

# Week 7

## Functions

F. Sorin (MX)

Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

**EPFL**

# Overview

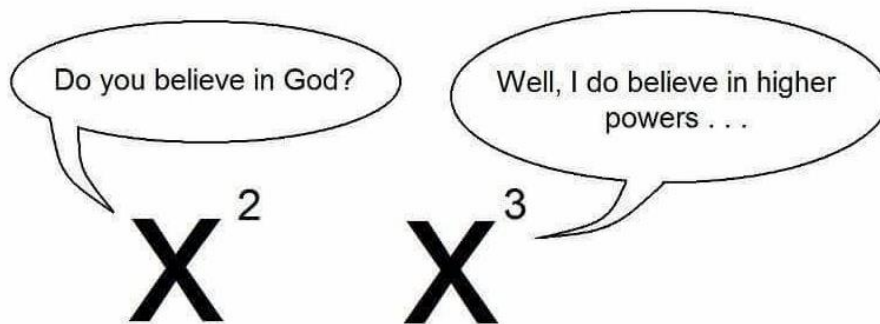
---

- Origin of functions
- Limits and Continuity
- Differentiability and Taylor Expansions
- First results on important functions  
(parts of chapters 3, 4 and 5 of the book)
- Binary phase diagrams
- Lennard-Jones potential (with Prof. Carter)

# The concept of functions

- The concept of Functions has been developed slowly over centuries of discoveries, and it is hard to bring forward one particular mathematician associated with it.
- In 1755, in his *Institutiones calculi differentialis*, Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler gave a more general concept of a function that is very close to our modern understanding:

“When certain quantities depend on others in such a way that they undergo a change when the latter change, then the first are called *functions* of the second. This name has an extremely broad character; it encompasses all the ways in which one quantity can be determined in terms of others.”

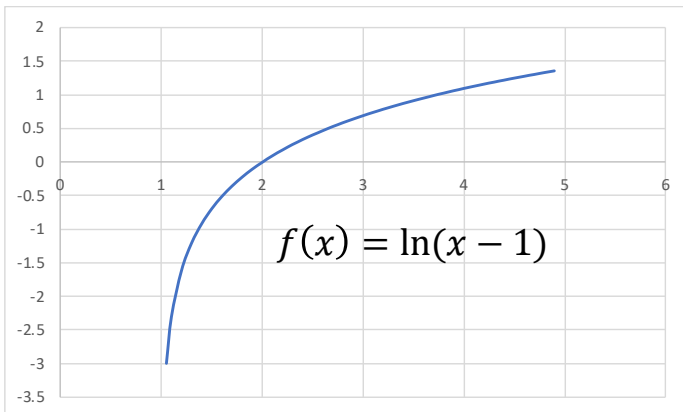
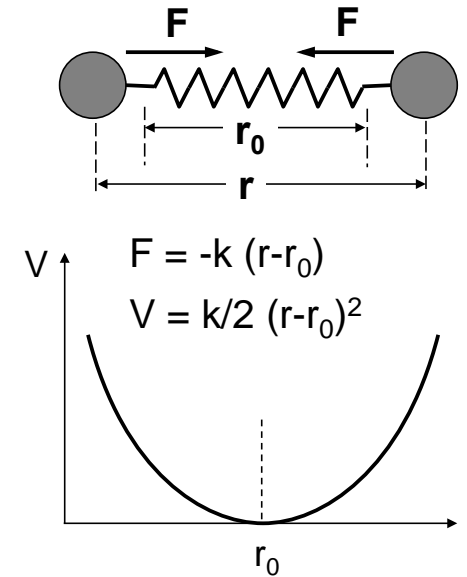


Leonhard Euler (1707-1783)

- Euler popularized the Greek letter  $\pi$  to denote the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, was the first using the notation  $f(x)$  for the value of a function, the letter  $i$  to express the imaginary unit, the Greek letter  $\Sigma$  to express summations, the Greek letter  $\Delta$  for finite differences. He gave the current definition of the constant  $e$ , the base of the natural logarithm, now known as Euler's number.

# The concept of functions

- Given two sets of real numbers, a domain (often referred to as the x-values, and interval  $I$ ) and a co-domain (often referred to as the y-values), a real function assigns to each x-value a *unique* y-value.
- Injective function* (or injection): function  $f$  that maps distinct elements of its domain to distinct elements; that is,  $f(x_1) = f(x_2)$  implies  $x_1 = x_2$ .
- Surjective functions* (or surjection): a function  $f$  such that every element  $y$  can be mapped from element  $x$  so that  $f(x) = y$ .
- Example: the function  $f(x) = x^2$  is injective and surjective (ie bijective) from  $I = \mathbb{R}_+$  to  $\mathbb{R}_+$ . It is not injective from  $I = \mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{R}_+$ , and not surjective  $I = \mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{R}_-$ .



- $f(x) = \ln(x - 1)$  is not defined for  $x \leq 1$ . It is injective and surjective from  $I = ]1, +\infty[$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ .
- The domains of definition are hence very important when defining the properties of functions : physically but also mathematically !

# The concept of functions

- Functions defined on a domain, often a part  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ , form an associative and commutative  $\mathbb{R}$ -algebra (often denoted  $K^I$ ) with the common addition, multiplication, and the product of a function with a scalar

$$\begin{cases} \forall f, g \in \mathbb{K}^X, \forall x \in X, & (f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x) \\ \forall f, g \in \mathbb{K}^X, \forall x \in X, & (fg)(x) = f(x)g(x) \\ \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{K}, \forall f \in \mathbb{K}^X, \forall x \in X, & (\lambda f)(x) = \lambda f(x) \end{cases}.$$

- Other definitions:
  - Composition: if a function  $f$  is defined from  $I$  to  $X$ , and  $g$  is defined over  $X$ , then one can define the function  $\forall x \in I, h(x) = g \circ f(x)$ .
  - $f^{-1}$  is the inverse of  $f$  and is defined such that  $f^{-1} \circ f = f \circ f^{-1} = I_d$  (*the identity function*).
  - A function is even (odd) if  $\forall x \in I, f(x) = f(-x)$  ( $f(x) = -f(-x)$ )
  - Periodicity:  $f$  is periodic of period  $T$  if  $\forall x \in I, f(x + T) = f(x)$ .

- Limits of real functions:

- A function  $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $I$  including  $+\infty$ , admits  $l$  for limit when  $x$  goes to infinity if and only if

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists A > 0, \forall x \in I, (x \geq A \Rightarrow |f(x) - l| < \varepsilon)$$

- A function  $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $I$  including  $+\infty$ , admits  $+\infty$  for limit when  $x$  goes to infinity if and only if

$$\forall A > 0, \exists A' > 0, \forall x \in I, (x \geq A' \Rightarrow f(x) \geq A)$$

# The important notion of limits

- Limits of functions **at finite values** are very important and can be defined by looking at the limit of sequences:
  - A function  $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (or other domain) admits  $l$  for limit in a point  $a \in I$  if and only if For all sequence  $(u_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = a$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(u_n) = l$ .
  - One can express this without sequences:

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \alpha > 0, \forall x \in I, |x - a| < \alpha \Rightarrow |f(x) - l| < \varepsilon$$

- Functions can diverge to  $\pm\infty$  at finite values of the argument:

Divergence to  $+\infty$ :  $\forall A > 0, \exists \alpha > 0, \forall x \in I, |x - a| < \alpha \Rightarrow f(x) \geq A$

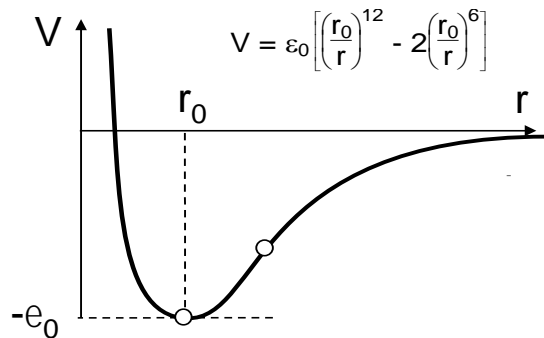
Divergence to  $-\infty$ :  $\forall B < 0, \exists \alpha > 0, \forall x \in I, |x - a| < \alpha \Rightarrow f(x) \leq B$

- Like for Sequences:
  - If  $f$  is increasing (decreasing) and has an upper bound (lower bound), then it converges.
  - If  $f$  is increasing (decreasing) and has no upper bound (lower bound), then it tends to  $+\infty$  ( $-\infty$ ).

