

Theorem 19 Let I be an interval and $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous and injective. Then $f^{-1}: f(I) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous.

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Proof By Theorem 18, f is strictly increasing or decreasing. Assume increasing.

Let $a \in I$, $b = f(a) \in f(I)$ and show f^{-1} is continuous in b :

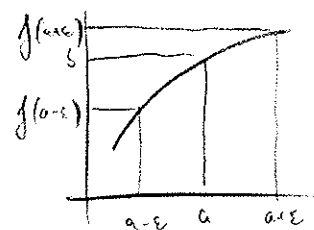
Fix $\varepsilon > 0$. If $y = f(x) \in f(I)$ satisfies

$f(a-\varepsilon) < y < f(a+\varepsilon)$, it follows that $a-\varepsilon < x < a+\varepsilon$

Let $\delta := \min(f(a+\varepsilon) - b, b - f(a-\varepsilon))$

Then, $|y - b| < \delta$ implies $|x - a| < \varepsilon$,

so f^{-1} is continuous in b .



□

Theorem 20: Let I be an interval and $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous and injective, let f be differentiable at a and $b = f(a)$.

(a) If $f'(a) = 0$ then f^{-1} is not differentiable at b

(b) If $f'(a) \neq 0$ then f^{-1} is differentiable at b and

$$(f^{-1})'(b) = \frac{1}{f'(a)} = \frac{1}{f'(f^{-1}(b))}$$

Proof (a) Let $f'(a) = 0$ and assume f^{-1} is differentiable at b .

Then differentiating $x = f^{-1}(f(x))$ gives

$$1 = (f^{-1})'(f(x)) \underbrace{f'(x)}_{=0} = 0, \text{ a contradiction.}$$

(b) Let $f'(a) \neq 0$. Define, for $y \neq b$, $A(y) = \frac{f^{-1}(y) - f^{-1}(b)}{y - b}$

and
$$B(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} & x \neq a \\ f'(a) & x = a \end{cases}$$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} B(x) = f'(a) = B(a)$, so B is continuous at a , and therefore continuous on all of I

f^{-1} is continuous on $f(I)$, so $B \circ f^{-1}$ is continuous on $f(I)$.

$$B \circ f^{-1}(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{y - b}{f^{-1}(y) - f^{-1}(b)} & y \neq b \\ f'(a) & y = b \end{cases}, \text{ so } B \circ f^{-1}(y) = \frac{1}{A(y)} \quad y \neq b$$

thus $\lim_{y \rightarrow b} \frac{1}{A(y)} = B \circ f^{-1}(y) = f'(a)$, i.e.

$$(f^{-1})'(b) \text{ exists and equals } \frac{1}{f'(a)}. \quad \square$$

Examples

1) $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $x \mapsto x^3$ is continuous and injective, $f(\mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{R}$

therefore $f^{-1}: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ exists and is given by $x \mapsto x^{1/3}$

$\Rightarrow f^{-1}$ is continuous by Theorem 13

f is differentiable, $f'(x) = 3x^2$

$\Rightarrow f^{-1}$ is not differentiable at $x=0$ and differentiable elsewhere by Theorem 20

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

2) $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $x \mapsto \exp(x)$ is differentiable, $f(\mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{R}^+$, $f'(x) = \exp(x) > 0$

$f^{-1}: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $x \mapsto \log(x)$ is differentiable, and

$$(f^{-1})'(x) = \frac{1}{\exp(\log(x))} = \frac{1}{x}$$

General powers

$$a \in \mathbb{R}, x \in \mathbb{R}^+ \quad x^a := \exp(a \log(x))$$

$$(x^a)' = \exp(a \log(x)) \frac{a}{x} = ax^{a-1}$$

General exponential function

$$a \in \mathbb{R}^+, x \in \mathbb{R} \quad a^x := \exp(x \log(a))$$

$$(a^x)' = \exp(x \log(a)) \log(a) = \log(a) \cdot a^x$$

General logarithmic function for $a > 0$, $a \neq 1$

$$\log_a : \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad x \mapsto \frac{\log x}{\log a}$$

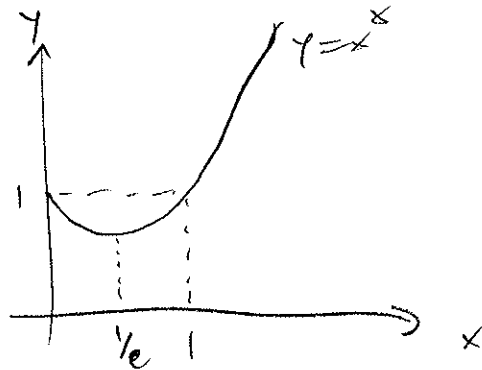
$$a^{\log_a(x)} = \exp\left(\log(a) \frac{\log(x)}{\log(a)}\right) = \exp(\log(x)) = x \quad \text{for } x > 0$$

$$\log_a(a^x) = \frac{1}{\log(a)} \log(\exp(\log(a) x)) = x \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}$$

Example

$f: \mathbb{R}^+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $x \mapsto x^x$ is differentiable,

$$f'(x) = (e^{x \log(x)})' = e^{x \log(x)} (\log(x) + 1) = x^x (\log(x) + 1)$$



5. Higher order derivatives

Theorem 21 (second Mean Value Theorem)

Let $f, g: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) . Then there exists a $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$g'(c) (f(b) - f(a)) = f'(c) (g(b) - g(a))$$

Proof: Consider the auxiliary function

$$h(x) = f(x) (g(b) - g(a)) - g(x) (f(b) - f(a))$$

h is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) . Thus, by the MVT, there exists a $c \in (a, b)$ such that

