

Differentiability versus continuity: What good Calc 1 student may ask about

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Based on BAMS survey written with Juan B. Seoane-Sepúlveda

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2019

Preamble

- All discussed notions should be known to any math major
- All presented results have “elementary” proofs
- The text of this presentation can be found on my page:

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Outline

- 1 What good properties differentiable functions MUST have?
- 2 How BAD differentiable functions can be?
- 3 Differentiability from continuity: differentiable restrictions
- 4 Properties of differentiable maps on perfect $P \subset \mathbb{R}$
- 5 Differentiable extensions: Jarník and Whitney theorems

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Continuity from differentiability: What is it to ask?

Clearly, if $F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable, then F is continuous.

For differentiable $G: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, G' is continuous (due to Cauchy.)

However, F' need not be continuous, e.g., for

$$F(x) := \begin{cases} x^2 \sin(x^{-1}) & \text{for } x \neq 0, \\ 0 & \text{for } x = 0. \end{cases}$$

($F'(0) = 0$ by squeeze theorem, as $\left| \frac{F(x) - F(0)}{x - 0} \right| \leq \left| \frac{x^2 - F(0)}{x - 0} \right| = |x|$.)

True question: *To what extent $f = F'$ must be continuous?*

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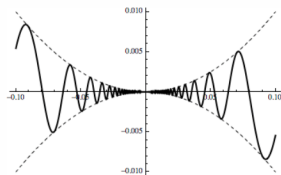
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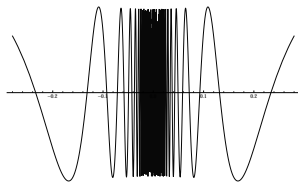
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Graph of F

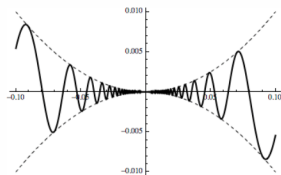


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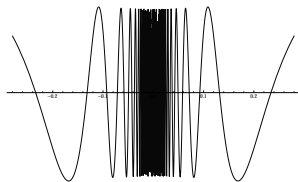
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Jean-Gaston Darboux
(1842-1917)

Theorem (Darboux 1875)

Any derivative $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ has the intermediate value property (IVP), that is, for every $a < b$ and y between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$ there exists an $x \in [a, b]$ with $f(x) = y$.

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Easy proof that any $f = F'$ has IVP

Fix $a, b, y \in \mathbb{R}$ with $f(a) \leq y \leq f(b)$.

Can assume that $a < b$. Need $x \in [a, b]$ with $f(x) = y$.

Define $\varphi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ as $\varphi(t) := F(t) - yt$. So $\varphi'(t) = f(t) - y$

and $\varphi'(a) = f(a) - y \leq 0 \leq f(b) - y = \varphi'(b)$.

Need $x \in [a, b]$ with $\varphi'(x) = 0$. Can assume $\varphi'(a) < 0 < \varphi'(b)$.

Then, minimum of φ on $[a, b]$ is attained at an $x \in (a, b)$.

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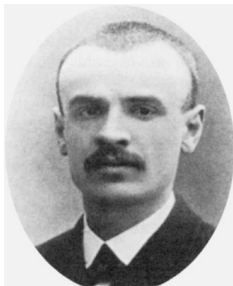
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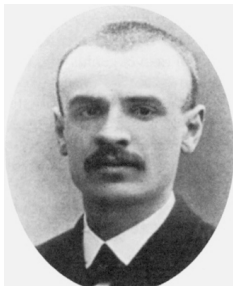


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(1874-1932)

Theorem (1899 dissertation of Baire)

*The derivative of any differentiable $F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is Baire class one, that is, it is a pointwise limit of continuous functions. In particular, the set of points of continuity of F' (as for any Baire class one function) is a **dense G_δ -set**.*

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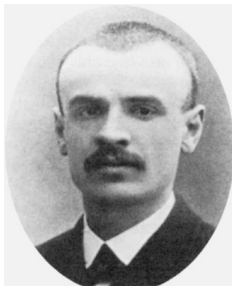


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Quick peek at a proof and a characterization

$F'(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} F_n(x)$, with $F_n(x) := \frac{f(x+1/n) - f(x)}{1/n}$ continuous.

