Calculus I: Differential Calculus

Doli Bambhania, Rani Fischer, Lisa Mesh & Danny Tran

De Anza College

Mathematics

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Detailed Licensing

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About the Book

Publication Date: August, 2025

This **Calculus textbook** is part of the **De Anza College Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Pathways** initiative, supporting both students and instructors with free, adaptable Open Educational Resources (OER).

This De Anza College ZTC Pathways Calculus textbook offers a clear and accessible introduction to limits, differentiation, and their applications, including tangent lines, implicit functions, and parametric curves. It is the first in a four-book series designed to build a strong conceptual foundation in calculus while connecting theory to real-world applications in fields such as physics, economics, and engineering.

This series builds upon the OpenStax Calculus foundation and acknowledges the contributions of Lake Tahoe Community College's derivative version, incorporating videos and interactive elements. De Anza's version enhances accessibility, adds multimedia resources, and emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving for both classroom and independent study.

With its blend of open access, practical applications, and rich multimedia support, this textbook reflects De Anza College's commitment to student equity, innovation, and leadership in OER.

In addition to the core text, we provide ancillary materials to enhance teaching and learning.

Included Ancillary Materials

- **PowerPoint Slide Decks**: Accessible chapter-aligned slides for lectures, presentations, or flipped classrooms.
- **Instructor Notes**: Guidance for educators with teaching tips, common misconceptions, and activity ideas.

These ancillaries can be found under **"assets"** on the De Anza Commons page for Calculus I: Differential Calculus.

Online Homework

Aligned online homework is available on **MyOpenMath**. After logging into an instructor account, select *Add New Course* → *Copy a template or promoted course* → choose *Calculus I: Differential Calculus (De Anza ZTC)*.

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About the Team

Information about the authors

Team Images	Team Bios
	**Doli Bambhania** is a Mathematics Instructor at De Anza College in Cupertino, CA, with over two decades of teaching experience. S he brings a vibrant energy and a student-centered approach to her work, striving to ensure success for students not just in her class but throughout their entire math journey. Doli has been involved in several programs aimed at removing barriers to math education, such as De Anza's Math Performance Success (MPS) and Learning in Communities (LinC) programs, and Statway. Additionally, she has developed open educational resources (OER) workbooks for algebra and statistics, reflecting her strong commitment to using OER materials in all her classes. Outside of teaching, Doli enjoys spending time with her family, playing games, hiking, dancing, and music.Doli received her Bachelors degree in Mathematics from University of California, San Diego, and Master degrees in Mathematics and Computer Science from University of California, Santa Barbara.
	**Rani Fischer** is a part-time instructor in the Mathematics Department at De Anza College and at the College of San Mateo teaching introductory courses for twenty years. She has degrees from Mount Holyoke College, the Longy School of Music, and the Boston University Wheelock College of Education & Human Development. Her guiding pedagogy is to do everything possible to help students find genuine success, even if it comes in little steps. Her goal is to help students overcome math phobia. This means teaching for understanding and always trying to answer the question "why?" At De Anza College, she has taught precalculus, calculus, and statistics in the Math Program for Success designed for underrepresented STEM majors for ten years. In addition, she serves at the Organist at St. Bede's Episcopal Church in Menlo Park and teaches piano lessons. In her spare time she advocates for biodiversity and enjoys hiking.

Team Images	Team Bios
	**Lisa Mesh** teaches mathematics and statistics at De Anza College. She received a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Dominican College, a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master of Arts degree in Statistics from Southern Methodist University.
	**Danny Tran** is a mathematics instructor at De Anza College, where he has been teaching for 14 years. His teaching philosophy is centered around collaborative and exploration-based learning, allowing students to engage with mathematical concepts in meaningful ways. He embraces modern teaching techniques to create an interactive and supportive classroom environment that fosters deep understanding. As a strong advocate for accessible education, he is committed to increasing free and low-cost resources to ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed in mathematics. Outside of teaching, Danny lives in San Jose with his wife and their two young children, who keep him constantly on the move. He enjoys hiking, traveling, playing and watching sports, and, most of all, chasing after his kids. His passion for discovery—both in the classroom and in life—drives his approach to teaching, and he is always looking for new ways to inspire and support his students.

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1: FUNCTIONS AND GRAPHS

Calculus is the mathematics that describes changes in functions. In this chapter, we review all the functions necessary to study calculus. We define polynomial, rational, trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions. We review how to evaluate these functions, and we show the properties of their graphs. We provide examples of equations with terms involving these functions and illustrate the algebraic techniques necessary to solve them. In short, this chapter provides the foundation for the material to come. It is essential to be familiar and comfortable with these ideas before proceeding to the formal introduction of calculus in the next chapter.

In the past few years, major earthquakes have occurred in several countries around the world. In January 2010, an earthquake of magnitude 7.3 hit Haiti. A magnitude 9 earthquake shook northeastern Japan in March 2011. In April 2014, an 8.2-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of northern Chile. What do these numbers mean? In particular, how does a magnitude 9 earthquake compare with an earthquake of magnitude 8.2? Or 7.3? Later in this chapter, we show how logarithmic functions are used to compare the relative intensity of two earthquakes based on the magnitude of each earthquake.



Figure 1.1: A portion of the San Andreas Fault in California. Major faults like this are the sites of most of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded. (Public Domain; NPS / Robb Hannawacker via Flickr)

1.1: Review of Functions

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1.1: Review of Functions

Learning Objectives

- Use function notation to evaluate a function.
- Determine the domain and range of a function.
- Draw the graph of a function.
- Find the zeros of a function.
- Recognize a function from a table of values.
- Make new functions from two or more given functions.
- Describe the symmetry properties of a function.

In this section, we provide a formal definition of a function and examine several ways in which functions are represented—namely, through tables, formulas, and graphs. We study formal notation and terms related to functions. We also define composition of functions and symmetry properties. Most of this material will be a review for you, but it serves as a handy reference to remind you of some of the algebraic techniques useful for working with functions.

Functions

Given two sets A and B a set with elements that are ordered pairs (x, y) where x is an element of A and y is an element of B, is a relation from A to B. A relation from A to B defines a relationship between those two sets. A function is a special type of relation in which each element of the first set is related to exactly one element of the second set. The element of the first set is called the ***input***; the element of the second set is called the ***output***. Functions are used all the time in mathematics to describe relationships between two sets. For any function, when we know the input, the output is determined, so we say that the output is a function of the input. For example, the area of a square is determined by its side length, so we say that the area (the output) is a function of its side length (the input). The velocity of a ball thrown in the air can be described as a function of the amount of time the ball is in the air. The cost of mailing a package is a function of the weight of the package. Since functions have so many uses, it is important to have precise definitions and terminology to study them.



Figure 1.1.1: An arrow pointing from “Input, x” indicates that the function, a box labeled “Function”, receives input x. An arrow pointing from the function to “Output, f(x)” indicates that the output value is f(x).

Definition: Functions

A *function* f consists of a set of inputs, a set of outputs, and a rule for assigning each input to exactly one output. The set of inputs is called the *domain* of the function. The set of outputs is called the *range* of the *function*.

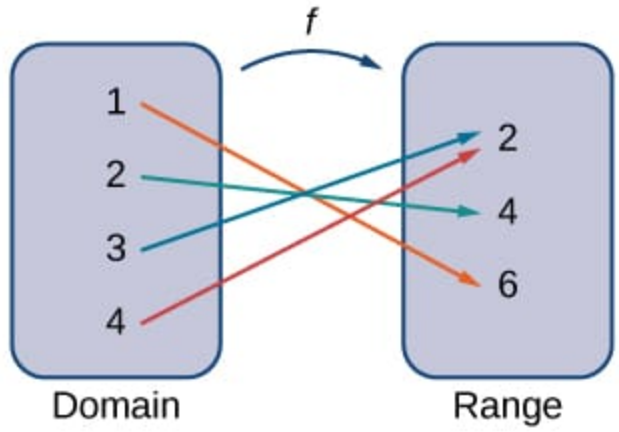


Figure 1.1.2: A function maps every element in the domain to exactly one element in the range. Although each input can be sent to only one output, two different inputs can be sent to the same output. In this example, input 1 is mapped to output 6, input 2 is mapped to output 4, input 3 is mapped to output 2, and input 4 is also mapped to output 2.

For example, consider the function f, where the domain is the set of all real numbers and the rule is to square the input. Then, the input $x = 3$ is assigned to the output $3^2 = 9$.

Since every nonnegative real number has a real-value square root, every nonnegative number is an element of the range of this function. Since there is no real number with a square that is negative, the negative real numbers are not elements of the range. We conclude that the range is the set of nonnegative real numbers.

For a general function f with domain D, we often use x to denote the input and y to denote the output associated with x. When doing so, we refer to x as the **independent variable** and y as the **dependent variable**, because it depends on x. Using function notation, we write $y = f(x)$, and we read this equation as "y equals f of x." For the squaring function described earlier, we write $f(x) = x^2$.

The concept of a function can be visualized using Figures 1.1.1 - 1.1.3.

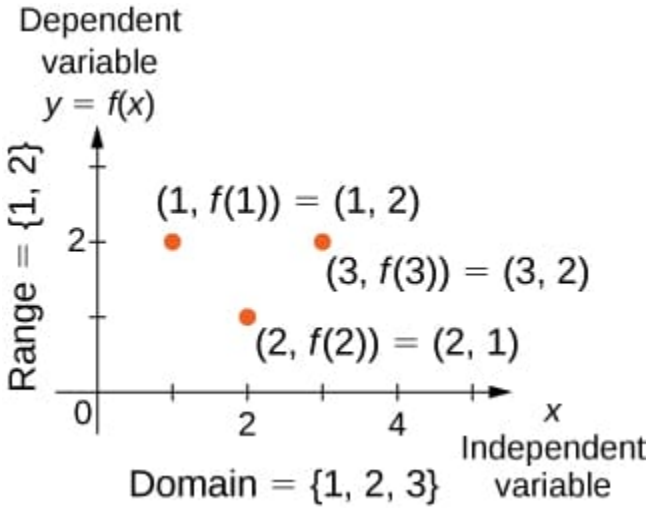


Figure 1.1.3: The graph of a function f has a domain of $\{1, 2, 3\}$ and a range of $\{1, 2\}$. The independent variable is x and the dependent variable is y, with points $(1, f(1)) = (1, 2)$, $(2, f(2)) = (2, 1)$, $(3, f(3)) = (3, 2)$ labeled.

We can also visualize a function by plotting points (x, y) in the coordinate plane where $y = f(x)$. The graph of a function is the set of all these points. For example, consider the function f, where the domain is the set $D = \{1, 2, 3\}$ and the rule is $f(x) = 3 - x$. In Figure 1.1.4, we plot a graph of this function.

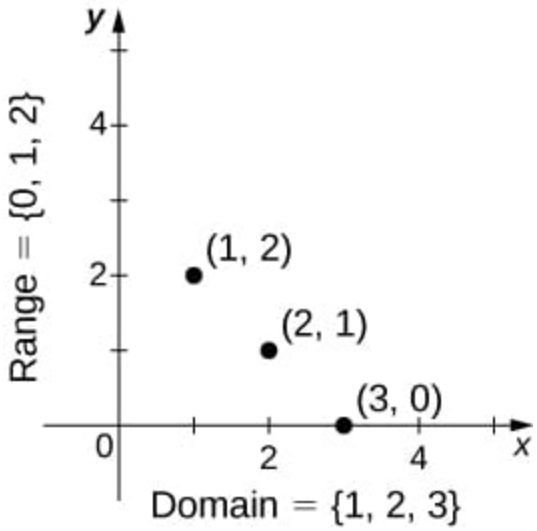


Figure 1.1.4: Here we see a graph of the function f with domain $\{1, 2, 3\}$ and rule $f(x) = 3 - x$. The graph consists of the points $(x, f(x))$ for all x in the domain. An image of a graph. The y axis runs from 0 to 5. The points $(1, 2), (2, 1), (3, 0)$ are labeled on the graph.

Every function has a domain. However, sometimes a function is described by an equation, as in $f(x) = x^2$, with no specific domain given. In this case, the domain is taken to be the set of all real numbers x for which $f(x)$ is a real number. For example, since any real number can be squared, if no other domain is specified, we consider the domain of $f(x) = x^2$ to be the set of all real numbers. On the other hand, the square root function $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ only gives a real output if x is nonnegative. Therefore, the domain of the function $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ is the set of nonnegative real numbers, sometimes called the natural domain.

For the functions $f(x) = x^2$ and $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$, the domains are sets with an infinite number of elements. Clearly we cannot list all these elements. When describing a set with an infinite number of elements, it is often helpful to use set-builder or interval notation. When using set-builder notation to describe a subset of all real numbers, denoted R, we write

$$\{x \,|\, x \ has \ some \ property\}.$$

We read this as the set of real numbers x such that x has some property. For example, if we were interested in the set of real numbers that are greater than one but less than five, we could denote this set using set-builder notation by writing

\[\{x\,|\,1

A set such as this, which contains all numbers greater than a and less than b, can also be denoted using the *interval notation* (a, b). Therefore,

\[(1,5)=\{x\,|\,1

The numbers 1 and 5 are called the endpoints of this set. If we want to consider the set that includes the endpoints, we would denote this set by writing

$$[1, 5] = \{x \,|\, 1 \leq x \leq 5\}.$$

We can use similar notation if we want to include one of the endpoints, but not the other. To denote the set of nonnegative real numbers, we would use the set-builder notation

$$\{x \,|\, x \geq 0\}.$$

The smallest number in this set is zero, but this set does not have a largest number. Using interval notation, we would use the symbol ∞, which refers to positive infinity, and we would write the set as

$$[0, \infty) = \{x \,|\, x \geq 0\}.$$

It is important to note that ∞ is not a real number. It is used symbolically here to indicate that this set includes all real numbers greater than or equal to zero. Similarly, if we wanted to describe the set of all nonpositive numbers, we could write

$$(-\infty, 0] = \{x \mid x \leq 0\}.$$

Here, the notation $-\infty$ refers to negative infinity, and it indicates that we are including all numbers less than or equal to zero, no matter how small. The set

$$(-\infty, \infty) = \{x \mid x \text{ is any real number}\}$$

refers to the set of all real numbers. Some functions are defined using different equations for different parts of their domain. These types of functions are known as piecewise-defined functions. For example, suppose we want to define a function f with a domain that is the set of all real numbers such that $f(x) = 3x + 1$ for $x \geq 2$ and $f(x) = x^2$ for $x < 2$. We denote this function by writing

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 3x + 1, & \text{if } x \geq 2 \\ x^2, & \text{if } x < 2 \end{cases}$$

When evaluating this function for an input x, the equation to use depends on whether $x \geq 2$ or $x < 2$. For example, since $5 > 2$, we use the fact that $f(x) = 3x + 1$ for $x \geq 2$ and see that $f(5) = 3(5) + 1 = 16$. On the other hand, for $x = -1$, we use the fact that $f(x) = x^2$ for $x < 2$ and see that $f(-1) = 1$.

Example 1.1.1: Evaluating Functions

For the function $f(x) = 3x^2 + 2x - 1$, evaluate:

a. $f(-2)$
b. $f(\sqrt{2})$
c. $f(a + h)$

Solution

Substitute the given value for x in the formula for $f(x)$.

a. $f(-2) = 3(-2)^2 + 2(-2) - 1 = 12 - 4 - 1 = 7$
b. $f(\sqrt{2}) = 3(\sqrt{2})^2 + 2\sqrt{2} - 1 = 6 + 2\sqrt{2} - 1 = 5 + 2\sqrt{2}$
c. $f(a + h) = 3(a + h)^2 + 2(a + h) - 1 = 3(a^2 + 2ah + h^2) + 2a + 2h - 1 = 3a^2 + 6ah + 3h^2 + 2a + 2h - 1$

Exercise 1.1.1

For $f(x) = x^2 - 3x + 5$, evaluate $f(1)$ and $f(a + h)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Example 1.1.2: Finding Domain and Range

For each of the following functions, determine the i. domain and ii. range.

a. $f(x) = (x - 4)^2 + 5$
b. $f(x) = \sqrt{3x + 2} - 1$
c. $f(x) = \dfrac{3}{x - 2}$

Solution

a. Consider $f(x) = (x - 4)^2 + 5$.

1.Since $f(x) = (x - 4)^2 + 5$ is a real number for any real number x, the domain of f is the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$.

2. Since $(x-4)^2 \geq 0$, we know $f(x) = (x-4)^2 + 5 \geq 5$. Therefore, the range must be a subset of $\{y \mid y \geq 5\}$. To show that every element in this set is in the range, we need to show that for a given y in that set, there is a real number x such that $f(x) = (x-4)^2 + 5 = y$. Solving this equation for x, we see that we need x such that

$$(x-4)^2 = y - 5.$$

This equation is satisfied as long as there exists a real number x such that

$$x - 4 = \pm\sqrt{y-5}$$

Since $y \geq 5$, the square root is well-defined. We conclude that for $x = 4 \pm \sqrt{y-5}$, $f(x) = y$, and therefore the range is $\{y \mid y \geq 5\}$.

b. Consider $f(x) = \sqrt{3x+2} - 1$.

1.To find the domain of f, we need the expression $3x + 2 \geq 0$. Solving this inequality, we conclude that the domain is $\{x \mid x \geq -2/3\}$.

2.To find the range of f, we note that since $\sqrt{3x+2} \geq 0$, $f(x) = \sqrt{3x+2} - 1 \geq -1$. Therefore, the range of f must be a subset of the set $\{y \mid y \geq -1\}$. To show that every element in this set is in the range of f, we need to show that for all y in this set, there exists a real number x in the domain such that $f(x) = y$. Let $y \geq -1$. Then, $f(x) = y$ if and only if

$$\sqrt{3x+2} - 1 = y.$$

Solving this equation for x, we see that x must solve the equation

$$\sqrt{3x+2} = y + 1.$$

Since $y \geq -1$, such an x could exist. Squaring both sides of this equation, we have $3x + 2 = (y+1)^2$.

Therefore, we need

$$3x = (y+1)^2 - 2,$$

which implies

$$x = \tfrac{1}{3}(y+1)^2 - \tfrac{2}{3}.$$

We just need to verify that x is in the domain of f. Since the domain of f consists of all real numbers greater than or equal to $\frac{-2}{3}$, and

$$\tfrac{1}{3}(y+1)^2 - \tfrac{2}{3} \geq -\tfrac{2}{3},$$

there does exist an x in the domain of f. We conclude that the range of f is $\{y \mid y \geq -1\}$.

c. Consider $f(x) = \dfrac{3}{x-2}$.

1.Since $3/(x-2)$ is defined when the denominator is nonzero, the domain is $\{x \mid x \neq 2\}$.

2.To find the range of f, we need to find the values of y such that there exists a real number x in the domain with the property that

$$\frac{3}{x-2} = y.$$

Solving this equation for x, we find that

$$x = \frac{3}{y} + 2.$$

Therefore, as long as $y \neq 0$, there exists a real number x in the domain such that $f(x) = y$. Thus, the range is $\{y \mid y \neq 0\}$.

