentiable there.

Theorem 4.2.2

Let f be defined on (a, b) . If f is differentiable at $c \in (a, b)$, then it is continuous at c .



Proof By Theorem 4.2.1, there exists a function ϕ on (a, b) such that ϕ is continuous at c , and

$$f(x) - f(c) = (x - c)\phi(x) \quad \forall x \in (a, b) \quad (4.3)$$

Since the limit of the right-hand side in (4.3) exists as $x \rightarrow c$, the limit of the left-hand side also exists, and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) - f(c) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} (x - c)\phi(x) = 0$$

This implies

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = f(c)$$

Hence, f is continuous at c . ■

4.3 Computing Derivatives

It is difficult in practice to compute the derivative of any function only using the definition. In this section, we shall introduce some theorems and standard rules that are helpful with computation. If one knows the derivatives of elementary functions (e.g., x^a , e^x , $\ln x$, $\sin x$, $\cos x$, etc.), then by applying these theorems, one should be able to compute the derivatives of any functions that are built up out of elementary functions using summations, differences, products, quotients, and compositions.



Note In fact, these so-called elementary functions are not elementary at all. We shall present their definitions as well as their derivatives rigorously in later chapters.

4.3.1 Algebra of Derivatives

Theorem 4.3.1

Suppose f and g are defined on (a, b) and are both differentiable at $c \in (a, b)$. Then the functions $f + g$, $f - g$, fg are also differentiable at c . If $g(c) \neq 0$, then the quotient f/g is also differentiable at c . And the formulas of their derivatives are given by

1. $(f \pm g)'(c) = f'(c) \pm g'(c)$,
2. $(fg)'(c) = f'(c)g(c) + f(c)g'(c)$,
3. $(f/g)'(c) = \frac{f'(c)g(c) - f(c)g'(c)}{g^2(c)}$, provided $g(c) \neq 0$.



Remark One might be worried about the possibility that the quotient f/g may only be defined at point c if we only require $g(c) \neq 0$. Then how can we say f/g is differentiable at some point? However, the condition that g is differentiable at c implicitly implies that $g(x) \neq 0$ for x in some interval about c if we assume $g(c) \neq 0$. Take a few seconds and think about why this is true. Note that g is continuous at c by Theorem 4.2.2. Then, if $g(c) \neq 0$, by the continuity, g is also nonzero in some neighborhood of c . Hence, in this case, f/g is actually well-defined in an interval instead of at just one point.

The proof we present here is done by exploiting Theorem 4.2.1, and it may differ from a traditional proof that is solely based on the definition.

Proof Since f and g are differentiable at c . It follows from Theorem 4.2.1 that there exists functions ϕ_1 and ϕ_2 on (a, b) that are continuous at c , and satisfy

$$f(x) - f(c) = (x - c)\phi_1'(x) \quad (4.4)$$

$$g(x) - g(c) = (x - c)\phi_2'(x) \quad (4.5)$$

with

$$\phi_1(c) = f'(c) \quad \text{and} \quad \phi_2(c) = g'(c) \quad (4.6)$$

(Proof of 1) Applying (4.4) and (4.5) to $(f \pm g)(x) - (f \pm g)(c)$, we have

$$(f \pm g)(x) - (f \pm g)(c) = (x - c)(\phi_1(x) \pm \phi_2(x))$$

Since $\phi_1(x) \pm \phi_2(x)$ is continuous at c , $(f \pm g)$ is differentiable at c by Theorem 4.2.1. Then by applying (4.6), we obtain

$$(f \pm g)'(c) = \phi_1(c) \pm \phi_2(c) = f'(c) \pm g'(c)$$

(Proof of 2) Again by applying (4.4) and (4.5), we have

$$(fg)(x) - (fg)(c) = (x - c)[\phi_1(x)g(c) + f(c)\phi_2(x) + (x - c)\phi_1(x)\phi_2(x)]$$

after a few steps of algebraic calculation. It then follows from Theorem 4.2.1 that fg is differentiable at c since the function

$$\phi_1(x)g(c) + f(c)\phi_2(x) + (x - c)\phi_1(x)\phi_2(x)$$

is continuous at c . And

$$(fg)'(c) = \phi_1(c)g(c) + f(c)\phi_2(c) + (c - c)\phi_1(c)\phi_2(c) = f'(c)g(c) + f(c)g'(c)$$

(Proof of 3) Note that the quotient (f/g) can be regarded as a product of f and $1/g$. Hence, we are going to show $1/g$ is differentiable at c , and then apply statement 2, which we have just proved, to conclude the proof. As explained in the remark of this theorem, $1/g$ is well-defined in a neighborhood of c . It follows from (4.5) that

$$\frac{1}{g(x)} - \frac{1}{g(c)} = (x - c) \frac{-\phi_2(x)}{g(x)g(c)}$$

Since $-\phi_2(x)/[g(x)g(c)]$ is continuous at c , we conclude from Theorem 4.2.1 that $1/g$ is differentiable at c , and

$$\left(\frac{1}{g}\right)'(c) = \frac{-\phi_2(c)}{g(c)g(c)} = \frac{-g'(c)}{g^2(c)}$$

Then by applying statement 2, we conclude that f/g is also differentiable at c with

$$(f/g)'(c) = \frac{f'(c)g(c) - f(c)g'(c)}{g^2(c)}$$

■

4.3.2 The Chain Rule

Taking compositions is a more fundamental and natural way of combining two functions apart from summations, products, etc. The next result, the **chain rule**, provides a method of computing the derivative of a composite function.

Theorem 4.3.2

Let f be a function defined on an open interval I , and g a function defined on $f(I)$. We consider the composite function $g \circ f$. If f is differentiable at $c \in I$, $f(c)$ is an interior of $f(I)$, and g is differentiable at $f(c)$, then $g \circ f$ is differentiable at c with

$$(g \circ f)'(c) = g'(f(c))f'(c) \quad (4.7) \quad \heartsuit$$

With the help of Theorem 4.2.1, we can reduce the proof of this theorem to that of Theorem 3.3.1.

Proof Since f is differentiable at c , using Theorem 4.2.1, we have

$$f(x) - f(c) = (x - c)\phi_1(x) \quad \forall x \in I \quad (4.8)$$

where ϕ_1 is some function that is continuous at c with $\phi_1(c) = f'(c)$. Using the same argument, since g is differentiable at $f(c)$, we have

$$g(y) - g(f(c)) = (y - f(c))\phi_2(y) \quad \forall y \in f(I) \quad (4.9)$$

where ϕ_2 is some function that is continuous at $f(c)$ with $\phi_2(c) = g'(f(c))$. Replace y with $f(x)$ in (4.9) yields

$$g(f(x)) - g(f(c)) = (f(x) - f(c))\phi_2(f(x)) \quad \forall x \in I$$


Then by replacing $f(x) - f(c)$ with the right-hand side of (4.8), we have

$$g(f(x)) - g(f(c)) = (x - c)\phi_1(x)\phi_2(f(x)) \quad \forall x \in I$$

Note that $\phi_2(f(x))$ is continuous at c by Theorem 3.3.1. And the product $\phi_1(x)\phi_2(f(x))$ is also continuous. This implies $f \circ f$ is differentiable at c by Theorem 4.2.1. And its derivative at $x = c$ equals


$$(g \circ f)'(c) = \phi_1(c)\phi_2(f(c)) = f'(c)g'(f(c))$$

which is exactly (4.7). ■

 **Exercise 4.3** Calculate the derivative of

$$g(x) = x \sin \frac{1}{x} \mathbb{1}\{x \neq 0\}$$

for $x \neq 0$. Does the derivative exist at $x = 0$?

 **Exercise 4.4** Calculate the derivative of

$$f(x) = x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x^2} \mathbb{1}\{x \neq 0\}$$

for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$. Recall we have already calculated its derivative at $x = 0$ in Exercise 4.2, which is $f'(0) = 0$.

[Hint: Make use of the result in Exercise 4.3 and the chain rule (Theorem 4.3.2).]

4.4 The Mean Value Theorem

4.4.1 Local Extrema

One may be familiar with the fact that if the derivative of function f is positive at some point, i.e., $f'(c) > 0$, then f is increasing near c , and if $f'(c) < 0$, it is decreasing. However, we can extend this result a little further for we have defined one-sided and infinite derivatives.

Theorem 4.4.1

Let f be defined on a subset $A \subset \mathbb{R}$ and $c \in A$. If $f'_+(c) > 0$, possibly $f'_+(c) = \infty$, then there exists a half-open ball $(c, c + \delta) \subset A$ in which

$$x > c \implies f(x) > f(c) \quad (4.10)$$

Similarly, if $f'_-(c) > 0$, then $\exists(c - \delta, c) \subset A$ in which

$$x < c \implies f(x) < f(c)$$

Analogous results hold if we instead assume $f'_+(c) < 0$ or $f'_-(c) < 0$.



Proof We only prove (4.10) since the proofs of the rest of the results are similar. First suppose $f'_+(c) < \infty$. Because the right-hand limit exists, and it equals $f'_+(c)$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$\left| \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} - f'_+(c) \right| < \frac{f'_+(c)}{2} \quad \forall x \in (c, c + \delta)$$

This implies

$$\frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} > \frac{f'_+(c)}{2} > 0 \quad \forall x \in (c, c + \delta)$$

Then $f(x) > f(c)$ provided $x > c$ since they have the same sign.

We also need to consider $f'_+(c) = \infty$. Because the limit is infinity, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that the following fraction exceeds any predetermined number, in particular,

$$\frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} > 0 \quad \forall x \in (c, c + \delta)$$

One can instead choose any large number (non-negative of course, to prove this theorem). This completes the proof since both the numerator and denominator share the same sign. ■

The following corollary is the version that is more familiar to the reader and is more common in practice.

Corollary 4.4.1

Let f be defined on (a, b) , and $c \in (a, b)$ an interior point. If $f'(c) > 0$, possibly $f'(c) = \infty$, then there exists an open ball $B_\delta(c) \subset (a, b)$ in which

$$x > c \implies f(x) > f(c) \quad \text{and} \quad x < c \implies f(x) < f(c) \quad (4.11)$$

An analogous result holds if $f'(c) < 0$.



Exercise 4.5 Prove Corollary 4.4.1 assuming $f'(c) < \infty$ using Theorem 4.2.1.

Solution It follows from Theorem 4.2.1 that

$$f(x) - f(c) = (x - c)\phi(x) \quad \forall x \in (a, b) \quad (4.12)$$


where $\phi(x)$ is continuous at c with $\phi(c) = f'(c) > 0$. Since $\phi(c) > 0$ and it is continuous there, there exists some neighborhood $B_\delta(c) \subset (a, b)$ such that $\phi(x) > 0 \quad \forall x \in B_\delta(c)$. And then (4.11) follows from (4.12).

The **local extremum** of a function is the largest or smallest value within some open ball.

Definition 4.4.1


Let f be a real-valued function defined on a subset A of a metric space (X, d) , and suppose $p \in A$. Then f is said to have a **local maximum** at p if

$$f(x) \leq f(p) \quad \forall x \in B_\delta(p) \cap A$$

for some open ball $B_\delta(p)$. An analogous definition exists for **local minimum**. 

The reader should be very familiar with the exercise of finding a local extremum by solving the equation in which the derivative vanishes. The following Theorem is the theory behind that.

Theorem 4.4.2

Let f be defined on (a, b) , and suppose f has a local extremum at an interior point $c \in (a, b)$. If $f'(c)$ exists as a finite or infinite number, then $f'(c) = 0$. 

Remark Since the conclusion is $f'(c) = 0$, we may as well just assume f is differentiable at c . The reason why we suppose $f'(c)$ exists is that it makes the assumption somewhat looser.

Proof We shall prove by contradiction. Assume $f'(c) \neq 0$, then either $f'(c) > 0$ or $f'(c) < 0$. (We do not exclude the possibilities that $f'(c) = \infty$ or $f'(c) = -\infty$.) If $f'(c) > 0$, then follows from Corollary 4.4.1 that there acts some open ball $B_\delta(c)$ in which $f(x) > f(c)$ for $x > c$ and $f(x) < f(c)$ for $x < c$. This contradicts the fact that $f(c)$ is a local extremum. Similarly, $f'(c) < 0$ will also lead to a contradiction. ■

The converse of this Theorem is not true.

Example 4.3 Consider $f(x) = x^3$. Its derivative is $f'(x) = 3x^2$. We note that $f'(0) = 0$. But it is clear that $f(0) = 0$ is neither a local maximum nor a local minimum. In fact, $f(x)$ does not have any local extremum.

 **Exercise 4.6** Recall the function

$$f(x) = x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x^2} \mathbb{1}\{x \neq 0\}$$

defined in Exercise 4.2. Show that $f(0)$ is not a local extremum. Recall we have shown that $f'(0) = 0$. This is another example that the converse of Theorem 4.4.2 does not hold.

Moreover, it should be emphasized that we conclude in Theorem 4.4.2 that $f'(c) = 0$ under the condition that $f'(c)$ exists. $f(c)$ may be a local extremum without having a derivative there.

Example 4.4 The simplest example is $f(x) = |x|$. Note that $f(0) = 0$ is a local minimum. But the derivative does not exist at $x = 0$ since $f'_+(0) = 1 \neq -1 = f'_-(0)$.

4.4.2 Rolle's Theorem and Mean Value Theorem

If a function starts from point a and ends at point b with the same level of height as its initial position, then there must be a turning point somewhere in between.

Theorem 4.4.3 (Rolle)

Let f be defined on $[a, b]$. Suppose $f'(x)$ exists (as finite or infinite number) for each $x \in (a, b)$, and f is continuous at the endpoints a and b . If $f(a) = f(b)$, then there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$f'(c) = 0$$



Proof If f is a constant function, i.e., $f(x) = f(a) = f(b) \forall x \in [a, b]$, then the conclusion is trivial since $f'(x) = 0 \forall x \in (a, b)$.

We now suppose f is non-constant. We know that f is continuous on $[a, b]$ since f' exists throughout (a, b) and f is continuous at endpoints. It then follows from Theorem 3.3.2 that f attains its maximum and minimum on $[a, b]$. Because we assume f is non-constant and $f(a) = f(b)$, at least one of the maximum and the minimum of f is reached at an interior point $c \in (a, b)$. Note that $f(c)$ is a global extremum, and of course also a local extremum. Then by applying Theorem 4.4.2, we conclude $f'(c) = 0$. ■

Example 4.5 Review Example 4.1. Note that $f(0) = f(4) = 0$. And the derivative vanishes at $x = 1$ and $x = 3$.

The **mean value theorem** is a generalization of Rolle's theorem. Roughly speaking it says f has a derivative value that equals the slope of the secant line joining two endpoints of the graph of f . The mean value theorem itself can be treated as a special case of an even more generalized version, the **generalized mean value theorem** (Theorem 4.4.5).

Theorem 4.4.4 (Mean Value Theorem)

Suppose f has a derivative (finite or infinite) at each point of (a, b) , and suppose f is continuous at endpoints a and b . Then there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that

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



Theorem 4.4.5 (Generalized Mean Value Theorem)

Let f and g be two functions, each having a derivative (finite or infinite) at each point in (a, b) . Suppose f and g are both continuous at endpoints a and b , and $f'(x)$ and $g'(x)$ do not assume infinite values simultaneously. Then there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$f'(c)[g(b) - g(a)] = g'(c)[f(b) - f(a)] \quad (4.13)$$



Remark By taking $g(x) = x$, this theorem reduces to the standard mean value theorem, Theorem 4.4.4.

Though it is a generalized version of the mean value theorem, and hence Rolle's theorem, it can be proved easily using Rolle's theorem by constructing a function out of f and g .

Proof Define

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

It is clear that ψ is continuous on $[a, b]$. Since $f'(x)$ and $g'(x)$ can never both be infinity, the following equation holds:

$$\psi'(x) = f'(x)[g(b) - g(a)] - g'(x)[f(b) - f(a)] \quad \forall x \in (a, b)$$

Furthermore, we note that

$$\psi(a) = f(a)g(b) - f(b)g(a) = \psi(b)$$

Applying Rolle's theorem (Theorem 4.4.3) to ψ leads to $\psi'(c) = 0$ for some $c \in (a, b)$, which is exactly (4.13). ■

Sometimes, functions f and g in Theorem 4.4.5 may not be defined at endpoints. But all the one-sided limits exist as finite values. In this case, we still wish to apply the theorem. The following is a slight extension of Theorem 4.4.5.

Theorem 4.4.6

Let f and g be two functions, each having a derivative (finite or infinite) at each point in (a, b) . Suppose that $f'(x)$ and $g'(x)$ do not assume infinite values simultaneously, and one-sided limits $f(a+)$, $f(b-)$, $g(a+)$ and $g(b-)$ all exist as finite values. Then there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$f'(c)[g(b-) - g(a+)] = g'(c)[f(b-) - f(a+)] \quad (4.14) \quad \heartsuit$$

The proof is done by simply defining the function values at the endpoints.

Proof Define

$$\tilde{f}(x) = f(x) \quad \forall x \in (a, b), \quad \tilde{f}(a) = f(a+), \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{f}(b) = f(b-)$$

$$\tilde{g}(x) = g(x) \quad \forall x \in (a, b), \quad \tilde{g}(a) = g(a+), \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{g}(b) = g(b-)$$

It is evident that \tilde{f} and \tilde{g} are both continuous on $[a, b]$. Furthermore, the derivatives $\tilde{f}'(x) = f'(x)$ and $\tilde{g}'(x) = g'(x)$ for each $x \in (a, b)$. Applying Theorem 4.4.5 to functions \tilde{f} and \tilde{g} leads to (4.14). ■

The following theorem is an immediate result of the mean value theorem, which provides a sufficient condition for determining strictly increasing and decreasing functions. It also says a function is constant if its derivative vanishes everywhere.

Theorem 4.4.7

Suppose f has a derivative (finite or infinite) at each point in (a, b) , and itself is continuous at the endpoints a and b .

1. *If $f'(x) > 0 \quad \forall x \in (a, b)$, then f is strictly increasing on $[a, b]$.*
2. *If $f'(x) < 0 \quad \forall x \in (a, b)$, then f is strictly decreasing on $[a, b]$.*
3. *If $f'(x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in (a, b)$, then f is constant on $[a, b]$.*



Proof (Proof of 1) Let $x_1, x_2 \in [a, b]$ with $x_1 < x_2$. Applying Theorem 4.4.4 to f on the interval $[x_1, x_2]$ leads to

$$f(x_2) - f(x_1) = f'(c)(x_2 - x_1)$$

for some $c \in (x_1, x_2)$. Since $f'(c) > 0$ and $x_2 - x_1 > 0$, we have $f(x_2) > f(x_1)$. Because x_1 and x_2 are arbitrarily chosen, this implies f is strictly increasing on $[a, b]$.

(Proof of 2) Similarly, for any $x_1, x_2 \in [a, b]$ with $x_1 < x_2$, we have

$$f(x_2) - f(x_1) = f'(c)(x_2 - x_1) < 0$$

(Proof of 3) For any $x_1, x_2 \in [a, b]$ with $x_1 < x_2$, by applying Theorem 4.4.4, we have

$$f(x_2) - f(x_1) = f'(c)(x_2 - x_1) = 0$$

This implies f is a constant function. ■

If f and g have the same derivatives everywhere in (a, b) , then they only differ by a constant.

