

Course of Maths1

Chapter III: Real functions of a real variable

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1 Concepts of function

1.1 Definitions

Definition 1. A real-valued *function* of a real variable is a mapping $f : U \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ where U is a subset of $\mathbb{R}$.

In general, U is an interval or a union of intervals. U is called *the domain of definition* of the function f .

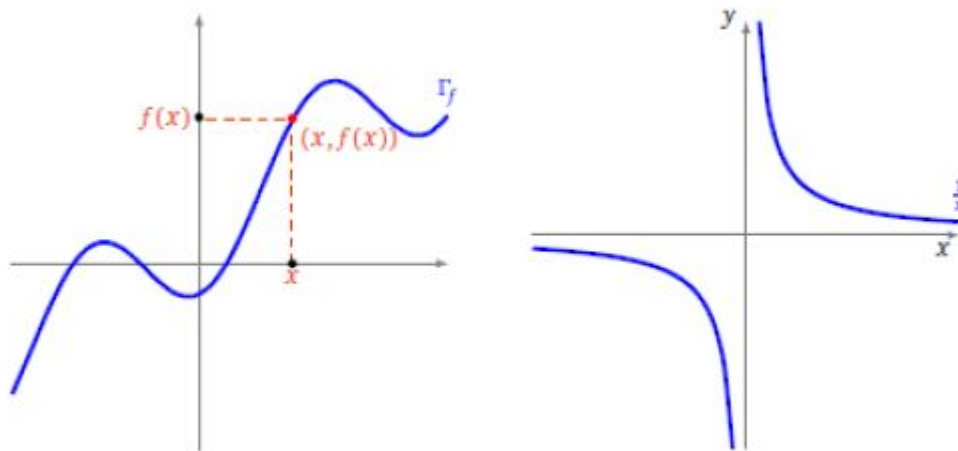
Example 1. The inverse function:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} f :]-\infty, 0[\cup]0, +\infty[& \longrightarrow & \mathbb{R} \\ x & \longmapsto & \frac{1}{x} \end{array}$$

The *graph* of a function $f : U \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the subset Γ_f of $\mathbb{R}^2$ defined by

$$\Gamma_f = \{(x, f(x)) \mid x \in U\}$$

The graph of a function (on the left), the example of the graph of $x \longmapsto \frac{1}{x}$ (on the right).



1.2 Operations on functions

Let $f : U \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g : U \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be two functions defined on the same subset U of $\mathbb{R}$. We can then define the following functions:

- The **sum** of f and g is the function $f + g : U \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $(f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$ for all $x \in U$.
- The **product** of f and g is the function $f \times g : U \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $(f \times g)(x) = f(x) \times g(x)$ for all $x \in U$.
- The **multiplication by a scalar** $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ of f is the function $\lambda \cdot f : U \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by $(\lambda \cdot f)(x) = \lambda \cdot f(x)$ for all $x \in U$.

1.3 Bounded functions

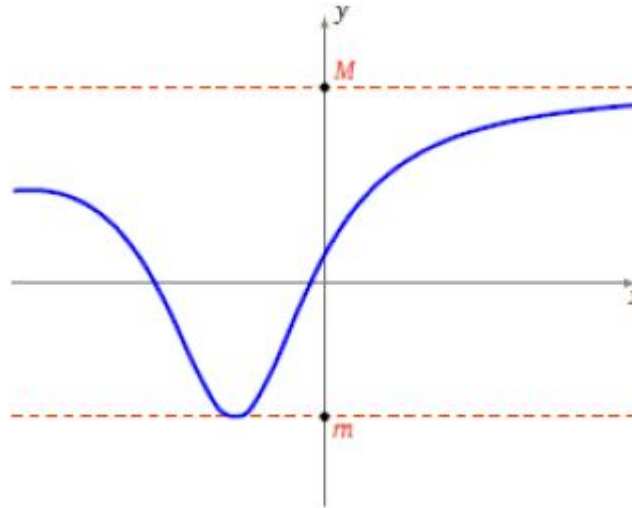
Definition 2. Let $f : U \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g : U \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ two functions, then:

- $f \geq g$ if $\forall x \in U; \quad f(x) \geq g(x)$;
- $f \geq 0$ if $\forall x \in U; \quad f(x) \geq 0$;
- $f > 0$ if $\forall x \in U; \quad f(x) > 0$;
- f is said to be **constant** on U if $\exists a \in \mathbb{R}, \forall x \in U, f(x) = a$;
- f is said to be **zero** on U if $\forall x \in U, f(x) = 0$.