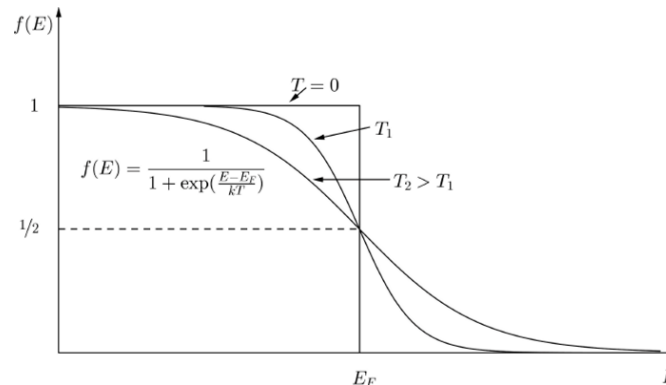
# Right and Left limits

- The concepts of limits and continuity of functions are essential in Materials Science.
- To apprehend it, it is essential to distinguish the limit when we approach a real number  $l$  from a sequence greater or smaller than  $l$ .

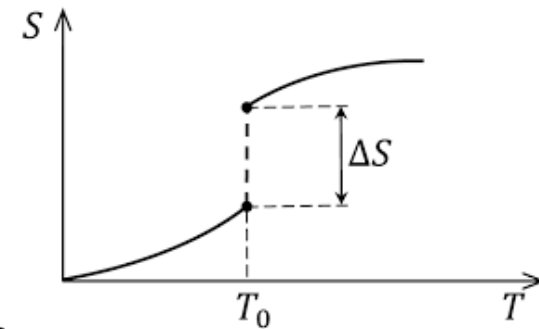
Lennard-Jones potential: bonds



Electrons Occupancy



First order phase transition



- $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (or other domain) admits a right limit  $l$  at a point  $a \in I$  if and only if  
For all sequence  $(u_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = a$  and  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N} u_n > a$ ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(u_n) = l$ .

One can express this without sequences:

$f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  has a right limit  $l$  at  $a \in I$  if:

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \alpha > 0, \forall x \in I, 0 < x - a \leq \alpha \Rightarrow |f(x) - l| < \varepsilon \quad \text{Notation: } \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = l$$

$f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  has a left limit  $l$  at  $a \in I$  if:

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \alpha > 0, \forall x \in I, 0 < a - x \leq \alpha \Rightarrow |f(x) - l| < \varepsilon \quad \text{Notation: } \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = l$$

# Results of limits

- For  $(\lambda, l, l') \in \mathbb{C}^3$ ,  $f, g: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  admit  $l$  and  $l'$  as limit at a point  $a \in I$  respectively:

$$f(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} l \implies |f(x)| \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} |l|$$

$$f(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} 0 \iff |f(x)| \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} 0$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} f(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} l \\ g(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} l' \end{array} \right\} \implies f(x) + g(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} l + l'$$

$$f(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} l \implies \lambda f(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} \lambda l$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} f(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} 0 \\ g \text{ is bounded around } a \end{array} \right\} \implies f(x)g(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} 0$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} f(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} l \\ g(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} l' \end{array} \right\} \implies f(x)g(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} ll'$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} g(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} l' \\ l' \neq 0 \end{array} \right\} \implies \frac{1}{g(x)} \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} \frac{1}{l'}$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} f(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} l \\ g(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} l' \\ l' \neq 0 \end{array} \right\} \implies \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} \frac{l}{l'}$$

- If  $f$  is complex, then:

$$f: I \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}, (\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$f(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} \alpha + i\beta \iff \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (\operatorname{Re} f)(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} \alpha \\ (\operatorname{Im} f)(x) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow a} \beta \end{array} \right.$$

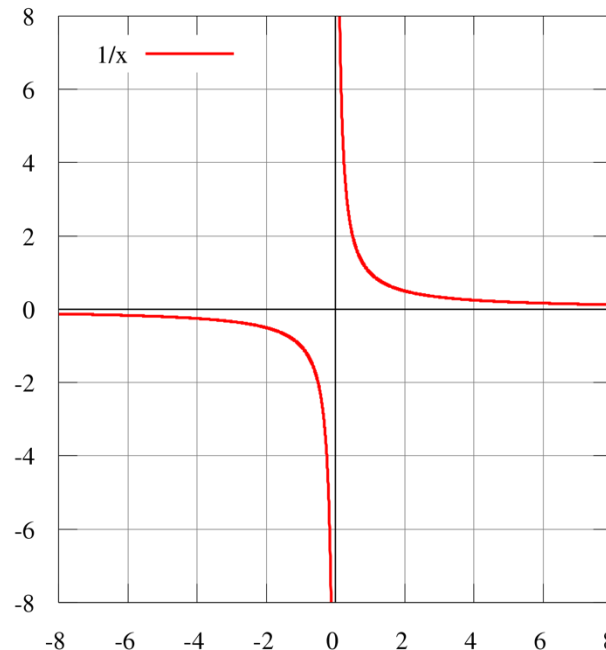


# Continuous functions

- A function is continuous if arbitrarily small changes in its value can be assured by restricting to sufficiently small changes of its argument.
- A function  $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f$  is continuous at the point  $x_0 \in I$  if:

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \alpha > 0, \forall x \in I, |x - x_0| < \alpha \Rightarrow |f(x) - f(x_0)| < \varepsilon$$

It is equivalent to say that  $f$  is continuous at point  $x_0 \in I$  if and only if  **$f$  has a right and left limit at  $x_0$  and the limits are equal. (i.e.  $f$  must have  $f(x_0)$  as a limit at  $x_0$ ).**



# Continuous functions

- Definition with sequences:

A function  $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (or other domain) admits  $l$  for limit in a point  $a \in I$  if and only if :

For all sequence  $(u_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  such that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} u_n = a$  ,  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} f(u_n) = f(a)$

- Important results

- If  $f$  and  $g$  are two continuous functions over an interval  $I$ :

- $|f|$  is continuous
    - $f + g$  is also continuous over  $I$ ,
    - $\lambda f, \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \text{ or } \mathbb{C}$ , is continuous;
    - $f \times g$  is continuous;
    - If  $g \neq 0$  over  $I$ ,  $f/g$  is continuous;
    - **If  $g$  is continuous over  $f(I)$ ,  $h(x) = g \circ f(x)$  is continuous.**
    - $f^{-1}$ , if defined, is continuous over  $f(I)$ .
    - **If  $f$  is complex , it is continuous if and only if its real and imaginary parts are.**

- Extreme value theorem:

If  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous over a segment  $[a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$  , then there exist two real numbers  $c$  and  $d$  in  $[a, b]$  such that  $f(c)$  is the minimum and  $f(d)$  is the maximum value of  $f(x)$ .

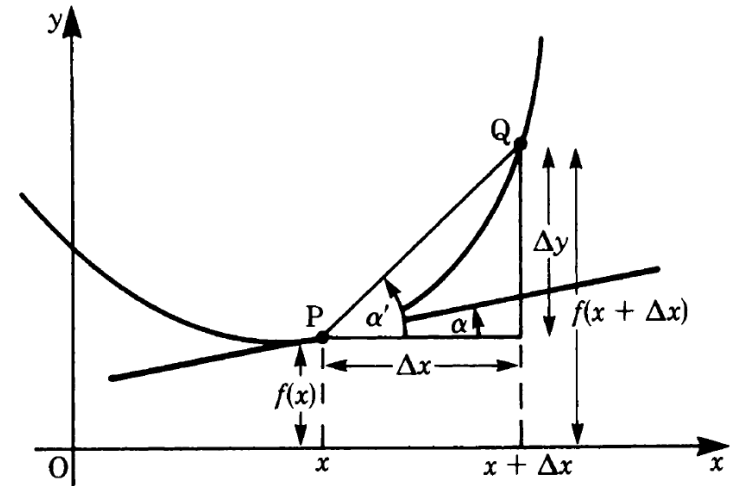
Or

$$\exists c, d \in [a, b], \text{ such that } f(c) = \inf_{[a, b]} f(x), \text{ and } f(d) = \sup_{[a, b]} f(x)$$

# Differentiability

- What matters the most in the study of a function representing a physical model is its values at certain important input, but also how it varies as the input argument is changed.
- The variation of a curve can be locally approximated by the slope joining two points of the curve near-by.
- As the distance  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$ , we approach the tangent of the function:

$$\tan \alpha = \lim_{\alpha' \rightarrow \alpha} \tan \alpha' = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$$



- If the difference quotient  $\Delta y / \Delta x$  has a limit as  $\Delta x \rightarrow 0$ , this limit is called the derivative or differential coefficient of the function  $y = f(x)$  with respect to  $x$  and we write:

$$y' = f'(x) = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} f(x) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)}{\Delta x}$$

