



# Differential Calculus



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**By the end of this chapter you should be familiar with:**

- Concept of a limit
- Derivatives of standard functions
- Chain rule, product rule and quotient rule
- Tangents and normal
- Increasing and decreasing functions
- The second derivative
- Optimization
- Related rates

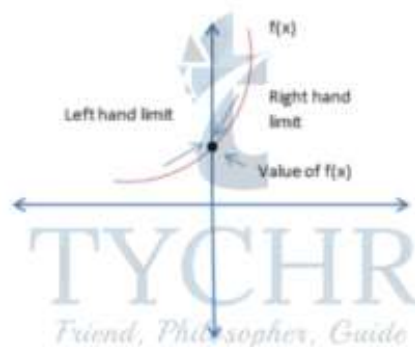
## LIMITS AND DERIVATIVES

### LIMITS

Suppose we have a function  $f(x)$ . The value, a function attains, as the variable  $x$  approaches a particular value say  $a$ , i.e.,  $x \rightarrow a$  is called its **limit**. Here, ' $a$ ' is some pre-assigned value. It is denoted as  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = l$

- The **expected value** of the function shown by the points to the left of a point ' $a$ ' is the left-hand limit of the function at that point. It is denoted as  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$ .
- The points to the right of a point ' $a$ ' which shows the value of the function is the right-hand limit of the function at that point. It is denoted as  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$ .

Limits of functions at a point are the common and coincidence value of the left and right-hand limits.



The value of a limit of a function  $f(x)$  at a point  $a$  i.e.,  $f(a)$  may vary from the value of  $f(x)$  at ' $a$ '.

If the function after applying limits is in the  $0/0$  or  $\infty/\infty$  form then you differentiate the numerator and the denominator until it's not in  $0/0$  or  $\infty/\infty$  form.

**Example:** Find the limit of  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} [x^3 + 2x^2 + 4x - 2]$

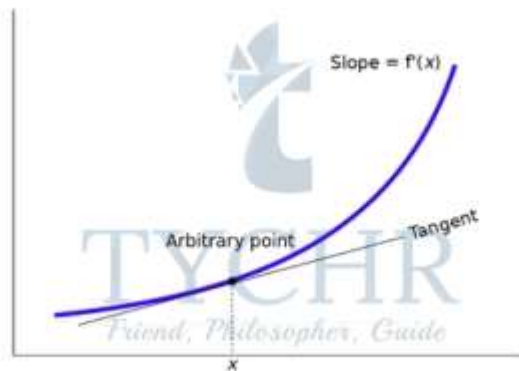
**Solution:**  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} [x^3 + 2x^2 + 4x - 2] = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} x^3 + 2 \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} x^2 + 4 \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} x - \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} 2$   
 $= 2^3 + 2 \times 2^2 + 4 \times 2 - 2 = 22$

## DERIVATIVE

Assume a function  $f(x)$  within its domain. Let us say, this function involves the calculation of the rate of change of velocity or as we know it the acceleration of a vehicle as it moves from one point to the other.

Now obviously the rate of change of velocity is instantaneous as the function is dependent on both the speed as well as the direction of the vehicle. If we are to find the instantaneous acceleration of the vehicle we will need the limits of the function at that instant.

A function denoting the rate of change of another function is called as a derivative of that function. In other words, a derivative is used to define the rate of change of a function.



The **derivative** of a function  $f(x)$  at any point 'a' in its domain is given by:  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} [f(a+h) - f(a)]/h$

If the derivative exists. It is denoted by  $f'(a)$  and  $f'(a)$  changes as the value of  $x$  changes in its **domain**

Notation	Read as	Comment
$y'$	'y prime'	This notation is brief but does not name the independent variable.
$\dot{y}$	'y dot'	The derivative with respect to time; equivalent to $\frac{dy}{dt}$
$\frac{dy}{dx}$	'dy dx' or 'the derivative of y with respect to x'	Names both dependent and independent variables and uses d for derivative.
$f'(x)$	'f prime of x' or 'the derivative of f of x'	Emphasises the name of the function and names the independent variable.

**Example:** Find the derivative of the function  $2x^2+3x-5$  at  $x=1$ ?

**Solution:** The derivative of a function  $f(x)$  at a point is given by:  $f'(x)$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} [f(x+h) - f(x)]/h$$

$$\text{So, } f'(x=1) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} [(2(1+h)^2+3(1+h)-5)-(2+3-5)]/h = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} [(2h^2-h)]/h = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \{2h - 1\} = -1$$

Before we get into the next topic lets look at some rules.

