Math 230B Notes

Spring, 2025

Contents

Chapter 1

Differentiation

1.1 The Derivative of a Function

Definition 1.1.1. (Differentiability and the Derivative)
Let $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval, $f : I \to \mathbb{R}$, and $c \in I$.

(i) We say f is differentiable at c if

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

exists (that is, it equals a real number). In this case, the quantity $\lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c}$ is called the derivative of f at c and is denoted by

$$f'(c), \quad \frac{df}{dx}(c), \quad \frac{df}{dx}|_{x=c}$$

(ii) If $f : I \to \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable at every point $c \in I$, we say f is differentiable (on I).

Remark. Note that

$$\begin{aligned}
f'(c) = L \iff & \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} = L \\
\iff & \forall \epsilon > 0 \ \exists \delta > 0 \text{ such that if } 0 < |x - c| < \delta, \text{ then } \left| \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} - L \right| < \epsilon \\
\iff & \forall \epsilon > 0 \ \exists \delta > 0 \text{ such that if } 0 < |h < \delta, \text{ then } \left| \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h} - L \right| < \epsilon \quad (\text{Let } h = x - c) \\
\iff & \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h} = L
\end{aligned}$$

Remark. Let A denote the collection of all points at which $f : I \to \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable. If $A \neq \emptyset$, the function $f' : A \to \mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$f'(c) = \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} \quad \forall c \in A$$

is called the derivative of f.

Example 1.1.1. Let $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval and $f : I \to \mathbb{R}$ be given by $f(x) = x^2$. Prove that f is differentiable on I and find the derivative.

Proof. $\forall c \in I$,

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} &= \lim_{x \to c} \frac{x^2 - c^2}{x - c} \\
&= \lim_{x \to c} x + c \\
&= 2c & (\text{ is continuous})
\end{aligned}$$

So, $\forall c \in I \quad f'(c) = 2c$. Hence,

$$f' : I \to \mathbb{R}, \quad f'(x) = 2x.$$

□

Example 1.1.2. Let $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval and $f : I \to \mathbb{R}$ be given by $f(x) = x^n$ where $n \in \mathbb{N}, \quad n \geq 3$. Prove that f is differentiable on I and find the derivative.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} &= \lim_{x \to c} \frac{x^n - c^n}{x - c} \\
&= \lim_{x \to c} \frac{(x-c)(x^{n-1} + cx^{n-2} + \ldots + c^{n-1})}{x - c} && \text{(Algebra)} \\
&= \lim_{x \to c} \left[x^{n-1} + cx^{n-1} + \ldots + c^{n-1}\right] \\
&= c^{n-1} + c \cdot c^{n-2} + \ldots + c^{n-1} && \text{(Continuity)} \\
&= n \cdot c^{n-1}
\end{aligned}$$

So, $\forall c \in I \quad f'(c) = n \cdot c^{n-1}$. Hence,

$$f' : I \to \mathbb{R}, \quad f'(x) = nx^{n-1}.$$

□

Example 1.1.3. Prove that $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}, \quad f(x) = |x|$ is not differentiable at $c = 0$.

Proof. We need to show that $\lim\limits_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0}$ does not exist. Note that

$$\frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0} = \frac{|x| - |0|}{x - 0} = \frac{|x|}{x}$$

Let $g(x) = \frac{|x|}{x}$. We want to show $\lim\limits_{x \to 0} g(x)$ does not exist. By the sequential criterion for limits of functions, it is enough to find two sequences (a_n) and (b_n) in $\mathbb{R} \backslash \{0\}$ such that $a_n \to 0$ and $b_n \to 0$, but $\lim g(a_n) \neq \lim g(b_n)$. Let $a_n = -\frac{1}{n}$ and $b_n = \frac{1}{n}$. Clearly, $a_n \to 0$ and $b_n \to 0$. However,

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{n \to \infty} g(a_n) &= \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{|a_n|}{a_n} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{|-1/n|}{-1/n} = \lim_{n \to \infty} (-1) = -1 \\
\lim_{n \to \infty} g(b_n) &= \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{|b_n|}{b_n} = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{|1/n|}{1/n} = \lim_{n \to \infty} (1) = 1
\end{aligned}$$

□

Theorem 1.1.1. (Differentiable $\implies$ Continuous)
Let $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval, $c \in I$, and $f : I \to \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable at c. Then f is continuous at c.

