

Last class: On worksheet derived average rate of change formula. For distance:

$$\frac{\text{change in distance}}{\text{change in time}}$$

Over time interval  $[t_0, t_1]$ , with  $d(t)$  distance traveled

$$\frac{d(t_1) - d(t_0)}{t_1 - t_0} \quad \frac{\text{change in dist}}{\text{change in time}}$$

or, over time interval  $[t_0, t_0+h]$

$$\frac{d(t_0+h) - d(t_0)}{h}$$

$h$  is the length of the time interval. So  $h=0$  should get you speed right at  $t_0$ ! But no:

if  $h=0$ :  $\frac{d(t_0) - d(t_0)}{0} = \frac{0}{0}$  ↙ waw.  
uh oh! → big uh oh.

Instead, we can approximate the speed at  $t = t_0$  by taking  $h$  very small, with the hope that as  $h$  goes to 0 the approximation gets better and better.



12. Instead, we can work with average speeds over short time intervals near time  $t = 41$  minutes. Use the spreadsheet to compute the average speeds over the time intervals  $[41, 41 + h]$  for:

- (a)  $h = 1$  minutes    1.113414664 miles/minute
- (b)  $h = 0.1$  minutes    1.108981788 miles/minute
- (c)  $h = 0.01$  minutes    1.108373364 miles/minute
- (d)  $h = 0.001$  minutes    1.108310877 miles/minute
- (e)  $h = 0.0001$  minutes    1.108304617 miles/minute
- (f)  $h = 0.00001$  minutes    1.108303986 miles/minute

Looks like we're settling in around

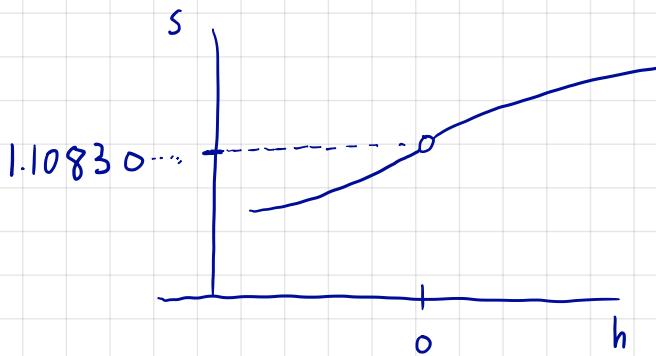
$$1.10830 \text{ miles/minute}$$

$$\text{error} \approx 10^{-5} \frac{\text{miles}}{\text{minute}} = 38 \text{ inches/hour}$$

$(\Delta t = \frac{1}{2} \text{ millisecond!})$

$$s(h) = \frac{d(41+h) - d(41)}{h}$$

is perfectly well defined near  $h=0$ , but not at  $h=0$ .



Graph of  $s$  has a hole at  $h=0$ .

We need to cope with functions with holes and to discuss the values they are supposed to have to "fill in" the hole.

More examples ...

Here's another example:

$$f(x) = \frac{\sin \text{deg}(x)}{x}$$

$$\sin \text{deg}(0) = 0 \quad \text{so } x=0 \rightarrow \frac{0}{0}$$

But what if we take  $x$  near 0, but not exactly 0?

$$x = 0.1 :$$

$$x = 0.01 :$$

$$x = 0.001 :$$

$$x = 0.0001 :$$

$$\text{vs: } \frac{360}{2\pi}$$

$$\frac{360}{3.2} \approx 110^\circ$$

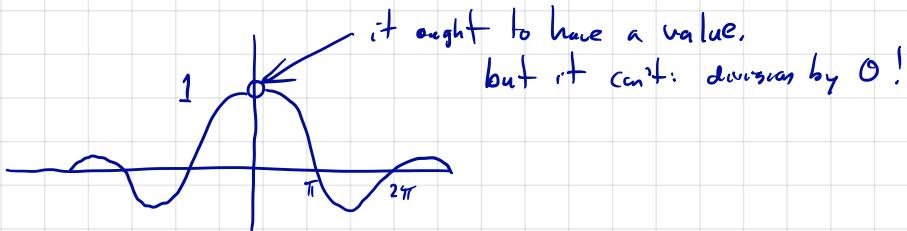
$$f(x) = \frac{\sin(x)}{x} \quad \frac{0}{0} \text{ is illegal!}$$

$$x = 0.1 :$$

$$x = 0.01 :$$

$$x = 0.001 :$$

$$x = 0.0001 :$$



Average rates of change aren't just for speed!