For any $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $C_g := \{x: g \text{ is continuous at } x\}$ is a G_δ -set:
 $C_g := \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} V_n$, where the open sets V_n are defined as

$V_n := \bigcup_{\delta > 0} \{x \in \mathbb{R}: |g(s) - g(t)| < 1/n \text{ for all } s, t \in (x - \delta, x + \delta)\}$.

If $g = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} g_n$, $g_n: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ continuous, then C_g contains a dense G_δ -set $G := \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \bigcup_{N=1}^{\infty} U_N^n$, where each U_N^n is the interior of the closed set

$$\{x \in \mathbb{R}: |f_k(x) - f_m(x)| \leq 1/n \text{ for all } m, k \geq N\}.$$

Theorem (Sets of points of continuity of derivatives)

Let $G \subset \mathbb{R}$.

There exists a derivative f with $C_f = G$ iff G is a dense G_δ .

So, the complement of C_f can be dense.

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Other properties that derivatives and continuous maps

- **Any derivative $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ has a connected graph.**
(True for any Darboux Baire class one map.)
- **Any derivative $f: [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ has a fix point:**
an $x \in [0, 1]$ with $f(x) = x$.
 $g(x) := f(x) - x$ is a derivative with $g(0) \geq 0 \geq g(1)$.
So, there is $x \in [0, 1]$ with $g(x) = 0$.
- (New result, from years 2000-2003) **Finite composition f of derivatives from $I := [0, 1]$ into I has a fix point.**

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Must f as above have connected graph?

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Outline

- 1 What good properties differentiable functions MUST have?
- 2 How BAD differentiable functions can be?
- 3 Differentiability from continuity: differentiable restrictions
- 4 Properties of differentiable maps on perfect $P \subset \mathbb{R}$
- 5 Differentiable extensions: Jarník and Whitney theorems

Differentiable monster (# 1)

There are continuous nowhere monotone maps
(e.g. Weierstrass example we discuss latter).

Can such maps be differentiable?

Example (Köpcke 1887-1890; Denjoy 1915; Katznelson & Stromberg 1974; Weil 1976; Aron, Gurariy & Seoane-Sepúlveda 2005; KC 2017; and many others)

There is differentiable $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ which is nowhere monotone.

Note that

- Differentiable f is a monster iff f' attains on every interval both positive and negative values.
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Simple construction of a differentiable monster follows.

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Arnaud Denjoy and Dimitrie Pompeiu



Arnaud Denjoy (1884–1974)



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New simple construction of a differentiable monster

Lemma There is a strictly increasing differentiable $h: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $Z = \{x \in \mathbb{R}: h'(x) = 0\}$ being a dense G_δ -set.

Theorem (KC 2017)

If h is as in Lemma, then $f(x) = h(x - t) - h(x)$ is a differentiable monster for any typical $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

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$f' > 0$ on $t + D$: $f'(t + d) = h'(d) - h'(t + d) = h'(d) > 0$, as $t + d \in Z$.

$f' < 0$ on D : $f'(d) = h'(d - t) - h'(d) = -h'(d) < 0$, as $d - t \in Z$. □

$g(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} r^i(x - q_i)^{1/3}$ is continuous

g is continuous, since the series $g(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} r^i(x - q_i)^{1/3}$

converges uniformly on every bounded set:

$$|g(x)| \leq \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} r^i(|x| + i + 1), \text{ as}$$

$$|(x - q_i)^{1/3}| \leq (|x| + |q_i| + 1)^{1/3} \leq |x| + |q_i| + 1 \leq |x| + i + 1.$$

$g(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} r^i(x - q_i)^{1/3}$ is “differentiable”

Let $\psi_i(x) := r^i(x - q_i)^{1/3}$. It is enough to show that

$$g'(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \psi_i'(x). \quad (1)$$

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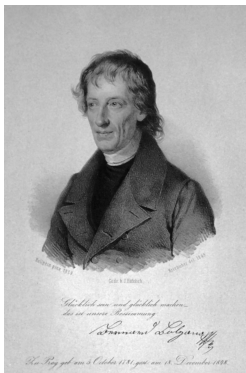
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How much differentiability continuous map must have

None?

Example (Weierstrass 1886; Bolzano, unpublished, 1822)

There exists continuous $F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ differentiable at no point.



