

A Note on the Derivation of Fréchet and Gâteaux

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Abstract

The purpose of this note is in addition to establishing Fréchet derivatives and Gâteaux, considering the basic different implications between them. Also be considered a counterexample of a Lipschitzian real-valued function Gâteaux differentiable but not Fréchet differentiable.

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1 Introduction

In differential analysis, the Fréchet derivative is defined on Banach spaces and the Gâteaux derivative is a generalization of the directional derivative studied extensively in several variables. In general, we know that a function defined between normed spaces differentiable in the sense of Fréchet then it is Gâteaux

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differentiable, the reciprocal is not true in general as seen in some examples shown in [2], [3]. In this note we will study a Lipschitzian real-valued function Gâteaux differentiable but not Fréchet differentiable.

2 The Fréchet and Gâteaux differential

Throughout this work, \mathbb{E} and \mathbb{F} will denote Banach spaces over the real or complex field. In contexts in which two or more spaces appear (for example, in expressions like $\mathcal{L}(\mathbb{E}, \mathbb{F})$) they will be understood to be over the same field, although occasional use will be made of the elementary fact that a linear space over the complex field can be considered as a linear space over the real field.

A function f from a set $A \subseteq \mathbb{E}$ into \mathbb{F} is said to be Fréchet differentiable at a if a is an interior point of A and there exists $L \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{E}, \mathbb{F})$ such that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - f(a) - L(x - a)}{\|x - a\|} = 0. \quad (1)$$

This limit relation is, of course, equivalent to the statement that

$$f(x) = f(a) + L(x - a) + o(\|x - a\|) \quad \text{as } x \rightarrow a. \quad (2)$$

We observe that the linear term on the right side of (2) is of larger order than the last term except when $L = 0$, for if $L(x - a)/\|x - a\| \rightarrow 0$, then for any non-zero $x \in \mathbb{E}$

$$L(x) = \|x\| \frac{L(tx)}{\|tx\|} = \|x\| \frac{L(tx + a - a)}{\|tx + a - a\|} \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } t \rightarrow 0^+,$$

so that $L = 0$.

The statement that f is Fréchet differentiable at a therefore means that it is possible to approximate to $f(x)$ in the neighborhood of a by an expression of the form $f(a) + L(x - a)$, with $L \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{E}, \mathbb{F})$, to the degree of approximation prescribed by (2).

If f is Fréchet differentiable at a , then the (unique) function $L \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbb{E}, \mathbb{F})$ determined by (1) or (2) is called the Fréchet differential of f at a and we denote it by $df(a)$.

If A is an open set in \mathbb{E} , a function f which is Fréchet differentiable at each point of A , it said to be Fréchet differentiable on A . We say also that f is $C^1(A)$ if df is continuous on A .

We note that it is often more convenient to write the limit relation (1) as

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a) - L(h)}{\|h\|} = 0, \quad (3)$$

and similarly for (2).

Definition 2.1. A function f from an open set $A \subseteq \mathbb{E}$ into \mathbb{F} is said Gâteaux differentiable at $a \in A$ if for all $v \in \mathbb{E}$ if there is the limit

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+tv) - f(a)}{t},$$

which denote by $\partial f(a, v)$.

Proposition 2.2. Let \mathbb{E} and \mathbb{F} be normed spaces; $A \subseteq \mathbb{E}$ is an open set and $a \in A$, $f : A \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ Fréchet differentiable at a , then for all $v \in \mathbb{E}$,

$$df(a)(v) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+tv) - f(a)}{t}.$$

i.e. f is Gâteaux differentiable at a .

Proof Suppose $v \in \mathbb{E}$, $v \neq 0$, as $a \in A$ is an interior point exist $\delta > 0$ such that if $t \in \mathbb{R}$ with $\|tv\| = |t|\|v\| < \delta$ then $a + tv \in A$ and we obtain

$$f(a+tv) = f(a) + df(a)(tv) + r(tv), \quad \text{where } \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{r(tv)}{\|tv\|} = 0.$$

Now, for $t \neq 0$, we obtain

$$\frac{f(a+tv) - f(a)}{t} - \frac{r(tv)}{t} = df(a)(v).$$

The right side of equality exists independently of t and therefore

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left\{ \frac{f(a + tv) - f(a)}{t} - \frac{r(tv)}{t} \right\} = df(a)(v),$$

finally as

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{r(tv)}{t} = \|v\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{r(tv)}{t\|v\|} = \pm \|v\| \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{r(tv)}{\|tv\|} = 0.$$

Then the proposition is proven.

The reciprocal of the proposition is not necessarily true as we see in [2]. We will now have another counterexample that the reciprocal is false in general (even when the function is Lipschitz).

