

Physics interpretation of derivative:

Math 1210-3

Monday Jan 14

P.3 - P.4

①

We defined

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

and interpreted it as the slope of a graph.

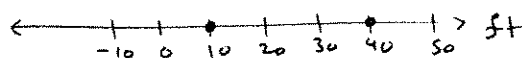
There are completely different interpretations of the same definition.

Suppose $s(t)$ is the location of an object along a number line at time t . (The number line might be marked off in feet, and time might be measured in seconds... or you might use miles and hours.)

$$\text{Then } \frac{s(t+h) - s(t)}{h} = \frac{\text{displacement}}{\text{time}} \quad \frac{ft}{sec} \text{ (or } \frac{\text{miles}}{\text{hour}})$$

is called average velocity

Exercise 1: If $s(0) = 10$ $s(2) = 40$ ($s(t)$ feet at time t sec.)



What is the average velocity between $t=0$ and $t=2$ sec.?

So, it makes sense to define $s'(t) = v(t)$ as the velocity at time t , since

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{s(t+h) - s(t)}{h} = s'(t) \quad \text{is the limit of average velocities over shorter \& shorter time intervals.}$$

Exercise 2: Most of you know of a ^{electro-}mechanical device which computes derivatives very frequently. What is it?

$$\text{Similarly } v'(t) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{v(t+h) - v(t)}{h} \quad \left(\frac{ft/sec}{sec} \text{ or } \frac{ft/sec^2}{sec} \right)$$

measures how fast velocity is changing and is called acceleration $a(t)$.

$$\boxed{v'(t) = a(t).}$$

Exercise 3: If a ball is dropped off the top of a 64 ft. high building, then its height $s(t)$ seconds later is described by the formula

$$s(t) = -16t^2 + 64 \quad \text{ft.}$$

3a) When does it hit the ground?

3b) What is its velocity when it hits?

3c) What is the acceleration function?

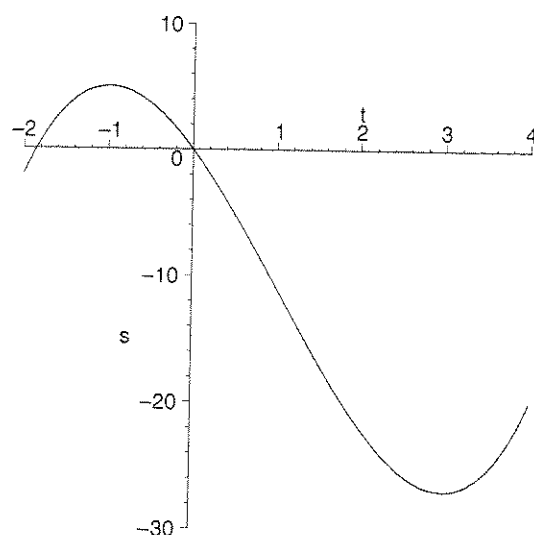
Putting the two interpretations of derivative together:

Suppose an object is moved along a number line
so that its position is

$$s = t^3 - 3t^2 - 9t \quad \text{metres}$$

at time t seconds.

plot of $s = t^3 - 3t^2 - 9t$



Exercise 4a) What is the object's velocity
at $t = 2$ sec.?

Exercise 4b) What is the slope of the graph
 $s = t^3 - 3t^2 - 9t$ ft, at $t = 2$ sec.?

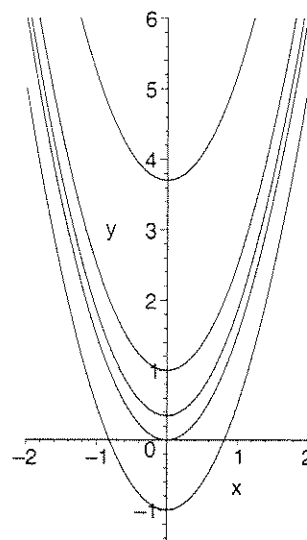
Exercise 4c) Sketch the tangent line to
the graph $s = t^3 - 3t^2 - 9t$, and see if your sketch
is consistent with 4ab

Exercise 4d) At what t values does the object turn around? Explain.
Relate this discussion to the velocity function.

5P.4 Antiderivatives of functions (also called antidifferentiation)

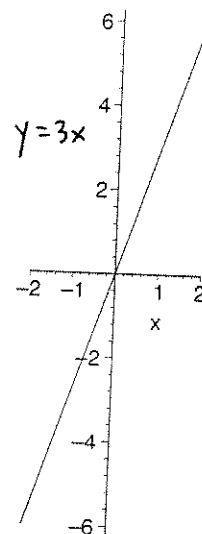
Definition A If $f(x)$ is a function, then an antiderivative for f is a function having $f(x)$ as its derivative
(This is the reverse procedure to taking derivatives.)

Exercise 5: Using your knowledge of derivatives and working backwards, find all the antiderivatives of $f(x) = 3x$ that you can find.
The pictures to the right are a hint.



graphs of possible
antiderivatives
anti-
differentiate

take
derivative



Definition B If $f(x)$ is a function, the set of antiderivatives for $f(x)$ is denoted

$$\int f(x) dx$$

and is called the indefinite integral of $f(x)$.
(with respect to x)

Note, the "x" in "dx" says that x is your variable.

Exercise 6

$$\int 3x dx =$$

(You will rely on the theorem at the top of the next page to answer this exercise completely)