



Handwritten Notes  
On  
Limit, Continuity and  
Differentiability

\* Definition of Limit:  $f(x)$  approaches the limit  $L$  as  $x$  approaches  $x_0$ , if for every number  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a corresponding number  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $x$ ,  $0 < |x - x_0| < \delta$  &  $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$ .

\* Left & Right Hand Limit:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L_L$ , if

for every number  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists a corresponding number  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $x$  satisfying  $a - \delta < x < a \Rightarrow |f(x) - L_L| < \epsilon$  & it's the LH limit.

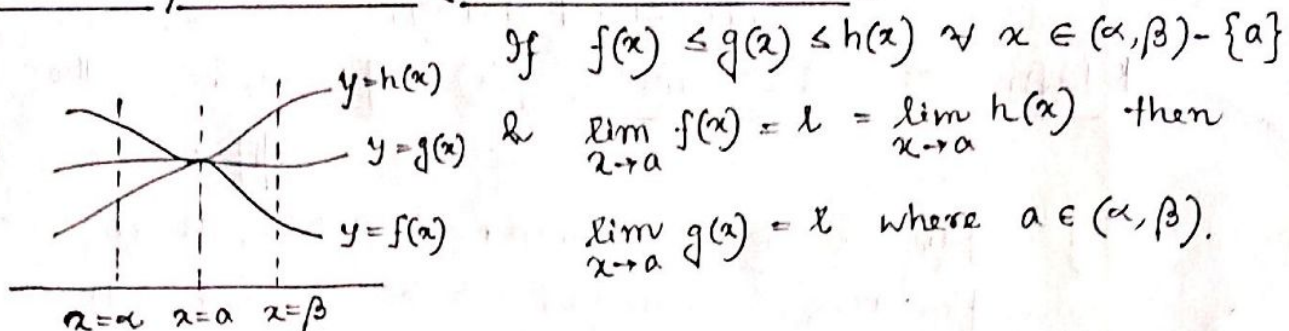
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} f(a-h) \quad [x = a-h]$$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L_R$ , if for every number  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists a corresponding number  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $x$  satisfying  $a < x < a + \delta \Rightarrow |f(x) - L_R| < \epsilon$  & it's the RH limit.  $[\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} f(a+h)]$

\* Algebra of Limits:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = l$  &  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = m$ .

1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \{f(x) \pm g(x)\} = l \pm m$
2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \{f(x) \cdot g(x)\} = l \cdot m$
3.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{l}{m}$ ,  $m \neq 0$ .
4.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} k f(x) = k \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ .
5.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \{f(x) + k\} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) + k$
6. If  $f(x) \leq g(x)$ , for  $x \in (a-h, a+h) - \{a\}$ , for some  $h > 0$ , then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \leq \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ .
7.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f\{g(x)\} = f\left\{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)\right\}$ .

## \* Squeeze Play Theorem (Sandwich Theorem):



\*  $\frac{0}{0}, \frac{\infty}{\infty}, \infty - \infty, 1^{\infty}, 0^0, \infty^0, \infty \times 0, \infty \times \infty$  are all indeterminate forms. eg.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{x^n - a^n}{x - a} = \frac{0}{0}, \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = \frac{0}{0}$ .

## \* Important Expansions:

$$1. \ln(1+x) = x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \dots = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{r=1}^n (-1)^{r+1} \frac{x^r}{r}; -1 < x \leq 1$$

$$2. e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \dots = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{r=0}^n \frac{x^r}{r!}$$

$$3. a^x = 1 + (x \ln a) + \frac{(x \ln a)^2}{2!} + \frac{(x \ln a)^3}{3!} + \dots$$

$$4. \sin x = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \dots \quad 5. \cos x = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \dots$$

$$6. \tan x = x + \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{2}{15}x^5 + \dots$$

$$7. (1+x)^n = 1 + nx + \frac{n(n-1)}{2!}x^2 + \dots \quad -1 < x < 1.$$

[n is rational or integral].

