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# Labs

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College of Wooster

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# 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 they can be 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)  $f(x) \neq f(a)$

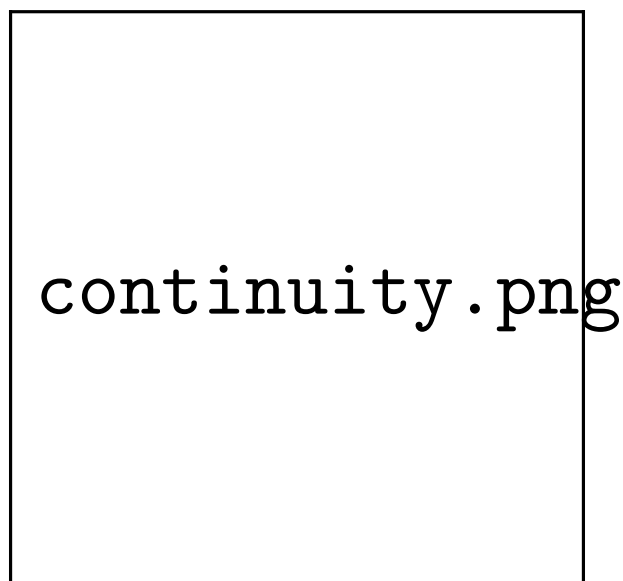
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## Example

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

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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** Consider the function  $f(x)$ :

Select all points which have a discontinuity.

Select All Correct Answers:

- (a)  $x = -2$  ✓
- (b)  $x = 0$
- (c)  $x = -5$

- (d)  $x = 5$
- (e)  $x = 1$
- (f)  $x = -1$

What kind of discontinuity is present? Select all which apply.

**Select All Correct Answers:**

- (a) Removable Discontinuity ✓
- (b) Jump Discontinuity
- (c) Infinite Discontinuity

Using the format (\*x-value\*, \*type of discontinuity\*), indicate the x-values with their corresponding type of discontinuity. If multiple discontinuities exist, list them in ascending x-value order. Make sure to capitalize the type of discontinuity, and put commas following each ordered pair when necessary.

(2, Removable)

**Question 3** Consider the function  $f(x)$ :

Select all points which have a discontinuity.

**Select All Correct Answers:**

- (a)  $x = 2$
- (b)  $x = 0$
- (c)  $x = -2$
- (d)  $x = 5$
- (e)  $x = 1.5$  ✓
- (f)  $x = -1.5$

What kind of discontinuity is present? Select all which apply.

**Select All Correct Answers:**

## Continuity and Discontinuity

- (a) *Removable Discontinuity*
- (b) *Jump Discontinuity*
- (c) *Infinite Discontinuity* ✓

Using the format (\*x-value\*, \*type of discontinuity\*), indicate the x-values with their corresponding type of discontinuity. If multiple discontinuities exist, list them in ascending x-value order. Make sure to capitalize the type of discontinuity, and put commas following each ordered pair when necessary.

(2, *Infinite*)

**Question 4** Consider the function  $f(x)$ :

Select all points which have a discontinuity.

**Select All Correct Answers:**

- (a)  $x = 2$
- (b)  $x = 0$  ✓
- (c)  $x = -5$
- (d)  $x = 5$
- (e)  $x = 1$  ✓
- (f)  $x = -1$

What kind of discontinuity is present? Select all which apply.

**Select All Correct Answers:**

- (a) *Removable Discontinuity* ✓
- (b) *Jump Discontinuity*
- (c) *Infinite Discontinuity* ✓

Using the format (\*x-value\*, \*type of discontinuity\*), indicate the x-values with their corresponding type of discontinuity. If multiple discontinuities exist, list them in ascending x-value order. Make sure to capitalize the type of discontinuity, and put commas following each ordered pair when necessary.

(0, *Jump*), (1, *Infinite*)



**Question 5** Consider the function  $f(x)$ :

Select all points which have a discontinuity.

Select All Correct Answers:

- (a)  $x = 2$  ✓
- (b)  $x = 0$  ✓
- (c)  $x = -2$
- (d)  $x = 5$
- (e)  $x = 1.5$
- (f)  $x = -1.5$

What kind of discontinuity is present? Select all which apply.

Select All Correct Answers:

- (a) Removable Discontinuity ✓
- (b) Jump Discontinuity ✓
- (c) Infinite Discontinuity

Using the format (\*x-value\*, \*type of discontinuity\*), indicate the x-values with their corresponding type of discontinuity. If multiple discontinuities exist, list them in ascending x-value order. Make sure to capitalize the type of discontinuity, and put commas following each ordered pair when necessary.

(0, Jump), (2, Removable)

**Question 6** Consider the function  $f(x)$ :

Select all points which have a discontinuity.

Select All Correct Answers:

- (a)  $x = 2$  ✓

- (b)  $x = 0$  ✓
- (c)  $x = -2$  ✓
- (d)  $x = 5$  ✓
- (e)  $x = 1.5$
- (f)  $x = -1.5$

What kind of discontinuity is present? Select all which apply.

**Select All Correct Answers:**

- (a) Removable Discontinuity
- (b) Jump Discontinuity ✓
- (c) Infinite Discontinuity

**Hint:** Think of the different types of numbers - Rationals, Irrationals, Integers, Natural Numbers, Real Numbers, etc. If need be, look up what each of these are to refresh your memory.

Indicate at what x-values the function is always discontinuous.

Integers

**Feedback (attempt):** The function is discontinuous on both positive and negative whole numbers. What are these numbers called?

**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!

**Question 7 Hint:** James says the function has one value on the positives, the opposite of that on the negatives, and is undefined at 0.

What function is James talking about?  $|x|/x$

**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 is 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?

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

*What does Julia want to say about every value in a range  $[f(a), f(b)]$  on a continuous graph?*

**Multiple Choice:**

- (a) Every value between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$  will be attained at some point on the interval  $[a, b]$  ✓
  - (b) Only normal looking functions are continuous.
  - (c) No values that are not between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$  will be attained over the interval.
  - (d) No functional values are repeated over the interval.
-

# 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 if we had two points we could make a secant line to approximate it!

