

the function $f \cdot g$ is differentiable at ξ with

$$(f \cdot g)'(\xi) = f'(\xi)g(\xi) + f(\xi)g'(\xi) \quad \text{"product rule"},$$

and, if $g(\xi) \neq 0$, the function $\frac{f}{g}$ is differentiable at ξ with

$$\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)'(\xi) = \frac{f'(\xi)g(\xi) - f(\xi)g'(\xi)}{g(\xi)^2} \quad \text{"quotient rule"}.$$

ii) Let $f: I \rightarrow J$ and $g: J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ two functions such that f is differentiable at $\xi \in I$ and g is differentiable at $\eta = f(\xi)$. Then $g \circ f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable at ξ with

$$(g \circ f)'(\xi) = g'(f(\xi))f'(\xi) \quad \text{"chain rule"}.$$

Proof. i) For any $x \in I \setminus \{\xi\}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\alpha f(x) + \beta g(x) - \alpha f(\xi) - \beta g(\xi)}{x - \xi} \\ &= \alpha \frac{f(x) - f(\xi)}{x - \xi} + \beta \frac{g(x) - g(\xi)}{x - \xi} \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow \xi} \alpha f'(\xi) + \beta g'(\xi), \end{aligned}$$

which proves the sum rule. Moreover, for $x \in I \setminus \{\xi\}$, we have

$$\frac{f(x)g(x) - f(\xi)g(\xi)}{x - \xi} = \frac{f(x) - f(\xi)}{x - \xi} g(x) + f(\xi) \frac{g(x) - g(\xi)}{x - \xi}$$

$$\xrightarrow{x \rightarrow \xi} f'(\xi)g(\xi) + f(\xi)g'(\xi),$$

proving the product rule. Furthermore, for $x \in \mathcal{U}_\delta(\xi) \setminus \{\xi\}$, where $\delta > 0$ is chosen small enough to ensure that $g(x) \neq 0$ on $\mathcal{U}_\delta(\xi)$, we have

$$\frac{\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} - \frac{f(\xi)}{g(\xi)}}{x - \xi} = \frac{1}{g(x)g(\xi)} \frac{f(x)g(\xi) - f(\xi)g(x)}{x - \xi}$$

$$= \frac{1}{g(x)g(\xi)} \left\{ \frac{f(x) - f(\xi)}{x - \xi} g(\xi) - \frac{g(x) - g(\xi)}{x - \xi} f(\xi) \right\}$$

$$\xrightarrow{x \rightarrow \xi} \frac{1}{g(\xi)^2} \left\{ f'(\xi)g(\xi) - f(\xi)g'(\xi) \right\},$$

which proves the quotient rule.

ii) We define $\tau: J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$\tau(y) := \begin{cases} \frac{g(y) - g(\eta)}{y - \eta} - g'(\eta) & , y \in J \setminus \{\eta\} \\ 0 & , y = \eta. \end{cases}$$

$\Rightarrow \tau$ is continuous at $y = \eta$ with $\tau(\eta) = 0$.

Using this function τ , we can write for $y \in J$

$$g(y) - g(\eta) = g'(\eta)(y - \eta) + \tau(y)(y - \eta)$$

$\Rightarrow (y = f(x))$ For $x \in I$ we have

$$g(f(x)) - g(f(\xi)) = (g'(f(\xi)) + r(f(x))) (f(x) - f(\xi))$$

\Rightarrow For $x \in I \setminus \{\xi\}$ we have

$$\frac{g(f(x)) - g(f(\xi))}{x - \xi} = (g'(f(\xi)) + r(f(x))) \frac{f(x) - f(\xi)}{x - \xi}$$

$$\xrightarrow{x \rightarrow \xi} g'(f(\xi)) f'(\xi). \quad \square$$

Examples. i) Let $p: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $p(x) = \sum_{k=0}^m a_k x^k$, be a polynomial, then, by the sum rule, p is differentiable on \mathbb{R} with derivative

$$p'(x) = \frac{d}{dx} \sum_{k=0}^m a_k x^k = \sum_{k=0}^m a_k \frac{d}{dx} x^k = \sum_{k=1}^m a_k k x^{k-1}.$$

ii) Let $\tau: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\tau(x) = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)}$, be a rational function, where $q(x) \neq 0$ on I . Then, by the quotient rule, τ is differentiable on I with

$$\tau'(x) = \frac{p'(x)q(x) - p(x)q'(x)}{q(x)^2}.$$

In particular, for $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $x \neq 0$, we have

$$\frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{x^k} = -k x^{-k-1}.$$

iii) Let $a > 0$ and $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow (0, \infty)$, $f(x) = a^x = e^{x \log a}$.