## CHAIN RULE

The **chain rule** states that the derivative of  $f(g(x))$  is  $f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$ . In other words, it helps us differentiate composite functions. Basically:  
$$d[f(g(x))]/dx = f'(g(x)) \times g'(x)$$

Here is a list of derivatives of common function so you don't have to keep using the formula again and again:

### Common Derivatives

#### Polynomials

$$\frac{d}{dx}(c) = 0 \quad \frac{d}{dx}(x) = 1 \quad \frac{d}{dx}(cx) = c \quad \frac{d}{dx}(x^n) = nx^{n-1} \quad \frac{d}{dx}(cx^n) = ncx^{n-1}$$

#### Trig Functions

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) &= \cos x & \frac{d}{dx}(\cos x) &= -\sin x & \frac{d}{dx}(\tan x) &= \sec^2 x \\ \frac{d}{dx}(\sec x) &= \sec x \tan x & \frac{d}{dx}(\csc x) &= -\csc x \cot x & \frac{d}{dx}(\cot x) &= -\csc^2 x \end{aligned}$$

#### Inverse Trig Functions

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(\sin^{-1} x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} & \frac{d}{dx}(\cos^{-1} x) &= -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} & \frac{d}{dx}(\tan^{-1} x) &= \frac{1}{1+x^2} \\ \frac{d}{dx}(\sec^{-1} x) &= \frac{1}{|x|\sqrt{x^2-1}} & \frac{d}{dx}(\csc^{-1} x) &= -\frac{1}{|x|\sqrt{x^2-1}} & \frac{d}{dx}(\cot^{-1} x) &= -\frac{1}{1+x^2} \end{aligned}$$

#### Exponential/Logarithm Functions

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(a^x) &= a^x \ln(a) & \frac{d}{dx}(e^x) &= e^x \\ \frac{d}{dx}(\ln(x)) &= \frac{1}{x}, \quad x > 0 & \frac{d}{dx}(\ln|x|) &= \frac{1}{x}, \quad x \neq 0 & \frac{d}{dx}(\log_a(x)) &= \frac{1}{x \ln a}, \quad x > 0 \end{aligned}$$

#### Hyperbolic Trig Functions

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(\sinh x) &= \cosh x & \frac{d}{dx}(\cosh x) &= \sinh x & \frac{d}{dx}(\tanh x) &= \operatorname{sech}^2 x \\ \frac{d}{dx}(\operatorname{sech} x) &= -\operatorname{sech} x \tanh x & \frac{d}{dx}(\operatorname{csch} x) &= -\operatorname{csch} x \coth x & \frac{d}{dx}(\coth x) &= -\operatorname{csch}^2 x \end{aligned}$$

**Example:** Let  $f(x) = e^x$  and  $g(x) = 4x$ . Use the chain rule to calculate  $h'(x)$ , where  $h(x) = f(g(x))$ .

**Solution:** The derivative of an exponential function with base  $e$  is just the function itself,

So,  $f'(x) = e^x$  and the derivative of  $g$  is  $g'(x) = 4$ .

According to the chain rule,

$$d[f(g(x))]/dx = f'(g(x)) \times g'(x)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 h'(x) &= f'(g(x)) \times g'(x) \\
 &= f'(4x) \times 4 = 4e^{4x}
 \end{aligned}$$

## PRODUCT AND QUOTIENT RULE

If the two functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are differentiable then the **product is differentiable** and

$$(f(x)g(x))' = f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x) \text{ [PRODUCT RULE]}$$

If the two functions  $f(x)/g(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are differentiable (i.e. the derivative exist) then the **quotient is differentiable** and,

$$(f(x)/g(x))' = (f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x))/g(x)^2$$

**Example:** Find the differentiation of the following functions:

1.  $f(x) = (6x^3 - x)(10 - 20x)$
2.  $h(x) = 4\sqrt{x}/(x^2-2)$

**Solution:**

1. Using the product rule,  
 $f'(x) = (18x^2 - 1)(10 - 20x) + (6x^3 - x)(-20)$   
 $= -480x^3 + 180x^2 + 40x - 10$

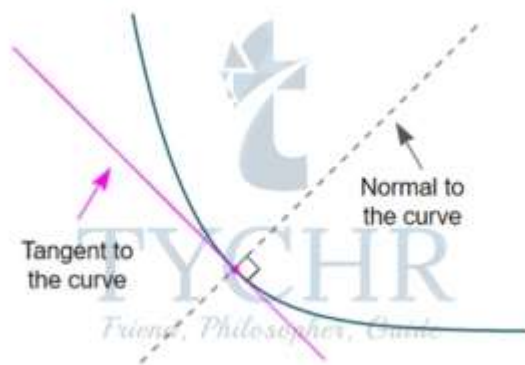
$$h'(x) = \frac{4 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) x^{-1/2} (x^2 - 2) - 4x^{-1/2} (2x)}{(x^2 - 2)^2}$$

2. Using the quotient rule,  $h'(x) = \frac{-6x^{3/2} - 4x^{-1/2}}{(x^2 - 2)^2}$

## TANGENTS AND NORMALS

A **tangent** to a curve is a line that touches the curve at one point and has the same slope as the curve at that point.