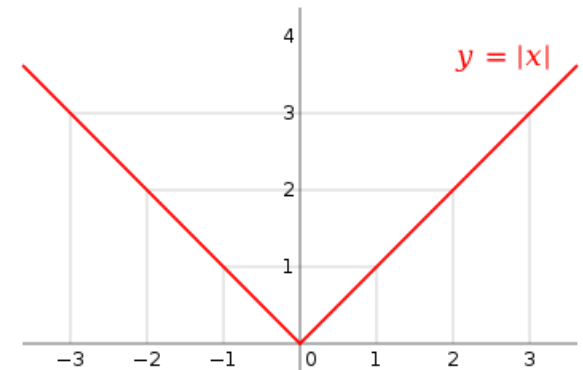
- More rigorously, a function  $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ , is differentiable at  $x \in I$  if:

$$\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \alpha > 0, \forall h \in I, |h| < \alpha \Rightarrow \left| \frac{f(x + h) - f(x)}{h} - l \right| < \varepsilon$$

$$l = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x + h) - f(x)}{h} = f'(x)$$

# Differentiability

- A function  $f$  as defined earlier can be right and / or left differentiable if  $\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}$  admits a right and left limit respectively.
- **Corollary:**  $f$  is differentiable at  $a \in I$  if it is right and left differentiable, and the values are equal.
- **If a function is differentiable at point  $a$ , it is continuous at  $a$ .**
- The reverse is not true !
- Important immediate results:
  - $f$  is increasing (decreasing) over a domain  $I$  if and only if  $\forall x \in I, f'(x) > 0$  ( $f'(x) < 0$ ).
- If  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous and monotonic over a segment  $[a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$ , it then takes all the values within  $[\inf(f(a), f(b)), \sup(f(a), f(b))]$ .
- **The Rolle theorem:** if  $f$  is a function defined over  $[a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$ , continuous and differentiable, and if  $f(a) = f(b)$ , then  $\exists c \in ]a, b[, f'(c) = 0$ .
- **Cauchy's mean value theorem:** If  $f, g$  are two functions defined over  $[a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$ , continuous over  $[a, b]$  and differentiable over  $]a, b[$ , then  $\exists c \in ]a, b[$ , such that:



$$(f(b) - f(a))g'(c) = (g(b) - g(a))f'(c)$$

# L'Hôpital rule

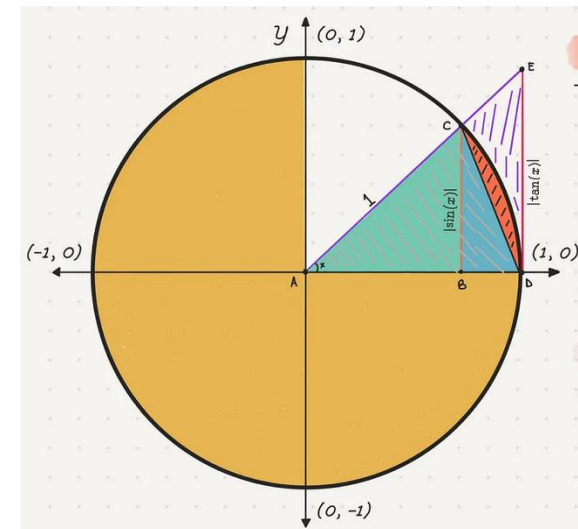
- The Hôpital rule: It states that the limit, when we divide one function by another is the same after we take the derivative of each function (under certain conditions..).
- If :
  - $f$  and  $g$  are two functions, differentiable over an interval  $I$ , not necessarily at  $c$ ;
  - $g'$  is not zero around  $c$  (for all  $x \neq c$ )
  - We have :  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} g(x) = 0$  or  $\pm \infty$
  - $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$  exists:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$$

- The rule also applies for  $x \rightarrow \infty$
- Examples:
  - $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin(x)}{x}$
  - $(\sin(x))'$  from the definition of the differential



G. de L'Hôpital  
(1661-1704)



# Differentiability

- We saw that the differential is a form of linear approximation of a function (linearization): the equality is exact when we take the limit:

$$f(x+h) \approx f(x) + hf'(x), \text{ which we can also write: } f(x+h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + o(h)$$

$$\text{with } \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{o(h)}{h} = 0$$

- From the fundamental definition, several operations on the differentiation of functions can be demonstrated:

General rules	Function $y = f(x)$	Derivative $y' = f'(x)$
1. Constant factor	$y = cf(x)$	$y' = cf'(x)$
2. Sum (algebraic) rule	$y = u(x) + v(x)$	$y' = u'(x) + v'(x)$
3. Product rule	$y = u(x)v(x)$	$y' = u'(x)v(x) + u(x)v'(x)$
4. Quotient rule	$y = \frac{u(x)}{v(x)}$	$y' = \frac{u'(x)v(x) - u(x)v'(x)}{v(x)^2}$
5. Chain rule	$y = f[g(x)]$	$y' = \frac{df}{dg} g'(x) = f'(g(x)) \times g'(x)$
6. Inverse functions	$y = f^{-1}(x)$ i.e. $x = f(y)$	$y' = \frac{1}{dx/dy} = \frac{1}{f'(y)}$  Or: $(f^{-1})' = \frac{1}{f'(f^{-1}(x))}$

# Common functions

- A *power function* is a function that can be represented in the form  $f(x) = kx^\alpha$ , where  $k$  and  $\alpha$  are real numbers, and  $k$  is known as the *coefficient*.

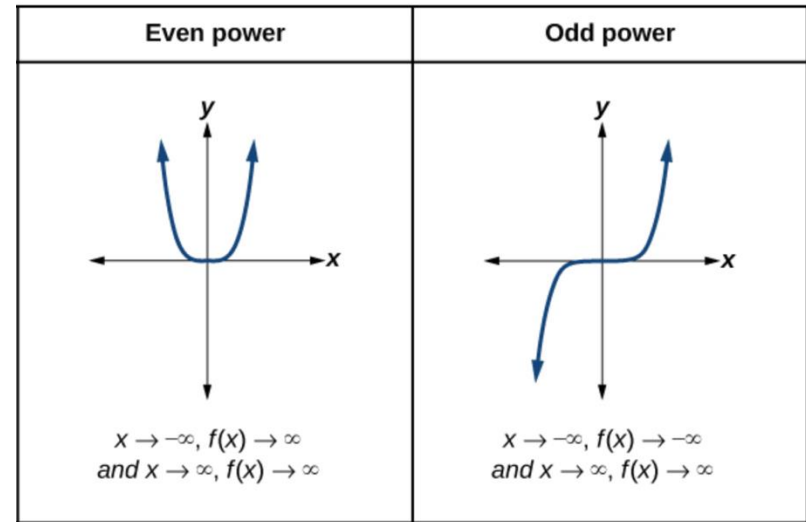
They are continuous functions and can be differentiated until the derivative is null.

- One can show that from the definition of the differentiability of a function that:

$$\forall \alpha \in \mathbb{R}, f'(x) = \alpha k x^{\alpha-1}$$

These functions are the basis of polynomials.

- Exponential functions:  
Function of the form  $f: \mathbb{R} \text{ (or } \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ (or } \mathbb{C})$   
$$f(x) = a^x$$



- From the fundamental definition of the differentiability of a function, we can find the derivative of exponential functions, and find a number  $e$  for which  $(e^x)' = e^x$

- $e$  is defined as: 
$$e = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n}\right)^n$$

- We can deduct immediately that, defining the function  $x \in \mathbb{R}, \ln(x) = (e^x)^{-1}, (\ln(x))' = \frac{1}{x}$ .

# Common derivatives

Derivatives of fundamental functions	Function $y = f(x)$	Derivative $y' = f'(x)$
1. Constant factor	$y = \text{constant}$	$y' = 0$
2. Power function	$y = x^n$	$y' = nx^{n-1}$
3. Trigonometric functions	$y = \sin x$	$y' = \cos x$
	$y = \cos x$	$y' = -\sin x$
	$y = \tan x$	$y' = \frac{1}{\cos^2 x} = 1 + \tan^2 x$
	$y = \cot x$	$y' = \frac{-1}{\sin^2 x} = -1 - \cot^2 x$
4. Inverse trigonometric functions	$y = \sin^{-1} x$	$y' = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$
	$y = \cos^{-1} x$	$y' = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$
	$y = \tan^{-1} x$	$y' = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$
	$y = \cot^{-1} x$	$y' = -\frac{1}{1+x^2}$