Definition 3. Let $f : U \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. We say that:

- f is **bounded from above** on U if $\exists M \in \mathbb{R}, \forall x \in U, f(x) \leq M$;
- f is **bounded from below** on U if $\exists m \in \mathbb{R}, \forall x \in U, f(x) \geq m$;
- f is **bounded** on U if it is both upper bounded and lower bounded on U , that is, if $\exists M \in \mathbb{R}, \forall x \in U, |f(x)| \leq M$.

Here is the graph of a bounded function (bounded from below by m and from above by M).

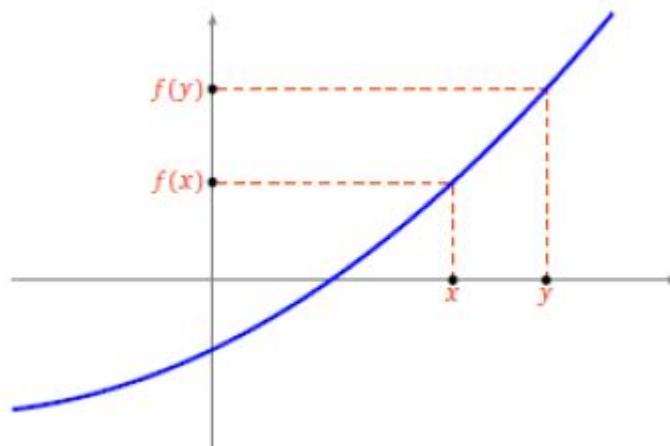


1.4 Increasing and decreasing functions

Definition 4. Let $f : U \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. We say that:

- f is *increasing* on U if $\forall a, b \in U, a \leq b \Rightarrow f(a) \leq f(b)$;
- f is *strictly increasing* on U if $\forall a, b \in U, a < b \Rightarrow f(a) < f(b)$;
- f is *decreasing* on U if $\forall a, b \in U, a \leq b \Rightarrow f(a) \geq f(b)$;
- f is *strictly decreasing* on U if $\forall a, b \in U, a < b \Rightarrow f(a) > f(b)$;
- f is *monotone* (resp. *strictly monotone*) on U if f is increasing or decreasing (resp. strictly increasing or strictly decreasing) on U .

Here is the graph of a strictly increasing function.



Example 2. • The square root function $\begin{cases} [0, \infty[\longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ x \longmapsto \sqrt{x} \end{cases}$ is strictly increasing.

• The absolute value function $\begin{cases} \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ x \longmapsto |x| \end{cases}$ is neither increasing nor decreasing.

However, the function $\begin{cases} [0, \infty[\longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ x \longmapsto |x| \end{cases}$ is strictly increasing.

