

Math 31

Limits and the Derivative

Jad Chehimi

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Unfinished!

Contents

| | |
|---|----------|
| Factoring Brief Review | 3 |
| Differences of Square | 3 |
| Polynomial | 3 |
| Radical Fractions | 3 |
| Mixed Radicals | 3 |
| Absolute Polynomial | 3 |
| Adding/Subtracting Fractions | 3 |
| Piecewise Functions | 4 |
| Rational Function | 4 |
| Vertical Asymptotes | 4 |
| Point of Discontinuity | 4 |
| Horizontal Asymptotes | 5 |
| Limits | 6 |
| Properties | 6 |
| Limits of Continuous Functions | 7 |
| Any Polynomial | 7 |
| Any Rational Function | 7 |
| Any Radical Function | 7 |
| Limits of Discontinuous Functions | 7 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| One-sided Limits | 8 |
| Continuous or Discontinuous? | 8 |
| Continuous | 8 |
| Discontinuous | 8 |
| Limits to Infinity | 9 |
| Rules | 9 |
| Finding Limits to Infinity | 9 |
| Derivatives | 10 |
| Formulas | 10 |
| Limits Method | 11 |
| Slope at Specific Point | 11 |
| General Expression | 11 |
| Slope to Equation | 11 |
| Differentiability | 12 |
| Non-differentiability Graphically | 12 |
| Determine the Point Problem | 13 |
| Derivative Rules | 14 |
| The Power Rule | 14 |
| The Sum and Difference Rule | 14 |
| The Product Rule | 14 |
| The Quotient Rule | 15 |
| With Respect To | 15 |
| Chain Rules | 15 |
| The Chain Rule | 15 |
| The Power/Chain Rule | 15 |

Factoring Brief Review

Differences of Square

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

Polynomial

$$\begin{aligned} 2x^2 + 3x - 2 \\ \longrightarrow (2x^2 + 4x)(-x - 2) \\ \longrightarrow 2x(x + 2) - 1(x + 2) \\ \longrightarrow (2x - 1)(x + 2) \end{aligned}$$

Radical Fractions

- Multiply everything by monomial denominator

$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{2x}} \longrightarrow \frac{2\sqrt{2x}}{2x} \longrightarrow \frac{\sqrt{2x}}{x}$$

- Multiply everything by conjugate for polynomial denominators

$$\frac{3}{2+\sqrt{x}} \times \frac{2-\sqrt{x}}{2-\sqrt{x}} = \frac{6-3\sqrt{x}}{4-2\sqrt{2}+2\sqrt{x}-x} = \frac{6-3\sqrt{x}}{4-x}$$

Mixed Radicals

$$\sqrt{162} \longrightarrow \sqrt{9^2 \times 2} \longrightarrow \sqrt{9^2} \times \sqrt{2} \longrightarrow 9\sqrt{2}$$

Absolute Polynomial

$$|x - 1| = 3$$

$$x - 1 = 3, x = 4$$

$$x - 1 = -3, x = -2$$

Adding/Subtracting Fractions

Multiply both terms so that the denominators are the same, then add/subtract.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2}{x-1} - \frac{3}{x+3} \\ \longrightarrow \frac{2(x+3)}{(x-1)(x+3)} - \frac{3(x-1)}{(x-1)(x+3)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\rightarrow \frac{(2x+6)-(3x-3)}{(x-1)(x+3)} \\ &= \frac{-x+3}{(x-1)(x+3)} \end{aligned}$$

Piecewise Functions

Piecewise functions are functions with multiple inequalities/restrictions that dictate which function to use at specific x values.

When graphing...

- if an inequality is less/greater than a value, the plot point is **not filled in**
- if an inequality is less/greater than **OR equal to** a value, the plot point is **filled in**
- if x of different functions equal the same value, the graphs are continuous, and are filled in if one of the functions is inclusive

If the inequalities do not state a function for a specific x value (e.g. $x = 2$ for $2 < x < 2$) then that value **DNE**. (**does not exist**)

Rational Function

A function with a polynomial in the numerator and denominator.

Vertical Asymptotes

Zeros of the denominator of a rational function.

x may approach these values, but never touch them.

Point of Discontinuity

Any vertical asymptote (zeros of denominator) **before simplifying** a rational function.