Then, by the chain rule, f is differentiable on \mathbb{R} with

$$f'(x) = e^{x \log a} \log a = a^x \log a.$$

iv) Using the series representation and the Cauchy product, we can show that the following addition formulas hold for sine and cosine:

$$\sin(x+y) = \sin x \cos y + \sin y \cos x$$

$$\cos(x+y) = \cos x \cos y - \sin x \sin y, \quad x, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$

We can use these formulas to differentiate sine and cosine, e.g., we have for any $\xi \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \xi} \frac{\sin x - \sin \xi}{x - \xi} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x+\xi) - \sin \xi}{x} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x \cos \xi + \sin \xi \cos x - \sin \xi}{x} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \cos \xi \frac{\sin x}{x} + \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin \xi \frac{\cos x - 1}{x} = \cos \xi. \end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow The sine is differentiable on \mathbb{R} with $\frac{d}{dx} \sin x = \cos x$.

Similarly, we can show that cosine is differentiable on \mathbb{R} with $\frac{d}{dx} \cos x = -\sin x$.

Moreover, using the quotient rule we see that

$$\tan x := \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}, \quad \text{for } x \neq \frac{\pi}{2} + k\pi, \quad k \in \mathbb{Z},$$

is differentiable with

$$\frac{d}{dx} \tan x = \frac{\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x}{\cos^2 x} = \frac{1}{\cos^2 x}.$$

Next, we deal with the differentiation of inverse functions.

Theorem 36. Let $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be strictly monotonic and continuous on I , and suppose that f is differentiable at $\xi \in I$ with $f'(\xi) \neq 0$. Then the inverse $f^{-1}: f(I) \rightarrow I$ is differentiable at $\eta = f(\xi)$ with

$$(f^{-1})'(\eta) = \frac{1}{f'(f^{-1}(\eta))} = \frac{1}{f'(\xi)}.$$

Proof. The existence of f^{-1} and its continuity is clear from Thm 33. For any $y \in f(I) \setminus \{\eta\}$ we define $x := f^{-1}(y) \neq \xi$ (f is strictly monotonic).

$$\Rightarrow \frac{f^{-1}(y) - f^{-1}(\eta)}{y - \eta} = \frac{x - \xi}{f(x) - f(\xi)} = \left(\frac{f(x) - f(\xi)}{x - \xi} \right)^{-1} \rightarrow \frac{1}{f'(\xi)},$$

as $y \rightarrow \eta$, where we use that $x = f^{-1}(y) \rightarrow f^{-1}(\eta) = \xi$, as $y \rightarrow \eta$. \square

Examples. i) We know that $f = \exp$ satisfies the assumptions of Thm 36, hence $\log: (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable on $(0, \infty)$ with

$$\frac{d}{dx} \log x = \frac{1}{\exp(\log x)} = \frac{1}{x}, \quad x > 0.$$

ii) Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ and $f: (0, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $f(x) = x^\alpha = e^{\alpha \log x}$.

Then, by the chain rule, f is differentiable on $(0, \infty)$ with

$$\frac{d}{dx} x^\alpha = \frac{d}{dx} e^{\alpha \log x} = e^{\alpha \log x} \cdot \frac{\alpha}{x} = \alpha x^{\alpha-1}.$$

Next, we deal with local extrema and mean value theorems.

Definition. The function $f: D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ($D \subset \mathbb{R}$) has a local maximum at $\xi \in D$ if there exists some $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $f(x) \leq f(\xi)$ for all $x \in \mathcal{U}_\varepsilon(\xi) \cap D$.

The function f has a local minimum at $\xi \in D$ if there exists some $\varepsilon > 0$ such that $f(x) \geq f(\xi)$ for all $x \in \mathcal{U}_\varepsilon(\xi) \cap D$.

Local minima and local maxima are also called local extrema.

Theorem 37. Let $f: (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ have a local extremum at $\xi \in (a, b)$ and suppose that f is differentiable at ξ . Then $f'(\xi) = 0$.

Proof. As f is differentiable at ξ , we know

$$f'(\xi) = f'_+(\xi) = f'_-(\xi).$$

W.l.o.g. let us assume that f has a local maximum at ξ . Then we have

$$f'_+(\xi) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \xi^+} \frac{f(x) - f(\xi)}{x - \xi} \leq 0, \quad f'_-(\xi) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \xi^-} \frac{f(x) - f(\xi)}{x - \xi} \geq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(\xi) = 0.$$

□

Remark. The condition $f'(\xi) = 0$ is only necessary but not sufficient for a local extremum. For example, consider $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $f(x) = x^3$, then we have $f'(0) = 0$ but f does not have a local extremum at 0.

Theorem 38 (Rolle's Theorem)

Let $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) . Further, suppose that $f(a) = f(b)$, then there exists some $\xi \in (a, b)$ such that $f'(\xi) = 0$.

