

Note: Some of these figures come from your Webassign practice and your textbook *Calculus: Applications & Technology*, 3rd ed., by Tomastik.

## Question: *What can lines tell us about functions?*

### Equation of the Line:

$$y = \underbrace{m}_{\text{slope}}x + \underbrace{b}_{\text{y-intercept}}$$

**Point Slope Formula of the Line:** The slope of the line passing through the points  $(x_0, y_0)$  and  $(x, y)$  is given by

$$m = \frac{y - y_0}{x - x_0}.$$

**Example:** Calculate the slope of  $y = 5x + 6$  using the point slope formula and the points at  $x = 1$  and  $x = 10$ .

**Another Way to Use Point Slope Formula of the Line:** If we are given the slope  $m$ , of the line and a point,  $(x_0, y_0)$ , on the line, we can get the equation of the line by rearranging the point slope formula:

$$y = m(x - x_0) + y_0.$$

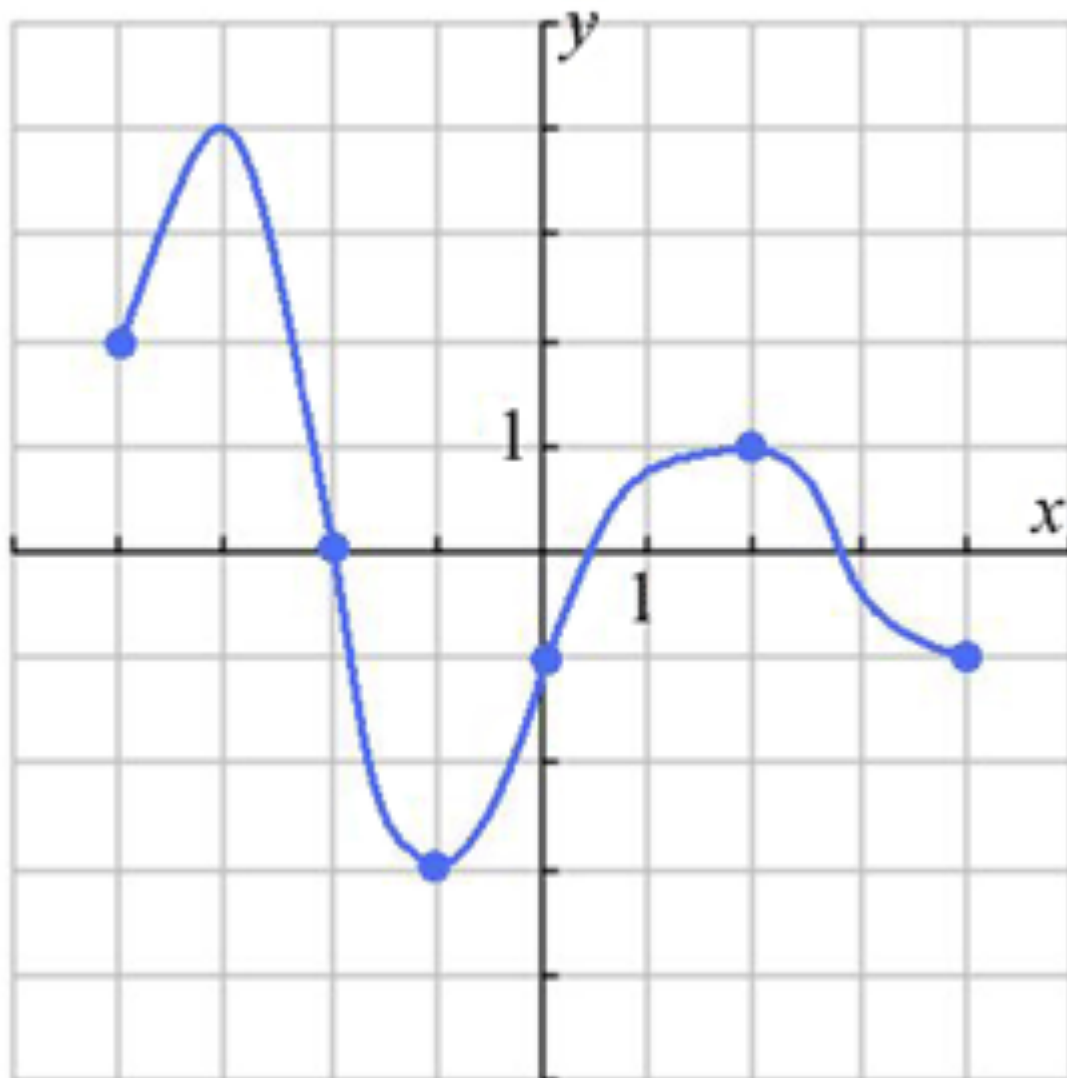
**Definition (Average Rate of Change):** The average rate of change of  $y = f(x)$  with respect to  $x$  from  $a$  to  $b$  is the quotient

$$\frac{\text{change in } y}{\text{change in } x} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$$

**Example:** You're sitting in a car and pass mile marker 15 and notice the clock reads 12:00pm and you fall asleep. You wake up an hour later at 1:00pm and notice you are passing mile marker 85. What is the average speed the car has been going?

**Average Rate of Change Is Slope of Secant Line:** The average rate of change of  $y = f(x)$  from  $a$  to  $b$  is the slope of the secant line from  $P(a, f(a))$  to the point  $Q(b, f(b))$ .

