



## Chapter 3 : Real Functions of One Real Variable

### Introduction

This chapter is devoted to the functions of a real variable which are often modeled for the study of curves and mechanical calculations. In this regard, we present the foundations of the functions of a real variable, where the objective is to know and interpret the notion of the limit, continuity and derivability of a function, and to present some of their properties.

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## Real function

The concept of a function is the fundamental concept of calculus and analysis. Real function  $f$  of one real variable is a mapping from the set  $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ , a subset in real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$ , to the set of all real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$ .

$$f : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad x \mapsto f(x)$$

- $D$  is the domain of the function  $f$ , where  $D = \{x \in \mathbb{R}, f(x) \text{ makes sense}\}$

## 1 Limits

Limits are used to analyze the local behavior of functions near points of interest. A function  $f$  is said to have a limit  $\ell$  at  $x_0$  if it is possible to make the function arbitrarily close to  $\ell$  by choosing values closer and closer to  $x_0$ . Note that the actual value at  $x_0$  is irrelevant to the value of the limit.

The notation is as follows:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \ell$$

which is read as "the limit of  $f(x)$  as  $x$  approaches  $x_0$  is  $\ell$ "

### 1.1 Limit at a Point

We consider values of a function that approaches a value from either inferior or superior.

- **The left-hand limit** of a function  $f$  as it approaches  $x_0$  is the limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^-} f(x) = \ell$$

Which indicates that the limit is defined in terms of a number less than the given number  $x_0$ .

- **The right-hand limit** of a function  $f$  as it approaches  $x_0$  is the limit

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} f(x) = \ell$$

Which indicates that the limit is defined in terms of a number greater than the given number  $x_0$ .

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \ell$  if and only if both the left- hand and right-hand limits at  $x = x_0$  exist and share the same value.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \ell = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} f(x).$$

**Example :** Compute the limit :  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} |x|$

- The right-hand limit at  $x = 0$  :  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} |x| = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x = 0$

- The left-hand limit at  $x = 0$  :  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} |x| = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} -x = 0$

So the right-hand and left-hand limits are equal. Then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} |x| = 0$

### Infinite Limits

- If a function is defined on either side of  $x_0$ , but the limit as  $x$  approaches  $x_0$  is infinity or negative infinity, then the function has an infinite limit, we write

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \infty$$

- The graph of the function will have a vertical asymptote at  $x_0$ .

### Limits at Infinity

- Limits at infinity are used to describe the behavior of functions as the independent variable increases or decreases without bound. we write

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} f(x) = \ell$$

- The graph of the function will have a horizontal asymptote at  $y = \ell$ .

## 1.2 Operations on Limits

○ Assume that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \ell \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x) = m \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ . Therefore :

$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x)$	$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x)$	$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} (f + g)(x)$	$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} (f \times g)(x)$
$\ell$	$m$	$\ell + m$	$\ell \times m$
$+\infty$	$m$	$+\infty$	$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} +\infty & \text{Si } m > 0 \\ -\infty & \text{Si } m < 0 \\ \text{Indeterminate} & \text{Si } m = 0 \end{array} \right.$
$-\infty$	$m$	$-\infty$	$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} -\infty & \text{Si } m > 0 \\ +\infty & \text{Si } m < 0 \\ \text{Indeterminate} & \text{Si } m = 0 \end{array} \right.$
$+\infty$	$+\infty$	$+\infty$	$+\infty$
$-\infty$	$-\infty$	$-\infty$	$+\infty$
$-\infty$	$+\infty$	Indeterminate	$-\infty$

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} cf(x) = c \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = c\ell$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x)}{\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x)} = \frac{\ell}{m}$  if  $m \neq 0$
- **Limit of Composition** : Suppose that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x) = \ell$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \ell} f(x) = \ell'$ , then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(g(x)) = \ell'$$