## \* Standard Limits:

$$1. \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{x^n - a^n}{x - a} = na^{n-1}$$

$$2. \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(1+x)^n - 1}{x} = n$$

$$3. \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a_0 x^m + a_1 x^{m-1} + \dots}{b_0 x^n + b_1 x^{n-1} + \dots} =$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{a_0}{b_0}, & \text{when } m = n \\ 0, & \text{when } m < n \\ \infty, & \text{when } m > n, \frac{a_0}{b_0} > 0 \\ -\infty, & \text{when } m > n, \frac{a_0}{b_0} < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$4. \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \sin x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \tan x = 0.$$

$$5. \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \cos x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\cos x} = 1.$$

$$6. \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{\sin x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin^{-1} x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{\sin^{-1} x} =$$

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

$$7. \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sin x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\cos x}{x} = 0. \quad [x \text{ measured in radians}]$$

$$8. \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} a^x = \begin{cases} 0, & 0 < a < 1 \\ 1, & a = 1 \\ \infty, & a > 1 \\ \text{not exists,} & a < 0. \end{cases}$$

$$9. \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - 1}{x} = 1, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^x - 1}{x} = \log_e a \quad (a > 0)$$

$$10. \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} = 1, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\log_a(1+x)}{x} = \log_a e.$$

$$11. \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{a}{x}\right)^x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1+x)^{\frac{a}{x}} = e^a$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}} = e.$$

12. If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$  exists & positive then

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)]^{g(x)} = e^{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) \cdot \ln[f(x)]}$$

\* L'Hospital's rule: If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  reduces to  $\frac{0}{0}$  or  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$  then differentiate  $N_r$  &  $D_r$

til this form is removed.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f''(x)}{g''(x)} = \dots$$

## \* Standard Methods to find limits:

1. Factorization, 2. Rationalization, 3. By applying standard limits, 4. Expansion of functions, 5. Substitution, 6. Use of logarithm.

## \* Continuity of a function at a point:

A function  $f(x)$  is said to be continuous at  $x=a$ , if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = f(a)$ .

If not continuous at  $x=a$ ,  $f(x)$  is discontinuous at  $x=a$ .

- All polynomials, trigonometric functions, exponential and logarithmic functions are continuous in their domain.

- Reasons of discontinuity: 1.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$  does not exist, 2.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) \neq f(c)$ , 3.  $f(x)$  is not defined at  $x=b$ .

- Types of discontinuity:

1. Removable: If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$  exists but  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) \neq f(a)$   
or if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) \neq f(a)$ .

2. Non-removable: i) If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$   
ii) If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$ ,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$  or both do not exist.

## \* Algebra of Continuous functions: $f(x)$ & $g(x)$ continuous at $x=a$ .

1.  $c \cdot f(x)$  is continuous at  $x=a$ .
2.  $f(x) \pm g(x)$  is continuous at  $x=a$ .
3.  $f(x) \cdot g(x)$  &  $f(x) / g(x)$  are continuous at  $x=a$ , provided  $g(a) \neq 0$ .

## Differentiability.

- If  $f(x)$  is continuous &  $g(x)$  is discontinuous at  $x = a$ , then the product function  $\phi(x) = f(x) \cdot g(x)$  is not necessarily be discontinuous at  $x = a$ .
- If  $f(x)$  &  $g(x)$  both are discontinuous at  $x = a$  then the product function  $\phi(x) = f(x) \cdot g(x)$  is not necessarily be discontinuous at  $x = a$ .
- If the function  $y = f(x)$  is defined, continuous & strictly monotonic on the interval  $X$ , then there exists a single valued function  $x = \varphi(y)$  defined, continuous & also strictly monotonic in the range of  $y = f(x)$ .
- If  $f$  is continuous at  $x = c$  &  $g$  is continuous at  $x = f(c)$  then the composite  $g\{f(x)\}$  is continuous at  $x = c$ .

## \* Applications of Continuity:

1. Intermediate Value Theorem:  $f(x)$  is continuous on interval  $I$ , &  $a$  &  $b$  are any two points of  $I$ . Then if  $y_0$  is a number between  $f(a)$  &  $f(b)$ , there exists a number  $c$  between  $a$  &  $b$  such that  $f(c) = y_0$ .
2. Extreme Value Theorem: If  $f$  is continuous at every point of a closed interval  $I$ , then  $f$  assumes both an absolute maximum value  $M$  & an absolute minimum value  $m$  somewhere in  $I$ .

\* **Definition of Derivative:** The derivative  $f'(x)$  of a function  $y = f(x)$  at a given point  $x$  is defined as

$$f'(x) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$$

If this limit exists finitely then the function  $f(x)$  is called differentiable at the point  $x$ .