Proof. It is enough to show that $\lim\limits_{x \to c} f(x) = f(c)$ (an interval doesn't have an isolated point). Note that

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \to c} (f(x) - f(c)) &= \lim_{x \to c} \left[\frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}(x - c)\right] \\
&= \left[\lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}\right] \left[\lim_{x \to c} (x - c)\right] && \text{(ALT for Functions)} \\
&= f'(c) \cdot 0 = 0.
\end{aligned}$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \to c} f(x) &= \lim_{x \to c} [f(x) - f(c) + f(c)] \\
&= \lim_{x \to c} [f(x) - f(c)] + \lim_{x \to c} f(c) \\
&= 0 + f(c) \\
&= f(c).
\end{aligned}$$

□

Corollary 1.1.1. If $f : I \to \mathbb{R}$ is not continuous at $c \in I$, then f is not differentiable at c.

Example 1.1.4. Let $f : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ be defined by $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 & \text{if } x \in \mathbb{Q} \\ 0 & \text{if } x \notin \mathbb{Q} \end{cases}$.

(*i*) Prove f is continuous at 0.

(*ii*) Prove f is discontinuous at all $x \neq 0$.

(*iii*) Prove that f is nondifferentiable at all $x \neq 0$.

(*iv*) Prove that $f'(0) = 0$.

Proof. (*i*) We need to show that

$$\forall \epsilon > 0\ \exists \delta > 0 \text{ such that if } |x - 0| < \delta \text{ then } |f(x) - f(0)| < \epsilon$$

Let $\epsilon > 0$ be given. Our goal is to find $\delta > 0$ such that

$$\text{if } |x| < \delta \text{ then } |f(x)| < \epsilon \tag{$*$}$$

Informal Discussion

Note that

Case 1: if $x \notin \mathbb{Q}$ then $|f(x)| = |0| < \epsilon$ ✓

Case 2: if $x \in \mathbb{Q}$ then $|f(x)| = |x^2| = |x|^2$

So, we want to find δ such that if $|x| < \delta$, then $|x|^2 < \epsilon$. Clearly, $\delta = \sqrt{\epsilon}$ works.

We claim that $(*)$ holds with $\delta = \sqrt{\epsilon}$. See the discussion.

(*ii*) Let $c \neq 0$. Our goal is to show f is discontinuous at c. By the sequential criterion for continuity, it is enough to find a sequence (a_n) such that $a_n \to c$ but $f(a_n) \not\to f(c)$. We proceed by two cases:

Case 1: $c \notin \mathbb{Q}$
$\mathbb{Q}$ is dense in $\mathbb{R}$, so there exists a sequence of rational numbers (r_n) such that $r_n \to c$. We have

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} f(r_n) = r_n^2\ \forall n \\ f(c) = 0 \end{array}\right\} \implies f(r_n) \not\to f(c)$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} r_n \to c \\ f(r_n) \not\to f(c) \end{array}\right\} \implies f \text{ is discontinuous at } c.$$

(*iii*) Let $c \neq 0$. By (*ii*), f is not continuous at c. Therefore, f is not differentiable at c.

