
Labs

College of Wooster

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Contents

Continuity and Discontinuity

Julia: What does it mean for a graph to be discontinuous? I don't get it!

Dylan: I think it's like when there's a hole in the graph or something.

James: Actually there are different kinds of discontinuities, but it's hard to visualize so let's take a look!

Altogether: LET'S DIVE IN!

Introduction

Question 1 A function f is said to be continuous at a point $x = a$ if which three conditions are satisfied?

Select All Correct Answers:

- (a) $f(a)$ is defined ✓
 - (b) $f(a) \neq 0$
 - (c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$ exists ✓
 - (d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$ ✓
 - (e) $f(x)$ is linear
 - (f) $f(x) \neq f(a)$
-

Example

Take the function $f(x) = \frac{(1-x)^2}{1-x}$.

Graph of $\frac{(1-x)^2}{1-x}$

Learning outcomes:

Through some simple elimination, we can easily see that this function is equivalent to $1 - x$, where $x \neq 1$. Thus, there is one point on the original function we should pay close attention to: $x = 1$.

Using the simple trick of squaring the denominator to create our numerator, we were able to easily pick a point where we will have a discontinuous function, without using a jump or infinite discontinuity. Jump discontinuities can easily be made using piecewise functions, and infinite discontinuities are often best made with rational functions, like fractions of polynomials! Don't worry if you haven't discussed these discontinuities yet; we'll see plenty in this lab!

Problems

Question 2 Create a function with the left handed and right handed limits not equal. What kind of discontinuity have you made here? Is there any kind of discontinuity that can't be created like this? Is there another that can? Consider the function

$$f(x) = \frac{x^3 + 6x^2 + 12x + 8}{x + 2},$$

Describe the continuity of this function. If there is a discontinuity, where is it present? Is it possible to modify the function to remove this discontinuity? If so, how?

Free Response:

Question 3 Consider the function

$$g(x) = \frac{5x + 2}{2x - 3},$$

Describe the continuity of this function. If there is a discontinuity, where is it present? Is it possible to modify the function to remove this discontinuity? If so, how?

Free Response:

Question 4 Design a function with a removable discontinuity at 2, and a jump discontinuity at 0.

Free Response:

Question 5 *Design a function with an infinite discontinuity and at least one other type of discontinuity*

Free Response:

Julia: Whenever I see people talking about jump discontinuities, they always use piecewise functions. Do you think it's possible to make one without the function being piecewise?

Dylan: If there's one thing that I've learned in math, it's that there are usually two ways to do anything! I'm not really sure how you would make something like that though...

James: I know one function that would work! Here's a hint - my function has one value on the positives, the opposite of that on the negatives, and is undefined at 0.

Question 6 *Can you create a function which has a jump discontinuity, but is not piecewise?*

Free Response:

Julia: Hey y'all, I was looking at our continuous graphs and noticed something.

Dylan: What did you see? They all look like pretty normal functions to me.

James: Yeah, I don't really know what you mean.

Julia: Well, discontinuities mean there are a chunk of the graph where you can skip over a value, right? Like, we can jump right from 1 to 5, or have a hole where some value isn't attained.

Dylan and James: Right. And?

Julia: I think if we picked a continuous function and looked at the functional values on each end of a range, we could say something about all the values in between those two!

Question 7 *Can you create a function which has a jump discontinuity, but is not piecewise?*

Free Response:

Question 8 *Hint:* Can we skip any of the values?

What can we say about every value in a range $[f(a), f(b)]$ on a continuous graph?

Free Response:

Derivative

Julia: Ah, this sucks!

Dylan: What's up?

Julia: I'm supposed to find the slope of a parabola at a point, and I'm not sure how!

Dylan: Well, what if we just make a secant line on the function?

Julia: Secant line? What's that?

Dylan: *A secant line is just a line which connects two points on a function!*

Guided Example

Consider the function

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

Question 1 Find the slope between $x = 2$ and $x = 7$. Does this seem to be a good approximation for the rate of change at $x = 2$? Why or why not? 9

Question 2 Dylan thinks we can solve the problem by just picking something closer than 10. What is the slope between $x = 2$ and $x = 3$? 5

Julia: Dylan, this still isn't a great approximation...