### Comparative Growth

Suppose that  $f$  and  $g$  are two functions such that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = +\infty$ , and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} g(x) = +\infty$ . We say that  $f$  grows faster than  $g$  as  $x \rightarrow +\infty$  if the following holds:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = +\infty \quad \text{or equivalently,} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{g(x)}{f(x)} = 0$$

#### Results:

• Exponential functions grow faster than every polynomial functions and polynomial functions grow faster than logarithmic functions. Let  $n$  be positive number:

1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{x^n} = \infty$       and,       $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^n}{e^x} = 0$
2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^n}{\ln(x)} = \infty$       and,       $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{x^n} = 0$

### Indeterminate Form

An indeterminate form is an expression involving two functions whose limit cannot be determined solely from the limits of the individual functions.

$$+\infty - \infty, \quad 0 \cdot \infty, \quad \frac{\infty}{\infty}, \quad \frac{0}{0}$$

### 1.3 Evaluating Limits in Indeterminate Form

We present some methods that allows us to transform an indeterminate form into one that allows for direct evaluation.

● **Polynomial function as  $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$  with indeterminate form  $+\infty - \infty$**

Factor out the highest power of  $x$  in the polynomial function.

#### Example:

Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} -2x^3 + 4x - 1$ ,

We write,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} -2x^3(1 - \frac{2}{x^2} + \frac{1}{2x^3})$ . Thus,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} -2x^3 = -\infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (1 - \frac{2}{x^2} + \frac{1}{2x^3}) = 1$

Therefore,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} -2x^3 + 4x - 1 = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} -2x^3 = -\infty$ .

● **Rational function as  $x \rightarrow \pm\infty$  with indeterminate form  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$**

Divide out the highest power of  $x$  in both the numerator and denominator.

**Example:**  $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{x^2 - 1}{x + 3}$ . Both numerator and denominator approach  $+\infty$  as  $x \rightarrow +\infty$ . Thus

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{x^2 - 1}{x + 3} = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{x^2(1 - \frac{1}{x^2})}{x(1 + \frac{3}{x})} = +\infty$$

● **Factoring Method ( $\frac{0}{0}$  form )**

Factoring method is a technique to finding limits that works by canceling out common factors.

**Example:**

Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3}$

Using the substitution rule gives  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3} = \frac{0}{0}$

find the common divisor which is  $(x - 3)$  and divide both the numerator and denominator by it,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} \frac{(x - 3)(x + 3)}{x - 3} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 3} (x + 3) \\ &= 6 \end{aligned}$$

● **L'Hospital's Rule ( $\frac{0}{0}$  or  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$  form )**

Suppose  $f$  and  $g$  are differentiable and  $g'(x) \neq 0$  near  $x_0$  (except possibly at  $x_0$ ). Suppose that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{0}{0}, \text{ or } \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\pm\infty}{\pm\infty}$$

Then,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}.$$

**Example:**

Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x + 2}{x^2 + 3x + 2}$

Using the substitution rule gives  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x + 2}{x^2 + 3x + 2} = \frac{0}{0}$ . Apply L'Hospital's Rule

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{x + 2}{x^2 + 3x + 2} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{(x + 2)'}{(x^2 + 3x + 2)'} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{1}{2x + 3} \\ &= -1. \end{aligned}$$

### ● Conjugate multiplication

This method useful for fraction functions that contain square roots. It rationalizes the numerator or denominator of a fraction, which means getting rid of square roots.

**Example :**

Evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 2}{x - 4}$

By substitution, we find :  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 2}{x - 4} = \frac{0}{0}$

Multiply the numerator and denominator by the conjugate of  $\sqrt{x} - 2$  which is  $\sqrt{x} + 2$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{\sqrt{x} - 2}{x - 4} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{(\sqrt{x} - 2)(\sqrt{x} + 2)}{(x - 4)(\sqrt{x} + 2)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{x - 4}{(x - 4)(\sqrt{x} + 2)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x} + 2} \quad (\text{Cancel the } (x - 4)) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \end{aligned}$$

### Alternative methods to evaluate limits

#### ● Squeeze Theorem

Suppose that  $g(x) \leq f(x) \leq h(x)$  for all  $x$  close to  $x_0$  but not equal to  $x_0$ . If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x) = \ell = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} h(x)$ , then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \ell$$

The quantity  $x_0$  and  $\ell$  may be a finite number or  $\pm\infty$ .

