

A graph illustrating a function f . A black curve represents the function f . A blue secant line intersects the curve at two points. The rightmost intersection point is marked with a blue dot and labeled $P: (a, f(a))$. A green horizontal line segment connects the point P to the curve, and an orange vertical line segment connects P to the secant line, forming a small triangle. The horizontal distance between the point P and the secant line is labeled h . The vertical distance between the point P and the secant line is labeled $f(a) - f(a - h)$.

$$f(a) - f(a - h)$$

$$P: (a, f(a))$$

$$h$$