Dylan: Well, I think we need to get even closer. Like, infinitesimally close! But how would we do that....

James: You guys need some help?

Julia and Dylan: James! How do we find the slope of a line at a point?

James: It isn't too tough! Before, you were considering a certain point as your comparison. What if instead, you used the point you want to evaluate at plus something really small? Let's call it h .

Learning outcomes:

How can you make the h in

$$\frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{(a+h) - a}$$

become a value closer and closer to zero when we evaluate it? Using the method you determined in the previous question, approximate the rate of change at the point $x=2$.

James: The value at that point is the slope of the tangent line!

Dylan: What's a tangent line?

James: *A tangent line is a line which intersects a differentiable curve at a point where the slope of the curve equals the slope of the line..* Want to know something really cool?

Julia and Dylan: What James?

James: The function you just discovered is how you determine a function's derivative! Using that process, you can find the rate of change at any point on a function!

Julia and Dylan: Wow! So cool!

On Your Own

Using what you've learned, find the derivative of the following functions at the given point.

Question 1 $g(x) = x^5 - 5x^4 - x^2 + 2x + 1$, $x = 2$

Question 2 $h(x) = \frac{1}{x}$, $x = 2$

By replacing the a in our formula for the derivative with x , we may determine the derivative at any point on the function. Determine the derivative for the following functions.

Question 3 $m(x) = x^3$

Question 4 $n(x) = 3x + 2$

In Summary

Julia: So why is it called a secant line?

James: It comes from the Latin word *secare* which means to cut.

Dylan: Ohh, I get it now! Because a secant line is any line that connects two points on a function!

In this lab we've (hopefully) learned the function for finding a derivative using the limit as h approaches 0. We also learned what secant and tangent lines are. For your convenience, the important definitions are listed below.

Definition 1. A ***secant line*** is any line that connects any two points on a curve.

Definition 2. A ***tangent line*** is a line which intersects a differentiable curve at a point where the slope of the curve equals the slope of the line.

Definition 3. The ***derivative*** $f'(a)$ is defined by the following limit:

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

Application of the Derivative: Change answers to final problem prior to rollout

Julia: I love class, but I keep wondering why I'm even learning this stuff. I'm not a math major.

Dylan: It isn't like we're ever going to use this stuff in our lives. It's all just theoretical.

James: Hold on guys! Actually, we use derivatives all the time - it is a way of measuring change after all.

Dylan: No way man, I can forget all this after class. Give me one time I'd use a derivative other than class.

James: I'll give you three!

The Great Molasses Flood

On January 15, 1919, a molasses storage tank in Boston burst, sending molasses rushing down the streets at 35 miles per hour.

Let's pretend something similar happens in Wooster! Imagine you're on the street, walking by our newly installed molasses tank when it begins to burst. Unfortunately, you're by Born, and the molasses is rushing down the hill towards you with its position modeled by

$$\frac{1}{5}t^2 + t,$$

Your position can be modeled by

$$3t + 45.$$

In both cases, t is measured in seconds, with each equation reporting a position in meters.

Question 1 What is your speed at any point?

What about the speed of the molasses?

Learning outcomes:

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/molasses-flood-physics-science/>

Application of the Derivative: Change answers to final problem prior to rollout

Question 2 What is your acceleration?

The acceleration of the molasses?

Question 3 How quickly is the molasses travelling after one minute?

Question 4 Hint: Make sure to take into account the distance the molasses will need to travel to each location.

If you want to survive the flood, you'll need to get off the street and into a tall, sturdy building. Born is only 10 meters away, but there is a group of people trying to get in, meaning once you are there, it will take 20 seconds to reach the inside of the building. Bissman has very little foot traffic, but you'll take exactly 20 seconds to get there and inside. Which building should you go to?

