

**Given:**

- 1)  $f$  is differentiable at  $x = c$
- 2)  $g$  is differentiable at  $y = f(c)$
- 3)  $h(x) = g(f(x))$

**Prove:**

$h$  is differentiable at  $x = c$

**PROOF:**

Since we were given in (1) that  $f$  is differentiable at  $x = c$  we can use the definition of differentiability to state

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} = L \quad (1.1)$$

To keep notation from getting overly cumbersome let's let

$$b = f(c) \quad (1.2)$$

Then we can use given (2) that  $g$  is differentiable at  $y = f(c) = b$  along with the definition of differentiability to state,

$$g'(b) = \lim_{y \rightarrow b} \frac{g(y) - g(b)}{y - b}$$

Then using LT10,

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow b^-} \frac{g(y) - g(b)}{y - b} = g'(b) \quad (1.3)$$

and also

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow b^+} \frac{g(y) - g(b)}{y - b} = g'(b). \quad (1.4)$$

Next we define the quite strange looking function  $P(y)$  by

$$P(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{g(y) - g(b)}{y - b} & \text{if } y \neq b \\ k \text{ (constant)} & \text{if } y = b \end{cases} \quad (1.5)$$

Let's see how well you understand piecewise defined functions,

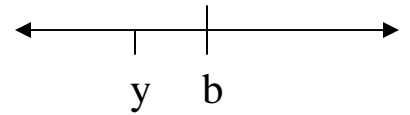
$$P(b) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}? \quad (1.6)$$

The rest of this page is devoted to the goal of finding a value for the constant  $k$  that will force  $P$  to be **continuous** at  $y = b$ . Let's see how well you understand continuity, we need

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{y \rightarrow b} P(y) &= \underline{\hspace{2cm}}? \\ &= \underline{\hspace{2cm}}? \text{ by eqn(1.6)} \end{aligned} \quad (1.7)$$

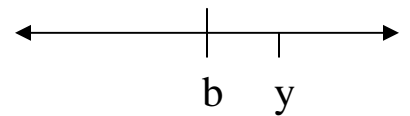
So if we could find a value for  $\lim_{y \rightarrow b} P(y)$  we could choose that value for  $k$  and our work for this page would be completed. However,

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{y \rightarrow b^-} P(y) &= \lim_{y \rightarrow b^-} \frac{\underline{\hspace{1cm}}? - \underline{\hspace{1cm}}?}{\underline{\hspace{1cm}}? - \underline{\hspace{1cm}}?} \text{ by def(n) of } P \\ &= \underline{\hspace{2cm}}? \text{ by eqn(1.3)} \end{aligned}$$



and

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{y \rightarrow b^+} P(y) &= \lim_{y \rightarrow b^+} \frac{\underline{\hspace{1cm}}? - \underline{\hspace{1cm}}?}{\underline{\hspace{1cm}}? - \underline{\hspace{1cm}}?} \text{ by def(n) of } P \\ &= \underline{\hspace{2cm}}? \text{ by eqn(1.4)} \end{aligned}$$



Using LT10, then  $\lim_{y \rightarrow b} P(y) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}?$  So choosing

$$k = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}? \quad (1.8)$$

forces  $P$  to be **continuous** at  $y = b$ .

With  $k$  now chosen we next evaluate  $P$  from (1.5) at  $y = f(x)$  and find that

$$P(f(x)) = \begin{cases} \frac{g(\text{---}?) - g(b)}{\text{---}?-b} & \text{if } f(x) \neq b \\ g'(b) & \text{if } f(x) = b \end{cases} \quad (1.9)$$

**CASE1:**

Now suppose  $x \neq c$  and  $f(x) \neq f(c)$ , which also implies  $f(x) \neq b$  since we set  $b = f(c)$  earlier, then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{g(f(x)) - g(f(c))}{x - c} &= \frac{g(f(x)) - g(f(c))}{f(x) - f(c)} \cdot \frac{\text{---}?- \text{---}?}{x - c} \\ &= \frac{g(f(x)) - g(b)}{f(x) - b} \cdot \frac{\text{---}?- \text{---}?}{x - c} \quad \leftarrow \text{Just fill in the same answers from the line above} \\ &= P(\text{---}?) \cdot \frac{\text{---}?- \text{---}?}{x - c} \end{aligned}$$

**CASE2:**

Now suppose  $x \neq c$  but  $f(x) = f(c)$ , which again also implies  $f(x) = b$ , then

$$\frac{g(f(x)) - g(f(c))}{x - c} = \frac{g(\text{---}?) - g(f(c))}{x - c} = \frac{0}{x - c} = 0$$

However also then,

$$\begin{aligned} P(f(x)) \cdot \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} &= P(\text{---}?) \cdot \frac{\text{---}?- f(c)}{x - c} \\ &= P(b) \cdot \frac{0}{x - c} \\ &= \text{---}? \cdot 0 = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{You do NOT just want to fill in } P(b) \text{ again use eqn(1.9).} \end{aligned}$$

So in this second case we see that also

$$\frac{g(f(x)) - g(f(c))}{x - c} = P(f(x)) \cdot \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$$

since both are equal to 0.

Case 1 and Case 2 combined show that if  $x \neq c$  we have for our very clever function  $P$  that

$$\boxed{\frac{g(f(x)) - g(f(c))}{x - c} = P(f(x)) \cdot \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}} \quad (1.10)$$

Now we are ready to make the argument!

$$\begin{aligned} h'(c) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{h(x) - h(c)}{x - c} \quad \text{by def(n) of } \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{g(f(x)) - g(f(c))}{x - c} \quad \text{by given } \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \text{ and } \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow c} P(f(x)) \cdot \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} \quad \text{by eqn } \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \text{ and LT9} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow c} P(f(x)) \cdot \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c} \quad \text{by LT } \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow c} P(f(x)) \cdot \underline{\hspace{1cm}}? \quad \text{by eqn1.1} \\ &= P\left(\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x)\right) \cdot \underline{\hspace{1cm}}? \quad \text{by } \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \text{ as } \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \text{ is cont. by p.2} \\ &= P(\underline{\hspace{1cm}}?) \cdot \underline{\hspace{1cm}}? \quad \text{as diff. of } f \text{ at } c \text{ implies cont. of } f \text{ at } c \\ &= P(\underline{\hspace{1cm}}?) \cdot \underline{\hspace{1cm}}? \quad \text{by def(n) of } b \\ &= \underline{\hspace{1cm}}? \cdot f'(c) \quad \text{by eqn1.5 and eqn1.8} \\ &= \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \cdot \underline{\hspace{1cm}}? \quad \text{by def(n) of } b \end{aligned}$$

This shows that  $h$  is differentiable at  $x = c$  since given 1 says  $f'(c)$  and given 2 says  $g'(f(c))$  exists. Thus, in general, from our givens:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{IF } h(x) &= g(f(x)) \\ \text{THEN } h'(x) &= g'(f(x)) \cdot f'(x) \quad (1.11) \end{aligned}$$

CHAIN-RULE :  
for differentiating  
composition of functions.

$$\boxed{\boxed{[g(f(x))]'} = g'(f(x)) \cdot f'(x)}$$