(*iv*) We need to show $\lim\limits_{x\to c} \frac{f(x)-f(0)}{x-0} = 0$. Note that

$$\frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0} = \frac{f(x)}{x}.$$

Our goal is to show:

$$\forall \epsilon > 0\ \exists \delta > 0 \text{ such that if } 0 < |x - 0| < \delta \text{ then } \left|\frac{f(x)}{x} - 0\right| < \epsilon.$$

Let $\epsilon > 0$ be given. Our goal is to find $\delta > 0$ such that

$$\text{if } 0 < |x| < \delta, \text{ then } \left|\frac{f(x)}{x} - 0\right| < \epsilon \tag{$*$}$$

We claim that $(*)$ holds with $\delta = \epsilon$ (or any postive number less than ϵ). Indeed, if $x \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $0 < |x| < \delta = \epsilon$, then

Case 1: $x \notin \mathbb{Q}$

$$\left|\frac{f(x)}{x}\right| = \left|\frac{0}{x}\right| = 0 < \epsilon.$$

Case 2: $x \in \mathbb{Q}$

$$\left|\frac{f(x)}{x}\right| = \left|\frac{x^2}{x}\right| = |x| < \delta = \epsilon.$$

□

Theorem 1.1.2. (Algebraic Differentiability Theorem)
Assume $f : I \to \mathbb{R}$ and $g : I \to \mathbb{R}$ are differentiable at $c \in I$. Then

(i) $\forall k \in \mathbb{R},\ kf$ is differentiable at c and

$$(kf)'(c) = k \cdot f'(x)$$

(ii) $f + g$ is differentiable at c and

$$(f+g)'(c) = f'(c) + g'(c)$$

(iii) fg is differentiable at c and

$$(fg)'(c) = f'(c)g(c) + f(c)g'(c)$$

(iv) $\frac{f}{g}$ is differentiable at c (provided $g(c) \neq 0$) and

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

Proof. Here, we will prove (ii) and (iii).

(ii)

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \to c} \frac{(f+g)(x) - (f+g)(c)}{x - c} &= \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) + g(x) - f(c) - g(c)}{x - c} \\
&= \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} + \lim_{x \to c} \frac{g(x) - g(c)}{x - c} \\
&= f'(c) + g'(c).
\end{aligned}$$

So, $f + g$ is differentiable at c, and $(f+g)'(c) = f'(c) + g'(c)$.

$(iiii)$

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \to c} \frac{(fg)(x) - (fg)(c)}{x - c} &= \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x)g(x) - f(c)g(c)}{x - c} \\
&= \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x)g(x) - f(c)g(x) + f(c)g(x) - f(c)g(c)}{x - c} \\
&= \lim_{x \to c} \frac{(f(x) - f(c))\, g(x) + f(c)\,(g(x) - g(c))}{x - c} \\
&= \left[\lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}\right]\left[\lim_{x \to c} g(x)\right] + \left[\lim_{x \to c} f(c)\right]\left[\lim_{x \to c} \frac{g(x) - g(c)}{x - c}\right] \\
&= f'(c) \cdot g(c) + f(c) \cdot g'(c)
\end{aligned}$$

Thus fg is differentiable at c, and $(fg)'(c) = f'(c)g(c) + f(c)g'(c)$. □

Theorem 1.1.3. (Chain Rule)
Let $I_1 \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and $I_2 \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be two intervals. Suppose $f : I_1 \to \mathbb{R}$ and $g : I_2 \to \mathbb{R}$ such that $f(I_1)$ is contained in I_2, f is differentiable at $c \in I_2$, and g is differentiable at $f(c) \in I_2$. Then the function $g \circ f : I_1 \to \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable at $c \in I_1$, and

$$(g \circ f)'(c) = g'(f(c)) \cdot f'(c).$$

Informal Discussion

The following is an incorrect proof of the theorem:

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x\to c}\frac{(g\circ f)(x)-(g\circ f)(c)}{x-c} &= \lim_{x\to c}\frac{g(f(x))-g(f(c))}{x-c}\\
&= \lim_{x\to c}\frac{g(f(x))-g(f(c))}{f(x)-f(c)}\cdot\frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c}\\
&= \left[\lim_{x\to c}\frac{g(f(x))-g(f(c))}{f(x)-f(c)}\right]\cdot\left[\lim_{x\to c}\lim_{x\to c}\frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c}\right]\\
&= g'(f(c))\cdot f'(c)
\end{aligned}$$