**Results:** we represent two important limits :

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\sin(x)}{x} = 0, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1 - \cos(x)}{x} = 0$$

#### ● Monotone Limits

Suppose that the limits of  $f$  and  $g$  both exist as  $x \rightarrow x_0$ . if  $f(x) \leq g(x)$  when  $x$  is near  $x_0$ , then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) \leq \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} g(x)$$

### Some Special Limits

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{x} = 1, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\tan(x)}{x} = 1, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(x)}{x^2} = \frac{1}{2} \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln(x + 1)}{x} = 1, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\exp(x) - 1}{x} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

## 2 Continuity

Continuous functions are functions that take nearby values at nearby points.

### 2.1 Continuity at Point

#### Definition 2.1

- Let  $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  and  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function. we say that  $f$  is continuous at a point  $x_0 \in I$  if,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = f(x_0)$$

Otherwise,  $f$  is said to be discontinuous at  $x_0$ .

- We say that  $f$  is continuous on  $I$  if  $f$  is continuous at every point of  $I$ .

#### Checking Continuity at a Point

A function  $f$  is continuous at  $x = x_0$  if the following three conditions hold:

1.  $f(x_0)$  is defined (that is,  $x_0$  belongs to the domain of  $f$ )
2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x)$  exists (that is, left-hand limit = right-hand limit)
3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = f(x_0)$

#### One-sided continuity :

- $f$  is **left continuous at a point**  $x_0$  if,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^-} f(x) = f(x_0)$
- $f$  is **right continuous at a point**  $x_0$  if,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} f(x) = f(x_0)$
- $f$  is continuous at  $x_0$  if and only if these two limits exist and are equal.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^-} f(x) = f(x_0) = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} f(x)$$

#### Remark 1

- Every polynomial function is continuous on  $\mathbb{R}$ .
- Every rational function is continuous on its domain.
- sin and cos are continuous everywhere on  $\mathbb{R}$
- The square root is continuous on  $\mathbb{R}^+$

## 2.2 Operations on Continuity

The basic properties of continuous functions follow from those of limits:

If  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $g : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  are continuous at  $x_0$  of  $I$ , and  $\lambda$  is a constant, then :

1.  $f + g$  is continuous at  $x_0$
2.  $\lambda f$  is continuous at  $x_0$
3.  $f g$  is continuous at  $x_0$
4. If  $f(x_0) \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{1}{f}$  is continuous at  $x_0$ .

**Theorem 1** Let  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $g : J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  two functions such that  $f(I) \subseteq J$ . If  $f$  is continuous at  $x_0$  of  $I$  and if  $g$  is continuous at  $f(x_0)$ , then  $g \circ f$  is continuous at  $x_0$ .

**Example :**

Determine whether  $h(x) = \cos(x^2 - 5x + 2)$  is continuous.

Note that,  $h(x) = f(g(x))$ , where  $f(x) = \cos(x)$  and  $g(x) = x^2 - 5x + 2$

Since both  $f$  and  $g$  are continuous for all  $x$ , then  $h$  is continuous for all  $x$ .

**Continuous extension :** When we can remove a discontinuity by redefining the function at that point, we call the discontinuity removable. (Not all discontinuities are removable, however.)

If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \ell$ , but  $f(x_0)$  is not defined, we define a new function

$$\tilde{f}(x) = \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{for } x \neq x_0 \\ \ell & \text{for } x = x_0 \end{cases}$$

which is continuous at  $x_0$ . It is called the continuous extension of  $f(x)$  to  $x_0$ .