If a quantity depends on time, we compute average rates of change this way:

$$\frac{\text{change in quantity}}{\text{change in time}} \rightarrow \text{average rate of change}$$

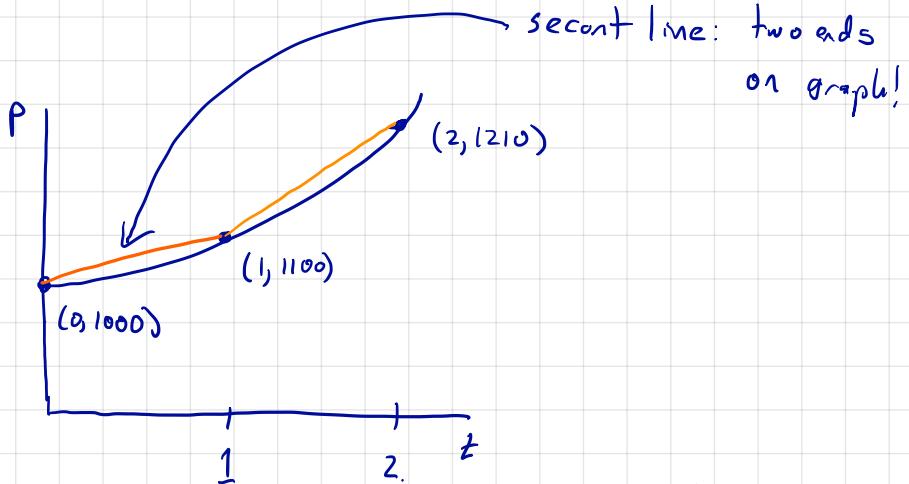
e.g. our friends the caribou:

$$p(t) = 1000 (1.1)^t$$

Compute the average rate of change in the population over the first year and over the 2nd year:

$$\text{first year: } \frac{p(1) - p(0)}{1 - 0} = \frac{1100 - 1000}{1} = 100 \frac{\text{caribou}}{\text{year}}$$

$$\text{second year } \frac{p(2) - p(1)}{2 - 1} = \frac{1210 - 1100}{1} = 110 \frac{\text{caribou}}{\text{year}}$$



secant line: two ends  
on graph!

Connection w/ geometry: slope of  
secant line  $\frac{1100 - 1000}{1 - 0} = 100 \frac{\text{caribea}}{\text{year}}$

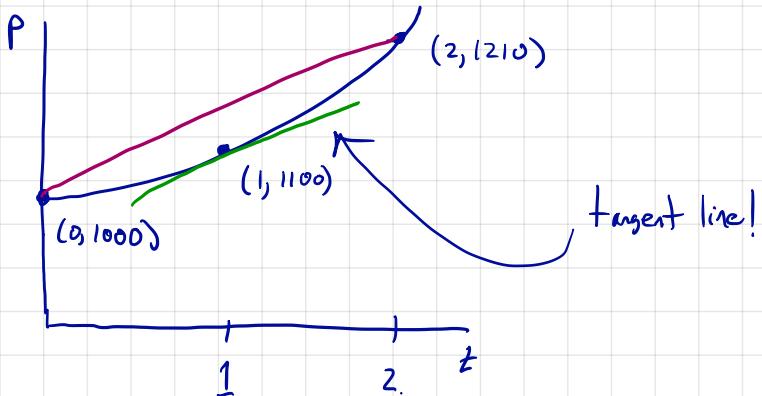
$$\frac{\Delta p}{\Delta t}$$

The slope of the secant line on the graph tells you an average rate of change.

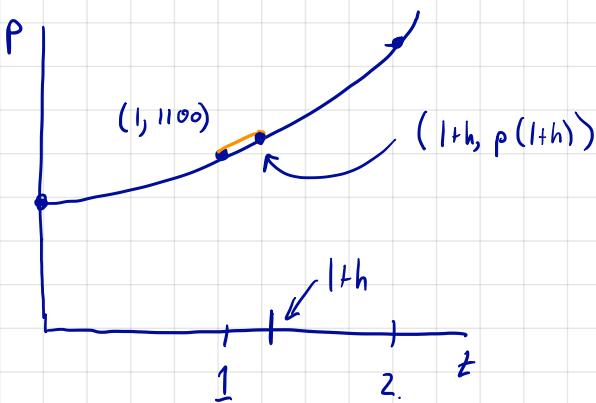
What about right at  $t = 1$ ?  $100$  is probably too little.  
 $110$  is probably too much.