This proof fails because even though $x\to c \implies x\neq c$, it's not necessarily the case that $f(x)\to f(c) \implies f(x)\neq f(c)$. I.e., the algebraic limit theorem for functions fails as $f(x)-f(c)$ might be zero. Dividing by $f(x)-f(c)$ is not legitimate. To see why this fails, consider the case when f is a constant function. We instead use the following idea: Replace $\frac{g(f(x))-g(f(c))}{f(x)-f(c)}$ with a new function $d(f(x))$ such that

(*i*) $d(f(x))=\frac{g(f(x))-g(f(c))}{f(x)-f(c)}$ when $f(x)\neq f(c)$

(*ii*) $d(f(x))$ is defined even when $f(x)=f(c)$

(*iii*) $d(f(x))\cdot\frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c}=\frac{g(f(x))-g(f(c))}{x-c}$ for all $x\in I_1, x\neq c$

Proof. Let $d: I_2\to\mathbb{R}$ be defined by

$$d(y)=\begin{cases}\frac{g(y)-g(f(c))}{y-f(c)} & y\neq f(c)\\ \lim\limits_{y\to f(c)}\frac{g(y)-g(f(c))}{y-f(c)}=g'(f(c)) & y=f(c)\end{cases}$$

Clearly, d satisfies requirements (i) and (ii) from above.

Observation 1: d is continuous at $f(c)$. Indeed,

$$\lim_{y\to f(c)} d(y)=\lim_{y\to f(c)}\frac{g(y)-g(f(c))}{y-f(c)}=d(f(c))$$

Observation 2: For all $x\in I_1$ with $x\neq c$, we have

$$d(f(x))\cdot\frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c}=\frac{g(f(x))-g(f(c))}{x-c}$$

This is true because

Case 1: $f(x)\neq f(c)$

$$\begin{aligned}
d(f(x))\cdot\frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c} &= \frac{g(f(x))-g(f(c))}{f(x)-f(c)}\cdot\frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c}\\
&= \frac{g(f(x))-g(f(c))}{x-c}
\end{aligned}$$

Case 2: $f(x)=f(c)$

$$\begin{aligned}
LHS = d(f(x))\cdot\frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c} &= d(f(c))\cdot\frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c}=g'(f(c))\cdot 0=0\\
RHS=\frac{g(f(x))-g(f(c))}{x-c} &= \frac{g(f(c))-g(f(c))}{x-c}=0
\end{aligned}$$

So, $LHS=RHS=0$.

We have,

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x\to c}\frac{(g\circ f)(x)-(g\circ f)(c)}{x-c} &= \lim_{x\to c}\frac{g(f(x))-g(f(c))}{x-c}\\
&= \lim_{x\to c}\left[d(f(x))\cdot\frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c}\right]\\
&= \left[\lim_{x\to c}(d\circ f)(x)\right]\cdot\left[\lim_{x\to c}\frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c}\right]\\
&\overset{(*)}{=} (d\circ f)(c)\cdot f'(c)\\
&= d(f(c))\cdot f'(c)\\
&= g'(f(c))\cdot f'(c)
\end{aligned}$$

So, $g\circ f$ is differentiable at c and $(g\circ f)'(c)=g'(f(c))\cdot f'(c)$.

$(*)$ Note that f is continuous at c and d is continuous at $f(c)$, so by composition of continuos functions we conclude that $d\circ f$ is continuous at c and

$$\lim_{x\to c}(d\circ f)(c)=(d\circ f)(c).$$

□

Example 1.1.5. Let $f:\mathbb{R}\to\mathbb{R}$ be defined by $f(x)=\begin{cases}x^2\sin\frac{1}{x} & \text{if } x\neq 0\\ 0 & \text{if } x=0\end{cases}$

(i) Prove that f is differentiable at all $x\neq 0$.

