

Learning Calculus from the Masters

How to Build on Elementary Ideas

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¹Original Author

²First Maintainer

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Outline

Getting
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Calculus

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Thomas
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On The
Ratio of
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Vanishing
Together

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2 On The Ratio of Magnitudes *Vanishing* Together

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- We Continue to Learn from The Masters.
- We Started Thinking about Changing Magnitudes And Their Ratios.
- You May Wish to Review What We Learned Before.

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Ratio of Constantly Diminishing Magnitudes

Does It Also Diminish?

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- Consider Two Lengths: Chord AB, \overline{AB} , and Arc AB, \widehat{AB} .
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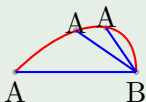
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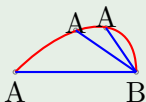
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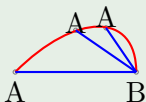
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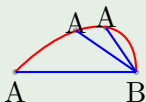
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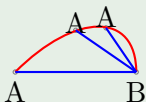
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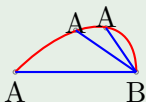
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- How Could We Ascertain?
- Right, We Analyze!
 - Let's Start with Concrete Cases.
 - We Consider Discrete Values of The Two Magnitudes as
*Corresponding Values of Two Sequences*¹.
 - Observe How The Values of The Two Magnitudes
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 - Remember, The Values of *Both Magnitudes* Are
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- We Are Studying The Ratio of Diminishing Magnitudes.
- However, The Magnitudes Are **Not Diminishing Haphazardly, Whimsically, Or Randomly.**
- In The Previous Example, **A Is Constrained to Move along The Predefined Curve as It Approaches B.**
 - And A Curve Can Be Expressed As A Function Or Formula.
 - **Functions²**, with Many of Which You Are Familiar, Are Key!
- We Use **Sequences of *Corresponding Numbers*** to Aid The Discovery Of Patterns Of Change Or Functions.

²You See, Mathematics Borrows This Word From Everyday English And *Redefines* It

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A Few Words on Sequences of Numbers

Mostly A Matter of Notation ...

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- Recall **Arithmetic and Geometric Sequences?**
- A Number in A Sequence Is Its **Term**.
- The **Order** of Terms of A Sequence Is Crucial.
- A Sequence May Have A Finite Number of Terms, e.g.,
 - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Represents The Sequence of **Exactly 5 First Counting Numbers**.
- A Sequence May Have Infinite Terms! Such An **Unending Sequence** Is Shown by The Trailing ..., e.g.,
 - 1, 3, 5, 7, ... Represents The Sequence of *All* Odd Counting Numbers!
 - It's Fun to **Guess** The *Pattern of Its Terms*.
 - A Given Infinite Sequence Should Have Sufficient Number³ of Terms for Us to Guess The Pattern, If Any!

³The Next Term in 1, 2, 4, ...?

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- A Number in A Sequence Is Its **Term**.
- The **Order** of Terms of A Sequence Is Crucial.
- A Sequence May Have A Finite Number of Terms, e.g.,
 - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Represents The Sequence of **Exactly 5 First Counting Numbers**.
- A Sequence May Have Infinite Terms! Such An **Unending Sequence** Is Shown by The Trailing ..., e.g.,
 - 1, 3, 5, 7, ... Represents The Sequence of *All* Odd Counting Numbers!
 - It's Fun to **Guess** The *Pattern of Its Terms*.
 - A Given Infinite Sequence Should Have Sufficient Number³ of Terms for Us to Guess The Pattern, If Any!

³The Next Term in 1, 2, 4, ...?

A Few Words on Sequences of Numbers

Mostly A Matter of Notation ...

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Infinite Sequences Are Challenging And Fun Too!

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Summary

- In Calculus, We Mainly Study Infinite Sequences.
- The Idea of Infinity, Denoted by ∞ , Intrigues, or, Baffles Us.
- We Usually Need to Determine The *General Term* of a Sequence as **A Closed-Form Formula⁴** in n .
 - We Denote The General Term of Sequence S by $s_n, n \in \mathbb{N}$.

