

MATHS

FORMULA

Continuity and Differentiability

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IMPORTANT DEFINATIONS, FORMULAE AND METHODS

1. **Continuity at a point** : A function f is said to be continuous at $x = a$ if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ exists and $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$. In other words, if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a)$, then f is continuous at $x = a$.
2. **Discontinuity and its types** : If the function f is not continuous at $x = a$, then f is said to be discontinuous at $x = a$. There are three types of discontinuity :
 - (a) **Removable Discontinuity** : If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) \neq f(a)$ then f has removable discontinuity at $x = a$. Such type of discontinuity can be removed by redefining the function.
 - (b) **Discontinuity of First Kind** : If $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$ then f has discontinuity of first kind.
 - (c) **Discontinuity of Second Kind** : If atleast one of the limits, $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$ or $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$, does not exist finitely, at $x = a$ then f has discontinuity of second kind.
3. **Continuous Function** : If the function f is continuous at every point of its domain, then f is said to be a continuous function. There are some continuous functions. For examples :
 - (a) A constant function is everywhere continuous.
 - (b) A polynomial function is everywhere continuous.
 - (c) A rational function is continuous in its domain.
 - (d) Logarithmic function is continuous on $(0, \infty)$.
 - (e) Exponential function is everywhere continuous.
 - (f) Modulus function is everywhere continuous.
 - (g) Trigonometric functions are continuous in their domains.
4. **Important Note** : If f and g are any two continuous functions, then $f + g$, $f - g$, fg , f/g (provided $g(x) \neq 0$) are also continuous function.
5. **Continuity on an Interval** : A function f is said to be continuous on an interval $[a, b]$ if it is continuous at every points in $[a, b]$ including the end point a and b .

Continuity of f at a means. $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a)$ and continuity of f at b means

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow b} f(x) = f(b)$$

- 6. Method to examine the Continuity :** The continuity of the function f can be examined as under :

I. Let $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}, & x \neq 2 \\ 4, & x = 2 \end{cases}$ at $x = 2$ when $x \rightarrow 2^-$ or $x \rightarrow 2^+$, $f(x)$ remains

same, so find $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x)$ and use definition of continuity. It means, if

$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} f(x) = f(2)$ then f is continuous at $x = 2$ otherwise discontinuous.

- II. In case of modulus function, greatest integer function exponential function

(e^x) or function like $f(x) = \begin{cases} x + 2, & \text{if } x < 1 \\ 3, & \text{if } x = 1 \\ 2x - 1, & \text{if } x > 1 \end{cases}$ at $x = 1$, $f(x)$ is different for

LHL and RHL, so find LHL and RHL separately and then check whether $LHL = RHL = f(a)$ or not.

- 7. Differentiability :** A function f is said to be differentiable at $x = a$ if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$ exists finitely i.e., if $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$, **if a function f is differential at any point, then it must be continuous at that point. But converse is not necessarily true.**

- 8. Important formulae :** If $y = f(x)$, then derivative of y w.r.t. x is written as

$$\frac{dy}{dx} \text{ or } y_1 \text{ or } f'(x). \text{ We can also use } \frac{d}{dx} \equiv D.$$

The second order derivative of $y = f(x)$, is written by

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} \left[\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right) \right] \text{ or } y_2 \text{ or } f''(x)$$

i. $D(x)^n = nx^{n-1}$

ii. $D(\text{Constant}) = 0$

iii. $D(\sqrt{f(x)}) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{f(x)}} \times f'(x)$