Corollary 4.4.2

If f and g are continuous on $[a, b]$, and $f'(x) = g'(x) \forall x \in (a, b)$, then $f - g$ is constant on $[a, b]$. ♡

Proof Note that the difference $f - g$ is continuous on $[a, b]$ and $(f - g)'(x) = 0 \forall x \in (a, b)$. It then follows from Theorem 4.4.7 that $f - g$ is a constant. ■

4.5 Intermediate Value Theorem

In Exercise 4.4, we have shown that the derivative of function $f(x) = x^2 \sin(1/x^2) \mathbb{1}\{x \neq 0\}$ is given by

$$f'(x) = \begin{cases} 2x \sin \frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{2}{x} \cos \frac{1}{x^2} & x \neq 0 \\ 0 & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

We plot the original function f along with its derivative f' side by side in Figure 4.5.

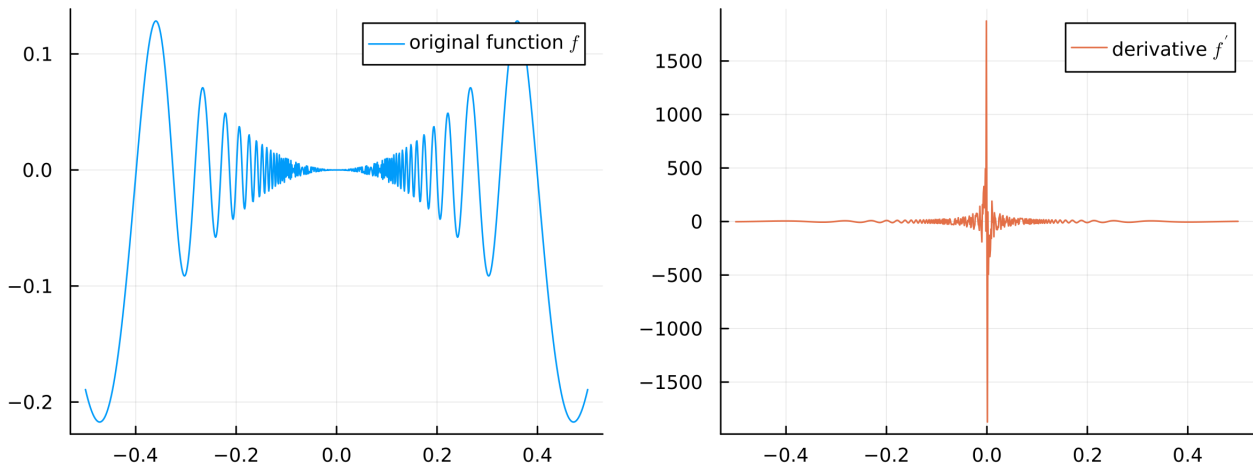


Figure 4.5: Left: original function. Right: derivative.

Note that the derivative f' is not continuous at $x = 0$ since the limit of $f'(x)$ does not exist as $x \rightarrow 0$. This example shows that the derivative of a function may not be continuous, and hence theorems for continuous functions do not apply to derivatives in general. However, the **intermediate**

value theorem is an exception. The intermediate value theorem for derivatives is also known as the **Darboux's theorem**.

Theorem 4.5.1 (Darboux)

Suppose f is defined on $[a, b]$, and it has a derivative (finite or infinite) at each point in (a, b) . Assume also that the one-sided derivatives $f'_+(a)$ and $f'_-(b)$ both exist as finite numbers, and $f'_+(a) \neq f'_-(b)$. If k is a number in between $f'_+(a)$ and $f'_-(b)$, then there exists an interior point $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$f'(c) = k$$



Proof Note that f is continuous on the entire closed interval $[a, b]$.

We first consider the case where $k = [f(b) - f(a)]/(b - a)$. Then by applying the mean value theorem (Theorem 4.4.4), there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f'(c) = [f(b) - f(a)]/(b - a) = k$.

Now, we suppose $k \neq [f(b) - f(a)]/(b - a)$. We note that either $f'_+(a) \neq [f(b) - f(a)]/(b - a)$ or $f'_-(b) \neq [f(b) - f(a)]/(b - a)$ since $f'_+(a) \neq f'_-(b)$. In other words, k is either in between $f'_+(a)$ and $[f(b) - f(a)]/(b - a)$ or it is in between $f'_-(b)$ and $[f(b) - f(a)]/(b - a)$.

Without loss of generality, we may assume k is in between $f'_+(a)$ and $[f(b) - f(a)]/(b - a)$. Define a function ϕ on $[a, b]$ by

$$\phi(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} & x \neq a \\ f'_+(a) & x = a \end{cases}$$

Note that ϕ is continuous on $[a, b]$, and k is in between $\phi(a)$ and $\phi(b)$. Hence, we may apply the intermediate values theorem for continuous functions (Theorem 3.5.1) to ϕ , there is a number $d \in (a, b)$ such that

$$k = \phi(d) = \frac{f(d) - f(a)}{d - a}$$

Then applying the mean value theorem (Theorem 4.4.4) to the fraction on the right-hand side of the above equation, we have

$$k = \frac{f(d) - f(a)}{d - a} = f'(c)$$

for some c in between a and d .

For the case where k lying in between $f'_-(b)$ and $[f(b) - f(a)]/(b - a)$, it can be proved with a similar argument, started by defining

$$\phi(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{f(x) - f(b)}{x - b} & x \neq b \\ f'_-(b) & x = b \end{cases}$$



Essentially, Darboux's theorem tells us that though the derivative may not be continuous, it cannot have any *jump discontinuities*. The following is another classical example in addition to the one in Exercise 4.2.

Example 4.6 Consider the function

$$f(x) = x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x} \mathbb{1}\{x \neq 0\} = \begin{cases} x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x} & x \neq 0 \\ 0 & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

Its derivative is given by

$$f'(x) = \begin{cases} 2x \sin \frac{1}{x} - \cos \frac{1}{x} & x \neq 0 \\ 0 & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

Note that the derivative f' is not continuous at $x = 0$. The graphs of f and f' are shown in Figure 4.6.

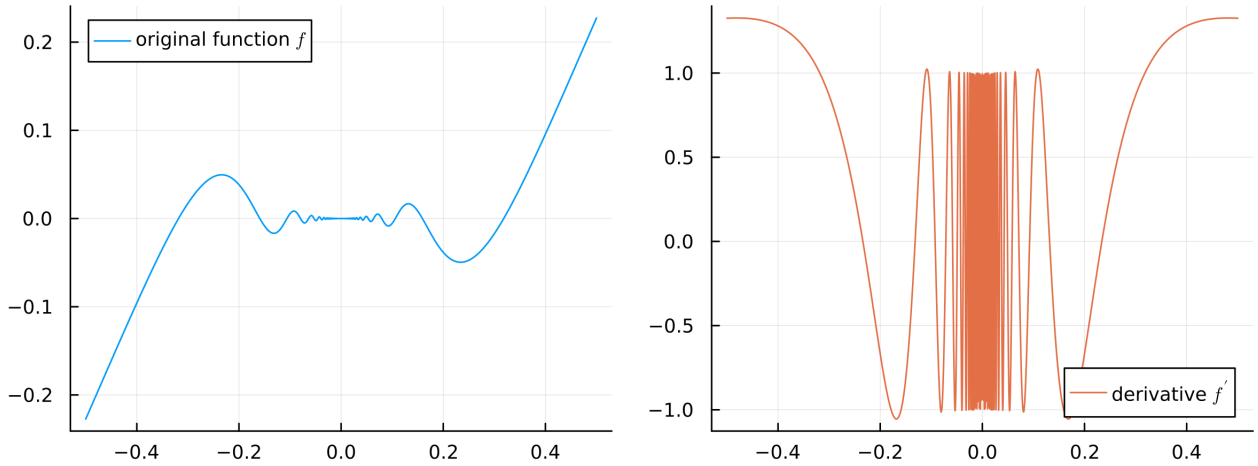


Figure 4.6: Left: original function. Right: derivative.

Actually, there is no need to require that $f'_+(a)$ and $f'_-(b)$ to be finite numbers in Theorem 4.5.1. The following theorem is an extension, and its proof is somewhat neater and more interesting than that of Theorem 4.5.1.

Theorem 4.5.2

Suppose f is defined on $[a, b]$, and it has a derivative (finite or infinite) at each point in (a, b) . Assume also that the one-sided derivatives $f'_+(a)$ and $f'_-(b)$ both exist (each of the two can either be finite or infinite), and $f'_+(a) \neq f'_-(b)$. If k is a number in between $f'_+(a)$ and $f'_-(b)$, then there exists an interior point $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$f'(c) = k$$

Proof Without loss of generality, we may assume $f'_+(a) < k < f'_-(b)$. Define a function g on $[a, b]$ by the equation

$$g(x) = f(x) - kx$$

Note that g is continuous on $[a, b]$, and the derivative of g exists at each point in (a, b) . Furthermore, the one-sided derivatives of g , $g'_+(a)$ and $g'_-(b)$, both exist, which are given by

$$g'_+(a) = f'_+(a) - k \quad \text{and} \quad g'_-(b) = f'_-(b) - k \quad (4.15)$$

It should be emphasized that (4.15) also holds for infinite values.

Because we assume $f'_+(a) < k < f'_-(b)$, (4.15) yields

$$g'_+(a) < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad g'_-(b) > 0$$

It then follows from Theorem 4.4.1 that there exist points t_1 and t_2 at which

$$g(t_1) < g(a) \quad \text{and} \quad g(t_2) < g(b)$$

This implies that g must attain its minimum at some interior point $c \in (a, b)$ rather than at the endpoints. Then by applying Theorem 4.4.2, we have

$$g'(c) = 0$$

Because $g'(x) = f'(x) - k \forall x \in (a, b)$, it follows that

$$f'(c) = k$$

This completes the proof. ■

Example 4.7 Consider a function defined on $[0, 1]$ given by

$$f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x(x-1)}, \quad x \in [0, 1]$$

Note that the derivative exists as a finite number in $(0, 1)$. And it can be shown that $f'_+(0) = -\infty$ and $f'_-(1) = \infty$. Then Theorem 4.5.2 tells us f' takes all the real numbers in $(0, 1)$. See Figure 4.7.

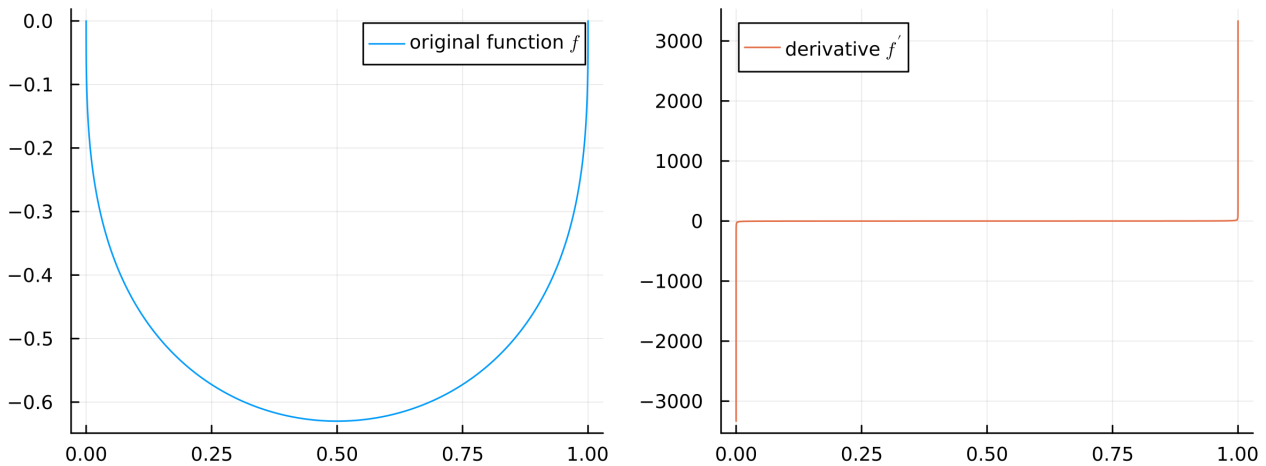




Figure 4.7: Left: original function. Right: derivative.

 **Note** Theoretically, the graph of f' in Figure 4.7 will tend to $-\infty$ and ∞ as x approaches 0 and 1, respectively. The reason why the absolute values of the derivatives near the endpoints shown in the graph are only about 3000 is because of the limited computational precision of the computer.

By Theorem 4.4.7, we know a function is strictly increasing if its derivative is always positive, and it is strictly decreasing if its derivative is always negative. Suppose now we only know that f' is nonzero in some open interval, what can we conclude? Thanks to the intermediate value theorem, or Darboux's theorem, f' is either always positive or always negative. Hence, we can conclude that f must be strictly monotonic.

Theorem 4.5.3


Suppose f has a derivative (finite or infinite) in (a, b) , and is continuous at endpoints a and b . If $f'(x) \neq 0 \forall x \in (a, b)$, then f is strictly monotonic on $[a, b]$. 

Proof Pick a point $x_1 \in (a, b)$. Suppose $f'(x_0) > 0$. Let x_0 be fixed, and choose an arbitrary point $x \in (a, b)$ other than x_0 . We claim that $f'(x) > 0$. Otherwise, if $f'(x) < 0$, then by Theorem 4.5.2, there exists some point c in between x_0 and x such that $f'(c) = 0$, which contradicts the given condition that f' is nonzero in (a, b) . In this case, we have $f'(x) > 0 \forall x \in (a, b)$. It then follows from Theorem 4.4.7 that f is strictly increasing on $[a, b]$.

If $f'(x_0) < 0$, then a similar argument will show that f is strictly decreasing on $[a, b]$. 

It is because the derivatives cannot have jump discontinuities that monotonic derivatives are necessarily continuous.

Theorem 4.5.4

Suppose f' exists, and is monotonic in (a, b) . Then f' is continuous in (a, b) . 

Proof Without loss of generality, suppose that f' is increasing. We shall prove by contradiction. Assume that f' is discontinuous at $x = c \in (a, b)$. By Theorem 3.6.1, we have $f'(c-)$ and $f'(c+)$ both exist, and

$$f'(c-) \leq f(c) \leq f'(c+)$$

But because we assume f' is not continuous at $x = c$, it holds that


$$f'(c-) < f'(c+)$$

Let $[c - \delta, c + \delta]$ ($\delta > 0$) be a closed interval contained in (a, b) . We have

$$f'(c - \delta) \leq f'(c-) < f'(c+) \leq f'(c + \delta)$$

Let k be a number in between $f'(c-)$ and $f'(c+)$ other than $f'(c)$. That is,

$$f'(c-) < k < f'(c+) \quad \text{and} \quad k \neq f'(c)$$

Applying Theorem 4.5.2 to f' on $[c - \delta, c + \delta]$, we conclude that there exists $x_0 \in (c - \delta, c + \delta)$ such that $f'(x_0) = k$. But since f' is increasing, $f'(c-) < k = f'(x_0)$ and $k \neq f'(c)$, we have $x_0 > c$. On the other hand, because $f'(x_0) = k < f'(c+)$ and $k \neq f'(c)$, we have $x_0 < c$. This leads to a contradiction. 

4.6 Taylor's Theorem

If f is differentiable at $x = c$, then it can be approximated by

$$f(x) \approx f(c) + f'(c)(x - c) \tag{4.16}$$

when $|x - c|$ is small. Geometrically, f is close to its tangent line at $x = c$ near the point of tangency. Another way to look at (4.16) is that f is approximated by a polynomial of degree one whose first-order derivative at $x = c$ is exactly $f'(c)$. And the value of this polynomial at $x = c$ is $f(c)$, that is, its zeroth-order derivative is $f(c)$. We can extend this idea by approximating f with higher degree

polynomials whose derivatives of all orders match with that of f at $x = c$.

Example 4.8 Suppose we know any order derivative of the function $f(x) = e^x$ is itself. That is,

$$f^{(k)}(x) = f(x) = e^x \quad \forall k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Consider the polynomial

$$p_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{x^k}{k!} = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{6} + \dots + \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

One can check that

$$p_n^{(k)}(0) = f^{(k)}(0) \quad \forall k = 0, 1, \dots, n$$

Hence, it is reasonable to approximate $f(x)$ with $p_n(x)$ near point $x = 0$. Figure 4.8 compares f with p_n with several choices of n .

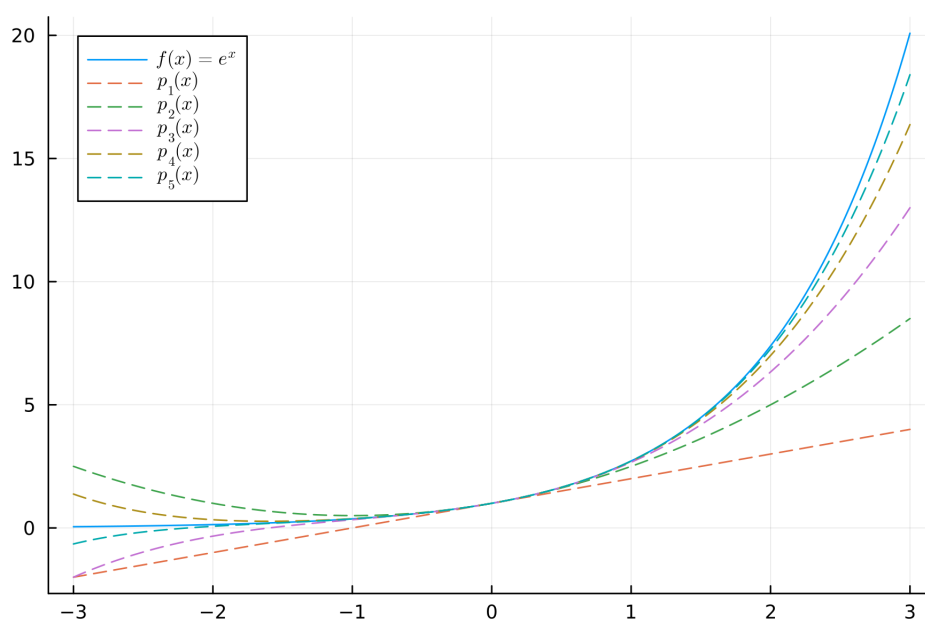


Figure 4.8: Approximations of f at $x = 0$.

In general, a function f can be approximated by the polynomial

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \frac{f^{(k)}(c)}{k!} (x - c)^k = f(c) + f'(c)(x - c) + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(c)}{n!} (x - c)^n$$


at point c provided that f has up to $(n + 1)$ -th order derivative. The reason why we approximate f with a polynomial of n degree is that we have a remainder term, which makes use of the $(n + 1)$ -th order derivative. The remainder tells us how accurate the approximation is. The formal statement is described in the following theorem, the **Taylor's theorem**.

Theorem 4.6.1 (Taylor)

Let f be a function having $(n + 1)$ -th order derivative everywhere in (a, b) , and suppose $f^{(n)}$ is continuous on $[a, b]$. Let $c \in (a, b)$ be an interior point. Then for every $x \in [a, b]$ other than c ,

we have

$$f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(c)}{k!} (x-c)^k + \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} (x-c)^{n+1} \quad (4.17)$$


where ξ is some number in between x and c . 

This theorem can be obtained as an immediate corollary of the following extension of the mean value theorem.

Theorem 4.6.2

Let f and g be two functions each having $(n+1)$ -th order derivative everywhere in (a, b) . Suppose that $f^{(n)}$ and $g^{(n)}$ are both continuous on $[a, b]$. Let $c \in (a, b)$ be an interior point. Then for every $x \in [a, b]$ other than c , we have

$$\left[f(x) - \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(c)}{k!} (x-c)^k \right] g^{(n+1)}(\xi) = f^{(n+1)}(\xi) \left[g(x) - \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{g^{(k)}(c)}{k!} (x-c)^k \right] \quad (4.18)$$

where ξ is some number in between x and c . 