These vertical asymptotes only applies to the unsimplified form; this makes it a point of discontinuity.

These points are gaps in a graph line, have no y value, and therefore make a graph discontinuous.

Horizontal Asymptotes

Horizontal asymptotes describe the **trend** of a function.

The graph line can cross over it fine, as opposed to vertical asymptotes.

Determining Horizontal Asymptotes

- degree of numerator $<$ degree of denominator
→ $y = 0$
- degree of numerator $=$ degree of denominator
→ $y = \frac{\text{leading coefficient of numerator}}{\text{leading coefficient of denominator}}$
- degree of numerator $>$ degree of denominator
→ Divergent (no horizontal asymptote)

Limits

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = b$$

The limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a is b .

A limit is the value of y as the x approaches a specific value, as opposed to equaling a specific value. This is useful for points of discontinuity, where the exact value doesn't exist, but the value approaching does.

For instance, if the point of discontinuity of $f(x)$ is $x = -1$, then...

$$f(-1) = \text{DNE}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} f(x) = -1$$

Properties

- $c = \text{constant value}$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} c = c$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} cf(x) = c \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$$

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x)]^n = [\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)]^n$

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \sqrt[n]{f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)}$

- The rest of the rules can be summarized as limits have distributive property.

$$\text{e.g. } \lim_{x \rightarrow a} [f(x) + g(x)] = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) + \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$$

Limits of Continuous Functions

Any Polynomial

$y = f(x)$ is continuous at every value of a .

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

Just substitute x in the function with a .

Any Rational Function

$y = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ is continuous at every value of a as long as $g(x) \neq 0$. (cannot divide by zero)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{f(a)}{g(a)}, g(a) \neq 0$$

Just substitute x in the function with a , unless a makes the denominator equal to zero. If so, refer to the next section.

Any Radical Function

$y = \sqrt{f(x)}$ is continuous at every value of a as long as $f(x) \geq 0$. (cannot root negatives)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \sqrt{f(x)} = \sqrt{f(a)}, f(a) \geq 0$$

Just substitute x in the function with a , unless a makes the function equal to a negative. If so, refer to the next section.

Limits of Discontinuous Functions

Identically to finding points of discontinuity, simplify/rationalize the function in a limit if it does illegal math (divide by zero, root negatives) until it doesn't.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \left(\frac{x^2 - 16}{x - 4} \right) \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} \left(\frac{(x - 4)(x + 4)}{x - 4} \right) \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 4} (x + 4) = 8 \end{aligned}$$

One-sided Limits

Limits of a function can be separated into the value of approaching **from the left** and **from the right**. This is denoted with a superscript on a .

- From the left ($x < a$): $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x)$
- From the right ($x > a$): $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x)$

This is only really relevant for graphs that end (such as $y = \sqrt{x}$, approaching from the side without a line is DNE) or piecewise functions.

Continuous or Discontinuous?

Continuous

Continuous functions have a left approaching limit and a right approaching limit **equal to one another**.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{if } \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) \\ \text{then } \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(a) \end{aligned}$$

Discontinuous

Discontinuous functions have a left approaching limit and a right approaching limit **not equal to one another**.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{if } \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) &\neq \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) \\ \text{then } \lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) &= \text{DNE} \end{aligned}$$

Limits to Infinity

Limits of infinity either approach a value or DNE.

Rules

- Limits to infinity of normal numbers is often DNE. e.g.

$$- \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = \text{DNE (iff } |r| > 1)$$

$$- \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 2^x = \text{DNE}$$

$$- \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x^{-3}} = \text{DNE}$$

- Limits to infinity of fractions with variable denominators is often infinity small, so 0. e.g.

$$- \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} r^n = 0 \text{ (iff } |r| < 1)$$

$$- \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} = 0$$

- The limit of infinity does not exist.

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} 3^n = \text{DNE}$$

- $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} (-1)^n = \text{DNE}$

Finding Limits to Infinity

- Any fraction with a variable in the denominator will be zero.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{a}{x^b} = 0$$

- Because of this, multiply a limit by something in order to put a variable under the terms, making them equal zero. e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6n+9}{3n-2} \\ \frac{6n+9}{3n-2} \times \frac{\frac{1}{n}}{\frac{1}{n}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{6 + \frac{9}{n}}{3 - \frac{2}{n}} \rightarrow \frac{6 + 0}{3 - 0}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{6n + 9}{3n - 2} = 2$$

Derivatives

The derivative of a function gives the slope of a tangent line that just touches the point $(x, f(x))$.