**Julia:** Secant line? What's that?

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

**Julia:** But isn't the *tangent* line one that skims a curve at one point? So the slope of the tangent line is the slope at that point! See?

$$\text{graph } f(x) = x^2, g(x) = 2(x - 1) + 1$$

**Dylan:** Well do you know how to find the equation for a line with just one point?

**Julia:** ...

**James:** Come on guys we can approximate the tangent line using the secant line!

**Altogether:** Let's dive in!

## Guided Example

Consider the function

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

$$\text{Graph of } f(x) = x^2, g(x) = 2(x - 1) + 1$$

**Question 1** Find the slope of the secant line between  $x = 2$  and  $x = 7$ .

9

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Learning outcomes:

Does this seem to be a good approximation for slope of the tangent line at  $x = 2$ ?

Dylan thinks we can solve the problem by just picking something closer than 7. Find the slope of the secant line between  $x = 2$  and  $x = 3$ .

Is this a good approximation for the slope of the tangent line at  $x = 2$ ?

Is it better than the last attempt?

**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  $h$ .

**Question 2** How can you make the  $h$  in

$$\frac{f(2+h) - f(2)}{(2+h) - 2}$$

approach 0?

**Hint:** You'll need to use a limit here!

**Free Response:**

Using the method you determined, approximate the slope of the tangent line at the point  $x=2$ .

**James:** Want to know something really cool?

**Julia and Dylan:** What James?

**James:** The function we just discovered is how you determine a function's derivative! Using that process, you can find the instantaneous 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**  $g(x) = x^2 + 1, x = 2$

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

$f(x) = 3x^2 + 4x + 2, x = -1$

$f(t) = \sqrt{t^2 + 1}, x = 3$

$f(x) = x + x^{-1}, x = 4$

By replacing the point 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 2**  $m(x) = x^3$

$n(x) = 3x + 2$

$f(x) = 4 - x^2$

$$f(x) = 12 + 7x$$

$$\boxed{7}$$

$$f(t) = \frac{4}{t+1}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{-4}{(x+1)^2}}$$

## 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 a line that 'cuts' 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?*

$3m/s$

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Learning outcomes:

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



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

What about the speed of the molasses?

$2/5tm/s$

**Question 2** What is your acceleration?

$0m/s^2$

The acceleration of the molasses?

$2/5m/s^2$

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

$24m/s$

**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.

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

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

$$-.0081x^2 + .1x + 18$$

What is meant by marginal profit?

**Free Response:**

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

$$16.5297$$

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

$$-10.6836$$

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 ✓

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

## 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

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

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

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

Whoknows

*Explain exactly what your answer means.*

**Free Response:**

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## 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?*

☐

---

Learning outcomes:

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

☐

*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...

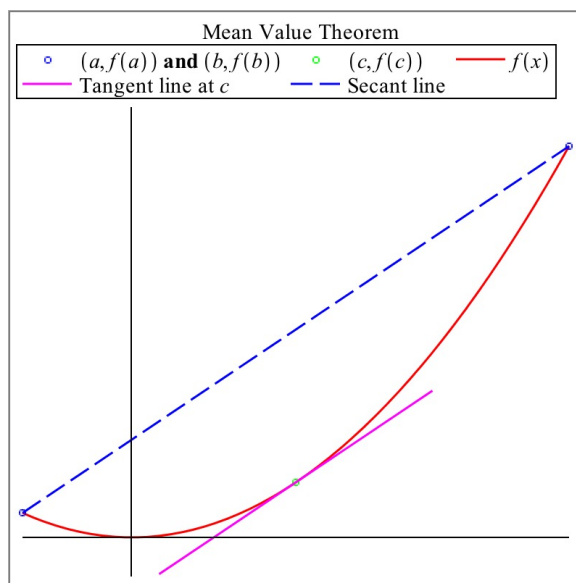
**ALTOGETHER:** Let's dive in!

## Guided Example

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

---

Learning outcomes:



**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  $c$ ?

0

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

$f'(x)$  is constant

**Question 2** 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 3** Examine the graph, does the Mean Value Theorem apply to  $f$  on the interval  $[a, b] = [0, 3]$ ?

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

### Question 4

Graph 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 5** 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:

## Mean Value Theorem

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

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

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...

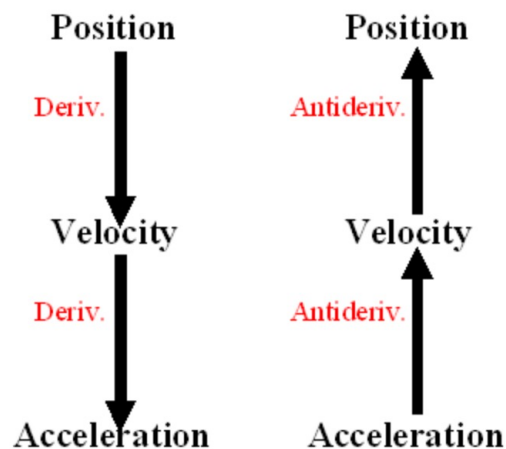
**Julia:** *(runs in panting and clutching side)* Ha! I win

**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

**Question 1** 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.

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

**Free Response:**

Graph this function.

Graph of

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

$$\frac{p(6) - p(3)}{(6 - 3)}$$

What is the average velocity over this interval?

$$39.5m/s$$

**Hint:** The limit definition of derivative will be useful here.

With help from the formula you used in the previous question, determine the instantaneous velocity at any point.

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

Graph the equation you found.

Graph of

Does this graph appear to fit our original equation?

Yes

If not, go back over your work from the previous problem.

What does the slope of this graph indicate?

Acceleration

Determine the average acceleration from  $t = 3$  to  $t = 6$ .

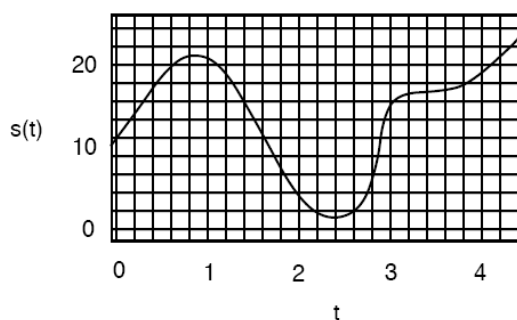
☐

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

**Question 2** Examine the following graph of a particle's motion:



At what time(s) does the particle return to its initial point?