iv. $D\left[\frac{1}{f(x)}\right] = \frac{-1}{(f(x))^2} \times f'(x)$

v. $D[f(x)]^n = n[f(x)]^{n-1} \times f'(x)$

vi. $D(\sin x) = \cos x$

vii. $D(\cos x) = -\sin x$

viii. $D(\tan x) = \sec^2 x$

ix. $D(\cot x) = -\operatorname{cosec}^2 x$

x. $D(\sec x) = \sec x \tan x$

xi. $D(\operatorname{cosec} x) = -\operatorname{cosec} x \cot x$

xii. $D[\sin[f(x)]] = \cos[f(x)] \times f'(x)$

xiii. $D(\sin^{-1} x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

xiv. $D(\cos^{-1} x) = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

xv. $D(\tan^{-1} x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$

xvi. $D(\cot^{-1} x) = \frac{-1}{1+x^2}$

xvii. $D(\sec^{-1} x) = \frac{1}{x\sqrt{x^2-1}}$

xviii. $D(\operatorname{cosec}^{-1} x) = \frac{-1}{x\sqrt{x^2-1}}$

xix. $D(e^x) = e^x$

xx. $D[e^{f(x)}] = e^{f(x)} \times f'(x)$

xxi. $D(a^x) = a^x \log a, (a > 0)$

xxii. $D(\log x) = \frac{1}{x}$

xxiii. $D[\log f(x)] = \frac{1}{f(x)} \times f'(x)$

xxiv. $D[f(x) \pm g(x)] = D[f(x)] \pm D[g(x)]$

xxv. $D[C f(x)] = C[D f(x)], C = \text{constant}$

xxvi. $D[f(x) \times g(x)] = f(x) \frac{d}{dx}[g(x)] + g(x) \frac{d}{dx}[f(x)]$

xxvii. $D\left[\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}\right] = \frac{g(x) \frac{d}{dx}[f(x)] - f(x) \frac{d}{dx}[g(x)]}{[g(x)]^2}$

xxviii. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - 1}{x} = 1$

$$\text{xxix. } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^x - 1}{x} = \log a$$

$$\text{xxx. } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log(1+x)}{x} = 1$$

9. Chain Rule : If y is a function of x and x is a function of u , then y is a composite

function of u . By chain rule $\frac{dy}{du} = \frac{dy}{dx} \times \frac{dx}{du}$

10. Derivatives of Implicit Function : A function of the type $y = f(x)$ is called an explicit function and a function of the type $f(x, y) = c$, where c is any constant is called an implicit function. For example, $x^2 + y^2 + xy = 2$ is an implicit function.

Let us differentiate it w.r.t. x , we have

$$2x + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} + \left[x \frac{dy}{dx} + y \times 1 \right] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (2y + x) \frac{dy}{dx} = -(2x + y)$$

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = -\left[\frac{2x + y}{2y + x} \right]$$

NOTE : If possible, first express the implicit function as an explicit function, then differentiate.

11. Derivatives of parametric functions : If $x = f(\theta)$ and $y = g(\theta)$, then such functions are called parametric functions. Here θ is the parameter. Using chain rule

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{d\theta} \times \frac{d\theta}{dx}$$

12. Logarithmic differentiation : If we have the function of the types $y = [f(x)]^{f(x)}$, $[f(y)]^{f(x)}$ etc., then first take \log . Both sides, then differentiate. For example, if $y = (x)^{\log x}$. Taking \log both sides $\log y = (\log x)(\log x) = (\log x)^2$. Now differentiate it w.r.t. x and find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

13. Derivative of a function w.r.t. another function : To differentiate a function $f(x)$ w.r.t. another function $g(x)$, let us suppose that $A = f(x)$ and $B = g(x)$,

then using chain rule, we have $\frac{dA}{dB} = \frac{dA}{dx} \times \frac{dx}{dB}$

14. Rolle's Throrem : If $f : [a, b] \rightarrow R$ is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) such that $f(a) = f(b)$, then there exists at least one $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f'(c) = 0$.

15. Lagrange's Mean Value (LMV) Theorem : If $f : [a, b] \rightarrow R$ is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) . Then there exists atleast one $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$.

Remarks :

I. If $f(x)$ is of the type $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1 - \cos x}{x^2}, & x \neq 0 \\ \frac{1}{2}, & x = 0 \end{cases}$, then $f(x)$ remains same for

L.H.L. and R.H.L., so to check continuity at $x = 0$ here use the following :
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = f(0)$

II. If the function is of the type $f(x) = |x|$, $f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x - 1, & x < 1 \\ 1, & x = 1 \\ 2x + 1, & x > 1 \end{cases}$ etc, then $f(x)$ is

different for LHL and RHL, so to examine continuity at any point a , use the following $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a)$

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