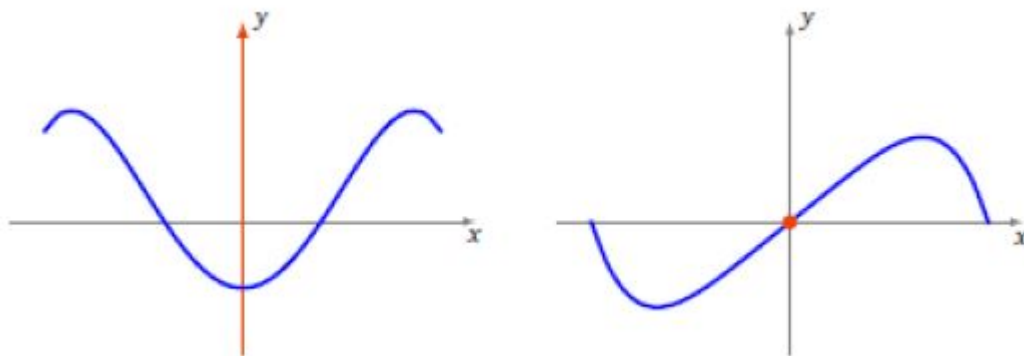
1.5 Parity and periodicity

Definition 5. Let I be an interval on $\mathbb{R}$ symmetric with respect to 0 (that is, of the form $]-a, a[$ or $[-a, a]$ or $\mathbb{R}$). Let $f : I \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function defined on this interval. We say that:

- f is *even* if $\forall x \in I, \quad f(-x) = f(x)$.
- f is *odd* if $\forall x \in I, \quad f(-x) = -f(x)$.

Graphical interpretation:

- f is even if and only if its graph is symmetric with respect to the y-axis (left figure).
- f is odd if and only if its graph is symmetric with respect to the origin (right figure).



Example 3. The function $\cos : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is even. The function $\sin : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is odd.

Definition 6. Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function and T a real number, $T > 0$. The function f is said to be *periodic* with period T if $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, f(x + T) = f(x)$.

Example 4. The sine and cosine functions are 2π -periodic. The tangent function is π -periodic.

2 Limits

2.1 Limit at a point

Let $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function defined on an interval I of $\mathbb{R}$. Let $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ be a point in I or an endpoint of I .

Definition 7. Let $\ell \in \mathbb{R}$. It is said that f has a limit ℓ at x_0 if

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0, \forall x \in I \quad |x - x_0| < \delta \implies |f(x) - \ell| < \varepsilon$$

It is also said that $f(x)$ tends to ℓ as x approaches x_0 . We denote this as $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \ell$ or $\lim_{x_0} f = \ell$

Definition 8. • It is said that f has a limit of $+\infty$ at x_0 if

$$\forall A > 0, \exists \delta > 0, \forall x \in I \quad |x - x_0| < \delta \implies f(x) > A.$$

We then denote $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = +\infty$.

- It is said that *f has a limit of $-\infty$ at x_0* if

$$\forall A > 0, \exists \delta > 0, \forall x \in I \quad |x - x_0| < \delta \implies f(x) < -A.$$

We then denote $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = -\infty$.

2.2 Limit at infinity

Let $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function defined on an interval of the form $I =]a, +\infty[$.

Definition 9. • Let $\ell \in \mathbb{R}$. It is said that *f has a limit ℓ at $+\infty$* if

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists B > 0, \forall x \in I \quad x > B \implies |f(x) - \ell| < \varepsilon$$

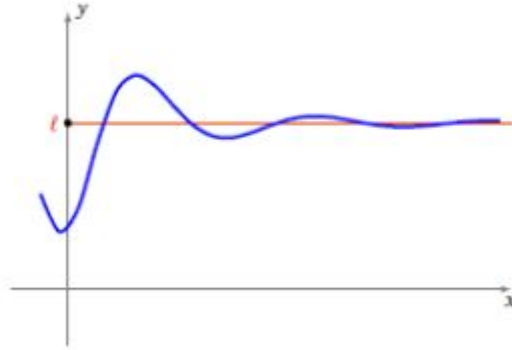
We then denote $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = \ell$ or $\lim_{+\infty} f = \ell$.

- It is said that *f has a limit $+\infty$ at $+\infty$* if

$$\forall A > 0, \exists B > 0, \forall x \in I \quad x > B \implies f(x) > A$$

We then denote $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = +\infty$.

In the same way, we would define the limit at $-\infty$ for functions defined on intervals of the type $] -\infty, a[$.



Example 5. We have the following classical limits for all $n \geq 1$:

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} x^n = +\infty$, and $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} x^n = \begin{cases} +\infty & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ -\infty & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}$
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{1}{x^n} = 0$, and $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1}{x^n} = 0$.

2.2.1 Right-hand and Left-hand Limits

Let f be a function defined on a set of the form $]a, x_0[\cup]x_0, b[$.

