

Quantitative Methods (for Political Economics)
Single Variable Calculus, Probability Theory, and Statistical Theory

Kevin Lingfeng Li

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Preface

This book is one of the 3 **mathematical-companion-guides** of the part of a series: **Introduction to Political Economics**. These companion guides are meant to ensure that one has the proper mathematical training prior to studying Political Economics:

1. **Quantitative Methods** (This Book) introduces the essential mathematical concepts that are essential for studying Political Economics. Topics include algebra, single variable calculus, and probability and statistical theory.
2. **Further Quantitative Methods** expands on the topics taught in the previous book. These topics are not “essential”, but it is highly recommended to have some grasp of these topics. Topics include linear algebra and multivariate calculus.
3. **Introductory Proofs and Analysis** is a high-level introduction to proofs in mathematics. This is not essential for studying Political Economics, but having a strong idea behind proofs is quite useful for more advanced Microeconomic Models that are used in the study of Political Economics.

This book, Quantitative Methods, is a collection of mathematical and statistical topics that I consider to be essential to understand prior to starting any serious instruction in Political Economics. The book assumes a solid understanding of high-school level algebra, and discusses topics in algebra, single variable calculus, and probability and statistical theory. Note that this book is not a full mathematics course of those topics - topics have been selected based on what is commonly used in Political Economics and other social sciences.

Part I

Single Variable Calculus

Chapter 1

Algebra and Precalculus

1.1 Set Theory

Introduction to Sets

A **set** is a collection of objects. The objects within a set are the **elements** of that set.

We can define a set by either listing every element out, or through describing the properties of the elements of the set.

- For example, $A = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$
- Or, $A = \{n | n \in \mathbb{Z}; 1 \leq n \leq 5\}$ - or in other words, A is the set of values n , *such that* n is in the set of all *integers* \mathbb{Z} , and n is between 1 and 5 inclusive.

Here are some common notation for sets:

- If two sets A and B have the same elements, they are equal: $A = B$.
- If a is an element of set A , we use the notation: $a \in A$.
- If a is not an element of set A , we use the notation: $a \notin A$.
- If all elements of set A are also within set B , then it is considered a **subset**, and notated $A \subseteq B$.
- If $A \subseteq B$, but $A \neq B$, then A is a **proper subset** of B , notated: $A \subset B$.

Set Operations

There are a few common operations of sets:

- The **union** of sets A and B , notated $A \cup B$, is the set of elements that belong to either A or B . For example, if $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$, $B = \{3, 4, 5\}$, then $A \cup B = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$.
- The **intersection** of sets, notated $A \cap B$, is the set of elements that belong to A and B . For example, if $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$, $B = \{3, 4, 5\}$, then $A \cap B = \{3\}$.

The **cardinality** of a set A is the number of elements within set A , and is notated $|A|$. For example, if $A = \{1, 2, 3\}$, then $|A| = 3$. An **empty set** is a set with a cardinality of 0, or in other words, with no elements. It is notated with \emptyset

Types of Sets and Notation

A **infinite set** is one with infinitely many elements. Common examples of infinite sets include:

- Set of all natural numbers $\mathbb{N} = \{1, 2, 3, \dots\}$.
- Set of all integers $\mathbb{Z} = \{\dots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots\}$.
- Set of all rational numbers \mathbb{Q} , which are all numbers that can be written in a fraction (so excluding numbers like π).
- Set of all real numbers \mathbb{R} , which is any number on the real number line.

The set of all real numbers \mathbb{R} is the most common used set. A subset of \mathbb{R} is called an **interval**, and can be notated with either brackets or parentheses as follows:

- Closed interval: $[a, b] = \{x \in \mathbb{R} | a \leq x \leq b\}$
- Open interval: $(a, b) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} | a < x < b\}$
- We can also mix closed and open intervals: $[a, b) = \{x \in \mathbb{R} | a \leq x < b\}$

In all these intervals, a and b are called **endpoints** of the interval. Any point inside of an interval that is not an endpoint is an **interior point**.

1.2 Algebra Review

Before we go into calculus topics, let us introduce a few key properties of algebra that will occur frequently throughout Political Economics.

Solving Equations with One Variable

To solve an equation with one variable, we look to isolate the variable on one side. We can do this by either *adding/subtracting* to both sides of the equation, or *multiplying/dividing* the equation on both sides by the same value.

