

3.2 Differentiability

Differentiability Implies Continuity

If $f(x)$ has a derivative at $x = a$, then $f(x)$ is continuous at $x = a$.

Intermediate Value Theorem for Derivatives

If a and b are any two x -values in an interval in which f is differentiable, then f' takes on every value between $f'(a)$ and $f'(b)$

Left and Right Hand Derivatives

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

Numerical Approximation for Derivatives, Symmetric Difference Quotient

$$\frac{f(a+h) - f(a-h)}{2h}$$

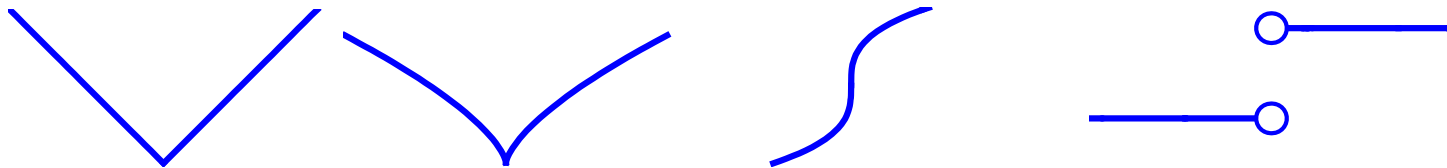
Reasons for derivative failure

A. a corner, $|x|$

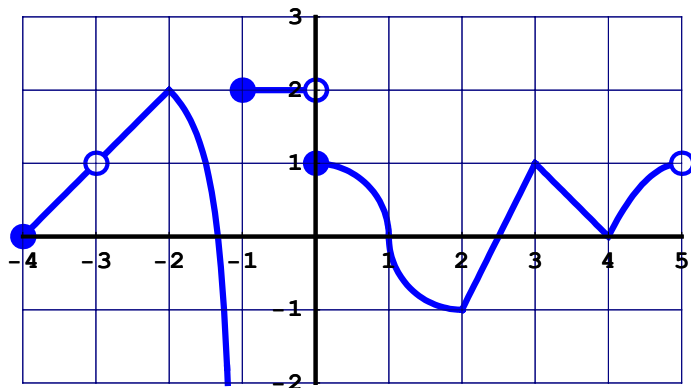
B. a cusp, $x^{\frac{2}{3}}$

C. a vertical tangent, $\sqrt[3]{x}$

D. a discontinuity, $\frac{|x|}{x}$



1. Find all points on the graph where the function is not differentiable. Determine why the function is not differentiable at these points.



Not differentiable at the following values

$x = -3$ → Removable Discontinuity,

$x = -1$ → Infinite Discontinuity,

$x = 1$ → Vertical Tangent

$x = 3$ → Corner

$x = 5$ → Can't approach from the left

$x = -2$ → Corner

$x = 0$ → Jump Discontinuity

$x = 2$ → Corner

$x = 4$ → Corner

For problems 2 – 5, find the left and right hand derivatives to determine if the function is differentiable at the given point.

2. $f(x) = \lfloor x + 1 \rfloor$ at $x = 2$

left – hand $\rightarrow \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(2+h) - f(2)}{h}$

$\rightarrow \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{2-3}{h} = \infty$ and for the right – hand,

$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(2+h) - f(2)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{3-3}{h} = 0$

so the function is **not differentiable at $x = 2$**

3. $f(x) = \sin x, x \neq 0$ at $x = 0$
 $1, x = 0$

left – hand $\rightarrow \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h}$

$\rightarrow \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{\sin h - 1}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{\sin h}{h} + \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{-1}{h}$

$= 1 + \infty \rightarrow \infty$ and for the right – hand,

$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\sin h - 1}{h}$

$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\sin h}{h} + \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-1}{h} = 1 - \infty \rightarrow -\infty$

so the function is **not differentiable at $x = 0$**

4. $f(x) = |x - 2|$ at $x = 2$

left – hand $\rightarrow \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(2+h) - f(2)}{h}$

$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{|2+h-2| - 0}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{-h}{h} = -1$

and for the right – hand $\rightarrow \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(2+h) - f(2)}{h}$

$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|2+h-2| - 0}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{h}{h} = 1$

so the function is **not differentiable at $x = 2$**

5. $f(x) = x^2 - 1, x \leq 1$ at $x = 1$
 $2x - 1, x > 1$

left – hand $\rightarrow \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(1+h) - f(1)}{h}$

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

$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{h^2 + 2h}{h} = 2$

and for the right – hand \rightarrow there is a jump

discontinuity at $x = 1$, making $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} = \infty$

so the function is **not differentiable at $x = 1$**

For problems 6 and 7, find all values for which the function is differentiable

6. $f(x) = \frac{x^3 + 1}{x^2 - 2x - 3}$

$f(x) = \frac{(x+1)(x^2 - x + 1)}{(x-3)(x+1)}$

there is a removable discontinuity at $x = -1$, and an infinite discontinuity at $x = 3$, so $f(x)$ is differentiable on the interval $(-\infty, -1) \cup (-1, 3) \cup (3, \infty)$

7. $f(x) = \log_3 |x|$

Looking at the graph, there is an infinite

discontinuity at $x = 0$, so $f(x)$ is differentiable on the interval $(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$