Remark Taking $g(x) = (x-c)^{n+1}$, we have

$$g^{(n+1)}(\xi) = (n+1)! \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{g^{(k)}(c)}{k!} (x-c)^k = 0$$

Then (4.18) reduces to (4.17), and hence this theorem reduces to Theorem 4.6.1.

Proof Define functions $F(t)$ and $G(t)$ on $[a, b]$ by

$$F(t) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(t)}{k!} (x-t)^k \quad \text{and} \quad G(t) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{g^{(k)}(t)}{k!} (x-t)^k \quad \forall t \in [a, b]$$

Note that F and G are continuous on $[a, b]$, and they have derivatives everywhere in (a, b) . Applying the generalized mean value theorem (Theorem 4.4.5) to $F(t)$ and $G(t)$ on the closed interval joining points x and c , we have

$$[F(x) - F(c)]G'(\xi) = F'(\xi)[G(x) - G(c)] \quad (4.19)$$


for some number ξ in between x and c .

After a few steps of computation, we obtain derivatives $F'(t)$ and $G'(t)$ as follows.

$$F'(t) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(t)}{n!} (x-t)^n \quad \text{and} \quad G'(t) = \frac{g^{(n+1)}(t)}{n!} (x-t)^n \quad \forall t \in (a, b) \quad (4.20)$$

We also note that

$$F(x) = f(x), \quad F(c) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(c)}{k!} (x-c)^k, \quad G(x) = g(x), \quad \text{and} \quad G(c) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{g^{(k)}(c)}{k!} (x-c)^k \quad (4.21)$$

Plugging (4.20) and (4.21) into (4.19) leads to (4.18). 

We can rewrite (4.17) as

$$f(x) = p_n(x) + r_n(x)$$


where

$$p_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(c)}{k!} (x - c)^k$$

is the polynomial approximation, and

$$r_n(x) = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(\xi)}{(n+1)!} (x - c)^{n+1}$$

is the remainder. The smaller the absolute value of $r_n(x)$ is, the more accurate the approximation will be.

 **Exercise 4.7** Use Taylor's theorem (Theorem 4.6.1) to approximate the value of $\ln(0.6)$ so that the absolute error is less than 0.1.

Solution Putting $f(x) = \ln(x)$ in (4.17), we have

$$p_n(x; c) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(c)}{k!} (x - c)^k = \ln(c) + \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{k c^k} (x - c)^k$$

$$r_n(x; c) = \frac{(-1)^{n+2}}{(n+1)\xi^{n+1}} (x - c)^{n+1}$$

Since the value of $\ln(x)$ at $x = 1$ is known, i.e., $\ln(1) = 0$, we can expand it about that point by putting $c = 1$. Then we have

$$p_n(x) = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{k} (x - 1)^k \quad \text{and} \quad r_n(x) = \frac{(-1)^{n+2}}{(n+1)\xi^{n+1}} (x - 1)^{n+1}$$

To approximate $\ln(0.6)$ by $p_n(0.6)$ within the error bounds, we need to estimate the remainder $r_n(0.6)$. Note that ξ is now some number in between 0.6 and 1 since $x = 0.6$ and $c = 1$. The absolute value of $r_n(0.6)$ is bounded above by

$$|r_n(0.6)| = \frac{1}{n+1} \left| \frac{0.6 - 1}{\xi} \right|^{n+1} < \frac{1}{n+1} \left(\frac{0.4}{0.6} \right)^{n+1} = \frac{1}{n+1} \left(\frac{2}{3} \right)^{n+1} \quad (4.22)$$

We then estimate $|r_n(0.6)|$ using (4.22) by trying the first few values of n . We have

$$r_1(0.6) = \frac{2}{9} > 0.1 \quad \text{and} \quad r_2(0.6) = \frac{8}{81} < 0.1$$

Hence, it is adequate to approximate $\ln(0.6)$ by $p_2(0.6)$. The approximated value is

$$\ln(0.6) \approx p_2(0.6) = (0.6 - 1) - \frac{1}{2} \times (0.6 - 1)^2 = -0.48$$

We can also visualize the result in Figure 4.9. As we can see, the approximated value is quite close to the true value. And the absolute error is actually much less than the required bound, 0.1.

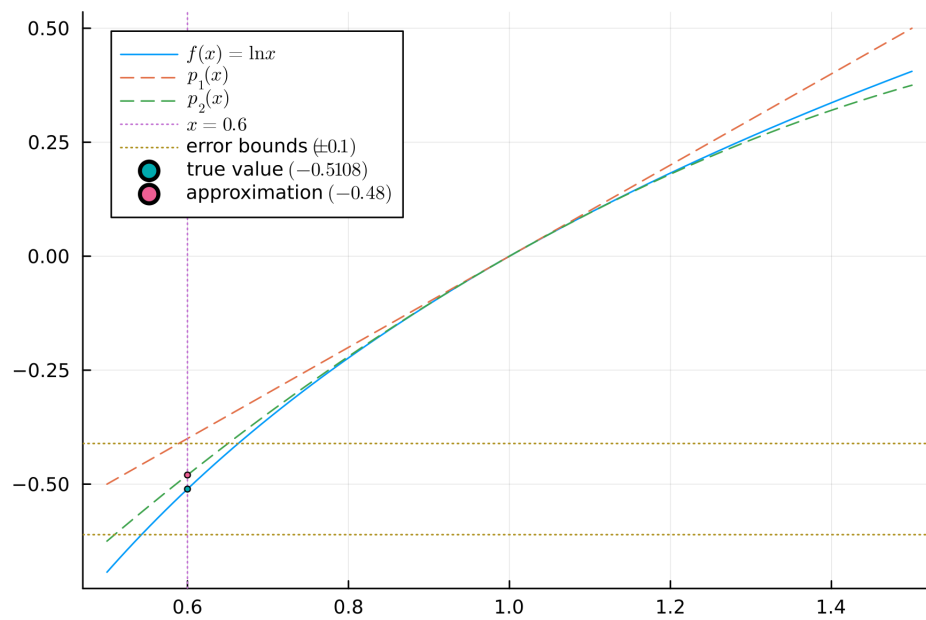


Figure 4.9: Approximation of $\ln(0.6)$.

Chapter 5 Functions of Bounded Variation

5.1 Definition of Functions of Bounded Variation

Definition 5.1.1

Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. For a partition $P = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ on $[a, b]$, write

$$V(P, f) := \sum_{k=1}^n |\Delta f_k| = \sum_{k=1}^n |f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1})|$$

If there exists $M > 0$ such that

$$V(P, f) < M$$

holds for all partition P , then we say f is of bounded variation on $[a, b]$.



Theorem 5.1.1

If f is of bounded variation on $[a, b]$, then f is bounded on $[a, b]$.



Remark The converse is not true. That is, if f is a bounded function, then it may not be of bounded variation (see Example 5.1).

Proof Pick any $x \in [a, b]$. Consider the partition $P = \{a, b\} \cup \{x\}$. Since f is of bounded variation, we have

$$||f(x)| - |f(a)|| \leq |f(x) - f(a)| \leq V(P, f) < M$$

where M is a constant that is independent of x . It follows that

$$|f(x)| \leq |f(a)| + M \quad \forall x \in [a, b]$$

Therefore, f is bounded on $[a, b]$. ■

Example 5.1 Let $f : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be given by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x \cos \frac{\pi}{x} & 0 < x \leq 1 \\ 0 & x = 0 \end{cases}$$

Note that f is a bounded continuous function on $[0, 1]$. We now show that f is however not of bounded

variation. Consider a sequence of partitions

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_1 &= \left\{0, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, 1\right\} \\
 P_2 &= \left\{0, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, 1\right\} \\
 P_3 &= \left\{0, \frac{1}{7}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{5}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, 1\right\} \\
 &\vdots \\
 P_n &= \{0, 1\} \cup \bigcup_{k=1}^n \left\{\frac{1}{2k+1}, \frac{1}{2k}\right\} \\
 &\vdots
 \end{aligned}$$

For partition P_n , the sum

$$\begin{aligned}
 V(P, f) &> \sum_{k=1}^n \left| f\left(\frac{1}{2k}\right) - f\left(\frac{1}{2k+1}\right) \right| \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^n \left| \frac{1}{2k} \cos(2k\pi) - \frac{1}{2k+1} \cos((2k+1)\pi) \right| \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^n \left(\frac{1}{2k} + \frac{1}{2k+1} \right) \\
 &= \sum_{k=2}^{2n+1} \frac{1}{k}
 \end{aligned}$$

Since the series $\sum \frac{1}{k} = \infty$, we can always find a partition such that the sum $\sum |\Delta f_k|$ exceeds any given positive number. Therefore, f is not of bounded variation on $[0, 1]$ though it is bounded.

Recall the definition of uniform continuity. The condition of uniform continuity, to some extent, eliminates the functions that tend to infinity at some points while the condition of bounded variation eliminates the functions that *oscillate*.

Theorem 5.1.2

If f is a monotonic function on $[a, b]$, then f is of bounded variation on $[a, b]$.



Proof Without loss of generality, we assume f is increasing. For any partition $P = \{x_0, \dots, x_n\}$ on $[a, b]$, we have

$$\sum_{k=1}^n |\Delta f_k| = \sum_{k=1}^n |f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1})| = \sum_{k=1}^n f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1}) = f(b) - f(a)$$


This completes the proof since $f(b) - f(a)$ is independent of P . ■


5.2 Total Variation

Definition 5.2.1

Let f be of bounded variation on $[a, b]$. The total variation of f on $[a, b]$ is defined by

$$V_a^b(f) := \sup_{P \in \mathcal{P}[a, b]} V(P, f)$$

where $\mathcal{P}[a, b]$ is the collection of all partitions on $[a, b]$. 

 **Note** We will sometimes write $V(f)$ instead of $V_a^b(f)$ to ease the notation if it does not confuse.

Theorem 5.2.1

If f and g are each of bounded variation on $[a, b]$, then $f \pm g$ and fg are also of bounded variation. Moreover,

$$V(f \pm g) \leq V(f) + V(g) \quad (5.1)$$

and

$$V(fg) \leq \sup_{x \in [a, b]} |g(x)| V(f) + \sup_{x \in [a, b]} |f(x)| V(g) \quad (5.2)$$



Proof (Proof of $f \pm g$ being of bounded variation) We have

$$\begin{aligned} V(P, f \pm g) &= \sum_{k=1}^n |(f \pm g)(x_k) - (f \pm g)(x_{k-1})| \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n |(f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1})) \pm (g(x_k) - g(x_{k-1}))| \\ &\leq \sum_{k=1}^n |\Delta f_k| + |\Delta g_k| \\ &= V(P, f) + V(P, g) \\ &\leq V(f) + V(g) \end{aligned}$$

Since f and g are both of bounded variation, $V(f), V(g) < \infty$. Therefore, $V(P, f \pm g)$ is bounded above by a finite number for any partition P , which implies the function $f \pm g$ is of bounded variation.

Taking supremum over all P 's on

$$V(P, f \pm g) \leq V(f) + V(g)$$

we obtain (5.1).

(Proof of fg being of bounded variation) For any partition P on $[a, b]$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 V(P, fg) &= \sum_{k=1}^n |f(x_k)g(x_k) - f(x_{k-1})g(x_{k-1})| \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^n |f(x_k)g(x_k) - f(x_{k-1})g(x_k) + f(x_{k-1})g(x_k) - f(x_{k-1})g(x_{k-1})| \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^n |g(x_k)\Delta f_k + f(x_{k-1})\Delta g_k| \\
 &\leq \sup |g| V(P, f) + \sup |f| V(P, g) \\
 &\leq \sup |g| V(f) + \sup |f| V(g)
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, because f and g are of bounded variation, $V(f)$ and $V(g)$ are finite. Moreover, by Theorem 5.1.1, f and g are bounded on $[a, b]$, which implies $\sup |f|, \sup |g| < \infty$. Hence, $V(P, fg)$ is bounded above by a finite number for any partition, which implies fg is also of bounded variation, and (5.2) holds. ■

5.3 Additive Property of Total Variation

Theorem 5.3.1

Let f be of bounded variation on $[a, b]$. For a point $c \in (a, b)$, we have f is of bounded variation on $[a, c]$ and $[c, b]$, and

$$V_a^b(f) = V_a^c(f) + V_c^b(f) \quad (5.3) \quad \heartsuit$$

Proof Let P' be a partition on $[a, c]$ and P'' a partition on $[c, b]$. Note that $P = P' \cup P''$ forms a partition on $[a, b]$. We have

$$V_a^b(P, f) = V_a^c(P', f) + V_c^b(P'', f)$$

Since f is of bounded variation on $[a, b]$, it follows that

$$\infty > V_a^b(f) \geq V_a^b(P, f) = V_a^c(P', f) + V_c^b(P'', f) \quad (5.4)$$

Note that (5.4) holds for any partition P' on $[a, c]$ and any partition P'' on $[c, b]$. Therefore, f is of bounded variation on $[a, c]$ and $[c, b]$, i.e., $V_a^c(f), V_c^b(f) < \infty$.

Taking the supremum over all partitions on $[a, c]$ followed by taking the supremum over all partitions on $[c, b]$ on (5.4), we obtain

$$V_a^b(f) \geq \sup_{P' \in \mathcal{P}[a, c]} V_a^c(P', f) + \sup_{P'' \in \mathcal{P}[c, b]} V_c^b(P'', f) = V_a^c(f) + V_c^b(f) \quad (5.5)$$

Now, let P be a partition on $[a, b]$. Let

$$P' = (P \cap [a, c]) \cup \{c\} \quad P'' = P \cap [c, b] \cup \{c\}$$

There are two cases. If $c \in P$, then

$$V_a^b(P, f) = V_a^c(P', f) + V_c^b(P'', f)$$

If $c \notin P$, then

$$V_a^b(P, f) \leq V_a^c(P', f) + V_c^b(P'', f)$$

Either way, it holds that

$$V_a^b(P, f) \leq V_a^c(P', f) + V_c^b(P'', f) \leq V_a^c(f) + V_c^b(f) \quad (5.6)$$

Taking the supremum over all partitions on $[a, b]$ on (5.6), we have

$$V_a^b(f) = \sup_{P \in \mathcal{P}[a, b]} V_a^b(P, f) \leq V_a^c(f) + V_c^b(f) \quad (5.7)$$

Equation (5.3) then follows from (5.4) and (5.7). ■

The total variation of a function with the same lower and upper limits is defined as zero, i.e., $V_x^x(f) = 0$ so that (5.3) holds for $c = a$ and $c = b$.

Definition 5.3.1

Suppose that f is of bounded variation on $[a, b]$. The total variation

$$V_a^x(f) \quad a \leq x \leq b$$

can be regarded as a function of x on $[a, b]$ with an addition definition $V_a^a(f) := 0$. ♣

5.4 Characterization of Functions of Bounded Variation

In fact, all functions of bounded variation can be written as a difference between two increasing functions.

Lemma 5.4.1

Let f be of bounded variation on $[a, b]$. Define $V(x) := V_a^x(f)$ ($a \leq x \leq b$). Then

1. V is increasing on $[a, b]$
 2. $V - f$ is increasing on $[a, b]$
- ♡

Proof (Proof of 1) By Theorem 5.3.1 and Definition 5.3.1, we know $V(x)$ is well-defined, and

$$V(x+h) - V(x) = V_x^{x+h}(f) \geq 0$$

where $h > 0$. Therefore, V is indeed increasing on $[a, b]$.

(Proof of 2) Fix $x \in [a, b]$. Let h be such that $0 \leq x < x+h \leq b$. Let a partition P on $[x, x+h]$ be given by

$$P = \{x, x+h\}$$

We have

$$V_x^{x+h}(P, f) = |f(x+h) - f(x)| \leq V_x^{x+h}(f) \quad (5.8)$$

It then follows from (5.8) that

$$\begin{aligned} (V - f)(x+h) - (V - f)(x) &= V_x^{x+h}(f) - (f(x+h) - f(x)) \\ &\geq V_x^{x+h}(f) - |f(x+h) - f(x)| \\ &\geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $V - f$ is also an increasing function on $[a, b]$. ■

Theorem 5.4.1 (Characterization of Functions of Bounded Variation)

Let f be a real-valued function on $[a, b]$. Then, the following statements are equivalent.

- 1. f is of bounded variation on $[a, b]$.*
- 2. There exist two increasing functions g and h on $[a, b]$ such that $f = g - h$.*
- 3. There exist two **strictly** increasing functions g and h on $[a, b]$ such that $f = g - h$.*



Chapter 6 Riemann-Stieltjes Integral

6.1 Definition of the Riemann-Stieltjes Integral

Definition 6.1.1

Suppose that f and α are **real-valued bounded** functions on $[a, b]$. Let $P = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ be a partition on $[a, b]$ and t_k a point in the sub-interval $[x_{k-1}, x_k]$. A sum of the form

$$S(P, f, \alpha) = \sum_{k=1}^n f(t_k) \Delta \alpha_k$$

is called a Riemann-Stieltjes sum of f with respect to α . We say f is Riemann-integrable with respect to α , and write $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$ if there exists a number A having the following property: for any given $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a partition P_ε such that

$$|S(P, f, \alpha) - A| < \varepsilon$$

for any refinement P of P_ε and for any choice of points t_k . (Note that $S(P, f, \alpha)$ depends on t_k .) Moreover, the number A is **uniquely** determined if it exists (this is proved in Proposition 6.1.1) and is denoted by

$$\int_a^b f \, d\alpha$$



Note To ease the notation, we will sometimes write

$$\sum_k f(t_k) \Delta \alpha_k$$

without specifying the lower and upper limits of k if no confusion will be caused.

Recall Definition 6.1.1 only requires the existence of A . We now show that such number A is also unique.

Proposition 6.1.1

Let $S(P, f, \alpha)$ be as in Definition 6.1.1. If A and A' both satisfy the property stated in Definition 6.1.1, then $A = A'$.



Proof Given $\varepsilon > 0$, by the property in Definition 6.1.1, there exist partitions P_1 and P_2 such that

$$|S(P_1, f, \alpha) - A| < \varepsilon/2$$

$$|S(P_2, f, \alpha) - A'| < \varepsilon/2$$

Let $P = P_1 \cup P_2$. We have

$$|S(P, f, \alpha) - A| < \varepsilon/2$$

$$|S(P, f, \alpha) - A'| < \varepsilon/2$$

It then follows that

$$|A - A'| \leq |S(P, f, \alpha) - A| + |S(P, f, \alpha) - A'| < \varepsilon/2 + \varepsilon/2 = \varepsilon$$

Since $\varepsilon > 0$ is arbitrary, we must have $A = A'$. ■

6.2 Linear Properties

The integral is linear in the integrand. In other words, the integral of a linear combination of functions is equal to the linear combination of integrals of each function.

