

# Derivative

## 1. Differentiable Functions

**Definition 1.1** A function  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined on a set  $E$  is differentiable at a point  $a \in E$  that is a limit point of  $E$ , if there exists a linear function  $A(x - a)$  of the increment  $x - a$  of the argument such that  $f(x) - f(a)$  can be represented as

$$f(x) - f(a) = A(x - a) + o(x - a) \quad x \rightarrow a, a \in E \quad (1)$$

In other words, a function is differentiable at a point  $a$  if the change in its values in a neighborhood of the point in question is linear up to a correction that is infinitesimal compared with the magnitude of the displacement  $x - a$  for the point  $a$ .

**Definition 1.2** The linear function  $A(x - a)$  in [eq:1](#) is called the differential of the function  $f$  at  $a$ . The number  $A$  is unambiguously determined due to the uniqueness of the limit.

**Definition 1.3** The number  $f'(a) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$  is called the derivative of the function  $f$  at  $a$ . Relation [eq:2](#) can be rewritten in the equivalent form  $\frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} = f'(a) + \alpha(x)$  where  $\alpha(x) \rightarrow 0$  as  $x \rightarrow a, x \in E$ , which is equivalent to  $f(x) - f(a) = f'(a)(x - a) + o(x - a)$  as  $x \rightarrow a, x \in E$ .

Graphically, this definition says that the derivative of  $f$  at  $a$  is the slope of the tangent line to  $y = f(x)$  at  $a$ , which is the limit as  $x \rightarrow a$  of the slopes of the lines through  $(x, f(x))$  and  $(a, f(a))$ .

We can also write  $f'(a) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a + \Delta x) - f(a)}{\Delta x}$

**Definition 1.4** A function  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined on a set  $E \subset \mathbb{R}$  is differentiable at a point  $x \in E$  that is a limit point of  $E$ , if  $f(x + h) - f(x) = A(h) + \alpha(x; h)$  where  $A(h)$  is a linear function in  $h$  and  $\alpha(x; h) = o(h)$  as  $h \rightarrow 0, x + h \in E$ .

**Definition 1.5** The function  $A(h)$  of Definition [eq:3](#), which is linear in  $h$ , is called the differential of the function  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  at the point  $x \in E$  and is denoted as  $df(x)$  or  $Df(x)$ . Thus,  $df(x) = A(h)$ .

From definitions [eq:2](#) and [eq:3](#) we have  $\Delta f(x; h) - df(x)(h) = \alpha(x; h)$

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### The Tangent line, Geometric Meaning of the Derivative and Differential

If we were seeking a polynomial  $P_n(x) = c_0 + c_1(x - x_0) + \dots + c_n(x - x_0)^n + o((x - x_0)^n)$  such that  $f(x) = c_0 + c_1(x - x_0) + \dots + c_n(x - x_0)^n + o((x - x_0)^n)$  as  $x \rightarrow x_0, x \in E$  We could find successively,  $c_0 = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x)$ ,  $c_1 = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x) - c_0}{x - x_0}$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $c_n = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x) - [c_0 + c_1(x - x_0) + \dots + c_{n-1}(x - x_0)^{n-1}]}{(x - x_0)^n}$

**Proposition 1** A function  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  that is continuous at a point  $x_0 \in E$  that is a limit of  $E \subset \mathbb{R}$  admits a linear approximation  $f(x) = c_0 + c_1(x - x_0) + o(x - x_0)$  if and only if it is differentiable at the point.

**Definition** If a function  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined on a set  $E \subset \mathbb{R}$  and differentiable at a point  $x \in E$ , the line defined by  $y - f(x_0) = f'(x_0)(x - x_0)$  is called the tangent to the graph of this function at the point  $(x_0, f(x_0))$ .