(ii) Prove that $f'(0)=0$

(iii) Prove that f' is not continuous at 0.

Proof. (i) We have

$$\left.\begin{array}{ll} h_1(x)=1 & \text{is differentiable on } \mathbb{R}\\ h_2(x)=x & \text{is differentiable on } \mathbb{R}\end{array}\right\} \implies \frac{h_1(x)}{h_2(x)}=\frac{1}{x} \text{ is differentiable at all } x\neq 0$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{ll} h_3(x)=\sin x & \text{is differentiable on } \mathbb{R}\\ h_4(x)=\frac{1}{x} & \text{is differentiable at all } x\neq 0\end{array}\right\} \implies (h_3\circ h_4)(x)=\sin\frac{1}{x} \text{ is differentiable at all } x\neq 0$$

$$\left.\begin{array}{ll} h_5(x)=x^2 & \text{is differentiable on } \mathbb{R}\\ h_4(x)=\sin\frac{1}{x} & \text{is differentiable at all } x\neq 0\end{array}\right\} \implies h_5(x)\cdot h_6(x)=x^2\sin\frac{1}{x} \text{ is differentiable at all } x\neq 0$$

Indeed, it follows from the algebraic differentiation theorem and the chain rule that

$$\begin{aligned}
(x^2\sin\frac{1}{x})' &= (x^2)'\cdot\sin\frac{1}{x}+x^2\cdot(\sin\frac{1}{x})'\\
&= 2x\cdot\sin\frac{1}{x}+x^2\left[(\cos\frac{1}{x})(-\frac{1}{x^2})\right]\\
&= 2x\sin\frac{1}{x}-\cos\frac{1}{x}
\end{aligned}$$

(ii) Note that $f(0)=0$ does not imply $f'(0)=0$. When we want to compute f' at any point, in particular at 0, we need to pay attention to the behavior of f in a neighborhood of the point and not just the value of the function at the point. The reason is that $f'(c)$ is defined by taking $\lim\limits_{x\to c}$.
Our goal is to show

$$\lim_{x\to c}\frac{f(x)-f(0)}{x-0}=0$$

Note that

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

We want to show

$$\lim_{x\to 0}\left(x\sin\frac{1}{x}\right)=0$$

We have,

$$\left.\begin{aligned}&0\le\left|x\sin\tfrac{1}{x}\right|\le|x|\\&\lim_{x\to 0}0=0\\&\lim_{x\to 0}|x|=|0|=0\end{aligned}\right\}\overset{\text{SQZ Thm}}{\Longrightarrow}\lim_{x\to 0}\left|x\sin\frac{1}{x}\right|=0$$

Thus $\lim_{x\to 0}x\sin\frac{1}{x}=0$.

(iii) According to parts (i) and (ii):

$$f':\mathbb{R}\to\mathbb{R},\quad f(x)=\begin{cases}2x\sin\frac{1}{x}-\cos\frac{1}{x} & \text{if } x\neq 0\\ 0 & \text{if } x=0\end{cases}$$

By the sequential criterion for continuity, it is enough to find a sequence (a_n) such that

$$a_n\to 0 \text{ but } f'(a_n)\not\to f'(0)$$

Let $a_n=\frac{1}{2n\pi}$. Clearly, $a_n\to 0$. However,

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{n\to\infty}f'(a_n)&=\lim_{n\to\infty}\left[\frac{2}{2n\pi}\sin(2n\pi)-\cos(2n\pi)\right]\\&=0-1\\&\neq 0.\end{aligned}$$

$\square$

1.2 Local Extrema

Definition 1.2.1. (Local Maximum, Local Minimum)
Let $\emptyset \neq A \subseteq (X, d)$, and let $f : A \to \mathbb{R}$.

