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Fréchet derivative is unique

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**Theorem** The Fréchet derivative is unique.

**Proof.** Assume that both  $A$  and  $B$  in  $L(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{W})$  satisfy the condition for the <http://planetmath.org/derivative2> Fréchet derivative at the point  $\mathbf{x}$ . To prove that they are equal we will show that for all  $\varepsilon > 0$  the operator norm  $\|A - B\|$  is not greater than  $\varepsilon$ . By the definition of limit there exists a positive  $\delta$  such that for all  $\|\mathbf{h}\| \leq \delta$

$$\|f(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{h}) - f(\mathbf{x}) - A\mathbf{h}\| \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \cdot \|\mathbf{h}\| \text{ and } \|f(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{h}) - f(\mathbf{x}) - B\mathbf{h}\| \leq \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \cdot \|\mathbf{h}\|$$

holds. This gives

$$\begin{aligned} \|(A - B)\mathbf{h}\| &= \|(f(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{h}) - f(\mathbf{x}) - A\mathbf{h}) - (f(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{h}) - f(\mathbf{x}) - B\mathbf{h})\| \\ &\leq \|f(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{h}) - f(\mathbf{x}) - A\mathbf{h}\| + \|f(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{h}) - f(\mathbf{x}) - B\mathbf{h}\| \\ &< \varepsilon \cdot \|\mathbf{h}\|. \end{aligned}$$

Now we have

$$\delta \cdot \|A - B\| = \delta \cdot \sup_{\|\mathbf{g}\| \leq 1} \|(A - B)\mathbf{g}\| = \sup_{\|\mathbf{g}\| \leq \delta} \|(A - B)\mathbf{g}\| \leq \sup_{\|\mathbf{g}\| \leq \delta} \varepsilon \cdot \|\mathbf{g}\| \leq \varepsilon \cdot \delta,$$

thus  $\|A - B\| \leq \varepsilon$  as we wanted to show.