

## Calculus: The Slope of A Curve



How do we find the slope of a curve?


Slope to the left of the origin?

Try to find the slope of this curve at the point $(1,1)$

First point (1,1)

| Second point: | Slope at that point: |
| :--- | :--- |
| $(3,9)$ |  |
| $(2,4)$ |  |
| $(1.1,1.21)$ |  |
| $(1.01,10.201)$ |  |
| $\left(1+h,(1+h)^{2}\right)$ |  |

## EX 1

Find the slope of the curve $y=x^{2}-5 x$ at $(2,-6)$
hint: Calculate the slope between ( $2,-6$ ) and ( $2+h, f(2+h)$ )

Definition: The slope of a function, $f$, at a point $x=(x, f(x))$ is given
by
$m=f^{\prime}(x)=\quad \lim _{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}$
$f^{\prime}(x)$ is called the derivative of $f$ with respect to $x$.
Other names for $\mathrm{f}^{\prime}(\mathrm{x})$ :
slope
instantaneous rate of change
speed
velocity

EX 2
Find the derivative of $f(x)=4 x-1$

EX 3
Find the derivative of $f(x)=x^{2}+4 x-1$

What is the slope at point $P$ ?