Exercise 1.1.2

Find the domain and range for $f(x) = \sqrt{4 - 2x} + 5$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Representing Functions

Typically, a function is represented using one or more of the following tools:

- A table
- A graph
- A formula

We can identify a function in each form, but we can also use them together. For instance, we can plot on a graph the values from a table or create a table from a formula.

Tables

Functions described using a **table of values** arise frequently in real-world applications. Consider the following simple example. We can describe temperature on a given day as a function of time of day. Suppose we record the temperature every hour for a 24-hour period starting at midnight. We let our input variable x be the time after midnight, measured in hours, and the output variable y be the temperature x hours after midnight, measured in degrees Fahrenheit. We record our data in Table 1.1.1.

Table 1.1.1: Temperature as a Function of Time of Day

Hour After Midnight	Temperature(°F)	Hour After Midnight	Temperature(°F)
0	58	12	84
1	54	13	85
2	53	14	85
3	52	15	83
4	52	16	82
5	55	17	80
6	60	18	77
7	64	19	74
8	72	20	69
9	75	21	65
10	78	22	60
11	80	23	58

We can see from the table that temperature is a function of time, and the temperature decreases, then increases, and then decreases again. However, we cannot get a clear picture of the behavior of the function without graphing it.

Graphs

Given a function f described by a table, we can provide a visual picture of the function in the form of a graph. Graphing the temperatures listed in Table 1.1.1 can give us a better idea of their fluctuation throughout the day. Figure 1.1.5 shows the plot of

the temperature function.

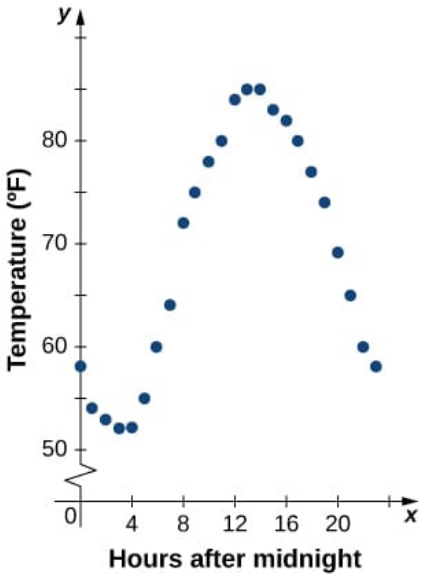


Figure $1.1.5$: The graph of the data from Table $1.1.1$ shows temperature as a function of time. The y axis runs from 0 to 90 and has the label "Temperature in Fahrenheit". The x axis runs from 0 to 24 and has the label "Hours after midnight". There are 24 points on the graph, one at each increment of 1 on the x-axis. The first point is at $(0, 58)$ and the function decreases until $x = 4$, where the point is $(4, 52)$ and is the minimum value of the function. After $x = 4$, the function increases until $x = 13$, where the point is $(13, 85)$ and is the maximum of the function along with the point $(14, 85)$. After $x = 14$, the function decreases until the last point on the graph, which is $(23, 58)$.

From the points plotted on the graph in Figure $1.1.5$, we can visualize the general shape of the graph. It is often useful to connect the dots in the graph, which represent the data from the table. In this example, although we cannot make any definitive conclusion regarding what the temperature was at any time for which the temperature was not recorded, given the number of data points collected and the pattern in these points, it is reasonable to suspect that the temperatures at other times followed a similar pattern, as we can see in Figure $1.1.6$.

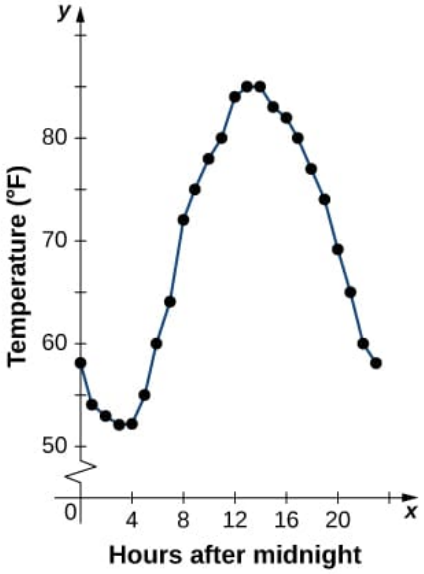


Figure $1.1.6$: Connecting the dots in Figure $1.1.5$ shows the general pattern of the data. Straight line segments are used to connect consecutive pairs of dots on the graph.

Algebraic Formulas

Sometimes we are not given the values of a function in table form, rather we are given the values in an explicit formula. Formulas

arise in many applications. For example, the area of a circle of radius r is given by the formula $A(r) = \pi r^2$. When an object is thrown upward from the ground with an initial velocity v_0 ft/s, its height above the ground from the time it is thrown until it hits the ground is given by the formula $s(t) = -16t^2 + v_0 t$. When P dollars are invested in an account at an annual interest rate r compounded continuously, the amount of money after t years is given by the formula $A(t) = Pe^{rt}$. Algebraic formulas are important tools to calculate function values. Often we also represent these functions visually in graph form.

Given an algebraic formula for a function f, the graph of f is the set of points $(x, f(x))$, where x is in the domain of f and $f(x)$ is in the range. To graph a function given by a formula, it is helpful to begin by using the formula to create a table of inputs and outputs. If the domain of f consists of an infinite number of values, we cannot list all of them, but because listing some of the inputs and outputs can be very useful, it is often a good way to begin.

When creating a table of inputs and outputs, we typically check to determine whether zero is an output. Those values of x where $f(x) = 0$ are called the zeros of a function. For example, the zeros of $f(x) = x^2 - 4$ are $x = \pm 2$. The zeros determine where the graph of f intersects the x-axis, which gives us more information about the shape of the graph of the function. The graph of a function may never intersect the x-axis, or it may intersect multiple (or even infinitely many) times.

Another point of interest is the y -intercept, if it exists. The y-intercept is given by $(0, f(0))$.

Since a function has exactly one output for each input, the graph of a function can have, at most, one y-intercept. If $x = 0$ is in the domain of a function f, then f has exactly one y-intercept. If $x = 0$ is not in the domain of f, then f has no y-intercept. Similarly, for any real number c, if c is in the domain of f, there is exactly one output $f(c)$, and the line $x = c$ intersects the graph of f exactly once. On the other hand, if c is not in the domain of f, $f(c)$ is not defined and the line $x = c$ does not intersect the graph of f. This property is summarized in the vertical line test.

Vertical Line Test

Given a function f, every vertical line that may be drawn intersects the graph of f no more than once. If any vertical line intersects a set of points more than once, the set of points does not represent a function.

We can use this test to determine whether a set of plotted points represents the graph of a function (Figure 1.1.7).

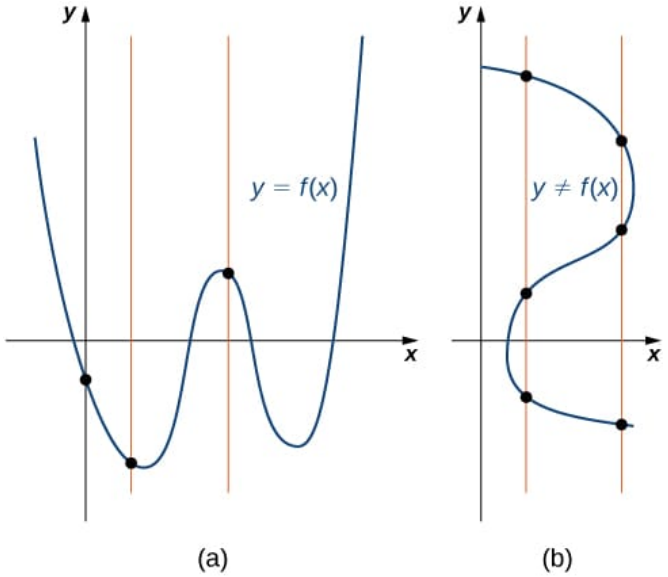


Figure 1.1.7: (a) The set of plotted points represents the graph of a function because every vertical line intersects the set of points, at most, once. Three vertical lines run through 3 points on the function, each vertical line only passing through the function once. (b) The set of plotted points does not represent the graph of a function because some vertical lines intersect the set of points more than once. Two vertical lines run through the relation, one line intercepting the relation at 3 points and the other line intercepting the relation at 3 different points.

Example 1.1.3: Finding Zeros and y-Intercepts of a Function

Consider the function $f(x) = -4x + 2$.

a. Find all zeros of f.
b. Find the y-intercept (if any).
c. Sketch a graph of f.

Solution

1.To find the zeros, solve $f(x) = -4x + 2 = 0$. We discover that f has one zero at $x = 1/2$.

2. The y-intercept is given by $(0, f(0)) = (0, 2)$.

3. Given that f is a linear function of the form $f(x) = mx + b$ that passes through the points $(1/2, 0)$ and $(0, 2)$, we can sketch the graph of f (Figure 1.1.8).

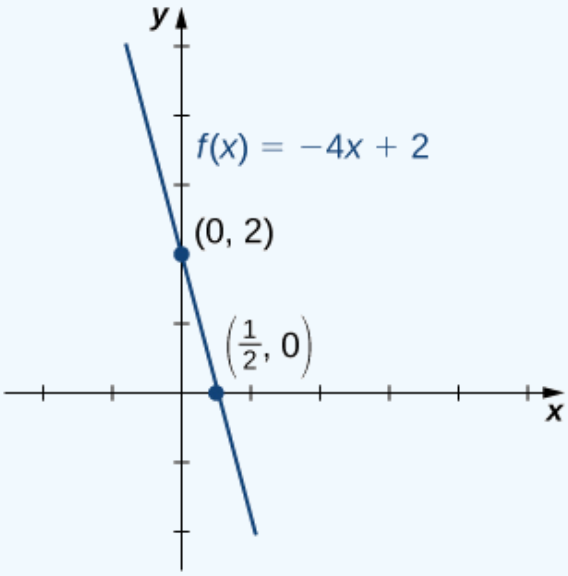


Figure 1.1.8: The function $f(x) = -4x + 2$ is a line with x-intercept $(1/2, 0)$ and y-intercept $(0, 2)$. There are two points plotted on the function at $(0, 2)$ and $(1/2, 0)$.

Example 1.1.4: Using Zeros and y-Intercepts to Sketch a Graph

Consider the function $f(x) = \sqrt{x + 3} + 1$.

a. Find all zeros of f.
b. Find the y-intercept (if any).
c. Sketch a graph of f.

Solution

1.To find the zeros, solve $\sqrt{x + 3} + 1 = 0$. This equation implies $\sqrt{x + 3} = -1$. Since $\sqrt{x + 3} \geq 0$ for all x, this equation has no solutions, and therefore f has no zeros.

2.The y-intercept is given by $(0, f(0)) = (0, \sqrt{3} + 1)$.

3.To graph this function, we make a table of values. Since we need $x + 3 \geq 0$, we need to choose values of $x \geq -3$. We choose values that make the square-root function easy to evaluate.

Table \)PageIndex{1}\): Table of values for the function $f(x) = \sqrt{x+3} + 1$.

x	-3	-2	1
$f(x)$	1	2	3

Making use of the table and knowing that, since the function is a square root, the graph of f should be similar to the graph of $y = \sqrt{x}$, we sketch the graph (Figure 1.1.9).

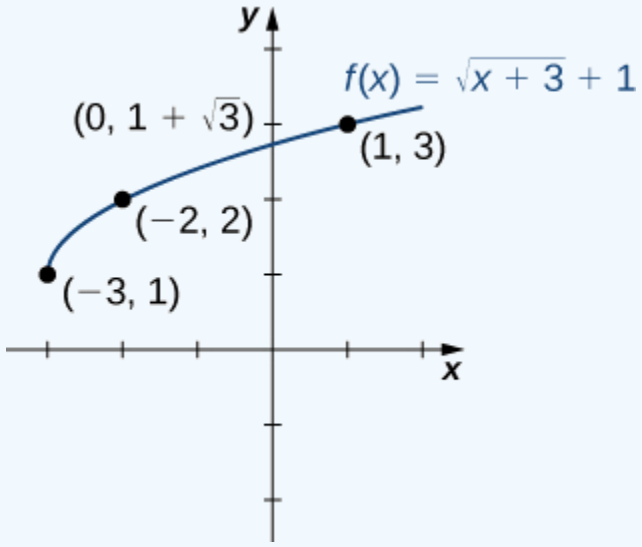


Figure 1.1.9: The graph of $f(x) = \sqrt{x+3} + 1$ has a y-intercept but no x-intercepts. The graph is an increasing curved function that starts at the point $(-3, 1)$. There are 3 points plotted on the function at $(-3, 1), (-2, 2), (1, 3)$. The function has a y-intercept at $(0, 1 + \sqrt{3})$.

Exercise 1.1.4

Find the zeros of $f(x) = x^3 - 5x^2 + 6x$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 1.1.5: Finding the Height of a Free-Falling Object

If a ball is dropped from a height of 100 ft, its height s at time t is given by the function $s(t) = -16t^2 + 100$, where s is measured in feet and t is measured in seconds. The domain is restricted to the interval $[0, c]$, where $t = 0$ is the time when the ball is dropped and $t = c$ is the time when the ball hits the ground.

a. Create a table showing the height s(t) when $t = 0,\ 0.5,\ 1,\ 1.5,\ 2$, and 2.5. Using the data from the table, determine the domain for this function. That is, find the time c when the ball hits the ground.
b. Sketch a graph of s.

Solution

Table 1.1.2: Table of values for](s(t)=-16t^2+100\)

t	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5
$s(t)$	100	96	84	64	36	0

Since the ball hits the ground when $t = 2.5$, the domain of this function is the interval $[0, 2.5]$.

2.

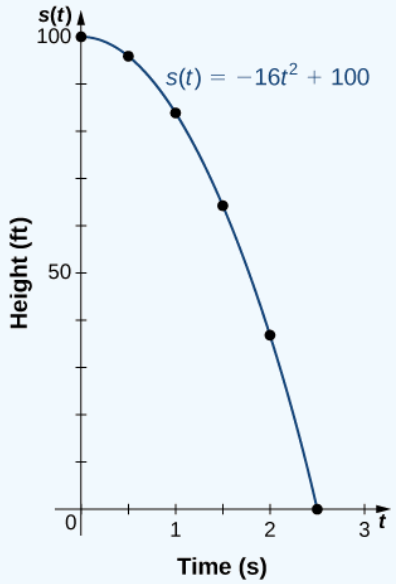


Figure 1.1.10: The graph of $s(t) = 16t^2 + 100 -$ has a vertical intercept at $(0, 100)$ and horizontal intercept at $(2.5, 0)$. The graph is a decreasing curved function with the rate of decrease increasing as the output values decrease.

Figure 1.1.8, the values of $f(x)$ are getting smaller as x is getting larger. A function with this property is said to be decreasing. On the other hand, for the function $f(x) = \sqrt{x+3} + 1$ graphed in Figure 1.1.9, the values of $f(x)$ are getting larger as the values of x are getting larger. A function with this property is said to be increasing. It is important to note, however, that a function can be increasing on some interval or intervals and decreasing over a different interval or intervals. For example, using our temperature function plotted above, we can see that the function is decreasing on the interval $(0, 4)$, increasing on the interval $(4, 14)$, and then decreasing on the interval $(14, 23)$. We make the idea of a function increasing or decreasing over a particular interval more precise in the next definition.

Definition: Increasing and Decreasing on an Interval

We say that a function f is ***increasing on the interval*** I if for all $x_1,\ x_2 \in I$,

$$f(x_1) \leq f(x_2) \text{ when } \backslash(x\_\{1\}$$

We say f is strictly increasing on the interval I if for all $x_1, x_2 \in I$,

$$\backslash(f(x\_\{1\})$$

We say that a function f is ***decreasing on the interval*** I if for all $x_1, x_2 \in I$,

$$f(x_1) \geq f(x_2) \text{ if } \backslash(x\_\{1\}$$

We say that a function f is strictly decreasing on the interval I if for all $x_1, x_2 \in I$,

$$f(x_1) > f(x_2) \text{ if } \backslash(x\_\{1\}$$

For example, the function $f(x) = 3x$ is increasing on the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$ because $3x_1 < 3x_2$ whenever \(x_{1}–x^3_{2}\) whenever \(x_{1}

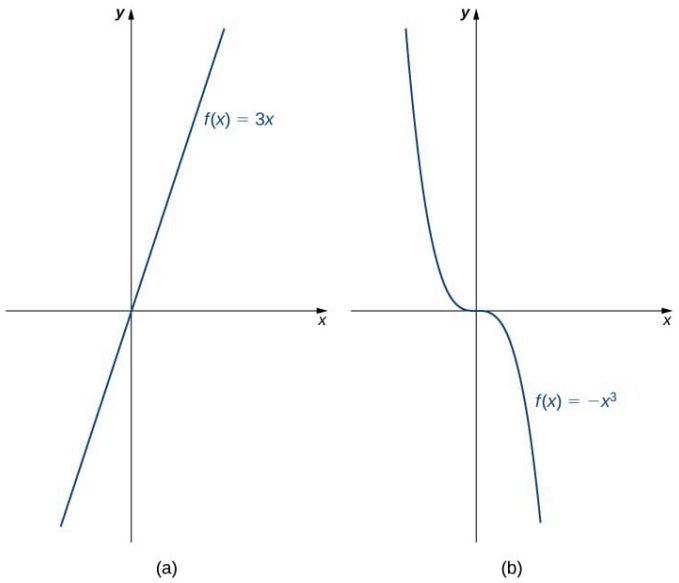


Figure 1.1.10: (a) The graph of the function $f(x) = 3x$ is a straight line, passing through the origin, with slope 3 increasing on the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$. (b) The graph of the function $f(x) = -x^3$ also passes through the origin and is decreasing on the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$. It has a curved graph that levels out at the origin.

Combining Functions

Now that we have reviewed the basic characteristics of functions, we can see what happens to these properties when we combine functions in different ways, using basic mathematical operations to create new functions. For example, if the cost for a company to manufacture x items is described by the function $C(x)$ and the revenue created by the sale of x items is described by the function $R(x)$, then the profit on the manufacture and sale of x items is defined as $P(x) = R(x) - C(x)$. Using the difference between two functions, we created a new function.

Alternatively, we can create a new function by composing two functions. For example, given the functions $f(x) = x^2$ and $g(x) = 3x + 1$, the composite function $f \circ g$ is defined such that

$$(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x)) = (g(x))^2 = (3x + 1)^2.$$

The composite function $g \circ f$ is defined such that

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x)) = 3f(x) + 1 = 3x^2 + 1.$$

Note that these two new functions are different from each other.