☐

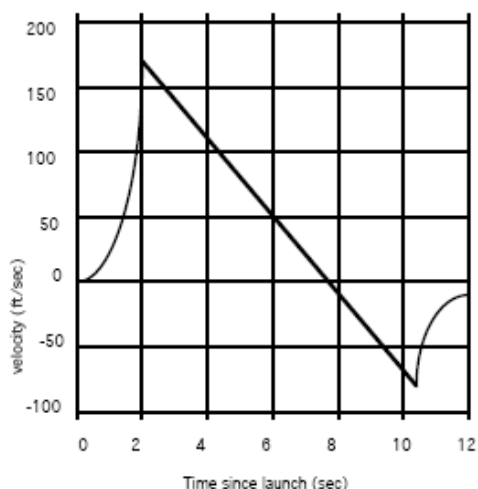
When, if ever, is the velocity of the particle zero? If these points exist, does the object change direction each time?

☐

At approximately what time is the particle moving the most quickly?

☐

**Question 3** 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:



What was the maximum velocity obtained by the rocket?

☐

When did the rocket reach its highest point? What was the velocity at that time?

☐

When did the rocket's parachute deploy? How fast was the rocket descending by that time?

☐

Describe how long each phase of the rocket lasted.

Take-off ☐

Coasting ☐

Free-fall ☐

Parachute fall ☐

**Question 4** At the surface of the Earth, acceleration due to gravity is approximately  $9.8 \frac{m}{s^2}$ . Consider throwing a ball directly upward from atop a 160 meter building at  $35 \frac{m}{s}$ .

Create an equation to express the acceleration of the ball at any time after it has been thrown.

$a(t) =$

**Feedback (attempt):** Remember, up is the positive direction.

**Hint:** Don't forget to find the constant of integration - might it have something to do with the starting speed?

Integrate the previously constructed equation to produce the equation for velocity at any time for the ball.

$$v(t) = \boxed{-9.8t + 35}$$

**Hint:** Don't forget the constant here either - what is the other factor influencing height here?

Now, integrate your new equation yet again to produce the equation for the position of the ball at any time.

$$p(t) = \boxed{-9.8t^2 + 35t + 160}$$

**Question 5** 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

$$p(t) = 3t^5 - 15t^3 + 13.$$

**Hint:** Remember, acceleration is the derivative of velocity, and velocity is the derivative of position.

Produce the velocity and acceleration equations for the balloon.

$$v(t) = \boxed{15t^4 - 45t^2}$$

$$a(t) = \boxed{60t^3 - 90t}$$

Over what time period is the balloon moving in the positive direction?

$$\square \leq t \leq \square$$

When is the velocity increasing?

☐

**Hint:** Don't overcomplicate this - we only need to concern ourselves with position here!

What was the displacement of the balloon over the interval  $[-2.5, 2.25]$ ? Displacement is distance from the initial position.

☐

**Question 6** 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.

Determine the acceleration, velocity, and position functions for the wallet. You will need to use equations to determine each constant of integration.

$$p(t) = \square \quad v(t) = \square \quad a(t) = \square$$

What is the wallet's initial velocity?

$$v_0 = \square$$

What is its velocity as it hits the ground?

$$v_f = \square$$

How far off the ground is George Washington's nose?

$$h = \square$$

**Feedback (attempt):** Make sure you've included units.

## 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.



# Rational Functions with Awful Questions

## Introduction

**James:** Hey guys, I slept through class yesterday... could you fill me in on what a rational function is?

**Julia:** See, class didn't make a lot of sense to me because I was thinking, "Functions can be rational?"

**Dylan:** They don't mean rational like me or you, Julia! It means *the function can be represented as a fraction where the numerator and denominator are both polynomials*.

**Julia and James:** Oh!

**Dylan:** Rational functions are pretty neat, because they can have two different types of discontinuities!

**Altogether:** LET'S DIVE IN!

## Guided Example

Consider the function  $f(x) = \frac{(x-2)(x+4)}{(x-3)(x+3)(x+4)}$

Graph the function using your favorite CAS system. Depending on the CAS you use, you may need to research how to show discontinuities in a graph. To do this, simply Google "CAS show discontinuities", where *CAS* is the name of whatever CAS you are using. At the time this document was written, Desmos did not include discontinuities by default, and thus, a Desmos powered graph has not been provided within this activity.

**Question 1** Describe the graph. What strange things do you notice?

**Free Response:**

---

Learning outcomes:

The "hole" present in the graph is called a **removable discontinuity**.

The curve which goes vertical is called a **vertical asymptote**, another type of discontinuity.

## On Your Own

Find and report the discontinuities in the following functions:

**Question 2**  $a(x) = \frac{x^2 + 1}{x - 2}$

☐

$b(x) = \frac{x^2 - 5x + 7}{x^2 - x - 6}$

☐

$c(x) = \frac{x^2 - x}{x}$

☐

$d(x) = \frac{x^2 - 5x + 7}{x^3 - 6x^2 + 8x - 3}$

☐

$f(x) = \frac{2x^2 + 5}{x^2 - 25}$

☐

$g(x) = \frac{x^3 - x^2 - 15x - 9}{x + 3}$

☐

$h(x) = \frac{1}{3x^2 - x}$

☐

**Question 3** How can you tell if a rational function has a vertical asymptote or a removable discontinuity?

**Free Response:**

How can you find these discontinuities?

