

## 6. THE DERIVATIVE (28/9/2021)

Goals.

- (1) The derivative at a point
- (2) The derivative as a function
- (3) Power laws and polynomials

Last Time.

IVT: If  $f$  is cts on  $[a, b]$ , if  $f(a), f(b)$  have opposite signs then have  $c, a < c < b$ , s.t.  $f(c) = 0$

Used IVT to find solutions to equations  
Often, have to choose  $a, b$  ourselves, then can use asymptotics.

Def: Let  $f$  be defined near  $a \in \mathbb{R}$

The derivative of  $f$  at  $a$  is provided the limit exists

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

## 1. DEFINITION OF THE DERIVATIVE

**Definition.**  $f'(a) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$

(1) Find  $f'(a)$  if

(a)  $f(x) = x^2$ ,  $a = 3$ .

$$\begin{aligned} f'(3) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(a+h)^2 - a^2}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(3+h)^2 - 3^2}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{6h + h^2}{h} = \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (6+h) = 6. \end{aligned}$$

(b)  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ , any  $a \neq 0$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(a) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{a+h} - \frac{1}{a}}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \left( \frac{a - (a+h)}{a(a+h)} \right) \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-h}{h \cdot a \cdot (a+h)} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(-1)}{a(a+h)} = -\frac{1}{a^2}. \end{aligned}$$

(c)  $f(x) = x^3 - 2x$ , any  $a$  (you may use  $(a + h)^3 = a^3 + 3a^2h + 3ah^2 + h^3$ ).

(2) Express the limits as derivatives:  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(5+h) - \cos 5}{h} = f'(5)$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x - 0}{x - 0}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x - \sin 0}{x - 0} = (\sin x)'(0)$$

$$f(x) = \cos x$$

$$a = 5$$

# Worksheet (1) (a), (b), (2), (3)

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## Language + notation

Noun: "derivative" of  $f$  at  $a$

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

Verb: to differentiate

Adj: differentiable = has a derivative  
(= limit exists)

Write.  $f'(x)$ , or  $f'(a)$ ,

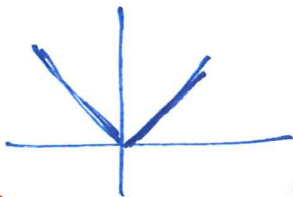
or  $\frac{df}{dx}$  (also  $Df$ ,  $D_x f$ , ..)

if think of graph  $y = f(x)$ , write  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .

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Fact: If  $f$  is differentiable at  $a$ ,  $f$  is also continuous at  $a$

But  $f(x) = |x|$



cts, not diff at  $x=0$

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$f'(a)$  = derivative at  $a$ ,  $f'(x)$  = derivative at  $x$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} f' = \text{derivative} \\ \text{function} \end{array} \right.$   
 $f'(t)$  = " " "  $t$

Power law: function  $x^a$

Fact:  $\frac{d(x^a)}{dx} = ax^{a-1}$ .

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Worksheet (4), (5)

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(3) (Final, 2015) Is the function

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{1+x^2} - 1 & x \leq 0 \\ x^2 \cos \frac{1}{x} & x > 0 \end{cases} \quad f(0) = \sqrt{1-0} - 1 = 0$$

differentiable at  $x = 0$ ?

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(x)}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{\sqrt{1+x^2} - 1}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(1+x^2)-1}{x} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+x^2}+1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x}{\sqrt{1+x^2}+1} = 0$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(x)}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x^2 \cos(\frac{1}{x})}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x \cos(\frac{1}{x}) \stackrel{\text{by squeeze}}{=} 0$$

$(\sqrt{1+x^2}-1)'(0) = \left[ \frac{2x}{2\sqrt{1+x^2}} \right]_{x=0} = 0$

$-1 \leq \cos(\frac{1}{x}) \leq 1$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $-x \leq x \cos(\frac{1}{x}) \leq x$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $0$

## 2. LINEAR COMBINATIONS; POWER LAWS

(4) Let  $g(y) = Ay^{5/2} + y^2$ . Suppose that  $g'(4) = 0$ . What is  $A$ ?

$$\frac{dg}{dy} = g'(y) = A \cdot \frac{5}{2} \cdot y^{\frac{5}{2}-1} + 2y = \frac{5A}{2} \cdot y^{3/2} + 2y$$

$$\text{so } 0 = g'(4) = \frac{5A}{2} \cdot 4^{3/2} + 2 \cdot 4 = 20A + 8 \quad \text{so } \boxed{A = -\frac{8}{20} = -\frac{2}{5}}$$

(5) Find the second derivative of  $5t + 3\sqrt{t}$

$$\text{if } y = 5t + 3\sqrt{t}, \text{ then } y' = 5 + 3 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot t^{-1/2} = 5 + \frac{3}{2\sqrt{t}}$$

$$\text{so } y'' = 0 + \frac{3}{2} \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right) t^{-3/2} = -\frac{3}{4} t^{-3/2}$$

constant  
doesn't  
change

(6) Differentiate  $f(x) = \frac{5x^3 - 2x + 1}{\sqrt{x}}$ .  $\frac{5x^3}{\sqrt{x}} - \frac{2x}{\sqrt{x}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} =$

$$= 5x^{5/2} - 2 \cdot x^{1/2} + x^{-1/2}$$

(7) (Final, 2015) Find the equation of the line tangent to the function  $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$  at  $(4, 2)$ .

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}, \text{ so } f'(4) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{4}} = \frac{1}{4}$$

so line is  $y = \frac{1}{4}(x-4) + 2$

$$\Rightarrow y - 2 = \frac{1}{4}(x-4)$$

$$\Rightarrow y = \frac{1}{4}x + 1$$