Combining Functions with Mathematical Operators

To combine functions using mathematical operators, we simply write the functions with the operator and simplify. Given two functions f and g, we can define four new functions:

Table 1.1.3: Combinations of functions f and g

Combined function	Operation
$(f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$	Sum
$(f - g)(x) = f(x) - g(x)$	Difference
$(f \cdot g)(x) = f(x)g(x)$	Product
$(\frac{f}{g})(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ for$g(x) \neq 0$	Quotient

Example 1.1.6: Combining Functions Using Mathematical Operations

Given the functions $f(x) = 2x - 3$ and $g(x) = x^2 - 1$, find each of the following functions and state its domain.

a. $(f + g)(x)$
b. $(f - g)(x)$
c. $(f \cdot g)(x)$
d. $\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)(x)$

Solution

1. $(f + g)(x) = (2x - 3) + (x^2 - 1) = x^2 + 2x - 4.$

The domain of this function is the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$.

2.$(f - g)(x) = (2x - 3) - (x^2 - 1) = -x^2 + 2x - 2.$

The domain of this function is the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$.

3. $(f \cdot g)(x) = (2x - 3)(x^2 - 1) = 2x^3 - 3x^2 - 2x + 3.$

The domain of this function is the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$.

4. $\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)(x) = \frac{2x - 3}{x^2 - 1}.$

The domain of this function is $\{x \mid x \neq \pm 1\}$.

Exercise 1.1.6

For $f(x) = x^2 + 3$ and $g(x) = 2x - 5$, find $(f/g)(x)$ and state its domain.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Function Composition

When we compose functions, we take a function of a function. For example, suppose the temperature T on a given day is described as a function of time t (measured in hours after midnight) as in Table 1.1.1. Suppose the cost C, to heat or cool a building for 1 hour, can be described as a function of the temperature T. Combining these two functions, we can describe the cost of heating or cooling a building as a function of time by evaluating $C(T(t))$. We have defined a new function, denoted $C \circ T$, which is defined such that $(C \circ T)(t) = C(T(t))$ for all t in the domain of T. This new function is called a composite function. We note that since cost is a function of temperature and temperature is a function of time, it makes sense to define this new function $(C \circ T)(t)$. It does not make sense to consider $(T \circ C)(t)$, because temperature is not a function of cost.

Definition: Composite Functions

Consider the function f with domain A and range B, and the function g with domain D and range E. If B is a subset of D, then the composite function $(g \circ f)(x)$ is the function with domain A such that

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x))$$

A composite function $g \circ f$ can be viewed in two steps. First, the function f maps each input x in the domain of f to its output $f(x)$

in the range of f. Second, since the range of f is a subset of the domain of g, the output $f(x)$ is an element in the domain of g, and therefore it is mapped to an output $g(f(x))$ in the range of g. In Figure 1.1.11, we see a visual image of a composite function.

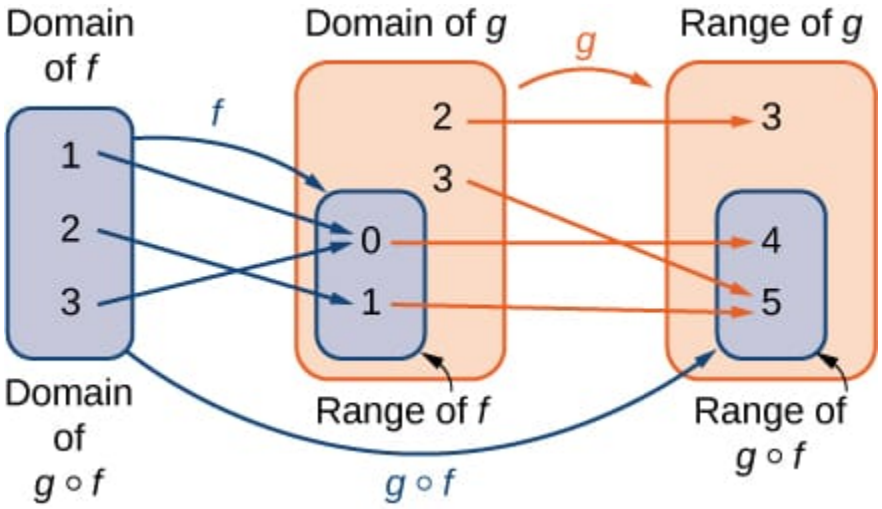


Figure 1.1.11: For the composite function $g \circ f$, we have $(g \circ f)(1) = 4$, $(g \circ f)(2) = 5$, and $(g \circ f)(3) = 4$. An image with three items. The first is a blue bubble that has two labels: "domain of f" and "domain of $g \circ f$". This item contains the numbers 1, 2, and 3. The second item is two bubbles: an orange bubble labeled "domain of g" and a blue bubble that is contained within the orange bubble and is labeled "range of f". The blue bubble contains the numbers 0 and 1, which are thus also contained within the larger orange bubble. The orange bubble contains two numbers not contained within the smaller blue bubble, which are 2 and 3. The third item is two bubbles: an orange bubble labeled "range of g" and a blue bubble that is completely contained within the orange bubble and is labeled "range of $g \circ f$". The blue bubble contains the numbers 4 and 5, which are thus also contained within the larger orange bubble. The orange bubble contains one number not contained within the smaller blue bubble, which is the number 3. The first item points has a blue arrow with the label "f" that points to the blue bubble in the second item. The orange bubble in the second item has an orange arrow labeled "g" that points the orange bubble in the third item. The first item has a blue arrow labeled "$g \circ f$" which points to the blue bubble in the third item. There are three blue arrows pointing from numbers in the first item to the numbers contained in the blue bubble of the second item. The first blue arrow points from the 1 to the 0, the second blue arrow points from the 2 to the 1, and the third blue arrow points from the 3 to the 0. There are 4 orange arrows pointing from the numbers contained in the orange bubble in the second item, including those also contained in the blue bubble of the second item, to the numbers contained in the orange bubble of the third item, including the numbers in the blue bubble of the third item. The first orange arrow points from 2 to 3, the second orange arrow points from 3 to 5, the third orange arrow points from 0 to 4, and the fourth orange arrow points from 1 to 5.

Example 1.1.7: Compositions of Functions Defined by Formulas

Consider the functions $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ and $g(x) = 1/x$.

a. Find $(g \circ f)(x)$ and state its domain and range.
b. Evaluate $(g \circ f)(4)$, $(g \circ f)(-1/2)$.
c. Find $(f \circ g)(x)$ and state its domain and range.
d. Evaluate $(f \circ g)(4)$, $(f \circ g)(-1/2)$.

Solution

1. We can find the formula for $(g \circ f)(x)$ in two different ways. We could write

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x)) = g(x^2 + 1) = \frac{1}{x^2 + 1}.$$

Alternatively, we could write

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x)) = \frac{1}{f(x)} = \frac{1}{x^2 + 1}.$$

Since $x^2+1 \neq 0$ for all real numbers x, the domain of $(g \circ f)(x)$ is the set of all real numbers. Since $0 < 1/(x^2+1) \leq 1$, the range is, at most, the interval $(0,1]$. To show that the range is this entire interval, we let $y = 1/(x^2+1)$ and solve this equation for x to show that for all y in the interval $(0,1]$, there exists a real number x such that $y = 1/(x^2+1)$. Solving this equation for x, we see that $x^2+1 = 1/y$, which implies that

$$x = \pm\sqrt{\tfrac{1}{y} - 1}$$

If y is in the interval $(0,1]$, the expression under the radical is nonnegative, and therefore there exists a real number x such that $1/(x^2+1) = y$. We conclude that the range of $g \circ f$ is the interval $(0,1]$.

2. $(g \circ f)(4) = g(f(4)) = g(4^2+1) = g(17) = \frac{1}{17}$

$(g \circ f)(-\frac{1}{2}) = g(f(-\frac{1}{2})) = g((-\frac{1}{2})^2+1) = g(\frac{5}{4}) = \frac{4}{5}$

3. We can find a formula for $(f \circ g)(x)$ in two ways. First, we could write

$$(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x)) = f(\tfrac{1}{x}) = (\tfrac{1}{x})^2 + 1.$$

Alternatively, we could write

$$(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x)) = (g(x))^2 + 1 = (\tfrac{1}{x})^2 + 1.$$

The domain of $f \circ g$ is the set of all real numbers x such that $x \neq 0$. To find the range of f, we need to find all values y for which there exists a real number $x \neq 0$ such that

$$\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^2 + 1 = y.$$

Solving this equation for x, we see that we need x to satisfy

$$\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)^2 = y - 1,$$

which simplifies to

$$\frac{1}{x} = \pm\sqrt{y-1}$$

Finally, we obtain

$$x = \pm\frac{1}{\sqrt{y-1}}.$$

Since $1/\sqrt{y-1}$ is a real number if and only if $y > 1$, the range of f is the set $\{y \mid y \geq 1\}$.

4.$(f \circ g)(4) = f(g(4)) = f(\frac{1}{4}) = (\frac{1}{4})^2 + 1 = \frac{17}{16}$

$(f \circ g)(-\frac{1}{2}) = f(g(-\frac{1}{2})) = f(-2) = (-2)^2 + 1 = 5$

In Example 1.1.7, we can see that $(f \circ g)(x) \neq (g \circ f)(x)$. This tells us, in general terms, that the order in which we compose functions matters.

Exercise 1.1.7

Let $f(x) = 2 - 5x$. Let $g(x) = \sqrt{x}$. Find $(f \circ g)(x)$.

Solution

$(f \circ g)(x) = 2 - 5\sqrt{x}$.

Example 1.1.8: Composition of Functions Defined by Tables

Consider the functions f and g described by

Table 1.1.4: Table of values for the function f

x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
$f(x)$	0	4	2	4	-2	0	-2	4

Table 1.1.5: Table of values for the function g

x	-4	-2	0	2	4
$g(x)$	1	0	3	0	5

a. Evaluate $(g \circ f)(3)$,$(g \circ f)(0)$.
b. State the domain and range of $(g \circ f)(x)$.
c. Evaluate $(f \circ f)(3)$,$(f \circ f)(1)$.
d. State the domain and range of $(f \circ f)(x)$.

Solution:

1. $(g \circ f)(3) = g(f(3)) = g(-2) = 0$

$(g \circ f)(0) = g(4) = 5$

2.The domain of $g \circ f$ is the set $\{-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$. Since the range of f is the set $\{-2, 0, 2, 4\}$, the range of $g \circ f$ is the set $\{0, 3, 5\}$.

3. $(f \circ f)(3) = f(f(3)) = f(-2) = 4$

$(f \circ f)(1) = f(f(1)) = f(-2) = 4$

4.The domain of $f \circ f$ is the set $\{-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$. Since the range of f is the set $\{-2, 0, 2, 4\}$, the range of $f \circ f$ is the set $\{0, 4\}$.

Example 1.1.9: Application Involving a Composite Function

A store is advertising a sale of 20% off all merchandise. Caroline has a coupon that entitles her to an additional 15% off any item, including sale merchandise. If Caroline decides to purchase an item with an original price of x dollars, how much will she end up paying if she applies her coupon to the sale price? Solve this problem by using a composite function.

Solution

Since the sale price is 20% off the original price, if an item is x dollars, its sale price is given by $f(x) = 0.80x$. Since the coupon entitles an individual to 15% off the price of any item, if an item is y dollars, the price, after applying the coupon, is given by g(y)=0.85y. Therefore, if the price is originally x dollars, its sale price will be $f(x) = 0.80x$ and then its final price after the coupon will be $g(f(x)) = 0.85(0.80x) = 0.68x$.

Exercise 1.1.9

If items are on sale for 10% off their original price, and a customer has a coupon for an additional 30% off, what will be the final price for an item that is originally x dollars, after applying the coupon to the sale price?

Hint

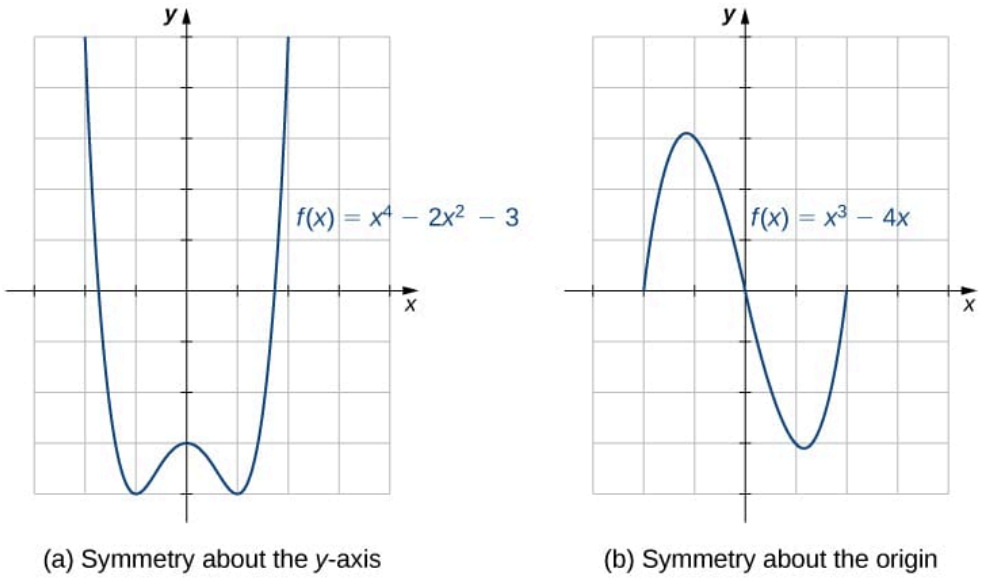
The sale price of an item with an original price of x dollars is $f(x) = 0.90x$. The coupon price for an item that is y dollars is $g(y) = 0.70y$.

Solution

$(g \circ f)(x) = 0.63x$

Symmetry of Functions

The graphs of certain functions have symmetry properties that help us understand the function and the shape of its graph. For example, consider the function $f(x) = x^4 - 2x^2 - 3$ shown in Figure $1.1.12a$. If we take the part of the curve that lies to the right of the y-axis and flip it over the y-axis, it lays exactly on top of the curve to the left of the y-axis. In this case, we say the function has **symmetry about the y-axis**. On the other hand, consider the function $f(x) = x^3 - 4x$ shown in Figure $1.1.12b$. If we take the graph and rotate it 180 ° about the origin, the new graph will look exactly the same. In this case, we say the function has **symmetry about the origin**.



(a) Symmetry about the y-axis (b) Symmetry about the origin

Figure $1.1.12$: (a) A graph that is symmetric about the y-axis. The x-axis runs from -3 to 4 and the y-axis runs from -4 to 5. This function decreases until it hits the point $(-1, -4)$, which is a minimum of the function. Then the graph increases to the point $(0, 3)$, which is a local maximum. Then the the graph decreases until it hits the point $(1, -4)$, before it increases again. (b) A graph that is symmetric about the origin. The x-axis runs from -3 to 4 and the y-axis runs from -4 to 5. The graph of the function starts at the x-intercept at $(-2, 0)$ and increases until the approximate point of $(-1.2, 3.1)$. The function then decreases, passing through the origin, until it hits the approximate point of $(1.2, -3.1)$. The function then begins to increase again and has another x-intercept at $(2, 0)$.

If we are given the graph of a function, it is easy to see whether the graph has one of these symmetry properties. But without a graph, how can we determine algebraically whether a function f has symmetry? Looking at Figure $1.1.12a$ again, we see that since f is symmetric about the y-axis, if the point (x, y) is on the graph, the point $(-x, y)$ is on the graph. In other words, $f(-x) = f(x)$. If a function f has this property, we say f is an even function, which has symmetry about the y-axis. For example, $f(x) = x^2$ is even because

$$f(-x) = (-x)^2 = x^2 = f(x).$$

In contrast, looking at Figure $1.1.12b$ again, if a function f is symmetric about the origin, then whenever the point (x, y) is on the graph, the point $(-x, -y)$ is also on the graph. In other words, $f(-x) = -f(x)$. If f has this property, we say f is an odd function, which has symmetry about the origin. For example, $f(x) = x^3$ is odd because

$$f(-x) = (-x)^3 = -x^3 = -f(x).$$

Definition: Even and Odd Functions

- If $f(x) = f(-x)$ for all x in the domain of f, then f is an *even* function. An even function is symmetric about the y-axis.
- If $f(-x) = -f(x)$ for all x in the domain of f, then f is an *odd* function. An odd function is symmetric about the origin.

Example 1.1.10: Even and Odd Functions

Determine whether each of the following functions is even, odd, or neither.

a. $f(x) = -5x^4 + 7x^2 - 2$
b. $f(x) = 2x^5 - 4x + 5$
c. $f(x) = \frac{3x}{x^2+1}$

Solution

To determine whether a function is even or odd, we evaluate $f(-x)$ and compare it to $f(x)$ and $-f(x)$.

1. $f(-x) = -5(-x)^4 + 7(-x)^2 - 2 = -5x^4 + 7x^2 - 2 = f(x)$. Therefore, f is even.

2.$f(-x) = 2(-x)^5 - 4(-x) + 5 = -2x^5 + 4x + 5$. Now, $f(-x) \neq f(x)$. Furthermore, noting that $-f(x) = -2x^5 + 4x - 5$, we see that $f(-x) \neq -f(x)$. Therefore, f is neither even nor odd.

3.$f(-x) = 3(-x)/((-x)2 + 1) = -3x/(x^2 + 1) = -[3x/(x^2 + 1)] = -f(x)$. Therefore, f is odd.

Exercise 1.1.10

Determine whether $f(x) = 4x^3 - 5x$ is even, odd, or neither.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

One symmetric function that arises frequently is the **absolute value function**, written as $|x|$. The absolute value function is defined as

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x, & \text{if } x < 0 \\ x, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

Some students describe this function by stating that it "makes everything positive." By the definition of the absolute value function, we see that if $x < 0$, then $|x| = -x > 0$, and if $x > 0$, then $|x| = x > 0$. However, for $x = 0$, $|x| = 0$. Therefore, it is more accurate to say that for all nonzero inputs, the output is positive, but if $x = 0$, the output $|x| = 0$. We conclude that the range of the absolute value function is $\{y \mid y \geq 0\}$. In Figure 1.1.13, we see that the absolute value function is symmetric about the y-axis and is therefore an even function.

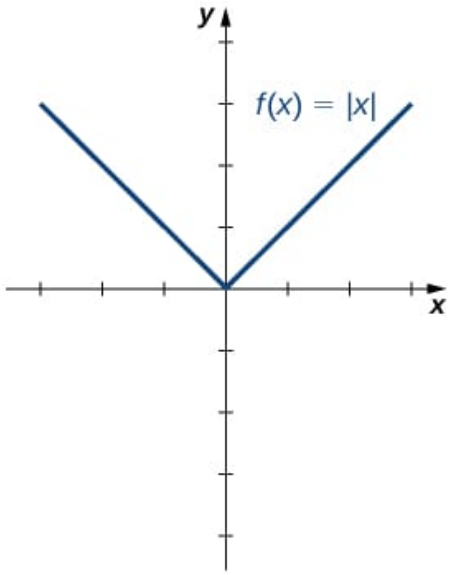


Figure 1.1.13: The graph of $f(x) = |x|$ is symmetric about the y-axis. The graph starts at the point $(-3, 3)$ and decreases in a straight line until it hits the origin. Then the graph increases in a straight line until it hits the point $(3, 3)$.