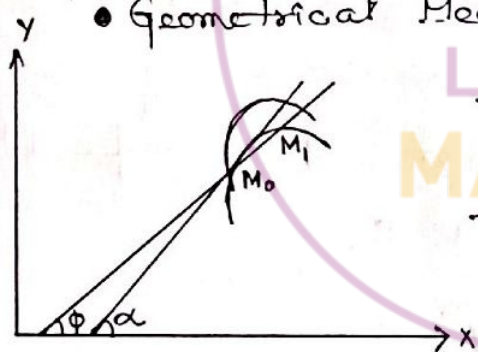
LH derivative,  $f'_-(x) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$

RH derivative,  $f'_+(x) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$

•  $f'(x)$  exists if  $f'_+(x)$  &  $f'_-(x)$  exist &

$$f'_+(x) = f'_-(x)$$

• **Geometrical Meaning:**



$$\tan \phi = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$$

$$\tan \alpha = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

Slope of the tangent to curve  $y = f(x)$ .

\* **Differentiability on an interval:**  $f(x)$  is differentiable on an interval if it has a derivative at each point of the interval. It is differentiable on a closed interval  $[a, b]$  & if the limits  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h} =$  finite,  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(b) - f(b-h)}{h} =$  finite.

\* Causes of Non-differentiability:  
 i) A corner, where function is continuous but LHD & RHD are finite but different.  
 ii) A cusp, where the slope approaches  $\infty$  from one side &  $-\infty$  from the other.  
 iii) A vertical tangent where the slope approaches  $\infty$  from both sides or approaches  $-\infty$  from both sides.  
 iv) a discontinuity.

\* Relation between differentiability & continuity:

1. If  $f'(a)$  exists then  $f(x)$  is derivable at  $x=a$   
 $\Rightarrow f(x)$  is continuous at  $x=a$ . In general, a function  $f$  is derivable at  $x$  then  $f$  is continuous at  $x$ , i.e. if  $f(x)$  is derivable for every point of its domain of definition, then it is continuous in that domain. The converse is need not to be true.

2. Let  $f'_+(a) = \lambda$  &  $f'_-(a) = \mu$ ,  $\lambda, \mu \rightarrow$  finite

i)  $\lambda = \mu \Rightarrow f$  is derivable at  $x=a$

$\Rightarrow f$  is continuous at  $x=a$ .

ii)  $\lambda \neq \mu \Rightarrow f$  is not derivable at  $x=a$  but  $f$  is continuous at  $x=a$ . If  $f$  is not differentiable but is continuous at  $x=a$ .

iii) If  $f$  is not continuous at  $x=a$  then it is not differentiable at  $x=a$ .



\* Algebra of Derivatives: If  $u$  &  $v$  are derivable functions of  $x$ , then

$$i) \frac{d}{dx}(u \pm v) = \frac{du}{dx} \pm \frac{dv}{dx} \quad iv) \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{u}{v}\right) = \frac{v\left(\frac{du}{dx}\right) - u\left(\frac{dv}{dx}\right)}{v^2}$$

$$ii) \frac{d}{dx}(ku) = k \frac{du}{dx}$$

v) Chain rule.  $y = f(u)$ ,  $u = g(x)$

$$iii) \frac{d}{dx}(uv) = u \frac{dv}{dx} + v \frac{du}{dx} \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$$

$$vi) (f \circ g)(x) = f\{g(x)\} \Rightarrow (f \circ g)'(x) = f'\{g(x)\} \cdot g'(x)$$

\* Derivative of  $f(x)$  from first principle:

If  $f(x)$  is a derivable function, then

$$\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x} = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

\* Standard Formulae of Differentiation:

$$1. \frac{d}{dx} \sin x = \cos x \quad 2. \frac{d}{dx} \cos x = -\sin x$$

$$3. \frac{d}{dx} \sec x = \sec x \tan x \quad 4. \frac{d}{dx} \tan x = \sec^2 x$$

$$5. \frac{d}{dx} \operatorname{cosec} x = -\operatorname{cosec} x \cot x \quad 6. \frac{d}{dx} \cot x = -\operatorname{cosec}^2 x$$

$$7. \frac{d}{dx} (\text{const.}) = 0 \quad 8. \frac{d}{dx} x^n = nx^{n-1} \quad 9. \frac{d}{dx} a^x = a^x \ln a$$

$$10. \frac{d}{dx} e^x = e^x \quad 11. \frac{d}{dx} (\log_a |x|) = \frac{1}{x} \log_a e$$