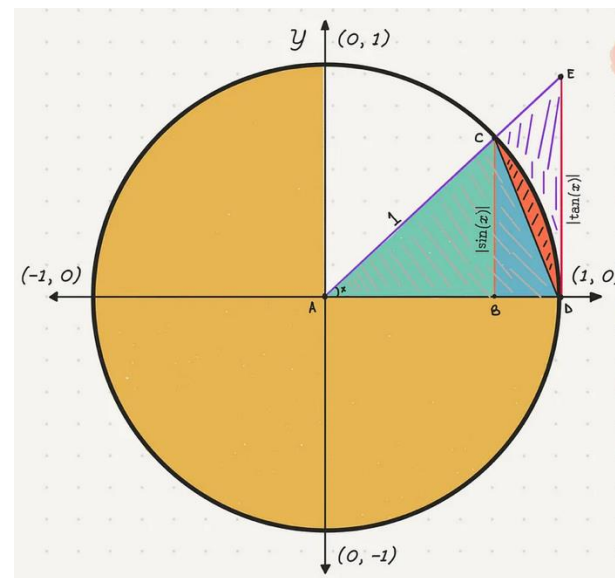
# Common derivatives

Derivatives of fundamental functions	Function $y = f(x)$	Derivative $y' = f'(x)$
5. Exponential function	$y = e^x$	$y' = e^x$
Logarithmic function	$y = \ln x$	$y' = \frac{1}{x}$
6. Hyperbolic trigonometric functions	$y = \sinh x$	$y' = \cosh x$
	$y = \cosh x$	$y' = \sinh x$
	$y = \tanh x$	$y' = \frac{1}{\cosh^2 x} = 1 - \tanh^2 x$
	$y = \coth x$	$y' = \frac{1}{\sinh^2 x} = 1 - \coth^2 x$
7. Inverse hyperbolic trigonometric functions	$y = \sinh^{-1} x$	$y' = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}$
	$y = \cosh^{-1} x$	$y' = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2-1}} \quad (x > 1)$
	$y = \tanh^{-1} x$	$y' = \frac{1}{1-x^2} \quad ( x  < 1)$
	$y = \coth^{-1} x$	$y' = -\frac{1}{x^2-1} \quad ( x  > 1)$

# Common derivatives

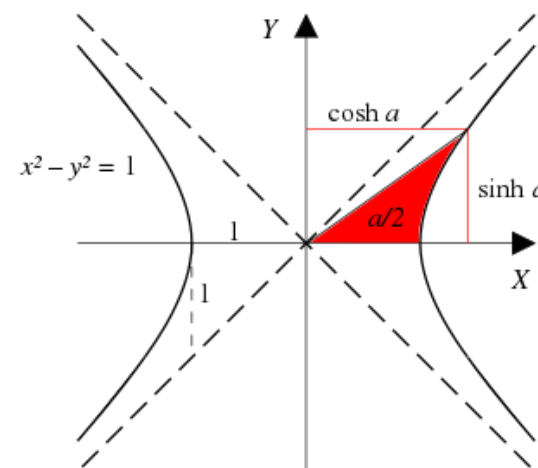
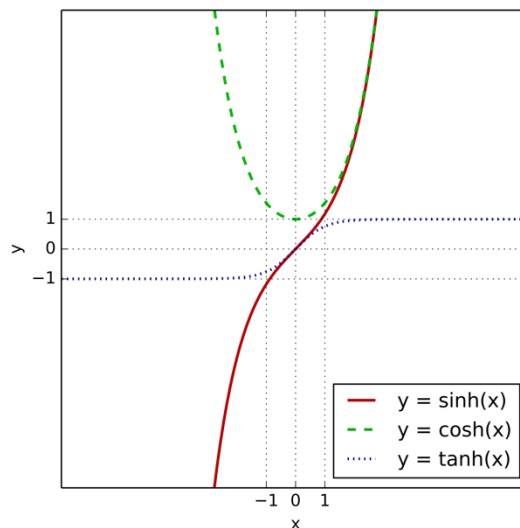
- Examples:  $\sin(x)$ ,  $a^x$ ,  $\log_a(x)$ ,  $\cosh^{-1}(x)$

- $\frac{d}{dx}(\sin(x)) = \cos(x)$
- $\frac{d}{dx}(a^x) = a^x (\ln(a))$
- $\frac{d}{dx}(\log_a(x)) = \log_a(e) \frac{1}{x}$



- Hyperbolic functions:

- $\cosh(x) = \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}$
- $\sinh(x) = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}$
- $\tanh(x) = \frac{\sinh(x)}{\cosh(x)}$
- $\cosh^2(x) - \sinh^2(x) = 1$
- $\frac{d}{dx}(\cosh^{-1}(x)) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}$



# Differentiability

- From the fundamental definition, several operations on the differentiation of functions can be demonstrated

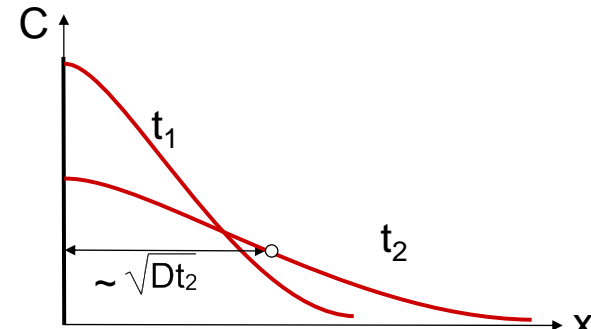
General rules	Function $y = f(x)$	Derivative $y' = f'(x)$
1. Constant factor	$y = cf(x)$	$y' = cf'(x)$
2. Sum (algebraic) rule	$y = u(x) + v(x)$	$y' = u'(x) + v'(x)$
3. Product rule	$y = u(x)v(x)$	$y' = u'(x)v(x) + u(x)v'(x)$
4. Quotient rule	$y = \frac{u(x)}{v(x)}$	$y' = \frac{u'(x)v(x) - u(x)v'(x)}{v(x)^2}$
5. Chain rule	$y = f[g(x)]$	$y' = \frac{df}{dg} g'(x) = f'(g(x)) \times g'(x)$
6. Inverse functions	$y = f^{-1}(x)$ i.e. $x = f(y)$	$y' = \frac{1}{dx/dy} = \frac{1}{f'(y)}$ Or: $(f^{-1})' = \frac{1}{f'(f^{-1}(x))}$

- Example: one solution of the diffusion equation:  $\frac{\partial c(x,t)}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 c(x,t)}{\partial x^2}$



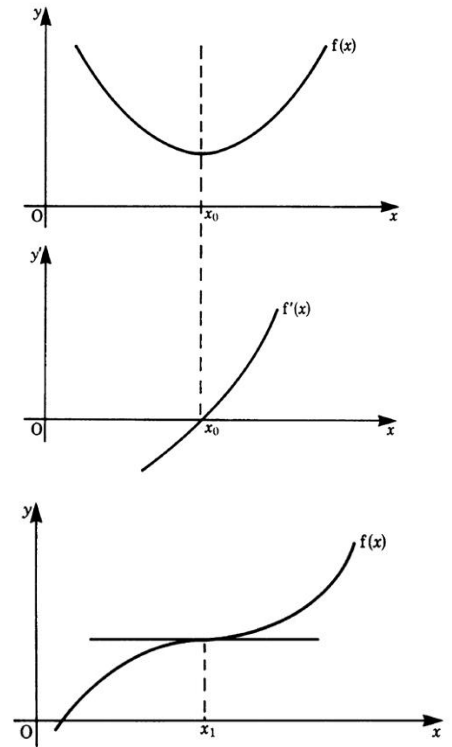
Doping Si with P or B to create p-n junctions

$$c(x, t) = \frac{A}{\sqrt{t}} e^{-\frac{x^2}{4Dt}}$$



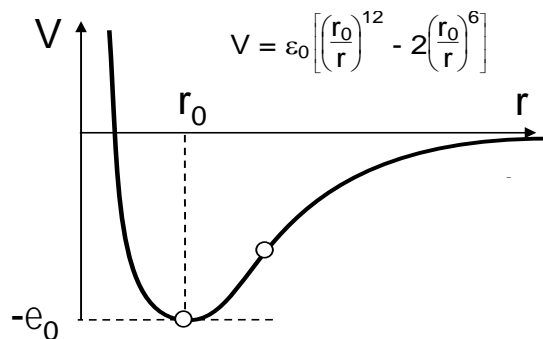
# Maximum, minimum, inflexion

- Successive derivatives can help evaluate in a finer way the change of functions, and in particular if they have a maximum or a minimum locally.
- For a function to have an extremum at a point  $x_0$ , it is necessary that  $f'(x_0) = 0$ . It is however not sufficient.
- It must also be such that  $f''(x_0) > 0$  (convex) or  $f''(x_0) < 0$  (concave).
- A point of inflexion is such that  $f''(x_0) = 0$ , marking where the concavity of a function changes. We must also have  $f'''(x_0) \neq 0$  (for example  $f(x) = (x - 1)^4$ ).