Example: Solve for x in the equation: $\frac{x+3}{4} = 6$

1. Multiply both sides by 4: $4\left(\frac{x+3}{4}\right) = 6 \times 4$
2. Simplify to get: $x + 3 = 24$
3. Now, subtract 3 from both sides: $x + 3 - 3 = 24 - 3$
4. Thus, we get $x = 21$

Solving Inequalities

Solving inequalities is the same as solving equations (for both one variable, and more, as we will see later). There is only one difference: if we multiply both sides by a negative number, we flip the direction of the inequality sign.

Solving System of Equations

To solve a system of equations (such as 2 different equations with 2 variables x and y), we do the following procedure:

1. With one of the equations, solve for one of the variables (either x or y generally)
2. Substitute that equation that we just solved, into the other equation. This will make that equation only have one variable. Solve that equation for the remaining variable.
3. Then, plug the variable we have found, into either of the original equations, and find the value of the other variable.

The solution to a system of equations is the point where the two lines meet on a graph.

Example: Solve the system of equations: $3x + 2y = 13$, $x - 2y = 3$.

1. First, solve one of the equations for one of the variables.
 - Let us take $x - 2y = 3$. We can solve for x to get: $x = 2y + 3$
2. Now, plug the equation we just got into the other equation
 - The other equation is $3x + 2y = 13$. Plug in the x we found: $3(2y + 3) + 2y = 13$
3. Now, solve that equation for the remaining variable:
 - $3(2y + 3) + 2y = 13 \implies 6y + 9 + 2y = 13 \implies 8y = 4 \implies y = \frac{1}{2}$
4. Now, plug y back into either equation to find x :
 - $x = 2y + 3$ that we solved for earlier. Plug in y to get $x = 2(\frac{1}{2}) + 3 = 4$

Thus, the solution to the system of equations is $x = 4$, $y = \frac{1}{2}$

Linear Equations and Slope

Linear equations take the form $y = mx + b$, where m is the slope. The slope is the amount y changes, for every increase of one unit of x .

More formally, slope is the change in y over the change in x . We can calculate the slope between two points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) as follows:

$$m = \Delta y / \Delta x = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

Factoring and Difference of Squares

Factorisation is the process of changing an equation from the form $ax^2 + bx + c$ to the form $(x + i)(x + j)$. To do this, we need to:

1. Find 2 numbers i and j , that sum to b , and multiply to c
2. Once we have done that, simply put it into the form $(x + i)(x + j)$

Example: Factor $x^2 + 5x + 6$

1. We need to find two numbers i and j , that add to 5, and multiply to 6.
2. 2 and 3 are two numbers that add to 5, while multiplying to 6.
3. Now, put it into the factored form: $(x + 2)(x + 3)$

There is a special form of factoring: **difference of squares**. Essentially, any expression that takes the form of $a^2 - b^2$ can be rewritten as $(a + b)(a - b)$. Example: $x^2 - 9 = (x + 3)(x - 3)$.

Multiplication Expansion

Multiplication expansion undoes factoring. To do this, we must multiply each term of one section by each other term of the other section. This is more intuitive with an example.

Example: let us prove the difference of squares idea we saw earlier - multiply out $(x + 3)(x - 3)$:

$$\begin{aligned}(x + 3)(x - 3) &= (x \times x) + (x \times -3) + (3 \times x) + (3 \times -3) \\ &= x^2 - 3x + 3x - 9 = x^2 - 9\end{aligned}$$

So we can see, that indeed, difference of squares is true, and $x^2 - 9 = (x + 3)(x - 3)$.

1.3 Exponents, Logarithms, Sum and Product Notation

Exponent Rules

Here are a few key properties of exponents that are important to note:

1. $a^x \times a^y = a^{x+y}$
2. $a^{-x} = \frac{1}{a^x}$
3. $a^x / a^y = a^{x-y}$
4. $(a^x)^y = a^{xy}$
5. $a^0 = 1$
6. $(a \times b)^n = a^n \times b^n$
7. $(a/b)^n = a^n / b^n$

Solving Equations with Exponents

Sometimes, you will have an equation that takes the form $x^n = a$, where n is some number.

To solve for x , the solution is $x = a^{(1/n)}$.

Proof:

We start with $x^n = a$. How to get rid of n to isolate x ?

We know that $n \times (1/n) = 1$. We also know that $(a^x)^y = a^{xy}$. Thus:

$$(x^n)^{(1/n)} = a^{(1/n)}$$

$$x^{n \times (1/n)} = x^1 = x = a^{(1/n)}$$

Logarithms

Logarithms are the inverse for exponential functions. The relationship is as follows:

$$y = \log_a(x) \implies a^y = x$$

Or more intuitively, take the example $y = \log_2(8)$ is basically asking, what power y should I take base 2 to, in order to get an answer of 8. Of course, $2^3 = 8$, so the answer is $y = 3$.