**Example:** Calculate the slope of the secant line between two points.



**Alternative Form of Average Rate of Change:** The average rate of change,

$$\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a},$$

can be rewritten as

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

where  $h = b - a$ .

**Definition (Average and Instantaneous Velocity):** Suppose  $s = s(t)$  describes the position of an object at time  $t$ . The average velocity from  $c$  to  $c + h$  is

$$\text{average velocity} = \frac{s(c + h) - s(c)}{h}.$$

The instantaneous velocity (or velocity)  $v(c)$  at time  $c$  is

$$v(c) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (\text{average velocity}) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{s(c + h) - s(c)}{h}$$

if this limit exists.

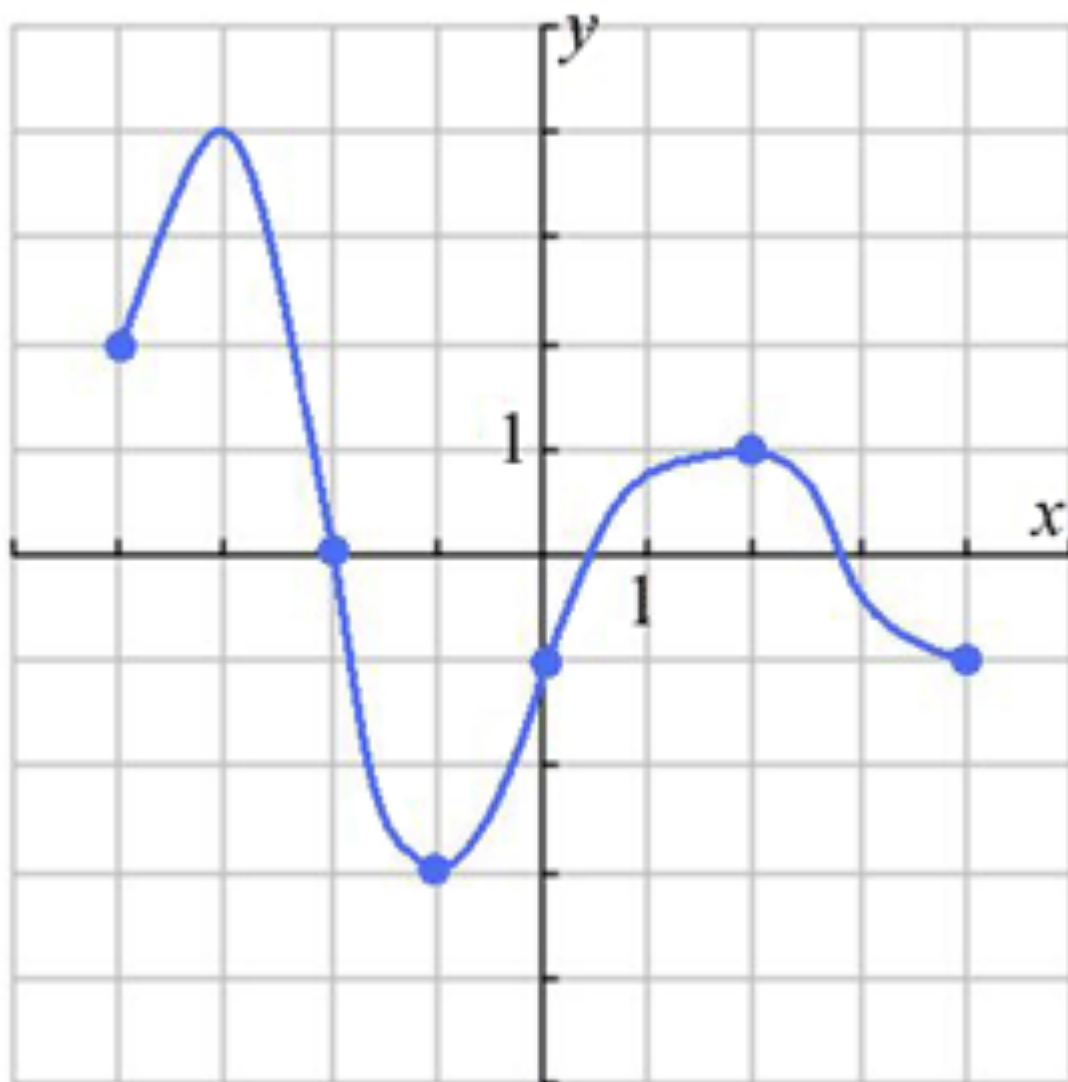
**Intuitively (Velocity):** If you measure the distance traveled in your car over shorter and shorter time intervals, you'll get a better estimate of the current speed of the car.

**Definition (Tangent Line):** The tangent line of the graph of  $y = f(x)$  at  $x = c$  is the line through the point  $(c, f(c))$  with slope

$$m_{\tan}(c) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(c + h) - f(c)}{h}.$$

**Instantaneous Rate of Change and the Slope of the Tangent Line:** If the instantaneous rate of change  $f'(x)$  with respect to  $x$  exists at a point  $c$ , then it is the slope of the tangent line at that point.

**Example:** Choose two points on the curve, draw the tangent line at those points. At which point is the rate of change higher in magnitude?



**Example:** Consider  $y = 5x - x^2$

1. Find the slope for the tangent line at  $(1, 4)$  .
2. Find the equation of the tangent line using part 1.