

Unit 4: Contextual Applications of Differentiation

4.1 - Interpreting the Meaning of the Derivative in Context

- units of the derivative is also the units of $f(x)$ over units of x
- interpret the derivative by using the sentence starter "at $x = [x\text{-value}]$, the [context of $f(x)$] is increasing/decreasing at a rate of [units]"
 - be sure to include the context, rate of change, units, and instant at which the derivative is taken



- Interpret rate of change in context and watch out for units

4.2 - Straight-Line Motion - Connecting Position, Velocity, and Acceleration

- the derivative of a position function is velocity, and the derivative of a velocity function is acceleration (second derivative of position)
- for a velocity function:
 - an object is at rest when $v(t) = 0$
 - an object is moving in the negative direction when $v(t) < 0$
 - an object is moving in the positive direction when $v(t) > 0$
- an object is speeding up when the direction of acceleration and direction of velocity are the same
 - when the velocity changes signs, that means the object switched the direction it was moving
- when given a table, estimate rate of change with $\frac{v(t_2) - v(t_1)}{t_2 - t_1}$



- The first derivative of position is velocity and the second derivative of position is acceleration

4.3 - Rates of Change in Other Applied Contexts (Nonmotion Problems)

- rate of change functions can help predict the rate at which something is changing
- the derivative of a rate of change function is already the second derivative of the original unit
- given the original function $Q(t)$:
 - if $Q(t)$ is not changing, then $Q'(t) = 0$
 - if $Q(t)$ is increasing, then $Q'(t) > 0$
 - if $Q(t)$ is decreasing, then $Q'(t) < 0$
- some problems are determined by more than one rate, where one is a rate-in and one is a rate-out
 - the overall function is equal to the rate-in function minus the rate-out function



- The overall rate of a situation is the difference between the rate-in and the rate-out

4.4 - Introduction to Related Rates

- before starting a related rates problem, first find the derivative of the function using implicit differentiation with respect to t
 - make sure to apply any derivative rules in the original function to its derivative

$$A = lw$$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \frac{dl}{dt} \cdot w + \frac{dw}{dt} \cdot l$$

$$A = \pi r^2$$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \pi \cdot 2r \frac{dr}{dt}$$

$$x^2 + 3y = 4$$

$$2x \frac{dx}{dt} + 3 \frac{dy}{dt} = 0$$



- Chain rule and implicit differentiation are used to find derivatives with respect to t to set up related rates problems

4.5 - Solving Related Rates Problems

- be careful when setting up the problem, because there will be rate-in and rate-out

$$P = 2l + 2w$$

$$\frac{dl}{dt} = 3$$

$$\frac{dw}{dt} = -5$$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = 2(3) + 2(-5)$$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = -4$$

$$A = lw$$

$$l = 10$$

$$w = 5$$

$$\frac{dl}{dt} = 3$$

$$\frac{dw}{dt} = 0$$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = 3 \cdot 5 + 0 \cdot 10 = 15$$

$$x^2 + y^2 = z^2$$

$$2x \frac{dx}{dt} + 2y \frac{dy}{dt} = 2z \frac{dz}{dt}$$

$$x = 4, y = 3, z = 5$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -15$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 10$$

$$2(4)(-15) + 2(3)(10) = 2(5)(\frac{dz}{dt})$$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = -6$$

- a common type of problem is the water-in-a-cube type of problem where the question asks for how fast the depth of the water is changing
 - the only thing that changes is the height of the water, the other two variables (length and width) stay constant

$$l = 5, w = 5$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = 20$$

$$V = lwh$$

$$V = 25h$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = 25 \frac{dh}{dt}$$

$$25 \frac{dh}{dt} = 20$$

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = \frac{4}{5}$$

$$h = r, h = 5$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = 8$$

$$V = \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h$$

$$V = \frac{1}{3} \pi h^3$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \pi h^2 \frac{dh}{dt}$$

$$8 = \pi \cdot 5^2 \frac{dh}{dt}$$

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = \frac{8}{25\pi}$$



- Constants can be substituted into variables for related rate derivatives
 - Related rates questions can include area, volume, and angles
 - Find the speed of the rate of change and then consider units in context

4.6 - Approximating Values of a Function Using Local Linearity and Linearization

- tangent lines can be used to roughly approximate a value of a function
 - given a point on a curve $a, f(a)$ and the derivative at that point $f'(a)$, we can write the equation of the tangent line
 - use point slope for $y - f(a) = f'(a)(x - a)$ because there's no reason to find the y-intercept
- the value of the function close to a tangent line is approximately the value at that point on the tangent line
 - if I'm trying to find the y value at $x = 4$ on the function $f(x)$ but I only have the tangent line equation of $x = 3$, then the value of y on the tangent at $x = 4$ should be pretty close to the real answer
- if the slope of the tangent line is decreasing, the tangent line will be an overestimate (concave)

- if the slope of the tangent line is increasing, the tangent line will be an underestimate (convex)



- Tangent lines can be used to estimate a value from the original function
- The value will be an overestimate or an underestimate depending on the direction of the slope at that time

4.7 - Using L'Hospital's Rule for Finding Limits of Indeterminate Forms

- **indeterminate form:** when $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{0}{0}$ or $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\infty}{\infty}$
- if a limit produces an indeterminate form, the new limit will be equal to the quotient of the derivatives of both the numerator and denominator

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(2x)}{5x} \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (1 - \cos(2x)) &= 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (5x) &= 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos(2x)}{5x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2 \sin(2x)}{5} = \frac{0}{5} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\ln x}{x^2 - 1} \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (\ln x) &= 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} (x^2 - 1) &= 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\ln x}{x^2 - 1} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{2x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1}{2x^2} = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\sin(x-2)}{x^2 - 4} \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (\sin(x-2)) &= 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} (x^2 - 4) &= 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\sin(x-2)}{x^2 - 4} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\cos(x-2)}{2x} = \frac{1}{4} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - \cos x - 2x}{x^2 - 2x} \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (e^x - \cos x - 2x) &= 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (x^2 - 2x) &= 0 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - \cos x - 2x}{x^2 - 2x} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x + \sin x - 2}{2x - 2} = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$



- L'Hospital's Rule is only used when the original limit produces an indeterminate form
- If the first derivative produces another indeterminate form, keep taking derivatives of the numerator and denominator until it doesn't