Theorem 6.2.1

Suppose that $f, g \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$. Then $c_1f + c_2g \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$ where c_1 and c_2 are constants. In that case,

$$\int_a^b c_1f + c_2g \, d\alpha = c_1 \int_a^b f \, d\alpha + c_2 \int_a^b g \, d\alpha$$



Proof Let P be a partition on $[a, b]$. The Riemann-Stieltjes sum of $c_1f + c_2g$ can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} S(P, c_1f + c_2g, \alpha) &= \sum_k c_1f(t_k) + c_2g(t_k)\Delta\alpha_k \\ &= c_1 \sum_k f(t_k)\Delta\alpha_k + c_2 \sum_k g(t_k)\Delta\alpha_k \\ &= c_1S(P, f, \alpha) + c_2S(P, g, \alpha) \end{aligned}$$

Given $\varepsilon > 0$. Since $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$ then there exists a partition P'_ε such that

$$\left| S(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \frac{\varepsilon/2}{1 + |c_1|} \quad \forall P \supset P'_\varepsilon$$

Similarly, since $g \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$, there exists a partition P''_ε such that

$$\left| S(P, g, \alpha) - \int_a^b g \, d\alpha \right| < \frac{\varepsilon/2}{1 + |c_2|} \quad \forall P \supset P''_\varepsilon$$

Let P_ε be the refinement of P'_ε and P''_ε , i.e., $P = P'_\varepsilon \cup P''_\varepsilon$. Then for any $P \supset P_\varepsilon$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| S(P, c_1f + c_2g, \alpha) - c_1 \int_a^b f \, d\alpha - c_2 \int_a^b g \, d\alpha \right| \\ &\leq |c_1| \left| S(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| + |c_2| \left| S(P, g, \alpha) - \int_a^b g \, d\alpha \right| \\ &< |c_1| \frac{\varepsilon/2}{1 + |c_1|} + |c_2| \frac{\varepsilon/2}{1 + |c_2|} \\ &< \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof. ■

The integral is also linear in the integrator.

Theorem 6.2.2

If $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ and $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\beta)$ on $[a, b]$, then $f \in \mathfrak{R}(c_1\alpha + c_2\beta)$ where c_1 and c_2 are constants. In that case,

$$\int_a^b f \, d(c_1\alpha + c_2\beta) = c_1 \int_a^b f \, d\alpha + c_2 \int_a^b f \, d\beta$$



Proof Let P be a partition on $[a, b]$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} S(P, f, c_1\alpha + c_2\beta) &= \sum_{k=0} f(t_k) + \Delta(c_1\alpha + c_2\beta)_k \\ &= c_1 \sum_{k=0} f(t_k) \Delta\alpha_k + c_2 \sum_{k=0} f(t_k) \Delta\beta_k \\ &= c_1 S(P, f, \alpha) + c_2 S(P, f, \beta) \end{aligned}$$

Given $\varepsilon > 0$. Since $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$ then there exists a partition P'_ε such that

$$\left| S(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \frac{\varepsilon/2}{1 + |c_1|} \quad \forall P \supset P'_\varepsilon$$

Similarly, since $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\beta)$, there exists a partition P''_ε such that

$$\left| S(P, f, \beta) - \int_a^b f \, d\beta \right| < \frac{\varepsilon/2}{1 + |c_2|} \quad \forall P \supset P''_\varepsilon$$

Let $P = P'_\varepsilon \cup P''_\varepsilon$. Then for any $P \supset P_\varepsilon$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| S(P, f, c_1\alpha + c_2\beta) - c_1 \int_a^b f \, d\alpha - c_2 \int_a^b f \, d\beta \right| \\ &\leq |c_1| \left| S(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| + |c_2| \left| S(P, f, \beta) - \int_a^b f \, d\beta \right| \\ &< |c_1| \frac{\varepsilon/2}{1 + |c_1|} + |c_2| \frac{\varepsilon/2}{1 + |c_2|} \\ &< \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

■

If we divide the interval $[a, b]$ into two parts with some point $c \in (a, b)$ in the middle, then the integral over the entire interval is the sum of the integrals on these two sub-intervals. This is also a kind of linearity of integrals considering the interval of integration.

Lemma 6.2.1

Suppose $c \in (a, b)$. We have

$$\int_a^b f \, d\alpha = \int_a^c f \, d\alpha + \int_c^b f \, d\alpha \quad (6.1)$$

The existence of two integrals in (6.1) will imply the existence of the third one.

♡

Proof We have

$$S(P, f, \alpha) = S(P', f, \alpha) + S(P'', f, \alpha) \quad \forall P = P' \cup P'' \quad (6.2)$$

where P , P' and P'' are partitions on $[a, b]$, $[a, c]$ and $[c, b]$, respectively. Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be chosen arbitrarily.

(Proof of existence of $\int_a^b f \, d\alpha$) Assume $\int_a^c f \, d\alpha$ and $\int_c^b f \, d\alpha$ exist. Then

$$\left| S(P', f, \alpha) - \int_a^c f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon/2 \quad \forall P' \supset P'_\varepsilon$$

for some P'_ε on $[a, c]$. And

$$\left| S(P'', f, \alpha) - \int_c^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon/2 \quad \forall P'' \supset P''_\varepsilon$$

for some P'_ε on $[c, b]$. Let

$$P_\varepsilon = P'_\varepsilon \cup P''_\varepsilon$$

(Note that $c \in P_\varepsilon$.) Let

$$P \supset P_\varepsilon \quad P' = P \cap [a, c] \quad P'' = P \cap [c, b]$$

Observe that

$$P' \supset P'_\varepsilon \quad P'' \supset P''_\varepsilon$$

It then follows from (6.2) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| S(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^c f \, d\alpha - \int_c^b f \, d\alpha \right| \\ & \leq \left| S(P', f, \alpha) - \int_a^c f \, d\alpha \right| + \left| S(P'', f, \alpha) - \int_c^b f \, d\alpha \right| \\ & < \varepsilon/2 + \varepsilon/2 \\ & = \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$ and (6.1) holds.

(Proof of existence of $\int_c^b f \, d\alpha$) Assume $\int_a^b f \, d\alpha$ and $\int_a^c f \, d\alpha$ exist. Then

$$\left| S(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon/2 \quad \forall P \supset P_\varepsilon$$

for some P_ε on $[a, b]$. And

$$\left| S(P', f, \alpha) - \int_a^c f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon/2 \quad \forall P' \supset P'_\varepsilon$$

for some P'_ε on $[a, c]$. Let

$$P''_\varepsilon = (P_\varepsilon \cup P'_\varepsilon) \cap [c, b]$$

Let

$$P'' \supset P''_\varepsilon \quad P' \supset (P_\varepsilon \cup P'_\varepsilon) \cap [a, c] \quad P = P' \cup P''$$

Observe that

$$P' \supset P'_\varepsilon \quad P = P' \cup P'' \supset (P_\varepsilon \cap [a, c]) \cup (P_\varepsilon \cap [c, b]) = P_\varepsilon$$

It then follows from (6.2) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| S(P'', f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha + \int_a^c f \, d\alpha \right| \\ & \leq \left| S(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| + \left| S(P', f, \alpha) - \int_a^c f \, d\alpha \right| \\ & < \varepsilon/2 + \varepsilon/2 \\ & = \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[c, b]$ and (6.1) holds.

(Proof of existence of $\int_a^c f \, d\alpha$) Assume $\int_a^b f \, d\alpha$ and $\int_c^b f \, d\alpha$ exist. Then

$$\left| S(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon/2 \quad \forall P \supset P_\varepsilon$$

for some P_ε on $[a, b]$. And

$$\left| S(P'', f, \alpha) - \int_c^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon/2 \quad \forall P'' \supset P'_\varepsilon$$

for some P''_ε on $[c, b]$. Let

$$P'_\varepsilon = (P_\varepsilon \cup P''_\varepsilon) \cap [a, c]$$

Let

$$P' \supset P'_\varepsilon \quad P'' \supset (P_\varepsilon \cup P''_\varepsilon) \cap [c, b] \quad P = P' \cup P''$$

Observe that

$$P'' \supset P''_\varepsilon \quad P = P' \cup P'' \supset (P_\varepsilon \cap [a, c]) \cup (P_\varepsilon \cap [c, b]) = P_\varepsilon$$

It then follows from (6.2) that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| S(P', f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha + \int_c^b f \, d\alpha \right| \\ & \leq \left| S(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| + \left| S(P'', f, \alpha) - \int_c^b f \, d\alpha \right| \\ & < \varepsilon/2 + \varepsilon/2 \\ & = \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, c]$ and (6.1) holds. ■

Theorem 6.2.3

The existence of two integrals in (6.3) will imply the existence of the third one.

$$\int_a^b f \, d\alpha = \int_a^c f \, d\alpha + \int_c^b f \, d\alpha \quad (6.3)$$



6.3 Reduction to Riemann-Stieltjes Integrals

In the definition of Riemann-Stieltjes integral, $d\alpha$ is merely a symbol which emphasizes that the integrator is α . However, it is tempting to associate this symbol with the concept of differentials, and then replace it with $\alpha'(x) \, dx$. As stated in the following theorem, we can indeed do this under some conditions.

Theorem 6.3.1

Suppose $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, and α has a continuous derivative α' on $[a, b]$. Then the Riemann integral $f\alpha'$ exists, i.e., $f\alpha' \in \mathfrak{R}$ on $[a, b]$, and we have

$$\int_a^b f(x) \, d\alpha(x) = \int_a^b f(x) \alpha'(x) \, dx \quad (6.4)$$



Proof We first do some preliminary work. Suppose f is bounded by a positive number $M > 0$, i.e., $|f(x)| \leq M \, \forall x \in [a, b]$, and let $\varepsilon > 0$ be chosen arbitrarily.

Then, we make use of the continuity of α' . Note that α' is uniformly continuity on $[a, b]$ since the

closed interval is compact. Then there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$|s - t| < \delta \implies |\alpha'(s) - \alpha'(t)| < \frac{\varepsilon/2}{M(b-a)} \quad (6.5)$$

Let P'_ε be a partition on $[a, b]$ with mesh less than δ , i.e., $\|P'\| < \delta$.

Because $f \in \alpha$, there exists a partition, say P''_ε , such that

$$\left| S(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon/2 \quad \forall P \supset P''_\varepsilon \quad (6.6)$$

holds for any refinement P .

Let partition P_ε be the refinement of both partitions P'_ε and P''_ε , i.e., $P = P'_\varepsilon \cup P''_\varepsilon$. Then for any refinement P of P_ε , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| S(P, f\alpha') - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| &\leq |S(P, f\alpha') - S(P, f, \alpha)| + \left| S(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| \\ &< |S(P, f\alpha') - S(P, f, \alpha)| + \varepsilon/2 \end{aligned} \quad (6.7)$$

where the last inequality follows from (6.6).

We now work on $|S(P, f\alpha') - S(P, f, \alpha)|$. We have

$$|S(P, f\alpha') - S(P, f, \alpha)| = \left| \sum_k f(t_k) \alpha'(t_k) (x_k - x_{k-1}) - \sum_k f(t_k) [\alpha(x_k) - \alpha(x_{k-1})] \right|$$

Applying the mean value theorem (Theorem 4.4.4) to α on each sub-interval $[x_{k-1}, x_k]$ leads to

$$\sum_k f(t_k) \alpha'(t_k) (x_k - x_{k-1}) - \sum_k f(t_k) [\alpha(x_k) - \alpha(x_{k-1})] = \sum_k f(t_k) [\alpha'(t_k) - \alpha'(\xi_k)] (x_k - x_{k-1})$$

where $\xi_k \in (x_{k-1}, x_k)$. It then follows that

$$\begin{aligned} |S(P, f\alpha') - S(P, f, \alpha)| &= \left| \sum_k f(t_k) [\alpha'(t_k) - \alpha'(\xi_k)] (x_k - x_{k-1}) \right| \\ &\leq \sum_k |f(t_k)| |\alpha'(t_k) - \alpha'(\xi_k)| \Delta x_k \\ &\quad \text{recall } |f| \leq M \\ &\leq M \sum_k |\alpha'(t_k) - \alpha'(\xi_k)| \Delta x_k \end{aligned}$$

Note that $|t_k - \xi_k| \leq \|P\| \leq \|P'_\varepsilon\| < \delta$. Hence, by (6.5), we have

$$|\alpha'(t_k) - \alpha'(\xi_k)| < \frac{\varepsilon/2}{M(b-a)}$$

Then, $|S(P, f\alpha') - S(P, f, \alpha)|$ is finally bounded by

$$|S(P, f\alpha') - S(P, f, \alpha)| < M \frac{\varepsilon/2}{M(b-a)} \sum_k \Delta x_k = M \frac{\varepsilon/2}{M(b-a)} (b-a) = \varepsilon/2 \quad (6.8)$$

Combining (6.7) and (6.8), we obtain

$$\left| S(P, f\alpha') - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon$$

where P is an arbitrary refinement of the chosen P_ε . This implies $f\alpha'$ is Riemann integrable, and (6.4) indeed holds. ■

6.4 Integration by Parts

Theorem 6.4.1 (Integration by Parts)

If $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, then $\alpha \in \mathfrak{R}(f)$ on $[a, b]$, and

$$\int_a^b f \, d\alpha + \int_a^b \alpha \, df = f(b)\alpha(b) - f(a)\alpha(a)$$



Remark This can be treated as the *reciprocity law* for integrals.

Proof Given $\varepsilon > 0$, since $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, there exists a partition P_ε such that

$$\left| S(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon \quad \forall P \supset P_\varepsilon \quad (6.9)$$

Let $P = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\} \supset P_\varepsilon$ be any refinement of P_ε . The Riemann-Stieltjes sum of α with respect to f is

$$S(P, \alpha, f) = \sum_{k=1}^n \alpha(t_k)(f(x_k) - f(x_{k-1})) = \sum_{k=1}^n \alpha(t_k)f(x_k) - \sum_{k=1}^n \alpha(t_k)f(x_{k-1}) \quad (6.10)$$

Let

$$P^* = P \cup \{t_k \mid 1 \leq k \leq n\} \quad (6.11)$$

Denote by A the value

$$A = f(b)\alpha(b) - f(a)\alpha(a)$$

Note that A can be written as

$$A = \sum_{k=1}^n f(x_k)\alpha(x_k) - \sum_{k=1}^n f(x_{k-1})\alpha(x_{k-1}) \quad (6.12)$$

Subtracting (6.10) from (6.12), we obtain

$$A - S(P, \alpha, f) = \sum_{k=1}^n f(x_k)(\alpha(x_k) - \alpha(t_k)) + \sum_{k=1}^n f(x_{k-1})(\alpha(t_k) - \alpha(x_{k-1}))$$

By recalling the construction of P^* in (6.11), we observe that the right-hand side of the above equation is precisely the Riemann-Stieltjes sum $S(P^*, f, \alpha)$. That is,

$$A - S(P, \alpha, f) = S(P^*, f, \alpha)$$

Since $P^* \supset P \supset P_\varepsilon$, it follows from (6.9) that

$$\left| A - S(P, \alpha, f) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| = \left| S(P^*, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon$$

Recall $A = f(b)\alpha(b) - f(a)\alpha(a)$, we have

$$\left| S(P, \alpha, f) + \int_a^b f \, d\alpha - f(b)\alpha(b) + f(a)\alpha(a) \right| < \varepsilon \quad \forall P \supset P_\varepsilon$$

This implies that $\alpha \in \mathfrak{R}(f)$ on $[a, b]$, and

$$\int_a^b \alpha \, df = - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha + f(b)\alpha(b) - f(a)\alpha(a)$$

 **Exercise 6.1** Evaluate the integral

$$\int_a^b x \cos(x) \, dx$$

6.5 Change of Variables

Theorem 6.5.1

Suppose $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, and ϕ is a **strictly monotonic continuous** function on a closed interval I with endpoints c and d . (I is either $[c, d]$ or $[d, c]$.) Assume

$$a = \phi(c) \qquad b = \phi(d)$$

Define two composite functions:

$$h = f(\phi(x)) \qquad \beta = \alpha(\phi(x))$$

Then $h \in \mathfrak{R}(\beta)$ on I , and $\int_a^b f \, d\alpha = \int_c^d h \, d\beta$, i.e.,

$$\int_a^b f(x) \, d\alpha(x) = \int_{\phi^{-1}(a)}^{\phi^{-1}(b)} f(\phi(x)) \, d\alpha(\phi(x))$$



Remark The reason why we assume that ϕ is strictly monotonic and continuous is to ensure that it is a bijective function. It is equivalent to assuming ϕ is strictly monotonic and injective.

The main idea of this proof is exploiting the one-to-one relation between the partitions on $[a, b]$ and $[c, d]$.

Proof (One-To-One Relation of Partitions) Without loss of generality, we may assume that g is strictly *increasing* and continuous. Then $I = [c, d]$. From the conditions of g , we can immediately conclude that it has a bijective inverse function

$$\phi^{-1} : [a, b] \rightarrow [c, d]$$

For any partition $P' = \{x_0, \dots, x_n\}$ on $[a, b]$, we can associate it with a partition P on $[c, d]$, which is given by

$$P := \phi^{-1}(P') := \{\phi^{-1}(x_0), \dots, \phi^{-1}(x_n)\}$$

On the other hand, for any partition $P = \{y_0, \dots, y_n\}$ on $[c, d]$, we can define a partition P' on $[a, b]$ by

$$P' := \phi(P) := \{\phi(y_0), \dots, \phi(y_n)\}$$

(Existence of the Integral) Given $\varepsilon > 0$, since $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, there exists a partition P'_ε on $[a, b]$ such that

$$\left| S(P', f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon \quad \forall P' \supset P'_\varepsilon \quad (6.13)$$

Let partition P_ε on $[c, d]$ be given by $P_\varepsilon = \phi^{-1}(P'_\varepsilon)$. For any refinement $P \supset P_\varepsilon$, we have

$$S(P, h, \beta) = \sum h(s_i) \Delta\beta_i = \sum h(s_i) (\beta(s_i) - \beta(s_{i-1}))$$

For each point s_i , we can map it to $[a, b]$ by $t_i = \phi(s_i)$. It then follows that

$$\begin{aligned} S(P, h, \beta) &= \sum h(\phi^{-1}(t_i))(\beta(\phi^{-1}(t_i)) - \beta(\phi^{-1}(t_{i-1}))) \\ &= \sum f(t_i)(\alpha(t_i) - \alpha(t_{i-1})) \\ &= S(P', f, \alpha) \end{aligned}$$

where $P' = \phi(P)$. In summary,

$$S(P, h, \beta) = S(P', \phi, \alpha) \quad (6.14)$$

What is left to show is that $P' \supset P'_\varepsilon$. For any point $x \in P'_\varepsilon$, we have $\phi^{-1}(x) \in P_\varepsilon$ since $P_\varepsilon = \phi^{-1}(P_\varepsilon)$. Recall that $P \supset P_\varepsilon$. Thus, $\phi^{-1}(x) \in P$. And because $P' = \phi(P)$, we have $x = \phi(\phi^{-1}(x)) \in P'$. Therefore, indeed $P' \supset P'_\varepsilon$. It then follows from (6.13) and (6.14) that

$$\left| S(P, h, \beta) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon \quad \forall P \supset P_\varepsilon$$

This completes the proof. ■

6.6 Step Functions as Integrators

If the integrator α is a constant function on $[a, b]$, then the f is always integrable with $\int_a^b f \, d\alpha = 0$ since the Stieltjes sum $S(P, f, \alpha) = 0$ for any partition.

What if α is constant except for one jump or removable discontinuity at $c \in (a, b)$? For example, α may look like functions shown in Figure 6.1.