### Some Examples

**Example 1** Let  $f(x) = \sin x$ . We shall show that  $f'(x) = \cos x$ .

**Example 2** We shall show that  $(\cos)'(x) = -\sin x$ .

**Example 3** If  $f(t) = \sin \omega t$ , then  $f'(t) = \omega \cos \omega t$ . If  $f(t) = \cos \omega t$ , then  $f'(t) = -\omega \sin \omega t$ .

**Example 4** The instantaneous velocity and instantaneous acceleration of a point mass. Suppose a point mass is moving in a plane and that in some given coordinate system its motion is described by differentiable function of time  $x = x(t), y = y(t)$ . In particular, this motion is written as in the form  $r(t) = (\cos(\omega t + \alpha), \sin(\omega t + \alpha))$ . **Example 5** The optic property of a parabolic mirror. Let us consider the parabola  $y = \frac{1}{2p}x^2 (p > 0)$ , and construct the tangent to it at the point  $(x_0, y_0) = (x_0, \frac{1}{2p}x_0^2)$ .

**Example 6**  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x}, & x \neq 0 \\ 0, & x = 0 \end{cases}$

**Example 7** We shall show that  $e^{x+h} - e^x = e^x h + o(h)$  as  $h \rightarrow 0$ . **Example 8** If  $a > 0$ , then  $a^{x+h} - a^x = a^x h \ln a + o(h)$  as  $h \rightarrow 0$ .

Homework

- 1. 設  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2, & x \geq 3 \\ ax+b, & x < 3 \end{cases}$  試確定  $a, b$  的值，使  $f$  在  $x=3$  處可導。
- 2. 求下列曲線在指定點處的切線，法線方程。 (1)  $y = \frac{x^2}{4}$ ,  $P(2,1)$  (2)  $y = \cos x$ ,  $P(0,1)$
- 3. 求下列函數的導數： (1)  $f(x) = |x|^3$ , (2)  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x+1, & x \geq 0 \\ 1, & x < 0 \end{cases}$
- 4. 設函數  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^\alpha \sin \frac{1}{x}, & x \neq 0 \\ 0, & x = 0 \end{cases}$  試問： (1)  $\alpha$  為何值時，函數在  $x=0$  點連續； (2)  $\alpha$  為何值時，函數在  $x=0$  點可導。

2. The Basic Rules of Differentiation

Differentiation and the Arithmetic Operations

**Theorem 1** If function  $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $g: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are differentiable at a point  $x \in X$ , then (1) their sum is differentiable at  $x$ , and  $(f+g)'(x) = f'(x) + g'(x)$  (2) their product is differentiable at  $x$ , and  $(f \cdot g)'(x) = f'(x) \cdot g(x) + f(x) \cdot g'(x)$  (3) their quotient is differentiable at  $x$  if  $g(x) \neq 0$ , and  $(\frac{f}{g})'(x) = \frac{f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{g^2(x)}$

**Corollary 1.1** The derivative of a linear combination of differentiable functions equals the same linear combination of the derivatives of these functions.

**Corollary 1.2** If the functions  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  are differentiable at  $x$ , then  $(f_1 f_2 \dots f_n)'(x) = f_1 f_2 \dots f_n + f_1 f_2' \dots f_n + \dots + f_1 f_2 \dots f_n'$

**Corollary 1.3** It follows from the relation between the derivative and the differential that we have:  $d(f+g)(x) = df(x) + dg(x)$   $d(f \cdot g)(x) = g(x)df(x) + f(x)dg(x)$   $d(\frac{f}{g})(x) = \frac{g(x)df(x) - f(x)dg(x)}{g^2(x)}$

**Example 1** Find the derivative of  $\tan x$  and  $\cot x$ .

Differentiation of a Composite Function (chain rule)

**Theorem 2** If the function:  $f: X \rightarrow Y \subset \mathbb{R}$  is differentiable at a point  $x \in X$  and the function  $g: Y \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is differentiable at the point  $y = f(x) \in Y$ , then the composite function  $g \circ f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is differentiable at  $x$ , and the differential  $(g \circ f)'(x): T_x \mathbb{R} \rightarrow T_x \mathbb{R}$  of their composition equals the composition  $g'(y) \circ f'(x)$  of their differentials.