**Free Response:**

## In Summary

**James:** These functions are pretty neat! What were they called again?

**Dylan:** They're called **rational functions**, *fractions where the numerator and denominator are both polynomials!*

**Julia:** So, when exactly does a **vertical asymptote** occur?

**James:** I know this one! **Vertical asymptotes** *occur at points where the denominator of the function will be zero, but the numerator is non-zero!*

**Julia:** That makes sense! But when do removable discontinuities occur then?

**Dylan:** **Removable discontinuities** *occur where the numerator and denominator are both zero.*

# Riemann Sums - Obviously Incomplete

**Dylan:** Hey Julia, can you help me with this problem?

**Julia:** Yeah, of course! What do you need?

**Dylan:** I'm supposed to approximate area under a curve, and I don't really see what to do.

**Julia:** Actually, that's pretty easy! We'll just use Riemann sums.

## Introduction

Riemann sums are a method of approximating area under a curve, and they come in three varieties; left, right, and midpoint.

To create Riemann sums, you simply pick a number of desired subintervals, and then evenly divide the interval to produce the desired number. From here, we choose the height of what will be our rectangles differently for each version:

- **Left Riemann Sum:** The height is calculated using the left endpoint of the subinterval.
- **Right Riemann Sum:** The height is calculated using the right endpoint of the subinterval.
- **Midpoint Riemann Sum:** The height is calculated using the midpoint of the subinterval.

From here, we simply add the area of each rectangle to produce the area under the curve.

## Increasing, Concave Up

Consider the function  $x^2$  on the interval  $[1, 6]$ . Evenly divide the interval into six subintervals.

---

Learning outcomes:

**Question 1** Using the given intervals, compute:

The left Riemann sum.

☐

The right Riemann sum.

☐

The midpoint Riemann sum.

☐

Using your CAS, compute the integral numerically. Which of these estimates was most accurate? Show the percent error for each type of Riemann sum.

Most Accurate: ☐

Left Percent Error: ☐

Middle Percent Error: ☐

Right Percent Error: ☐

## Decreasing, Concave Up

**Question 2** Consider the function  $x^2$  on the interval  $[-7, 0]$ . Evenly divide the interval into seven subintervals.

Using the given intervals, compute:

The left Riemann sum.

☐

The right Riemann sum.

☐

The midpoint Riemann sum.

☐

Using your CAS, compute the integral numerically. Which of these estimates was most accurate? Show the percent error for each type of Riemann sum.

Most Accurate: ☐

Left Percent Error: ☐

Middle Percent Error: ☐

Right Percent Error: ☐

## Increasing, Concave Down

**Question 3** Consider the function  $\sin(x)$  on the interval  $[0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ . Evenly divide the interval into four subintervals. Using the given intervals, compute:

The left Riemann sum.

☐

The right Riemann sum.

☐

The midpoint Riemann sum.

☐

Using your CAS, compute the integral numerically. Which of these estimates was most accurate? Show the percent error for each type of Riemann sum.

Most Accurate: ☐

Left Percent Error: ☐

Middle Percent Error: ☐

Right Percent Error: ☐

---

## Decreasing, Concave Down

**Question 4** Consider the function  $\cos(x)$  on the interval  $[0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ . Evenly divide the interval into eight subintervals. Using the given intervals, compute:

The left Riemann sum.

☐

The right Riemann sum.

☐

The midpoint Riemann sum.

☐

Using your CAS, compute the integral numerically. Which of these estimates was most accurate? Show the percent error for each type of Riemann sum.

Most Accurate: ☐

Left Percent Error: ☐

Middle Percent Error: ☐

Right Percent Error: ☐

---

**Dylan:** That's cool! Thanks Julia!

**Julia:** No problem!

**Dylan:** I wish I could make the sums more accurate though... some of them are pretty far off.

**James:** I think if you put your mind to it you could Dylan!

**Julia and Dylan:** James! You're late to class!

**James:** Haha no problem, I love helpi... that's not the point! Listen, just use sum notation, and try to make infinitely many subintervals. If you can do that, you'll have an accurate area.

**Question 5 Hint:** Think of the start of the interval as  $a$  and the end as  $b$ .

How would you represent the width of each rectangle when divided into  $n$  subintervals?

☐

**Hint:** As  $n$  grows larger, will the rectangle be wider than a single point? What does that tell you about the top?

How would you represent the height of each rectangle when divided into  $n$  subintervals?

☐

Using sigma notation, represent the area under the curve from  $i = 1$  to  $n$ , as  $n$  approaches infinity.

☐

---

**Julia:** Wow, that's just as accurate as asking our computers!

**James:** That's right Julia! You just found the integral of a function, with just a little guidance!

**Julia and Dylan:** Wow! Thanks James!

## In Summary

We've learned a lot about Riemann sums today, and even the formula for a definite integral! So let's recap:

**Definition 5.** A **Riemann sum** comes in three types, all of which first divide an interval into a number of subintervals:

- (a) **Left endpoint Riemann sums** use the left endpoint of the subinterval to approximate the area.
- (b) **Right endpoint Riemann sums** use the right endpoint of the subinterval to approximate the area.
- (c) **Midpoint Riemann sums** use the midpoint of the subinterval to approximate the area.

Following this, the area of each rectangle is added to approximate the area under the curve.

- The formula for the definite integral is

$$\int_a^b f(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=1}^n f(x) \cdot \frac{a-b}{n}$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are the endpoints of the interval.



# Newton's Methods QUESTIONS

## Introduction

**Dylan:** I'm so tired of having to solve roots by hand. It's a real drag.

**Julia:** Yeah, some of these roots are rough. I wish there was a better way!

**James:** There's always a better way!

**Dylan and Julia:** Show us!!!

**James:** Maybe you've heard of Sir Isaac Newton? He got tired of solving roots too, and made a whole method to approximate them!

**Dylan:** Wow! I'm just like him except worse in every way!

Newton's Method is a system of approximating roots of polynomials by using tangent lines from an initial estimate. While this method is extremely accurate when used properly, it is possible to have a very inaccurate estimate when used improperly.

## Guided Example

In the following figure we have an initial guess  $x_0$ , then we have the blue tangent line with respect to the point  $x_0$

**Question 1** *What is the slope, in general, for the tangent line of  $y = f(x)$  at  $x_0$ ?*

$f'(x_0)$

*What is the equation of the tangent line for the point  $(x_0, f(x_0))$ ? Please answer in slope-intercept form.*

$y = f'(x)x_0 + b$

*How would you use the tangent line you found above to estimate the value of  $x_1$ ?*

---

Learning outcomes:

**Free Response:**

**On Your Own**

**Question 2** Consider the function  $f(x) = x^2 - 1$ .

Graph of  $x^2 - 1$

Find the tangent line at an initial estimate of  $x_0 = 3$ .