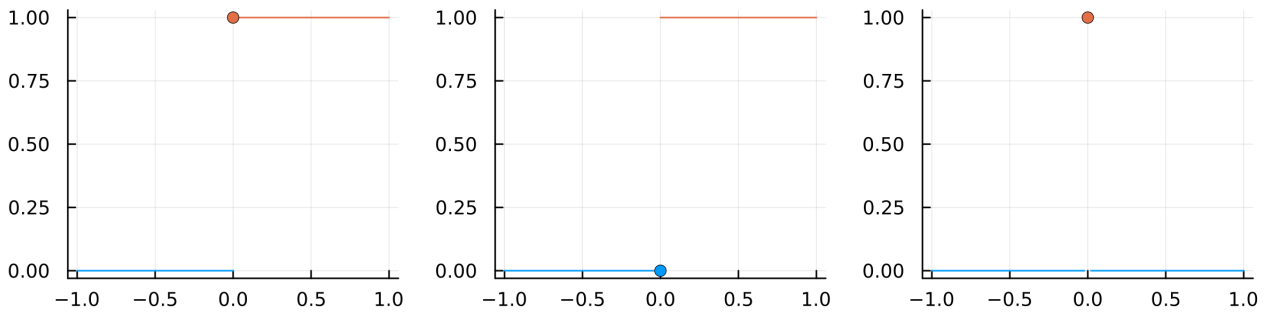


Figure 6.1: Left: $\alpha(x)$ is continuous from the right at $x = 0$. Middle: $\alpha(x)$ is continuous from the left at $x = 0$. Right: $\alpha(x)$ has a removable discontinuity at $x = 0$.

In this case, f may not be even integrable, and if it is, $\int_a^b f \, d\alpha$ may not be zero.

Theorem 6.6.1

Let $c \in (a, b)$. Define a function α on $[a, b]$ as follows. The values of $\alpha(a)$, $\alpha(b)$ and $\alpha(c)$ are chosen arbitrarily, and elsewhere

$$\alpha(x) = \begin{cases} \alpha(a) & a \leq x < c \\ \alpha(b) & c < x \leq b \end{cases}$$

Suppose f is a bounded function defined on $[a, b]$ in such a way that

1. at least one of f and α is continuous from the left at c , and

2. at least one of f and α is continuous from the right at c .

Then, $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$ with

$$\int_a^b f \, d\alpha = f(c)[\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)] \quad (6.15)$$



Proof (Possible expressions of $S(P, f, \alpha)$) We first investigate the expression of the Stieltjes sum $S(P, f, \alpha)$. Given any partition P on $[a, b]$. If $c \notin P$, then we have

$$S(P, f, \alpha) = f(c)[\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)]$$

And if $c \in P$, we have

$$S(P, f, \alpha) = f(c - \delta_1)[\alpha(c) - \alpha(a)] + f(c + \delta_2)[\alpha(b) - \alpha(c)]$$

where $c - \delta_1$ and $c + \delta_2$ ($\delta_1, \delta_2 \geq 0$) are two points in the adjacent sub-intervals sharing the same endpoint c . Note that δ_1 and δ_2 can not be too large. In fact, they satisfy that

$$0 \leq \delta_1, \delta_2 \leq \|P\|$$

Taking into consideration both cases, we have the following inequality for any partition P :

$$\begin{aligned} |S(P, f, \alpha) - f(c)[\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)]| \\ \leq |f(c - \delta_1) - f(c)| |\alpha(c) - \alpha(a)| + |f(c + \delta_2) - f(c)| |\alpha(b) - \alpha(c)| \end{aligned} \quad (6.16)$$

where of course $0 \leq \delta_1, \delta_2 \leq \|P\|$.



Note In fact, the left-hand side of (6.16) reduces to zero when $c \notin P$ and the equality holds if $c \in P$.

There are altogether four scenarios concerning the continuity of f and α at point c , which are

1. $\alpha(x)$ is continuous at $x = c$.
2. $\alpha(x)$ is continuous from the right at $x = c$, and $f(x)$ is continuous from the left at $x = c$.
3. $\alpha(x)$ is continuous from the left at $x = c$, and $f(x)$ is continuous from the right at $x = c$.
4. $f(x)$ is continuous at $x = c$.

(Proof of 1) If $\alpha(x)$ is continuous at $x = c$, then α is a constant function. In this case, f is certainly integrable with respect to α with $\int_a^b f \, d\alpha = 0$. And (6.15) holds since its right-hand side is also zero for $\alpha(a) = \alpha(b)$.

(Proof of 2) Because $\alpha(x)$ is continuous from the right at $x = c$, we have $\alpha(c) = \alpha(b)$, and the inequality (6.16) reduces to

$$|S(P, f, \alpha) - f(c)[\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)]| \leq |f(c - \delta_1) - f(c)| |\alpha(c) - \alpha(a)| \quad (6.17)$$

Given $\varepsilon > 0$, since $f(x)$ is continuous from the left at $x = c$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$-\delta < x - c < 0 \implies |f(x) - f(c)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{|\alpha(c) - \alpha(a)| + 1} \quad (6.18)$$

Choose a partition P_ε on $[a, b]$ with $\|P_\varepsilon\| < \delta$. Let $P \supset P_\varepsilon$ be an arbitrary refinement. Applying (6.17) to P , we have $\delta_1 < \|P\| \leq \|P_\varepsilon\| < \delta$. We may then apply (6.18), and obtain

$$\begin{aligned} |S(P, f, \alpha) - f(c)[\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)]| &\leq |f(c - \delta_1) - f(c)| |\alpha(c) - \alpha(a)| \\ &< \frac{\varepsilon}{|\alpha(c) - \alpha(a)| + 1} |\alpha(c) - \alpha(a)| < \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

This implies $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, and (6.15) holds.

(Proof of 3) The proof, in this case, is similar to that of 2.

(Proof of 4) Given $\varepsilon > 0$. Because $f(x)$ is continuous at $x = c$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$|x - c| < \delta \implies |f(x) - f(c)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{|\alpha(c) - \alpha(a)| + |\alpha(b) - \alpha(c)| + 1} \quad (6.19)$$

Choose a partition P_ε with $\|P_\varepsilon\| < \delta$. Let $P \supset P_\varepsilon$. Applying (6.16) to P , we have $0 \leq \delta_1, \delta_2 \leq \|P\| \leq \|P_\varepsilon\| < \delta$. Then (6.16) and (6.19) yield

$$\begin{aligned} |S(P, f, \alpha) - f(c)[\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)]| \\ < \frac{\varepsilon}{|\alpha(c) - \alpha(a)| + |\alpha(b) - \alpha(c)| + 1} (|\alpha(c) - \alpha(a)| + |\alpha(b) - \alpha(c)|) < \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Hence, $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$, and (6.15) holds. This completes the proof. \blacksquare

It should be emphasized that there are cases where $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$ while the conditions in the above theorem are not satisfied.

Example 6.1 Let

$$f(x) = \alpha(x) = \begin{cases} -1 & x < 0 \\ 0 & x = 0 \\ 1 & x > 0 \end{cases}, \quad x \in [-1, 1]$$

Note that neither f nor α is continuous from the left at 0. (And also neither f nor α is continuous from the right at 0.) Hence, the conditions in Theorem 6.6.1 are not satisfied.

However, we now show that f is integrable. Let P be any partition on $[-1, 1]$. If $0 \notin P$, then

$$S(P, f, \alpha) = f(0)[\alpha(1) - \alpha(-1)] = 0$$

And if $0 \in P$, we then have

$$S(P, f, \alpha) = f(-\delta_1)[\alpha(0) - \alpha(-1)] + f(\delta_2)[\alpha(1) - \alpha(0)] = (-1)[0 - (-1)] + 1 \cdot [1 - 0] = 0$$

where $\delta_1, \delta_2 \geq 0$. Hence, $S(P, f, \alpha) = 0$ no matter what partition and representative points we choose. It follows that $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[-1, 1]$ with $\int_{-1}^1 f \, d\alpha = 0$.

Example 6.2 Let

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{|\sin(x)|}{x} & x \neq 0 \\ -1 & x = 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha(x) = \begin{cases} -1 & x < 0 \\ 1 & x \geq 0 \end{cases}, \quad x \in [-3\pi, 3\pi]$$

Let us take for granted that the following limit exists:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{x} = 1$$

Then we note that the left and right limits of f both exist but are not equal. Figure 6.2 exhibits the graphs of these two functions.

The integrator α is constant except for a jump discontinuity at 0. We note that α is continuous from the *right* at 0, and f is continuous from the *left* at 0. Hence, the conditions in Theorem 6.6.1 are satisfied, and we conclude $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[-3\pi, 3\pi]$ with

$$\int_{-3\pi}^{3\pi} f \, d\alpha = f(0)[\alpha(3\pi) - \alpha(-3\pi)] = f(0) \cdot 2 = -2$$

Example 6.3 If we alter the function f in the example above (Example 6.2) by re-defining $f(0) = 1$

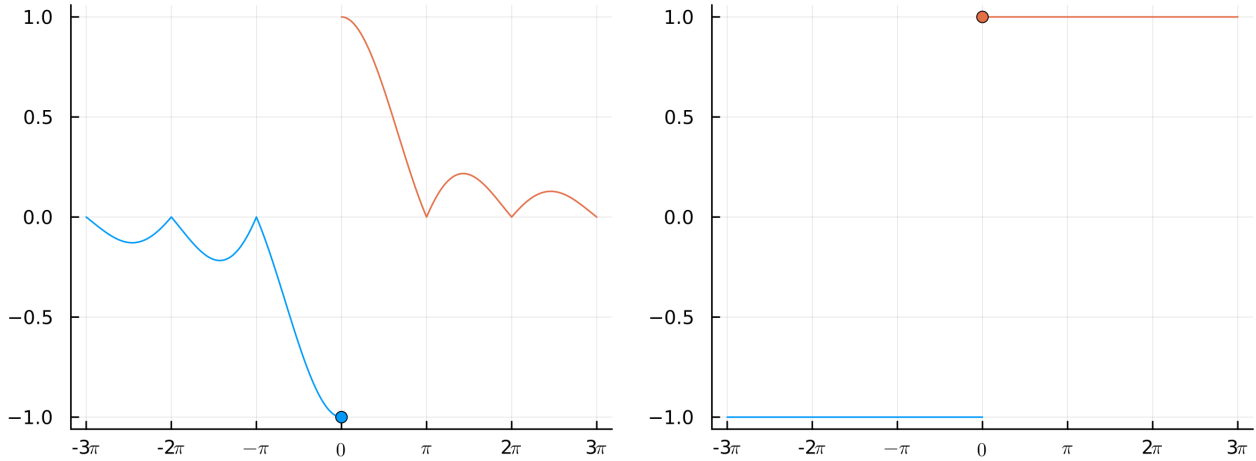


Figure 6.2: Left: integrand f is continuous from the left at 0. Right: integrator α is continuous from the right at 0.


while keeping the integrator α unchanged, then f is no longer integrable w.r.t. α . Now,

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{|\sin(x)|}{x} & x \neq 0 \\ 1 & x = 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha(x) = \begin{cases} -1 & x < 0 \\ 1 & x \geq 0 \end{cases}, \quad x \in [-3\pi, 3\pi]$$

Note that we cannot apply Theorem 6.6.1 here since neither the integrand nor the integrator is continuous from the left of 0.

To show that f is indeed not integrable, we consider f and α on $[-3\pi, 0]$ and $[0, 3\pi]$ separately. It is evident that $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[0, 3\pi]$ with $\int_0^{3\pi} f \, d\alpha = 0$. We now consider the other half interval $[-3\pi, 0]$. Given any partition $P = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ on $[-3\pi, 0]$, we have

$$S(P, f, \alpha) = f(t_n)[\alpha(x_n) - \alpha(x_{n-1})] = 2f(t_n) = \begin{cases} 2|\sin(t_n)|/t_n & t_n < 0 \\ 2 & t_n = 0 \end{cases}$$

 **Note** Intuitively, we know f is not integrable w.r.t. α on $[-3\pi, 0]$ since for any partition P , we can always choose the last point t_n such that the Stieltjes sum $S(P, f, \alpha)$ does not fall in any neighborhood of some number. But we still have to prove this rigorously by the definition.

We shall prove by contradiction. Assume $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[-3\pi, 0]$ with $\int_{-3\pi}^0 f \, d\alpha = A$. Since $2|\sin x|/x \rightarrow -2$ as $x \rightarrow 0^-$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$-3 < \frac{2|\sin x|}{x} < -1 \quad \forall x \in (-\delta, 0)$$

Choose $\varepsilon = 1$. For all partitions P_ε , we can always find a refinement $P = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ such that $x_{n-1} > -\delta$. We choose the last representative $t_n \in [x_{n-1}, x_n]$ in two ways. Letting t_n be some number in that sub-interval other than 0 yields a Riemann-Stieltjes sum in between -3 and -2 , i.e.,

$$S(P, f, \alpha) = 2|\sin(t_n)|/t_n \in (-3, -1)$$

since $-\delta < t_n < 0$. On the other hand, letting $t'_n = 0$ leads to another Riemann-Stieltjes sum

$$S'(P, f, \alpha) = 2$$


We have the following inequality:

$$|S(P, f, \alpha) - A| + |S'(P, f, \alpha) - A| \geq |S(P, f, \alpha) - S'(P, f, \alpha)| > 3 > 2\varepsilon$$

This implies that at least one of $|S(P, f, \alpha) - A|$ and $|S'(P, f, \alpha) - A|$ is greater than ε , which leads to a contradiction. Hence, f is not integrable on $[-3\pi, 0]$.

Finally, by Theorem 6.2.3, f cannot be integrable with respect to α on the whole interval $[-3\pi, 3\pi]$.

As a matter of fact, $f \notin \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[-3\pi, 3\pi]$ if we re-define $f(0)$ other than 1 while keep α unchanged.

 **Exercise 6.2** Let f be a constant function on $[a, b]$ except for *finitely* many points. Show that f is Riemann integrable on $[a, b]$.

[Hint: You may find the theorem of integration by parts (Theorem 6.4.1) helpful.]

6.7 Reduction of Riemann-Stieltjes Integrals to Finite Sums

6.8 Darboux Integrals with Monotonically Increasing Integrators

In this section, we shall introduce another formulation of integrals, which is known as the **Darboux integrals**. As we noted before, the Riemann-Stieltjes sum $S(P, f, \alpha)$ also depends on the choice of representatives, t_k s. This uncertainty increases the difficulty of proving assertions related to integrals. For example, as we have seen in Example 6.3, it takes quite a lot of work to prove that integral does not exist. Hence, we need Darboux's formulation, which has the advantage of being easier to apply in computations or proofs.

Definition 6.8.1

Let f be a bounded function on $[a, b]$, and $P = \{a = x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n = b\}$ a partition. In each sub-interval $[x_{k-1}, x_k]$, we use the symbols M_k and m_k to denote


$$M_k = \sup \{f(x) \mid x \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]\} \quad \text{and} \quad m_k = \inf \{f(x) \mid x \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]\}$$

(The supremum and infimum are well-defined since we assume f is bounded.) The **upper Riemann-Stieltjes sum** $U(P, f, \alpha)$ and **lower Riemann-Stieltjes sum** $L(P, f, \alpha)$ are defined by

$$U(P, f, \alpha) = \sum_{k=1}^n M_k \Delta \alpha_k \quad \text{and} \quad L(P, f, \alpha) = \sum_{k=1}^n m_k \Delta \alpha_k$$



If $\alpha(x) = x$, we write $U(P, f)$ and $L(P, f)$ with the specification of α dropped. And in this case, $U(P, f)$ and $L(P, f)$ are called the **upper and lower Darboux sum**.

 **Note** From the definition, we note that, unlike $S(P, f, \alpha)$, $U(P, f, \alpha)$ and $L(P, f, \alpha)$ only depend on P , f and α .

On each sub-interval $[x_{k-1}, x_k]$, by definition, we have

$$m_k \leq f(x) \leq M_k \quad \forall x \in [x_{k-1}, x_k] \quad (6.20)$$

It follows that

$$L(P, f, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha) \quad (6.21)$$

If we pick a representative $t_k \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]$ in each interval and assume α is monotonically increasing, then (6.20) yields

$$L(P, f, \alpha) \leq S(P, f, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha)$$

The following theorem states that not only $L(P, f, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha)$ for the same partition P , but also $L(P_1, f, \alpha) \leq U(P_2, f, \alpha)$ for any two partitions P_1 and P_2 . The theorem also says the upper sums will decrease as the partition gets finer and finer while the lower sums will increase.

Theorem 6.8.1

Suppose α is increasing on $[a, b]$. We have the following statements.

1. If $P' \supset P$, then


$$U(P', f, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha) \quad \text{and} \quad L(P', f, \alpha) \geq L(P, f, \alpha)$$

2. For any two partitions P_1 and P_2 on $[a, b]$, we have

$$L(P_1, f, \alpha) \leq U(P_2, f, \alpha)$$



Proof (Proof of 1) We only prove $U(P', f, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha)$ since the proof for lower sums is similar. Note that it suffices to prove the case where P' has exactly one point, say c , more than P .

 **Note** If P' has m points more than P , then we can construct a chain of partitions:

$$P' = P_1 \supset P_2 \cdots \supset P_m = P$$

in such a way that P_i has one point more than P_{i+1} . Then by applying the inequality $U(P_i, f, \alpha) \leq U(P_{i+1}, f, \alpha)$, which is assumed proved, we obtain

$$U(P', f, \alpha) \leq U(P_2, f, \alpha) \leq \cdots \leq U(P, f, \alpha)$$

Suppose $P = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$, and point c is in between x_{i-1} and x_i . The upper sum $U(P', f, \alpha)$ is then

$$U(P', f, \alpha) = \sum_{k=1, k \neq i}^n M_k \Delta \alpha_k + M' [\alpha(c) - \alpha(x_{i-1})] + M'' [\alpha(x_i) - \alpha(c)]$$

where

$$M' = \sup \{f(x) \mid x \in [x_{i-1}, c]\} \quad \text{and} \quad M'' = \sup \{f(x) \mid x \in [c, x_i]\}$$

Since $M_i \geq M', M''$, we have

$$M' [\alpha(c) - \alpha(x_{i-1})] + M'' [\alpha(x_i) - \alpha(c)] \leq M_i \Delta \alpha_i$$

Hence, $U(P', f, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha)$.

(Proof of 2) Let P be a common refinement of P_1 and P_2 , say $P = P_1 \cup P_2$. Applying what we have just proved, it follows that

$$L(P, f, \alpha) \geq L(P_1, f, \alpha) \quad \text{and} \quad U(P, f, \alpha) \leq U(P_2, f, \alpha)$$

As noted before in (6.21), $L(P, f, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha)$. Therefore,

$$L(P_1, f, \alpha) \leq L(P, f, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha) \leq U(P_2, f, \alpha)$$

■

In particular, since every partition is a refinement of the trivial partition $P_0 = \{a, b\}$, Theorem 6.8.1 leads to

$$\inf_{x \in [a, b]} f(x)[\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)] \leq L(P_1, f, \alpha) \leq U(P_2, f, \alpha) \leq \sup_{x \in [a, b]} f(x)[\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)] \quad (6.22)$$

What (6.22) implies is that all the upper and lower Riemann-Stieltjes sums are bounded. Therefore, the infimum of upper sums and supremum of lower sums both exist as *finite* numbers, which gives rise to the definition of **upper and lower Riemann-Stieltjes integrals**.

Definition 6.8.2

Suppose f is bounded and α is monotonically increasing on $[a, b]$. The upper and lower Riemann-Stieltjes integrals, written as $\bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha$ and $\underline{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha$, are defined by

$$\bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha = \inf \{U(P, f, \alpha) \mid P \in \mathcal{P}[a, b]\} \quad \text{and} \quad \underline{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha = \sup \{L(P, f, \alpha) \mid P \in \mathcal{P}[a, b]\}$$



Sometimes, we will just say upper and lower integrals for short.

As indicated by the names, one should expect that the lower integral should be less than or equal to the upper integral. This is indeed the case.