Here are a few key properties to know about logarithms.

1. $\log(xy) = \log(x) + \log(y)$
2. $\log(x^y) = y \times \log(x)$
3. $-\log(x) = \log(1/x)$
4. $\log(x/y) = \log(x) - \log(y)$
5. $\log(1) = \log(e^0) = 0$

Note that in statistics, political science, and economics, when we say $\log(x)$, we are talking about natural logs, such that $\log(x) = \ln(x) = \log_e(x)$. We can change the base of logarithms:

$$\log_b(x) = \frac{\log_a(x)}{\log_a(b)}$$

Summation Notation

Summation Notation is a way of expressing the sums of many values:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n x_i = x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n$$

- $i = 1$ indicates that we start summing from index $i = 1$, or basically, we start with x_1 . Sometimes, you will see $i = 0$, but it will rarely be anything else.
- n is the value of the index at which we stop summing. This is often the sample size, where we have no more observations.
- x_i is the value of an element within set $X = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$ with index i . For example, is $i = 1$, $x_i = x_1$, the first element in set X .

Summation notation has a few properties:

1. $\sum cx_i = c \times \sum x_i$, where c is some constant.
2. $\sum (x_i + y_i) = \sum x_i + \sum y_i$
3. $\sum_{i=1}^n c = n \times c$, where c is some constant.

Product Notation

Product notation is the same as summation notation, but except summing, we product all the elements. Product notation is defined as the following:

$$\prod_{i=1}^n x_i = x_1 \times x_2 \times \dots \times x_n$$

Product notation has the following properties:

1. $\prod cx_i = c^n \times \prod x_i$, where c is some constant.
2. $\prod_{i=1}^n c = c^n$, where c is some constant.

Converting Between Sum and Product Notation

We can transition between summation and product notation with the properties of logarithms:

$$\begin{aligned}\log\left(\prod_{i=1}^n x_i\right) &= \log(x_1 \times x_2 \times \dots \times x_n) \\ &= \log(x_1) + \log(x_2) + \dots + \log(x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \log(x_i)\end{aligned}$$

When a constant is included (for a more general rule):

$$\begin{aligned}\log\left(\prod_{i=1}^n cx_i\right) &= \log(cx_1 \times cx_2 \times \dots \times cx_n) \\ &= \log(c^n \times x_1 \times x_2 \times \dots \times x_n) \\ &= \log(c^n) + \log(x_1) + \log(x_2) + \dots + \log(x_n) \\ &= n\log(c) + \sum_{i=1}^n \log(x_i)\end{aligned}$$

1.4 Functions and the Cartesian Plane

Functions

We have two sets, X and Y . A function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is some rule, which assigns each element $x \in X$ to one, and only one element $y = f(x) \in Y$.

- For every input $x \in X$, we must only have one output $y \in Y$. If we have two outputs, that is not a function.
- We do not have to use X and Y specifically, we can use any variables.

The **domain** of f is the set of possible values of set X . Basically, what values can we input into $f(x)$

The set of possible outputs of function f is the **range** $R(f)$, and the range must be a subset of the set of Y : $R(f) \subseteq Y$.

Functions do not have to only have one input variable. For example, we can have a function $f(x, z)$, with two input values $x \in X$ and $z \in Z$.

- However, we once again can only have one output $y \in Y$ for each different input (x, z) . If we have multiple outputs for one input, that is not a function.

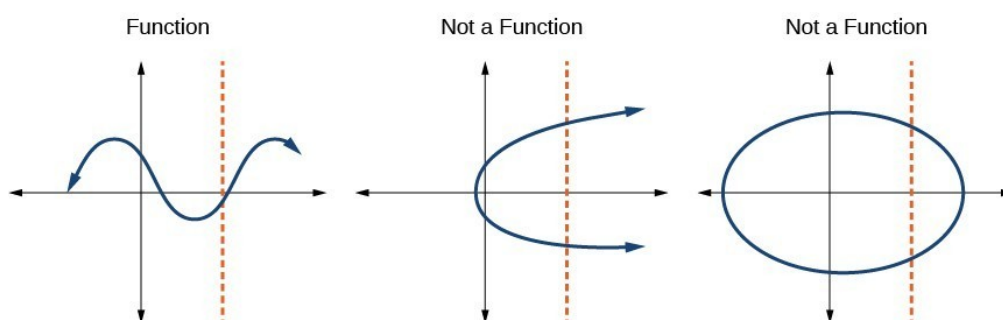
Cartesian Plane

Remember that \mathbb{R} is the set of all real numbers $\mathbb{R} = (-\infty, \infty)$. That space is only one dimensional - a single number line.