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

$$\begin{aligned} \text{i.e. } & f'(c) (g(b) - g(a)) - g'(c) (f(b) - f(a)) \\ &= \frac{1}{b-a} \left(f(b) (g(b) - g(a)) - g(b) (f(b) - f(a)) \right. \\ & \quad \left. - f(a) (g(b) - g(a)) + g(a) (f(b) - f(a)) \right) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Remark: for $g(x) = x$ this reduces to the MVT. □

Let $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable. If the derivative $f': D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is also differentiable, we can consider $(f')' = f''$, and so forth. In general we define the n -th derivative of an n -times differentiable function as

$$f^{(n)} = (f^{(n-1)})', \quad f^{(0)} = f.$$

Example $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $x \rightarrow |x|x^n$ is differentiable for $x \in \mathbb{N}$

and $f'(x) = (n+1)|x|x^{n-1}$,

Proof $x > 0$: $f(x) = x^{n+1}$, $f'(x) = (n+1)x^n$

$x < 0$: $f(x) = -x^{n+1}$, $f'(x) = -(n+1)x^n$

$x = 0$: $f'(0) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} |x|x^n = 0$ (if $n > 0$)

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f'(x)$$

successive differentiation gives

$$f''(x) = (n+1)n|x|x^{n-2}$$

\vdots

$$f^{(n)}(x) = (n+1)!|x| \quad \text{which is not differentiable at } x = 0.$$

So f is precisely n times differentiable.

(Taylor's Theorem)

Theorem 22

Let $f: [a, x] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be n times continuously

differentiable (i.e. $f^{(n)}$ exists and is continuous) on $[a, x]$ and

$(n+1)$ times differentiable on (a, x) . Then there exists a $c \in (a, x)$

such that

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

Remark A similar statement holds for $x < a$ (replace $[a, x]$ by $[x, a]$ etc)

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Proof Let $F(t) = f(t) + \frac{f'(t)}{1!} (x-t) + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(t)}{n!} (x-t)^n$

$$= \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(t)}{k!} (x-t)^k$$

Then $F(t)$ is continuous on $[a, x]$ and differentiable on (a, x) , and

$$F'(t) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k+1)}(t)}{k!} (x-t)^k - \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(t)}{(k-1)!} (x-t)^{k-1}$$

$$= \frac{f^{(n+1)}(t)}{n!} (x-t)^n$$

Apply Theorem 21 to $F(t)$ and $g(t) = (x-t)^{n+1}$ on $[a, x]$:

There exists a $c \in (a, x)$ such that $F'(c)(g(x) - g(a)) = g'(c)(F(x) - F(a))$,

As $F(x) = f(x)$ and $g(x) = 0$, we find that

$$\frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{n!} (x-c)^n (0 - (x-a)^{n+1}) = - (n+1)(x-c)^n (f(x) - F(a))$$

so that $f(x) = F(a) + \frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{(n+1)!} (x-a)^{n+1}$ □

Remark We call

$$T_{n,a}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(a)}{k!} (x-a)^k$$

the n -th degree Taylor polynomial of f at a and

$$R_n = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{(n+1)!} (x-a)^{n+1}$$

the Lagrange form of the remainder term.

$f(x) = T_{n,a}(x) + R_n$ is also called Taylor's formula.
 $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(k)}(a)}{k!} (x-a)^k$ is called the Taylor series of f at a .

Examples

1) Estimate $e = \exp(1)$ using Taylor's formula:

$$f(x) = \exp(x), \quad f^{(k)}(x) = \exp(x)$$

$$T_{n,0}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{\exp(0)}{k!} (x-0)^k = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{x^k}{k!}$$

$$R_n = \frac{\exp(c)}{(n+1)!} x^{n+1}$$

Taylor's theorem for $x=1$ says that there exists a $c \in (0,1)$

such that

$$e = \exp(1) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{1}{k!} + \frac{\exp(c)}{(n+1)!}$$

Thus

$$\sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \frac{1}{k!} < e < \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} \frac{1}{k!} + \frac{3}{(n+1)!}$$

$$e < \left(\frac{n+1}{1}\right)^2 = 4$$

$n=10$ gives $2.718281826 < e < 2.718281901$

Moreover, taking $n \rightarrow \infty$ gives $e = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!}$.

2) show $\exp(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!}$:

$$T_{n,0}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{x^k}{k!}, \quad R_n = \frac{\exp(c)}{(n+1)!} x^{n+1}$$

Taylor's theorem says that there exists a $|c| < |x|$ such that

$$|\exp(x) - T_{n,0}(x)| = |R_n| = \left| \frac{\exp(c)}{(n+1)!} x^{n+1} \right| \leq C \left| \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \right|$$

Now $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 0$, so $R_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

3) show $\log(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} (x-1)^k$ for $1 < x \leq 2$

$$f(x) = \log(x), \quad f'(x) = \frac{1}{x}, \quad f''(x) = -\frac{1}{x^2}, \dots, \quad f^{(k)}(x) = \frac{(-1)^{k-1} (k-1)!}{x^k}, \quad k \geq 1$$

$$T_{n,1}(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{f^{(k)}(1)}{k!} (x-1)^k = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{k} (x-1)^k$$

$$R_n = \frac{f^{(n+1)}(c)}{(n+1)!} (x-1)^{n+1} = \frac{(-1)^n}{n+1} \left(\frac{x-1}{c} \right)^{n+1}$$

$$\text{So } |\log(x) - T_{n,1}(x)| = |R_n| \leq \frac{1}{n+1} \left| \frac{x-1}{c} \right|^{n+1}$$

Now $0 < x-1 \leq 1$ and $1 < c < x \leq 2$, so that $\left| \frac{x-1}{c} \right| < 1$

Then $R_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ (also holds for $0 < x < 1$, so $|x-1| < 1$)