Definition 10. • We call the *right-hand limit* at x_0 of f the limit of the function $f|_{]x_0, b[}$ at x_0 , and it is denoted as $\lim_{x_0^+} f$.

• We similarly define the *left-hand limit* at x_0 of f as the limit of the function $f|_{]a, x_0[}$ at x_0 , and it is denoted as $\lim_{x_0^-} f$.

• We also denote $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} f(x)$ for the right-hand limit and $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^-} f(x)$ for the left-hand limit.

3 Uniqueness of the limit

Proposition 1. If a function has a limit, then that limit is unique.

Proposition 2.

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

Example 6.

$$f : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$x \longmapsto \begin{cases} 2x + 3 & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ 4x + 5 & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$$

We have

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = 3$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} f(x) = 5$. In this case, it is said that f does not have a limit at 0.

Let there be two functions f and g . We assume that x_0 is a real number, or that $x_0 = \pm\infty$

Proposition 3. If $\lim_{x_0} f = \ell \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\lim_{x_0} g = \ell' \in \mathbb{R}$, then:

- $\lim_{x_0} (\lambda \cdot f) = \lambda \cdot \ell$ for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$
- $\lim_{x_0} (f + g) = \ell + \ell'$
- $\lim_{x_0} (f \times g) = \ell \times \ell'$
- If $\ell \neq 0$, then $\lim_{x_0} \frac{1}{f} = \frac{1}{\ell}$
 Moreover, if $\lim_{x_0} f = +\infty$ (or $-\infty$), then $\lim_{x_0} \frac{1}{f} = 0$.
- If h is a bounded function and $\lim_{x_0} f = 0$, then $\lim_{x_0} (h \cdot f) = 0$

Proposition 4 (Composition of Limits).

$$\boxed{\text{If } \lim_{x_0} f = \ell \text{ and } \lim_{\ell} g = \ell', \text{ then } \lim_{x_0} g \circ f = \ell'}$$

Proposition 5. • If $f \leq g$ and if $\lim_{x_0} f = \ell \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\lim_{x_0} g = \ell' \in \mathbb{R}$, then $\ell \leq \ell'$.

- If $f \leq g$ and if $\lim_{x_0} f = +\infty$, then $\lim_{x_0} g = +\infty$.
- Sandwich Theorem (Squeeze Theorem)

$$\boxed{\text{If } f \leq g \leq h \text{ and } \lim_{x_0} f = \lim_{x_0} h = \ell \in \mathbb{R}, \text{ then } g \text{ has a limit at } x_0 \text{ and } \lim_{x_0} g = \ell.}$$

Proposition 6. 1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x}} = (1)^\infty \stackrel{I.F}{=} e$

$$2. \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x = (1)^\infty \stackrel{I.F}{=} e$$

Proof. 1. $(1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x}} = \exp\left(\frac{1}{x} \ln(1 + x)\right)$
 and we have :

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln(1 + x)}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln(1 + x) - \ln(1)}{x - 0} = (\ln(1 + x))'_{x=0} = \left(\frac{1}{1 + x}\right)_{x=0} = 1,$$

$$\text{then, } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1 + x)^{\frac{1}{x}} = \exp(1) = e.$$

2. The second is proven in the same way.

□

Example 7. 1. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1 + \sin x)^{\frac{1}{x}}$.

2. $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} \left(\frac{x+4}{x-6}\right)^x$.

Solution:

1.

$$(1 + \sin x)^{\frac{1}{x}} = (1 + \sin x)^{\frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{\sin x}{\sin x}} = \underbrace{\left((1 + \sin x)^{\frac{1}{\sin x}} \right)^{\frac{\sin x}{x}}}_{e} \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow 0} e^{\frac{\sin x}{x}} = e$$

2.