Multiple Choice:

- (a) It makes no difference
- (b) Born
- (c) Bissman ✓

Marginal Profit

A company that makes peanut butter has a profit of

$$P(x) = -0.0027x^3 + 0.05x^2 + 18x - 125,$$

where x is the units produced. One unit of peanut butter contains 10,000 jars and the profit is in thousands of dollars.

Question 1 Compute the marginal profit, $P'(x)$.

What is meant by marginal profit?

Free Response:

Application of the Derivative: Change answers to final problem prior to rollout

Question 2 Use the marginal profit function to approximate the increase in profit when production is increased from 20 units to 21 units. 16.5297

Question 3 Use the marginal profit function to approximate the increase in profit when production is increased from 65 to 66 units. -10.6836

Question 4 Graph the marginal profit function:

Graph of

How would you change production based on this graph if the company was currently producing 20 units?

Multiple Choice:

- (a) Increase Production ✓
- (b) Maintain Current Production
- (c) Decrease Production

What about 65 units?

Multiple Choice:

- (a) Increase Production
 - (b) Maintain Current Production
 - (c) Decrease Production ✓
-

Dorm Room Froyo

You've opened up a Froyo franchise in your dorm room! It's a little cramped, but people are hearing about it and enjoying your generous pricing and the convenient location. We can model how many people hear about your franchise with the equation

$$p(t) = \frac{1}{1000}t^2 + 2t.$$

Application of the Derivative: Change answers to final problem prior to rollout

We can also model the profit of your location with the equation

$$t(p) = (p^2 + \frac{10}{3}p - 7000)^{\frac{1}{4}},$$

where t is time in days, and p is the population of people who are willing to come to your franchise each day.

Question 1 *If you start with no customers, how many days will it take you to start profiting?* Lots

Question 2 *Using the Chain Rule, how will your profit be changing 35 days from now?*

Whoknows

Explain exactly what your answer means.

Free Response:

Applications of Maxima - Add Question Answers

Julia: I love optimization, but I can't really imagine where we could use it in real life.

Dylan: Yeah, it seems great for graphs, but for real world problems? No way.

Julia and Dylan:

Julia and Dylan:

Julia: This is usually where James would chime in...

Dylan: Maybe he's running late?

James: Sorry guys, there was a traffic jam! I think it might be just perfect for our first illustration of the uses of optimization!

James' Traffic Jam

On the way back from Walmart, James ran into a traffic jam along the highway caused by an accident. While he was waiting in traffic, James decided to work on a function that roughly modeled the speed of the traffic over the day, using data from a surveyor who had been monitoring the accident. The equation he found was

$$t^3 - 11t^2 + 25t + 45$$

where t is in hours and $t = 0$ at 7 AM, and the function accurately models until 3 PM.

Question 1 *When is the traffic moving slowest?*

☐

At what speed is the traffic moving?

☐

Question 2 *When is the traffic moving the most quickly?*

☐

Learning outcomes:

At what speed?

☐

Dylan: Wow, I guess there are some uses for optimization!

Julia: Could we do something similar for the tree house I'm building for my cousin? It needs one side of screen to let air in and keep bugs out, but the rest should be wood. We want it to be 200 square feet.

James: Sure! Let's try and find the cheapest you could build it for.

Julia's Tree House

Julia is building a tree house for her younger cousin. She'd like one side to be a large screen to give a great view and airflow, without letting bugs pour in. The rest will be made of wood, with windows (which we will not account for). Unfortunately, to have the screen be sturdy enough for Julia to be comfortable, it will cost \$18 per foot, while the wood will cost only \$7 per foot. The height of the house has already been accounted for in the cost per foot. Given that she wants a 200 square foot tree house, how should she design it to minimize the cost?

Question 3 Determine the dimensions and cost of the cheapest tree house.

Dimensions (length x width): ☐

Cost (\$x): ☐

Julia: Wow, thanks James! That's going to be a real help!

James: Not a problem Julia.

Dylan: Could you help my little sister with her lemonade stand?

James: Sure, let's look at how she can maximize her profits!

Dylan's Lemonade Stand

Dylan's little sister is running a lemonade stand, selling a cup for 25 cents. On a typical day, she'll sell to 100 people. She'd like to increase her lemonade prices to profit more, and thinks that for every 25 cents she increases the price, 18 fewer people will purchase her product.

