

Differentiability and Continuity

- **Differentiability:** Function  $f$  is differentiable if and only if it is differentiable at every value of  $x$  in its domain.

A function  $f: D \rightarrow R$  is differentiable at  $x=a$ ,  $a \in D$ , if

1.  $f$  is continuous at  $x=a$
2. Suppose  $f$  is a real function with domain  $D$  containing an open interval about  $x=a$ .

$f$  is differentiable at  $x=a$  if  $f'(a) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$  (right-hand derivative) and

$f'(a) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$  (left-hand derivative) both exist and are equal.

- **Continuity:** If function  $f$  is differentiable at  $x=c$ , then  $f$  is continuous at  $x=c$ .

Example 1)


Find the value(s) of the constants  $a$  and  $b$  what make piecewise function  $f(x)$  differentiable at  $x=2$ .

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} ax^3 & x \leq 2 \\ b(x-3)^2 + 10 & x > 2 \end{cases} \quad x=2$$

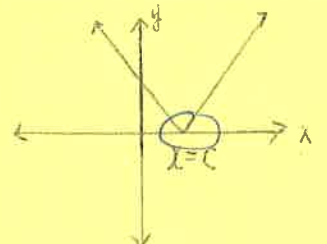
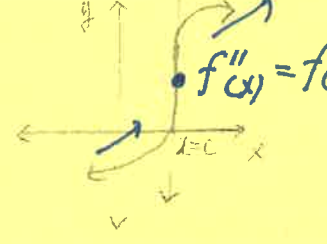
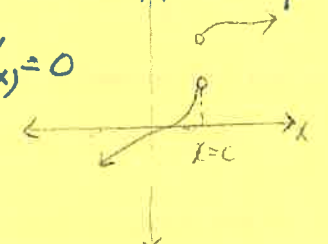
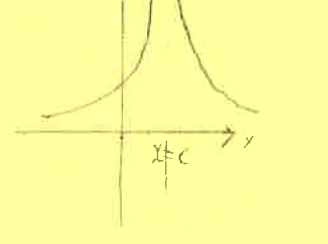
$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f(x) \Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} b(x-3)^2 + 10 = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} ax^3$   
 $b+10 = 8a$  (1)  $-6a + 10 = 8a$   
 $14a = 10$   
 $a = \frac{5}{7}$   
 $b = -\frac{30}{7}$   
 $b = -6a$   
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} f'(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} f'(x) \Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^+} 2b(x-3) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2^-} 3ax^2$   
 $-2b = 12a$  (2)

Example 2)

Prove that  $f(x) = |x|$  is continuous but not differentiable at  $x=0$ .

$f(x) = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \geq 0 \\ -x & \text{if } x < 0 \end{cases}$   
  
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} -x$   
 $0 = 0$   
 $f(x)$  is continuous at  $x=0$   
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} 1 \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} -1$   
 $1 \neq -1$   
 $f(x)$  is not differentiable at  $x=0$ .

Notes: A function is not differentiable at  $x=c$ .

 Cusp  
 vertical tangent line  
 $f''(x) = f'(x) = 0$   
  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c^+} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow c^-} f(x)$   
  $f(c)$  is undefined

Practice) Prove that  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \sin x & x \geq 0 \\ x^2 + 5x & x < 0 \end{cases}$  is continuous but not differentiable at  $x=0$ .

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sin x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} x^2 + 5x$$

$$0 = 0$$

$\therefore f(x)$  is continuous.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (\sin x)' = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} (x^2 + 5x)'$$

$$\Rightarrow \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \cos x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} 2x + 5$$

$$1 \neq 5$$

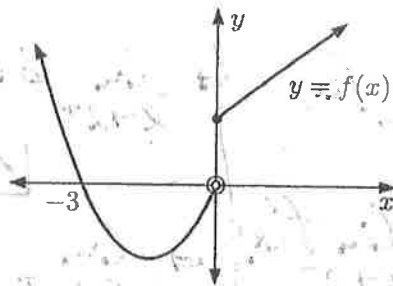
Homework: (Answers are on separate sheet)  $\therefore f(x)$  is not differentiable.

1 Let  $f(x) = \cos x$ . Use the definition of the derivative to prove that  $f'(x) = -\sin x$ .

2 Prove that  $f(x) = |x - 5| = \begin{cases} x - 5, & x \geq 5 \\ 5 - x, & x < 5 \end{cases}$  is continuous but not differentiable at  $x = 5$ .

3 Let  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 2, & x \geq 0 \\ x^2 + 3x, & x < 0. \end{cases}$

Explain why  $f(x)$  is not differentiable at  $x = 0$ .



4 Let  $f(x) = \begin{cases} -x^2 + 5x + 6, & x \geq 1 \\ 3x + 10, & x < 1. \end{cases}$

a Sketch the function  $y = f(x)$ .

b Calculate: i  $f'_-(1)$  ii  $f'_+(1)$

c Is  $f$  differentiable at  $x = 1$ ? Explain your answer.

5 For each of the following functions and the given value of  $a$ , determine whether the function is differentiable at  $x = a$ .

a  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1 + \sin x, & x \geq 0 \\ x^2 + x + 1, & x < 0, \end{cases} \quad a = 0$

b  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \cos x, & x \geq 0 \\ x^3, & x < 0, \end{cases} \quad a = 0$

c  $f(x) = \begin{cases} 4x^2 - 3, & x \geq 2 \\ x^3 + 2x + 1, & x < 2, \end{cases} \quad a = 2$

6 Investigate the continuity and differentiability of  $f$  at  $x = 0$  if

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} k \sin x, & x \geq 0 \\ \tan x, & x < 0 \end{cases}, \text{ where } k \in \mathbb{R} \text{ is any constant.}$$

7 Find constants  $c, d \in \mathbb{R}$  so that the given function is differentiable at  $x = 1$ .

a  $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2, & x \leq 1 \\ cx + d, & x > 1 \end{cases}$

b  $f(x) = \begin{cases} \sin(x - 1) + cx, & x \geq 1 \\ x^2 - x + d, & x < 1 \end{cases}$