⁴Is This A New Word? For Now, Think of This as A Function, And You Are Familiar With Functions!

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Another Thing We Study in Calculus

Among Other Things, of Course!

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- One Magnitude (B) Is Changing. So Is Another (A).
- We Want to Find the **Rate** at Which B Changes **with Respect to A**.
- We Have Dealt with Such Magnitudes! One Is Displacement (Directed Distance), Another Is Time!
- Calculus Provides Us with Means to Study Two Simultaneously Changing Magnitudes.
- Therefore, Think of **Rate** of Change of One Thing **wrt** Another!

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A Slight Digression about **Rate of Change**

Coordinate Plane, Plots, Functions, ...

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Summary

- The Words ‘Rate’ And ‘Ratio’ Are Related.
- The Coordinate Planes (XY , $r\theta$, Etc.) Facilitate The Same: Visualization of Two Simultaneously Changing Magnitudes!
- You Are Of Course Familiar with ‘Slope’ of A Straight Line
 - The Ratio $\frac{\text{Rise}}{\text{Run}}$.
 - It Is Constant for A Straight Line.
 - Can Be Thought of As **The Rate at Which Y Changes wrt X .**

A Slight Digression about Rate of Change

Coordinate Plane, Plots, Functions, ...

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Back to Sequences

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Back to Sequences of Discrete, Simultaneously Diminishing Magnitudes ...

Our First Sequences of Diminishing Magnitudes

As A And B Diminish, What Happens to $\frac{A}{B}$?

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- We Represent Two Diminishing Magnitudes as Sequences A, B :

- $A : 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{5}, \dots$

- $a_n = \frac{1}{n}$

- $B : 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{5}, \dots$

- $b_n = \frac{1}{n}$

- Ratio $\frac{A}{B} : 1, 1, 1, 1, \dots$

- The Magnitudes Constantly Diminish, But Their Ratio Remains Constant!

Our First Sequences of Diminishing Magnitudes

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Our First Sequences of Diminishing Magnitudes

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Another Sequence of Diminishing Magnitudes

As A And B Diminish, What Happens to $\frac{A}{B}$?

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- We Represent Two Diminishing Magnitudes as Sequences A, B :
 - $A : 1, \frac{1}{20}, \frac{1}{400}, \frac{1}{8000}, \frac{1}{160000}, \dots$
 - $a_n = ?$
 - $B : 1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{8}, \frac{1}{16}, \dots$
 - $b_n = ?$
 - Ratio $\frac{A}{B} : 1, \frac{1}{10}, \frac{1}{100}, \frac{1}{1000}, \frac{1}{10000}, \dots$
 - The Magnitudes Constantly Diminish, And Their Ratio Also Diminishes!
 - At Every Step, A Loses Bigger Part of Itself than B :
 $\text{Diminution}_A > \text{Diminution}_B$.
 - There's No Positive Number, However Small, That Cannot Be Reached by The Ratio!
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- We Represent Two Diminishing Magnitudes as Sequences A, B :

- $A : 1, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{10}, \frac{1}{15}, \frac{1}{21}, \frac{1}{28}, \dots$

- $a_n = ?$

- $B : 1, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{9}, \frac{1}{16}, \frac{1}{25}, \frac{1}{36}, \frac{1}{49}, \dots$

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- Ratio $\frac{A}{B}$: ?

- The Magnitudes Constantly Diminish, And Their Ratio ???

- What, If Any, Is The **Smallest Value** That The Ratio $\frac{A}{B}$ Will **Never** Achieve?

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- Remember, We Analyze!

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- How Does The Ratio $\frac{B}{A}$ Change?

One More Sequence of Diminishing Magnitudes

As A And B Diminish, What Happens to $\frac{A}{B}$?

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- Think of Rate of Change of One Magnitude wrt. Another.
- Calculus Began as We Observed Nature, And Tried Reasoning What We Saw.
- We Constantly Experience Change in Nature. Change Is The Only Permanent.
- We Had to Study It Formally.

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