**Corollary 2.1** The derivative  $(g \circ f)'(x)$  of the composition of differentiable real-valued functions equals the product  $g'(f(x)) \cdot f'(x)$  of the derivatives of these functions computed at the corresponding points. 
$$\frac{\Delta z}{\Delta x} = \frac{\Delta z}{\Delta y} \cdot \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$$

**Example 2** Let us show that for  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$  we have  $\frac{d}{dx} x^\alpha = \alpha x^{\alpha-1}$  in the domain  $x > 0$ , that is,  $\frac{d}{dx} x^\alpha = \alpha x^{\alpha-1}$

**Example 3** The derivative of the logarithm of the absolute value of a differentiable function is often called its logarithmic derivative. 
$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln |f(x)| = \frac{f'(x)}{f(x)}$$
 
$$\frac{d}{dx} \ln |f(x)h| = \frac{f'(x)}{f(x)} + \frac{h'(x)}{h(x)}$$

**Example 4** The absolute and relative errors in the value of a differentiable function caused by errors in the data for the argument. 
$$f(x+h) - f(x) = f'(x)h + o(h)$$
 
$$\frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{f(x)} = \frac{f'(x)h}{f(x)} + o(1)$$

**Example 5** Find the derivative of the following function:

- 1.  $y = \sin x^2$
- 2.  $y = \sqrt{x^2 + 1}$
- 3.  $y = \ln(x + \sqrt{x^2 + 1})$
- 4.  $y = \tan^2 \frac{1}{x}$
- 5.  $y = u(x)^{v(x)}$

Differentiation of an Inverse Function

**Theorem 3** Let the function  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  and  $f^{-1}: Y \rightarrow X$  be mutually inverse and continuous at points  $x_0$  and  $f(x_0) = y_0 \in Y$  respectively. If  $f$  is differentiable at  $x_0$  and  $f'(x_0) \neq 0$ , then  $f^{-1}$  is also differentiable at the point  $y_0$ , and  $(f^{-1})'(y_0) = \frac{1}{f'(x_0)}$

Remark









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

where  $\xi$  is a point between  $x_0$  and  $x$ .

If  $f$  has derivatives of orders up to  $n$  inclusive at the point  $x_0$ , then

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

In particular, we can now write the following table of asymptotic formulas as  $x \rightarrow 0$

$$\begin{aligned} e^x &= 1 + \frac{1}{1!}x + \frac{1}{2!}x^2 + \cdots + \frac{1}{n!}x^n + O(x^{n+1}) \\ \cos x &= 1 - \frac{1}{2!}x^2 + \frac{1}{4!}x^4 + \cdots + \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n)!}x^{2n} + O(x^{2n+2}) \\ \sinh x &= x + \frac{1}{3!}x^3 + \frac{1}{5!}x^5 + \cdots + \frac{1}{(2n+1)!}x^{2n+1} + O(x^{2n+3}) \\ \ln(1+x) &= x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x^3 + \cdots + \frac{(-1)^n}{n}x^n + O(x^{n+1}) \end{aligned}$$

**Example** Show that  $\tan x = x + \frac{1}{3}x^3 + \circ(x^3)$  as  $x \rightarrow 0$

**Example** Show that  $\displaystyle \ln \cos x = -\frac{1}{2}x^2 - \frac{1}{12}x^4 - \frac{1}{45}x^6 + \circ(x^8)$  as  $x \rightarrow 0$