\mathbb{R}^2 is a 2 dimensional space - essentially two number lines, one perpendicular to the other. Essentially, a graph with x and y -axes. This 2-dimensional space is called a **cartesian plane**.

Every single point in the 2-dimensional cartesian plane can be specified with coordinates (a, b) , where both $a \in \mathbb{R}$ and $b \in \mathbb{R}$. a is the x coordinate, and b is the y coordinate - both who represent the distance from the **origin** with coordinates $(0, 0)$.

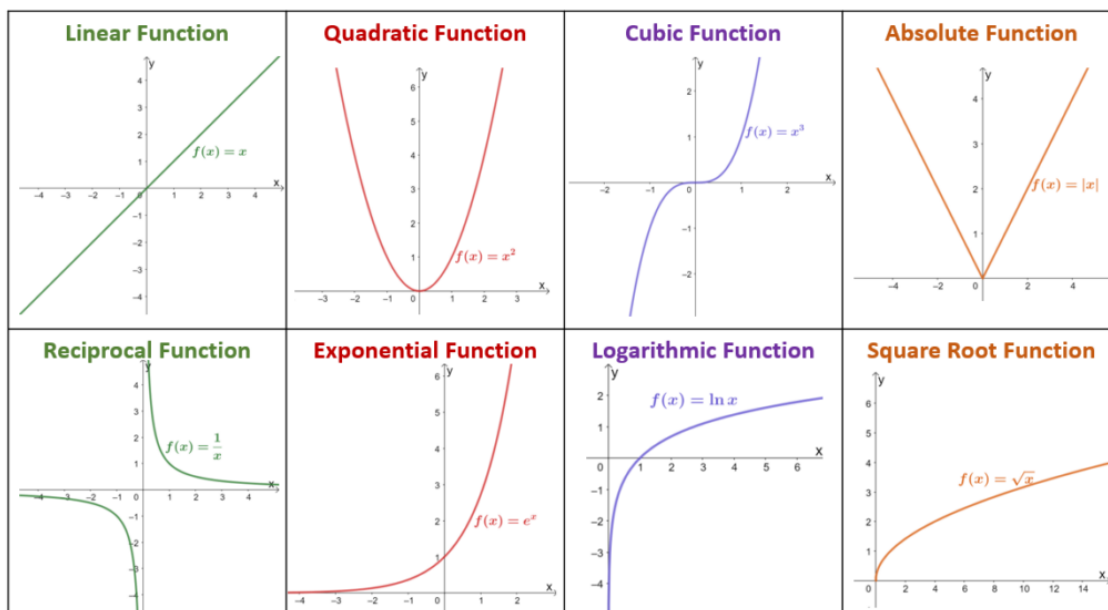
Any real-valued function of one variable can be represented in the \mathbb{R}^2 space. On the x -axis, we put the input number, and on the y -axis, we put the output of the function. For each input variable value, there must only be one output variable value. Graphically in \mathbb{R}^2 , we can show this:



Of course, functions can be in more than 2 dimensions. A function with two input variables $f(x, z)$, would be depicted in the 3-dimensional space \mathbb{R}^3 , as $x \in \mathbb{R}$, $z \in \mathbb{R}$, and output $f(x) \in \mathbb{R}$. The more input variables, the more dimensions the function is depicted in.

Common Types of Functions

There are a few very common types of functions that we will encounter:



Zeroes and Roots of Functions

The zeroes/roots of a function are the input values of the function that make the output function equal to 0. Mathematically, for what x does $f(x) = 0$.

We can also think about this graphically. Since output $f(x)$ is graphed on the y -axis, we can see at what x -values the function cross the line $y = 0$ (the x -axis line).

To solve for zeroes/roots, simply set the function equal to 0, and solve for x . Some functions can have more than one zero, especially polynomials, and some can have none.

Example: Find the root of $f(x) = x - 5$

1. Set function output equal to 0: $0 = x - 5$
2. Solve for x and we get: $x = 5$.

For **quadratic functions**, there are two ways to find roots. First, we can use factorisation, covered in section 1.2.

Example: Find the root of $f(x) = x^2 + 5x + 6$

1. Set function output equal to 0: $0 = x^2 + 5x + 6$
2. Factor: $0 = (x + 2)(x + 3)$
3. $x = -2$ and $x = -3$ make this equation true.

Finally, we can use the quadratic formula to find the roots of unfactorable equations. Given a quadratic in the form of $ax^2 + bx + c$, the roots are:

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

1.5 Special Types of Functions

Composite Functions

Composite functions are when the output of one function, is used as the input of another function. Composite functions are defined as the following:

$$f \circ g = f[g(x)]$$

Essentially, we calculate the output value of $g(x)$, and immediately input that value into $f(x)$.