**Example :**

Show that the following function have continuous extension, and find the extension :

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^3 + 1}, \quad \text{for } x \neq -1$$

Here  $f(-1)$  has not been defined.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow -1} \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^3 + 1} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -1} \frac{(x + 1)(x - 1)}{(x + 1)(x^2 - x + 1)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -1} \frac{x - 1}{x^2 - x + 1} \\ &= \frac{-2}{3} \end{aligned}$$



Thus,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x)$  exists, therefore  $f$  has a removable discontinuity at  $x_0 = -1$ .

Hence, The continuous extension is

$$\tilde{f}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^3 + 1} & \text{for } x \neq -1 \\ -\frac{2}{3} & \text{for } x = -1 \end{cases}$$

○ As one consequence of previous results, the image of interval under a continuous function is an interval :

**Theorem 2** Let  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a continuous function on an interval  $I$ , then  $f(I)$  is an anterval.

$I$	$f(I)$	
	$f$ is strictly increasing	$f$ is strictly decreasing
$[a, b]$	$[f(a), f(b)]$	$[f(b), f(a)]$
$[a, b[$	$[f(a), \lim_{x \rightarrow b^-} f(x)[$	$] \lim_{x \rightarrow b^-} f(x), f(a)]$
$]a, b]$	$] \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x), f(b)]$	$[f(b), \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)[$
$]a, b[$	$] \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x), \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)[$	$] \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x), \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)[$

**Theorem 3** Let  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the function defined on  $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ . Assume that  $f$  is continuous and strictly monotonic on the closed interval  $I$ , then

- $f$  establishes a bijection of the interval  $I$  into the image interval  $f(I)$ .
- $f^{-1} : f(I) \rightarrow I$  is continuous and strictly monotonic on  $f(I)$

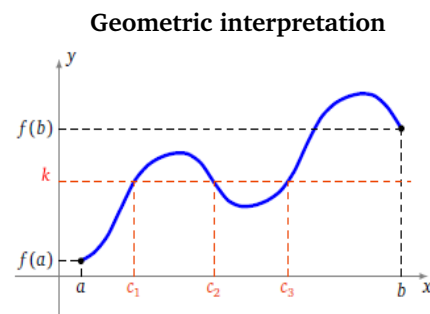
### 2.3 Intermediate Value Theorem (IVT)

The intermediate value theorem describes a key property of continuous functions. It states that a continuous function on an interval takes on all values between any two of its values.

**Theorem 4** Let  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

- $f$  is continuous on the closed interval  $[a, b]$
- $k$  be any number between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$ .

Then, there exists at least  $c \in ]a, b[$  such that  $f(c) = k$ .

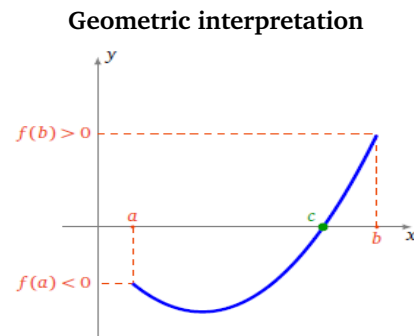


The most used version of the intermediate value theorem given as :

**Theorem 5** Let  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

- $f$  is continuous on the closed interval  $[a, b]$ ,
- $f(a) \cdot f(b) < 0$

Then, there exists at least  $c \in ]a, b[$  such that  $f(c) = 0$ .



**Example :**

Show that the equation  $4x^3 - 6x^2 + 3x - 2 = 0$  has a solution in the interval  $[1, 2]$ .

Consider the function  $f(x) = 4x^3 - 6x^2 + 3x - 2$  over the closed interval  $[1, 2]$

The function  $f$  is a polynomial, therefore it is continuous over  $[1, 2]$ .