Example 1.1.11: Working with the Absolute Value Function

Find the domain and range of the function $f(x) = 2|x - 3| + 4$.

Solution

Since the absolute value function is defined for all real numbers, the domain of this function is $(-\infty, \infty)$. Since $|x - 3| \geq 0$ for all x, the function $f(x) = 2|x - 3| + 4 \geq 4$. Therefore, the range is, at most, the set $\{y \mid y \geq 4\}$. To see that the range is, in fact, this whole set, we need to show that for $y \geq 4$ there exists a real number x such that

$$2|x - 3| + 4 = y$$

A real number x satisfies this equation as long as

$$|x - 3| = \tfrac{1}{2}(y - 4)$$

Since $y \geq 4$, we know $y - 4 \geq 0$, and thus the right-hand side of the equation is nonnegative, so it is possible that there is a solution. Furthermore,

$$|x - 3| = \begin{cases} -(x - 3), & \text{if } x < 3 \\ x - 3, & \text{if } x \geq 3 \end{cases}$$

Therefore, we see there are two solutions:

$$x = \pm\tfrac{1}{2}(y - 4) + 3.$$

The range of this function is $\{y \mid y \geq 4\}$.

Exercise 1.1.11: Domain and Range

For the function $f(x) = |x + 2| - 4$, find the domain and range.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- A function is a mapping from a set of inputs to a set of outputs with exactly one output for each input.
- If no domain is stated for a function $y = f(x)$, the domain is considered to be the set of all real numbers x for which the function is defined.
- When sketching the graph of a function f, each vertical line may intersect the graph, at most, once.
- A function may have any number of zeros, but it has, at most, one y-intercept.
- To define the composition $g \circ f$, the range of f must be contained in the domain of g.
- Even functions are symmetric about the y-axis whereas odd functions are symmetric about the origin.

Key Equations

- **Composition of two functions**

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g\big(f(x)\big)$$

- **Absolute value function**

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x, & \text{if } x < 0 \\ x, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

Glossary

Absolute value function
$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x, & \text{if } x < 0 \\ x, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

Composite function
Given two functions f and g, a new function, denoted $g \circ f$, such that $(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x))$

Decreasing on the interval I
A function decreasing on the interval I if, for all $x_1,\ x_2 \in I,\ \ f(x_1) \geq f(x_2)$ if \(x_1

Dependent variable
The output variable for a function

Domain
The set of inputs for a function

Even function
A function is even if $f(-x) = f(x)$ for all x in the domain of f

Function
A set of inputs, a set of outputs, and a rule for mapping each input to exactly one output

Graph of a function
The set of points (x, y) such that x is in the domain of f and $y = f(x)$

Increasing on the interval I
A function increasing on the interval I if for all $x_1,\ x_2 \in I,\ \ f(x_1) \leq f(x_2)$ if \(x_1

Independent variable
The input variable for a function

Odd function
A function is odd if $f(-x) = -f(x)$ for all x in the domain of f

Range
The set of outputs for a function

Symmetry about the origin
The graph of a function f is symmetric about the origin if $(-x,-y)$ is on the graph of f whenever (x,y) is on the graph

Symmetry about the y-axis
The graph of a function f is symmetric about the y-axis if $(-x,y)$ is on the graph of f whenever (x,y) is on the graph

Table of values
A table containing a list of inputs and their corresponding outputs

Vertical line test
Given the graph of a function, every vertical line intersects the graph, at most, once

Zeros of a function
When a real number x is a zero of a function f, $f(x)=0$

Answers

Exercise $1.1.1$
Substitute 1 and $a+h$ for x in the formula for $f(x)$.
$f(1)=3$ and $f(a+h)=a^2+2ah+h^2-3a-3h+5$

Exercise $1.1.2$
Use $4-2x\geq 0$.
Domain = $\{x \mid x\leq 2\}$ and range = $\{y \mid y\geq 5\}$

Exercise $1.1.4$
Factor the polynomial.

Exercise $1.1.4$
$x=0,2,3$

Exercise $1.1.6$
The new function $(f/g)(x)$ is a quotient of two functions. For what values of x is the denominator zero?

Exercise $1.1.6$
$\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)(x)=\frac{x^2+3}{2x-5}$. The domain is $\{x \mid x\neq \frac{5}{2}\}$.

Exercise $1.1.10$
Compare $f(-x)$ with $f(x)$ and $-f(x)$.

Exercise $1.1.10$
$f(x)$ is odd.

Exercise $1.1.11$**: Domain and Range**
$|x+2|\geq 0$ for all real numbers x.

Exercise $1.1.11$**: Domain and Range**
Domain = $(-\infty,\infty)$, range = $\{y \mid y\geq -4\}$.

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1.1E: Exercises for Section 1.1

Exercises 1 - 6

a. **Determine the domain and the range of each relation**
b. **State whether the relation is a function.**

1.

Table $1.1E.1$*: Table of input-output values*

x	y	x	y
-3	9	1	1
-2	4	2	4
-1	1	3	9
0	0		

Answer

a. Domain = $\{-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3\}$, Range = $\{0, 1, 4, 9\}$

b. Yes, a function

2.

Table $1.1E.2$*: Table of input-output values*

x	y	x	y
-3	-2	1	1
-2	-8	2	8
-1	-1	3	-2
0	0		

3.

Table $1.1E.3$*: Table of input-output values*

x	y	x	y
1	-3	1	1
2	-2	2	2
3	-1	3	3
0	0		

Answer

a. Domain = $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$, Range = $\{-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3\}$

b. No, not a function

4.

Table 1.1E.4: Table of input-output values

x	y	x	y
1	1	5	1
2	1	6	1
3	1	7	1
4	1		

5.

Table 1.1E.5: Table of input-output values

x	y	x	y
3	3	15	1
5	2	21	2
8	1	33	3
10	0		

Answer

a. Domain = $\{3, 5, 8, 10, 15, 21, 33\}$, Range = $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$

b. Yes, a function

6.

Table \({1[.]1E[.]\eatSpaces{6\): Table of input-output values

x	y	x	y
-7	11	1	-2
-2	5	3	4
-2	1	6	11
0	-1		

Exercises 7 - 13

Find the values for each function, if they exist, then simplify.

a. $f(0)$
b. $f(1)$
c. $f(3)$
d. $f(-x)$
e. $f(a)$
f. $f(a+h)$

7. $f(x) = 5x - 2$

Answer

a. -2 b. 3 c. 13 d. $-5x - 2$ e. $5a - 2$ f. $5a + 5h - 2$

8. $f(x) = 4x^2 - 3x + 1$
9. Extra close brace or missing open brace

Answer

a. Undefined b. 2 c. $\frac{2}{3}$ d. $-\frac{2}{x}$ e. $\frac{2}{a}$ f. $\frac{2}{a+h}$

10. $f(x) = |x-7|+8$
11. $f(x) = \sqrt{6x+5}$

Answer

a. $\sqrt{5}$ b. $\sqrt{11}$ c. $\sqrt{23}$ d. $\sqrt{-6x+5}$ e. $\sqrt{6a+5}$ f. $\sqrt{6a+6h+5}$

12. $f(x) = \dfrac{x-2}{3x+7}$
13. $f(x) = 9$

Answer

a. 9 b. 9 c. 9 d. 9 e. 9 f. 9

Exercises 14 - 21

Find the domain, range, and all zeros/intercepts, if any, of the functions.

14. $f(x) = \dfrac{x}{x^2-16}$
15. $g(x) = \sqrt{8x-1}$

Answer

$x \geq \frac{1}{8}$; $y \geq 0$; $x = \frac{1}{8}$; no y-intercept

16. $h(x) = \dfrac{3}{x^2+4}$
17. $f(x) = -1+\sqrt{x+2}$

Answer

$x \geq -2$; $y \geq -1$; $x = -1$; $y = -1+\sqrt{2}$

18. $f(x) = 1x - \sqrt{9}$
19. $g(x) = \dfrac{3}{x-4}$

Answer

$x \neq 4$; $y \neq 0$; no x-intercept; $y = -\frac{3}{4}$

20. $f(x) = 4|x+5|$
21. $g(x) = \sqrt{\dfrac{7}{x-5}}$

Answer

$x > 5$; $y > 0$; no intercepts

Exercises 22 - 27

Set up a table to sketch the graph of each function using the following values: $x = -3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3.$

22. $f(x) = x^2+1$

Table 1.1E.7: Table of input-output values for the function f

x	y	x	y
-3	10	1	2

x	y	x	y
-2	5	2	5
-1	2	3	10
0	1		

23. $f(x) = 3x - 6$

Table $1.1E.8$*: Table of input-output values for the function* f

x	y	x	y
-3	-15	1	-3
-2	-12	2	0
-1	-9	3	3
0	-6		

Answer

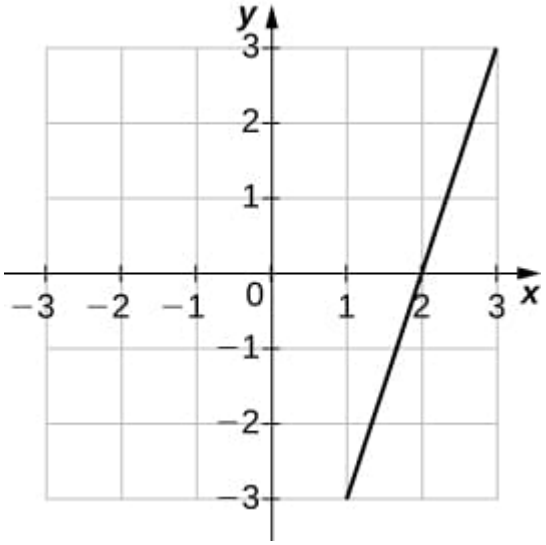


Figure $1.1E.1$: The x-axis runs from -3 to 3 and the y-axis runs from -3 to 3. The graph is of the function $f(x) = 3x - 6$, which is an increasing straight line. The function has an x-intercept at $(2, 0)$ and the y-intercept is not shown.

24. $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x + 1$

Table $1.1E.9$*: Table of input-output values for the function* f

x	y	x	y
-3	$-\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{3}{2}$
-2	0	2	2
-1	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	$\frac{5}{2}$
0	1		

25. $f(x) = 2|x|$

Table 1.1E.10: Table of input-output values for the function f

x	y	x	y
-3	6	1	2
-2	4	2	4
-1	2	3	6
0	0		

Answer

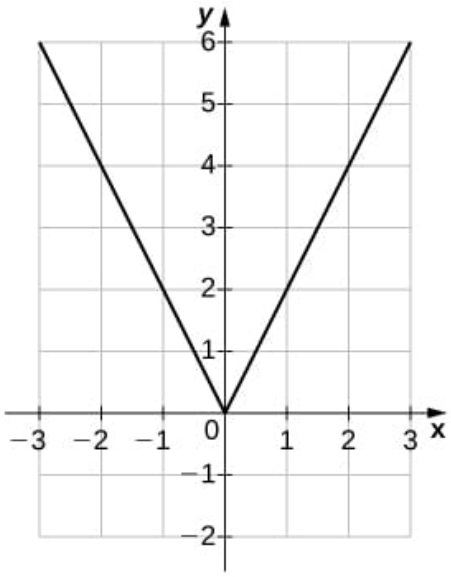


Figure 1.1E.2: The x-axis runs from -3 to 3 and the y-axis runs from -2 to 6. The graph is of the function $f(x) = 2|x|$. The function decreases in a straight line until it hits the origin, then begins to increase in a straight line. The x intercept and y intercept are both at the origin.

26. $f(x) = -x^2$

Table 1.1E.11: Table of input-output values for the function f

x	y	x	y
-3	-9	1	-1
-2	-4	2	-4
-1	-1	3	-9
0	0		

27. $f(x) = x^3$

Table 1.1E.12: Table of input-output values for the function f

x	y	x	y
-3	-27	1	1
-2	-8	2	8
-1	-1	3	27
0	0		

Answer

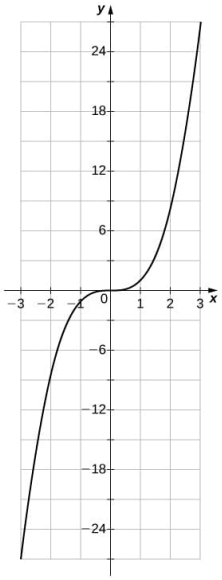


Figure $1.1E.3$: The x-axis runs from -3 to 3 and the y-axis runs from -27 to 27. The graph is of the function $f(x) = x^3$. The curved function increases until it hits the origin, where it levels out and then becomes even. After the origin the graph begins to increase again. The x intercept and y intercept are both at the origin.

Exercises 28 - 35

Use the vertical line test to determine whether each of the given graphs represents a function. Assume that a graph continues at both ends if it extends beyond the given grid. If the graph represents a function, then determine the following for each graph:

a. **Domain and range**
b. x **-intercept, if any (estimate where necessary)**
c. y**-Intercept, if any (estimate where necessary)**
d. **The intervals for which the function is increasing**
e. **The intervals for which the function is decreasing**
f. **The intervals for which the function is constant**
g. **Symmetry about any axis and/or the origin**
h. **Whether the function is even, odd, or neither**

28.

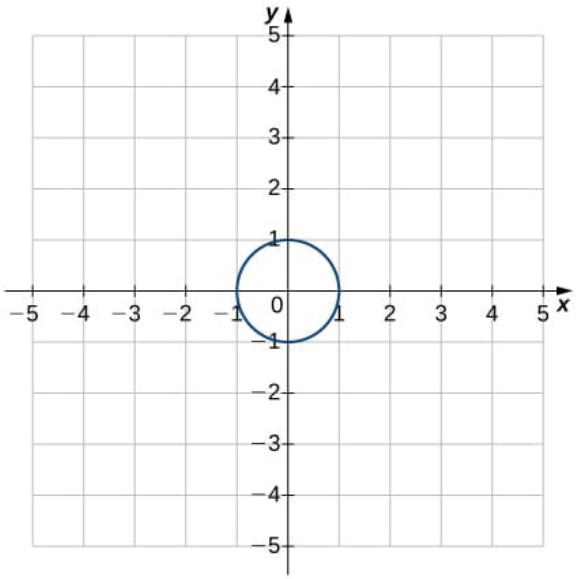


Figure $1.1E.4$: The x-axis runs from -5 to 5 and the y-axis runs from -5 to 5. The graph is of a relation that is circle, with x- intercepts at $(-1, 0)$ and $(1, 0)$ and y-intercepts at $(0, 1)$ and $(0, -1)$.

29.

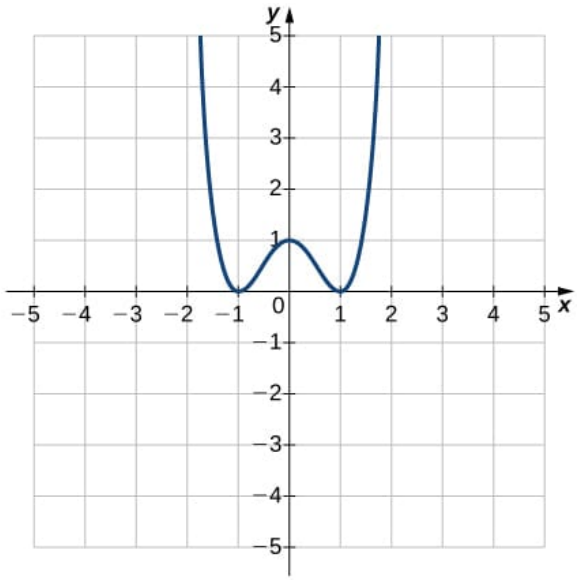


Figure $1.1E.5$: The x-axis runs from -5 to 5 and the y-axis runs from -5 to 5. The graph is of a function that is curved. The function decreases until it hits the point $-1, 0)$, then increases until it hits the point $(0, 1)$, then decreases until it hits the point $(1, 0)$, then increases again. The graph is symmetric about the y-axis.

Answer

Function;

a. Domain: all real numbers, range: $y \geq 0$
b. $x = \pm 1$
c. $y = 1$
d. \(–1
e. \(–∞
f. Not constant
g. y-axis
h. Even

30.

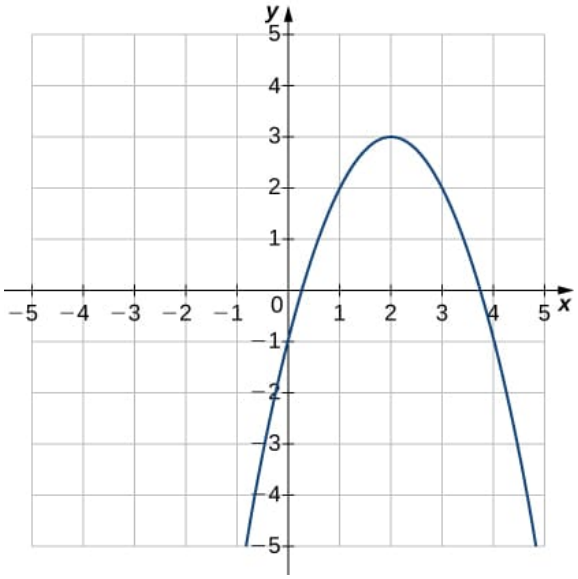


Figure $1.1E.6$: The x-axis runs from -5 to 5 and the y-axis runs from -5 to 5. The graph is of a relation that is a parabola. The curved relation increases until it hits the point $(2, 3)$, then begins to decrease. The approximate x-intercepts are at $(0.3, 0)$ and $(3.7, 0)$ and the y-intercept is is $(-1, 0)$.

31.

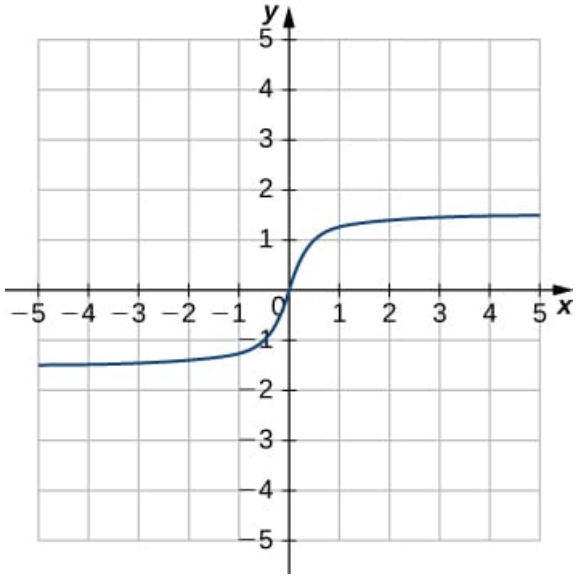


Figure $1.1E.7$: The x-axis runs from -5 to 5 and the y-axis runs from -5 to 5. The graph is of a relation that is curved. The curved relation increases the entire time. The x-intercept and y-intercept are both at the origin.

Answer

Function;

a. Domain: all real numbers, range: $-1.5 \leq y \leq 1.5$
b. $x = 0$
c. $y = 0$
d. all real numbers
e. None
f. Not constant
g. Origin
h. Odd

32.

