

Differentiability (Part 3)

Theorem: (Taylor Theorem)

Let $f: (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be n -times differentiable on (a, b) , then for any $x, c \in (a, b)$, there exists $x_0 \in (a, b)$ such that

$$f(x) = f(c) + f'(c)(x - c) + \frac{f''(c)}{2!}(x - c)^2 + \cdots + \frac{f^{(n-1)}(c)}{(n-1)!}(x - c)^{n-1} + \frac{f^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!}(x - c)^n$$

Using Taylor Theorem, one can express some differentiable functions into series.

Some Examples are shown (The derivation is left as exercise)

Example 1

$$(1) \frac{1}{1+x} = 1 - x + x^2 - x^3 + \cdots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k x^k \text{ for } |x| < 1$$

$$(2) e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \cdots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!}$$

$$(3) \sin x = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \cdots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k x^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!}$$

$$(4) \cos x = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \cdots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k x^{2k}}{(2k)!}$$

$$(5) \ln(1+x) = x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \cdots = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k+1} x^k}{k} \text{ for } -1 < x \leq 1$$

$$(6) \tan^{-1} x = x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{5} - \frac{x^7}{7} + \cdots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k x^{2k+1}}{2k+1} \text{ for } -1 < x \leq 1$$

Solution:

(1) Let $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x}$, by computing a first few derivatives, we get

$$f'(x) = -\frac{1}{(1+x)^2}, f''(x) = \frac{2}{(1+x)^3}, f^{(3)}(x) = -\frac{3!}{(1+x)^4} \dots f^{(n)}(x) = \frac{(-1)^n n!}{(1+x)^{n+1}}$$

Therefore by Taylor Theorem (at $c = 0$), we have

$$f(x) = f(0) + f'(0)x + \frac{f''(0)}{2!}x^2 + \cdots + \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{(n)!}x^n + \cdots$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{1}{1+x} = 1 - x + x^2 - x^3 + \cdots = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k x^k$$

(2)-(6) are left as exercises

Example 2

Let $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be $(n+1)$ -times differentiable on I (where I is any interval). If $f^{(n+1)}(x) = 0$ for all $x \in I$, then on the interval I , f is a polynomial with degree at most n

Solution:

Applying Taylor Theorem up to x^{n+1} terms (around any $c \in I$, we get

$$f(x) = f(c) + f'(c)(x - c) + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(c)(x - c)^n}{n!} + \frac{f^{(n+1)}(x_0)(x - c)^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}$$

Since $f^{(n+1)}(x_0) = 0$, then

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

which is a polynomial with degree at most n .

Example 3 (Modified From Rudin P.116 #17)

Suppose $f(x)$ is real, three times differentiable function on $[-1,1]$, such that

$$f(-1) = 0, \quad f(1) = 1, \quad f'(0) = 0$$

Prove that $f^{(3)}(c) \geq 3$ for some $x \in (-1,1)$

(Hint: Apply Taylor Theorem about $x = 0$)

Solution:

Applying Taylor Theorem on $f(x)$ around $x = 0$ (up to x^3 terms)

$$f(x) = f(0) + f'(0)x + \frac{f''(0)}{2!}x^2 + \frac{f^{(3)}(s)}{3!}x^3 \text{ for some } s \in (-1,1) \text{ (depend on } x)$$

Putting $x = -1$ and $x = 1$, we get

$$f(1) = f(0) + f'(0)(1) + \frac{f''(0)}{2!}1^2 + \frac{f^{(3)}(t_1)}{3!}1^3$$

$$\rightarrow 1 = f(0) + \frac{f''(0)}{2!}1^2 + \frac{f^{(3)}(t_1)}{3!}1^3 \dots \dots \dots (*)$$

$$f(-1) = f(0) - f'(0)(1) + \frac{f''(0)}{2!}1^2 - \frac{f^{(3)}(t_2)}{3!}1^3$$

$$\rightarrow 0 = f(0) + \frac{f''(0)}{2!}1^2 - \frac{f^{(3)}(t_2)}{3!}1^3 \dots \dots \dots (**)$$

Subtract (*) from (**), we get

$$1 = \frac{f^{(3)}(t_1)}{3!} + \frac{f^{(3)}(t_2)}{3!} \rightarrow f^{(3)}(t_1) + f^{(3)}(t_2) = 6$$

Then one of $f^{(3)}(t_1)$ and $f^{(3)}(t_2)$ must be ≥ 3

Hence $f^{(3)}(c) \geq 3$ (where $c = t_1$ or t_2 and $c \in (-1,1)$)

(Remark: There is a general form of this statement, see Exercise for detail)

In differentiation, when we differentiate an expression which is a product of

functions. (Namely: $\frac{d}{dx} f(x)g(x)$), we apply product rule and get $\frac{d}{dx} f(x)g(x) =$

$f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x)$. Next, when we compute $\frac{d^2}{dx^2} f(x)g(x)$, we apply product rule

again to get $\frac{d^2}{dx^2} f(x)g(x) = f(x)g(x) + 2f'(x)g'(x) + g''(x)$. However, when we compute higher derivative, then the computation can be tedious. In fact, there is a general formula of $\frac{d^n}{dx^n} f(x)g(x)$ which is so called Leibniz Rule. Next Example, we will show you one derivation of this formula

Example 4 (Leibniz Rule)

Let f and g be infinitely differentiable on (a, b) . Then the product of fg is also differentiable on (a, b) and

$$(fg)^{(n)}(x_0) = \sum_{k=0}^n C_k^n f^{(k)}(x_0) g^{(n-k)}(x_0)$$

(Remark: The formula looks like a binomial expression.