Formulas

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

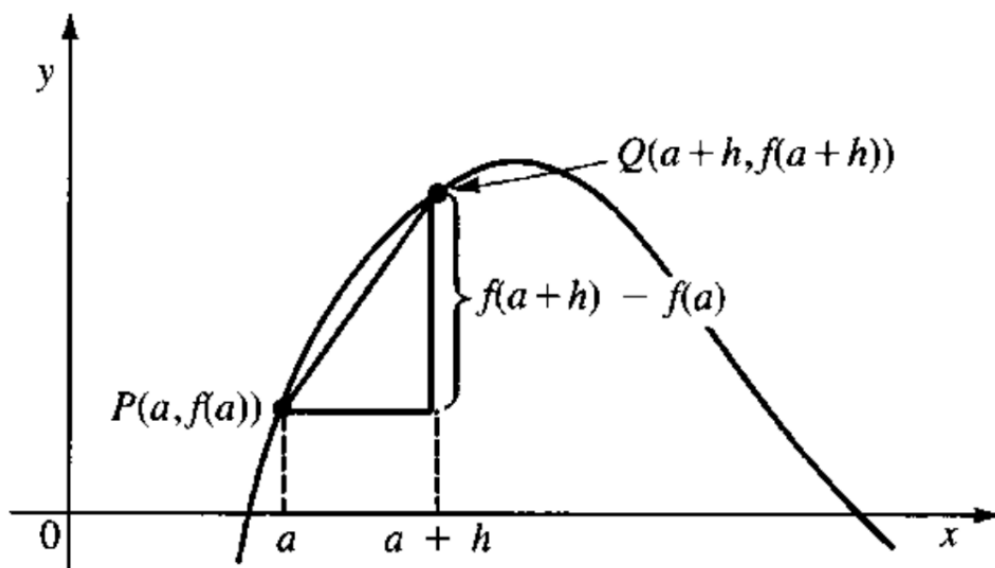


Figure 1: The limits formula calculates the slope of a secant line (between two points on curve) and shrinks said line (by h approaching zero) until it becomes a tangent line (the instantaneous slope of a point)

Limits Method

Slope at Specific Point

e.g. $f(x) = 3x^2 - 5x + 4$, find $f'(2)$

$$f(2) = 3(2)^2 - 5(2) + 4 = 6$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(2+h) - f(2)}{h} \longrightarrow \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[3(2+h)^2 - 5(2+h) + 4] - [6]}{h}$$

Expand and simplify until you are no longer dividing by zero.

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 3h + 7$$

Calculate the limit: substitute h with 0

$$m = 7$$

General Expression

This is the actual derivative of a function. Inputting any value of x into this expression is equivalent to the previous step.

e.g. $f(x) = 3x^2 - 5x + 4$, find $f'(x)$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \longrightarrow \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[3(x+h)^2 - 5(x+h) + 4] - [3x^2 - 5x + 4]}{h}$$

Some tears and bloodshed later...

$$f'(x) = 6x - 5$$

For instance, the previous section can be solved using this function.

$$f'(2) = 6(2) - 5 = 7$$

Slope to Equation

To get an equation such as $y = mx + b$ from just a slope (m) and a given point (x_1, y_1) .

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

Differentiability

- If $f'(x)$ exists, then $f(x)$ is **differentiable**
- If $f(x)$ is differentiable, then $f(x)$ is continuous at point x
- **Continuity does not imply differentiability**

Non-differentiability Graphically

A point on a graph that is often non-differentiable due to the limit of said point not existing. This usually occurs from the left and right limit not being equal.

These, graphically, could be...

- **Cusp**: sharp peak on a graph, like the tip of a triangle
- **Crossing Point**: gap between two graph lines
- **Vertical Asymptote**
- **Point of Discontinuity/Hollow Point**
- **Vertical Separation**: point that graphs switch in piecewise functions
- **End Point**: graph line ends at a point

Other points that are non-differentiable could be...

