

## 3. THE DERIVATIVE (20/9/2023)

Goals.

- (1) The derivative at a point
- (2) Tangent lines & linear approximations
- (3) The derivative as a function

Last Time.

limits

Write  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$  if as  $x$  approaches  $a$  ( $x \neq a$ ) the values  $f(x)$  become closer to  $L$ .

Extended sense:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty$  (or  $-\infty$ ) ("vertical asymptote")

Asymptotic behaviour:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = L$  (or  $-\infty$ ) ("horizontal asymptote")

Continuity: If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$

(can use this to compute limits if know  $f$  is continuous)

promise: formulas define continuous functions on their domain.

Constant approximation:  $(1.2)^2 \approx 1^2$  at some level of accuracy.  
 $\sqrt{1.2} \approx \sqrt{1}$

Math 100A – WORKSHEET 3  
THE DERIVATIVE

1. THREE VIEWS OF THE DERIVATIVE

(1) Let  $f(x) = x^2$ , and let  $a = 2$ . Then  $(2, 4)$  is a point on the graph of  $y = f(x)$ .

(a) Let  $(x, x^2)$  be another point on the graph, close to  $(2, 4)$ . What is the slope of the line connecting the two? What is the limit of the slopes as  $x \rightarrow 2$ ?

$$\text{slope} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} = x + 2 \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow 2} 4$$

("zoom in to  $y = x^2$  at  $(2, 4)$ , see line of slope 4")

change  
Variables

(b) Let  $h$  be a small quantity. What is the asymptotic behaviour of  $f(2 + h)$  as  $h \rightarrow 0$ ? What about  $f(2 + h) - f(2)$ ?

$$\begin{cases} x = 2 + h \\ h = x - 2 \end{cases}$$

$$f(2+h) = (2+h)^2 \sim 2^2 = f(2) = 4$$

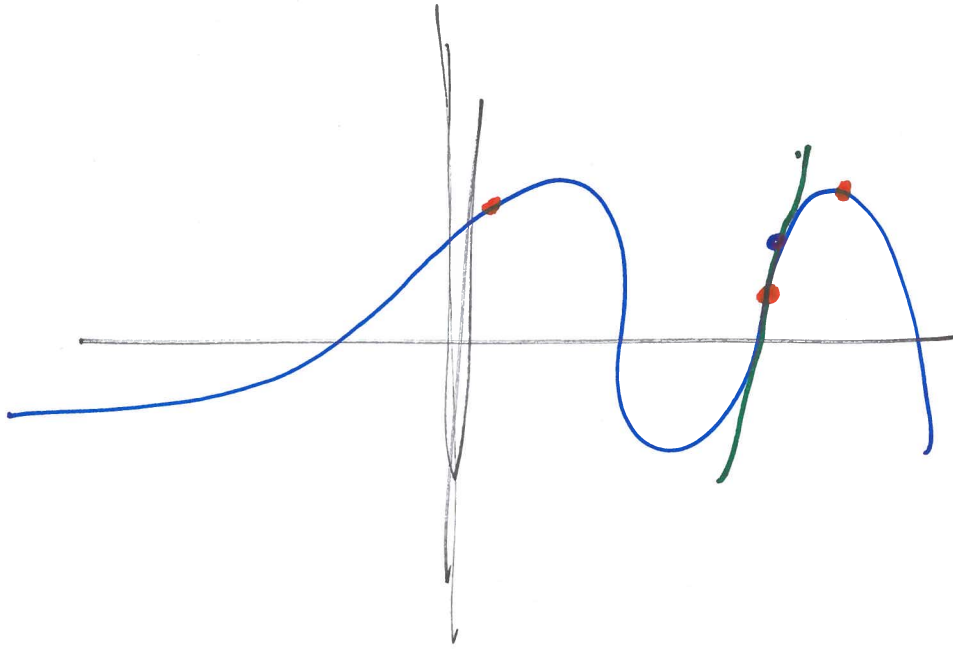
$$\text{so look at } f(2+h) - f(2) = (2+h)^2 - 2^2 = 4 + 4h + h^2 - 4 = 4h + h^2 \sim 4h$$

slope  $\uparrow$  4

(c) What is  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(2+h)^2 - 2^2}{h}$ ?

(d) What is the equation of the line tangent to the graph of  $y = f(x)$  at  $(2, 4)$ ?

# Example of linear approximation



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W) (a), (b)

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Two pov:

① Geometry: ~~near~~ <sup>at</sup>  $x=2$ ,  $y=x^2$  has slope 4

② Asymptotics:  $f(2+h) - f(2) \sim 4h$

$$\Leftrightarrow f(2+h) \approx f(2) + 4h$$

$$\Leftrightarrow f(x) \approx 4 + 4(x-2)$$

("if we wiggle  $x$  from 2 by  $h$  units,  
 $f(x)$  will wiggle from  $f(2)$  by about  $4h$  units")

③ if  $f(2+h) - f(2) \sim 4h$  then  $\frac{f(2+h) - f(2)}{h} \xrightarrow{h \rightarrow 0} 4$

Definition: Let  $f$  be defined near  $x=a$  (including  $a$ )  
The **derivative** of  $f$  at  $a$  is the number <sup>at  $a$</sup>

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{df}{dx} \Big|_{x=a} &= f'(a) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}\end{aligned}$$

(if limit exists say  $f$  is **differentiable** at  $a$ )

Forward: Given formula for  $f$ , use limit to find  $f'(a)$   
(check if  $f'(a)$  exists)

Backward: recognize a limit as a derivative.