We have  $f(1) = -1$  and  $f(2) = 12$ , hence  $f(1)f(2) < 0$

by the Mean-Value-Theorem there exists a value  $c$  in the interval  $]1, 2[$  such that  $f(c) = 0$ , i.e. there is a solution for the equation  $f(x) = 0$  in the interval  $]1, 2[$ .

### 3 Derivability

#### 3.1 Derivability at a Point

Below, we note  $I$  a non-empty interval of  $\mathbb{R}$ .

##### Definition 3.1

Let  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function, and let  $x_0 \in I$ . we say that  $f$  is differentiable at  $x_0$  if the limit

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0 + h) - f(x_0)}{h}$$

exists, and finite. This limit is called the derivative of  $f$  at  $x_0$ , we note  $f'(x_0)$ .

##### Remark 2

Alternative formula for the derivative :

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{x - x_0}$$

**Geometric interpretation of the derivative :**

If  $f$  is differentiable at  $x_0$ , then the curve representing the function  $f$  have a tangent to the point  $(x_0, f(x_0))$ , with the slope  $f'(x_0)$ .

**One-sided derivatives :**

In analogy to one-sided limits, we define one-sided derivatives

- The left-hand derivative of a function  $f$  at  $x_0$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^-} \frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{x - x_0}$$

- The right-hand derivative of a function  $f$  at  $x_0$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} \frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{x - x_0}$$

$f$  is differentiable at  $x_0$  if and only if these two limits exist and are equal.

**Example :**

Show that  $f(x) = |x - 1|$  is not differentiable at  $x = 0$

- The right-hand derivative at  $x = 0$  :

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{|x - 1| - 0}{x - 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^+} \frac{x - 1}{x - 1} = 1$$

- The left-hand derivative at  $x = 0$  :

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{|x - 1| - 0}{x - 1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1^-} \frac{-(x - 1)}{x - 1} = -1$$

So the right-hand and left-hand derivatives differ.

**Remark 3**

We say that a function  $f$  is differentiable on an interval  $I$  when  $f$  is differentiable in any point of  $I$ .

**Theorem 6** If  $f$  has a derivative at  $x = a$ , then  $f$  is continuous at  $x = a$ .

**3.2 Operations on derivative**

Let  $f, g : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  two functions. We assume that  $f$  and  $g$  are differentiable of  $x$ . Therefore,

- 1)  $f + g$  is differentiable, and

$$(f + g)'(x) = f'(x) + g'(x)$$

2)  $f g$  is differentiable, and

$$(f g)'(x) = f'(x) g(x) + f(x) g'(x)$$

3) If  $g(x_0) \neq 0$ , then  $\frac{f}{g}$  is differentiable, and

$$\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)'(x) = \frac{f'(x) g(x) - f(x) g'(x)}{(g(x))^2}$$

**Theorem 7 (Derivatives of composite functions)** Let  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  and  $g : J \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  two functions such that  $f(I) \subseteq J$ . If  $f$  is differentiable of  $x$ , and  $g$  is differentiable of  $f(x)$ , then  $g \circ f$  is differentiable of  $x$  and

$$(g \circ f)'(x) = g'(f(x)) f'(x)$$

### Common Derivatives

$f(x)$	$f'(x)$
$c, c \in \mathbb{R}$	0
$cx, c \in \mathbb{R}$	$c$
$x^n, n \geq 1$	$nx^{n-1}$
$\frac{1}{x}$	$-\frac{1}{x^2}$
$\frac{1}{x^n}, n \geq 1$	$-\frac{n}{x^{n+1}}$
$\sqrt{x}$	$\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$
$\ln(x), x > 0$	$\frac{1}{x}$
$e^x$	$e^x$
$\sin(x)$	$\cos(x)$
$\cos(x)$	$-\sin(x)$
$\sin(cx), c \in \mathbb{R}$	$c \cos(cx)$

## Applications of Derivatives

Derivatives have various applications in Mathematics, We'll learn about these two applications of derivatives :

### 1. Monotonicity of functions

Derivatives can be used to determine whether a function is increasing, decreasing or constant on an interval.

