

Derivatives by limits

Let  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ . Let  $c \in [a, b]$ .

The derivative of  $f$  at  $x=c$  is

$$f'(c) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$$

Alternatively,

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

Theorems Let  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $g: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and let  $\rho, \gamma \in \mathbb{R}$ . Assume that  $f'(c)$  and  $g'(c)$  exist. Then

(a)  $(\rho f + \gamma g)'(c) = \rho f'(c) + \gamma g'(c)$ ,

(b)  $(fg)'(c) = f'(c)g(c) + f(c)g'(c)$ ,

(c) Assume  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is given by  $f(x) = x$ .  
then  $f'(c) = 1$ .

(d) If  $f'(c)$  exists then  $f$  is continuous at  $x=c$ .

Define

$$f''(c) = (f')'(c), \quad f^{(3)}(c) = (f'')'(c) \text{ and}$$

$$f^{(N)}(c) = (f^{(N-1)})'(c).$$

(2)

Theorem (Taylor's theorem with Lagrange's remainder).

If  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  and  $f^{(N)}: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous and  $f^{(N+1)}: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  exists then there exists  $c \in (a, b)$  such that

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

Remarks:

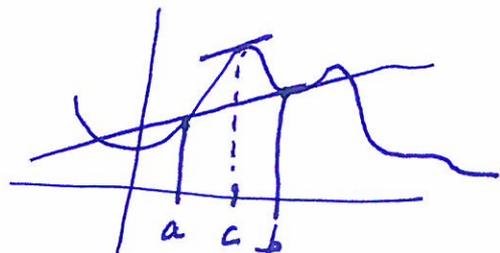
- (1) The last term in  $f(b) = f(a) + \dots + \frac{1}{(N+1)!} f^{(N+1)}(c)(b-a)^{N+1}$  is Lagrange's form of the remainder.
- (2) The special case  $N=0$  is the Mean Value Theorem

If  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous and  $f': [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  exists then there exists  $c \in (a, b)$  such that

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

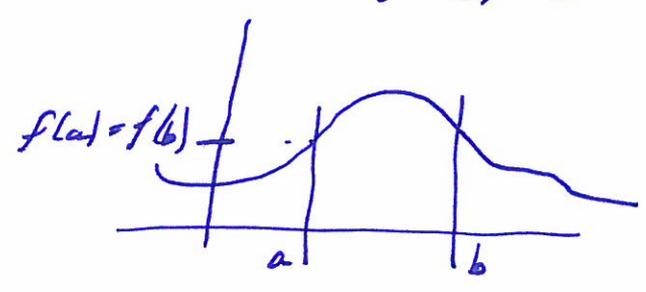
i.e.

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



(3) The special case  $N=0$  and  $f(a)=f(b)$  is Rolle's theorem:

If  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous and  $f': [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  exists then there exists  $c \in (a, b)$  such that  $f'(c) = 0$



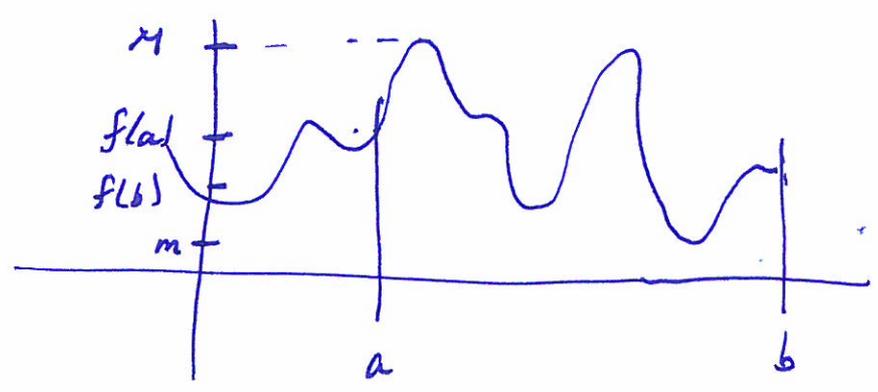
(4) The proof of these theorems uses

Theorem (Intermediate value theorem)

(a) If  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous and  $w$  is between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$  then there exists  $c \in (a, b)$  such that  $f(c) = w$ .

(b) If  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous then there exist  $m, M \in \mathbb{R}$  such that

$$f([a, b]) = [m, M]$$



(5) Let  $f: [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be given by

$$f(x) = \cos x + i \sin x$$

Then  $f(0) = f(2\pi)$  but  $f'(x)$  is never 0.

Why is this not a contradiction to Rolle's theorem?

(6) The first  $N$  terms in (all but the remainder term)

$$f(b) = f(a) + \dots + \frac{1}{N!} f^{(N)}(a) (b-a)^N + \frac{1}{(N+1)!} f^{(N+1)}(c) (b-a)^{N+1}$$

are the Taylor approximation to  $f$  at  $x=a$  of order  $N$ .

(7)  $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is differentiable at  $x=c$  if  $f'(c)$  exists.

Example Approximate  $28^{1/3}$  to 5 decimal places

Let  $f(x) = (27+x)^{1/3}$ . Then

$$(27+x)^{1/3} = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots$$

$$\text{So } a_0 = (27+0)^{1/3} = 3.$$

$$a_1 = \left. \left( \frac{d}{dx} (27+x)^{1/3} \right) \right|_{x=0} = \frac{1}{3} (27+x)^{-2/3} \Big|_{x=0} = \frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{3^2} = \frac{1}{27}$$

$$a_2 = \frac{1}{2!} \left. \left( \frac{d^2}{dx^2} (27+x)^{1/3} \right) \right|_{x=0} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{3} \left( \frac{-2}{3} \right) (27+x)^{-5/3} \Big|_{x=0} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(-2)}{3^2} \frac{1}{3^5} = -\frac{1}{3^7}$$

$$a_3 = \frac{1}{3!} \left( \frac{d^3}{dx^3} (27+x)^{\frac{1}{3}} \right) \Big|_{x=0} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 3} \cdot \frac{1}{3} \frac{(-2)}{3} \frac{(-5)}{3} (27+x)^{-\frac{8}{3}} \Big|_{x=0} \quad (5)$$

$$= \frac{5}{3^4} \cdot \frac{1}{3^8} = \frac{5}{3^{12}}$$

$$\frac{1}{4!} f^{(4)}(c) (28-27)^4 = \frac{1}{4!} \cdot \frac{1}{3} \frac{(-2)}{3} \frac{(-5)}{3} \frac{(-8)}{3} (27+c)^{-\frac{11}{3}}$$

$$= \frac{-2^4 \cdot 5}{2^3 \cdot 3^5} (27+c)^{-\frac{11}{3}} = \frac{-2 \cdot 5}{3^5} \frac{1}{(27+c)^{\frac{11}{3}}}$$

$$\therefore (27+x)^{\frac{1}{3}} = 3 + \frac{1}{27}x + \frac{1}{3^7}x^2 + \frac{5}{3^{12}}x^3 + \dots$$

and  $28^{\frac{1}{3}} = (27+1)^{\frac{1}{3}} =$

$$\approx 3 + \frac{1}{27} - \frac{1}{3^7} + \frac{5}{3^{12}}$$

with error equal to

$$\frac{2.5}{3^5} \frac{1}{(27+c)^{\frac{11}{3}}} \text{ for some } c \in (27, 28)$$

$$c \in (0, 1)$$

So the error is less than

$$\frac{2.5}{3^5} \frac{1}{27^{\frac{11}{3}}} = \frac{2.5}{3^5 \cdot 3^{11}} = \frac{2.5}{3^{16}}$$