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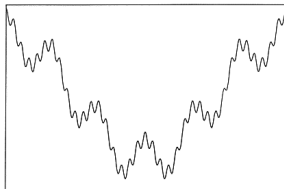
Weierstrass' Monster: $W(x) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^n} \cos(13^n \pi x)$



Teiji Takagi (1875–1960)



Bartel van der Waerden
(1903–1996)



$$F(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} 4^n \min\{|x - \frac{k}{8^n}| : k \in \mathbb{Z}\}$$

Weierstrass' Monster of
Takagi from 1903, and
van der Waerden, from 1930

Differentiable restriction theorem

Some differentiability after all!

Theorem (Laczkovich 1984)

For every continuous $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ there is perfect $Q \subset \mathbb{R}$ such that $f \upharpoonright Q$ is differentiable.

Remark

There are continuous $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that $f \upharpoonright Q$ can be differentiable only when Q is both first category and meager.

Proof.

Let $f = (f_1, f_2): [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]^2$ be the classical (ternary-like) Peano curve. Ciesielski and Larson proved in 1991 that f_1 is nowhere approximately and \mathcal{I} -approximately differentiable. So it is as in the remark. □

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Goal: If $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is cont, then $f \upharpoonright Q$ is diff. for some perfect Q .

Theorem (With new (2017/18) simple proof, by KC)

For every continuous increasing $f: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ there is perfect P such that $f \upharpoonright P$ is Lipschitz.

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Are differentiable $f: P \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $P \subset \mathbb{R}$ perfect, good? **Not at all!**

Example (Ciesielski & Jasinski 2016; simplified by KC in 2017)

There exists differentiable auto-homeomorphism f of a compact perfect subset \mathfrak{X} of the Cantor ternary set \mathfrak{C} such that $f' \equiv 0$.

Counterintuitive, as f is shrinking at every $x \in \mathfrak{X}$

($|f(x) - f(y)| < |x - y|$ for every $y \in \mathfrak{X}$ with small $|x - y| > 0$)

but it maps compact \mathfrak{X} **onto** itself. Also

Theorem (Edelstein 1962, almost contradicting above thm)

If $f: X \rightarrow X$ is LC and X is compact, then f has a periodic point,

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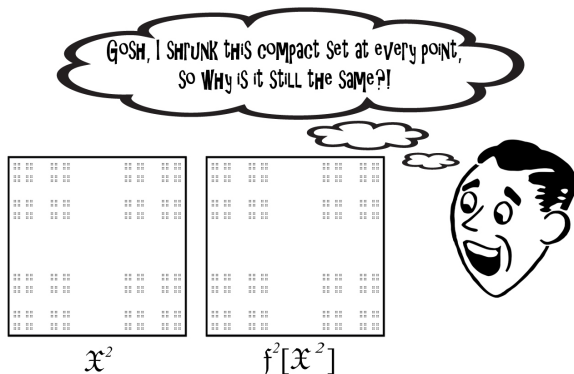


Figure: The result of the action of $f^2 = \langle f, f \rangle$ on $\mathfrak{X}^2 = \mathfrak{X} \times \mathfrak{X}$

Definition of f with $f' \equiv 0$, Monster # 2

$f = h \circ \sigma \circ h^{-1}$, where $h: 2^\omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is embedding and $\sigma: 2^\omega \rightarrow 2^\omega$ is the “add one and carry” adding machine:

$$\sigma(s) = \begin{cases} \langle 0, 0, 0, \dots \rangle & \text{if } s = \langle 1, 1, 1, \dots \rangle, \\ \langle 0, 0, \dots, 0, 1, s_{k+1}, \dots \rangle & \text{if } s = \langle 1, 1, \dots, 1, 0, s_{k+1}, \dots \rangle. \end{cases}$$

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Outline

- 1 What good properties differentiable functions MUST have?
- 2 How BAD differentiable functions can be?
- 3 Differentiability from continuity: differentiable restrictions
- 4 Properties of differentiable maps on perfect $P \subset \mathbb{R}$
- 5 Differentiable extensions: Jarník and Whitney theorems

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Theorem (Jarník 1923)

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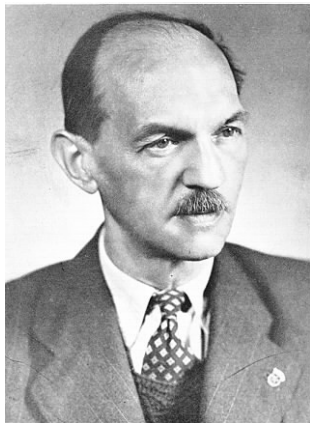
Proved in:

V. Jarník, *O rozšíření definičního oboru funkcí jedné proměnné, přičemž zůstává zachována derivabilita funkce* (in Czech)
Rozpravy Čes. akademie, II. tř., XXXII (1923), No. 15, 15 p.

