

Derivatives: rules and applications (Stewart Ch. 3/4)

The derivative $f'(x)$ of the function $f(x)$:

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

(for all x for which f is differentiable/ the limit exists)

Property: if f is differentiable at x , then f continuous at x
 (“continuity is a condition for differentiability”)

| | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|-------|--------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| $f(x)$ | x | x^2 | x^3 | $\frac{1}{x} = x^{-1}$ | $\frac{1}{x^2} = x^{-2}$ | $\sqrt{x} = x^{\frac{1}{2}}$ |
| $f'(x)$ | 1 | $2x$ | $3x^2$ | $-x^{-2} = -\frac{1}{x^2}$ | $-2x^{-3} = -\frac{2}{x^3}$ | $\frac{1}{2}x^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$ |

Power rule (derivatives of powers of x , $n \neq 0$):

$$f(x) = x^n \Rightarrow f'(x) = nx^{n-1}$$

Differentiation rules:

| Function | Derivative |
|---------------------|---|
| $f(x) = c$ | $f'(x) = 0$ |
| $cf(x)$ | $\frac{d}{dx}[cf(x)] = c \frac{d}{dx}f(x)$ |
| $f(x) + g(x)$ | $\frac{d}{dx}[f(x) + g(x)] = \frac{d}{dx}f(x) + \frac{d}{dx}g(x)$ |
| $f(x) - g(x)$ | $\frac{d}{dx}[f(x) - g(x)] = \frac{d}{dx}f(x) - \frac{d}{dx}g(x)$ |
| $f(x)g(x)$ | $\frac{d}{dx}[f(x)g(x)] = f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x)$ |
| $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ | $\frac{f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{[g(x)]^2}$ |

Short notations: $(cf)' = cf'$ and $(f \pm g)' = f' \pm g'$

Product rule: $(fg)' = f'g + fg'$

Quotient rule: $\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)' = \frac{f'g - fg'}{g^2}$

Derivatives of common functions:

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| $f(x) = c$ | \Rightarrow | $f'(x) = 0$ |
| $f(x) = x^n$ | \Rightarrow | $f'(x) = nx^{n-1}$ |
| $f(x) = e^x$ | \Rightarrow | $f'(x) = e^x$ |
| $f(x) = \ln(x)$ | \Rightarrow | $f'(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ |
| $f(x) = \sin(x)$ | \Rightarrow | $f'(x) = \cos(x)$ |
| $f(x) = \cos(x)$ | \Rightarrow | $f'(x) = -\sin(x)$ |
| $f(x) = \tan(x)$ | \Rightarrow | $f'(x) = \frac{1}{\cos^2(x)}$ |
| $f(x) = a^x$ | \Rightarrow | $f'(x) = a^x \ln(a)$ |
| $f(x) = \log_a(x)$ | \Rightarrow | $f'(x) = \frac{1}{x \ln(a)}$ |

The Chain Rule for $f \circ g(x) = f(g(x))$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [f(g(x))] = f'(g(x))g'(x)$$

Or, in the Leibnitz notation for $u = g(x)$ and $v = f(u)$:

$$\frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{dv}{du} \frac{du}{dx}$$

Applications of the chain rule:

$$1. \frac{d}{dx} [g(x)]^n = n[g(x)]^{n-1} g'(x)$$

$$2. \frac{d}{dx} a^x = \frac{d}{dx} e^{\ln a^x} = \frac{d}{dx} e^{x \ln a} = e^{x \ln a} \ln a$$

So, if $f(x) = a^x$, then $f'(x) = a^x \ln(a)$

Maxima and minima: extreme values $f(c)$ of f at c :

- $f(c)$ is a **absolute** maximum if $f(x) \leq f(c)$ for all x in D_f
- $f(c)$ is a **absolute** minimum if $f(x) \geq f(c)$ for all x in D_f
- The maximum or minimum is **local** if the above is true for “ x near c ”.

The Extreme Value Theorem:

If $f(x)$ is **continuous at a closed interval** $[a, b]$, then f attains an absolute maximum and absolute minimum at $[a, b]$

Format's Theorem:

If f has a **local maximum or minimum at** c and f is differentiable at c , then $f'(c) = 0$.

Definition: c is called a **critical value** of a function f if $f'(c) = 0$ or $f'(c)$ does not exist.