Theorem 6.8.2

Suppose α is increasing on $[a, b]$. We have

$$\underline{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha \leq \bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha \quad (6.23)$$



Proof Given $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a partition P_ε such that

$$U(P_\varepsilon, f, \alpha) < \bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha + \varepsilon$$

By Theorem 6.8.1, for any partition P , we have

$$L(P, f, \alpha) \leq U(P_\varepsilon, f, \alpha)$$

It then follows that

$$L(P, f, \alpha) < \bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha + \varepsilon \quad \forall P \in \mathcal{P}[a, b]$$

This implies that $\bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha + \varepsilon$ is an upper bound of all the lower Riemann-Stieltjes sums. Thus, it must be no less than their supremum, that is,

$$\underline{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha \leq \bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha + \varepsilon$$

Since the above inequality holds for any positive number $\varepsilon > 0$, we have

$$\underline{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha \leq \bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha$$

There exist cases where the inequality (6.23) is strict.

Example 6.4 Consider the Dirichlet function

$$\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{Q}}(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \in \mathbb{Q} \\ 0 & x \notin \mathbb{Q} \end{cases}$$

restricted on $[0, 1]$. For any partition $P = \{0 = x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n = 1\}$, the infimum of $\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{Q}}$ on each sub-interval $[x_{k-1}, x_k]$ is 0. Hence, $L(P, \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{Q}}) = \sum_{k=1}^n 0 \cdot (x_k - x_{k-1}) = 0$, which implies the lower Darboux sum is always 0. Therefore, the lower integral is 0, i.e., $\int_0^1 \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{Q}}(x) dx = 0$. Similarly, because the supremum of the Dirichlet function is 1 in each sub-interval, the upper Darboux sum is always 1. Hence, $\int_0^1 \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{Q}}(x) dx = 1$. In this case, the lower integral is strictly less than the upper integral.

In the following theorems, we introduce some properties of upper and lower integrals.

Theorem 6.8.3

Suppose that f is bounded and α is increasing on $[a, b]$. Let $c \in (a, b)$. We have

1. $\bar{\int}_a^b f d\alpha = \bar{\int}_a^c f d\alpha + \bar{\int}_c^b f d\alpha$
2. $\underline{\int}_a^b f d\alpha = \underline{\int}_a^c f d\alpha + \underline{\int}_c^b f d\alpha$



Proof We only prove 1, the equality concerning the upper integrals, since 2 can be proved similarly.

Given $\varepsilon > 0$, there exist a partition P_1 on $[a, c]$ and a partition P_2 on $[c, b]$ such that

$$U(P_1, f, \alpha) < \bar{\int}_a^c f d\alpha + \varepsilon/2 \quad \text{and} \quad U(P_2, f, \alpha) < \bar{\int}_c^b f d\alpha + \varepsilon/2 \quad (6.24)$$

Let $P = P_1 \cup P_2$. Note that P is a partition on $[a, b]$. Furthermore, the upper Riemann-Stieltjes sum $U(P, f, \alpha)$ is given by

$$U(P, f, \alpha) = U(P_1, f, \alpha) + U(P_2, f, \alpha) \quad (6.25)$$

But

$$U(P, f, \alpha) \geq \bar{\int}_a^b f d\alpha \quad (6.26)$$

Combining (6.24), (6.25) and (6.26) together, we have

$$\bar{\int}_a^b f d\alpha < \bar{\int}_a^c f d\alpha + \bar{\int}_c^b f d\alpha + \varepsilon$$

Since the above inequality holds for any $\varepsilon > 0$. It follows that

$$\bar{\int}_a^b f d\alpha \leq \bar{\int}_a^c f d\alpha + \bar{\int}_c^b f d\alpha \quad (6.27)$$

On the other hand, letting $\varepsilon > 0$ be chosen arbitrarily, there exists a partition P on $[a, b]$ such that

$$U(P, f, \alpha) < \bar{\int}_a^b f d\alpha + \varepsilon \quad (6.28)$$

We want to split P into two partitions, one on $[a, c]$ and the other on $[c, b]$. But we need to ensure that c is in P . To do so, we consider a refinement $P' = P \cup \{c\}$. By Theorem 6.8.1, we know that the

upper Riemann-Stieltjes sum concerning P' is reduced, i.e.,

$$U(P', f, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha) < \int_a^b f d\alpha + \varepsilon \quad (6.29)$$

where the second inequality follows from (6.28). Let P_1 and P_2 be given by

$$P_1 = \{x \in P' \mid x \leq c\} \quad \text{and} \quad P_2 = \{x \in P' \mid x \geq c\}$$

Note that indeed P_1 and P_2 are partitions on $[a, c]$ and $[c, b]$, respectively. We have

$$U(P', f, \alpha) = U(P_1, f, \alpha) + U(P_2, f, \alpha) \quad (6.30)$$

Moreover, The two upper Riemann-Stieltjes sums are bounded below by the corresponding upper integrals, that is,

$$U(P_1, f, \alpha) \geq \int_a^c f d\alpha \quad \text{and} \quad U(P_2, f, \alpha) \geq \int_c^b f d\alpha \quad (6.31)$$

Then, by combining (6.29), (6.30) and (6.31), we obtain

$$\int_a^b f d\alpha + \varepsilon > \int_a^c f d\alpha + \int_c^b f d\alpha$$

Similarly, since the above inequality holds for any $\varepsilon > 0$, we have

$$\int_a^b f d\alpha \geq \int_a^c f d\alpha + \int_c^b f d\alpha \quad (6.32)$$

Finally, the equation

$$\int_a^b f d\alpha = \int_a^c f d\alpha + \int_c^b f d\alpha$$

follows from (6.27) and (6.32). ■

However, some equations of integrals will not be valid for upper and lower integrals. For example, the following equation is a special case of Theorem 6.2.1.

$$\int_a^b (f + g) d\alpha = \int_a^b f d\alpha + \int_a^b g d\alpha$$

It will not hold if we replace the integrals with upper and lower integrals. To fix this, we also need to replace equality with inequality, as stated in the next theorem.

Theorem 6.8.4

Suppose that f and g are bounded and α is increasing on $[a, b]$. We have

1. $\bar{\int}_a^b (f + g) d\alpha \leq \bar{\int}_a^b f d\alpha + \bar{\int}_a^b g d\alpha$
2. $\underline{\int}_a^b (f + g) d\alpha \geq \underline{\int}_a^b f d\alpha + \underline{\int}_a^b g d\alpha$



Proof We only prove 1. Given $\varepsilon > 0$, there exist partitions P_1 and P_2 on $[a, b]$ such that

$$U(P_1, f, \alpha) < \int_a^b f d\alpha + \varepsilon/2 \quad \text{and} \quad U(P_2, g, \alpha) < \int_a^b g d\alpha + \varepsilon/2$$

Let $P = P_1 \cup P_2$. It follows from Theorem 6.8.1 that

$$U(P, f, \alpha) \leq U(P_1, f, \alpha) < \int_a^b f d\alpha + \varepsilon/2 \quad \text{and} \quad U(P, g, \alpha) \leq U(P_2, g, \alpha) < \int_a^b g d\alpha + \varepsilon/2$$

Adding the two inequalities above yields

$$U(P, f, \alpha) + U(P, g, \alpha) < \int_a^b f \, d\alpha + \int_a^b g \, d\alpha + \varepsilon \quad (6.33)$$

Write $P = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$. Let M_k, M'_k and M''_k denote

$$M_k = \sup \{f(x) + g(x) \mid x \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]\}$$

$$M'_k = \sup \{f(x) \mid x \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]\}$$

$$M''_k = \sup \{g(x) \mid x \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]\}$$

It is clear that

$$M_k \leq M'_k + M''_k \quad \forall k = 1, \dots, n$$

since $f(x) + g(x) \leq M'_k + M''_k \, \forall x \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]$. It then follows that

$$U(P, f + g, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha) + U(P, g, \alpha)$$

Because $U(P, f + g, \alpha)$ is bounded below by its upper integral, we further have

$$\int_a^b (f + g) \, d\alpha \leq U(P, f + g, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha) + U(P, g, \alpha) \quad (6.34)$$

Combining inequalities (6.33) and (6.34), we obtain

$$\int_a^b (f + g) \, d\alpha < \int_a^b f \, d\alpha + \int_a^b g \, d\alpha + \varepsilon$$

Because the above inequality holds for any $\varepsilon > 0$, we finally have the inequality

$$\int_a^b (f + g) \, d\alpha \leq \int_a^b f \, d\alpha + \int_a^b g \, d\alpha$$

as desired. ■

The following is an example where both inequalities are strict.

Example 6.5 Let functions

$$f = \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{Q}} \quad \text{and} \quad g = -\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{Q}}$$

be restricted on $[0, 1]$. We have calculated the upper and lower integrals of f in Example 6.4. We can do the same for g similarly. The results are as follows.

$$\int_0^1 f(x) \, dx = 1, \quad \int_0^1 f(x) \, dx = 0, \quad \int_0^1 g(x) \, dx = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad \int_0^1 g(x) \, dx = -1,$$

Note that the sum of the two functions is zero, i.e., $f + g = 0$. Hence, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 (f + g)(x) \, dx &= 0 < 1 = \int_0^1 f(x) \, dx + \int_0^1 g(x) \, dx \\ \int_0^1 (f + g)(x) \, dx &= 0 > -1 = \int_0^1 f(x) \, dx + \int_0^1 g(x) \, dx \end{aligned}$$

6.9 Riemann's Condition

In Darboux's formulation, the integral exists if and only if the upper and lower integrals are equal to each other. We now show that this is equivalent to the criterion of the existence of integrals from our definition (Definition 6.1.1). Furthermore, we will introduce another equivalent condition,

Riemann's condition, which is convenient to use in proofs.

Definition 6.9.1 (Riemann's Condition)

Suppose f is bounded and α is increasing on $[a, b]$. Function f is said to satisfy **Riemann's condition** w.r.t. α on $[a, b]$ if for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a partition P_ε on $[a, b]$ such that

$$U(P, f, \alpha) - L(P, f, \alpha) < \varepsilon$$

for any refinement $P \supset P_\varepsilon$.



Essentially, Riemann's condition requires that the upper and lower sums should be arbitrarily close.

The following states that the existence of Riemann-Stieltjes integrals, the existence of Darboux integrals and Riemann's condition are equivalent.

Theorem 6.9.1

Suppose f is bounded and α is increasing on $[a, b]$. Then the following statements are equivalent.

1. f is integrable w.r.t. α on $[a, b]$, i.e., $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$.
2. f satisfies Riemann's condition w.r.t. α on $[a, b]$.
3. The upper and lower integrals are equal to each other, i.e., $\bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha = \underline{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha$.



Proof If α is constant, then this theorem holds trivially. We assume α is non-constant in the rest of the proof.

(Proof of 1 \implies 2) Given $\varepsilon > 0$, since $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$, there exists a partition P_ε on $[a, b]$ such that

$$\left| S(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon/6 \quad (6.35)$$

for any refinement $P \supset P_\varepsilon$ and for any choice of representative t_k in each sub-interval $[x_{k-1}, x_k]$. Let this partition P be fixed for now.

Let M_k and m_k be as in Definition 6.8.1. We can choose each $t'_k \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]$ such that

$$M_k - \frac{\varepsilon/3}{\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)} < f(t'_k) \leq M_k$$

Multiplying by $\Delta\alpha_k$ and then summing up over k yields

$$U(P, f, \alpha) - \varepsilon/3 < S'(P, f, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha) \quad (6.36)$$

where $S'(P, f, \alpha) = \sum_k f(t'_k) \Delta\alpha_k$. We can instead choose each $t''_k \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]$ such that

$$m_k + \frac{\varepsilon/3}{\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)} > f(t''_k) \geq m_k$$

Similarly, we then have

$$L(P, f, \alpha) + \varepsilon/3 > S''(P, f, \alpha) \geq L(P, f, \alpha) \quad (6.37)$$

where $S''(P, f, \alpha) = \sum_k f(t''_k) \Delta\alpha_k$. By combining (6.36) and (6.37), we will obtain the following two inequalities.

$$0 \leq U(P, f, \alpha) - S'(P, f, \alpha) < \varepsilon/3 \quad (6.38)$$

$$0 \leq S''(P, f, \alpha) - L(P, f, \alpha) < \varepsilon/3 \quad (6.39)$$

Recall the Riemann-Stieltjes sums $S'(P, f, \alpha)$ and $S''(P, f, \alpha)$ are formed with the same partition P . Hence, they both satisfy (6.36). Their difference is then bounded by

$$|S'(P, f, \alpha) - S''(P, f, \alpha)| \leq \left| S'(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| + \left| S''(P, f, \alpha) - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon/3 \quad (6.40)$$

Then, the difference between the upper and lower sums can be bounded as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} & U(P, f, \alpha) - L(P, f, \alpha) \\ & \leq |U(P, f, \alpha) - S'(P, f, \alpha)| + |S'(P, f, \alpha) - S''(P, f, \alpha)| + |S''(P, f, \alpha) - L(P, f, \alpha)| \\ & < \varepsilon/3 + \varepsilon/3 + \varepsilon/3 \\ & = \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

where the last inequality follows from (6.38), (6.39) and (6.40). Therefore, Riemann's condition is satisfied since the above inequality holds for any refinement P of P_ε .

(Proof of $2 \implies 3$) Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be arbitrary. By Riemann's condition, there exists a partition P_ε such that

$$U(P, f, \alpha) - L(P, f, \alpha) < \varepsilon$$

for any refinement $P \supset P_\varepsilon$. Because $\bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha \leq U(P, f, \alpha)$ and $\underline{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha \geq L(P, f, \alpha)$, it follows that

$$0 \leq \bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha - \underline{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha < \varepsilon$$

Therefore, the upper and lower integrals are equal to each other since the above inequality holds for any $\varepsilon > 0$.

(Proof of $3 \implies 1$) Given $\varepsilon > 0$. There exist partitions P_1 and P_2 on $[a, b]$ such that

$$U(P_1, f, \alpha) < \bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha + \varepsilon \quad \text{and} \quad L(P_2, f, \alpha) > \underline{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha - \varepsilon$$

Let $P_\varepsilon = P_1 \cup P_2$ and P be any of its refinements. By Theorem 6.8.1 and (6.20), it is clear

$$\underline{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha - \varepsilon < L(P, f, \alpha) \leq S(P, f, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha) < \bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha + \varepsilon$$

holds for any choice of t_k in each sub-interval $[x_{k-1}, x_k]$. Since the upper and lower integrals have the same value, say A , it then follows that

$$|S(P, f, \alpha) - A| < \varepsilon$$

Therefore, indeed $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$. This completes the proof. ■

As one should expect, the integral $\int_a^b f \, d\alpha$ has to be equal to the upper and lower integrals whenever f is integrable.

Corollary 6.9.1

Suppose α be increasing on $[a, b]$. If $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, then

$$\int_a^b f \, d\alpha = \bar{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha = \underline{\int}_a^b f \, d\alpha$$



Proof Given $\varepsilon > 0$, there exist partitions P_1 and P_2 on $[a, b]$ such that

$$U(P_1, f, \alpha) < \int_a^b f \, d\alpha + \varepsilon \quad \text{and} \quad L(P_2, f, \alpha) > \int_a^b f \, d\alpha - \varepsilon$$

Let $P_\varepsilon = P_1 \cup P_2$. For any refinement $P \supset P_\varepsilon$, we have


$$\int_a^b f \, d\alpha - \varepsilon < L(P, f, \alpha) \leq S(P, f, \alpha) \leq U(P, f, \alpha) < \int_a^b f \, d\alpha + \varepsilon$$

The upper and lower integrals are equal, say to A , by Theorem 4.4.4. It follows that

$$|S(P, f, \alpha) - A| < \varepsilon$$

By Definition 6.1.1, $A = \int_a^b f \, d\alpha$. ■

As an exercise, we reconsider Example 6.3 and prove that f is not integrable w.r.t. α .

 **Exercise 6.3** Let functions f and α be given by

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{|\sin(x)|}{x} & x \neq 0 \\ 1 & x = 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha(x) = \begin{cases} -1 & x < 0 \\ 1 & x \geq 0 \end{cases}, \quad x \in [-3\pi, 3\pi]$$

Show that $f \notin \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[-3\pi, 3\pi]$.

[Hint: $\sin x < x \, \forall x > 0$.]

Solution It suffices to prove f is not integrable w.r.t. α on $[-3\pi, 0]$ since $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[0, 3\pi]$.

Note that For any partition $P = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ on $[-3\pi, 0]$, only the last sub-integral $[x_{n-1}, x_n = 0]$ contributes to the upper and lower sums. Furthermore, using the hint, we know

$$M_n = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad m_n = -1$$

Then the upper and lower sums are given by

$$U(P, f, \alpha) = M_n[\alpha(0) - \alpha(x_{n-1})] = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad L(P, f, \alpha) = m_n[\alpha(0) - \alpha(x_{n-1})] = -2$$

Since the above equations hold for any partition P on $[-3\pi, 0]$, we have

$$\int_{-3\pi}^0 = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{-3\pi}^0 = -2$$

Therefore, by Theorem 6.9.1, f is not integrable w.r.t. α on $[-3\pi, 0]$, and hence on $[-3\pi, 3\pi]$.

This proof is way cleaner than the one given in Example 6.3 thanks to Darboux's formulation of integrals.

6.10 Properties of Riemann-Stieltjes Integrals With Respect to Increasing Integrators

It is much easier to study and prove some properties of the Riemann-Stieltjes integrals if we require that α is monotonically increasing.

Thanks to Theorem 6.11.1, which we will prove in Section 6.11, almost all the properties introduced in this section can be extended with ease to integrators of bounded variation.

6.10.1 Integrability on Sub-Intervals

Let $c \in (a, b)$ be a point that splits the interval into two parts. If f is integrable w.r.t. α on the entire interval $[a, b]$, then it is also integrable on both of the sub-intervals.

Lemma 6.10.1

Suppose α is increasing on $[a, b]$. Let $c \in (a, b)$ be an interior point. If $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, then $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, c]$ and $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[c, b]$



Proof We only prove $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, c]$. Given $\varepsilon > 0$. By Theorem 6.9.1, there exists a partition P_ε on $[a, b]$ such that


$$U(P, f, \alpha) - L(P, f, \alpha) < \varepsilon \quad \forall P \supset P_\varepsilon$$

Let $P'_\varepsilon = (P_\varepsilon \cup \{c\}) \cap [a, c]$. Note that P'_ε is a partition on $[a, c]$. Now, let P' be a refinement of P'_ε on $[a, c]$, and P a refinement of P_ε on $[a, b]$. It is evident that

$$P'' = P' \cup (P \cap [c, b])$$

is a refinement of P_ε . Therefore, we have

$$U(P'', f, \alpha) - L(P'', f, \alpha) < \varepsilon$$

 **Note** P'' can be regarded as a partition formed by adding points to P' that are greater than c .

Then it is clear

$$\begin{aligned} U(P', f, \alpha) - L(P', f, \alpha) &= \sum_{k \text{ such that } x_k \leq c} (M_k - m_k) \Delta \alpha_k \\ &\leq \sum_k (M_k - m_k) \Delta \alpha_k \leq U(P'', f, \alpha) - L(P'', f, \alpha) \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$U(P', f, \alpha) - L(P', f, \alpha) < \varepsilon$$

which implies $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, c]$ by Theorem 6.9.1. ■

In fact, f is integrable on all sub-intervals of $[a, b]$.

Theorem 6.10.1

Suppose α is increasing on $[a, b]$. Let $[c, d] \subset [a, b]$ be a sub-interval. If $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, then $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[c, d]$.