☐

Plot the tangent line and function on the same axes. Does the x-intercept of the tangent line seem more or less accurate than your initial estimate?

**Multiple Choice:**

(a) More Accurate ✓

(b) Less Accurate

What is the x-intercept of the tangent line?

Continue this process until the x-intercepts change by less than .0001 on each interval. How many intervals did this take?

☐

**Question 3** Consider the function  $g(x) = x^3 - 4x^2 - 1$ .

Graph of  $x^3 - 4x^2 - 1$

Explain why the function has only one solution with the help of a graph.

Graph of

**Free Response:**

Using  $g(x)$  from the previous problem, use an initial guess of 2. After 5 iterations, what result do you get?

Why is it important to use caution with Newton's method?

**Free Response:**

---

## **In Summary**

**Julia:** Wow! Newton's Method is awesome!

**Dylan:** Yeah, it's way more accurate than just guessing! If you're too far off on that initial guess though...

**James:** Things can go downhill quickly. While Newton's Method can be handy, it's important to remember how important an accurate initial estimate is!

**Dylan and Julia:** Thanks James!

# Transformations of Functions

**Julia:** Ugh!

**Dylan:** What's up Julia?

**Julia:** I have these functions I have to graph, and they're *so* close to functions I know really well, but they're a little bit different and it makes it so I have to calculate a bunch of points before I can confidently graph it!

**James:** Sounds like you could use some help Julia!

**Julia and Dylan:** James!

**James:** There are a ton of ways to transform functions, so let's get going and look at how we can modify our favorite functions!

## Introduction

While you work with many different functions, there are only a few basic types of functions. These include polynomials, rational functions, trigonometric functions, exponential functions, and logarithmic functions. In this lab we will explore different variations on these basic functions called **transformations**.

## Guided Example

Consider the function  $f(x) = x^2$ .

Graph of  $x^2$

**Question 1** On the same axis graph  $g(x) = f(x) + 2$ , what change happened from  $f(x)$  to  $g(x)$ ?

The graph shifted  units .

What can you infer about  $f(x) - 2$ ?

The graph would shift   units.

---

Learning outcomes:

Consider the function  $f(x + 2)$ , or  $(x + 2)^2$ . How do you think this graph will be different from the graph of  $f(x)$ ?

**Free Response:**

Graph the function  $f(x + 2)$ , was your prediction correct? What can you infer about the function  $f(x - 2)$ ? Graph this function to verify your prediction.

**Free Response:**

What rule can you write about a general function  $f(x + c)$  where  $c$  is a positive constant? The function will shift  $c$  units  $left$

Why do you think the graph moves in the direction it does when using the rule you determined in the last question? *Hint: Think about the  $x$ -intercept and how it changes when you add or subtract a constant from the  $x$  value*

**Free Response:**

How do you think the graph of  $f(x)$  be affected when you multiply the whole function by some constant  $c$ ? Graph the function for the following values of  $c = 2, \frac{1}{2}, -2, -\frac{1}{2}$

Graph of

**Free Response:**

Describe what is happening to the function based on the value of  $c$ , what can you generalize from this? It may be helpful to make a table with the  $x$  and  $y$  values to understand why this change happens.

**Free Response:**

## On your own

**Question 2** Using  $g(x) = x^2$  as your base function create a new function that will shift the graph up 4 units, to the right 3 units, reflect it across the  $x$ -axis and stretch it vertically by a factor of 2 and graph it below

Graph of

Graph the function  $g(2x)$

Graph of

What constant does this stretch or compress  $x^2$  by?

$\boxed{1/c}$

Graph  $g(2x + 6)$  on the same axis above, what transformation occurred?

**Free Response:**

Note the following expansion of the general function  $f(x) = (ax + b)^2$ :

$$f(x) = (ax + b)^2 = \left( a \left( x + \frac{b}{a} \right) \right)^2 = a^2 \left( x + \frac{b}{a} \right)^2$$

From this expansion, how is a function in the form  $f(x) = (ax + b)^2$  being shifted and stretched/compressed in terms of  $a$  and  $b$ ?

**Free Response:**

---

## In Summary

For the following questions, pick in which way the general graph  $f(x)$  would change under certain transformations.

### Question 3

$$c \cdot f(x)$$

When  $c > 1$

**Multiple Choice:**

- (a) Shrink  $f(x)$  vertically by  $c$
- (b) Stretch  $f(x)$  vertically by  $c$  ✓
- (c) Shrink  $f(x)$  horizontally by  $c$
- (d) Stretch  $f(x)$  horizontally by  $c$
- (e) Flip  $f(x)$  over the  $x$  axis

When  $c < -1$

**Multiple Choice:**

- (a) Flip  $f(x)$  over the  $x$  axis
- (b) Shrink  $f(x)$  horizontally by  $c$
- (c) Flip  $f(x)$  over the  $y$  axis and stretch horizontally by  $c$
- (d) Flip  $f(x)$  over the  $x$  axis and stretch vertically by  $c$  ✓
- (e) Flip  $f(x)$  over the  $x$  axis and stretch horizontally by  $c$

When  $0 < c < 1$

**Multiple Choice:**

- (a) Stretch  $f(x)$  horizontally by  $c$
  - (b) Shrink  $f(x)$  vertically by  $c$  ✓
  - (c) Shrink  $f(x)$  horizontally by  $c$
  - (d) Stretch  $f(x)$  horizontally by  $c$
  - (e) Flip  $f(x)$  over the  $x$  axis
- 

**Question 4**

$$f(x + c)$$

When  $c > 1$

**Multiple Choice:**

- (a) Shift  $f(x)$  left by  $|c|$ . ✓
- (b) Flip  $f(x)$  over the  $x$ -axis.
- (c) Shift  $f(x)$  right by  $|c|$
- (d) Flip  $f(x)$  over the  $x$ -axis and shift it up by  $|c|$ .
- (e) No change occurs to  $f(x)$ .