Solution:

There are two ways to prove this theorem, one is by induction (in exercise), another one is by Taylor Theorem

First, apply Taylor Theorem on $f(x)g(x)$ at point $x = x_0$, we get

$$f(x)g(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(fg)^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!} (x - x_0)^n \dots (*)$$

next, we obtain another expression for $f(x)g(x)$, applying Taylor theorem, we get

$$f(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!} (x - x_0)^n \quad \text{and} \quad g(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{g^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!} (x - x_0)^n$$

Then, multiply them, we get

$$f(x)g(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left[\left(\frac{f^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!} \right) \left(\frac{g(x_0)}{0!} \right) + \left(\frac{f^{(n-1)}(x_0)}{(n-1)!} \right) \left(\frac{g'(x_0)}{1!} \right) + \dots + \left(\frac{f(x_0)}{0!} \right) \left(\frac{g^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!} \right) \right] (x - x_0)^n$$

$$\rightarrow f(x)g(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^n \left[\left(\frac{f^{(n-k)}(x_0)}{(n-k)!} \right) \left(\frac{g^{(k)}(x_0)}{k!} \right) \right] (x - x_0)^n \dots (**)$$

Compute the coefficient of $(x - x_0)^n$

$$\frac{(fg)^{(n)}(x_0)}{n!} = \sum_{k=0}^n \left[\left(\frac{f^{(n-k)}(x_0)}{(n-k)!} \right) \left(\frac{g^{(k)}(x_0)}{k!} \right) \right]$$

$$(fg)^{(n)}(x_0) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{n!}{(n-k)! k!} f^{(n-k)}(x_0) g^{(k)}(x_0) = \sum_{k=0}^n C_k^n f^{(n-k)}(x_0) g^{(k)}(x_0)$$

Try to work on the following exercises to understand the material, you are welcome to give your solution to me for comments.

(Exercise 1 and 2 have appeared in Tutorial Note #17)

☺Exercise 1

Derive the formula (2) – (6) in Example 4

(Hint: For (5), note that $\frac{d}{dx} \ln(1+x) = \frac{1}{1+x}$, expand the R.H.S.

For (6), the method is similar to (5))

☺Exercise 2

Let $f: I \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ and assume that $f^{(n)}(x) = 0$ for all $x \in I$ and $f^{(k)}(x_0) = 0$ for $0 \leq k \leq n-1$ and some $x_0 \in I$. Show that f is a constant function.

(Hint: Apply Taylor Theorem around $c = x_0$)

☺Exercise 3

Suppose $f(x)$ is real, $(2n+1)$ times differentiable function on $[-1,1]$, such that $f(-1) = 0$, $f(1) = 1$, $f^{(k)}(0) = 0$ for $k = 1, 3, 5, \dots, (2n-1)$

Prove that $f^{(2n+1)}(c) \geq \frac{(2n+1)!}{2}$ for some $x \in (-1,1)$

☺Exercise 4

Let f be an odd function, that is $f(x) = -f(-x)$ for all x , and suppose f can be expanded in an infinite Taylor series at $c = 0$. Show that the terms of this series are all have odd degree (i.e. $f(x) = a_1x + a_3x^3 + \dots$). State and prove a similar result for even function.

(It gives a intuitive reasons why they are called odd (or even) function)

(*Note: Exercise 5 and 6 are more difficult problems)

☺Exercise 5 (2007 Spring Final)

Let $f: \mathbf{R} \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ be a three-times differentiable function. If $f(x)$ and $f'''(x)$ are bounded functions on \mathbf{R} , show that $f'(x)$ and $f''(x)$ are also bounded functions on \mathbf{R} .

☺Exercise 6 (Cauchy's Generalized Mean Value Theorem)

If $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ has n times differentiable and $f^{(n-1)}(x), g^{(n-1)}(x)$ are both continuous in $[a, b]$. Then there exists a number $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$\frac{f(b) - f(a) - \frac{b-a}{1!}f'(a) - \dots - \frac{(b-a)^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}f^{(n-1)}(a)}{g(b) - g(a) - \frac{b-a}{1!}g'(a) - \dots - \frac{(b-a)^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}g^{(n-1)}(a)} = \frac{(b-a)^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} \left(\frac{f^{(n)}(c)}{g^{(n)}(c)} \right)$$