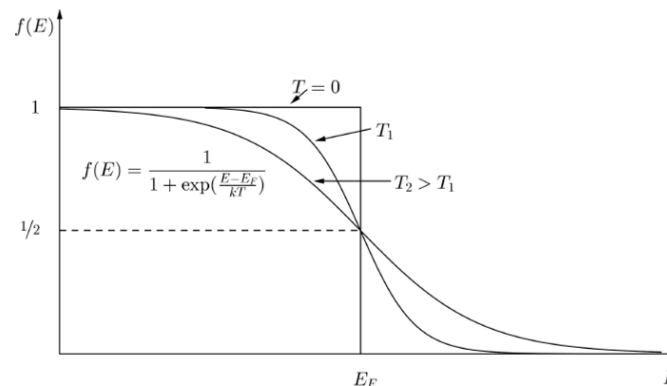


## Examples:

Lennard-Jones potential: bonds



Electrons Occupancy



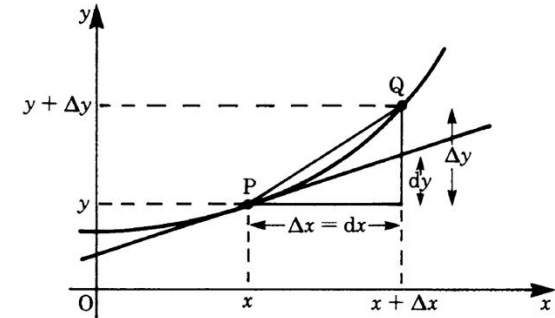
# Taylor Series and Taylor expansion

- We saw that the differential is a form of linear approximation of a function (linearization): the equality is exact when we take the limit:

$f(x + \Delta x) \approx f(x) + f'(x)\Delta x$ , which we can also write:

$$f(x + \Delta x) = f(x) + f'(x)\Delta x + \Delta x h(\Delta x) \text{ with } \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} h(\Delta x) = 0$$

- The error is however quickly large as we move away from  $x$ . A better approximation can be obtained with a higher degree polynomial



## ■ Taylor-Lagrange

For a function at least  $n+1$  times differentiable ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ), defined over an interval  $[a, b] \subset \mathbb{R}$ , (The  $(n+1)$ th derivative needs to exist only in  $]a, b[$ ), then  $\exists c \in ]a, b[$  such that:

$$f(b) = f(a) + (b-a)f'(a) + \frac{(b-a)^2}{2!}f''(a) + \dots + \frac{(b-a)^n}{n!}f^{(n)}(a) + \frac{(b-a)^{n+1}}{(n+1)!}f^{(n+1)}(c)$$

- Hint of demo: consider the function

$$\varphi : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \quad x \mapsto f(b) - f(x) - (b-x)f'(x) - \dots - \frac{(b-x)^n}{n!}f^{(n)}(x) - A \frac{(b-x)^{n+1}}{(n+1)!},$$

It is continuous and differentiable.

We have:  $\varphi(a) = \varphi(b) = 0$ . and  $\forall x \in ]a, b[$ ,  $\varphi'(x) = -\frac{(b-x)^n}{n!}f^{(n+1)}(x) + A \frac{(b-x)^n}{n!}$

From Rolle's theorem,  $\exists c \in ]a, b[$  such that  $\varphi'(c) = 0$ . Hence the result.

# Taylor Series and Taylor expansion

- Let's consider the domain of definition of  $f$ ,  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ , that includes 0, and an arbitrary point  $x$  in this interval. We can re-write the Taylor Lagrange polynomial what is called the Maclaurin form (with  $c \in ]0, x[$ ):

$$\forall x \in I, f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{x^k}{k!} f^{(k)}(0) + \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} f^{(n+1)}(c)$$

$R_n(x) = \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} f^{(n+1)}(c)$  is called the remainder of the Taylor polynomial  $\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{x^k}{k!} f^{(k)}(0)$ .

- This remainder is small, and hence the function is well approximated by the Taylor polynomial, in two situations:

## ***Taylor Expansion***

$x$  is close to 0

For all  $n$ , the polynomial is a **local** approximation of the function around 0.

The approximation globally improves as the degree of the polynomial increases for small  $x$ .

## ***Taylor Series***

$n$  is large ( $n \rightarrow \infty$ )

For all  $x$ , the polynomial is a **global** approximation of the function over a certain domain where the series  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!} f^{(k)}(0)$

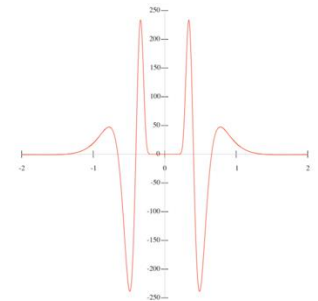
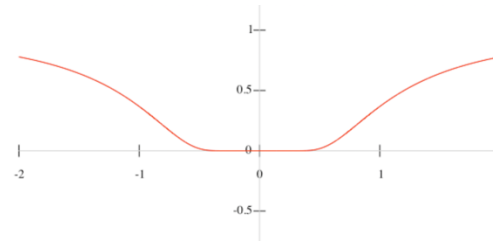
Converges.

# Taylor Series

- Taylor series is a wonderful tool to express all functions as polynomials which are regular and easy functions to manipulate.
- For all  $x$ , the polynomial is a **global** approximation of the function over a certain domain where the series  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!} f^{(k)}(0)$  converges.
- However, not all functions can be expanded as a Taylor (or Maclaurin) series, and the convergence only happens within certain values of  $x$ .

- Examples:

- $e^{-\frac{1}{x^2}}$  has all its  $n$ th differential null at 0.



- One intuitive way to evaluate the convergence is to look at the behavior of the remainder.
- If  $\exists M \in \mathbb{R}, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}, \forall x \in I, |f^{(n+1)}(x)| \leq M$ , then  $\forall n \in \mathbb{N}, |R_n(x)| \leq M \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

With two consequences:

- $f(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{x^k}{k!} f^{(k)}(0) + o(x^n)$  for  $x$  small, close to 0.
- The series converges towards  $f(x)$ :  $\left| f(x) - \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{x^k}{k!} f^{(k)}(0) \right| \leq M \frac{x^{n+1}}{(n+1)!} \rightarrow 0$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$
- Hence functions with points of divergence within a domain will be problematic:

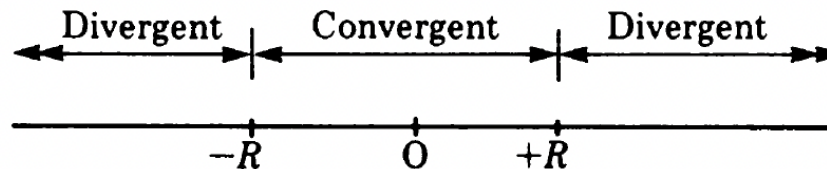
$$f(x) = (x - 1)^{3/2}$$

# Taylor Series - Convergence

- There are different tests that can assess the convergence of a series:
  - Ratio test: one looks at the behaviour of the ratio of two following sequence number in the series as  $n$  goes to infinity.
  - At a point  $x$  for a Taylor series, this gives:

$$a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots + a_nx^n + a_{n+1}x^{n+1} + \dots \quad \text{The ratio is: } \frac{a_{n+1}x^{n+1}}{a_nx^n}$$

- Taking the limit:  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_{n+1}}{a_n} x \right| = \frac{|x|}{R}$  where  $R = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{a_n}{a_{n+1}} \right|$
- The series is absolutely convergent if  $|x| < R$  and divergent if  $|x| > R$ . Hence a power series is convergent in a definite interval  $(-R, R)$  and divergent outside this interval.



- Examples:  $e^x$ ,  $\frac{1}{1-x}$
- Other convergence tests exist like the Cauchy-Hadamard:  $\frac{1}{R} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt[n]{|a_n|}$



# Taylor series and expansion

Maclaurin series valid over  $\mathbb{R}$

$$\cos(x) = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \dots + (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!} + \dots$$

$$\sin(x) = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \dots + (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} + \dots$$

$$\arctan(x) = x - \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{x^5}{5} - \dots + (-1)^n \frac{x^{2n+1}}{2n+1} + \dots$$

$$\arcsin(x) = x + \frac{1}{2} \frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{1.3}{2.4} \frac{x^5}{5} + \dots + \frac{1.3 \dots (2n-1)}{2.4 \dots (2n)} \frac{x^{2n+1}}{2n+1} + \dots$$

$$\exp(x) = 1 + \frac{x}{1!} + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{x^n}{n!} + \dots$$

$$\cosh(x) = 1 + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots + \frac{x^{2n}}{(2n)!} + \dots$$

$$\sinh(x) = x + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \dots + \frac{x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} + \dots$$

$$(1+x)^\alpha = 1 + \frac{\alpha}{1!}x + \frac{\alpha(\alpha-1)}{2!}x^2 + \dots + \frac{\alpha(\alpha-1)\dots(\alpha-n+1)}{n!}x^n + \dots$$

$$\ln(1+x) = x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \dots + (-1)^{n-1} \frac{x^n}{n} + \dots$$