Question 4 *How should she price the lemonade to maximize her profit?*

□

James: Excuse me for a second guys, I'm getting a call. Hello?... Yes, this is him... Sure, I'll get right on it!

Dylan: What was that about?

James: I just got a call from a small business that wanted me to help them figure out how to maximize their profits. Why don't you guys help me?

Julia and Dylan: Sounds good!

Handmade Paper Cups

James just got a call from a small company just north of Wooster which specializes in hand crafted paper cups. Every day, the company pays its workers \$2000, regardless of their productivity. Each cup costs \$2.15 to produce, as a result of the high quality paper which is used. Every day, new materials are ordered for $\frac{\$1500}{x}$, where x is the number of cups produced in a single day.

Question 5 *How many cups should the company produce every day in order to minimize costs?*

□

Mean Value Theorem

Introduction

Dylan: I don't know about this theorem...it seems pretty *mean*...

Julia: No no, they mean *mean* as in average!

Dylan: Oh, so were looking at the average value of a function?

James: Not quite, actually the **mean value theorem** states the following: If f is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) , then there exists at least one value c in (a, b) such that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$$

Dylan and Julia: Maybe we should do an example...that looks pretty confusing...

ALTOGETHER: Let's dive in!

Guided Example

Take a look at the following graph illustrating the Mean Value Theorem

Question 1 What do you notice about the tangent line at c with respect to the secant line from a to b ?

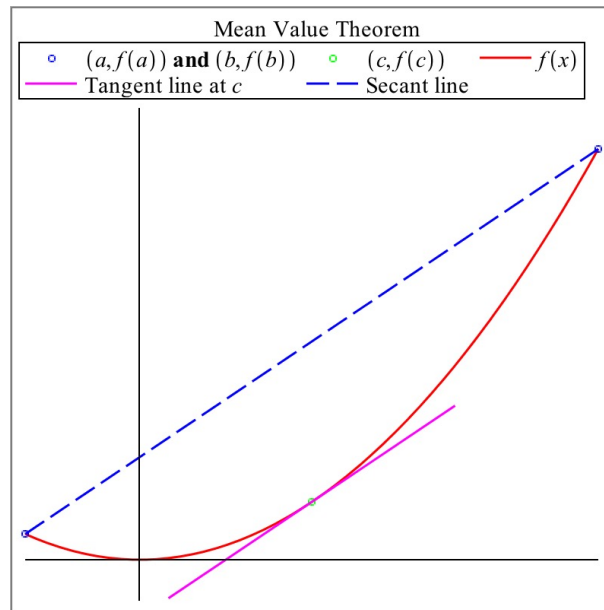
Free Response:

What does this mean the derivative of $f(x)$ is at c ?

Question 2 If $f'(x)$ was zero for all points in the interval, what could be said about $f(x)$ on that interval?

Learning outcomes:

Mean Value Theorem



Question 3 Use $f(x) = \sin(2x)$ on the interval $[0, 2\pi]$ for the following questions.

Graph $f(x)$

Graph of

What values for c satisfy the mean value theorem?

$\pi/4, 3\pi/4, 5\pi/4, 7\pi/4$

On Your Own

Graph of $|x^2 - x - 2|$

Let $f(x) = |x^2 - x - 2|$.

Question 4 Examine the graph, does the Mean Value Theorem apply to f on the interval $[a, b] = [0, 3]$?

☐ Yes If the theorem does apply, for what value of x is the theorem satisfied?

☐

Question 5Graph of $1/x$ Consider $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$.

Over what region does the Mean Value Theorem not apply?

Free Response:

Apply the Mean Value Theorem from $[1, 4]$, determining what points experience the same instantaneous change as the entire interval.