One estimate:  $\frac{100 + 110}{2} = 105 \frac{\text{caribea}}{\text{year}}$

$\hookrightarrow$  that's a slope, too!  $\frac{p(2) - p(0)}{2 - 0} = \frac{1210 - 1000}{2} = \frac{210}{2} = 105$



For simplicity:



Average rate of change over interval  
 (Slope of secant line over interval)  $\rightarrow [1, 1+h]$

$$\text{is } \frac{p(1+h) - p(1)}{h} = \frac{1000(1.1)^{1+h} - 1000(1.1)}{h}$$

$$= 1100 \left[ \frac{(1.1)^h - 1}{h} \right]$$

For small choices of  $h$ , get an average rate of change over a short interval.

$$\text{e.g. } h = \frac{1}{2} \text{ (1/2 year)}$$

avg. rate of change 107.38 carbon per year:

$$h = 0.1 \quad 105.34\dots$$

$$h = 0.01 \quad 104.89\dots$$

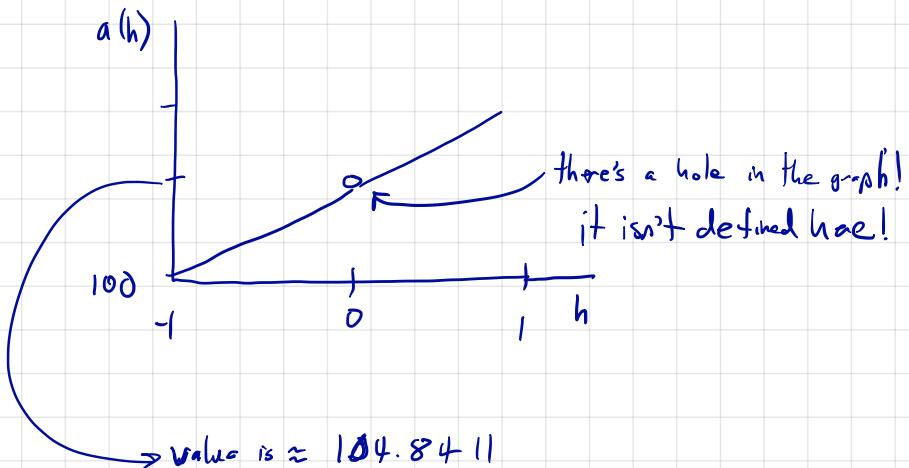
$$h = 0.001 \quad 104.84169$$

$$h = 0.000001 \quad \underline{104.841199}$$

$\hookrightarrow$  look like they are settling in.

$$\text{But } h = 0 \text{ is a no no: } \frac{(1.1)^0 - 1}{0} = \frac{1-1}{0} = \frac{0}{0}$$

$$a(h) = 1000 \frac{(1.1)^h - 1}{h} \rightarrow \text{average rate of change over } [1, 1+h] \quad (h < 0 \text{ is ok!})$$



we need to be able to talk about the value there. it is

- a) the (instantaneous) rate of change
- b) the slope of the tangent line to the graph.

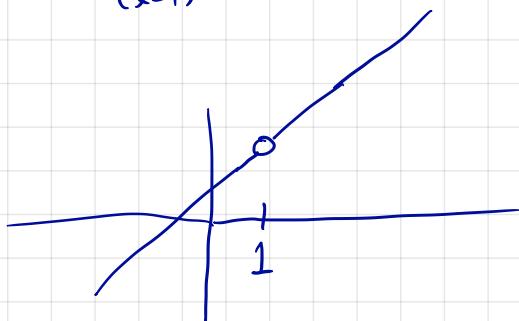
a) is super important

b) is less so, but becomes important because of a)  
super

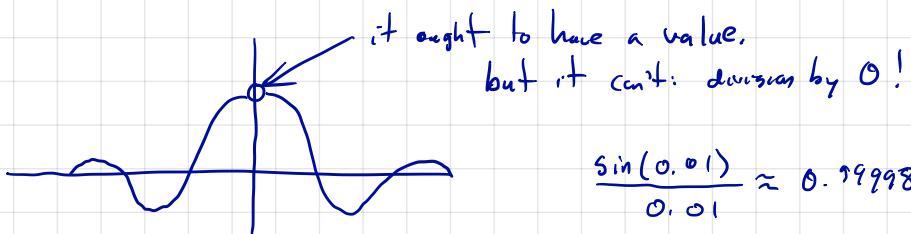
Another function with a hole:

$$\frac{x^2-1}{x-1} \quad x=1: \quad \frac{0}{0} \leftarrow \text{uh oh!}$$

$$\frac{(x-1)(x+1)}{(x-1)} = x+1 \quad \text{except at } x=1.$$



Another:  $\frac{\sin(x)}{x}$  at  $x=0: \frac{0}{0}$



$$\frac{\sin(0.001)}{0.001} \approx 0.9999999999999999 \rightarrow 1?$$