When  $c < 1$

**Multiple Choice:**

- (a) Shift  $f(x)$  left by  $|c|$ .

- (b) Flip  $f(x)$  over the x-axis.
- (c) Shift  $f(x)$  right by  $|c|$ . ✓
- (d) Flip  $f(x)$  over the x-axis and shift it up by  $|c|$ .
- (e) No change occurs to  $f(x)$ .

When  $c = 0$

**Multiple Choice:**

- (a) Shift  $f(x)$  left by  $|c|$ .
  - (b) Flip  $f(x)$  over the x-axis.
  - (c) Shift  $f(x)$  right by  $|c|$ .
  - (d) Flip  $f(x)$  over the x-axis and shift it up by  $|c|$ .
  - (e) No change occurs to  $f(x)$ . ✓
- 

**Question 5**

$$f(x) + c$$

When  $c > 0$

**Multiple Choice:**

- (a) Shift  $f(x)$  down by  $|c|$ .
- (b) Stretch  $f(x)$  vertically by  $|c|$ .
- (c) Flip  $f(x)$  over the x-axis.
- (d) Shift  $f(x)$  up by  $|c|$ . ✓
- (e) No change will occur.

When  $c = 0$

**Multiple Choice:**

- (a) Shift  $f(x)$  down by  $|c|$ .
- (b) Stretch  $f(x)$  vertically by  $|c|$ .



- (c) *Flip  $f(x)$  over the x-axis.*
- (d) *Shift  $f(x)$  up by  $|c|$ .*
- (e) *No change will occur. ✓*

When  $c < 0$

**Multiple Choice:**

- (a) *Shift  $f(x)$  by  $|c|$ . ✓*
  - (b) *Stretch  $f(x)$  vertically by  $|c|$ .*
  - (c) *Flip  $f(x)$  over the x-axis.*
  - (d) *Shift  $f(x)$  up by  $|c|$ .*
  - (e) *No change will occur.*
-

# Implicit Differentiation

---

```

1  caseInsensitive = function(a,b) {
2      return a.toLowerCase() == b.toLowerCase();
3  };

```

---

**Dylan:** Woah! What's up with this?

**Julia:** I didn't know functions were explicit!

**Dylan:** The  $x$  and  $y$  are on the same side of the equation! I can't deal with this.

**James:** Functions can be explicit or implicit! And it not the way you're thinking Julia...

## Introduction

So far we have dealt only with explicitly defined functions, where  $y = f(x)$ . Functions where there are both  $x$  and  $y$  on one side or both sides of the equation are called **implicit functions**.

## Guided Example

**Question 1** Which of the following equations are defined implicitly?

*Select All Correct Answers:*

(a)

$$y = x^2 + 5x - 7$$

(b)

$$y = \sin(x)$$

(c)

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1$$

✓

---

Learning outcomes:

(d)

$$y = \sqrt{x - 3}$$

(e)  $x^2y^3 + y = 5x + 8y$  ✓

Graph the following implicitly defined function below,

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1$$

Graph of

Now, in the following sage cell, solve the function for y. For help using the solve command refer to the [documentation](#) here.

---

SAGE

---

```

1 x,y = var("x, y")
2 #eqn = x**2+y**2==1, this sets eqn to the unit circle
3 #use the solve command to solve eqn for y

```

---

Graph the two explicit equations on the same axis below.

Graph of

**Question 2** Which of the following are true?

Select All Correct Answers:

- (a)  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  is a function
- (b)  $y = -\sqrt{1 - x^2}$  is a function ✓
- (c)  $y = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$  is a function ✓

---

SAGE

---

1 **Question 3**

---

Using the functions you found, differentiate to find the slope of the tangent lines at the point  $\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)\right)$ . You may do this in the above sage cell or by hand.

-1

## Implicit Differentiation

Unfortunately not all implicit equations can be easily solved for  $y$ , which is why we use implicit differentiation! If you are familiar with implicit differentiation you can skip the following explanation.

**Explanation.** Starting with

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1$$

we first differentiate each term using  $\frac{d}{dx}$

$$\frac{d}{dx}x^2 + \frac{d}{dx}y^2 = \frac{d}{dx}1$$

You can already fill in 2 of the terms

$$\boxed{2x} + \frac{d}{dx}y^2 = \boxed{0}$$

For the term  $\frac{d}{dx}y^2$  you can imagine  $y = f(x)$ , and hence by the chain rule

$$\frac{d}{dx}y^2 = \frac{d}{dx}(f(x))^2$$

$$= 2 \cdot f(x) \cdot f'(x)$$

$$= 2y \frac{dy}{dx}$$

Putting this together we have

$$2x + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

Solving for  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  we get

$$\boxed{\frac{-x}{y}}$$

**Question 4** Use the equation obtained from the above explanation to find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$

at  $\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)\right)$   $\boxed{-1}$

**Feedback (attempt):** Using both methods you can obtain the same answer, but for many equations the first method is much more work!

**Question 5** We can fairly easily use sage to do this process for us, to illustrate the process evaluate the following sage cell.

---

SAGE

---

```

1 var('x,y')
2 y(x)=function('y')(x)
3 eq=x^2+y^2==1
4 eq.substitute(y =y(x))
5 diff(eq,x)
6 solve(diff(eq,x),diff(y(x)))

```

---

What did you get as output from your sage cell? (copy just the answer portion after the "==" )

**Feedback (attempt):** Notice that Sage uses  $y(x)$  for  $y$  in the output.

---

## On Your Own

Consider the equation  $y^4 + xy = x^3 - x + 2$ . Using the following Sage cell implicitly differentiate to find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  using the same commands as shown in the previous question.

---

SAGE

---

```

1 var('x,y')

```

---

**Question 6** What did you get as output from your sage cell? (copy just the answer portion after the "==" )

---

**Question 7** Using your result in the previous section, evaluate  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  at the point  $(1, 1)$ .

---

**Question 8** Now use Sage Math again to find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  for  $\sin(x^2) = \cos(xy^2)$ , copy your answer in the same way as indicated in the previous section.