A **normal** to a curve is a line **perpendicular** to a tangent to the curve.



**Note 1:** We can find the slope of a tangent at any point  $(x, y)$  using  $dy/dx$ .

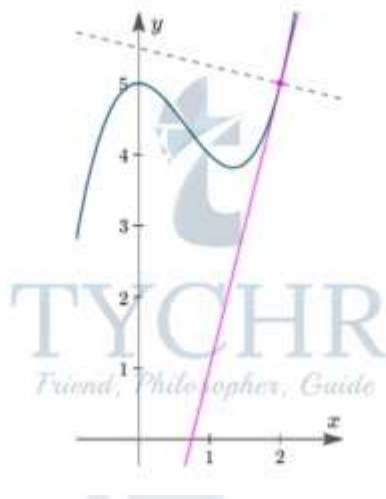
**Note 2:** To find the equation of a normal, recall the condition for two lines with slopes  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  to be perpendicular is  $m_1 \times m_2 = -1$ .

**Example:**

1. Find the gradient of the tangent and the normal to the curve  $y = x^3 - 2x^2 + 5$  at the point  $(2, 5)$ .
2. Find the equation of the tangent and the normal.
3. Sketch the graph.

**Solution:**

1.  $dy/dx = 3x^2 - 4x$   
 The slope of the tangent is  $m_1 = [dy/dx]_{x=2}$   
 $= 12 - 8 = 4$   
 The slope of normal  $m_2 = -1/m_1$  [Using  $m_1 m_2 = -1$ ]  
 $m_2 = -1/4$
2. Using the formula  $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$   
 For tangent, substituting  $m = 4$  we get  
 $y - 5 = 4(x - 2)$   
 $4x - y - 3 = 0$   
 For normal, substituting  $m = -1/4$  we get  
 $y - 5 = (-1/4)(x - 2)$   
 $x + 4y - 22 = 0$



## MINIMA, MAXIMA AND POINTS OF INFLECTION

### INCREASING AND DECREASING FUNCTIONS

A function is **increasing** on an interval if for any  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  in the interval then,

$$x_1 < x_2 \text{ implies } f(x_1) < f(x_2)$$

A function is **decreasing** on an interval if for any  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  in the interval then,

$$x_1 < x_2 \text{ implies } f(x_1) > f(x_2)$$

Let  $f$  be a differentiable function on the interval  $(a, b)$  then [this is also known as the first derivative test]

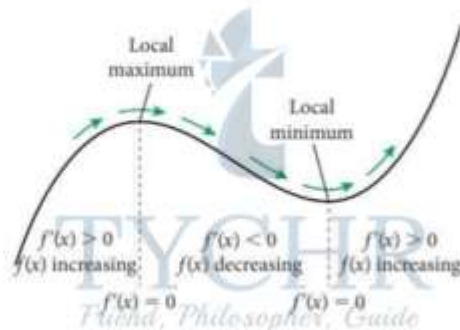
1. If  $f'(x) < 0$  for  $x$  in  $(a, b)$ , then  $f$  is decreasing there and the point is known as **local minimum**.
2. If  $f'(x) > 0$  for  $x$  in  $(a, b)$ , then  $f$  is increasing there and the point is known as **local maximum**.
3. If  $f'(x) = 0$  for  $x$  in  $(a, b)$ , then  $f$  is constant.

We say that  $x = c$  is a **critical point** of a function  $f(x)$  if  $f(c)$  exists and either of the following are true:

$$f'(c) = 0 \text{ or } f'(c) \text{ doesn't exist.}$$



An **Inflection Point** is where a curve changes from Concave upward to Concave downward or vice versa.



**Example:** Determine the values of  $x$  where the function  $f(x) = 2x^3 + 3x^2 - 12x + 7$

**Solution:** We first take the derivative  $f'(x) = 6x^2 + 6x - 12$

To determine where the derivative is positive and where it is negative, find the roots.

Factor to get:  $6(x^2 + x - 2) = 6(x - 1)(x + 2)$

Hence the change in sign can occur when  $x = 1$  and  $x = -2$  which are also known as the critical points.

