

微積分 MA1001-A 上課筆記 (精簡版)

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3.1 Extrema on an Interval

Definition 3.1

Let f be defined on an interval I containing c .

1. $f(c)$ is the (absolute, global) minimum of f on I when $f(c) \leq f(x) \forall x \in I$.
2. $f(c)$ is the (absolute, global) maximum of f on I when $f(c) \geq f(x) \forall x \in I$.

The minimum and maximum of a function on an interval are the extreme values, or extrema (the singular form of extrema is extremum), of the function on the interval. Extrema that occur at the end-points are called end-point extrema.

Theorem 3.2: Extreme Value Theorem - 極值定理

If f is continuous on a closed interval $[a, b]$, then f has both a minimum and a maximum on the interval. (連續函數在閉區間上必有最大最小值)

Definition 3.3

Let f be defined on an interval I containing c .

1. If there is an open interval containing c on which $f(c)$ is a maximum, then $f(c)$ is called a relative/local maximum of f .
2. If there is an open interval containing c on which $f(c)$ is a minimum, then $f(c)$ is called a relative/local minimum of f .

Definition 3.4

Let f be defined on an open interval containing c . The number/point c is called a critical number or critical point of f if $f'(c) = 0$ or if f is not differentiable at c .

Theorem 3.5

If f has a relative minimum or relative maximum at $x = c$, then c is a critical point of f .

Proof. W.L.O.G., we assume that f is differentiable at c . If $f'(c) > 0$, then there exists $\delta_1 > 0$ such that

$$\left| \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} - f'(c) \right| < \frac{f'(c)}{2} \quad \text{if } 0 < |x - c| < \delta_1;$$

thus

$$\frac{f'(c)}{2} < \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} < \frac{3f'(c)}{2} \quad \text{if } 0 < |x - c| < \delta_1.$$

1. If $0 < x - c < \delta_1$,

$$f(c) + \frac{f'(c)}{2}(x - c) < f(x) < f(c) + \frac{3f'(c)}{2}(x - c)$$

which implies that f cannot attain a relative maximum at $x = c$ since $f(x) > f(c)$ on the right-hand side of c .

2. if $-\delta < x - c < 0$,

$$f(c) + \frac{f'(c)}{2}(x - c) > f(x) > f(c) + \frac{3f'(c)}{2}(x - c)$$

which implies that f cannot attain a relative minimum at $x = c$ since $f(c) > f(x)$ on the left-hand side of c .

Therefore, we conclude that if $f'(c) > 0$, then f cannot attain either a relative maximum or minimum at $x = c$. Similar conclusion can be drawn for the case $f'(c) < 0$; thus if f attains a relative extremum at $x = c$, then $f'(c) = 0$. \square

The way to find extrema of a continuous function f on a closed interval $[a, b]$:

1. Find the critical points of f in (a, b) .
2. Evaluate f at each critical points in (a, b) .
3. Evaluate f at the end-points of $[a, b]$.
4. The least of these values is the minimum, and the greatest is the maximum.

Example 3.6. Find the extrema of $f(x) = 2 \sin x - \cos 2x$ on the interval $[0, 2\pi]$.

Since f is differentiable on $(0, 2\pi)$, a critical point c satisfies

$$0 = f'(c) = 2 \cos c + 2 \sin 2c = 2 \cos c(1 + 2 \sin c).$$

Therefore, $c = \frac{\pi}{2}$, $c = \frac{3\pi}{2}$, $c = \frac{7\pi}{6}$ or $c = \frac{11\pi}{6}$, and the values of f at these critical points are

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) &= 2 \cdot 1 - (-1) = 3, & f\left(\frac{3\pi}{2}\right) &= 2 \cdot (-1) - (-1) = -1, \\ f\left(\frac{7\pi}{6}\right) &= 2 \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) - \frac{1}{2} = -\frac{3}{2}, & f\left(\frac{11\pi}{6}\right) &= 2 \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) - \frac{1}{2} = -\frac{3}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, the values of f at the end-points are

$$f(0) = 2 \cdot 0 - 1 = -1 \quad \text{and} \quad f(2\pi) = 2 \cdot 0 - 1 = -1.$$

Therefore, $f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = 3$ is the maximum of f on $[0, 2\pi]$, while the minimum of f on $[0, 2\pi]$ occurs at $c = \frac{7\pi}{6}$ and $c = \frac{11\pi}{6}$ and the minimum is $-\frac{3}{2}$.

3.2 Rolle's Theorem and the Mean Value Theorem

Theorem 3.7: Rolle's Theorem

Let $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a continuous function and f is differentiable on (a, b) . If $f(a) = f(b)$, then there is at least one point $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f'(c) = 0$.

Proof. If f is a constant function, then $f'(x) = 0$ for all $x \in (a, b)$. Now suppose that f is not a constant function on $[a, b]$, by the Extreme Value Theorem implies that f has a maximum and a minimum on $[a, b]$, and the maximum and the minimum of f on $[a, b]$ are different. Therefore, there must be a point $c \in (a, b)$ at which f attains its extreme value. By Theorem 3.5, $f'(c) = 0$. \square

Theorem 3.8: Mean Value Theorem

If $f : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous and f is differentiable on (a, b) , then there exists a point $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}.$$

Proof. Define $g : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by $g(x) = [f(x) - f(a)](b - a) - [f(b) - f(a)](x - a)$. Then $g : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous and g is differentiable on (a, b) . Moreover, $g(a) = g(b) = 0$; thus the Rolle Theorem implies that there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that $g'(c) = 0$. On the other hand,

$$0 = g'(c) = (b - a)f'(c) - [f(b) - f(a)];$$

thus there exists $c \in (a, b)$ satisfying $f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$. \square

Remark 3.9. In fact, by modifying the proof of the mean value theorem a little bit, we can show the following: If $f, g : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are continuous, f, g are differentiable on (a, b) and $g(a) \neq g(b)$, then there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$\frac{f'(c)}{g'(c)} = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{g(b) - g(a)}.$$

The statement above is a generalization of the mean value theorem and is called the Cauchy mean value theorem.

Example 3.10. Note that the sine function is continuous on any closed interval $[a, b]$ and is differentiable on (a, b) . Therefore, the mean value theorem implies that there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$\cos c = \frac{d}{dx} \Big|_{x=c} \sin x = \frac{\sin b - \sin a}{b - a}$$

which implies that $|\sin a - \sin b| = |\cos c||a - b| \leq |a - b|$. Therefore,

$$|\sin x - \sin y| \leq |x - y| \quad \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Similarly,

$$|\cos x - \cos y| \leq |x - y| \quad \forall x, y \in \mathbb{R}.$$