$$12. \frac{d}{dx} \ln |x| = \frac{1}{x} \quad 13. \frac{d}{dx} \sin^{-1} x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}, -1 < x < 1$$

$$14. \frac{d}{dx} \cos^{-1} x = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}, -1 < x < 1$$

$$15. \frac{d}{dx} \tan^{-1} x = \frac{1}{1+x^2}, x \in \mathbb{R} \quad 16. \frac{d}{dx} \cot^{-1} x = \frac{-1}{1+x^2}, x \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$17. \frac{d}{dx} \sec^{-1} x = \frac{1}{|x| \sqrt{x^2-1}}, |x| > 1$$

$$18. \frac{d}{dx} \operatorname{cosec}^{-1} x = \frac{-1}{|x| \sqrt{x^2-1}}, |x| > 1$$

\* Differentiation of Implicit Function: Differentiating each

term of  $\phi(x, y) = 0$  w.r.t.  $x$  regarding  $y$  as a function of  $x$  & then collecting terms in  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  together on one side. In answers of  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  in the case of implicit functions, both  $x$  &  $y$  are present.

\* Logarithmic function: If  $y = u^v$ , where  $u$  &  $v$  are the functions of  $x$ ,

then  $\log y = v \log u$ . Differentiating w.r.t  $x$ ,

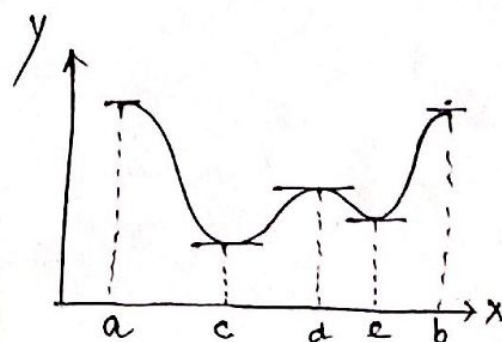
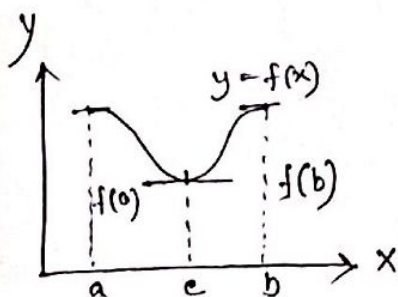
$$\frac{d}{dx}(u^v) = u^v \left[ \frac{v}{u} \frac{du}{dx} + \log u \frac{dv}{dx} \right].$$

\* Parametric function: If  $x = f(t)$  &  $y = g(t)$   
then

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/dt}{dx/dt} = \frac{g'(t)}{f'(t)} \quad f'(t) \neq 0.$$

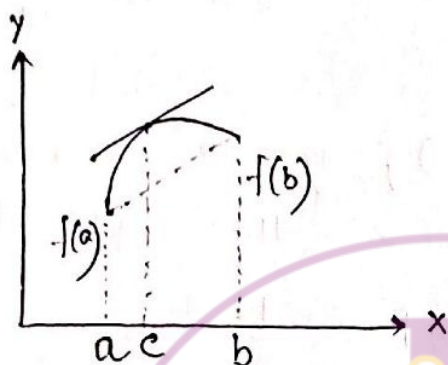
\* Rolle's Theorem: If a function  $f(x)$  is i) continuous on the closed interval  $[a, b]$ . i.e continuous at each point in  $[a, b]$ , ii) differentiable on an open interval  $(a, b)$ , iii)  $f(a) = f(b)$ , then,

there will be at least one point  $c$ , in the interval  $(a, b)$  such that  $f'(c) = 0$ .



\* Lagrange's Mean Value Theorem: If a function  $f(x)$  is i) continuous on the closed interval, ii) differentiable in the open interval  $(a, b)$  then

there will be at least one point  $c$ , where  $a < c < b$  such that  $f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$



\* Polynomial, exponential, sine, cosine functions are everywhere continuous & differentiable.

\* Logarithmic function is continuous & differentiable in its domain.

\*  $\tan x$  is not continuous and differentiable at  $x = \pm \frac{\pi}{2}, \pm \frac{3\pi}{2}, \pm \frac{5\pi}{2}, \dots$

\*  $|x|$  is not differentiable at  $x = 0$ .

\* If  $f'(x)$  tends to  $\pm \infty$  as  $x \rightarrow k$ , then  $f(x)$  is not differentiable at  $x = k$ .