

Derivatives

$$f'(z) = \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(z + \Delta z) - f(z)}{\Delta z} \quad \left. \vphantom{\lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Provided that the} \\ \text{limit exists.} \end{array}$$

Example $f(z) = z^v$. Is f differentiable at $z=0$?

Solⁿ:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(0 + \Delta z) - f(0)}{\Delta z} &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\Delta z)^v - 0}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \Delta z \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

⊗ Using definition show that $f(z) = \bar{z}$ is not differentiable at $z=0$.

Solⁿ:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(0 + \Delta z) - f(0)}{\Delta z} &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{\overline{\Delta z} - \bar{0}}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{\overline{\Delta z}}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\substack{\Delta x \rightarrow 0 \\ \Delta y \rightarrow 0}} \frac{\Delta x + i\Delta y}{\Delta x - i\Delta y} \end{aligned}$$

Approaching along real line, $\Delta y = 0$ and $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$,

$$= \lim_{\substack{\Delta x \rightarrow 0 \\ \Delta y \rightarrow 0}} \frac{\Delta x + i \cdot 0}{\Delta x - i \cdot 0} \\ = 1$$

Approaching along imaginary line, $\Delta x = 0$ and $\Delta y \rightarrow 0$

$$= \lim_{\substack{\Delta x \rightarrow 0 \\ \Delta y \rightarrow 0}} \frac{0 + i \cdot \Delta y}{0 - i \cdot \Delta y} \\ = -1$$

Ex Using the definitions, find the derivative of the function $f(z) = \frac{2z-3i}{3z-2i}$ at $z = -i$

Solⁿ:

$$f'(z_0) = \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} [f(z_0 + \Delta z) - f(z_0)]$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(-i) = \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} [f(-i + \Delta z) - f(-i)]$$

$$= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} \left[\frac{2(-i + \Delta z) - 3i}{3(-i + \Delta z) - 2i} - \frac{-2i - 3i}{-3i - 2i} \right]$$

$$= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} \left[\frac{-5i + 2\Delta z}{-5i + 3\Delta z} - 1 \right]$$

$$= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} \left[\frac{-5i + 2\Delta z + 5i - 3\Delta z}{-5i + 3\Delta z} \right]$$

$$= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta z} \left[\frac{-\Delta z}{-5i + 3\Delta z} \right]$$

$$= - \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{-5i + 3\Delta z} = \frac{1}{5i} = -\frac{i}{5}$$

⊗ Using the limit definition of derivative, find

the derivative of $f(z) = z^v$.

Soln:

$$f(z) = z^v$$

let, $z = z_0$ be any arbitrary point.

Now,

$$f'(z_0) = \lim_{\substack{z \rightarrow z_0 \\ (\text{or } \Delta z \rightarrow 0)}} \frac{f(z_0 + \Delta z) - f(z_0)}{\Delta z}$$

$$= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{(z_0 + \Delta z)^v - z_0^v}{\Delta z} = \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{z_0^v + 2z_0^v \Delta z + \Delta z^v - z_0^v}{\Delta z}$$

$$= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} (2z_0^v + \Delta z^{v-1}) = 2z_0^v$$

As, z_0 is any arbitrary complex number, so $f'(z) = 2z$ where $z \in \mathbb{C}$.

Ex. Let, $f(z) = |z|^2$ or $f(z) = z \cdot \bar{z}$. Show that the derivative of $f(z)$ exists only at $z = 0$.

Solⁿ: We know,

$$\begin{aligned} f'(z_0) &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(z_0 + \Delta z) - f(z_0)}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{(z_0 + \Delta z)(\overline{z_0 + \Delta z}) - z_0 \bar{z}_0}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{(z_0 + \Delta z)(\bar{z}_0 + \overline{\Delta z}) - z_0 \bar{z}_0}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{z_0 \bar{z}_0 + z_0 \overline{\Delta z} + \Delta z \bar{z}_0 + \Delta z \overline{\Delta z} - z_0 \bar{z}_0}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \frac{z_0 \overline{\Delta z} + \Delta z \bar{z}_0 + \Delta z \overline{\Delta z}}{\Delta z} \\ &= \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \left(\bar{z}_0 + z_0 \frac{\overline{\Delta z}}{\Delta z} + \overline{\Delta z} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Now, Approaching along real line, $\Delta y = 0$, $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \left(\bar{z}_0 + z_0 \frac{\overline{\Delta z}}{\Delta z} + \overline{\Delta z} \right) &= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} (x - iy + x + iy + \Delta x) \\ &= x - iy + x + iy = \bar{z}_0 + z_0 \end{aligned}$$

we used,

$$z_0 = x + iy$$

$$\bar{z}_0 = x - iy$$

$$\Delta z = \Delta x + i \Delta y$$

$$\bar{\Delta z} = \Delta x - i \Delta y$$

$$\frac{\bar{\Delta z}}{\Delta z} = \frac{\Delta x - i \Delta y}{\Delta x + i \Delta y}$$

Again, approaching from imaginary line, $\Delta x = 0$, $\Delta y \rightarrow 0$

$$\lim_{\Delta z \rightarrow 0} \left(\bar{z}_0 + z_0 \frac{\bar{\Delta z}}{\Delta z} + \bar{\Delta z} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \lim_{\Delta y \rightarrow 0} (x - iy + (x + iy)(-1) - i \Delta y)$$

$$= \bar{z}_0 - z_0$$

If the limit exists, then both quantities must be equal.

$$\text{So, } \bar{z}_0 + z_0 = \bar{z}_0 - z_0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2z_0 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow z_0 = 0$$

Thus, derivative of $f(z) = |z|^n$ exists at $z_0 = 0$ only.