Proof. By Thm 34 we can find $\xi_1, \xi_2 \in [a, b]$

$$\text{such that } f(\xi_1) = \min_{x \in [a, b]} f(x), \quad f(\xi_2) = \max_{x \in [a, b]} f(x).$$

If $\xi_1 \in (a, b)$ or $\xi_2 \in (a, b)$, then the statement follows from Thm 37. Let us assume now that $\xi_1, \xi_2 \in \{a, b\}$.

$$\Rightarrow f(\xi_1) = f(\xi_2) = f(a) = f(b)$$

$\Rightarrow f$ is constant on $[a, b]$

$\Rightarrow f'(\xi) = 0$ for every $\xi \in (a, b)$. \square

Theorem 39. (Generalised Mean Value Theorem)

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

$$(f(b) - f(a))g'(\xi) = (g(b) - g(a))f'(\xi).$$

Proof. The proof follows immediately from the application of Thm 38 to the function

$$h: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, h(x) = (f(b) - f(a))g(x) - (g(b) - g(a))f(x). \square$$

Remarks. i) If $g'(x) \neq 0$ on (a, b) , then $g(b) \neq g(a)$ (by Thm. 38), so we can write the statement of Thm. 39 as

$$\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)} = \frac{f'(\xi)}{g'(\xi)}.$$

ii) In the special case $g(x) = x$, we obtain

$$f(b) - f(a) = f'(\xi)(b - a) \text{ for some } \xi \in (a, b).$$

This statement often is called Mean Value Theorem.

iii) As a consequence, we can observe for any function $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, which is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) , that f is constant on $[a, b] \Leftrightarrow f'(x) = 0$ on (a, b) .

Theorem 40. Let $f: (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable.

Then we have

- i) $f'(x) > 0$ on $(a, b) \Rightarrow f$ is strictly increasing on (a, b)
- ii) $f'(x) < 0$ on $(a, b) \Rightarrow f$ is strictly decreasing on (a, b)
- iii) $f'(x) \geq 0$ on $(a, b) \Leftrightarrow f$ is increasing on (a, b)
- iv) $f'(x) \leq 0$ on $(a, b) \Leftrightarrow f$ is decreasing on (a, b) .

Proof. " \Rightarrow " in all four parts: For $x_1, x_2 \in (a, b)$ with $x_1 < x_2$, by Thm 39, we find a $\xi \in (x_1, x_2)$ such that $f(x_2) - f(x_1) = f'(\xi)(x_2 - x_1)$.

" \Leftarrow " in parts iii, iv: w.l.o.g. we assume that f is increasing. For any $\xi \in (a, b)$ we have

$$f'(\xi) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \xi} \underbrace{\frac{f(x) - f(\xi)}{x - \xi}}_{\geq 0} \geq 0. \quad \square$$

Example: The tangent $\tan: (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}$, is strictly increasing on $(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \tan x = \frac{1}{\cos^2 x} > 0.$$

Theorem 41. (L'Hôpital's Rule)

Let $f, g: (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be differentiable functions with $g'(x) \neq 0$ on (a, b) , where $-\infty \leq a < b \leq \infty$, and suppose that

$$i) \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} g(x) = 0 \quad \text{or}$$

$$ii) \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} g(x) = \infty.$$

If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$ exists, then $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ exists

$$\text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}.$$

Proof. We only focus on the case i) and $a > -\infty$ (the other cases are similar). We define

$f(a) := g(a) := 0$ and choose some $b' \in (a, b)$.

$\Rightarrow f, g$ are continuous on $[a, b']$ and differentiable on (a, b') . By Thm 39, for any

$x \in (a, b')$, we find some $\xi \in (a, x)$

$$\text{such that } \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{g(x) - g(a)} = \frac{f'(\xi)}{g'(\xi)}$$

\Rightarrow As $x \rightarrow a^+$, we obtain

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow a^+} \frac{f'(\xi)}{g'(\xi)}. \quad \square$$

Examples i) We have for $a, b > 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{a^x - b^x}{x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{a^x \log a - b^x \log b}{1} \\ &= \log a \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} e^{(\log a)x} - \log b \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} e^{(\log b)x} \\ &= \log a - \log b = \log \frac{a}{b}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ii) } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x \log x &= - \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-\log x}{\frac{1}{x}} = - \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-\frac{1}{x}}{-\frac{1}{x^2}} \\ &= - \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Next, we deal with higher-order derivatives.

Definition. Suppose $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable on I .

If $f': I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable at $\xi \in I$, we say that f is twice differentiable at ξ and call

$f''(\xi) := (f')'(\xi)$ the second derivative of f

at ξ . If $f''(\xi)$ exists at every $\xi \in I$, we say that f is twice differentiable on I .

More generally, for some $n \in \mathbb{N}$, suppose that