

Mathematics I (BSM 101)

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BSM 101

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Average rate of Change

Definition: The average rate of change of $y = f(x)$ with respect to x over the interval $[x_1, x_2]$ is

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} &= \frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1} \\ &= \frac{f(x_1 + h) - f(x_1)}{h}\end{aligned}$$

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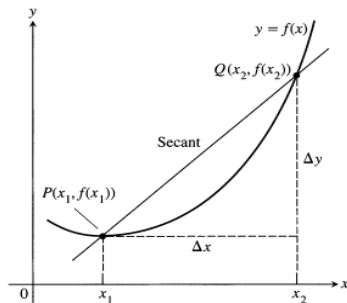
Notice that the average rate of change of f over $[x_1, x_2]$ is the slope of the line through the points $P(x_1, f(x_1))$ and $Q(x_2, f(x_2))$ in geometry (look at the figure) a line joining two points of a curve is called a secant to the curve.

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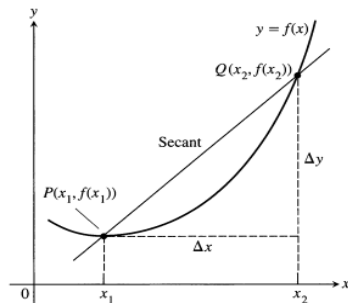


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A secant to the graph $y = f(x)$. Its slope is $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$, the average rate of change of f over the interval $[x_1, x_2]$. Thus, the average rate of change of f from x_1 to x_2 is identical with the slope of secant

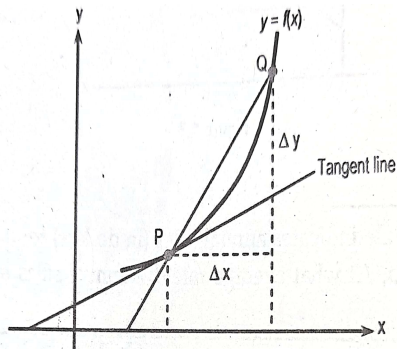
PQ

Slope of a Curve at a Point (Tangent)

The slope of a curve at $x = a$ is the slope of the tangent line at $x = a$

by

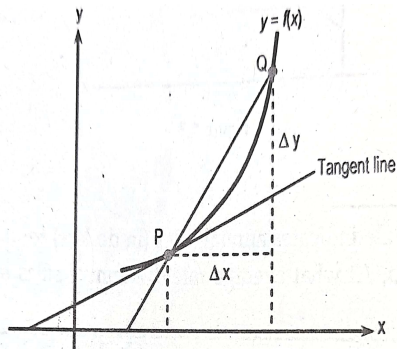
$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$



Let $P(x_1, y_1)$ and $Q(x_2, y_2)$ be any two points in the curve. Then the slope of straight line PQ is given

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by

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$$

As point Q moves towards P (i.e. Δx approaches 0) the value of $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$ also change and will approach a limit, if it exist. This limit provides the slope of the curve at point P. This limit is also called the derivative of the function $f(x)$ at the point P and written as

$$\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

Definition: The derivative of the function f with respect to the variable x is the function f' whose value at x is

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

provided the limit exists.

If the limits on the right hand side exist (i.e $f'(x)$ exist) then we say f has a derivative (is differentiable) at x .

Notation: The derivative of $y = f(x)$ with respect to x is denoted as

$$y' \quad \text{or} \quad f'(x) \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{dy}{dx} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{df}{dx} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{d}{dx}f(x)$$

Example

Find the derivative of $y = \sqrt{x}$ for $x > 0$ using the definition of derivatives

Solution:

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x} \text{ and } f(x+h) = \sqrt{x+h}$$

$$\frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} = \frac{\sqrt{x+h} - \sqrt{x}}{h} \quad \text{Multiply by } \frac{\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x}}{\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x}}$$

$$= \frac{(x+h) - x}{h(\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x})}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x}}$$

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x}} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$$

Some Important Rules Without Proof

- $$\lim_{\theta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} = 1 \quad (1)$$

- $$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos h - 1}{h} = 0 \quad (2)$$

- $$\sin(x + h) = \sin x \cos h + \cos x \sin h \quad (2)$$

- $$\cos(x + h) = \cos x \cos h - \sin x \sin h \quad (2)$$

Derivative of Trigonometric Functions

The Derivative of the Sine:

To calculate the derivative of

$$f(x) = \sin x \quad \text{and} \quad f(x+h) = \sin(x+h) = \sin x \cos h + \cos x \sin h$$

We have

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

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In short, the derivative of the sine is the cosine.

Derivative of Trigonometric Functions

The Derivative of the Cosine:

Here, we have $f(x) = \cos x$

$$f(x+h) = \cos(x+h) = \cos x \cos h - \sin x \sin h,$$

then, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\ \frac{d}{dx}(\cos x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(x+h) - \cos x}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\cos x \cos h - \sin x \sin h) - \cos x}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos x(\cos h - 1) - \sin x \sin h}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \cos x \cdot \frac{\cos h - 1}{h} - \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \sin x \cdot \frac{\sin h}{h} \\ &= \cos x \cdot \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos h - 1}{h} - \sin x \cdot \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin h}{h} \\ &= \cos x \cdot 0 - \sin x \cdot 1 = -\sin x.\end{aligned}$$

In short, the derivative of the cosine is the negative of the sine.

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) = \cos x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cos x) = -\sin x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\tan x) = \sec^2 x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sec x) = \sec x \tan x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cot x) = -\csc^2 x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\csc x) = -\csc x \cot x$$

Classwork Problems

- ① Find the average rate of change of the function over the given interval or intervals.
 - (i) $f(x) = x^3 + 1$; (a) $[2, 3]$, (b) $[-1, 1]$
 - (ii) $g(x) = x^2$; (a) $[-1, 1]$, (b) $[-2, 0]$
 - (iii) $h(t) = \cot t$; (a) $[\pi/4, 3\pi/4]$, (b) $[\pi/6, \pi/2]$
- ② Find the derivative of f . State the domain of f'
 - (i) $f(x) = 5x + 3$
 - (ii) $f(x) = \sqrt{x - 1}$
 - (iii) $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$

Thank You