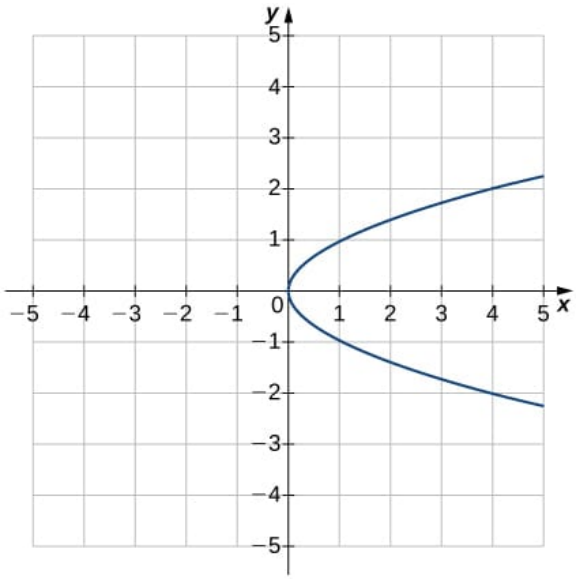


Figure $1.1E.8$: The x-axis runs from -5 to 5 and the y-axis runs from -5 to 5. The graph is of a relation that is a sideways parabola, opening up to the right. The x-intercept and y-intercept are both at the origin and the relation has no points to the left of the y-axis. The relation includes the points $(1, -1)$ and $(1, 1)$.

33.

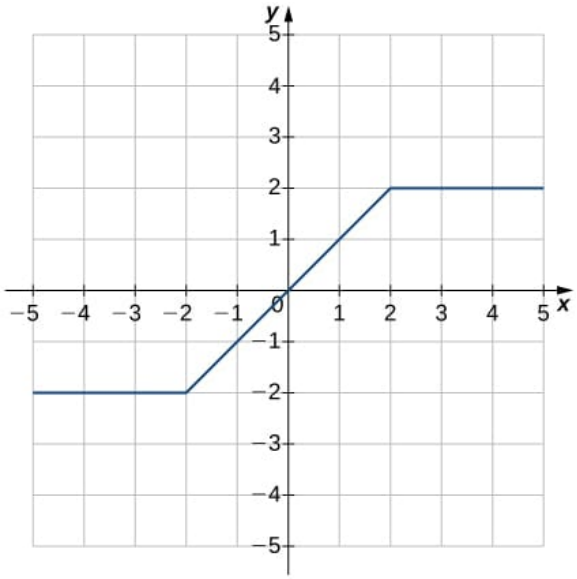


Figure $1.1E.9$: The x-axis runs from -5 to 5 and the y-axis runs from -5 to 5. The graph is of a relation that is a horizontal line until the point $(-2, -2)$, then it begins increasing in a straight line until the point $(2, 2)$. After these points, the relation becomes a horizontal line again. The x -intercept and y-intercept are both at the origin.

Answer

Function;

a. Domain: \(−∞
b. $x = 0$
c. $y = 0$
d. \(−2
e. Not decreasing
f. \(−∞
g. Origin
h. Odd

34.

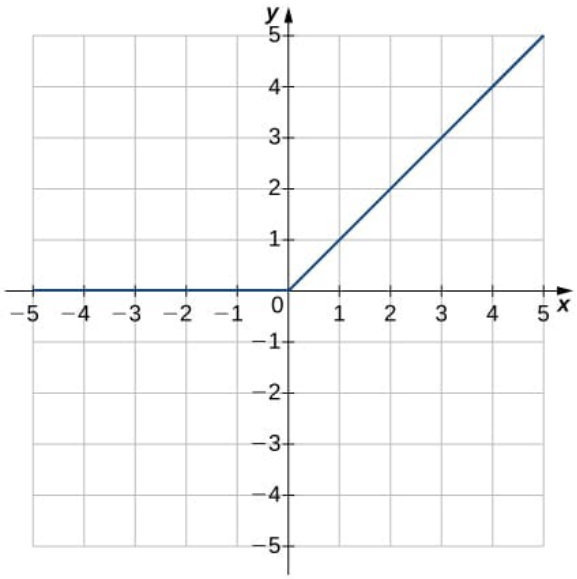


Figure $1.1E.10$: The x-axis runs from -5 to 5 and the y-axis runs from -5 to 5. The graph is of a relation that is a horizontal line until the origin, then it begins increasing in a straight line. The x-intercept and y-intercept are both at the origin and there are no points below the x-axis.

35.

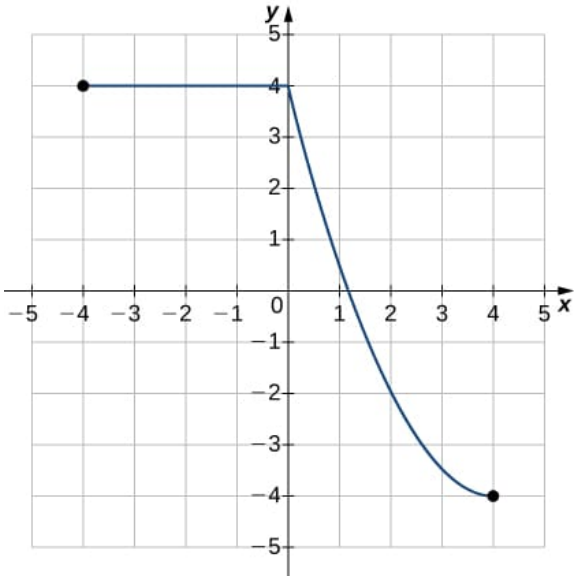


Figure $1.1E.11$: The x-axis runs from -5 to 5 and the y-axis runs from -5 to 5. The graph is of a relation that starts at the point $(-4, 4)$ and is a horizontal line until the point $(0, 4)$, then it begins decreasing in a curved line until it hits the point $(4, -4)$, where the graph ends. The x -intercept is approximately at the point $(1.2, 0)$ and y-intercept is at the point $(0, 4)$.

Answer

Function;

a. Domain: $-4 \leq x \leq 4$, range: $-4 \leq y \leq 4$
b. $x = 1.2$
c. $y = 4$
d. Not increasing
e. \(0
f. \(−4
g. No Symmetry
h. Neither

Exercises 36 - 41

For each pair of functions, find each of the following and the domain of each of these new functions.

a. $f+g$
b. $f-g$
c. $f \cdot g$
d. f/g

36. $f(x)=3x+4, \quad g(x)=x-2$
37. $f(x)=x-8, \quad g(x)=5x^2$

Answer

a. $5x^2+x-8$; all real numbers
b. $-5x^2+x-8$; all real numbers
c. $5x^3-40x^2$; all real numbers
d. $\dfrac{x-8}{5x^2}; \quad x \neq 0$

38. $f(x)=3x^2+4x+1, \quad g(x)=x+1$
39. $f(x)=9-x^2, \quad g(x)=x^2-2x-3$

Answer

a. $-2x+6$; all real numbers
b. $-2x^2+2x+12$; all real numbers
c. $-x^4+2x^3+12x^2-18x-27$; all real numbers
d. $-\dfrac{x+3}{x+1}; \quad x \neq -1, 3$

40. $f(x)=\sqrt{x}, \quad g(x)=x-2$
41. $f(x)=6+\dfrac{1}{x}, \quad g(x)=\dfrac{1}{x}$

Answer

a. $6+\dfrac{2}{x}; \quad x \neq 0$
b. $6; \quad x \neq 0$
c. $6x+\dfrac{1}{x^2}; \quad x \neq 0$
d. $6x+1; \quad x \neq 0$

Exercises 42 - 48

For each pair of functions, find the following, and simplify the results. Find the domain of each of the results.

a. $(f \circ g)(x)$
b. $(g \circ f)(x)$

42. $f(x)=3x, \quad g(x)=x+5$
43. $f(x)=x+4, \quad g(x)=4x-1$

Answer

a. $4x+3$; all real numbers
b. $4x+15$; all real numbers

44. $f(x)=2x+4, \quad g(x)=x^2-2$
45. $f(x)=x^2+7, \quad g(x)=x^2-3$

Answer

a. x^4-6x^2+16; all real numbers

b. $x^4 + 14x^2 + 46$; all real numbers

46. $f(x) = \sqrt{x}, \quad g(x) = x + 9$
47. $f(x) = \dfrac{3}{2x+1}, \quad g(x) = \dfrac{2}{x}$

Answer

a. $\dfrac{3x}{4+x}; \quad x \neq 0, -4$
b. $\dfrac{4x+2}{3}; \quad x \neq -\frac{1}{2}$

48. $f(x) = |x + 1|, \quad g(x) = x^2 + x - 4$
49. The table below lists the NBA championship winners for the years 2001 to 2012.

Table 1.1E.13: Table of NBA championship data

Year	Winner
2001	LA Lakers
2002	LA Lakers
2003	Sam Antonio Spurs
2004	Detroit Pistons
2005	Sam Antonio Spurs
2006	Miami Heat
2007	Sam Antonio Spurs
2008	Boston Celtics
2009	LA Lakers
2010	LA Lakers
2011	Dallas Mavericks
2012	Miami Heat

a. Consider the relation in which the domain values are the years 2001 to 2012 and the range is the corresponding winner. Is this relation a function? Explain why or why not.
b. Consider the relation where the domain values are the winners and the range is the corresponding years. Is this relation a function? Explain why or why not.

Answer

a. Yes, because there is only one winner for each year.
b. No, because there are three teams that won more than once during the years 2001 to 2012.

50. [T] The area A of a square depends on the length of the side s.

a. Write a function $A(s)$ for the area of a square.
b. Find and interpret $A(6.5)$.
c. Find the exact and the two-significant-digit approximation to the length of the sides of a square with area 56 square units.

51. [T] The volume of a cube depends on the length of the sides s.

a. Write a function $V(s)$ for the area of a square.
b. Find and interpret $V(11.8)$.

Answer

a. $V(s) = s^3$
b. $V(11.8) \approx 1643$; a cube of side length 11.8 each has a volume of approximately 1643 cubic units.

52. **[T]** A rental car company rents cars for a flat fee of $20 and an hourly charge of $10.25. Therefore, the total cost C to rent a car is a function of the hours t the car is rented plus the flat fee.

a. Write the formula for the function that models this situation.
b. Find the total cost to rent a car for 2 days and 7 hours.
c. Determine how long the car was rented if the bill is $432.73.

53. [T] A vehicle has a 20-gal tank and gets 15 mpg. The number of miles N that can be driven depends on the amount of gas x in the tank.

a. Write a formula that models this situation.
b. Determine the number of miles the vehicle can travel on (i) a full tank of gas and (ii) 3/4 of a tank of gas.
c. Determine the domain and range of the function.
d. Determine how many times the driver had to stop for gas if she has driven a total of 578 mi.

Answer

a. $N(x) = 15x$
b. i. $N(20) = 15(20) = 300$; therefore, the vehicle can travel 300 mi on a full tank of gas.
ii. $N(15) = 225$; therefore, the vehicle can travel 225 mi on 3/4 of a tank of gas.
c. Domain: $0 \leq x \leq 20$; range: $[0, 300]$
d. The driver had to stop at least once, given that it takes approximately 39 gal of gas to drive a total of 578 mi.

54. [T] The volume V of a sphere depends on the length of its radius as $V = (4/3)\pi r^3$. Because Earth is not a perfect sphere, we can use the mean radius when measuring from the center to its surface. The mean radius is the average distance from the physical center to the surface, based on a large number of samples. Find the volume of Earth with mean radius 6.371×106 m.

55. [T] A certain bacterium grows in culture in a circular region. The radius of the circle, measured in centimeters, is given by $r(t) = 6 - \dfrac{5}{t^2+1}$, where t is time measured in hours since a circle of a 1-cm radius of the bacterium was put into the culture.

a. Express the area of the bacteria as a function of time.
b. Find the exact and approximate area of the bacterial culture in 3 hours.
c. Express the circumference of the bacteria as a function of time.
d. Find the exact and approximate circumference of the bacteria in 3 hours.

Answer

a. $A(t) = A(r(t)) = \pi \cdot (6 - \frac{5}{t^2+1})^2$
b. Exact: $\frac{121\pi}{4}$; approximately $95\ \text{cm}^2$
c. $C(t) = C(r(t)) = 2\pi(6 - \frac{5}{t^2+1})$
d. Exact: 11π; approximately 35 cm

56. [T] An American tourist visits Paris and must convert U.S. dollars to Euros, which can be done using the function $E(x) = 0.79x$, where x is the number of U.S. dollars and $E(x)$ is the equivalent number of Euros. Since conversion rates fluctuate, when the tourist returns to the United States 2 weeks later, the conversion from Euros to U.S. dollars is $D(x) = 1.245x$, where x is the number of Euros and $D(x)$ is the equivalent number of U.S. dollars.

a. Find the composite function that converts directly from U.S. dollars to U.S. dollars via Euros. Did this tourist lose value in the conversion process?
b. Use (a) to determine how many U.S. dollars the tourist would get back at the end of her trip if she converted an extra $200 when she arrived in Paris.

57. [T] The manager at a skateboard shop pays his workers a monthly salary S of $750 plus a commission of $8.50 for each skateboard they sell.

a. Write a function $y = S(x)$ that models a worker's monthly salary based on the number of skateboards x he or she sells.
b. Find the approximate monthly salary when a worker sells 25, 40, or 55 skateboards.
c. Use the INTERSECT feature on a graphing calculator to determine the number of skateboards that must be sold for a worker to earn a monthly income of $1400. (Hint: Find the intersection of the function and the line $y = 1400$.)

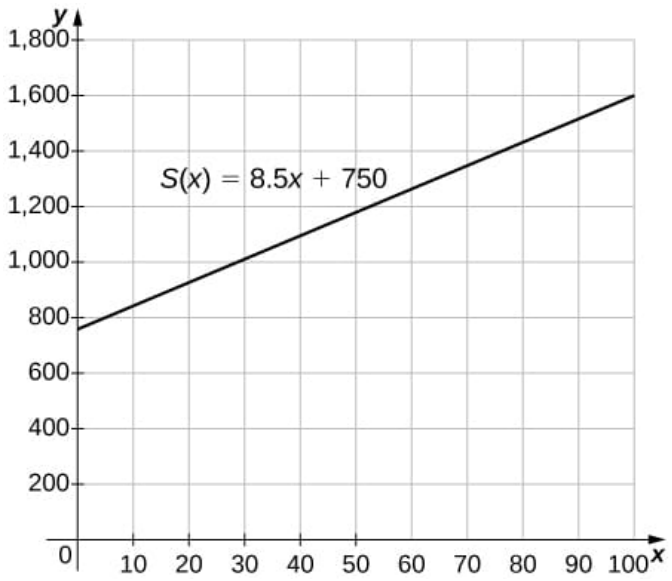


Figure $1.1E.13$: The y-axis runs from 0 to 1800 and the x-axis runs from 0 to 100. The graph is of the function $S(x) = 8.5x + 750$, which is a increasing straight line. The function has a y-intercept at $(0, 750)$ and the x-intercept is not shown.

Answer

a. $S(x) = 8.5x + 750$
b. \$962.50, \$1090, \$1217.50
c. 77 skateboards

58. [T] Use a graphing calculator to graph the half-circle $y = \sqrt{25 - (x - 4)^2}$. Then, use the INTERCEPT feature to find the value of both the x- and y-intercepts.

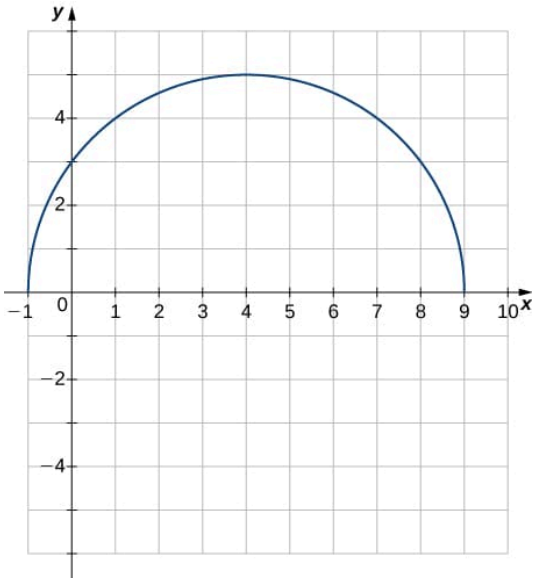


Figure $1.1E.14$: The y axis runs from -6 to 6 and the x-axis runs from -1 to 10. The graph is of the function that is a semi-circle (the top half of a circle). The function has the begins at the point $(-1, 0)$, runs through the point $(0, 3)$, has maximum at the point $(4, 5)$, and ends at the point $(9, 0)$. None of these points are labeled, they are just for reference.

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1.2: Basic Classes of Functions

Learning Objectives

- Calculate the slope of a linear function and interpret its meaning.
- Recognize the degree of a polynomial.
- Find the roots of a quadratic polynomial.
- Describe the graphs of basic odd and even polynomial functions.
- Identify a rational function.
- Describe the graphs of power and root functions.
- Explain the difference between algebraic and transcendental functions.
- Graph a piecewise-defined function.
- Sketch the graph of a function that has been shifted, stretched, or reflected from its initial graph position.

We have studied the general characteristics of functions, so now let's examine some specific classes of functions. We begin by reviewing the basic properties of linear and quadratic functions, and then generalize to include higher-degree polynomials. By combining root functions with polynomials, we can define general algebraic functions and distinguish them from the transcendental functions we examine later in this chapter. We finish the section with examples of piecewise-defined functions and take a look at how to sketch the graph of a function that has been shifted, stretched, or reflected from its initial form.

Linear Functions and Slope

The easiest type of function to consider is a **linear function**. Linear functions have the form $f(x) = ax + b$, where a and b are constants. In Figure $1.2.1$, we see examples of linear functions when a is positive, negative, and zero. Note that if $a > 0$, the graph of the line rises as x increases. In other words, $f(x) = ax + b$ is increasing on $(-\infty, \infty)$. If $a < 0$, the graph of the line falls as x increases. In this case, $f(x) = ax + b$ is decreasing on $(-\infty, \infty)$. If $a = 0$, the line is horizontal.

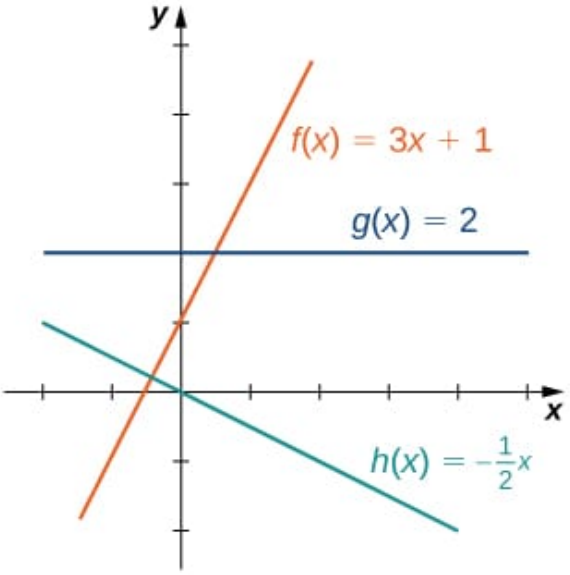


Figure $1.2.1$: Three graphs of linear functions are shown - one increasing, one decreasing, and one constant. The first function is $f(x) = 3x + 1$, which is an increasing straight line with an x-intercept at $(-1/3, 0)$ and a y-intercept at $(0, 1)$. The second function is $g(x) = 2$, which is a horizontal line with a y-intercept at $(0, 2)$ and no x-intercept. The third function is $h(x) = -\frac{1}{2}x$, which is a decreasing straight line with an x -intercept and y-intercept both at the origin.