For example, if $h(x) = x^2$, and $f(x) = x - 5$, then $f \circ h = (x^2) - 5$

Surjective, Injective, and Bijective Functions

A function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a **surjective** function if its range is equal to the set of Y . Mathematically, $R(f) = Y$.

- In other words, for all $y \in Y$, there exists an $x \in X$ such that $f(x) = y$.
- For example: $f(x) = x$ is surjective, as the range of $f(x) = x$ is $(-\infty, \infty)$, which covers the entire set of Y . Thus, $R(f) = Y$.

A function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is an **injective** function if distinct inputs are mapped to distinct outputs. Basically, no two input values of $x \in X$ produce the same value output $f(x)$.

- Mathematically, for all $x_1 \in X, x_2 \in X$, if $x_1 \neq x_2$, then $f(x_1) \neq f(x_2)$
- For example: $f(x) = x$ is injective, because no two inputs of x produce the same output $f(x)$.

A function is **bijective** if it is both injective and surjective.

- $f(x) = x$, as we have shown previously is both injective and surjective, and thus bijective.

Inverse Function

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a bijective function. The sets X and Y are such that $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and $Y \subseteq \mathbb{R}$.

There is some unique function $f^{-1} : Y \rightarrow X$, called the **inverse function** of f , which is essentially the opposite of function f : when you input the outputs of $f(x)$ into f^{-1} , you get the respective input of $f(x)$.

- Or mathematically: $y = f(x)$ if and only if $x = f^{-1}(y)$

Because f^{-1} essentially reverses function $f(x)$, the following must be true:

$$f^{-1}(f(x)) = x \text{ for all } x \in X$$

$$f(f^{-1}(y)) = y \text{ for all } y \in Y$$

To find the inverse function, we simply solve for the input variable.

Example: Find the inverse of $f(x) = 2x + 3$

1. Let us define y as the output of $f(x)$, such that $f(x) = y = 2x + 3$
2. Now, solve for x : $y = 2x + 3 \implies 2x = y - 3 \implies x = \frac{y-3}{2}$

Let us prove that this is an inverse function with the properties we showed above.

$$\text{1st property: } f^{-1}(f(x)) = x \text{ for all } x \in X$$

$$f^{-1}(y) = \frac{y-3}{2} \implies f^{-1}(f(x)) = \frac{(2x+3)-3}{2} = \frac{2x}{2} = x$$

$$\text{2nd property } f(f^{-1}(y)) = y \text{ for all } y \in Y$$

$$f(x) = 2x + 3 \implies f(f^{-1}(y)) = 2\left(\frac{y-3}{2}\right) + 3 = y - 3 + 3 = y$$

1.6 Limits and Continuity

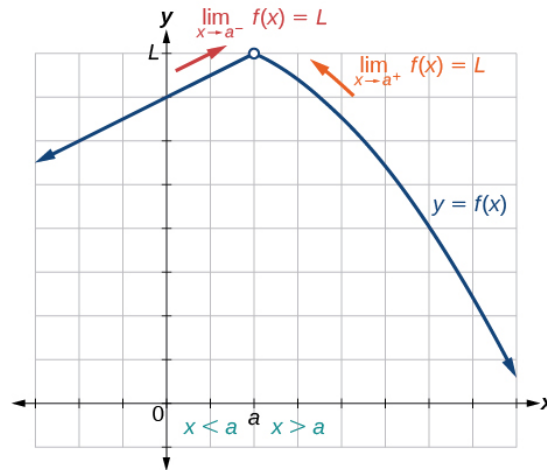
Definition of Limits

A limit is when a function approaches some specific output value $y = f(x) = L$, as the input x moves closer and closer to some value c .

Or more intuitively, as the x value becomes infinitely closer to $x = c$, the $y = f(x)$ value becomes infinitely close to $f(x) = L$.

Limits are notated with the form: $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = L$

For example, the figure below shows a function with a limit:



For a limit to exist, it must approach the same y value L , from both sides of $x = c$. For example, in the figure above, from both the left and right of $x = c$, the function $f(x)$ approaches L . Thus, a limit exists here.

- However, if the function were to approach different y values on both sides of $x = c$, then there would be no limit.
- We can notate the limit from the left side of $x = c$ as $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x) = L$, and the limit from the right side of $x = c$ as $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) = L$.

Importantly, $f(x)$ does not need to be defined at point $x = c$ for the limit to exist. The figure above has a function $y = f(x)$ that is not defined at $f(c)$, however, the limit still exists.