Proof Without loss of generality, assume $a < c < d < b$. Lemma 6.10.1 implies that f is integrable w.r.t. α on $[a, c]$ and $[a, d]$. We then conclude the proof using Theorem 6.2.1. ■

6.10.2 Comparison Theorem

It is very common in practice to compare the values of two integrals. Intuitively,

$$\int_a^b f \, d\alpha \leq \int_a^b g \, d\alpha \quad (6.41)$$

provided that $f \leq g$ and α is increasing. The proof of this inequality follows from the following lemma, which says the integral of f w.r.t. α is non-negative whenever f stays non-negative and α is increasing on $[a, b]$. Note that this is a special case of inequality (6.41).

Lemma 6.10.2

Suppose that α is increasing and $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$. If $f(x) \geq 0 \forall x \in [a, b]$, then

$$\int_a^b f \, d\alpha \geq 0$$



Proof Consider the trivial partition $P = \{a, b\}$. We have

$$L(P, f, \alpha) = \inf_{x \in [a, b]} f(x)[\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)] \geq 0$$

It then follows that

$$\int_a^b f \, d\alpha \geq L(P, f, \alpha) \geq 0$$

Note that $\int_a^b f \, d\alpha = \int_a^b f \, d\alpha$ since $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$. The proof is then complete. ■

Inequality (6.41) can be proved easily by applying the above lemma and Theorem 6.2.1.

Theorem 6.10.2

Suppose that α is increasing and $f, g \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$. If $f(x) \leq g(x) \forall x \in [a, b]$, then we have the inequality

$$\int_a^b f \, d\alpha \leq \int_a^b g \, d\alpha$$



Proof Note that the difference $(g - f)(x) \geq 0 \forall x \in [a, b]$. Furthermore, $(g - f) \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$ by Theorem 6.2.1. Then Lemma 6.10.2 gives

$$\int_a^b (g - f) \, d\alpha \geq 0$$

Using Theorem 6.2.1 again to split the integrand, we have

$$\int_a^b g \, d\alpha - \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \geq 0$$



6.10.3 Applying Continuous Functions to Integrable Functions

Suppose we know $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$. The following theorem tells us that we can produce more integrable functions by applying continuous functions to f .

Theorem 6.10.3

Suppose that α is increasing and $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$. Let M and m denote the supremum and infimum of f on $[a, b]$. If function $\phi : [m, M] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous, then the composite function $\phi \circ f$ is also integrable w.r.t. α on $[a, b]$, i.e., $\phi \circ f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$.



Proof In the following proof, we assume that α is non-constant.

Given $\varepsilon > 0$. Since ϕ is uniformly continuous on $[m, M]$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$|s - t| < \delta \implies |\phi(s) - \phi(t)| < \frac{\varepsilon/2}{\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)} \quad (6.42)$$

Suppose that ϕ is bounded by a positive number $A > 0$, i.e.,

$$|\phi| < A$$

Because $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$, there exists a partition P_ε on $[a, b]$ such that

$$U(P, f, \alpha) - L(P, f, \alpha) < \frac{\varepsilon\delta}{4A} \quad (6.43)$$

for any refinement $P \supset P_\varepsilon$.

Write $P = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\}$. We now separate the indices of sub-intervals into two sets in the following way.

$$I = \{k = 1, \dots, n \mid M_k(f) - m_k(f) < \delta\}$$

$$J = \{k = 1, \dots, n \mid M_k(f) - m_k(f) \geq \delta\}$$

We first consider the sub-intervals whose indices belong to I . Suppose $k \in I$. Since $M_k(f) - m_k(f) < \delta$, it follows from (6.42) that

$$|\phi[f(s)] - \phi[f(t)]| < \frac{\varepsilon/2}{\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)} \quad \forall s, t \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]$$

Then by Theorem 1.1.1, we have

$$M_k(\phi \circ f) - m_k(\phi \circ f) = \sup_{s, t \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]} |\phi[f(s)] - \phi[f(t)]| \leq \frac{\varepsilon/2}{\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)}$$

Summing up over $k \in I$ yields

$$\sum_{k \in I} [M_k(\phi \circ f) - m_k(\phi \circ f)] \Delta\alpha_k \leq \varepsilon/2 \quad (6.44)$$

Now, suppose $k \in J$. Note that

$$\sum_{k \in I} [M_k(\phi \circ f) - m_k(\phi \circ f)] \Delta\alpha_k \leq U(P, f, \alpha) < \frac{\varepsilon\delta}{4A}$$

where the last inequality follows from (6.43). Because $M_k(f) - m_k(f) \geq \delta$, we have

$$\delta \sum_{k \in I} \Delta\alpha_k \leq \sum_{k \in I} [M_k(\phi \circ f) - m_k(\phi \circ f)] \Delta\alpha_k < \frac{\varepsilon\delta}{4A}$$

which further implies

$$\sum_{k \in I} \Delta\alpha_k < \frac{\varepsilon}{4A} \quad (6.45)$$

Recall that $|\phi| < A$. Hence, the difference $M_k(\phi \circ f) - m_k(\phi \circ f)$ is bounded above by

$$M_k(\phi \circ f) - m_k(\phi \circ f) < 2A \quad (6.46)$$

Combining inequalities (6.45) and (6.46), we obtain

$$\sum_{k \in I} [M_k(\phi \circ f) - m_k(\phi \circ f)] \Delta\alpha_k < \varepsilon/2 \quad (6.47)$$

Note that the difference $U(P, \phi \circ f, \alpha) - L(P, \phi \circ f, \alpha)$ can be summed up as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} U(P, \phi \circ f, \alpha) - L(P, \phi \circ f, \alpha) &= \sum_{k=1}^n [M_k(\phi \circ f) - m_k(\phi \circ f)] \Delta \alpha_k \\ &= \sum_{k \in I} [M_k(\phi \circ f) - M_k(\phi \circ f)] \Delta \alpha_k + \sum_{k \in J} [M_k(\phi \circ f) - m_k(\phi \circ f)] \Delta \alpha_k \end{aligned}$$

Finally, by applying (6.44) and (6.47), the difference of upper and lower sums are bounded by

$$U(P, \phi \circ f, \alpha) - L(P, \phi \circ f, \alpha) < \varepsilon$$

Therefore, the composite function $\phi \circ f$ satisfies Riemann's condition, and hence $\phi \circ f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$ by Theorem 6.9.1. ■

Note that the absolute value function $\phi(x) = |x|$ is continuous. Applying it to an integrable function $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$, we immediately conclude that $|f|$ is also integrable.

Theorem 6.10.4

Suppose α is increasing. If $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, then $|f| \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, and we have

$$\left| \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \right| \leq \int_a^b |f| \, d\alpha \quad (6.48)$$



Proof First, we note that $|f| \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$ by Theorem 6.10.3 since $\phi(x) = |x|$ is continuous.

It then follows from the inequality

$$-|f| \leq f \leq |f|$$

and Theorem 6.10.2 that

$$-\int_a^b |f| \, d\alpha = \int_a^b -|f| \, d\alpha \leq \int_a^b f \, d\alpha \leq \int_a^b |f| \, d\alpha$$

This completes the proof. ■

The converse of this theorem is not true. That is, f is not necessarily integrable if $|f|$ is integrable.

Example 6.6 Let

$$f(x) = \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{Q}}(x) - \mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}}(x), \quad x \in [a, b]$$

and α be any *non-constant* increasing function on $[a, b]$.

Note that the absolute value of f , $|f| = 1$ is constant, and hence $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$. And

$$\int_a^b f \, d\alpha = 0$$

But f is not integrable w.r.t. α on $[a, b]$ since

$$\int_a^b f \, d\alpha = \alpha(b) - \alpha(a) > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \int_a^b f \, d\alpha = \alpha(a) - \alpha(b) < 0$$


The upper and lower integrals are not equal to each other for we have assumed α is non-constant.

🔥 **Exercise 6.4** Prove the existence of $\int_a^b |f| \, d\alpha$ in Theorem 6.10.4 without using Theorem 6.10.3.

Solution


Put $\phi(x) = x^2$ in Theorem 6.10.3, and we will have another remarkable conclusion which says the square of f , f^2 , is integrable w.r.t. α whenever $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$.

Theorem 6.10.5

Suppose α is increasing. If $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, then its square f^2 is also integrable w.r.t. α , i.e., $f^2 \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$. 

Proof Because $\phi(x) = x^2$ is continuous on \mathbb{R} , it is, of course, continuous on the closed interval joining the infimum and supremum of f , $[m, M]$. Then by Theorem 6.10.3, $f^2 \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$. ■


An alternative proof without using Theorem 6.10.3 is left as an exercise.

 **Exercise 6.5** Prove Theorem 6.10.5 without using Theorem 6.10.3. But feel free to use Theorem 6.10.4.

Solution

An immediate consequence of the above theorem is as follows, which states the product of two integrable functions is also integrable.

Theorem 6.10.6

Suppose α is increasing. If $f, g \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, then $fg \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$. 

Proof Note that the product fg can be written as

$$fg = \frac{1}{4}[(f + g)^2 - (f - g)^2]$$

Then this theorem follows directly from Theorem 6.2.1 and Theorem 6.10.5. ■

6.10.4 Riemann-Stieltjes Integral with a Variable Upper Limit


We know by Theorem 6.10.6 that the product fg is integrable w.r.t. α whenever f and g are integrable. The next theorem provides an alternative view of the integral $\int_a^b fg \, d\alpha$. As we will see, we can define a function G in such a way that the symbol $g \, d\alpha$ in the original integral can be replaced with dG . Or we can replace $f \, d\alpha$ with dF by defining a function F .

Theorem 6.10.7

Suppose that α is increasing, and $f, g \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$. Define

$$F(x) = \int_a^x f \, d\alpha \quad \text{and} \quad G(x) = \int_a^x g \, d\alpha, \quad x \in [a, b]$$

Then $f \in \mathfrak{R}(G)$ and $g \in \mathfrak{R}(F)$ on $[a, b]$ (of course $fg \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ by Theorem 6.10.6), and we have

$$\int_a^b fg \, d\alpha = \int_a^b f \, dG = \int_a^b g \, dF$$


Proof We only prove $f \in \mathfrak{R}(G)$ and $\int_a^b fg \, d\alpha = \int_a^b f \, dG$. Suppose g is bounded by some positive number, say A , i.e., $|g(x)| < A \, \forall x \in [a, b]$. Given $\varepsilon > 0$, since $fg \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$, there exists a partition P_ε on $[a, b]$ such that

$$|U(P, fg, \alpha) - L(P, fg, \alpha)| < \varepsilon/A \tag{6.49}$$

holds for any refinement P of P_ε . Let $P = \{x_0, x_1, \dots, x_n\} \supset P_\varepsilon$ and $t_k \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} S(P, f, G) &= \sum_k f(t_k) \Delta G \\ &= \sum_k f(t_k) \int_{x_{k-1}}^{x_k} g \, d\alpha \\ &= \sum_k \int_{x_{k-1}}^{x_k} f(t_k) g(t) \, d\alpha(t) \end{aligned} \quad (6.50)$$

On the other hand, we can write

$$\int_a^b f g \, d\alpha = \sum_k \int_{x_{k-1}}^{x_k} f(t) g(t) \, d\alpha(t) \quad (6.51)$$

Subtracting (6.50) and (6.51) yields

$$S(P, f, G) - \int_a^b f g \, d\alpha = \sum_k \int_{x_{k-1}}^{x_k} [f(t_k) - f(t)] g(t) \, d\alpha(t)$$

It then follows from Theorem 6.10.4 that

$$\begin{aligned} \left| S(P, f, G) - \int_a^b f g \, d\alpha \right| &\leq \sum_k \left| \int_{x_{k-1}}^{x_k} [f(t_k) - f(t)] g(t) \, d\alpha(t) \right| \\ &\leq \sum_k \int_{x_{k-1}}^{x_k} |f(t_k) - f(t)| |g(t)| \, d\alpha(t) \\ &\leq \sum_k \int_{x_{k-1}}^{x_k} (M_k - m_k) |g(t)| \, d\alpha(t) \\ &= \sum_k (M_k - m_k) \int_{x_{k-1}}^{x_k} |g(t)| \, d\alpha(t) \end{aligned}$$

Recall $|g| \leq A$. Using Theorem 6.10.2, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left| S(P, f, G) - \int_a^b f g \, d\alpha \right| &\leq \sum_k (M_k - m_k) \int_{x_{k-1}}^{x_k} A \, d\alpha(t) \\ &= A \sum_k (M_k - m_k) \Delta\alpha_k \\ &= A(U(P, f, \alpha) - L(P, f, \alpha)) \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\left| S(P, f, G) - \int_a^b f g \, d\alpha \right| < \varepsilon$$

by (6.49). Therefore, f is integrable w.r.t. G on $[a, b]$ with $\int_a^b f \, dG = \int_a^b f g \, d\alpha$. ■

Example 6.7 Let

$$\alpha(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases}, \quad -1 \leq x \leq 1$$

Suppose f and g are any two functions defined on $[-1, 1]$ being continuous from the left at $x = 0$. By Theorem 6.6.1 and Theorem 6.10.1, we know both functions are integrable w.r.t. α on $[-1, x]$ if

$-1 < x \leq 1$ with

$$F(x) = \int_{-1}^x f \, d\alpha = \begin{cases} f(0) & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad G(x) = \int_{-1}^x g \, d\alpha = \begin{cases} g(0) & x \geq 0 \\ 0 & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

Note that F and G are also step functions that are continuous from the right at $x = 0$. Hence, by applying Theorem 6.6.1 again, we have

$$\int_{-1}^1 f \, dG = f(0)g(0) \quad \text{and} \quad \int_{-1}^1 g \, dF = f(0)g(0)$$

On the other hand, since the product fg is continuous from the left at $x = 0$, it follows from Theorem 6.6.1 that

$$\int_{-1}^1 fg \, d\alpha = f(0)g(0)$$

The results agree with Theorem 6.10.7 as expected.

6.11 Integrators of Bounded Variation

If $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha_1)$ and $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha_2)$ on $[a, b]$ where α_1 and α_2 are both increasing functions, then we know from Theorem 6.2.2 that $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ where $\alpha = \alpha_1 - \alpha_2$. Moreover, by Theorem 5.4.1, we are immediately informed that α is of bounded variation.

Now, let us think about the converse of this statement. Suppose $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$ where α is of bounded variation. Can we assert that $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha_1)$ and $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha_2)$ on $[a, b]$ where α_1 and α_2 are any increasing functions satisfying $\alpha = \alpha_1 - \alpha_2$? Unfortunately, this is not true in general. For example, the Dirichlet function $\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{Q}}$ is integrable w.r.t. $\alpha(x) = 0$ on $[0, 1]$. We can write $\alpha(x) = 0 = x - x$. But clearly $\mathbb{1}_{\mathbb{Q}} \notin \mathfrak{R}$ on $[0, 1]$.

However, as the next theorem will state, f is always integrable w.r.t. the total variation $V_a^x(\alpha)$ of α provided that $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$.

Theorem 6.11.1

If $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$ on $[a, b]$, then $f \in \mathfrak{R}(V_a^x(\alpha))$ on $[a, b]$ where $V_a^x(\alpha)$ is the total variation of α , which is regarded as a function of x as in Definition 5.3.1.



Before presenting the proof, we first introduce some notations we shall use as well as the general strategy of this proof.

For a sub-interval $[x_{k-1}, x_k]$ in the partition $P = \{x_0, \dots, x_n\}$ on $[a, b]$, we adopt the following notation:

$$M_k = \sup_{x \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]} f(x), \quad m_k = \inf_{x \in [x_{k-1}, x_k]} f(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta V_k = V_{x_{k-1}}^{x_k}(\alpha)$$

And we write $V(x)$ instead of $V_a^x(\alpha)$ to emphasize that the total variation is a function of x .

Observe that $V(x)$ is monotonically increasing, hence we shall prove f is integrable w.r.t. $V(x)$ mainly relies on Riemann's condition (Theorem 6.9.1). We intend to bound the difference between the

upper and the lower sum, which is shown in the following, with an arbitrarily small positive number.

$$\begin{aligned} U(P, f, V) - L(P, f, V) &= \sum_k (M_k - m_k) \Delta V_k \\ &= \sum_k (M_k - m_k) (\Delta V_k - |\Delta \alpha_k|) + \sum_k (M_k - m_k) |\Delta \alpha_k| \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, we shall focus on bounding each of the two terms on the right-hand side of the above equation.

We now present the proof as follows.

Proof If f is a constant function, then this theorem holds trivially. We assume that f is non-constant in the rest of the proof. Let A be given by

$$A = \sup_{x \in [a, b]} f(x) - \inf_{x \in [a, b]} f(x)$$

Since f is non-constant, it is clear that $A > 0$.

Let $\varepsilon > 0$ be chosen arbitrarily. Since α is of bounded variation on $[a, b]$, by the definition of total variations, there exists a partition P'_ε on $[a, b]$ such that

$$V_a^b(\alpha) < V(P, \alpha) + \frac{\varepsilon}{3A} \quad \forall P \supset P'_\varepsilon \quad (6.52)$$

We shall use this inequality later.

Now, we prepare another inequality that will be in use. Because $f \in \mathfrak{R}(\alpha)$, there exists a partition P''_ε such that

$$\left| \sum (f(s_k) - f(t_k)) \Delta \alpha_k \right| < \frac{\varepsilon}{3} \quad \forall P \supset P''_\varepsilon \quad (6.53)$$

where s_k and t_k are any two points in the k -th subinterval of P .