The closed interval method: finding extreme values of a continuous function on a closed interval $[a, b]$:

1. Compute $f(c)$ for all critical numbers c of f .
2. Compute $f(a)$ and $f(b)$.
3. The largest and the smallest of the function values at 1. and 2. are the absolute maximum and minimum

The Mean Value Theorem:

If

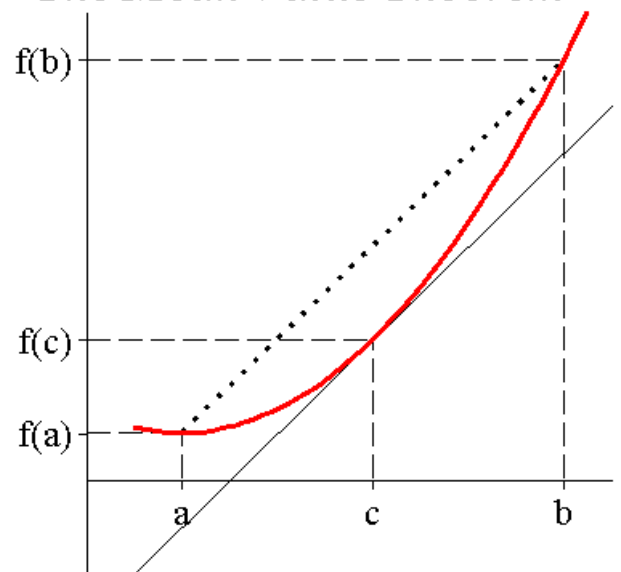
1. f is continuous on $[a, b]$
2. f is differentiable on (a, b)

then:

there is a c in (a, b) such that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$$

The Mean Value Theorem



The increasing/decreasing test:

If for all x in an interval I :

- $f'(x) > 0 \Rightarrow f$ is an **increasing** function on I
- $f'(x) < 0 \Rightarrow f$ is a **decreasing** function on I

The first derivative test:

If, for a critical value c , $f'(c) = 0$ and f' changes from positive to negative at c , then $f(c)$ is a local maximum, and $f(c)$ is a local minimum, if f' changes from positive to negative at c .

The concavity test If for x on an interval I:

- $f''(x) > 0 \Rightarrow f$ is **concave upward** on I
- $f''(x) < 0 \Rightarrow f$ is **concave downward** on I

The second derivative test: for continuous f'' near c

- If $f'(c) = 0$ and $f''(c) < 0 \Rightarrow f$ has a local maximum at c .
- If $f'(c) = 0$ and $f''(c) > 0 \Rightarrow f$ has a local minimum at c .

L' Hopital's Rule

for solving **indeterminate limits** (form $\frac{0}{0}$ or $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$):

If $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are differentiable at a , then:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$$

- This rule is also valid for limits at infinity ($x \rightarrow \pm\infty$)
- Solving limits of form $0 \times \infty$, using L' Hopital's Rule:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) g(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{1/g(x)} \quad (\text{now of form } \frac{0}{0})$$

Curve Sketching

An extensive investigation of the curve of f covers:

1. The **domain** of f , D_f
2. The **x-intercepts**: roots of the equation $f(x) = 0$,
And the **y-intercept** $f(0)$.

3. Is f **even**: $f(-x) = f(x)$
odd: $f(-x) = -f(x)$ or
periodic?

4. Find the equations of the asymptotes:

Vertical asymptotes $x = a$: if $f(a)$ has form $\frac{c \neq 0}{0}$

Horizontal asymptotes $y = L$: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} f(x) = L$

5. Derivative $f'(x)$

- Solve $f'(x) = 0$ and give all critical values.
- Use the sign scheme of $f'(x)$ or the **second** derivative test to find all **local and absolute minima and maxima**

An application of the procedure above is **optimization of a function f** : find all minima and maxima of f on its domain.

Methods of limit solving (a summary):

1. Always try first **substitution: the substitution rule** can be applied to every function that is continuous on its domain.
2. If substitution leads to the form $\frac{c \neq 0}{0}$, we have a vertical asymptote: find the left and the right hand limit, by **reasoning** (∞ or $-\infty$)

If substitution leads to the form $\frac{0}{0}$ or $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ or $0 \times \infty$, try:

3. **Factorizing**, especially for rational functions
4. **The root trick** for function with roots.
5. Limits at infinity of rational functions: **divide by the largest power of x in the denominator**. (for quotients of exponential functions: divide by the highest power of e^x in the denominator).
6. **L'Hopital's Rule**.

For special cases such as functions of $\cos(x)$ and $\sin(x)$:

7. **The Squeeze Theorem**.

The topics above are all part of the final test of Calculus I in June 2009

The following topics are not part of the final test - June 2009:

Inflection points of the function $f(x)$: points c where the graph of f changes from upward to downward concavity, or reverse:

These points can be found by:

1. Solving $f''(x) = 0$
2. Making a sign scheme of $f''(x)$: if sign changes, it is an inflection point.

Implicit differentiation:

If the relation of y and x is given by an equation (not by a function), find the derivative $y' = \frac{dy}{dx}$ by:

- Differentiating the equation with respect to x .
- Solve y' from the resulting equation.

Derivatives of the inverse trigonometric functions:

$$f(x) = \sin^{-1}(x) \Rightarrow f'(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

$$f(x) = \cos^{-1}(x) \Rightarrow f'(x) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

$$f(x) = \tan^{-1}(x) \Rightarrow f'(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$$