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{x+4}{x-6}\right)^x &= \left(\frac{x-6+6+4}{x-6}\right)^x = \left(1 + \frac{1}{\frac{x-6}{10}}\right)^{x \cdot \frac{x-6}{10} \cdot \frac{10}{x-6}} \\ &= \left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{\frac{x-6}{10}}\right)^{\frac{x-6}{10}}\right)^{\frac{10x}{x-6}} \longrightarrow e^{\frac{10x}{x-6}} = e^{10} \end{aligned}$$

4 Continuity at a point

4.1 Definitions

Let I be an interval in $\mathbb{R}$, and $f : I \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function.

Definition 11. • It is said that f is *continuous at a point* $x_0 \in I$ if

$$\boxed{\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0, \forall x \in I \quad |x - x_0| < \delta \implies |f(x) - f(x_0)| < \varepsilon.}$$

That is,

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

• We say that f is *continuous on I* if f is continuous at every point in I .

Definition 12. • We say that f is *right-continuous at point $x_0 \in I$* if

$$\lim_{x \xrightarrow{>} x_0} f(x) = f(x_0)$$

• We say that f is *left-continuous at point $x_0 \in I$* if

$$\lim_{x \xrightarrow{<} x_0} f(x) = f(x_0)$$

Example 8.

$$f : \mathbb{R} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$x \longmapsto \begin{cases} 2x + 1 & \text{if } x > 1 \\ 3 & \text{if } x = 1 \\ 4x + 5 & \text{if } x < 1 \end{cases}$$

We have

$\lim_{x \xrightarrow{>} 1} f(x) = 3 = f(1)$ and $\lim_{x \xrightarrow{<} 1} f(x) = 9 \neq f(1)$. In this case, it is said that f does

not have a limit at 1.

f is right-continuous at 1 but is not left-continuous at 1, so f is not continuous at 1.

Example 9. The following functions are continuous:

- The functions "square root" $x \mapsto \sqrt{x}$ and $\ln$ are continuous on $]0, +\infty[$.
- The functions $\sin$, $\cos$, $\exp$ and absolute value $x \mapsto |x|$ are continuous on $\mathbb{R}$.

Proposition 7. Let $f, g : I \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be two functions continuous at a point $x_0 \in I$. Then

- $\lambda \cdot f$ is continuous at x_0 (for all $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$),
- $f + g$ is continuous at x_0 ,
- $f \times g$ is continuous at x_0 ,
- If $f(x_0) \neq 0$, then $\frac{1}{f}$ is continuous at x_0 .

Proposition 8. Let $f : I \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $g : J \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be two functions such that $f(I) \subset J$. If f is continuous at a point $x_0 \in I$, and g is continuous at $f(x_0)$, then $g \circ f$ is continuous at x_0 .

4.2 Extension by continuity

Definition 13. Let I be an interval, x_0 a point in I , and $f : I \setminus \{x_0\} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ a function.

- It is said that f is *extendable by continuity* at x_0 if f has a finite limit at x_0 . We then denote the limit as $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} f(x) = \ell$.
- We then define the function $\tilde{f} : I \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by setting for all $x \in I$.

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

Then $\tilde{f}$ is continuous at x_0 , and it is called *the continuity extension* of f at x_0

Example 10. The function

$$f(x) = x \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$$

is defined and continuous on $\mathbb{R}^*$. Moreover, for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$, we have

$$|f(x)| = \left| x \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) \right| \leq |x|$$

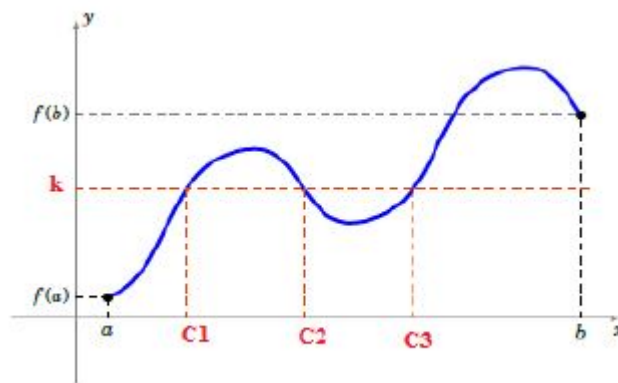
So, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = 0$. The continuous extension of f at point 0 is therefore the function $\tilde{f}$ defined by

$$\tilde{f}(x) = \begin{cases} x \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) & \text{if } x \neq 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } x = 0. \end{cases}$$

4.3 Intermediate Value Theorem

Theorem 1. Let f be a continuous function on the interval $[a, b]$

For every real number k between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$, there exists $c \in [a, b]$ such that $f(c) = k$.