**Example** Let us find the values of the first six derivatives of the function  $\ln \cos x$  at  $x = 0$ .

**Example** Let  $f(x)$  be an infinitely differentiable function at the point  $x_0$ , and suppose we know the expansion

$$f'(x) = c'_0 + c'_1x + \cdots + c'_nx^n + O(x^{n+1})$$

of its derivatives in a neighborhood of zero. Then, from the uniqueness of the Taylor expansion we have

$$\left(f'(x)\right)^{(k)}(0) = k!c'_k,$$

and so  $\displaystyle f^{(k+1)}(0) = k!c'_k$ . Thus for the function  $f(x)$  itself we have the expansion

$$f(x) = f(0) + \frac{c'_0}{1!}x + \frac{1!c'_1}{2!}x^2 + \cdots + \frac{n!c'_n}{(n+1)!}x^{n+1} + O(x^{n+2}).$$

or, after simplification,

$$f(x) = f(0) + \frac{c'_0}{1}x + \frac{c'_1}{2}x^2 + \cdots + \frac{c'_n}{(n+1)}x^{n+1} + O(x^{n+2}).$$

**Example** Let us find the Taylor expansion of the function  $f(x) = \tan^{-1} x$  at  $0$ .

**Example** Let us find the Taylor expansion of the function  $f(x) = \sin^{-1} x$  at  $0$ .

**Example** Find the limit  $\displaystyle \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan^{-1}x - \sin x}{\tan x - \sin^{-1}x}$ . **Example** Let  $f$  be a function that is differentiable  $n$  times on an interval  $I$ . Prove the following statements. (1). If  $f$  vanishes at  $n+1$  points of  $I$ , there exists a point  $\xi \in I$  such that  $f^{(n)}(\xi) = 0$ . (2). If  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  are points of the interval  $I$ , there exist a unique polynomial  $L(x)$  (the Lagrange interpolation polynomial) of degree at most  $n-1$  such that  $f(x_i) = L(x_i)$ ,  $i=1,2,\dots,n$ . In addition, for  $x \in I$  there exist a point  $\xi \in I$  such that

$$f(x) - L(x) = \frac{(x - x_1)(x - x_2) \cdots (x - x_n)}{n!} f^{(n)}(\xi).$$

(3). If  $x_1 < x_2 < \dots < x_p$  are points of  $I$  and  $n_i, 1 \leq i \leq p$ , are natural numbers such that  $n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_p = n$  and  $f^{(k)}(x_i) = 0, 0 \leq k \leq n_i - 1$ , then there exists a point  $\xi$  in the closed interval  $[x_1, x_p]$  at which  $f^{(n)}(\xi) = 0$ . (4). There exists a unique polynomial  $H(x)$  (the Hermite interpolating polynomial) of degree  $n-1$  such that  $f^{(k)}(x_i) = H^{(k)}(x_i), 0 \leq k \leq n_i - 1$ . Moreover, inside the smallest interval containing the points  $x$  and  $x_i, i=1,2,\dots,p$ , there is a point  $\xi$  such that

$$f(x) = H(x) + \frac{(x - x_1)^{n_1} \cdots (x - x_p)^{n_p}}{n!} f^{(n)}(\xi).$$

This formula is called the Hermite interpolation formula. The points  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p$ , are called the interpolation nodes of multiplicity  $n_i$  respectively. Special cases of the Hermite interpolation formula are the Lagrange interpolation formula.

## 4. The Study of Functions Using the Methods of Differential Calculus

## Conditions for a Function to be Monotonic

**Proposition** The following relations hold between the monotonicity properties of a function  $f: E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  that is differentiable on an open interval  $[a, b] = E$  and the sign (positivity) of its derivative  $f'$  on that interval:  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} f'(x) > 0 \Rightarrow f \text{ is increasing} \\ f'(x) \geq 0 \Rightarrow f \text{ is non-decreasing} \\ f'(x) \leq 0 \Rightarrow f \text{ is non-increasing} \\ f'(x) < 0 \Rightarrow f \text{ is decreasing} \end{array} \right]$

**Example** Let  $f(x) = x^3 - 3x + 2$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Then  $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 3 = 3(x^2 - 1)$ , and we can say that the function is increasing on the open interval  $]-\infty, -1[$ , decreasing on  $]1, \infty[$ , and increasing again on  $]1, \infty[$ .