Back to  $y=x^2$ ,  $a=2$ . Found slope = 4

1(d) line of slope 4 through  $(2,4)$  is:

$$y = 4x - 4$$

$$\Leftrightarrow y - 4 = 4(x - 2)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow y = 4 + 4(x - 2)$$

$f(a)$        $f'(a)$        $a=2$

① tangent line

=  
② linear approximation

(2) \*\* An enzymatic reaction occurs at rate  $k(T) = T(40 - T) + 10T$  where  $T$  is the temperature in degrees celsius. The current temperature of the solution is  $20^\circ\text{C}$ . Should we increase or decrease the temperature to increase the reaction rate?

Try  $T = 20^\circ\text{C} + h$

$$k(20) = 20(40 - 20) + 10 \cdot 20 = 600$$

$$\begin{aligned} k(20+h) &= (20+h)(40 - (20+h)) + 10(20+h) \\ &= (20+h)(20-h) + 10 \cdot 20 + 10h \\ &= 400 + 200 - h^2 + 10h \\ &= 600 + 10h - h^2 \approx 600 + 10h \end{aligned}$$

~~so~~  $10h > 0$  if  $h > 0$  so adjust upward

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dk}{dT} = 40 - 2T + 10 \quad \text{so } k'(20) = 10 > 0 \\ \text{so increase } T \text{ to increase } k. \end{array} \right]$$

⊙ if know diff rules

## 2. DEFINITION OF THE DERIVATIVE

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

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

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

(b)  $\star\star f(x) = \frac{1}{x}, \text{ any } a.$

Example:

$$f'(a) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \left( \frac{1}{a+h} - \frac{1}{a} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \left( \frac{a - (a+h)}{(a+h)a} \right) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-h}{h \cdot a \cdot (a+h)} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-1}{a(a+h)}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{a^2}$$

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

(4)  $\star\star$  Express the limits as derivatives:  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(5+h) - \cos 5}{h}$ ,

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

$(\frac{d}{d\theta} \cos \theta)(5)$

(5) \*\*\* (Final, 2015, variant – gluing derivatives) Is the function

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

differentiable at  $x = 0$ ?

Slope on left  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{x^2}{x} = 0$

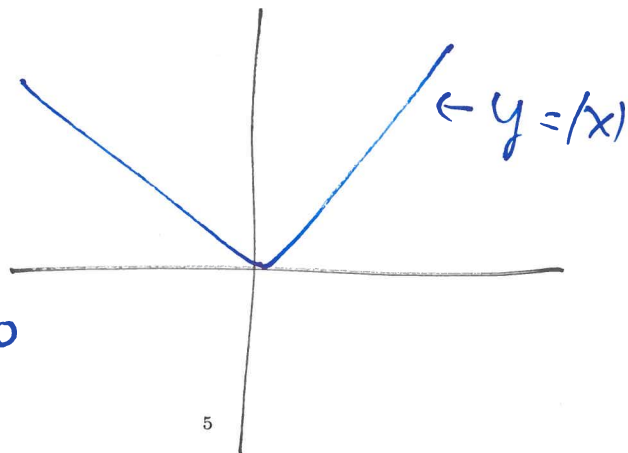
on right  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{f(x)}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{x^2 \cos(\frac{1}{x})}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} x \cos(\frac{1}{x})$

$= 0$

so  $f'(0)$  exists and equals 0

since  $x \rightarrow 0$   
while  $\cos(\frac{1}{x})$  is  
bounded

Examples



not diff at  $x=0$



### 3. THE TANGENT LINE

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

(line through  $(4, 2)$  of slope  $f'(4)$ )

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

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

- (7) ~~★~~(Final 2015) The line  $y = 4x + 2$  is tangent at  $x = 1$  to which function:  $x^3 + 2x^2 + 3x$ ,  $x^2 + 3x + 2$ ,  $2\sqrt{x+3} + 2$ ,  $x^3 + x^2 - x$ ,  $x^3 + x + 2$ , none of the above?

The line passes through  $(1, 6)$ , has slope 4.

(8) \*\*\* Find the lines of slope 3 tangent to the curve  
 $y = x^3 + 4x^2 - 8x + 3$ .

Let  $a$  be the point of tangency.

Then  $y'(a) = 3a^2 + 8a - 8 = 3$

now solve for  $a$ , find lines

(9) \*\*\* The line  $y = 5x + B$  is tangent to the curve  
 $y = x^3 + 2x$ . What is  $B$ ?

#### 4. LINEAR APPROXIMATION

**Definition.**  $f(a+h) \approx f(a) + f'(a)h$

(10) Estimate

(a) \*  $\sqrt{1.2}$

let's extrapolate from  $a=1$

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x}, \quad f(1) = 1, \quad f'(1) = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$$

so  $f(x) \approx 1 + \frac{1}{2}(x-1)$  so  $f(1.2) \approx 1 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot 0.2$

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$$f(1+h) \approx 1 + \frac{1}{2}h, \text{ use } h=0.2. \quad = 1.1$$

(b) \* (Final, 2015)  $\sqrt{8}$