Free Response:

Question 6 Seeing a police officer on the side of the road, your friend Tom slows down to 35 mph. However, once the officer pulls over someone else for speeding, Tom speeds up to 70 mph. Half an hour and 35 miles later, Tom checks his navigation app and sees another police officer is up ahead, slowing himself down to the legal 35 mph. However, the police officer still pulls Tom over, saying he had been radioed by the first officer right when Tom passed, so he could prove that Tom was going 70 mph at some point in the last half hour. Tom is furious about the clearly faulty reasoning of the police officer.

Thanks to the Mean Value Theorem, you know the police officer is in the right. Using $g(x)$ as a function of position to time, explain to Tom why the officer had a valid reason to ticket him.

Free Response:

Talking to Tom, you find out that he accelerated to 70 mph in only 5 seconds after passing the officer. Prove that at some point, Tom had an acceleration of over $25,000 \frac{\text{mi}}{\text{h}^2}$.

Free Response:**In Summary**

Definition 4. The **Mean Value Theorem** states that for any function f , if f is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) , then there exists at least one value c such that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$$

Mean Value Theorem

This means that there is a point c such that the secant line from a, b has the same slope as the tangent line at c . It's important to note that this means if $f'(x) = 0$ for all x on (a, b) , then f is constant on (a, b) .

Motion

Introduction

Dylan: I wonder where Julia and James are...

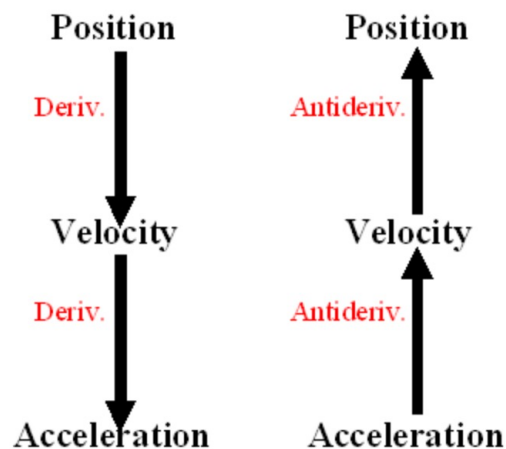
Julia: *(runs in panting and clutching side)* Ha! I win

James: *(enters, also catching breath)* I just don't get it, I was going faster than you at some point!!!

Dylan: Well don't you know that position, velocity, and acceleration are all related? Just because you were at a faster velocity at some point doesn't mean you got there first!

Julia and James: Oh gosh, please don't tell me this is more applications of derivatives...

There are three main aspects of motion that we will examine in this lab; position, velocity, and acceleration.



Learning outcomes:

Guided Example

- (a) A banana is sliding across an ice hockey rink after being thrown in by an over-excited child. The position of the banana, in meters, can be given by

$$p(t) = -\frac{1}{2}t^2 + 14t + 11,$$

where t is measured in seconds.

Question 1 What does the slope of the graph mean in this context?

Free Response: This is the model solution

Question 2 Graph this function.

Graph of

Question 3 How would you determine the average velocity from $t = 3$ to $t = 6$?

$$\frac{p(6) - p(3)}{(6 - 3)} = \boxed{39.5}$$

Question 4 With help from the formula you used in the previous question, determine the instantaneous velocity at any point. Hint: The limit definition of derivative will be useful here.

$$p'(x) = \boxed{\frac{p(x + h) - p(x)}{h}}$$

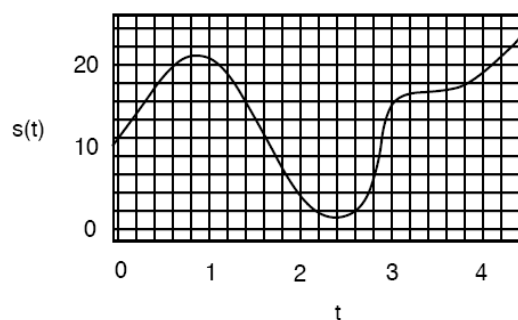
Question 5 Graph the equation you found in problem 1 part d.