Properties of Limits

Let us have functions f and g , where $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = A$, and $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = B$. The following properties are thus true:

1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x) + g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)$
2. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [\alpha \times f(x)] = \alpha \times \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$, where α is some constant.
3. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x) \times g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) \times \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)$
4. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} [f(x)/g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) / \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x)$

Continuity

Continuity as a concept is quite intuitive: if a function has no breaks or jumps within an interval, then it is continuous within that interval.

We can express this intuition in more mathematical terms. Suppose that function f has some input interval containing $x = c$. f is continuous at point c , given these 2 criteria are both met:

1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)$ exists, i.e. $\lim_{x^- \rightarrow c} f(x) = \lim_{x^+ \rightarrow c} f(x)$.
2. $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = f(c)$.

These criteria make intuitive sense:

1. Criteria 1 says both sides of the limit have to approach the same y value. That makes sense, since if they did not approach the same value, the function would have a jump.
2. Criteria 2 says the value of the limit must be the same as the value of the function. That means that 1st, the function must be defined at $f(c)$, which obviously is required for continuity, and 2nd, the value of the function is equal to the value the two sides are approaching, which if not true, would mean there would be a jump.

Let us assume functions f and g are both continuous at $x = c$. Then, continuity has a few properties:

1. $f(x) + g(x)$ is continuous at $x = c$.
2. $f(x) - g(x)$ is continuous at $x = c$.
3. $f(x) \times g(x)$ is continuous at $x = c$.
4. $|f(x)|$ is continuous at $x = c$.
5. $\alpha \times f(x)$ is continuous at $x = c$, where α is some constant.
6. $f(x)/g(x)$ is continuous at $x = c$ given $g(c) \neq 0$.

Finally, if f is continuous in interval $[a, b]$, then f must have a maximum and minimum value within $[a, b]$.

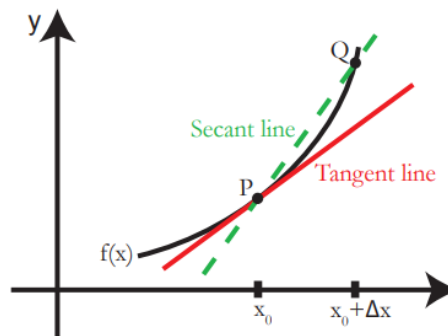
Chapter 2

Derivatives

2.1 Definition of a Derivative

A derivative function f' outputs the slope of the function of f at any input. So, if we want to know the slope of f at $f(a)$, we would plug a into f' .

The figure shows a function f and a point P . The red tangent line shows the slope at point P :



We know the definition of slope between two points (from section 1.2) is:

$$\Delta y / \Delta x = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

First, since we are dealing with functions where output $y = f(x)$, let us replace the y 's in our equation with $f(x)$'s:

$$\Delta y / \Delta x = \frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1}$$

We can rewrite x_2 and x_1 relative to a single point of x as $x_1 = x$ and $x_2 = x + h$. Why? this is because point x_2 is just some x -distance away from point x_1 . Now, let us replace x_1 and x_2 with x and $x + h$:

$$\Delta y / \Delta x = \frac{f(x + h) - f(x)}{x + h - x} = \frac{f(x + h) - f(x)}{h}$$

So that is essentially another way to rewrite the definition of a slope between two points. However, the issue is, that a derivative is the slope at **one point**, not between two points. What we have calculated so far is the slope between two points (the secant green line in the figure above). We need the red-tangent line - the slope at one point. How do we calculate the slope at one point?

To calculate the slope at one point, we can slowly move the two points x and $x + h$ closer and closer to each other. How do we do that? With **limits** (that we covered in section 1.6). By making h smaller and smaller until it approaches 0, the two points will get closer and closer until they are on top of each other, and then, we will have the slope at one point.

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

That is the **formal definition of a derivative**. We can calculate any derivative with this rule (although, this can become difficult sometimes).

A note on notation: so far, I have used f' (apostrophes) to notate a derivative. We can also use the form $\frac{dy}{dx}$ to indicate a derivative. We can change y and x in this notation if we are using different variables.

Finally, it is also possible to take the derivative of a derivative. This is a second-order derivative, and we notate it f'' (with two apostrophes).

2.2 Rules of Differentiation

Rules

You can calculate any derivative by plugging it into the formal definition from above. However, this can be tedious.

However, there are a few generalised forms of functions, whose derivatives are consistent. These rules allow us to quickly calculate derivatives. Note - these rules are all obtained from the definition of the derivative - they do not magically appear from thin air.