Taylor expansion **around 0 at the order n**:

$$e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{x^n}{n!} + o(x^n)$$

$$\sin x = x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \dots + (-1)^p \frac{x^{2p+1}}{(2p+1)!} + o(x^{2p+2})$$

$$\cos x = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \dots + (-1)^p \frac{x^{2p}}{(2p)!} + o(x^{2p+1})$$

$$\sinh x = x + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \dots + \frac{x^{2p+1}}{(2p+1)!} + o(x^{2p+2})$$

$$\cosh x = 1 + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots + \frac{x^{2p}}{(2p)!} + o(x^{2p+1})$$

Euler formula:

- These expressions are true also for complex arguments !
- Comparing:  $e^{ix}$ ,  $\cos(x)$ ,  $i\sin(x)$ , one sees quickly that indeed:  $e^{ix} = \cos(x) + i\sin(x)$

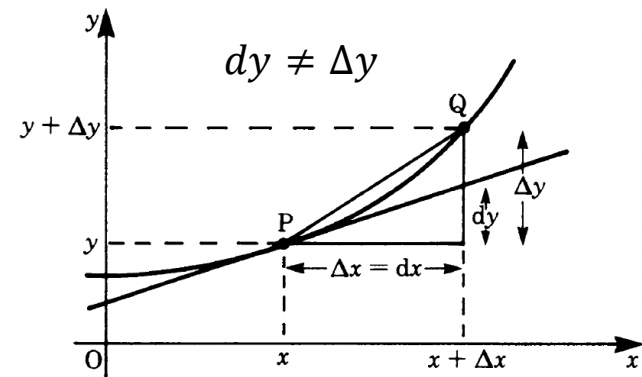
# Taylor Expansion

- Taylor expansion does not worry about convergence: as long as a function is n-times differentiable around an argument, it can be approximated (more or less well) by the Taylor expansion.
- Note that it is an approximation ! The differential is an exact value of a slope when, one takes the limit.

$f(x + \Delta x) \approx f(x) + f'(x)\Delta x$  , which we can also write:

$$f(x + \Delta x) = f(x) + f'(x)\Delta x + \Delta x h(\Delta x) \text{ with } \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} h(\Delta x) = 0$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} \quad \Delta y = f(x + \Delta x) - f(x)$$



- From the Taylor series, one can extract the expansion to a first few orders:

Example for the second order:  $f(x + h) = f(x) + hf'(x) + \frac{h^2}{2}f''(x) + o(h^2)$

- The approximation improves usually at higher order:
  - Zero-th order: the function is constant, locally approximated to its value at 0 (or other)
  - First order: linear approximation that is very often used in engineering;
  - Second order: quadratic approximation also widely used, often when  $f'(0) = 0$ .

# Physical representation of chemical bonds

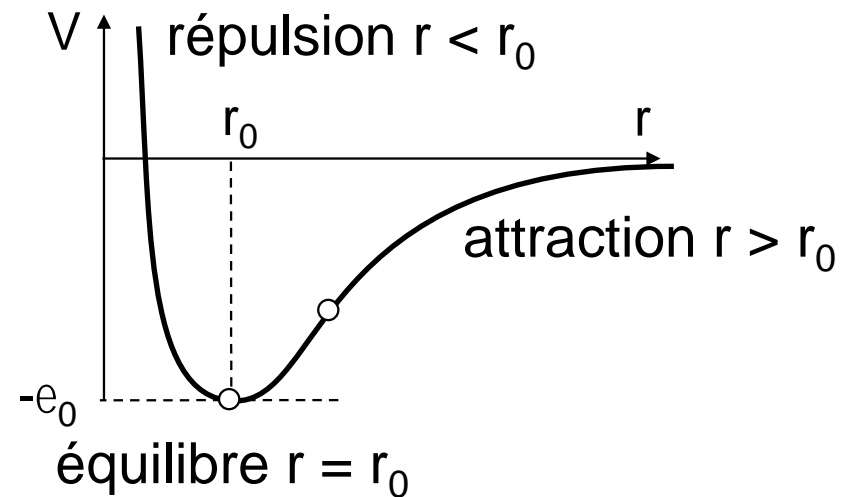
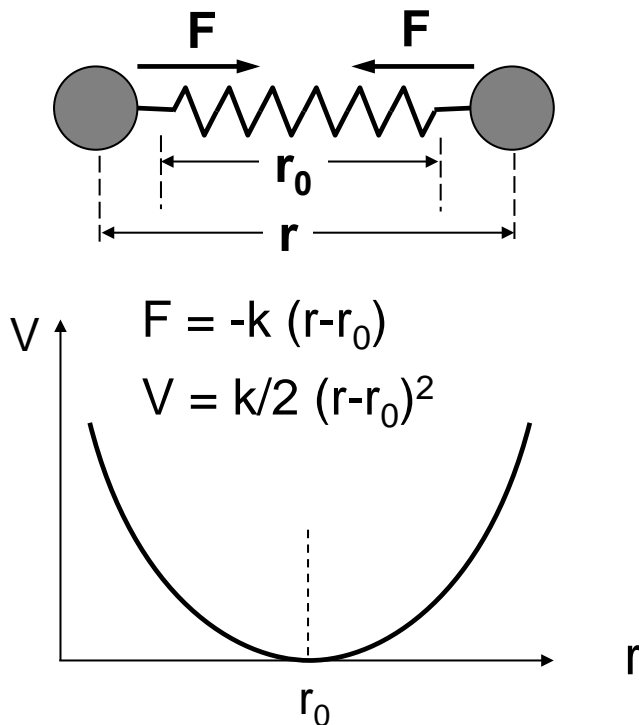
A simple model to physically apprehend the bond between atoms: the Lennard-Jones potential.

A Conservative force (the work done on an object does not depend on the object's path) can be derived from this potential:

$$\vec{F} = -\overrightarrow{\text{grad}} V$$

Potential of Lennard-Jones:

$$V = \varepsilon_0 \left[ \left( \frac{r_0}{r} \right)^{12} - 2 \left( \frac{r_0}{r} \right)^6 \right]$$



# Physical representation of chemical bonds

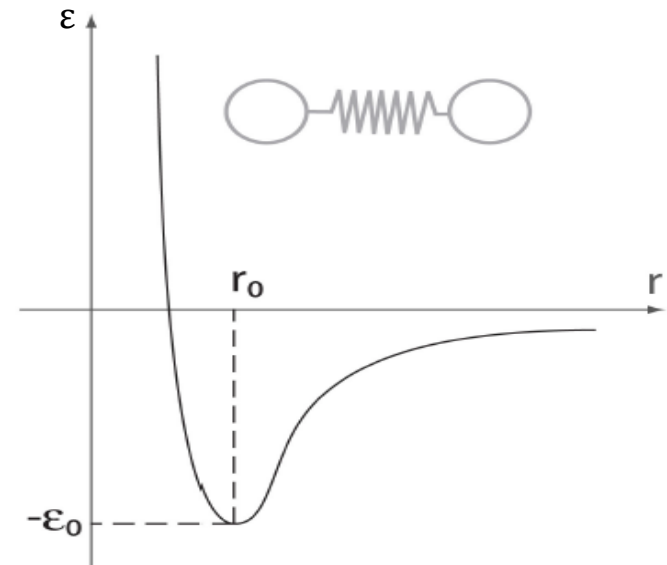
- A gradient is a vector that looks into the change of a quantity over the different directions:

$$\vec{F} = -\overrightarrow{grad}V = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial x}\vec{x} - \frac{\partial V}{\partial y}\vec{y} - \frac{\partial V}{\partial z}\vec{z}$$

- Along a vector  $\overrightarrow{e_r}$  and a distance called  $r$ , we have:

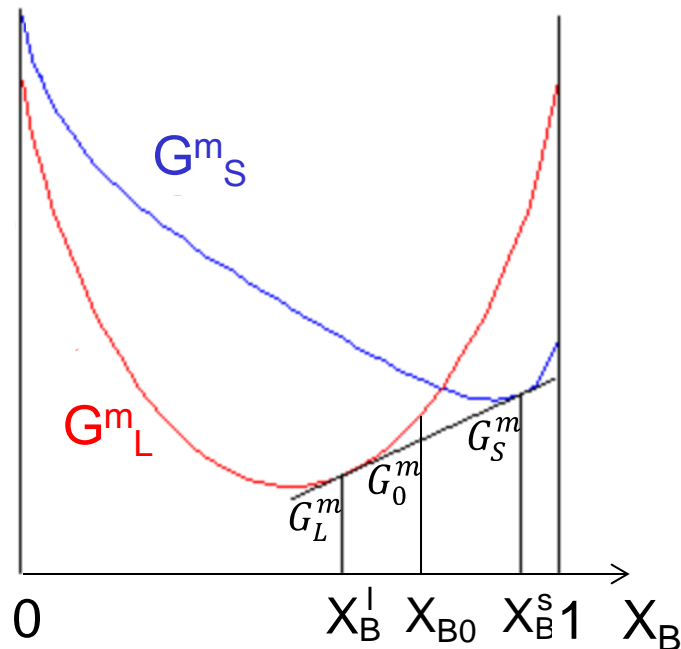
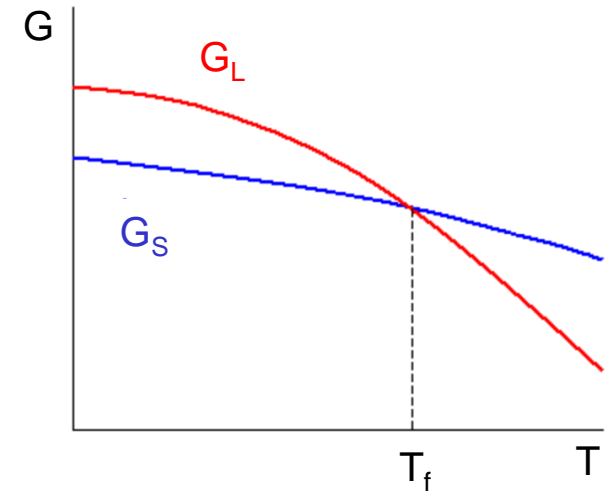
$$\vec{F} = -\frac{\partial V}{\partial r}\overrightarrow{e_r}$$

- The derivative has hence a lot of physical meaning: for small  $r$ , when atoms get close to each other, the potential increases significantly, from which derives a force that is repulsive, away from the increase of the energy, hence the minus sign in front of the gradient.
- As atoms are pulled apart, an attractive force brings the atoms back together into a more stable, low energy state.
- At the equilibrium condition, the forces equalize and the change of potential is zero.



# Tangents in Materials Science: Binary Systems

- The equilibrium of a thermodynamic system is driven by the minimization of the Gibbs free energy (at T and P constant).
- For a unitary system, the molar free enthalpy as a function of temperature looks like this:

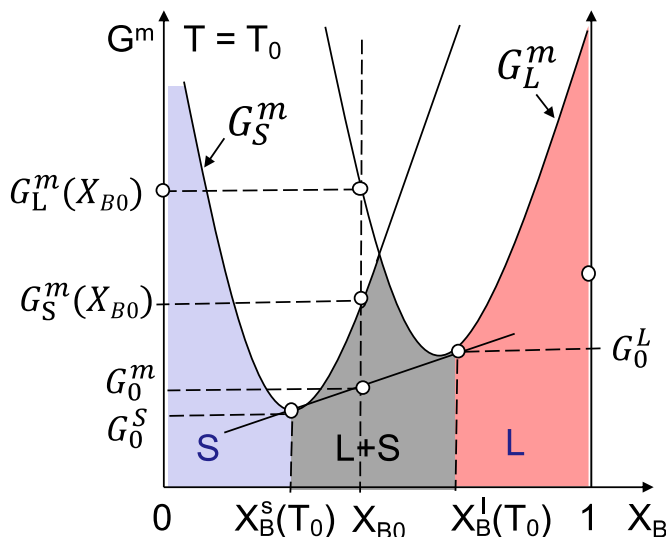
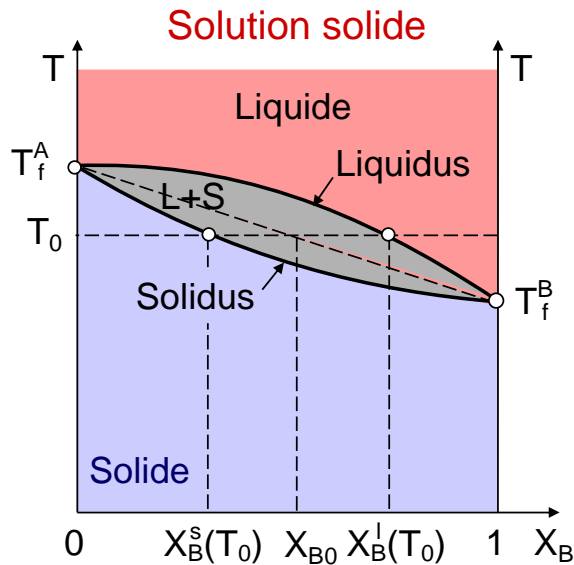


- For a binary system of species A and B (Cu and Ni for example) with  $n_{tot} = n_A + n_B$

$$X_{A0} = \frac{n_A}{n_{tot}} \quad X_{B0} = \frac{n_B}{n_{tot}}$$

- the system can separate into two different phases of different composition to minimise the free enthalpy.