\_\_\_\_\_ SAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
 1 `var('x,y')`

$$-1/2 * (\sin(x * y(x)^2) * y(x)^2 + 2 * x * \cos(x^2)) / (x * \sin(x * y(x)^2) * y(x))$$

## Perpendicular at a Point

**Julia:** Wow, implicit differentiation is rough.

**Dylan:** You're telling me... I've been doing this for hours! I wish we could at least do a little more with it if I have to learn it.

**James:** Did I hear that you guys want to know more about using implicit differentiation?

**Julia and Dylan:** James! Tell us more!

**James:** Alright guys, you can use implicit differentiation with implicit functions to tell if two functions are perpendicular at a point!

**Julia:** But how?

**Dylan:** Yeah, I don't see how that helps.

**James:** It's easy - all we have to do is see if the tangent lines are perpendicular at that point, and if they are, then so are the curves!

**Question 9** Graph  $3x - 2y + x^3 - x^2y = 0$  and  $x^2 - 2x + y^2 - 3y = 0$  on the same set of axes.

Graph of

Do they look perpendicular anywhere? Yes

**Question 10 Hint:** To show two lines are perpendicular you must show that the slope of one is the opposite inverse of the other

Show the two curves are (or are not) perpendicular at the origin. You can do this in the sage cell provided or by hand.

---

SAGE

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1

Slope of  $3x - 2y + x^3 - x^2y = 0$  at the origin

3/2

Slope of  $x^2 - 2x + y^2 - 3y = 0$  at the origin

-2/3

Are the lines perpendicular at the origin?

---

## In Summary

There are two main methods to solve implicit equations

- (a) Solve for  $y$  and then differentiate.
- (b) Treat  $y$  as  $y(x)$  and differentiate for  $x$ , eventually solving for  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  to give the value of the derivative at any point.

tikz

## Differentiation Rules!

**Julia:** Hmm...I don't think differentiation rules, it takes so long and I hate using that long limit definition!

**Dylan:** No no Julia, it's differentiation *rules*!

**Julia:** Ohhhh, that makes more sense!

## The Power Rule

**Julia:** I hate how long it takes to differentiate powers!

**Dylan:** Yeah, it takes forever! I feel like there was some sort of pattern to it, but I couldn't figure anything out.

**James:** Sounds like you guys need my help again?

**Julia and Dylan:** Help us James!

**James:** There *is* a pattern! Check out this table I made!

$f(x)$	$\frac{d}{dx} f(x)$
$x^2$	$2x^1$
$x^3$	$3x^2$
$x^4$	$4x^3$

**Question 1** What pattern do you notice in James' table? Generalize this pattern in terms of  $x^n$ .

**Multiple Choice:**

- (a)  $n \cdot x^{n-1}$  ✓
- (b)  $n - 1 \cdot x^{n-1}$
- (c)  $n \cdot x^n$

---

Learning outcomes:



(d)  $n - 1 \cdot x^n$

**Question 2** Using the limit definition of a derivative, compute the derivative for  $x^5$ .

$$\frac{d}{dx}x^5 = \boxed{5x^4}$$

Notice that your answer fits the same pattern as before!

**Question 3** Use the power rule to differentiate the following functions.

$$f(x) = x^{10} \quad \frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \boxed{10x^9}$$

$$f(x) = 3x^2 \quad \frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \boxed{6x}$$

**Hint:** The value  $\frac{1}{x}$  can be represented by  $x^{-1}$ .

$$f(x) = \frac{5}{x} \quad \frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \boxed{-5x^{-2}}$$

## The Constant Rule

**Dylan:** Wow! That's neat!

**Julia:** I wish we could use rules like this all over the place though, it would really save me time.

**James:** There are plenty of places with rules like this! Why don't we look at a function like  $y = 3$ ?

Consider  $y = c$ , where  $c$  is some arbitrary constant.

**Question 4** Derive this function using the limit definition.

$$\frac{d}{dx}c = \boxed{0}$$

What does your answer mean?

**Free Response:**

**Question 5** Using what you found in the previous problem, compute the following derivatives:

$$f(x) = 2 \qquad \frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \boxed{0}$$

$$f(x) = 100 \qquad \frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \boxed{0}$$

$$f(x) = 0 \qquad \frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \boxed{0}$$

## The Constant Multiple Rule

**Julia:** James! Show us more! These things are going to save me so much time on my homework!

**James:** Alright alright, calm down Julia. We can look at a function like  $y = 3x$  next.

Consider  $y = k \cdot x$ , where  $k$  is some arbitrary constant.

**Question 6**  $\frac{d}{dx}(k \cdot x) = \boxed{k}$

What does your answer mean?

**Free Response:**

### Question 7

Using what you found in the previous problem, compute the following derivatives:

$$f(x) = 4x \qquad \frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \boxed{4}$$

$$f(x) = 10x \qquad \frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \boxed{10}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{5}x \qquad \frac{d}{dx}f(x) = \boxed{\frac{1}{5}}$$

## The Sum and Difference Rules

**Dylan:** Wow, this stuff is awesome! Is there any way to put it all together?

Like, is there an easy way to tell what the derivative of  $f(x) = 3x + 4$  is?

**James:** There is Dylan!

**Question 8** Consider the differentiable functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$ . We will define a function  $j(x) = f(x) + g(x)$ .

**Hint:** In  $j(x + h)$ , the  $(x + h)$  will replace  $x$  in the component functions as well.

Take the derivative of  $j(x)$  using the limit definition.

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

What does your answer mean?