Standard Derivatives

Linear Rule: $[\alpha x]' = \alpha$, where α is a constant.

Derivative of a constant: $[\alpha]' = 0$, where α is a constant.

Power Rule: $[x^k]' = kx^{k-1}$, where k is some constant and x^k is a monomial.

Sum Rule: $[f(x) \pm g(x)]' = f'(x) + g'(x)$.

Constant Rule: $[\alpha \times f(x)]' = \alpha \times f'(x)$, where α is some constant.

Product Rule: $[f(x) \times g(x)]' = f'(x) \times g(x) + f(x) \times g'(x)$.

Quotient Rule: $[f(x)/g(x)]' = \frac{f'(x) \times g(x) - f(x) \times g'(x)}{[g(x)]^2}$.

Chain Rule: $[f(g(x))]' = f'[g(x)] \times g'(x)$ (used for composite/nested functions).

Exponential and Log Derivatives

Exponential: $[e^x]' = e^x$.

Exponential Nested: $[e^{u(x)}]' = e^{u(x)} \times u'(x)$.

Other Based Exponentials: $[b^x]' = \ln(b) \times b^x$.

Natural Log Derivative: $[\ln(x)]' = \frac{1}{x}$.

Log derivative with a power: $[\ln(x^k)]' = \frac{k}{x}$.

Nested Log Derivative: $[\ln(u(x))]' = \frac{u'(x)}{u(x)}$

Trigonometric Derivatives

Derivative of sine: $[\sin(x)]' = \cos(x)$.

Derivative of cosine: $[\cos(x)]' = -\sin(x)$.

Examples:

Example 1: Find the derivative of $f(x) = 5x^4 - 6x^3 + x^2 - 5x + 6$.

1. Sum rule says that $f'(x) = [5x^4]' - [6x^3]' + [x^2]' - [5x]' + [6]'$
2. Constant rule says that $f'(x) = 5[x^4]' - 6[x^3]' + [x^2]' - 5[x]' + [6]'$
3. Power rule says that: $f'(x) = 5(4x^3) - 6(3x^2) + (2x) - 5 + 0$
4. Simplify: $f'(x) = 20x^3 - 18x^2 + 2x - 5 + 0$

Example 2: Find the derivative of $f(x) = (x^3)(2x^4)$.

Two methods to do this problem. Method 1 (product rule):

1. Product rule says that $[f(x) \times g(x)]' = f'(x) \times g(x) + f(x) \times g'(x)$. Let us define $f(x) = x^3$ and $g(x) = 2x^4$.
2. Let us find $f'(x)$ and $g'(x)$. Using power rule: $f'(x) = 3x^2$, and $g'(x) = 2[x^4]' = 2(4x^3) = 8x^3$
3. Put it into the product rule form: $f'(x) = (3x^2)(2x^4) + (x^3)(8x^3)$.
4. Simplify: $f'(x) = 6x^6 + 8x^6 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 14x^6$.

Method 2 (power rule):

1. Simplify $f(x)$ to get $f(x) = 2x^7$.
2. Use constant rule and power rule: $f'(x) = 2[x^7]' = 2(7x^6) \Rightarrow f'(x) = 14x^6$

Example 3: Find the derivative of $f(x) = (3x^2 + 5x - 7)^6$

1. This is a composite function, so we use chain rule $[f(g(x))]' = f'[g(x)] \times g'(x)$. Let us define $f(x) = x^6$ and $g(x) = 3x^2 + 5x - 7$.
2. Let us find $f'(x)$ and $g'(x)$. Power rule says $f'(x) = 6x^5$. Sum, constant, and power rule says $g'(x) = 6x + 5$.
3. Put it into the form of chain rule: $f'(x) = 6(3x^2 + 5x - 7)^5 \times 6x + 5$.
4. Distribute out $6x + 5$ to get $f'(x) = 36x(3x^2 + 5x - 7)^5 + 30(3x^2 + 5x - 7)^5$.

2.3 Derivative of an Inverse Function

Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a bijective function $y = f(x)$ (see sections 1.4-1.5). We want to find the derivative of the inverse function $f^{-1} : Y \rightarrow X$.

The simplest way to do this is to find the inverse function (as shown in section 1.5), and calculate the derivative of that.

