

# AP Calculus AB

## 1. Limits and Continuity

- **Limit Definition:**  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$
- **Limit Laws:**
  - Sum/Difference:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) \pm g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \pm \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$
  - Product:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) \cdot g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$
  - Quotient:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)}$  (if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) \neq 0$ )
- **Squeeze Theorem:** If  $f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x)$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} h(x) = L$ , then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = L$ .
- **Continuity:** A function  $f(x)$  is continuous at  $x = a$  if:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$

## 2. Derivatives

- **Definition of Derivative:**  $f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$
- **Basic Derivative Rules:**
  - Power Rule:  $\frac{d}{dx} [x^n] = nx^{n-1}$
  - Constant Rule:  $\frac{d}{dx} [c] = 0$
  - Sum/Difference:  $\frac{d}{dx} [f(x) \pm g(x)] = f'(x) \pm g'(x)$
  - Product Rule:  $\frac{d}{dx} [f(x) \cdot g(x)] = f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x)$
  - Quotient Rule:  $\frac{d}{dx} \left[ \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right] = \frac{f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{[g(x)]^2}$
  - Chain Rule:  $\frac{d}{dx} [f(g(x))] = f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$
- **Derivatives of Trigonometric Functions:**
  - $\frac{d}{dx} [\sin x] = \cos x$
  - $\frac{d}{dx} [\cos x] = -\sin x$
  - $\frac{d}{dx} [\tan x] = \sec^2 x$
- **Derivatives of Exponential and Logarithmic Functions:**
  - $\frac{d}{dx} [e^x] = e^x$
  - $\frac{d}{dx} [\ln x] = \frac{1}{x}$
- **Implicit Differentiation:** Differentiate both sides of an equation with respect to  $x$  and solve for  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .

## 3. Applications of Derivatives

- **Tangent Line Equation:**  $y = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$
- **Mean Value Theorem:** If  $f(x)$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$  and differentiable on  $(a, b)$ , then there exists  $c \in (a, b)$  such that:  $f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$
- **Increasing/Decreasing Functions:**
  - If  $f'(x) > 0$ ,  $f(x)$  is increasing.
  - If  $f'(x) < 0$ ,  $f(x)$  is decreasing.
- **Concavity:**
  - If  $f''(x) > 0$ ,  $f(x)$  is concave up.

- If  $f''(x) < 0$ ,  $f(x)$  is concave down.
- **Optimization:** Find critical points ( $f'(x) = 0$  or undefined) and use the First or Second Derivative Test to determine maxima/minima.

## 4. Integrals

- **Antiderivatives:**  $\int f(x) dx = F(x) + C$  where  $F'(x) = f(x)$
- **Basic Integration Rules:**
  - Power Rule:  $\int x^n dx = \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} + C$  (for  $n \neq -1$ )
  - $\int e^x dx = e^x + C$
  - $\int \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln|x| + C$
- **Definite Integral:**  $\int_a^b f(x) dx = F(b) - F(a)$
- **Fundamental Theorem of Calculus:**  $\frac{d}{dx} \left[ \int_a^x f(t) dt \right] = f(x)$
- **Substitution Rule:**  $\int f(g(x))g'(x) dx = \int f(u) du$  where  $u = g(x)$

## 5. Applications of Integrals

- **Area Under a Curve:**  $\text{Area} = \int_a^b f(x) dx$
- **Area Between Two Curves:**  $\text{Area} = \int_a^b [f(x) - g(x)] dx$  where  $f(x) \geq g(x)$
- **Volume of Revolution:**
  - Disk Method:  $V = \pi \int_a^b [f(x)]^2 dx$
  - Washer Method:  $V = \pi \int_a^b ([f(x)]^2 - [g(x)]^2) dx$
- **Average Value of a Function:**  $\text{Average Value} = \frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(x) dx$

## 6. Differential Equations

- **Separation of Variables:**  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x)g(y) \implies \int \frac{1}{g(y)} dy = \int f(x) dx$
- **Exponential Growth/Decay:**  $\frac{dy}{dt} = ky \implies y = y_0 e^{kt}$

## 7. Miscellaneous

- **L'Hôpital's Rule:**  
If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  is  $\frac{0}{0}$  or  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ , then:  
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$$
- **Intermediate Value Theorem:** If  $f(x)$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$  and  $k$  is between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$ , then there exists  $c \in (a, b)$  such that  $f(c) = k$ .