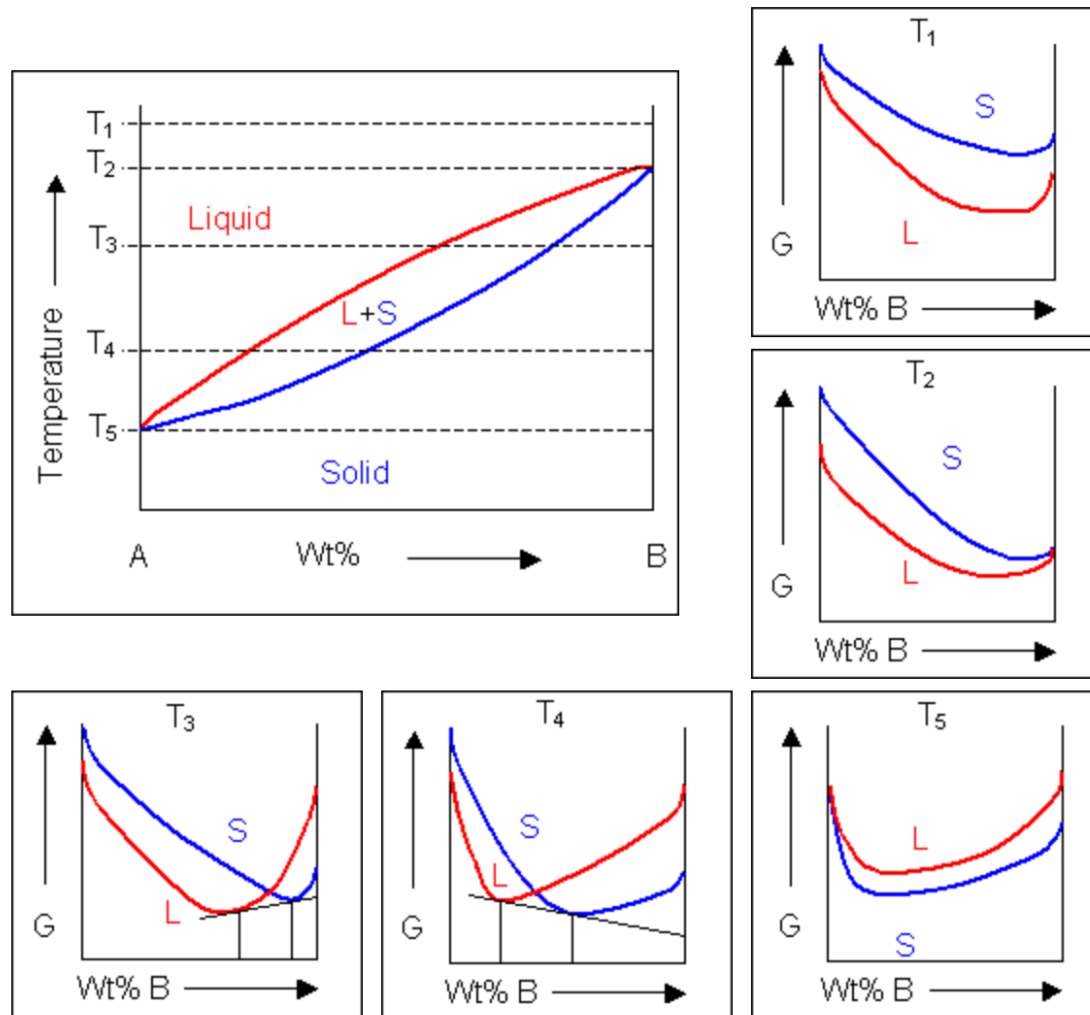
# Binary Systems with full Solubility



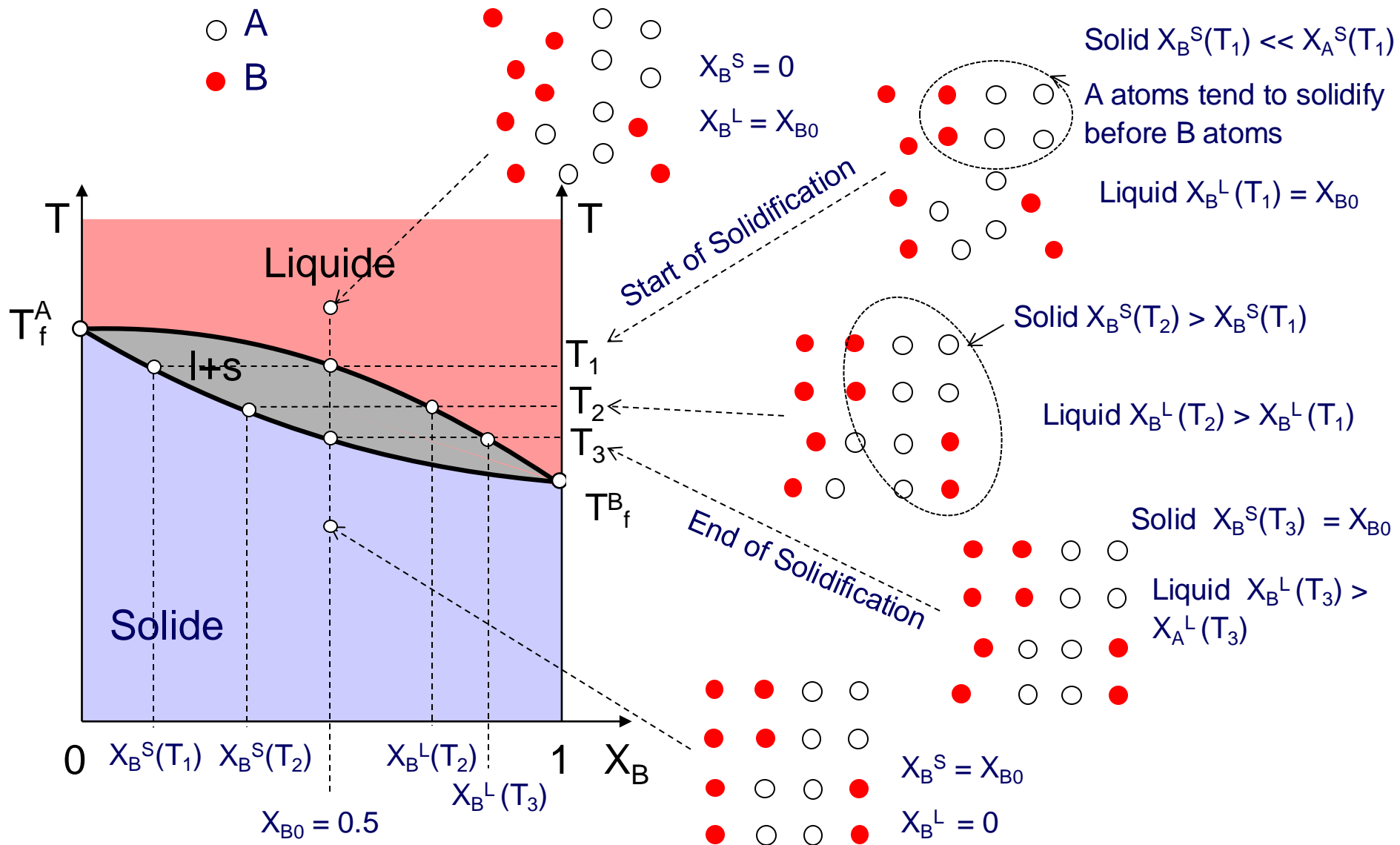
- At  $T = T_0$ , the Gibbs free energy of the liquid solution at  $X_{B0}$  is higher than the one for the solid phase. We can then expect the system to be in the solid state.
- The system has however an alternative possibility to further reduce its free energy: put a fraction  $\chi_S$  in the solid phase, and a fraction  $\chi_L$  in the liquid phase (with  $\chi_S + \chi_L = 1$ ).
- By taking the common tangent of the molar Gibbs energy for the solid ( $G_S^m$ ) and the liquid ( $G_L^m$ ), we can find the proportion of B in the liquid ( $X_B^L(T_0)$ ) and the solid ( $X_B^S(T_0)$ ) phases.
- The molar Gibbs free energy is then given by:
 
$$G_0^m = \chi_S G_0^S + \chi_L G_0^L < G_S^m(X_{B0})$$
- By computing the slope of the tangent, we have:
 
$$G_0^m = \frac{X_B^L - X_{B0}}{X_B^L - X_B^S} G_0^S + \frac{X_{B0} - X_B^S}{X_B^L - X_B^S} G_0^L$$
- Which enables to recover the lever rule.

# Binary Systems with full Solubility

- From the Gibbs free energy curves as a function of  $X_B$  at different temperatures, we can then reconstruct the phase diagram for all temperatures.



# Binary Systems with full Solubility

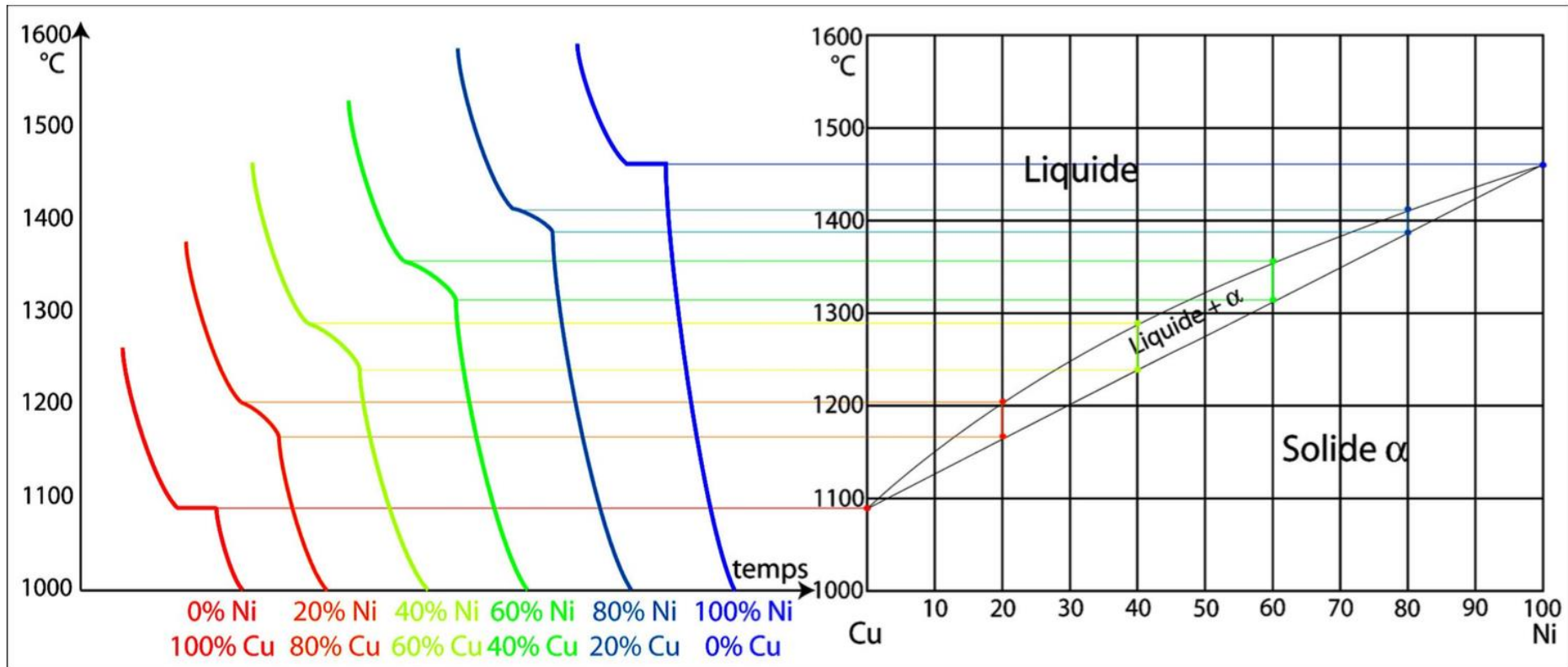




# Binary Systems with full Solubility

Example: solidification curves for the diagram Cu-Ni that enables to create the phase diagram.

Note that contrary to unitary systems, the phase change do not occur at a single T.



# SUMMARY

---

- We presented the concept of functions and defined limits, continuity and derivability.
- We focused on differentiability and in particular the tangent of a function.
- We showed how the fundamental definition of the differentiability of a function can be used to find the derivative of some common functions.
- We reminded the L'Hôpital rule.
- We introduced Taylor expansion and Taylor series.
- We introduced the need for the common tangent construction in phase diagrams, and gave an example of an exponential function in the Lennard-Jones potential.
- Next week
  - We will discuss parametric functions and integration.
  - We will also discuss multi-variable functions
  - We will derive the diffusion equation