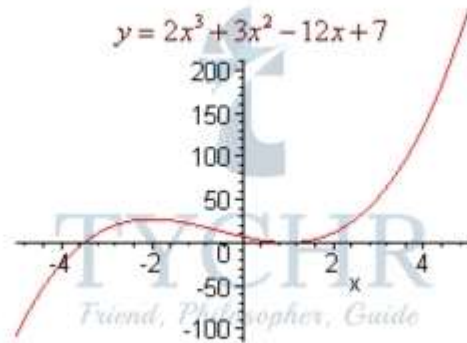
$x$	$f'(x)$
-3	24
0	-12
2	24

Now create some test values

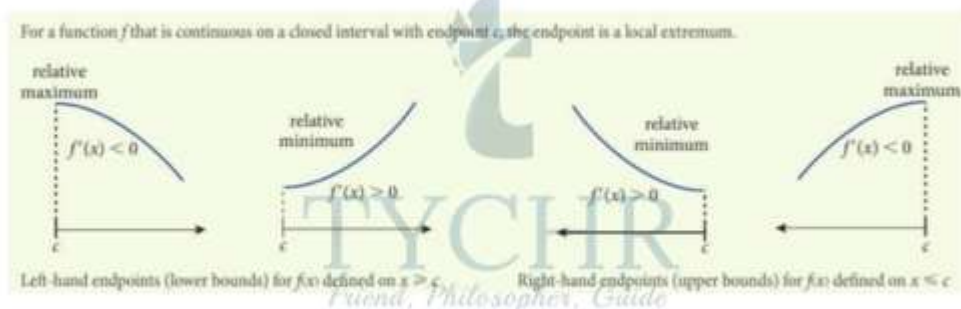
The derivative is positive outside of  $[-2,1]$  and is negative inside of  $[-2,1]$ .

We can conclude that  $f(x)$  is increasing outside of  $[-2,1]$  and decreasing inside of  $[-2,1]$ .

The graph is shown below.



To find **absolute maximum** or **minimum** we need to find local extrema and then compare them to see which one is the greatest or least value for the entire domain of  $f(x)$ . The function may have more than one local extremum.



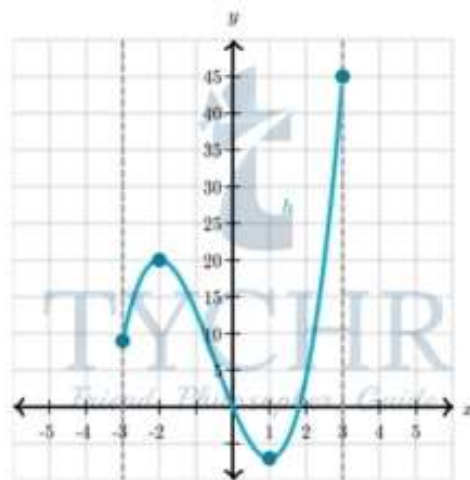
**Example:** Find the absolute extrema of  $h(x) = 2x^3 + 3x^2 - 12$  over the interval  $-3 \leq x \leq 3$



On the closed interval  $-3 \leq x \leq 3$ , the points  $(-3, 9)$  and  $(1, -7)$  are relative minima and the points  $(-2, 20)$  and  $(3, 45)$  are relative maxima.

$(1, -7)$  is the lowest relative minimum, so it's the absolute minimum point and  $(3, 45)$  is the largest relative maximum, so it's the absolute maximum point.

Notice that the absolute minimum value is obtained within the interval and the absolute maximum value is obtained on an endpoint.



## SECOND DERIVATIVE TEST

Suppose  $f(x)$  is a function of  $x$  that is **twice differentiable** at a **stationary point**  $x_0$ .

1. If  $f''(x_0) > 0$ , then  $f$  has a **local minimum** at  $x_0$ .
2. If  $f''(x_0) < 0$ , then  $f$  has a **local maximum** at  $x_0$ .

The extremum test gives slightly more general conditions under which a function with  $f''(x_0) = 0$  is a maximum or minimum.

If  $f(x, y)$  is a two – dimensional function that has a local extremum at a point  $(x_0, y_0)$  and has continuous partial derivatives at this

point, then  $f_x(x_0, y_0)$  and  $f_y(x_0, y_0)$ . The second partial derivatives test classifies the point as a local maximum or local minimum.

We define the second derivative test discriminant as

$$D \equiv f_{xx} f_{yy} - f_{xy} f_{yx}$$

$$D = f_{xx} f_{yy} - (f_{xy})^2$$

Then

1. If  $D > 0$  and  $f_{xx}(x_0, y_0) > 0$ , the point is a **local minimum**.
2. If  $D > 0$  and  $f_{xx}(x_0, y_0) < 0$ , the point is a **local maximum**.
3. If  $D < 0$ , the point is a **saddle point**.
4. If  $D = 0$ , higher order tests must be used.