(i) We say that f has a local maximum at $c \in A$ if

$$\exists \delta > 0 \text{ such that } \forall x \in N_\delta(c) \cap A \quad f(x) \leq f(c)$$

(ii) We say that f has a local minimum at $c \in A$ if

$$\exists \delta > 0 \text{ such that } \forall x \in N_\delta(c) \cap A \quad f(x) \geq f(c)$$

Lemma 1.2.1. (Order Limit Theorem for Functions)
Suppose $\lim_{x \to c} g(x)$ and $\lim_{x \to c} h(x)$ both exist.

(i) If $\exists \delta > 0$ such that $\forall x \in (c - \delta, c) \quad h(x) \leq g(x)$, then $\lim_{x \to c} h(x) \leq \lim_{x \to c} g(x)$

(ii) If $\exists \delta > 0$ such that $\forall x \in (c, c + \delta) \quad h(x) \leq g(x)$, then $\lim_{x \to c} h(x) \leq \lim_{x \to c} g(x)$

Proof. Here we will prove (i). The proof of (ii) is analogous. Let (a_n) be a sequence in $(c - \delta, c)$ such that $a_n \to c$. By the sequential criterion for limits of functions we have

$$a_n \to c \implies \begin{cases} \lim_{n \to \infty} g(a_n) = \lim_{x \to c} g(x) \\ \lim_{n \to \infty} h(a_n) = \lim_{x \to c} h(x) \end{cases} \tag{I}$$

Also note that

$$\begin{aligned} \forall n \quad a_n \in (c - \delta, c) &\implies \forall n \quad h(a_n) \leq g(a_n) \\ &\overset{\text{OLTS}}{\implies} \lim_{n \to \infty} h(a_n) \leq \lim_{n \to \infty} g(a_n) \end{aligned} \tag{II}$$

It follows from $(I), (II)$ that $\lim_{x \to c} h(x) \leq \lim_{x \to c} g(x)$. $\square$

Theorem 1.2.1. (Interior Extremum Theorem)
Let $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ be an interval, $f : I \to \mathbb{R}$ be a function and $c \in \overline{I}$. Suppose f is differentiable at c. Then

(i) If f has a local maximum at c, then $f'(c) = 0$

(ii) If f has a local minimum at c, then $f'(c) = 0$

Proof. Here, we will prove (i). The proof for (ii) is analogous. Suppose f has a local maximum at c.

1. f has a local maximum at $c \implies \exists \delta_1$ such that $\forall x \in (c - \delta_1, c + \delta_1) \cap I \quad f(x) \leq f(c)$
2. c is an interior point of $I \implies \exists \delta_2$ such that $(c - \delta_2, c + \delta_2) \subseteq I$

So, if we let $\delta = \min\{\delta_1, \delta_2\}$, then

$$\forall x \in (c - \delta, c + \delta) \quad f(x) \leq f(c)$$

We have

(I) For all $x \in (c - \delta, c)$

$$\begin{aligned} \left.\begin{matrix} x - c < 0 \\ f(x) \leq f(c) \end{matrix}\right\} &\implies \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} \geq 0 \\ &\overset{OLTF}{\implies} \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} \geq \lim_{x \to c} 0 \\ &\implies f'(c) \geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

(II) For all $x \in (c, c+\delta)$

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} x-c>0 \\ f(x) \leq f(c) \end{array}\right\} \Longrightarrow \frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c} \leq 0$$
$$\overset{OLTF}{\Longrightarrow} \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c} \leq \lim_{x \to c} 0$$
$$\Longrightarrow f'(c) \leq 0.$$

It follows from $(I), (II)$ that $f'(c) = 0$. □

Remark. The following are three techniques that can be used in proving the existence of a solution:

1. Suppose $h : [a, b] \to \mathbb{R}$ is continuous. Let α be a given real number. One way to show there exists a number c such that $h(c) = \alpha$ is as follows:

$$\text{Prove that } m \leq \alpha \leq M \text{ where } \begin{cases} m = \min\{h(x) : x \in [a, b]\} \\ M = \max\{h(x) : x \in [a, b]\} \end{cases}$$

2. Suppose $g : [a, b] \to \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable. One way to prove that there exists a number c such that $g'(c) = 0$ is as follows:

Prove there is a point in (a, b) at which g has a local maximum or a local minimum

3. Suppose $h : [a, b] \to \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable. Let α be a given real number. One way to prove that there exists a number c such that $h'(c) = \alpha$ is as follows:

Define $g(x) = h(x) - \alpha x$ and prove that there is a point c at which $g'(c) = 0$

Theorem 1.2.2. (Darboux's Theorem)
Suppose $f : [a, b] \to \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable such that $f'(a) < f'(b)$ (or $f'(b) < f'(a)$), and let $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ be such that $f'(a) < \alpha < f'(b)$ (or $f'(b) < \alpha < f'(a)$). Then

$$\exists c \in (a, b) \text{ such that } f'(c) = \alpha$$

Proof. Let $g : [a, b] \to \mathbb{R}$ be defined by $g(x) = f(x) - \alpha x$. It follows from the algebraic differentiability theorem that g is differentiable on $[a, b]$, and so it is continuous on $[a, b]$. It is enough to show that

$$\exists c \in (a, b) \text{ such that } g'(c) = 0$$

To this end, it is enough to show that $\exists c \in (a, b)$ at which g has a local minimum. We have

$$\left.\begin{array}{l} g \text{ is continuous on [a,b]} \\ [a, b] \text{ is compact} \end{array}\right\} \Longrightarrow g \text{ attains its minimum on } [a, b]$$

Let $\hat{c}$ be a point at which g attains a minimum. In what follows we will show that $\hat{c} \in (a, b)$ and so it can be used as the c that we were looking for. Note that (since $g'(x) = f'(x) - \alpha$)

$$g'(a) = f'(a) - \alpha < 0$$
$$g'(b) = f'(b) - \alpha > 0$$

Claim 1: $\hat{c} \neq a$
Assume for contradiction that $\hat{c} = a$. Then

$$\forall x \in [a, b] \quad g(x) \geq g(a)$$

so,

$$\forall x \in [a, b] \quad \begin{cases} g(x) - g(a) \geq 0 \\ x - a > 0 \end{cases}$$

Thus

$$\forall x \in (a, b) \quad \frac{g(x) - g(a)}{x - a} \geq 0$$

Thus

$$\lim_{x\to c} \frac{g(x)-g(a)}{x-a} \geq \lim_{x\to a} 0$$

That is, $g'(a) \geq 0$. This contradicts the fact that $g'(a) < 0$.

Claim 2: $\hat{c} \neq b$

Assume for contradiction that $\hat{c} = b$. In a similar manner to claim 1:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall x \in [a,b] \quad g(x) \geq g(b) &\implies \forall x \in [a,b] \quad \begin{cases} g(x)-g(b) \geq 0 \\ x-b < 0 \end{cases} \\ &\implies \forall x \in [a,b] \quad \frac{g(x)-g(b)}{x-b} \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$\lim_{x\to c} \frac{g(x)-g(b)}{x-b} \leq \lim_{x\to b} 0$$

That is,

$$g'(b) \leq 0.$$

This contradicts the fact that $g'(b) > 0$.