However, the function $x = f^{-1}(y)$ is not always easily differentiable with the rules we have introduced. We can utilise an alternative approach. Remember the identity of inverse functions shown in section 1.5:

$$f^{-1}(f(x)) = x \text{ for all } x \in X$$

We know that chain rule says:

$$[f(g(x))]' = f'[g(x)] \times g'(x)$$

We can define our inverse original f' function as f for the chain rule, and the original $f(x)$ as $g(x)$ for the chain rule. Thus, using chain rule, we can get the derivative of the identity of inverse functions:

$$f^{-1}(f(x)) = x, \text{ now differentiate both sides:}$$

$$\frac{df^{-1}(f(x))}{dy} \times \frac{df(x)}{dx} = 1, \text{ since } y = f(x) \Rightarrow \frac{df^{-1}(y)}{dy} \times \frac{df(x)}{dx} = 1$$

Now, isolate the derivative of the inverse function to get the **derivative of the inverse**:

$$\frac{df^{-1}(y)}{dy} = \frac{1}{\frac{df(x)}{dx}}, \text{ and since } y = f(x), x = f(y), \Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dy} = \frac{1}{\frac{dy}{dx}}$$

Example: Find the derivative of the inverse function for $f(x) = \ln(x)$.

1. First, find the inverse $f^{-1}(y)$. We do this by solving for x in $y = \ln(x)$. Through the definition of logarithms, we know that $x = e^y$. Thus, $f^{-1}(y) = e^y$.
2. Using derivative rules, we know that $f'(x) = \frac{1}{x}$.
3. Using the inverse derivative relationship, we know $f'(y) = \frac{1}{f'(x)}$.
4. Thus, $f'(y) = \frac{1}{1/x} = x$.
5. Since we solved $x = e^y$, we can plug in to get: $f'(y) = e^y$.

2.4 Partial Derivatives

Suppose that we have a function $f : X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Or in other words, a function with more than one variable input. However, we might only be interested in the rate of change (slope) relative to only one of the variables.

We can do this with a partial derivative, which is defined as:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_i} f(x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_1, \dots, x_i + h, \dots, x_n) - f(x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n)}{h}$$

- Where $x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n$ are all the inputs of function f .
- Where we are only interested in the rate of change in respect to x_i (hence why only x_i has a $+h$ in the numerator).
- As a result, we treat x_1, \dots, x_n that are not x_i as simply constants.

To solve a partial derivative, we take the derivative in respect to our specific variable x_i , while treating all other input variables x_1, \dots, x_n like a constant, like you would treat the number 5.

Example: Find the partial derivative in respect to x for $f(x, z) = 5x^2z^3 + 2x + 3z + 5$

1. Use sum rule to split up derivative: $\frac{\partial f(x, z)}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[5x^2z^3] + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[2x] + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[3z] + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[5]$.
2. Take out constants from first term (remember z is constant here) $\frac{\partial f(x, z)}{\partial x} = 5z^3 \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[x^2] + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[2x] + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[3z] + \frac{\partial}{\partial x}[5]$.
3. Find derivatives, remember z is constant here: $\frac{\partial f(x, z)}{\partial x} = 10z^3x + 2 + 0 + 0$.
4. Thus, $\frac{\partial f(x, z)}{\partial x} = 10z^3x + 2$.

2.5 Application: Multiple Regression

Partial derivatives are very useful in economic modelling and econometrics/statistics. We will introduce an application of partial derivatives with linear regression model.

The multiple linear regression model takes the following form (do not worry too much about this, this will be covered in the Econometrics sequence):

$$\hat{Y} = \hat{\alpha} + \hat{\beta}_1 X_1 + \hat{\beta}_2 X_2 + \dots + \hat{\beta}_k X_k$$

You probably have heard that multiple linear regression is powerful because it allows us to see the independent effects of explanatory variables on output variables (if you have not, do not worry).

Let us say we are interested in only the effect of X_1 on Y . We can take the partial derivative in respect to X_1 as follows:

$$\frac{\partial \hat{Y}}{\partial X_1} = \frac{\partial \hat{Y}}{\partial X_1}[\hat{\alpha}] + \frac{\partial \hat{Y}}{\partial X_1}[\hat{\beta}_1 X_1] + \frac{\partial \hat{Y}}{\partial X_1}[\hat{\beta}_2 X_2] + \dots + \frac{\partial \hat{Y}}{\partial X_1}[\hat{\beta}_k X_k]$$

$$\frac{\partial \hat{y}}{\partial X_1} = 0 + \hat{\beta}_1 + 0 + \dots + 0 \implies \frac{\partial \hat{y}}{\partial X_1} = \hat{\beta}_1$$

So we can see, the effect of X_1 on \hat{Y} is $\hat{\beta}_1$, and this is not affected by any other explanatory variables X_2, \dots, X_n . This shows how multiple linear regression allows us to “hold other variables constant” and isolate the effect of one variable.

Chapter 3

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