**Example:** Consider  $f(x) = \sin x + \cos x$

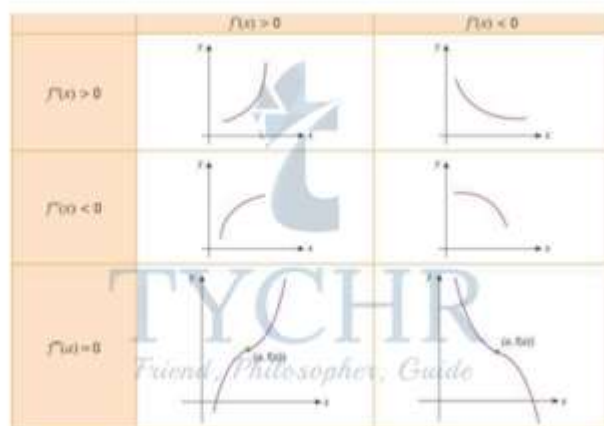
$$f'(x) = \cos x - \sin x$$

$$f''(x) = -\sin x - \cos x$$

Since  $f''(\pi/4) = -1/\sqrt{2} - 1/\sqrt{2} = -\sqrt{2} < 0$  there is a local maximum at  $\pi/4$ .

Since  $f''(5\pi/4) = 1/\sqrt{2} + 1/\sqrt{2} = \sqrt{2} > 0$  there is a local minimum at  $5\pi/4$ .

To summarize,



## OPTIMISATION

In **optimization** problems we are looking for the largest value or the smallest value that a function can take. Here we will be looking for the largest or smallest value of a function subject to some kind of constraint. The constraint will be some condition (that can usually be described by some equation) that must absolutely, positively be true no matter what our solution is.

**Example:** We want to construct a box whose base length is 3 times the base width. The material used to build the top and bottom cost  $\$10/\text{ft}^2$  and the material used to build the sides cost  $\$6/\text{ft}^2$ . If the box must have a volume of  $50\text{ft}^3$  determine the dimensions that will minimize the cost to build the box.



### **Solution:**

We want to minimize the cost of the materials subject to the constraint that the volume must be  $50\text{ft}^3$ . Note as well that the cost for each side is just the area of that side times the appropriate cost.

The two functions we'll be working with here this time are,

$$\text{Minimize: } C = 10(2lw) + 6(2wh + 2lh) = 60w^2 + 48wh$$

$$\text{Constraint: } 50 = lwh = 3w^2h$$

We will solve the constraint for one of the variables and plug this into the cost. It will definitely be easier to solve the constraint for  $h$  so let's do that.

$$h = 50/3w^2$$

Plugging this into the cost gives,

$$C(w) = 60w^2 + 48w(50/3w^2) = 60w^2 + 800/w$$

Now, let's get the first and second derivatives,

$$C'(w) = 120w - 800w^{-2}$$

$$C''(w) = 120 + 1600w^{-3}$$

Now we need the critical point for the cost function. First, notice that  $w=0$  is not a critical point. Clearly the derivative does not exist at  $w=0$  but then neither does the function and remember that values of  $w$  will only be critical points if the function also exists at that point.

$$120w^3 - 800 = 0$$

$w = 1.8821$  which is the critical point and gives absolute minimum cost.

$$l = 3w = 3(1.8821) = 5.6463$$

$$h = 50/3w^2 = 50/3(1.8821)^2 = 4.7050$$

$$C(1.8821) = \$637.60$$

## RELATED RATES

**Related rates** look at the effect that a change in a particular rate has on another rate.

Here are the steps in doing a related rates problem:

1. Decide what the two variables are.
2. Find an equation relating them.
3. Take  $d/dt$  of both sides.
4. Plug in all known values at the instant in question.
5. Solve for the unknown rate.

**Example:** You are inflating a spherical balloon at the rate of  $7 \text{ cm}^3/\text{sec}$ . How fast is its radius increasing when the radius is  $4 \text{ cm}$ ?

**Solution:** Here the variables are the radius  $r$  and the volume  $V$ . We know  $dV/dt$ , and we want  $dr/dt$ . The two variables are related by means of the equation:

$$V = \frac{4\pi r^3}{3}.$$

Taking the derivative of both sides gives:

$$dV/dt = 4\pi r^2 r' \quad 7 = 4\pi (4)^2 r' \quad r' = 7/64\pi \text{ cm/sec} = 0.0348 \text{ cm/sec}$$

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