- **Vertical Line**: slope/derivative is undefined

Determine the Point Problem

Recall this formula for calculating slope,

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

The derivative of a function calculates the slope of the tangent line touching point x on said function. You can replace m with the derivative then.

Replace the x 's and y 's with any given plot points. You can also give a point the coordinates of $(x, f(x))$ and solve.

These are example problems. You will likely be tested on questions similar to this.

Problem #2: Determine the point P , on the graph of $y = x^3$, such that the tangent line to this curve at point P has an x -intercept of 2.

$y' = 3x^2 = m$

$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$

$m = \frac{x^3 - 0}{x - 2}$

$3x^2 = \frac{x^3}{x - 2}$

$3x^2(x - 2) = x^3$

$3x^3 - 6x^2 = x^3$

$2x^3 - 6x^2 = 0$

$2x^2(x - 3) = 0$

$x = 0$ or $x = 3$

$x \neq 0$ because the x -intercepts are ∞ , while $x = 3$ only has one x -int. of 2.

$P(3, 27)$

Problem #3: Determine the equation(s) of the line(s) passing through the point $P(2, 9)$ that are tangent to the curve $y = 2x - x^2$.

$y' = 2 - 2x = m$

$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$

$2 - 2x = \frac{2x - x^2 - 9}{x - 2}$

$x^2 - 4x - 5 = 0$

$x = 5$ or $x = -1$

x coords of tangent points

$f'(-1) = 4$

$f'(5) = -8$

$y - 9 = 4(x - 2)$

$y = 4x + 1$

$y - 9 = -8(x - 2)$

$y = -8x + 25$

Derivative Rules

The Power Rule

If $f(x) = x^n$, then $f'(x) = nx^{n-1}$

- Multiply pre-existing coefficients with n
e.g. $8x^2 \rightarrow 16x$
- Convert fractions and radicals into exponent form to apply the power rule
e.g. $\frac{4}{x^3} = 4x^{-3}$, $\sqrt{x^3} = x^{\frac{3}{2}}$
- The derivative of a variable with a **degree of 1 equals 1** (since the power becomes zero)
e.g. $4x^1 \rightarrow 4(1x^{1-1}) \rightarrow 4$
- **The derivative of a constant is zero**

The Sum and Difference Rule

If both f and g are differentiable,

$$(f + g)' = f' + g'$$

$$(f - g)' = f' - g'$$

In other words, **replace every term with its derivative.**

The Product Rule

If both f and g are differentiable,

$$(f \times g)' = f \times g' + f' \times g$$

In other words, (first)(derivative of second) + (second)(derivative of first)

The Quotient Rule

If both f and g are differentiable,

$$\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)' = \frac{f' \times g - f \times g'}{g^2}$$

With Respect To

$$\frac{dy}{dx}$$

The derivative $\frac{dy}{dx}$ is said to be "the derivative of y with respect to x ."

Imagine it as actually being "the derivative of x when inside of y ."

Or ask yourself, "inside of the function y , what is the derivative of x ?"

This only becomes relevant when there are more variables than x and y , such as the chain rule below.

Chain Rules

The Chain Rule

If $y = f(u)$ and $u = g(x)$, then...

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \left(\frac{dy}{du}\right)\left(\frac{du}{dx}\right)$$

e.g. Determine $\frac{dy}{dx}$ if $y = u^2 + u$ and $u = x^3$.

- $\frac{dy}{dx} = \left(\frac{dy}{du}\right)\left(\frac{du}{dx}\right)$
- $\frac{dy}{dx} = (2u + 1)(3x^2)$

The Power/Chain Rule

The Power/Chain rule is the same as the Chain rule, but may be easier to understand.

If $y = u^n$ and $u = g(x)$, then...

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = nu^{n-1} \times \frac{du}{dx}$$

In the simplest terms, treat the entire function as a variable and get the derivative of that. (imagine it as getting the derivative outside the brackets).

Then, multiply that by the derivative of the function inside the brackets.

e.g. Determine $\frac{dy}{dx}$ of $y = (2x - 7x^2 + 9)^{-2}$.

- Let $u = 2x - 7x^2 + 9$
- $y = u^{-2}$
- $y = (nu^{n-1})(\frac{du}{dx})$
- $\frac{dy}{dx} = (-2u^{-3})(2 - 14x)$