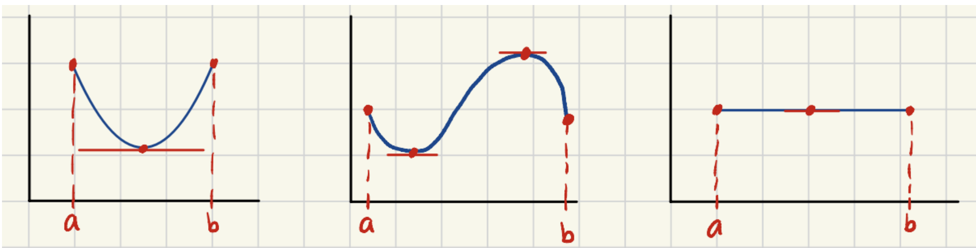
Example 1.2.1. Does there exist a differentiable function $f : [-1,1] \to \mathbb{R}$ whose derivative is $H : [-1,1] \to \mathbb{R}$ defined by

$$H(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & 0 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & -1 \leq x \leq 0 \end{cases} ?$$

No! H does not have the intermediate value property. So, it cannot be the derivative of any differentiable function.

The following are some geometric conjectures involving the derivative of a function.

Conjecture 1.2.1.
Suppose $f : [a,b] \to \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable. Suppose $f(a) = f(b)$. Then there exists a point $c \in (a,b)$ at which the tangent line is horizontal. I.e., there exists $c \in (a,b)$ such that $f'(c) = 0$.



Conjecture 1.2.2.
Suppose $f : [a,b] \to \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable. Then there exists a point $c \in (a,b)$ at which the tangent line is parallel to the line through the endpoints $(a, f(a))$ and $(b, f(b))$. I.e., there exists $c \in (a,b)$ such that $f'(c) = \frac{f(b)-f(a)}{b-a}$.

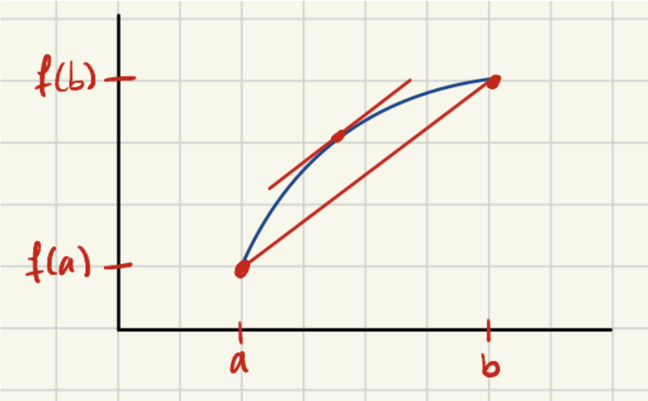
Conjecture 1.2.3.
Suppose $\vec{r} : [a,b] \to \mathbb{R}^2$, $\vec{r}(t) = (f(t), g(t))$ is a differentiable path in $\mathbb{R}^2$. Then there exists a point $\vec{r}(c)$ on the curve at which the tangent line is parallel to the line through the endpoints $\vec{r}(a)$ and $\vec{r}(b)$. Let's try to find a mathematical formula for this statement:

∗) The direction vector for the tangent line at the point $\vec{r}(c)$: $\vec{r}'(c) = (f'(c), g'(c))$

∗) The direction vector for the line through the endpoints: $(f(b)-f(a), g(b)-g(a))$

So, assuming these vectors are nonzero, the claim of the conjecture can be described mathematically as

$$\exists c \exists \lambda \in \mathbb{R}\backslash\{0\} \text{ such that } (f'(c), g'(c)) = \lambda\,(f(b)-f(a), g(b)-g(a))$$



Note that

$$
\begin{aligned}
(f'(c), g'(c)) &= \lambda\,(f(b) - f(a), g(b) - g(a)) \\
&\implies \begin{cases} f'(c) = \lambda\,(f(b) - f(a)) \\ g'(c) = \lambda\,(g(b) - g(a)) \end{cases} \\
&\implies \lambda f'(c)\,[g(b) - g(a)] = \lambda g'(c)\,[f(b) - f(a)] \\
&\implies f'(c)\,[f(b) - f(a)] = g'(c)\,[g(b) - g(a)]
\end{aligned}
$$