Here is the most commonly used version of the Intermediate Value Theorem.

Theorem 2. Let f be a continuous function on the interval $[a, b]$

If $f(a) \cdot f(b) < 0$, then there exists $c \in]a, b[$ such that $f(c) = 0$.

5 Derivative

5.1 Derivative at a point

Let I be an open interval in $\mathbb{R}$, and let $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function. Let x_0 be in I .

Definition 14. f is *differentiable at x_0* if the *rate of change* $\frac{f(x)-f(x_0)}{x-x_0}$ has a finite limit as x approaches x_0 .

The limit is then called the *derived number* of f at x_0 and is denoted as $f'(x_0)$. Thus

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

Remark 1. Another representation of the derivative is as follows:

f is differentiable at x_0 if and only if $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x_0+h)-f(x_0)}{h}$ exists and is finite.

Definition 15. f is **differentiable on I** if f is differentiable at every point $x_0 \in I$. The function $x \mapsto f'(x)$ is the **derivative function** of f , it is denoted as f' or $\frac{df}{dx}$.

Example 11. The function defined by $f(x) = x^2$ is differentiable at every point $x_0 \in \mathbb{R}$. Indeed

$$\frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{x - x_0} = \frac{x^2 - x_0^2}{x - x_0} = \frac{(x - x_0)(x + x_0)}{x - x_0} = x + x_0 \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow x_0} 2x_0.$$

It has even been shown that the derived number of f at x_0 is $2x_0$, in other words: $f'(x) = 2x$.

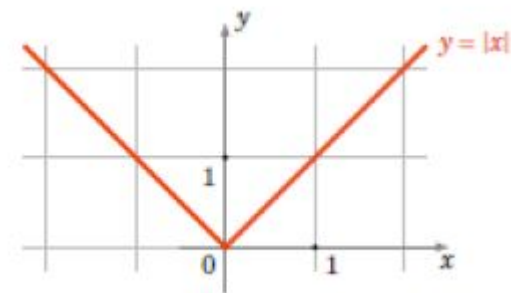
Definition 16. • f is **right-differentiable** at x_0 , if $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^+} \frac{f(x)-f(x_0)}{x-x_0} = f'_r(x_0)$.

- f is **left-differentiable** at x_0 , if $\lim_{x \rightarrow x_0^-} \frac{f(x)-f(x_0)}{x-x_0} = f'_l(x_0)$.
- f is differentiable at $x_0 \iff f$ is right-differentiable and left-differentiable at x_0 and $f'(x_0) = f'_r(x_0) = f'_l(x_0)$.

Proposition 9. Let I be an open interval, $x_0 \in I$, and let $f : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function.

- If f is differentiable at x_0 , then f is continuous at x_0 .
- If f is differentiable on I , then f is continuous on I .

Remark 2. The converse is **false**: for example, the absolute value function is continuous at 0 but is not differentiable at 0.



Indeed, the rate of change of $f(x) = |x|$ at $x_0 = 0$, satisfies:

$$\frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0} = \frac{|x|}{x} = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{if } x > 0 \\ -1 & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}.$$

There is indeed a right-hand limit ($f'_r(0) = +1$) and a left-hand limit ($f'_l(0) = -1$), but they are not equal: there is no limit at 0. Therefore, f is not differentiable at $x = 0$. This can also be seen in the graph; there is a half-tangent on the right and a half-tangent on the left, but they have different directions.