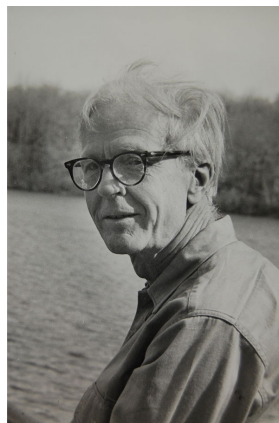
Sketched in: V. Jarník, *Sur l'extension du domaine de définition des fonctions d'une variable, qui laisse intacte la dérivabilité de la fonction* (in French), Bull. Internat. de l'Académie des Sciences de Bohême (1923), 1–5.

Independently proved in 1974 by Petruska and Laczkovich.

Vojtěch Jarník and Hassler Whitney



Vojtěch Jarník (1897–1970)



Hassler Whitney (1907–1989)

Jarník and Whitney differentiable extension theorems

Theorem (Jarník and Whitney thms, version of **MC&KC 2017**)

If $Q \subset \mathbb{R}$ is closed, then any differentiable $f: Q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ has differentiable extension $F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. This F is C^1 iff such extension exists iff $\hat{f} = \bar{f} \upharpoonright \hat{Q}$ is continuously differentiable.

Here \hat{Q} is a simple natural extension of Q .

Corollary (Agronsky, Bruckner, Laczkovich, Preiss 1985: C^1 interpolation theorem)

For every continuous $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ there is C^1 map $g: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with $f \cap g$ uncountable.

Proof of Corollary: We proved that there is perfect $Q \subset \mathbb{R}$ s.t. the quotient map of $h = f \upharpoonright Q$ is uniformly continuous.

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Our proof of Jarník and Whitney thms (for perfect Q)

Differentiable $f: Q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ has differentiable extension $F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

Proposition (Linear interpolation almost works)

If $f: Q \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable, then \bar{f} is differentiable at any $x \in \mathbb{R}$ which is not an end-point of a connected component of $\mathbb{R} \setminus Q$.

The right extension: Small modification of \bar{f} : $F = \bar{f} + g$:

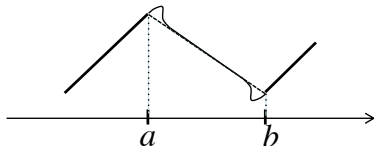


Figure: A format of the graph (thin continuous curve) of $F = \bar{f} + g$ on a component (a, b) of $\mathbb{R} \setminus Q$. Thick segments: parts of the graph of f

Details: elementary. Require some checking.

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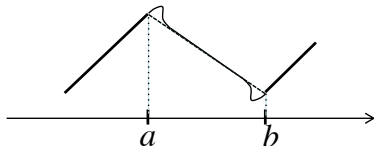


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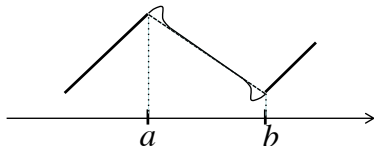


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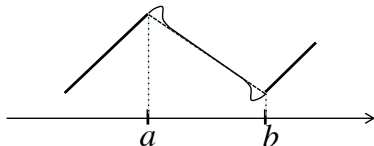


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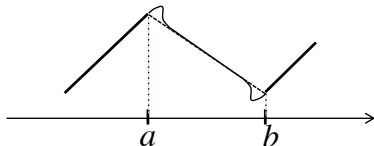


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Theorem (KC & JJ 2016: No)

If $f: X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is differentiable with $|f'| < 1$ on X and f has a C^1 extension, then $X \not\subseteq f[X]$.

Can such F can be bad? **Yes, very bad!**

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For every closed set $P \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ and differentiable $f: P \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, there exists a differentiable extension $F: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of f such that F is nowhere monotone on $\mathbb{R} \setminus P$. In particular, if P is nowhere dense in \mathbb{R} , then \hat{f} is monotone on no interval.

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