

Derivatives

Def: The derivative of a function $f(x)$ with respect to x is the function $f'(x)$ whose value at x is:

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

★ The function $f'(x)$ outputs slopes of $f(x)$ at any point x on the curve.

★ If the derivative exists, then we say the function is differentiable.

Ex: Differentiate $f(x) = x^3$

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

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^3 - x^3}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^3 + 3x^2h + 3xh^2 + h^3 - x^3}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x^2 + 3xh + h^2}{1} = 3x^2 + 3x(0) + (0)^2$$

$$f'(x) = 3x^2$$

a. Find the slope of f at $x=2$

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$$f'(2) = 3(2)^2 = 12$$

b. Find the equation of the tangent line to $f(x)$ at $x=3$.

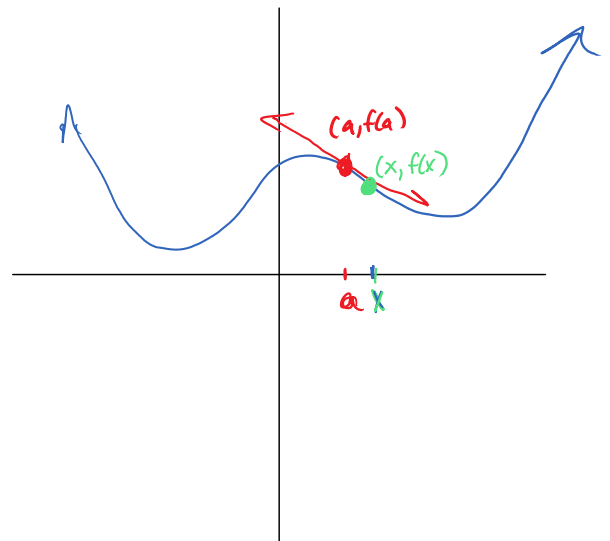
$$f(3) = 3^3 = 27 \quad (3, 27) \text{ p.o.t} \quad m = f'(3) = 3(3)^2 = 27$$

$$y - 27 = 27(x - 3)$$

Another def. of a derivative

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$$

is the derivative
of f at $x=a$



Ex: $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ find $f'(a)$

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

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{a}}{x - a}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{\frac{a-x}{ax}}{x-a}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{a-x}{ax} \cdot \frac{1}{x-a}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{-(x-a)}{ax} \cdot \frac{1}{(x-a)}$$

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

$$f'(a) = -\frac{1}{a^2}$$

a. Write the eqn. of the normal to $f(x)$ at $x=2$.

$$f(2) = \frac{1}{2} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Point} \\ \text{on } f(x) \end{array} \right. \quad f'(2) = \frac{-1}{2^2} = -\frac{1}{4} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{slope of} \\ \text{tangent} \\ \text{line} \end{array} \right.$$

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

you try.... Differentiate $f(x) = x^4 - 3$

$$f'(a) = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{(x^4 - 3) - (a^4 - 3)}{x - a}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{x^4 - a^4}{x - a}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{(x^2 - a^2)(x^2 + a^2)}{(x - a)}$$

$$= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{\cancel{(x - a)}(x + a)(x^2 + a^2)}{\cancel{(x - a)}}$$

$$= (a + a)(a^2 + a^2)$$

$$= 2a(2a^2) = 4a^3$$

$$f'(x) = 4x^3$$

Notation:

$f'(x) \Rightarrow$ derivative of f w/ respect to x .

y' \Rightarrow brief, doesn't indicate the indep. variable

$\frac{dy}{dx}$ \Rightarrow derivative of y w/ respect to x

$\frac{df}{dx}$ \Rightarrow derivative of f w/ respect to x

$\frac{d}{dx} [f(x)] \Rightarrow$ derivative of f w/ respect to x
Ex $\frac{d}{dx} (x^3) \Rightarrow 3x^2$