**Free Response:**

**Question 9** Using what you found in the previous problem, compute the following derivatives:

$$f(x) = 3x^2 - 5x + 2, g(x) = x^2 + 3x \quad \frac{d}{dx}j(x) = \boxed{8x - 2}$$

$$f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 2, g(x) = -4x^2 + 3 \quad \frac{d}{dx}j(x) = \boxed{-6x - 4}$$

$$f(x) = 5x^3 + 3x, g(x) = 2x^2 - 13x \quad \frac{d}{dx}j(x) = \boxed{15x^2 + 4x - 10}$$

**Question 10** Julia wonders if a similar rule exists for  $m(x) = f(x) - g(x)$ . Using the limit definition of derivative, determine if there is a pattern. Then, if there is a rule, use it to solve the 1a, 1b, and 1c. If there is not, do them using the limit definition.

$$f(x) = 3x^2 - 5x + 2, g(x) = x^2 + 3x \quad \frac{d}{dx}m(x) = \boxed{4x - 8}$$

$$f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 2, g(x) = -4x^2 + 3 \quad \frac{d}{dx}m(x) = \boxed{10x - 4}$$

$$f(x) = 5x^3 + 3x, g(x) = 2x^2 - 13x \quad \frac{d}{dx}m(x) = \boxed{15x^2 - 4x + 16}$$

## In Summary

We've covered a lot of differentiation rules in this lab, to help you out we've made the following table.

**Question 11**

<i>Power Rule</i>	$\frac{d}{dx}x^n = \boxed{n} \boxed{*} \boxed{x^{n-1}}$ , where $n$ is any real number.
<i>Constant Rule</i>	$\frac{d}{dx}c = \boxed{0}$
<i>Constant Multiple Rule</i>	$\frac{d}{dx}(c \cdot f(x)) = \boxed{c} \boxed{*} \frac{d}{dx} \boxed{f(x)}$
<i>Sum Rule</i>	$\frac{d}{dx}(f(x) + g(x)) = \frac{d}{dx} \boxed{f(x)} \boxed{+} \frac{d}{dx} \boxed{g(x)}$
<i>Difference Rule</i>	$\frac{d}{dx}(f(x) - g(x)) = \frac{d}{dx} \boxed{f(x)} \boxed{-} \frac{d}{dx} \boxed{g(x)}$

## Differentiation Rules! Again!

**Julia:** You know, some of those rules we learned were pretty useful, but some of these derivatives still suck! There **HAS** to be a better way!

**Dylan:** I'm sure there is, and I'm sure I know who could help us!

**James:** Did I hear my name?

**Dylan:** Not yet!

**Julia:** James!

**James:** There are more rules for differentiation that can make your life just a little bit easier!

## The Product Rule

**James:** From the last time we did this, what rule do you think would exist for the product of two functions?

**Julia:** Well, last time we added or subtracted the derivative of both functions, so I bet we multiply the derivative of both!

**Dylan:** Let's check!

Consider the functions  $f(x) = 2x$  and  $g(x) = 3x^3 + x^2$ .

Graph of  $2x, 3x^3 + x^2$

**Question 1** Use Julia's guess to find the derivative of  $f(x) * g(x)$ .

Use the limit definition of the derivative to find the derivative of  $f(x) * g(x)$ .

☐

Was Julia right?

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Learning outcomes:

**Julia:** Darn! It didn't work!

**Dylan:** It must be a little harder than that...

**James:** That's right Dylan, but it is easier than the limit definition! All we have to do is use

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(x) * g(x) = f(x) * g'(x) + f'(x) * g(x).$$

This is called the **Product Rule**.

**Question 2** Using the Product Rule, derive the products of the following functions:

$$f(x) = \sin(x) + x^2, g(x) = 3x^3 + x$$

□

$$f(x) = \cos(x) + 4x, g(x) = 3x^2 + x$$

□

$$f(x) = x^2, g(x) = 3x^3 - 3x$$

□

$$f(x) = x^7, g(x) = 2x^{32}$$

□

## The Quotient Rule

**Dylan:** Wow! That's gonna save a ton of time with products! Is there anything like it we can do with quotients?

**James:** There is! It's even called **the Quotient Rule**!

**Julia:** I bet it's a pain too though, just like the product rule.

**James:** Well, why don't you try using your intuition first rather than guessing?

**Dylan:** Alright, well, I guess I would divide the derivative of the numerator by the derivative of the denominator.

**Question 3** Consider the functions  $f(x) = x^3$  and  $g(x) = \cos(x)$ .

Graph of  $x^3, \cos(x)$

## Differentiation Rules! Again!

Use Dylan's guess to find the derivative of  $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ .

$3x^2/\sin(x)$

Use the limit definition of the derivative to find the derivative of  $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ .

☐

Was Dylan right?

No

**Julia:** I knew it! It's never that easy!

**James:** Now calm down Julia, this rule is worse than the last one, but it's much better than going through by hand:

$$\frac{d}{dx} * \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{g(x)^2}.$$

**Question 4** Using the Product Rule, derive the products of the following functions:

$f(x) = \sin(x) + x^2$ ,  $g(x) = 3x^3 + x$

☐

$f(x) = \cos(x) + 4x$ ,  $g(x) = 3x^2 + x$

☐

$f(x) = x^2$ ,  $g(x) = 3x^3 - 3x$

☐

$f(x) = x^7$ ,  $g(x) = 2x^{32}$

☐

## The Chain Rule

**James:** There's one last rule to learn today; the **Chain Rule**.

**Dylan:** That rule sounds pretty cool! When do we use it though? I thought we already covered the functions we need to know...

**Julia:** Yeah, what else is there?

*Differentiation Rules! Again!*

**James:** We use the chain rule in composition of functions, like when we have  $\sin(2x) - 2x$  is a function, and so is  $\sin()$ !

**Julia:** And how bad is the rule?

**James:** This one is a little more tricky -

$$\frac{d}{dx}f(g(x)) = f'(g(x)) * g'(x).$$

**Dylan and Julia:** That's so gross.

**James:** Well, let's give it a try and see if you like it more than the limit definition!

**Question 5** Consider  $f(x) = \cos(x)$  and  $g(x) = x^3$

*Graph of  $\cos(x), x^3$*

*Using the limit definition of derivative, evaluate the derivative of  $f(g(x))$ .*

☐

*Now, evaluate the same limit using the chain rule. Was it any better?*

**Question 6** *Using the Chain Rule, derive the compositions  $f(g(x))$  for the following functions:*

$f(x) = 3x + x^2, g(x) = x^4 + 7x$

☐

$f(x) = \cos(x), g(x) = \sin(x)$

☐

$f(x) = x^2 - 5x, g(x) = \sqrt{x+3}$

☐

$f(x) = x^7, g(x) = \sin(x) - x^3 + 3$

☐