Proposition 10. Let $f, g : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be two differentiable functions on I . Then

- $(f + g)' = f' + g'$
- $(\lambda f)' = \lambda f'$ where λ is a fixed real number
- $(f \times g)' = f'g + fg'$
- $\left(\frac{1}{f}\right)' = -\frac{f'}{f^2}$ (if $f \neq 0$)
- $\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)' = \frac{gf' - fg'}{g^2}$ (if $g \neq 0$)

5.2 Derivative of common functions

u represents a function $x \mapsto u(x)$

Function	Derivative
x^n	$nx^{n-1} \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z})$
$\frac{1}{x}$	$-\frac{1}{x^2}$
$\sqrt{x}$	$\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$
x^α	$\alpha x^{\alpha-1} \quad (\alpha \in \mathbb{R})$
e^x	e^x
$\ln x$	$\frac{1}{x}$
$\cos x$	$-\sin x$
$\sin x$	$\cos x$
$\tan x$	$1 + \tan^2 x = \frac{1}{\cos^2 x}$

Function	Derivative
u^n	$nu' u^{n-1} \quad (n \in \mathbb{Z})$
$\frac{1}{u}$	$-\frac{u'}{u^2}$
$\sqrt{u}$	$\frac{u'}{2\sqrt{u}}$
u^α	$\alpha u' u^{\alpha-1} \quad (\alpha \in \mathbb{R})$
e^u	$u' e^u$
$\ln u$	$\frac{u'}{u}$
$\cos u$	$-u' \sin u$
$\sin u$	$u' \cos u$
$\tan u$	$u'(1 + \tan^2 u) = \frac{u'}{\cos^2 u}$

5.3 Composition

Proposition 11. *If f is differentiable at x_0 and g is differentiable at $f(x_0)$, then $g \circ f$ is differentiable at x_0 with derivative:*

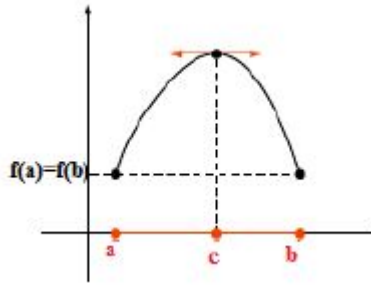
$$(g \circ f)'(x_0) = g'(f(x_0)) \cdot f'(x_0)$$

5.4 Rolle's Theorem

Theorem 3 (Rolle's Theorem). *Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that*

- *f is continuous on $[a, b]$,*
- *f is differentiable on $]a, b[$,*
- *$f(a) = f(b)$.*

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



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

5.5 Mean Value Theorem

Theorem 4 (Mean Value Theorem). *Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function that is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on $]a, b[$. Then, there exists $c \in]a, b[$ such that*

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

5.6 Increasing Function and Derivative

Corollary 1. *Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a function that is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on $]a, b[$.*

1. $\forall x \in]a, b[\quad f'(x) \geq 0 \iff f \text{ is increasing};$
2. $\forall x \in]a, b[\quad f'(x) \leq 0 \iff f \text{ is decreasing};$
3. $\forall x \in]a, b[\quad f'(x) = 0 \iff f \text{ is constant};$
4. $\forall x \in]a, b[\quad f'(x) > 0 \implies f \text{ is strictly increasing};$
5. $\forall x \in]a, b[\quad f'(x) < 0 \implies f \text{ is strictly decreasing}.$

Corollary 2 (L'Hôpital's Rule). *Let $f, g : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be two differentiable functions, and let $x_0 \in I$. We assume that*

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

$$\text{If } \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} = \ell \text{ (} \in \mathbb{R} \text{) then } \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \ell.$$

Example 12. Calculate the limit at 1 of $\frac{\ln(x^2+x-1)}{\ln(x)}$. We verify that:

- $f(x) = \ln(x^2 + x - 1)$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} f(x) = 0$, $f'(x) = \frac{2x+1}{x^2+x-1}$,
- $f(x) = \ln(x)$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} g(x) = 0$, $g'(x) = \frac{1}{x}$,

$$\frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} = \frac{2x+1}{x^2+x-1} \times x = \frac{2x^2+x}{x^2+x-1} \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow 1} 3.$$

Therefore

$$\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow 1} 3.$$