Calculus M211

Jörg Endrullis

Indiana University Bloomington

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The **derivative of** *f* is a function *f'* defined by $f'(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$

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- look at local maxima and minima of f; then f' must be 0
- where f increases, f' must be positive
- where f decreases, f' must be negative





Practice computing derivatives!

Try examples from the book for yourself. Among others:

- Example 3 in Section 2.8
- Example 4 in Section 2.8

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Note that the interval (a, b) may be $(-\infty, b)$, (a, ∞) or $(-\infty, \infty)$.

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$$\iff \quad \lim_{h \to 0} (f(a+h) - f(a)) = 0$$

If the latter limit would not be 0 (or not exist), then $\frac{f(a+h)-f(a)}{h}$ would get arbitrarily large for small *h*.

If *f* is continuous at *a*, then *f* is not always differentiable at *a*.

E.g. |x| is continuous at 0 but not differentiable at 0.

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How can a Function fail to be Derivable?

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Example for a vertical tangent is $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$ at 0.

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In Leibnitz notation f'(a) is written as

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- s(t) is the position of an object (at time t)
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- a(t) = v'(t) = s''(t) is the acceleration (at time *t*)

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Note that f''' is the slope of f'', and $f^{(4)}$ is the slope of f'''.