As suggested by Figure $1.2.1$, the graph of any linear function is a line. One of the distinguishing features of a line is its slope. The **slope** is the change in y for each unit change in x. The slope measures both the steepness and the direction of a line. If the slope is positive, the line points upward when moving from left to right. If the slope is negative, the line points downward when moving

from left to right. If the slope is zero, the line is horizontal. To calculate the slope of a line, we need to determine the ratio of the change in y versus the change in x. To do so, we choose any two points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) on the line and calculate $\frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1}$. In Figure $1.2.2$, we see this ratio is independent of the points chosen.

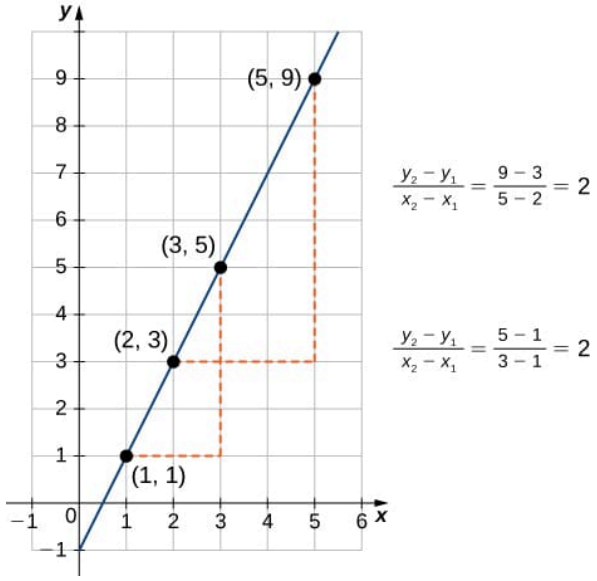


Figure $1.2.2$: The graph is of an increasing linear function is shown. There are four points labeled on the function at $(1, 1), (2, 3), (3, 5)$, and $(5, 9)$. There is a dotted horizontal line from the labeled function point $(1, 1)$ to the unlabeled point $(3, 1)$ which is not on the function, and then dotted vertical line from the unlabeled point $(3, 1)$, which is not on the function, to the labeled function point $(3, 5)$. The ratio of the lengths of the vertical and horizontal segments is $\frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{5-1}{3-1} = 2$. Similarly, the slope is computed using the points $(2, 3)$ and $(5, 9)$. These two dotted have the label $\frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{9-3}{5-2} = 2$, giving the same slope.

Definition: Slope of a Linear Function

Consider line L passing through points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2). Let $\Delta y = y_2 - y_1$ and $\Delta x = x_2 - x_1$ denote the changes in y and x,respectively. The slope of the line is

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

We now examine the relationship between slope and the formula for a linear function. Consider the linear function given by the formula $f(x) = ax + b$. As discussed earlier, we know the graph of a linear function is given by a line. We can use our definition of slope to calculate the slope of this line. As shown, we can determine the slope by calculating $(y_2 - y_1)/(x_2 - x_1)$ for any points (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) on the line. Evaluating the function f at $x = 0$, we see that $(0, b)$ is a point on this line. Evaluating this function at $x = 1$, we see that $(1, a + b)$ is also a point on this line. Therefore, the slope of this line is

$$\frac{(a + b) - b}{1 - 0} = a.$$

We have shown that the coefficient a is the slope of the line. We can conclude that the formula $f(x) = ax + b$ describes a line with slope a. Furthermore, because this line intersects the y-axis at the point $(0, b)$, we see that the y-intercept for this linear function is $(0, b)$. We conclude that the formula $f(x) = ax + b$ tells us the slope, a, and the y-intercept, $(0, b)$, for this line. Since we often use the symbol m to denote the slope of a line, we can write

$$\underbrace{f(x) = mx + b}_{\text{slope-intercept form}}$$

to denote the **slope-intercept form** of a linear function.

Sometimes it is convenient to express a linear function in different ways. For example, suppose the graph of a linear function passes through the point (x_1, y_1) and the slope of the line is m. Since any other point $(x, f(x))$ on the graph of f must satisfy the

equation

$$m = \frac{f(x) - y_1}{x - x_1},$$

this linear function can be expressed by writing

$$\underbrace{f(x) - y_1 = m(x - x_1)}_{\text{point-slope equation}}.$$

We call this equation the **point-slope equation** for that linear function.

Since every nonvertical line is the graph of a linear function, the points on a nonvertical line can be described using the slope-intercept or point-slope equations. However, a vertical line does not represent the graph of a function and cannot be expressed in either of these forms. Instead, a vertical line is described by the equation $x = k$ for some constant k. Since neither the slope-intercept form nor the point-slope form allows for vertical lines, we use the notation

$$\underbrace{ax + by = c}_{\text{standard form}},$$

where a, b are both not zero, to denote the **standard form of a line.**

Definition: Point-Slope Equation, and the Slope-Intercept Form and Standard Form of the Equation of a Line

Consider a line passing through the point (x_1, y_1) with slope m. The equation

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

is the *point-slope equation* for that line.

Consider a line with slope m and y-intercept $(0, b)$. The equation

$$y = mx + b$$

is an equation for that line in *slope-intercept form*.

The *standard form of a line* is given by the equation

$$ax + by = c,$$

where a and b are both not zero. This form is more general because it allows for a vertical line, $x = k$.

Example 1.2.1: Finding the Slope and Equations of Lines

Consider the line passing through the points $(11, -4)$ and $(-4, 5)$, as shown in Figure 1.2.3.

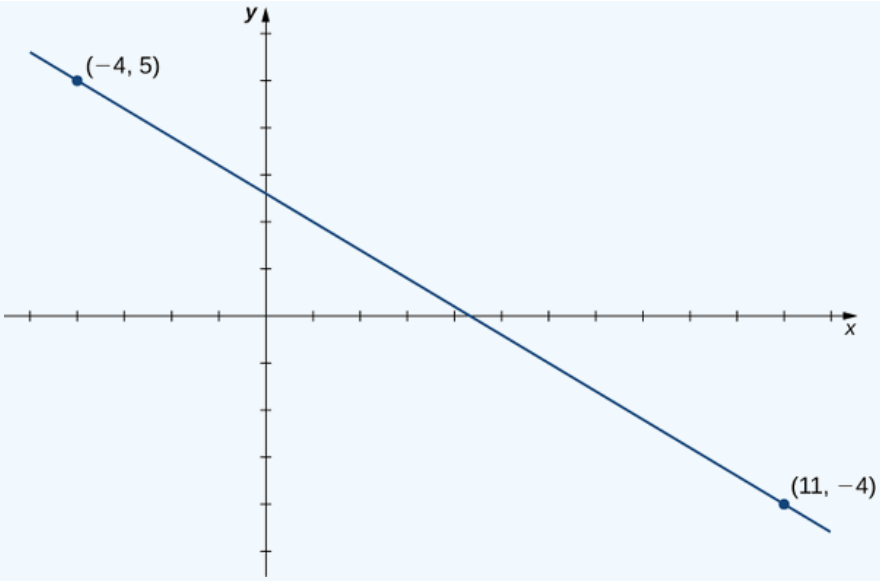


Figure 1.2.3: The graph is of the function that is a decreasing straight line. The function has two points plotted, at $(-4, 5)$ and $(11, 4)$.

1. Find the slope of the line.
2. Find an equation for this linear function in point-slope form.
3. Find an equation for this linear function in slope-intercept form.

Solution

1. The slope of the line is

$$m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{5 - (-4)}{-4 - 11} = -\frac{9}{15} = -\frac{3}{5}.$$

2. To find an equation for the linear function in point-slope form, use the slope $m = -3/5$ and choose any point on the line. If we choose the point $(11, -4)$, we get the equation

$$f(x) + 4 = -\frac{3}{5}(x - 11).$$

3. To find an equation for the linear function in slope-intercept form, solve the equation in part b. for $f(x)$. When we do this, we get the equation

$$f(x) = -\frac{3}{5}x + \frac{13}{5}.$$

Exercise 1.2.1

Consider the line passing through points $(-3, 2)$ and $(1, 4)$.

a. Find the slope of the line.
b. Find an equation of that line in point-slope form.
c. Find an equation of that line in slope-intercept form.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer a available at the end of this section.

Example 1.2.2:

Jessica leaves her house at 5:50 a.m. and goes for a 9-mile run. She returns to her house at 7:08 a.m. Answer the following questions, assuming Jessica runs at a constant pace.

a. Describe the distance D (in miles) Jessica runs as a linear function of her run time t (in minutes).
b. Sketch a graph of D.
c. Interpret the meaning of the slope.

Solution

a. At time $t = 0$, Jessica is at her house, so $D(0) = 0$. At time $t = 78$ minutes, Jessica has finished running 9 mi, so $D(78) = 9$. The slope of the linear function is

$$m = \frac{9 - 0}{78 - 0} = \frac{3}{26}.$$

The y-intercept is $(0, 0)$, so the equation for this linear function is

$$D(t) = \frac{3}{26}t.$$

b. To graph D, use the fact that the graph passes through the origin and has slope $m = 3/26$.

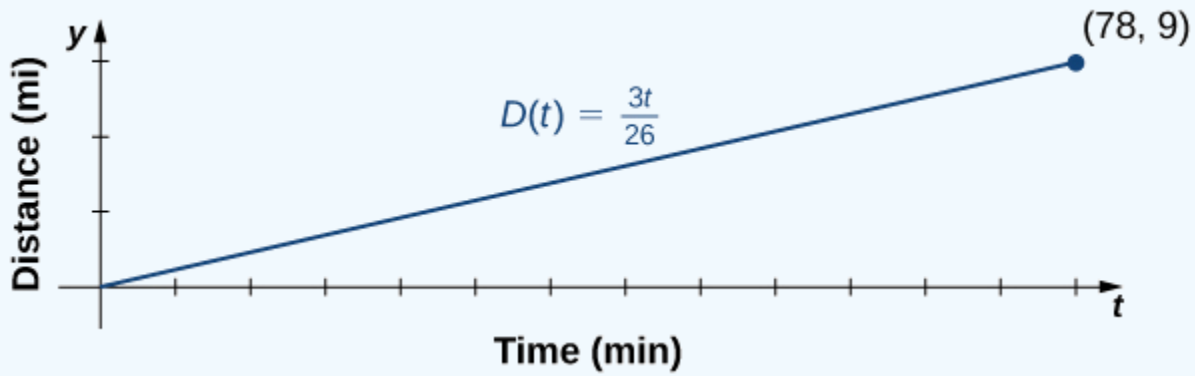


Figure 1.2.4: An image of a graph. The y-axis is labeled "Distance (mi)". The t-axis is labeled "Time (min)". The graph is of the function $D(t) = 3t/26$, which is an increasing straight line, starts at the origin and ends at the plotted point $(78, 9)$.

c. The slope $m = 3/26 \approx 0.115$ describes the distance (in miles) Jessica runs per minute, or her average velocity.

Polynomials

A linear function is a special type of a more general class of functions: polynomials. A polynomial function is any function that can be written in the form

$$f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \ldots + a_1 x + a_0$$

for some integer $n \geq 0$ and constants $a_n, a_{n-1}, \ldots, a_0$, where $a_n \neq 0$. In the case when $n = 0$, we allow for $a_0 = 0$; if $a_0 = 0$, the function $f(x) = 0$ is called the **zero function**. The value n is called the **degree** of the polynomial; the constant a_n is called the **leading coefficient**. A linear function of the form $f(x) = mx + b$ is a polynomial of degree 1 if $m \neq 0$ and degree 0 if $m = 0$. A polynomial of degree 0 is also called a **constant function**. A polynomial function of degree 2 is called a **quadratic function**. In particular, a quadratic function has the form

$$f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c,$$

where $a \neq 0$. A polynomial function of degree 3 is called a **cubic function**.

Power Functions

Some polynomial functions are power functions. A **power function** is any function of the form $f(x) = ax^b$, where a and b are any real numbers. The exponent in a power function can be any real number, but here we consider the case when the exponent is a positive integer. (We consider other cases later.) If the exponent is a positive integer, then $f(x) = ax^n$ is a polynomial. If n is even, then $f(x) = ax^n$ is an even function because $f(-x) = a(-x)^n = ax^n$ if n is even. If n is odd, then $f(x) = ax^n$ is an odd function because $f(-x) = a(-x)^n = -ax^n$ if n is odd (Figure $1.2.5$).

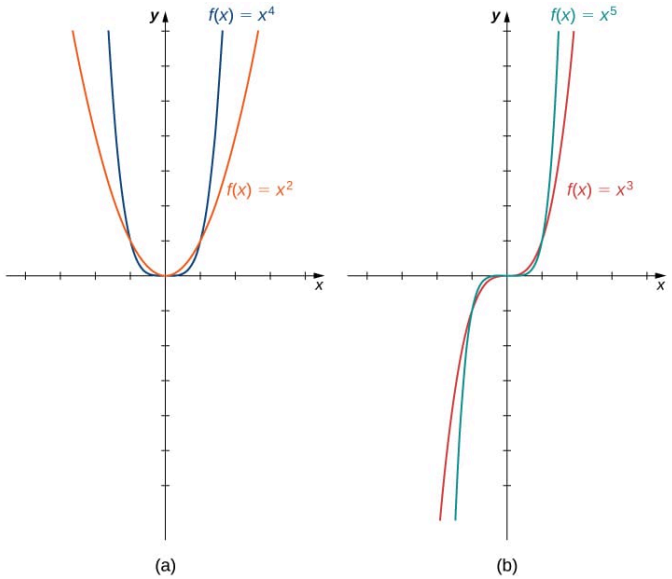


Figure $1.2.5$: (a) For any even integer n, $f(x) = ax^n$ is an even function. Two graphs are shown: $f(x) = x^2$ and $f(x) = x^4$. Both graphs pass through the origin and are symmetric about the y-axis. The graph of $f(x) = x^4$ is lower than the graph of $f(x) = x^2$ over \(-11\); elsewhere, it's higher. (b) For any odd integer n, $f(x) = ax^n$ is an odd function. Two graphs are shown: $f(x) = x^3$ and $f(x) = x^5$. Both graphs pass through the origin and are symmetric about the origin, with graphs in the first and third quadrants. In the first quadrant, the graphs begin at the origin and increase, with the $f(x) = x^5$ below the graph of $f(x) = x^3$ until the point $(1, 1)$, at which point the graphs cross. In the third quadrant, the opposite is true due to symmetry.

Behavior at Infinity

To determine the behavior of a function f as the inputs approach infinity, we look at the values $f(x)$ as the inputs, x, become larger. For some functions, the values of $f(x)$ approach a finite number. For example, for the function $f(x) = 2 + 1/x$, the values $1/x$ become closer and closer to zero for all values of x as they get larger and larger. For this function, we say "$f(x)$ approaches two as x goes to infinity," and we write $f(x) \to 2$ as $x \to \infty$. The line $y = 2$ is a horizontal asymptote for the function $f(x) = 2 + 1/x$ because the graph of the function gets closer to the line as x gets larger.

For other functions, the values $f(x)$ may not approach a finite number but instead may become larger for all values of x as they get larger. In that case, we say "$f(x)$ approaches infinity as x approaches infinity," and we write $f(x) \to \infty$ as $x \to \infty$. For example, for the function $f(x) = 3x^2$, the outputs $f(x)$ become larger as the inputs x get larger. We can conclude that the function $f(x) = 3x^2$ approaches infinity as x approaches infinity, and we write $3x^2 \to \infty$ as $x \to \infty$. The behavior as $x \to -\infty$ and the meaning of $f(x) \to -\infty$ as $x \to \infty$ or $x \to -\infty$ can be defined similarly. We can describe what happens to the values of $f(x)$ as $x \to \infty$ and as $x \to -\infty$ as the **end behavior** of the function.

To understand the end behavior for polynomial functions, we can focus on quadratic and cubic functions. The behavior for higher-degree polynomials can be analyzed similarly. Consider a quadratic function $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$. If $a > 0$, the values $f(x) \to \infty$ as $x \to \pm\infty$. If $a < 0$, the values $f(x) \to -\infty$ as $x \to \pm\infty$. Since the graph of a quadratic function is a parabola, the parabola opens upward if $a > 0$.; the parabola opens downward if $a < 0$ (Figure $1.2.6a$).

Now consider a cubic function $f(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$. If $a > 0$, then $f(x) \to \infty$ as $x \to \infty$ and $f(x) \to -\infty$ as $x \to -\infty$. If $a < 0$, then $f(x) \to -\infty$ as $x \to \infty$ and $f(x) \to \infty$ as $x \to -\infty$. As we can see from both of these graphs, the leading term of the polynomial determines the end *behavior* (Figure $1.2.6b$).

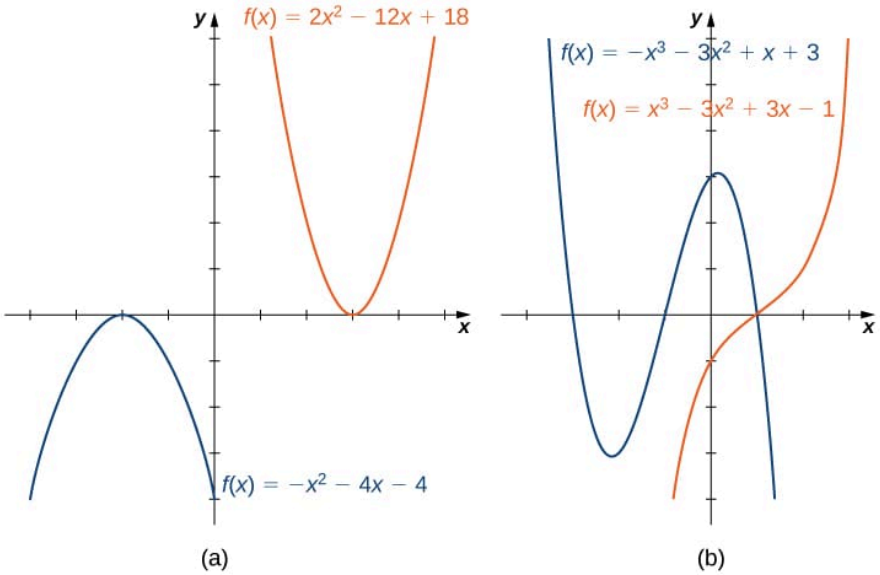


Figure 1.2.6: (a) Two functions are graphed. The first function is $f(x) = -x^2 - 4x - 4$ is a parabola. The function increasing until it hits the maximum at the point $(-2, 0)$ and then begins decreasing, hence the parabola opens downward. The second function is $f(x) = 2x^2 - 12x + 16$, which is also a parabola. The function decreases until it hits the minimum point at $(3, -2)$ and then begins increasing, hence the parabola opens upward. (b) Two functions are graphed. The first function is $f(x) = -x^3 - 3x^2 + x + 3$. The graph decreases until the approximate point at $(-2.2, -3.1)$, then increases until the approximate point at $(0.2, 3.1)$, then begins decreasing again. The second function is $f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x - 1$. It is a curved function that increases until the point $(1, 0)$, where it levels out. After this point, the function begins increasing again.