**Conditions for an Interior Extremum of a Function** In order for a point  $x_0$  to be an extremum of a function  $f: U(x_0) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined on a neighborhood  $U(x_0)$  of that point, a necessary condition is that one of the following two conditions hold: either the function is not differentiable at  $x_0$  or  $f'(x_0) = 0$ .

Simple examples show that these necessary conditions are not sufficient. **Example** Let  $f(x) = x^3$  on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Then  $f'(0) = 0$ , but there is no extremum at  $x_0 = 0$ .

**Example** Let  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{for } x > 0 \\ 2x & \text{for } x < 0 \end{cases}$

**(Sufficient conditions for an extremum in terms of the first derivative)** Let  $f: U(x_0) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function defined on a neighborhood  $U(x_0)$  of the point  $x_0$ , which is continuous at the point itself and differentiable in a deleted neighborhood  $U(x_0) \setminus \{x_0\}$ . Let  $f'(x) > 0$  for  $x < x_0$  and  $f'(x) < 0$  for  $x > x_0$ . Then  $x_0$  is a strict local maximum. Similarly, if  $f'(x) < 0$  for  $x < x_0$  and  $f'(x) > 0$  for  $x > x_0$ , then  $x_0$  is a strict local minimum.

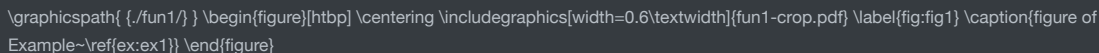
Then the following conclusions are valid:

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\begin{enumerate}[label=(\alph*)]
  \item $\forall x \in \mathring{U}^-(x_0), f'(x) < 0 \wedge \forall x \in \mathring{U}^+(x_0), f'(x) > 0 \Rightarrow f$ has no extremum at $x_0$
  \item $\forall x \in \mathring{U}^-(x_0), f'(x) < 0 \wedge \forall x \in \mathring{U}^+(x_0), f'(x) > 0 \Rightarrow x_0$ is a strict local minimum
  \item $\forall x \in \mathring{U}^-(x_0), f'(x) > 0 \wedge \forall x \in \mathring{U}^+(x_0), f'(x) < 0 \Rightarrow x_0$ is a strict local maximum
  \item $\forall x \in \mathring{U}^-(x_0), f'(x) > 0 \wedge \forall x \in \mathring{U}^+(x_0), f'(x) < 0 \Rightarrow f$ has no extremum at $x_0$
\end{enumerate}
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Briefly, but less precisely, one can say that if the derivative changes sign in passing through the point, then the point is an extremum, while if the derivative does not change sign, the point is not an extremum.

We remark immediately, however, that these sufficient conditions are not necessary for an extremum, as one can verify using the following example:

**Example** Let  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x^2 + x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x} & \text{for } x \neq 0 \\ 0 & \text{for } x = 0 \end{cases}$



Since  $f'(x) = 4x + 2x \sin \frac{1}{x} - \cos \frac{1}{x}$ , it is clear that the function has a strict local minimum at  $x_0 = 0$ .

**(Sufficient conditions for an extremum in terms of higher-order derivatives)** Suppose a function  $f: U(x_0) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined on a neighborhood  $U(x_0)$  of  $x_0$  has derivatives of order up to  $n$  inclusive at  $x_0$ , ( $n \geq 1$ ).

If  $f'(x_0) = f''(x_0) = \dots = f^{(n-1)}(x_0) = 0$  and  $f^{(n)}(x_0) \neq 0$ , then there is no extremum at  $x_0$  if  $n$  is odd. If  $n$  is even, the point  $x_0$  is a local extremum, in fact a strict local minimum if  $f^{(n)}(x_0) > 0$  and a strict local maximum if  $f^{(n)}(x_0) < 0$ .

**Example** The law of refraction in geometric optics (Snell's law). According to Fermat's principle, the actual trajectory of a light ray between two points is such that the ray requires minimum time to pass from one point to the other compared with all paths joining the two points.







