MA 2201 : Analysis II

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Lemma 1. If $f: (a, b) \to \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable, then it is also continuous.

Proof. Let $c \in (a, b)$. On the domain, the limit $\lim_{x\to c} (x - c)$ exists (and is equal to zero). The differentiability of f guarantees that the limit

$$f'(c) = \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$$

also exists. This means that the limit of the product also exists, and this gives

$$\lim_{x \to c} (x - a) \cdot \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} = \lim_{x \to c} (x - c) \cdot \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} = \lim_{x \to c} f(x) - f(c).$$

Thus, for all $c \in (a, b)$,

$$0 = \lim_{x \to c} f(x) - f(c), \qquad \lim_{x \to c} f(x) = f(c)$$

which gives the continuity of f.

Lemma 2. If f and g are continuous, then so are f+g and fg. The quotient f/g is continuous wherever $g(x) \neq 0$.¹

Solution 1. Given f, g differentiable on \mathbb{R} . Note that they must also be continuous, which means that the limits

$$\lim_{x \to c} f(x) = f(c), \qquad \lim_{x \to c} g(x) = g(c)$$

are well defined and exist. Differentiability guarantees that the limits

$$f'(c) = \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}, \qquad g'(c) = \lim_{x \to c} \frac{g(x) - g(c)}{x - c}$$

also exist.

(i) Let h = f + g. Note that h is continuous. To show that h is differentiable on \mathbb{R} with h' = f' + g', consider

$$\lim_{x \to c} \frac{h(x) - h(c)}{x - c} = \lim_{x \to c} \frac{(f(x) + g(x)) - (f(c) + g(c))}{x - c}$$
$$= \lim_{x \to c} \frac{(f(x) - f(c)) + (g(x) - g(c))}{x - c}$$
$$= \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} + \lim_{x \to c} \frac{g(x) - g(c)}{x - c}$$
$$= f'(c) + g'(c).$$

The limit can be separated because the individual limits exist. This shows that h is differentiable on \mathbb{R} .

(ii) Let h = fg. Again, h is continuous. Consider the limit

$$\lim_{x \to c} \frac{h(x) - h(c)}{x - c} = \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x)g(x) - f(c)g(c)}{x - c}$$
$$= \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x)g(x) - f(c)g(x) + f(c)g(x) - f(c)g(c)}{x - c}$$
$$= \lim_{x \to c} g(x) \cdot \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} + f(c) \lim_{x \to c} \frac{g(x) - g(c)}{x - c}$$
$$= g(c)f'(c) + f(c)g'(c).$$

This shows that fg is differentiable on \mathbb{R} , with (fg)' = f'g + fg'.

¹See results from the first semester.

(iii) We show that 1/g is differentiable on the domain where $g(x) \neq 0$, which in turn would imply the differentiability of f/g by the product rule above. Let h = 1/g on the domain where $g(x) \neq 0$. Note that g is continuous, which means that for any c in its domain such that $g(c) \neq 0$, there exists a non-empty neighbourhood $(c - \delta, c + \delta)$ of c where $g(x) \neq 0$. This means that the limit

$$\lim_{x \to c} h(x) = \lim_{x \to c} \frac{1}{g(x)} = \frac{1}{g(c)}$$

is well defined and exists. Now,

$$\lim_{x \to c} \frac{h(x) - h(c)}{x - c} = \lim_{x \to c} \frac{1/g(x) - 1/g(c)}{x - c}$$
$$= -\lim_{x \to c} \frac{g(x) - g(c)}{g(x)g(c)(x - c)}$$
$$= -\lim_{x \to c} \frac{1}{g(x)g(c)} \lim_{x \to c} \frac{g(x) - g(c)}{x - c}$$
$$= -\frac{1}{g(c)^2} \cdot g'(c).$$

Thus shows that 1/g is differentiable, with $(1/g)' = -g'/g^2$. Hence, f/g is differentiable, with $(f/g)' = (f'g - fg')/g^2$.

Solution 2. Given f and g are continuous on [a, b] and differentiable on (a, b). Define the function

$$h = (g(b) - g(a)) \cdot f - (f(b) - f(a)) \cdot g$$

on the same domain, and note that h must be continuous on [a, b] and differentiable on (a, b) since it is a linear combination of f and g. Also,

$$h(a) = f(a)g(b) - g(a)f(b) = h(b)$$

Thus, Rolle's Theorem guarantees the existence of $c \in (a, b)$ such that h'(c) = 0, whence

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

Solution 3. Consider the function

$$f\colon [-1,+1]\to \mathbb{R}, \qquad f(x)=x^3$$

This function is continuous, and differentiable on (-1, +1) as it is the product of the differentiable identity functions. It is also strictly increasing; given x > y, note that x - y > 0 and they both cannot be zero, so

$$f(x) - f(y) = x^3 - y^3 = (x - y)(x^2 + xy + y^2) = (x - y)\left[\left(x + \frac{1}{2}y\right)^2 + \frac{3}{4}y^2\right] > 0.$$

On the other hand²,

$$f'(x) = 3x^2, \qquad f'(0) = 0.$$

Solution 4. Consider the function

$$f\colon (0,2)\to \mathbb{R}, \qquad f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x<1, \\ x+1, & \text{if } x\geq 1. \end{cases}$$

Note that this is strictly increasing on (0, 2), yet it is not continuous at x = 1. Thus, it cannot be differentiable on (0, 2).

²Apply the product rule twice on the identity functions: Dx = 1 and $Dx^2 = xDx + xDx = 2x$, so $Dx^3 = x^2Dx + xDx^2 = 3x^2$, where $Df(x) \equiv f'(x)$.