Zeros of Polynomial Functions

Another characteristic of the graph of a polynomial function is where it intersects the x-axis. To determine where a function f intersects the x-axis, we need to solve the equation $f(x) = 0$ for x. In the case of the linear function $f(x) = mx + b$, the x-intercept is given by solving the equation $mx + b = 0$. In this case, we see that the x-intercept is given by $(-b/m, 0)$. In the case of a quadratic function, finding the x-intercept(s) requires finding the zeros of a quadratic equation: $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$. In some cases, it is easy to factor the polynomial $ax^2 + bx + c$ to find the zeros. If not, we make use of the quadratic formula.

The Quadratic Formula

Consider the quadratic equation

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0,$$

where $a \neq 0$. The solutions of this equation are given by the quadratic formula

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}. \tag{1.2.1}$$

If the discriminant $b^2 - 4ac > 0$, Equation 1.2.1 tells us there are two real numbers that satisfy the quadratic equation. If $b^2 - 4ac = 0$, this formula tells us there is only one solution, and it is a real number. If $b^2 - 4ac < 0$, no real numbers satisfy the quadratic equation.

In the case of higher-degree polynomials, it may be more complicated to determine where the graph intersects the x-axis. In some instances, it is possible to find the x-intercepts by factoring the polynomial to find its zeros. In other cases, it is impossible to calculate the exact values of the x-intercepts. However, as we see later in the text, in cases such as this, we can use analytical tools to approximate (to a very high degree) where the x-intercepts are located. Here we focus on the graphs of polynomials for which we can calculate their zeros explicitly.

Example 1.2.3: Graphing Polynomial Functions

For the following functions,

a. $f(x) = -2x^2 + 4x - 1$
b. $f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 - 4x$

i. describe the behavior of $f(x)$ as $x \to \pm\infty$,
ii. find all zeros of f, and
iii. sketch a graph of f.

Solution

1. The function $f(x) = -2x^2 + 4x - 1$ is a quadratic function.

1. Because $a = -2 < 0$, as $x \to \pm\infty, f(x) \to -\infty$.

2. To find the zeros of f, use the quadratic formula. The zeros are

$$x = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{4^2 - 4(-2)(-1)}}{2(-2)} = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{8}}{-4} = \frac{-4 \pm 2\sqrt{2}}{-4} = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{2}}{2}.$$

3. To sketch the graph of f,use the information from your previous answers and combine it with the fact that the graph is a parabola opening downward.

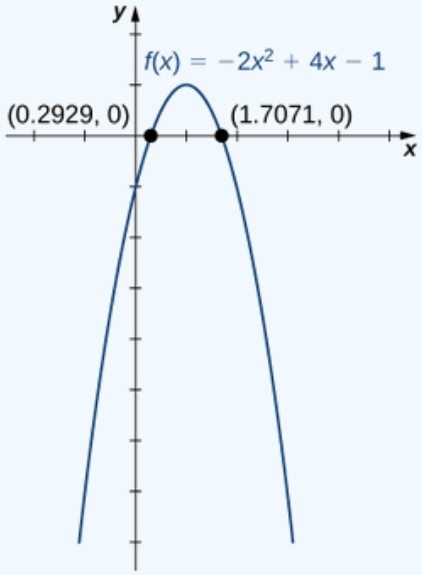


Figure 1.2.7: The graph is of the function $f(x) = -2x^2 + 4x - 1$, which is a parabola, is shown. The function increases until the maximum point at $(1, 1)$ and then decreases. Both x-intercept points are plotted on the function, at approximately $(0.2929, 0)$ and $(1.7071, 0)$. The y -intercept is at the point $(0, -1)$.

2. The function $f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 - 4x$ is a cubic function.

1. Because $a = 1 > 0$, as $x \to \infty$, $f(x) \to \infty$. As $x \to -\infty$, $f(x) \to -\infty$.

2. To find the zeros of f, we need to factor the polynomial. First, when we factor x out of all the terms, we find

$$f(x) = x(x^2 - 3x - 4).$$

Then, when we factor the quadratic function $x^2 - 3x - 4$, we find

$$f(x) = x(x-4)(x+1).$$

Therefore, the zeros of f are $x = 0, 4, -1$.

3. Combining the results from parts i. and ii., draw a rough sketch of f.

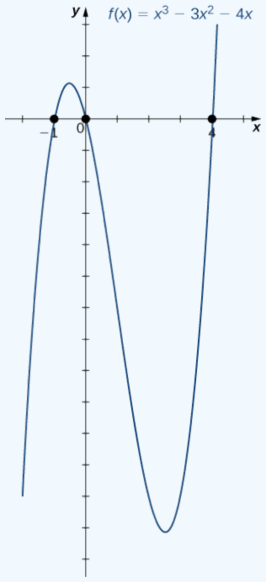


Figure 1.2.8: The graph is of the cubic function $f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 - 4x$ is shown. The function increases until the approximate point at $(-0.5, 1.1)$, then decreases until the approximate point $(2.5, -13.1)$, then begins increasing again. The x-intercept points are plotted on the function, at $(-1, 0), (0, 0)$, and $(4, 0)$. The y-intercept is at the origin.

Exercise 1.2.2

Consider the quadratic function $f(x) = 3x^2 - 6x + 2$. Find the zeros of f. Does the parabola open upward or downward?

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Mathematical Models

A large variety of real-world situations can be described using **mathematical models**. A mathematical model is a method of simulating real-life situations with mathematical equations. Physicists, engineers, economists, and other researchers develop models by combining observation with quantitative data to develop equations, functions, graphs, and other mathematical tools to describe the behavior of various systems accurately. Models are useful because they help predict future outcomes. Examples of mathematical models include the study of population dynamics, investigations of weather patterns, and predictions of product sales.

As an example, let's consider a mathematical model that a company could use to describe its revenue for the sale of a particular item. The amount of revenue R a company receives for the sale of n items sold at a price of p dollars per item is described by the equation $R = p \cdot n$. The company is interested in how the sales change as the price of the item changes. Suppose the data in Table 1.2.1 show the number of units a company sells as a function of the price per item.

Table 1.2.1: Number of Units Sold n (in Thousands) as a Function of Price per Unit p (in Dollars)

p	6	8	10	12	14
n	19.4	18.5	16.2	13.8	12.2

In Figure 1.2.6, we see the graph the number of units sold (in thousands) as a function of price (in dollars). We note from the shape of the graph that the number of units sold is likely a linear function of price per item, and the data can be closely approximated by the linear function $n = -1.04p + 26$ for $0 \le p \le 25$, where n predicts the number of units sold in thousands. Using this linear function, the revenue (in thousands of dollars) can be estimated by the quadratic function

$$R(p) = p \cdot (-1.04p + 26) = -1.04p^2 + 26p \text{ for } 0 \le p \le 25.$$

In Example 1.2.4, we use this quadratic function to predict the amount of revenue the company receives depending on the price the company charges per item. Note that we cannot conclude definitively the actual number of units sold for values of p, for which no data are collected. However, given the other data values and the graph shown, it seems reasonable that the number of units sold (in thousands) if the price charged is p dollars may be close to the values predicted by the linear function $n = -1.04p + 26$.

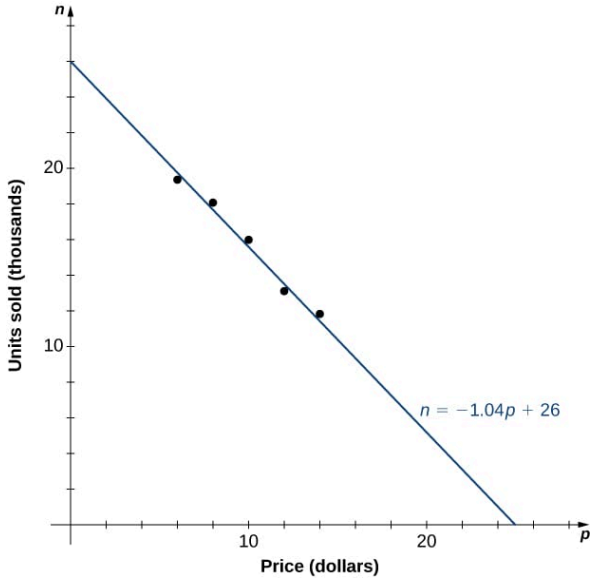


Figure 1.2.9: In the graph, the vertical axis is labeled n and represents "Units sold (thousands)". The horizontal axis is labeled p and represents "Price (dollars)". The data collected for the number of items sold as a function of price, given in Table 1.2.1, are sketched and show a roughly linear pattern. We use the linear function $n = -1.04p + 26$ to estimate this function. That graph is a decreasing linear function that starts at the y intercept point $(0, 26)$. There are 5 points from Table 1.2.1 are not on the graph of the line, but are very close to it. The function has an x -intercept at the point $(25, 0)$.

Example 1.2.4: Maximizing Revenue

A company is interested in predicting the amount of revenue it will receive depending on the price it charges for a particular item. Using the data from Table 1.2.1, the company arrives at the following quadratic function to model revenue R as a function of price per item p :

$$R(p) = p \cdot (-1.04p + 26) = -1.04p^2 + 26p$$

for $0 \le p \le 25$.

a. Predict the revenue if the company sells the item at a price of $p = \$5$ and $p = \$17$.
b. Find the zeros of this function and interpret the meaning of the zeros.
c. Sketch a graph of R.
d. Use the graph to determine the value of p that maximizes revenue. Find the maximum revenue.

Solution

a. Evaluating the revenue function at $p = 5$ and $p = 17$, we can conclude that

$$R(5) = -1.04(5)^2 + 26(5) = 104, \text{ so revenue} = \$104,000;$$

$$R(17) = -1.04(17)^2 + 26(17) = 141.44, \text{ so revenue} = \$141,440.$$

b. The zeros of this function can be found by solving the equation $-1.04p^2 + 26p = 0$. When we factor the quadratic expression, we get $p(-1.04p + 26) = 0$. The solutions to this equation are given by $p = 0, 25$. For these values of p, the revenue is zero. When $p = \$0$, the revenue is zero because the company is giving away its merchandise for free. When $p = \$25$,the revenue is zero because the price is too high, and no one will buy any items.

c. Knowing the fact that the function is quadratic, we also know the graph is a parabola. Since the leading coefficient is negative, the parabola opens downward. One property of parabolas is that they are symmetric about the axis of symmetry, so since the zeros are at $p = 0$ and $p = 25$, the parabola must be symmetric about the line halfway between them, or $p = 12.5$.

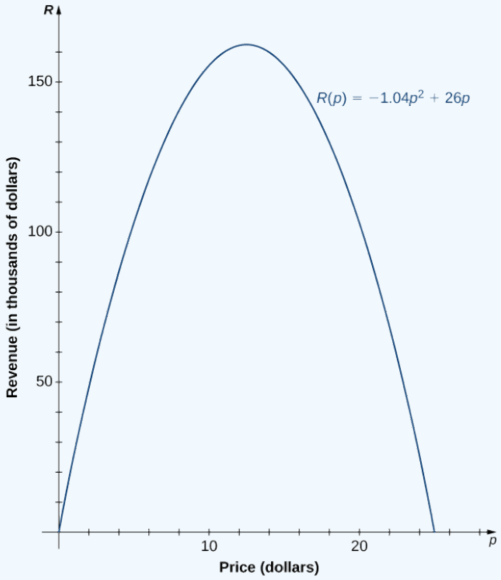


Figure 1.2.10: In this graph, the vertical axis runs from 0 to 170 and is labeled R, representing "Revenue (in thousands of dollars)". The horizontal axis runs from 0 to 28 and is labeled p, representing "price (dollars)". The graph is of the function $n = -1.04p^2 + 26p$, which is a parabola that starts at the origin. The function increases until the maximum point at $(12.5, 162.5)$ and then begins decreasing. The function has horizontal intercepts at the origin and the point $(25, 0)$ and at the origin.

d. The function is a parabola with zeros at $p = 0$ and $p = 25$, and it is symmetric about the line $p = 12.5$, so the maximum revenue occurs at a price of $p = \$12.50$ per item. At that price, the revenue is $R(p) = -1.04(12.5)^2 + 26(12.5) = \$162,500$.

Algebraic Functions

By allowing for quotients and fractional powers in polynomial functions, we create a larger class of functions. An **algebraic function** is one that involves addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, rational powers, and roots. Two types of algebraic functions are rational functions and root functions.

Just as rational numbers are quotients of integers, rational functions are quotients of polynomials. In particular, a **rational function** is any function of the form $f(x) = p(x)/q(x)$,where $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ are polynomials. For example,

$$f(x) = \frac{3x - 1}{5x + 2} \text{ and } g(x) = \frac{4}{x^2 + 1}$$

are rational functions. A **root function** is a power function of the form $f(x) = x^{1/n}$, where n is a positive integer greater than one. For example, $f(x) = x^{1/2} = \sqrt{x}$ is the square-root function and $g(x) = x^{1/3} = \sqrt[3]{x}$ is the cube-root function. By allowing for compositions of root functions and rational functions, we can create other algebraic functions. For example, $f(x) = \sqrt{4 - x^2}$ is an algebraic function.

Example 1.2.5: Finding Domain and Range for Algebraic Functions

For each of the following functions, find the domain and range.

a. $f(x) = \dfrac{3x-1}{5x+2}$
b. $f(x) = \sqrt{4-x^2}$

Solution

1. It is not possible to divide by zero, so the domain is the set of real numbers x such that $x \neq -2/5$. To find the range, we need to find the values y for which there exists a real number x such that

$$y = \frac{3x-1}{5x+2}$$

When we multiply both sides of this equation by $5x+2$, we see that x must satisfy the equation

$$5xy + 2y = 3x - 1.$$

From this equation, we can see that x must satisfy

$$2y + 1 = x(3 - 5y).$$

If y=$3/5$, this equation has no solution. On the other hand, as long as $y \neq 3/5$,

$$x = \frac{2y+1}{3-5y}$$

satisfies this equation. We can conclude that the range of f is $\{y \mid y \neq 3/5\}$.

2. To find the domain of f, we need $4 - x^2 \geq 0$. When we factor, we write $4 - x^2 = (2-x)(2+x) \geq 0$. This inequality holds if and only if both terms are positive or both terms are negative. For both terms to be positive, we need to find x such that

$$2 - x \geq 0 \text{ and } 2 + x \geq 0.$$

These two inequalities reduce to $2 \geq x$ and $x \geq -2$. Therefore, the set $\{x \mid -2 \leq x \leq 2\}$ must be part of the domain. For both terms to be negative, we need

$$2 - x \leq 0 \text{ and } 2 + x \leq 0.$$

These two inequalities also reduce to $2 \leq x$ and $x \leq -2$. There are no values of x that satisfy both of these inequalities. Thus, we can conclude the domain of this function is $\{x \mid -2 \leq x \leq 2\}$.

If $-2 \leq x \leq 2$, then $0 \leq 4 - x^2 \leq 4$. Therefore, $0 \leq \sqrt{4-x2} \leq 2$, and the range of f is $\{y \mid 0 \leq y \leq 2\}$.

Exercise 1.2.3

Find the domain and range for the function $f(x) = (5x+2)/(2x-1)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

The root functions $f(x) = x^{1/n}$ have defining characteristics depending on whether n is odd or even. For all even integers $n \geq 2$, the domain of $f(x) = x^{1/n}$ is the interval $[0, \infty)$. For all odd integers $n \geq 1$, the domain of $f(x) = x^{1/n}$ is the set of all real numbers. Since $x^{1/n} = (-x)^{1/n}$ for odd integers n,$f(x) = x^{1/n}$ is an odd function if$n$ is odd. See the graphs of root functions for different values of n in Figure 1.2.11.

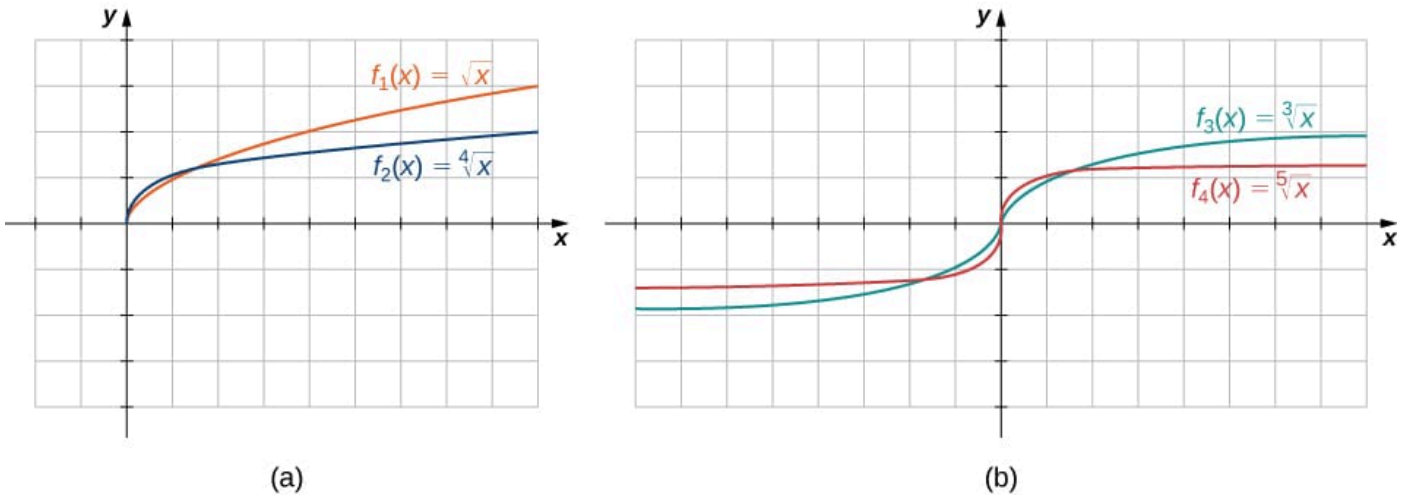


Figure 1.2.11: (a) Two functions are graphed. The first function is $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$, which is a curved function that begins at the origin and increases, passing through $(4, 2)$ and $(9, 3)$. The second function is $f(x) = \sqrt[4]{x}$, which is a curved function that begins at the origin and increases, but increases at a slower rate than the first function for $x > 1$. (b) Two functions are graphed. The first function is $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$ which is a curved function that passes through $(-8, -2)$, increases until the origin, becomes vertical at the origin, and then increases again after the origin and passes through $(8, 2)$. The second function is $f(x) = \sqrt[5]{x}$, which is a curved function that passes through the approximate point $(-8, -1.5)$, increases, crosses the first graph at $(-1, -1)$, then again at the origin, becoming vertical there, and then increases again after the origin, crossing the other graph at $(1, 1)$, after which it increases at a slower rate than the first function, passing through the approximate point $(8, 1.5)$.