3 A function Gâteaux differentiable but not Fréchet differentiable

We consider two functions:

$$f : L^1([0, \pi]) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad \text{defined by } f(x) = \int_0^\pi \sin x(t) dt, \quad (4)$$

and

$$g : L^2([0, \pi]) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad \text{defined by } g(x) = \int_0^\pi \sin x(t) dt. \quad (5)$$

Clearly, g is the restriction of f to $L^2([0, \pi]) \subseteq L^1([0, \pi])$. In order to consider the differentiability of f and g , let $x, v \in L^1([0, \pi])$, $v \neq 0$, $h > 0$. Then²

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \int_0^\pi [\sin(x(t) + hv(t)) - \sin x(t)] dt = \int_0^\pi v(t) \cos x(t) dt.$$

Hence, the Gâteaux derivative of the function f at x is $\cos x$. The function g , which is the restriction of f to $L^2([0, \pi])$, is also Gâteaux differentiable and the Gâteaux derivative $\partial g(x, \cdot) = \cos x$ is a continuous function from $L^2([0, \pi])$ in itself in the norm topologies. Therefore, g is Fréchet differentiable everywhere;

² $((\sin \frac{hv(t)}{2}) / (\frac{h}{2})) \cos(x(t) + \frac{hv(t)}{2})$ is dominated by $v \in L^1([0, \pi])$

see [1]. Actually, in our case, g is uniformly Fréchet differentiable.

Now to prove that f is not Fréchet differentiable and we will follow Sova's proof of [6]; but with the difference that the proof will be done in $L^1([0, \pi])$ and not in $L^2([0, \pi])$. We consider any point $x \in L^1([0, \pi])$ and we will be proof for that x exists $v \in L^1([0, \pi])$ such that the Lebesgue measure of the set

$$\{t \in \mathbb{R} : 0 \leq t \leq \pi \text{ and } \sin(x(t) + v(t)) - \sin x(t) - \sin v(t) \cos x(t) \neq 0\}$$

is positive. If not, let $r \in \mathbb{Q}$ (The set of rational numbers) and define v_r by

$$v_r(t) = \begin{cases} r, & \text{if } t \in [0, \pi] \\ 0, & \text{if } t \in \mathbb{R} \setminus [0, \pi]. \end{cases}$$

Then $v_r \in L^1([0, \pi])$ and the set

$$M_r = \{t \in [0, \pi] : \sin(x(t) + r) - \sin x(t) \neq r \cos x(t)\}$$

has Lebesgue measure zero. Hence, the set $M = \cup_{r \in \mathbb{Q}} M_r$ also has measure zero. Thus, for all rational numbers r and for all $t \notin M$, we have

$$\sin(x(t) + r) - \sin x(t) = r \cos x(t).$$

This is a contradiction since the function $r \cos x(t)$ is linear of r , but the function $\sin(x(t) + r) - \sin x(t)$ in not linear.

Now, we choose $v_+ \in L^1([0, \pi])$ such that

$$\mu(\{t \in [0, \pi] : \sin(x(t) + v_+(t)) - \sin x(t) - v_+(t) \cos x(t) \neq 0\}) > 0,$$

where μ denotes Lebesgue measure. Then we can find $\alpha > 0$ such that the set

$$K_\alpha = \{t \in [0, \pi] : \sin(x(t) + v_+(t)) - \sin x(t) - v_+ \cos x(t) > \alpha\}$$

has $\mu(K_\alpha) > 0$. Moreover, there exists a $\beta > 0$ and a measurable subset $K_{\alpha,0}$ of K_α such that $\mu(K_{\alpha,0}) > 0$ and $|v_+(t)| < \beta$ for $t \in K_{\alpha,0}$. Choose a decreasing sequence $\{K_n\}_{n=1}^\infty$ of measurable subsets of $K_{\alpha,0}$ of K_α such that $\mu(K_n) > 0$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $\bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} K_n = \emptyset$, and define a sequence $\{\psi_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty}$ of functions in $L^1([0, \pi])$ by

$$\psi_n(t) = \begin{cases} v_+(t), & \text{if } t \in K_n \\ 0, & \text{if } t \notin K_n. \end{cases}$$

We can easily check that $\|\psi_n\|_1 \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$, but

$$\frac{|\int_0^{\pi} [\sin(x(t) + \psi_n(t)) - \sin x(t) - \psi_n(t) \cos x(t)] dt|}{\|\psi_n\|_1} \geq \frac{\alpha \mu(K_n)}{\beta \mu(K_n)} = \frac{\alpha}{\beta} > 0.$$

This shows that f is not Fréchet differentiable at $x \in L^1([0, \pi])$. We can easily see that f is a Lipschitzian real-valued function Gâteaux differentiable but not Fréchet differentiable, see [2], [4].

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