**Theorem 8** Let  $f$  be a differentiable function on an interval  $I$  :

1.  $f$  is increasing on  $I \iff \forall x \in I, f'(x) \geq 0$
2.  $f$  is decreasing on  $I \iff \forall x \in I, f'(x) \leq 0$
3.  $f$  is constant on  $I \iff \forall x \in I, f'(x) = 0$

### 2. Extremum of Functions

An extremum of a function is the point where we get the maximum or minimum value of the function in some interval.

• Let  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a function, and let  $c \in I$ . We say that  $c$  is a **critical point** of  $f$  if  $f'(c) = 0$  or  $f'(c)$  is undefined.

Let  $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is differentiable, and  $c \in I$  be a critical point of  $f$ . Then

1. If  $f'(x) > 0$  for all  $x < c$  and  $f'(x) < 0$  for all  $x > c$ , then  $f(c)$  is the maximum value of  $f$ .
2. If  $f'(x) < 0$  for all  $x < c$  and  $f'(x) > 0$  for all  $x > c$ , then  $f(c)$  is the minimum value of  $f$ .

**Example :**

Find the extremum of  $f(x) = 3x^2 - 18x + 5$  on  $[0, 7]$ .

First, we find all possible critical points :

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 0 \\ 6x - 18 &= 0 \\ x &= 3 \end{aligned}$$

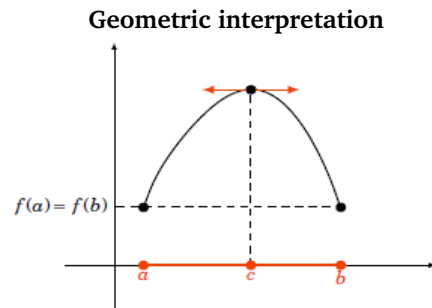
for  $x \in [0, 3[$ , we have  $f'(x) < 0$  and for  $x \in ]3, 7]$ , we have  $f'(x) > 0$  Then  $f(3) = -22$  is the maximum value of  $f$  on  $[0, 7]$ .

### 3.3 Rolle's Theorem

In analysis, special case of the mean-value theorem of differential calculus is Rolle's theorem.

**Theorem 9** Let  $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that

- $f$  is continuous on the closed interval  $[a, b]$ ,
- $f$  is differentiable on the open interval  $]a, b[$ ,
- $f(a) = f(b)$ .



Then, there exists  $c \in ]a, b[$  such that  $f'(c) = 0$ .

There exists at least one point of graph of  $f$  where the tangent is horizontal.

**Example :** Let  $g(x) = (1 - x)f(x)$

with  $f$  is a continuous function on  $[0, 1]$ , differentiable on  $]0, 1[$  and verify  $f(0) = 0$   
 Show that

$$\exists c \in ]0, 1[, \quad f'(c) = \frac{f(c)}{1 - c}$$

**Apply Rolle's theorem :**

1)  $g$  is continuous  $[0, 1]$  because it is the product of two continuous functions on  $[0, 1]$  ( $f$  is a continuous function on  $[0, 1]$  and  $x \mapsto 1 - x$  continuous polynomial on  $\mathbb{R}$  hence on  $[0, 1]$ ).

2)  $g$  is differentiable on  $]0, 1[$  since it is the product of two differentiable functions on  $]0, 1[$ .

3)  $g(0) = f(0) = 0$ ,  $g(1) = 0 \times f(1) = 0$ . Hence  $g(0) = g(1)$

According to Rolle's theorem:  $\exists c \in ]0, 1[, \quad g'(c) = 0$ .

Where

$$g'(c) = -f(c) + (1 - c)f'(c)$$

It follows,

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(c)}{1 - c}.$$