Let $P_\varepsilon = P'_\varepsilon \cup P''_\varepsilon$, and let $P = \{x_0, \dots, x_n\} \supset P_\varepsilon$ be a refinement. We have

$$\begin{aligned} U(P, f, V) - L(P, f, V) &= \sum_{k=1}^n (M_k - m_k) \Delta V_k \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n (M_k - m_k) (\Delta V_k - |\Delta \alpha_k|) + \sum_{k=1}^n (M_k - m_k) |\Delta \alpha_k| \end{aligned}$$

Recall $A = \sup f - \inf f$. Hence, the right-hand side of the equality above can be further enlarged to

$$U(P, f, V) - L(P, f, V) \leq A \sum_{k=1}^n (\Delta V_k - |\Delta \alpha_k|) + \sum_{k=1}^n (M_k - m_k) |\Delta \alpha_k| \quad (6.54)$$

Note that $P \supset P_\varepsilon \supset P'_\varepsilon$. It then follows from (6.52) that

$$\sum_{k=1}^n \Delta V_k = V_a^b(\alpha) < V(P, \alpha) + \frac{\varepsilon}{3A} = \sum_{k=1}^n |\Delta \alpha_k| + \frac{\varepsilon}{3A}$$

Rearranging the terms, we obtain

$$\sum_{k=1}^n (\Delta V_k - |\Delta \alpha_k|) < \frac{\varepsilon}{3A} \quad (6.55)$$

By combining (6.54) and (6.55), we have

$$U(P, f, V) - L(P, f, V) < \frac{\varepsilon}{3} + \sum_{k=1}^n (M_k - m_k) |\Delta \alpha_k| \quad (6.56)$$

It requires much more work to bound the term $\sum_{k=1}^n (M_k - m_k) |\Delta \alpha_k|$ in (6.56). Let h be a

positive number given by

$$h = \frac{\varepsilon}{3(V_a^b(\alpha) + 1)}$$

Let $I(P), J(P) \subset \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$ be defined as

$$I(P) = \{k \mid \Delta\alpha_k \geq 0\} \quad J(P) = \{k \mid \Delta\alpha_k < 0\}$$

For $k \in I(P)$, we can choose a pair of points, s_k and t_k , in the k -th subinterval of P such that

$$M_k - m_k < f(s_k) - f(t_k) + h$$

In this case,

$$(M_k - m_k) |\Delta\alpha_k| < (f(s_k) - f(t_k) + h) |\Delta\alpha_k| = (f(s_k) - f(t_k) + h) \Delta\alpha_k \quad (6.57)$$

On the other hand, for $k \in J(P)$, we can choose a pair of points, s_k and t_k , in the k -th subinterval of P such that

$$M_k - m_k < -f(s_k) + f(t_k) + h$$

It then follows that

$$(M_k - m_k) |\Delta\alpha_k| < (-f(s_k) + f(t_k) + h) |\Delta\alpha_k| = (f(s_k) - f(t_k) - h) \Delta\alpha_k \quad (6.58)$$

Compare (6.57) and (6.58), we conclude

$$(M_k - m_k) |\Delta\alpha_k| < (f(s_k) - f(t_k)) \Delta\alpha_k + h |\Delta\alpha_k| \quad \forall k \in \{0, 1, \dots, n\}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^n (M_k - m_k) |\Delta\alpha_k| &< \sum_{k=1}^n (f(s_k) - f(t_k)) \Delta\alpha_k + h \sum_{k=1}^n |\Delta\alpha_k| \\ &\leq \sum_{k=1}^n (f(s_k) - f(t_k)) \Delta\alpha_k + h V_a^b(\alpha) \\ &< \frac{\varepsilon}{3} + \sum_{k=1}^n (f(s_k) - f(t_k)) \Delta\alpha_k \\ &\leq \frac{\varepsilon}{3} + \left| \sum_{k=1}^n (f(s_k) - f(t_k)) \Delta\alpha_k \right| \end{aligned}$$

In summary,

$$\sum_{k=1}^n (M_k - m_k) |\Delta\alpha_k| < \frac{\varepsilon}{3} + \left| \sum_{k=1}^n (f(s_k) - f(t_k)) \Delta\alpha_k \right| \quad (6.59)$$

Since $P \supset P_\varepsilon \supset P''_\varepsilon$, we may apply (6.53) to (6.59) and obtain that

$$\sum_{k=1}^n (M_k - m_k) |\Delta\alpha_k| < \frac{\varepsilon}{3} + \frac{\varepsilon}{3} = \frac{2\varepsilon}{3} \quad (6.60)$$

Finally, by combining (6.56) and (6.60), we have

$$U(P, f, V) - L(P, f, V) < \frac{\varepsilon}{3} + \frac{2\varepsilon}{3} = \varepsilon$$

Therefore, $f \in \mathfrak{R}(V(x))$ by Theorem 6.9.1 since $V(x)$ is increasing. ■

6.12 Existence of Riemann-Stieltjes Integrals

6.12.1 Sufficient Conditions

6.12.2 Necessary Conditions

Chapter 7 Sequences and Series of Functions

7.1 Uniform Convergence

As mentioned, only assuming $f_n(x) \rightarrow f(x)$ for each $x \in S$ is not enough to preserve certain properties of f_n . Hence, we need a stronger version of convergence than pointwise convergence. The condition $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = f(x)$ says at a given point x , $f_n(x)$ will get closer and closer to $f(x)$. Chances are that $f_n(x_1)$ and $f_n(x_2)$ may not converge to $f(x_1)$ and $f(x_2)$ at the same speed. Now, we want $f_n(x)$ to get close to $f(x)$ *uniformly* at the same pace for all $x \in S$. This gives rise to the definition of **uniform convergence**.

Definition 7.1.1

Let S be a subset of a metric space. A sequence of functions $\{f_n\}$ is said to converge to f uniformly on S if for every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists an integer $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$|f_n(x) - f(x)| < \varepsilon \quad \forall n \geq N \quad \forall x \in S$$

Symbolically, we write $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on S .



The next theorem is useful to check whether $\{f_n\}$ converges uniformly.

Theorem 7.1.1


Suppose $f_n \rightarrow f$ on S . Then $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on S if and only if

$$M_n = \sup_{x \in S} |f_n(x) - f(x)| < \infty \quad \forall n \geq N_0$$

for some $N_0 \in \mathbb{N}^*$, and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_n = 0$$



 **Note** To be clear, M_n is only defined when $n \geq N_0$ for it has to be a real number.

Proof (Sufficiency) If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_n = 0$, then for any $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ (of course, $N \geq N_0$) such that

$$\sup_{x \in S} |f_n(x) - f(x)| < \varepsilon \quad \forall n \geq N$$

Therefore, $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on S by definition since $|f_n(x) - f(x)| \leq \sup_{x \in S} |f_n(x) - f(x)|$ for all $x \in S$.

(Necessity) Suppose $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on S . Given $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$|f_n(x) - f(x)| < \varepsilon \quad \forall n \geq N \quad \forall x \in S$$

Taking the supremum over x , we have

$$M_n = \sup_{x \in S} |f_n(x) - f(x)| \leq \varepsilon \quad \forall n \geq N$$

This implies that the sequence $\{M_n\}$ converges to 0. ■

Example 7.1 Let

$$f_n(x) = \frac{1}{nx}, \quad x \in (0, 1)$$

The limit of $\{f_n(x)\}$ at each x is zero as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Hence, $f_n \rightarrow f = 0$. Note that

$$\sup_{x \in (0,1)} |f_n(x) - f(x)| = \sup_{x \in (0,1)} \frac{1}{nx} = \infty$$

for every $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$. Therefore, by Theorem 7.1.1, the convergence is not uniform.

Example 7.2 Let

$$f_n(x) = \frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{n}, \quad x \in (0, 1)$$

Note that $f(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = 1/x$. We have

$$M_n = \sup_{x \in (0,1)} |f_n(x) - f(x)| = \frac{1}{n}$$

Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_n = 0$, $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on $(0, 1)$.

A sequence of functions $\{f_n\}$ is said to be **uniformly bounded** on S if there exists a positive constant $M > 0$ such that

$$|f_n(x)| \leq M \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}^* \quad \forall x \in S$$

Theorem 7.1.2

Suppose $\{f_n\}$ is uniformly bounded on S . Then $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on S if and only if

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|f_n - f\| = 0$$

where $\|\cdot\|$ is the uniform norm on the set of bounded functions on S , $\mathcal{B}(S)$. ♥

Similar to the situation we encountered when dealing with numerical sequences and series, sometimes we want to prove that $\{f_n\}$ converges uniformly without knowing its limit.

Theorem 7.1.3 (Cauchy's Criterion)

A sequence of functions $\{f_n\}$ converges uniformly on S if and only if for any $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$|f_m(x) - f_n(x)| < \varepsilon \quad \forall m, n \geq N \quad \forall x \in S$$


We say $\{f_n\}$ satisfies **Cauchy's criterion** if the above condition is met. ♥

Proof (Sufficiency) Suppose $\{f_n\}$ satisfies Cauchy's criterion. Fix $x \in S$, we know that the numerical sequence $\{f_n(x)\}$ is a Cauchy sequence. Hence, it has a limit, and we denote this limit by $f(x)$. In this way, we can define a function f on S such that

$$f(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) \quad \forall x \in S$$

Given $\varepsilon > 0$. By Cauchy's criterion, there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$|f_m(x) - f_n(x)| < \varepsilon/2 \quad \forall m, n \geq N \quad \forall x \in S$$

 **Note** The reason why we choose $\varepsilon/2$ is that when $m \rightarrow \infty$, the strict inequality will become a non-strict one.

Letting $m \rightarrow \infty$, we have

$$|f(x) - f_n(x)| = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} |f_m(x) - f_n(x)| \leq \varepsilon/2 < \varepsilon \quad \forall n \geq N \quad \forall x \in S$$

Therefore, $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on S .

(Necessity) Conversely, suppose $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on S for some function f . Given $\varepsilon > 0$, by definition, there exists $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$|f_n(x) - f(x)| < \varepsilon/2 \quad \forall n \geq N \quad \forall x \in S$$

Let $m, n \geq N$, we have

$$|f_m(x) - f_n(x)| \leq |f_m(x) - f(x)| + |f_n(x) - f(x)| < \varepsilon/2 + \varepsilon/2 = \varepsilon \quad \forall x \in S$$

Hence, Cauchy's criterion is satisfied. ■

7.2 Uniform Convergence and Continuity

If we assume f_n converges to f uniformly, then we can interchange the two limit processes, that is,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow p} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{x \rightarrow p} f_n(x)$$

Theorem 7.2.1

Suppose $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on S , and let p be an accumulation point S . If the limit

$$A_n = \lim_{x \rightarrow p} f_n(x)$$

exist for all $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$, then the sequence $\{A_n\}$ converges, say to A . Furthermore, the limit $\lim_{x \rightarrow p} f(x)$ also exists, and we have

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow p} f(x) = A$$

In other words, we can write

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow p} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{x \rightarrow p} f_n(x) \quad (7.1)$$



Note One way to remember this theorem is that if the inner limits on both sides of (7.1) exist, then the outer limits also exist and are equal to each other.

Proof We first show that the sequence of limits $\{A_n\}$ converges. Given $\varepsilon > 0$, by Cauchy's criterion (Theorem 7.1.3), there exists an integer $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$|f_m(x) - f_n(x)| < \varepsilon \quad \forall m, n \geq N \quad \forall x \in S$$

Note that the absolute value function is continuous and both $f_m(x)$ and $f_n(x)$ have limits at point p . Using the rules of computing limits, we obtain

$$\varepsilon \geq \lim_{x \rightarrow p} |f_m(x) - f_n(x)| = \left| \lim_{x \rightarrow p} f_m(x) - \lim_{x \rightarrow p} f_n(x) \right| = |A_m - A_n|$$

Therefore $\{A_n\}$ indeed converges by Cauchy's criterion for sequences. Let A denote the limit of $\{A_n\}$.

Next, we shall prove $f(x)$ has a limit as $x \rightarrow p$. We choose (another) arbitrary positive number

$\varepsilon > 0$. Since $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on S , there exist $N_1 \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$|f(x) - f_n(x)| < \varepsilon \quad \forall n \geq N_1 \quad (7.2)$$

Meanwhile, since we have proved $\{A_n\}$ converges to A , there exist $N_2 \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$|A_n - A| < \varepsilon/3 \quad \forall n \geq N_2 \quad (7.3)$$

Let $N = \max\{N_1, N_2\}$. Because the limit of $\lim_{x \rightarrow p} f_N(x) = A_N$, there exist a neighborhood V of p in which

$$|f_N(x) - A_N| < \varepsilon/3 \quad \forall x \in V \cap S \quad (7.4)$$

We have

$$|f(x) - A| \leq |f(x) - f_N(x)| + |f_N(x) - A_N| + |A_N - A| < \varepsilon \quad \forall x \in V \cap S$$

where the last inequality follows from (7.2), (7.3) and (7.4). This completes the proof. ■

7.3 Uniform Convergence and Differentiation

In this section, we study the conditions that allow us to swap the limit and derivative symbols:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d}{dx} f_n(x) \quad (7.5)$$

However, assuming $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on S is not sufficient to guarantee that (7.5) holds. The following is an example.

Example 7.3 Let

$$f_n(x) = \frac{\sin nx}{\sqrt{n}}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}$$

Because $|\sin nx|$ is bounded by 1 and $1/\sqrt{n} \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, the limit of f_n is $f(x) = 0$. Note that

$$M_n = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} |f_n(x) - f(x)| = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \frac{|\sin nx|}{\sqrt{n}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

Since $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} M_n = 0$, $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on \mathbb{R} .

It is clear $f'(x) = 0$. We now show that the limiting derivative of f_n is not f' in general. We have

$$f'_n(x) = \sqrt{n} \cos nx$$

We note that the limit of $f'_n(x)$ will not exist as a finite number for most of xs as $n \rightarrow \infty$. In particular, $f'_n(0) = \sqrt{n}$ and hence $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f'_n(0) = \infty$. A plot of f_n and f'_n is shown in Figure 7.1.

Theorem 7.3.1

Let $\{f_n\}$ be a sequence of real-valued functions each of which has a finite derivative at every point in (a, b) . Suppose there exists a point $x_0 \in (a, b)$ such that the numerical sequence $\{f_n(x_0)\}$ converges. Suppose further that there exists a function g such that $f'_n \rightarrow g$ uniformly on (a, b) . Then

1. there exists a function f such that $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on (a, b) , and
2. $f'(x)$ exists everywhere in (a, b) with $f'(x) = g(x)$.

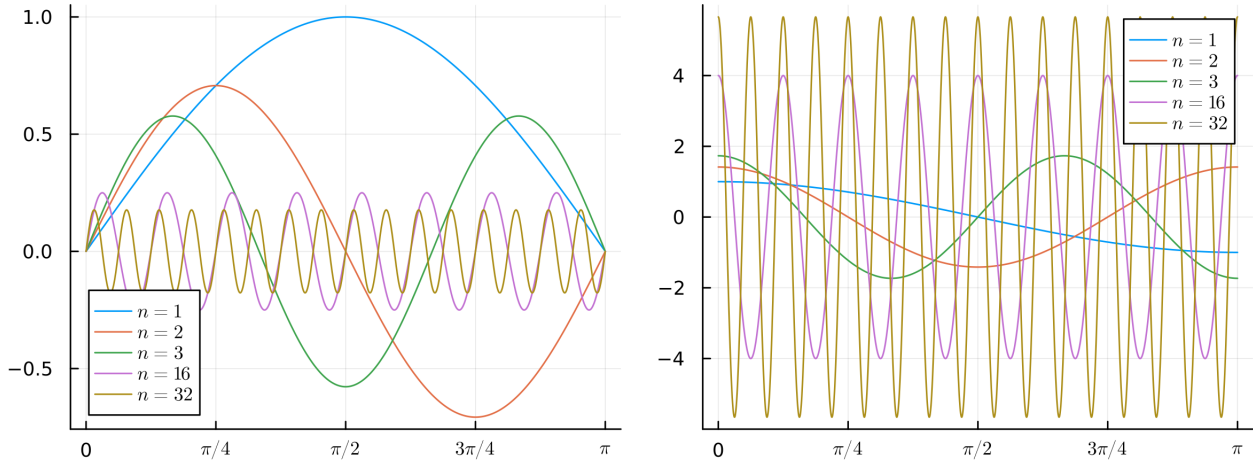


Figure 7.1: Left: $f_n(x) = (\sin nx)/\sqrt{n}$. Right: $f'_n(x)$.

In this case, we can write

$$\frac{d}{dx} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f_n(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d}{dx} f_n(x)$$



Proof We first show that $\{f_n\}$ converges uniformly on (a, b) . Given $\varepsilon > 0$, since $\{f_n(x_0)\}$ converges, by Cauchy's criterion for sequences,

$$|f_m(x_0) - f_n(x_0)| < \varepsilon/2 \quad \forall m, n \geq N_1 \quad (7.6)$$

for some integer $N_1 \in \mathbb{N}^*$. Meanwhile, since $f'_n \rightarrow g$ uniformly on (a, b) , it follows from Cauchy's criterion for uniform convergence (Theorem 7.1.3) that there exists $N_2 \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$|f'_m(x) - f'_n(x)| < \frac{\varepsilon/2}{|x - x_0| + 1} \quad \forall m, n \geq N_2 \quad \forall x \in (a, b) \quad (7.7)$$

Let $N = \max\{N_1, N_2\}$ and let $m, n \geq N$. Define function h by

$$h(x) = f_m(x) - f_n(x)$$

Applying the mean value theorem (Theorem 4.4.4) to h , we obtain

$$[f_m(x) - f_n(x)] - [f_m(x_0) - f_n(x_0)] = [f'_m(\xi) - f'_n(\xi)](x - x_0)$$

where $x \neq x_0$ and ξ is some number in between x and x_0 . We can then use (7.6) and (7.7) to bound the value of $|f_m(x) - f_n(x)|$ ($x \neq x_0$) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} |f_m(x) - f_n(x)| &\leq |f_m(x_0) - f_n(x_0)| + |f'_m(\xi) - f'_n(\xi)| |x - x_0| \\ &\leq \varepsilon/2 + \frac{\varepsilon/2}{|x - x_0| + 1} \cdot |x - x_0| \\ &< \varepsilon \quad \forall m, n \geq N \quad \forall x \in (a, b) \setminus \{x_0\} \end{aligned}$$

But since $m, n \geq N \geq N_1$, the inequality

$$|f_m(x_0) - f_n(x_0)| < \varepsilon/2 < \varepsilon$$

also holds by (7.6). Therefore, we have

$$|f_m(x) - f_n(x)| < \varepsilon \quad \forall m, n \geq N \quad \forall x \in (a, b)$$

which implies that $\{f_n\}$ converges uniformly on (a, b) . Suppose that the limit function is f .

Let $c \in (a, b)$. By Theorem 4.2.1, there exists a continuous function ϕ defined on (a, b) such that

$$f_n(x) - f_n(c) = (x - c)\phi_n(x)$$

with $\phi_n(c) = f'_n(c)$, i.e.,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \phi_n(x) = f'_n(c)$$



Note We want to show

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi_n(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \phi_n(x)$$

using Theorem 7.2.1.

Note that $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi_n(x)$ exists, and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi_n(x) = \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} =: \phi(x)$$

We claim that $\phi_n \rightarrow \phi$ uniformly on (a, b) . The proof of this assertion is left as an exercise. (See Exercise 7.1.) Since both the limits $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \phi_n(x)$ and $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \phi_n(x)$ exist, and $\phi_n(x)$ converges uniformly on (a, b) , by Theorem 7.2.1, the limits $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f'_n(c)$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x) - f(c)]/(x - c)$ both exist and are equal to each other, that is,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f'_n(c)$$

Therefore, f has a derivative at c , and

$$f'(c) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f'_n(c) = g(c)$$

This completes the proof. ■

Exercise 7.1 Complete the above proof by showing $\phi_n \rightarrow \phi$ uniformly on (a, b) .

Solution Given $\varepsilon > 0$, since $f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on (a, b) , there exist an integer $N \in \mathbb{N}^*$ such that

$$|f_n(x) - f(x)| < (b - a)\varepsilon/2 \quad \forall n \geq N \quad \forall x \in (a, b)$$

Let $n \geq N$. We then have

$$\begin{aligned} |\phi_n(x) - \phi(x)| &\leq \frac{|[f_n(x) - f(x)] - [f_n(c) - f(c)]|}{|x - c|} \\ &\leq \frac{|f_n(x) - f(x)| + |f_n(c) - f(c)|}{b - a} \\ &< \frac{(b - a)\varepsilon/2 + (b - a)\varepsilon/2}{b - a} \\ &= \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

Because

$$|\phi_n(x) - \phi(x)| < \varepsilon$$

holds for all $n \geq N$ and for all $x \in (a, b)$, we conclude that $\phi_n \rightarrow \phi$ uniformly on (a, b) .

The following theorem is another version of Theorem 7.3.1 in terms of a series of functions $\sum f_n$.

Theorem 7.3.2

Let $\sum f_n$ be a series of real-valued functions each of which has a finite derivative at every point in (a, b) . Suppose there exists a point $x_0 \in (a, b)$ such that the numerical series $\sum f_n(x_0)$ converges. Suppose further that there exists a function g such that $\sum f'_n \rightarrow g$ uniformly on (a, b) . Then

1. there exists a function f such that $\sum f_n \rightarrow f$ uniformly on (a, b) , and
2. $f'(x)$ exists everywhere in (a, b) with $f'(x) = g(x)$.

In this case, we can write

$$\frac{d}{dx} \sum f_n(x) = \sum \frac{d}{dx} f_n(x) \quad (7.8)$$



Note Equation (7.8) is also known as **term-by-term differentiation**.

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