Graph of

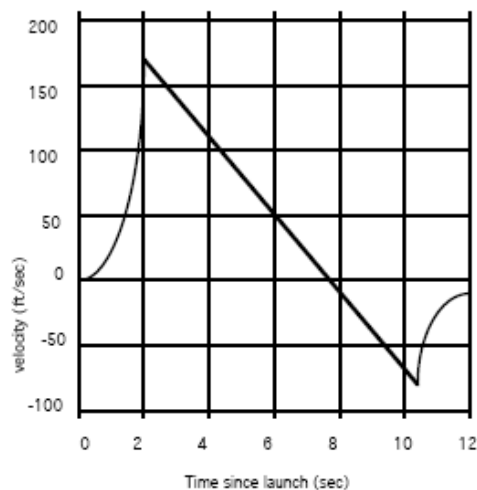
- (i) Does this graph appear to fit our original equation? If not, go back over your work from the previous problem.
- (ii) What does the slope of this graph indicate?
- (iii) Determine the average acceleration from $t = 3$ to $t = 6$.
- (iv) Now, create a function to determine the average acceleration at any point - the process will be extremely similar to that of problem 1 part d.

On Your Own

- (a) Examine the following graph of a particle's motion:



- (i) At what time(s) does the particle return to its initial point?
 - (ii) When, if ever, is the velocity of the particle zero? If these points exist, does the object change direction each time?
 - (iii) At approximately what time is the particle moving the most quickly?
- (b) Model rockets work through burning a propellant to completion, coasting on momentum for some time, and finally releasing a parachute when the rocket begins to fall in order to prevent the rocket and its components from being destroyed upon landing. Examine the following graph of one such rocket's motion:



- (i) What was the maximum velocity obtained by the rocket?
 - (ii) When did the rocket reach its highest point? What was the velocity at that time?
 - (iii) When did the rocket's parachute deploy? How fast was the rocket descending by that time?
 - (iv) Describe how long each phase of the rocket lasted, labeling the graph as well.
- (c) At the surface of the Earth, acceleration due to gravity is approximately $9.8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$. Consider throwing a ball directly upward from atop a 160 meter building at $35 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$.
- (i) Create an equation to express the acceleration of the ball at any time after it has been thrown.
 - (ii) Integrate the previously constructed equation to produce the equation for velocity at any time for the ball. What will the constant produced by the integration be?
 - (iii) Now, integrate your new equation yet again to produce the equation for the position of the ball at any time. What will the constant be here?
- (d) Consider a balloon which has been caught in a jet stream high above the ground. The position of the balloon at any time can be given by the equation
- $$s(t) = 3t^5 - 15t^3 + 13.$$
- (i) Produce the velocity and acceleration equations for the balloon.
 - (ii) Over what time period is the balloon moving in the positive direction? When is the velocity increasing?
 - (iii) What was the displacement of the balloon over the interval $[-2.5, 2.25]$? *Displacement is distance from the initial position.*
- (e) On a spring break trip with friends, you find yourself dared to stand upon George Washington's nose on Mount Rushmore. While on the dangerous climb down, you come up with an experiment, and request one of your friends go to the base of the mountain. When you're on the nose, you take out your phone and wallet, and toss the wallet into the air, starting the timer just as you release the wallet. Simultaneously on the ground, your friend starts a stopwatch on his phone. You stop the timer as the wallet passes you, with your friend stopping theirs once the wallet smashes into the ground. Your stopwatch displays 3.8 seconds, and your friend's displays 13.72 seconds.

- (i) Determine the acceleration, velocity, and position functions for the wallet. You will need to use equations to determine each constant of integration.
- (ii) What is the baseball's initial velocity? What is its velocity as it hits the ground?
- (iii) How far off the ground is George Washington's nose?

In Summary

James: I guess there's more to position than just speed!

Julia: A *lot* more! Do you think you could run through the big points real quick Dylan?

Dylan: Sure Julia! When we derive position, we get velocity, and when we derive velocity, we get acceleration. Anti-differentiation will give us velocity from acceleration and position from velocity.

James: Okay, but how do we get the constant of integration?

Julia: I know this! It's whatever was the initial velocity or position in the problem!

Dylan: That's right Julia! When the initial isn't given, we can use knowledge of when an object returns to a position zero or stops for a moment to determine those constants.