Example 1.2.6: Finding Domains for Algebraic Functions

For each of the following functions, determine the domain of the function.

a. $f(x) = \dfrac{3}{x^2 - 1}$
b. $f(x) = \dfrac{2x + 5}{3x^2 + 4}$
c. $f(x) = \sqrt{4 - 3x}$
d. $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{2x - 1}$

Solution

a. You cannot divide by zero, so the domain is the set of values x such that $x^2 - 1 \neq 0$. Therefore, the domain is $\{x \mid x \neq \pm 1\}$.
b. You need to determine the values of x for which the denominator is zero. Since $3x^2 + 4 \geq 4$ for all real numbers x, the denominator is never zero. Therefore, the domain is $(-\infty, \infty)$.
c. Since the square root of a negative number is not a real number, the domain is the set of values x for which $4 - 3x \geq 0$. Therefore, the domain is $\{x \mid x \leq 4/3\}$.
d. The cube root is defined for all real numbers, so the domain is the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$.

Exercise 1.2.4

Find the domain for each of the following functions: $f(x) = (5 - 2x)/(x^2 + 2)$ and $g(x) = \sqrt{5x - 1}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Transcendental Functions

Thus far, we have discussed algebraic functions. Some functions, however, cannot be described by basic algebraic operations. These functions are known as **transcendental functions** because they are said to "transcend," or go beyond, algebra. The most common transcendental functions are trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions. A trigonometric function relates the ratios of two sides of a right triangle. They are $\sin x, \cos x, \tan x, \cot x, \sec x, \text{ and } \csc x$. (We discuss trigonometric functions later in the chapter.) An exponential function is a function of the form $f(x) = b^x$, where the base $b > 0, \ b \neq 1$. A logarithmic function is a function of the form $f(x) = \log_b(x)$ for some constant $b > 0, \ b \neq 1$, where $\log_b(x) = y$ if and only if $b^y = x$. (We also discuss exponential and logarithmic functions later in the chapter.)

Example 1.2.7: Classifying Algebraic and Transcendental Functions

Classify each of the following functions, a. through c., as algebraic or transcendental.

a. $f(x) = \dfrac{\sqrt{x^3+1}}{4x+2}$
b. $f(x) = 2^{x^2}$
c. $f(x) = \sin(2x)$

Solution

a. Since this function involves basic algebraic operations only, it is an algebraic function.
b. This function cannot be written as a formula that involves only basic algebraic operations, so it is transcendental. (Note that algebraic functions can only have powers that are rational numbers.)
c. As in part b, this function cannot be written using a formula involving basic algebraic operations only; therefore, this function is transcendental.

Exercise 1.2.5:

Is $f(x) = x/2$ an algebraic or a transcendental function?

Answer available at the end of this section.

Piecewise-Defined Functions

Sometimes a function is defined by different formulas on different parts of its domain. A function with this property is known as a piecewise-defined function. The absolute value function is an example of a piecewise-defined function because the formula changes with the sign of x:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x, & \text{if } x < 0 \\ x, & \text{if } x \geq 0 \end{cases}.$$

Other piecewise-defined functions may be represented by completely different formulas, depending on the part of the domain in which a point falls. To graph a piecewise-defined function, we graph each part of the function in its respective domain, on the same coordinate system. If the formula for a function is different for \(xa\), we need to pay special attention to what happens at $x = a$ when we graph the function. Sometimes the graph needs to include an open or closed circle to indicate the value of the function at $x = a$. We examine this in the next example.

Example 1.2.8: Graphing a Piecewise-Defined Function

Sketch a graph of the following piecewise-defined function:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} x+3, & \text{if } x < 1 \\ (x-2)^2, & \text{if } x \geq 1 \end{cases}$$

Solution

Graph the linear function $y = x + 3$ on the interval $(-\infty, 1)$ and graph the quadratic function $y = (x - 2)^2$ on the interval $[1, \infty)$. Since the value of the function at $x = 1$ is given by the formula $f(x) = (x - 2)^2$, we see that $f(1) = 1$. To indicate this on the graph, we draw a closed circle at the point $(1, 1)$. The value of the function is given by $f(x) = x + 3$ for all $x < 1$, but not at $x = 1$. To indicate this on the graph, we draw an open circle at $(1, 4)$.

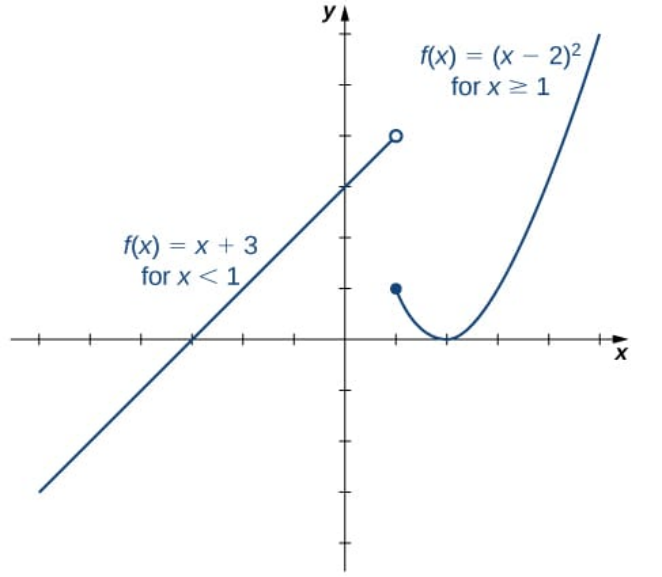


Figure 1.2.12: This graph of a function has two pieces. The first piece is an increasing line that ends at the open circle point $(1, 4)$ and has the label "$f(x) = x + 3$, for $x < 1$". The second piece is parabolic and begins at the closed circle point $(1, 1)$. After the point $(1, 1)$, the piece begins to decrease until the point $(2, 0)$ then begins to increase. This piece has the label "$f(x) = (x - 2)^2$, for $x \geq 1$". The function has x-intercepts at $(-3, 0)$ and $(2, 0)$, and a y-intercept at $(0, 3)$.

Example 1.2.9: Parking Fees Described by a Piecewise-Defined Function

In a big city, drivers are charged variable rates for parking in a parking garage. They are charged \$10 for the first hour or any part of the first hour and an additional \$2 for each hour or part thereof up to a maximum of \$30 for the day. The parking garage is open from 6 a.m. to 12 midnight.

a. Write a piecewise-defined function that describes the cost C to park in the parking garage as a function of hours parked x.
b. Sketch a graph of this function $C(x)$.

Solution

1.Since the parking garage is open 18 hours each day, the domain for this function is \(\{x\,|\,0

\[C(x)=\begin{cases}10, & \text{for } 0

2.The graph of the function consists of several horizontal line segments.

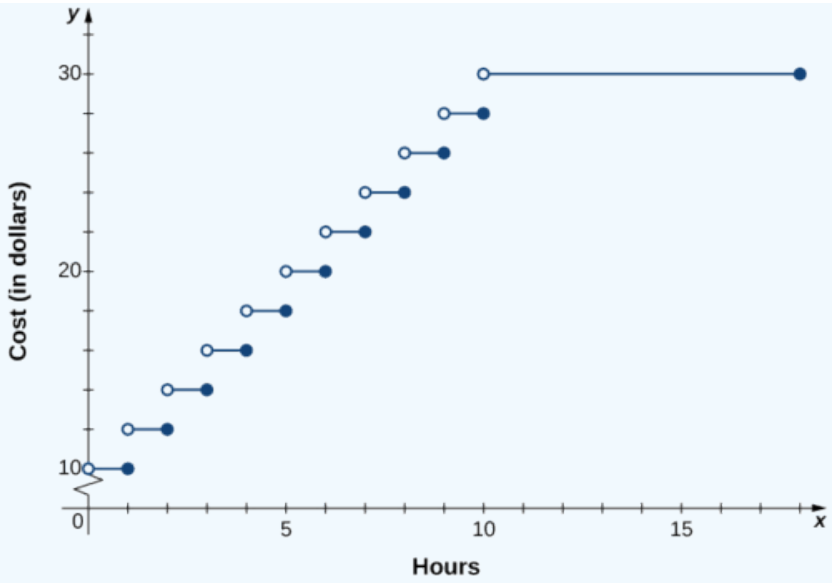


Figure 1.2.13: In this graph of a function, the x axis runs from 0 to 18 and is labeled “Hours”. The y-axis runs from 0 to 32 and is labeled “Cost (in dollars)”. The function consists 11 pieces, all horizontal line segments that begin with an open circle and end with a closed circle. The first piece starts with open circle at $(0, 10)$ and ends with closed circle at $(1, 10)$. The second piece starts with open circle at $(1, 12)$ and ends with closed circle at $(2, 12)$. Most of the remaining pieces are similar, making a jump of size 2 units at every integer value until $x = 10$. For $x > 10$, the graph remains at the height $y = 30$.

Exercise 1.2.6

The cost of mailing a letter is a function of the weight of the letter. Suppose the cost of mailing a letter is $49¢$ for the first ounce and $21¢$ for each additional ounce. Write a piecewise-defined function describing the cost C as a function of the weight x for \(0

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Transformations of Functions

We have seen several cases in which we have added, subtracted, or multiplied constants to form variations of simple functions. In the previous example, for instance, we subtracted 2 from the argument of the function $y = x^2$ to get the function $f(x) = (x - 2)^2$. This subtraction represents a shift of the function $y = x^2$ two units to the right. A shift, horizontally or vertically, is a type of **transformation of a function**. Other transformations include horizontal and vertical scalings, and reflections about the axes.

A vertical shift of a function occurs if we add or subtract the same constant to each output y. For $c > 0$, the graph of $f(x) + c$ is a shift of the graph of $f(x)$ up c units, whereas the graph of $f(x) - c$ is a shift of the graph of $f(x)$ down c units. For example, the graph of the function $f(x) = x^3 + 4$ is the graph of $y = x^3$ shifted up 4 units; the graph of the function $f(x) = x^3 - 4$ is the graph of $y = x^3$ shifted down 4 units (Figure 1.2.14).

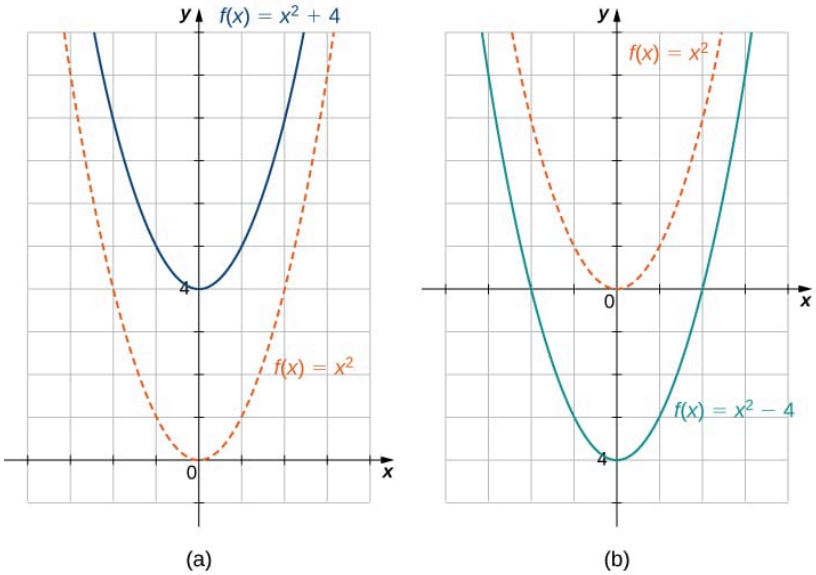


Figure 1.2.14: There are two graphs. (a) This graph demonstrates that for $c > 0$, the graph of $y = f(x) + c$ is a vertical shift up c units of the graph of $y = f(x)$. The function is $f(x) = x^2$, which is a parabola that decreases until the origin and then increases again after the origin. The second function is $f(x) = x^2 + 4$, which is a parabola that decreases until the point $(0, 4)$ and then increases again after the origin. The two functions are the same in shape, but the second function is shifted up 4 units. (b) This graph demonstrates that for $c > 0$, the graph of $y = f(x) - c$ is a vertical shift down c units of the graph of $y = f(x)$. The function is $f(x) = x^2$, which is a parabola that decreases until the origin and then increases again after the origin. The second function is $f(x) = x^2 - 4$, which is a parabola that decreases until the point $(0, -4)$ and then increases again after the origin. The two functions are the same in shape, but the second function is shifted up 4 down.

A horizontal shift of a function occurs if we add or subtract the same constant to each input x. For $c > 0$, the graph of $f(x + c)$ is a shift of the graph of $f(x)$ to the left c units; the graph of $f(x - c)$ is a shift of the graph of $f(x)$ to the right c units. Why does the graph shift left when adding a constant and shift right when subtracting a constant? To answer this question, let's look at an example.

Consider the function $f(x) = |x + 3|$ and evaluate this function at $x - 3$. Since $f(x - 3) = |x|$ and \(x–3

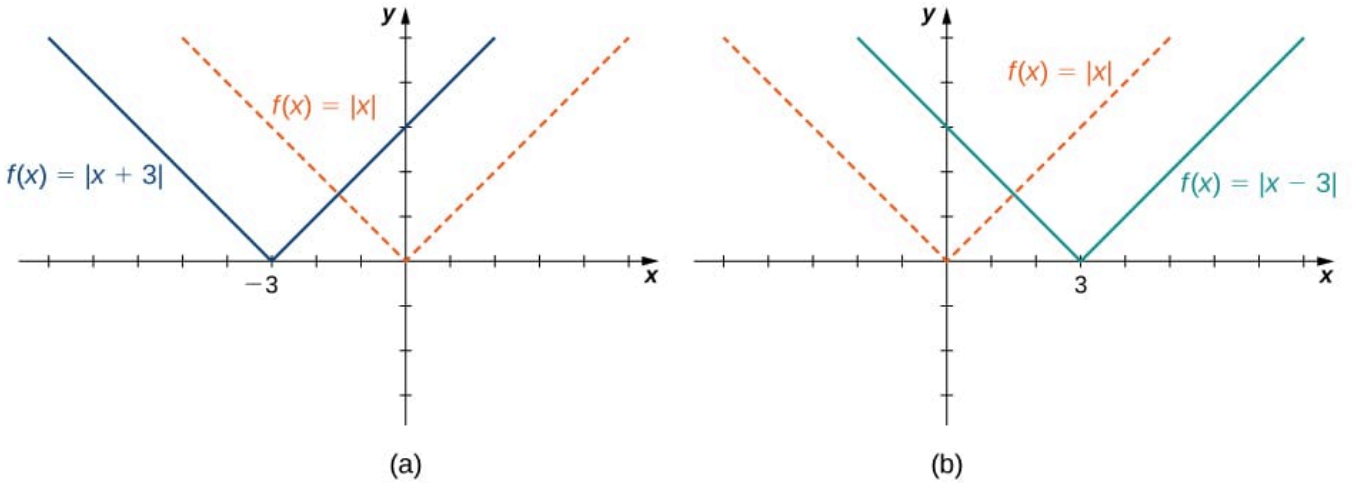


Figure 1.2.15: There are two graphs. (a) This graph demonstrates that for $c > 0$, the graph of $y = f(x + c)$ is a horizontal shift left c units of the graph of $y = f(x)$. The function is $f(x) = |x|$, which is a basic absolute value graph that decreases linearly until the origin and then increases linearly again after the origin. The second function is $f(x) = |x + 3|$, which is also an absolute value graph that decreases linearly until $(-3, 0)$ and then increases linearly again. The two functions are the same in shape, but the second function is shifted left 3 units. (b) This graph demonstrates that for $c > 0$, the graph of $y = f(x - c)$ is a horizontal shift right c units of the graph of $y = f(x)$.. The function is $f(x) = |x|$, which is a basic absolute value graph that decreases linearly until the origin and then increases linearly again after the origin. The second function is $f(x) = |x - 3|$, which is also an absolute value graph that decreases linearly until $(3, 0)$ and then increases linearly again. The two functions are the same in shape, but the second function is shifted right 3 units.

A vertical scaling of a graph occurs if we multiply all outputs y of a function by the same positive constant. For $c > 0$, the graph of

the function $cf(x)$ is the graph of $f(x)$ scaled vertically by a factor of c. If $c > 1$, the values of the outputs for the function $cf(x)$ are larger than the values of the outputs for the function $f(x)$; therefore, the graph has been stretched vertically. If \(0

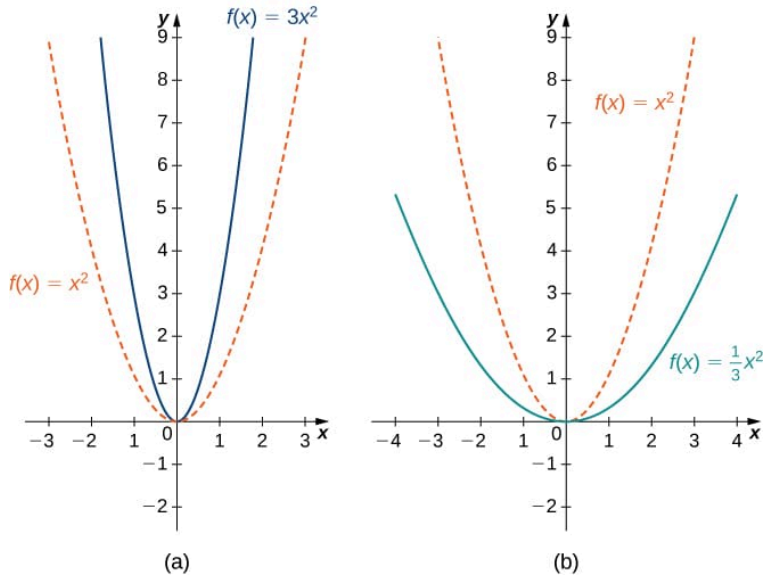


Figure 1.2.16: There are two graphs. (a) This graph demonstrates that if $c > 1$, the graph of $y = cf(x)$ is a vertical stretch of the graph of $y = f(x)$. The function is $f(x) = x^2$, which is a parabola that decreases until the origin and then increases again after the origin. The second function is $f(x) = 3x^2$, which is a parabola that decreases until the origin and then increases again after the origin, but is vertically stretched by a factor of 3 everywhere. (b) This graph demonstrates that if \(0

The horizontal scaling of a function occurs if we multiply the inputs x by the same positive constant. For $c > 0$, the graph of the function $f(cx)$ is the graph of $f(x)$ scaled horizontally by a factor of c. If $c > 1$, the graph of $f(cx)$ is the graph of $f(x)$ compressed horizontally. If \(0

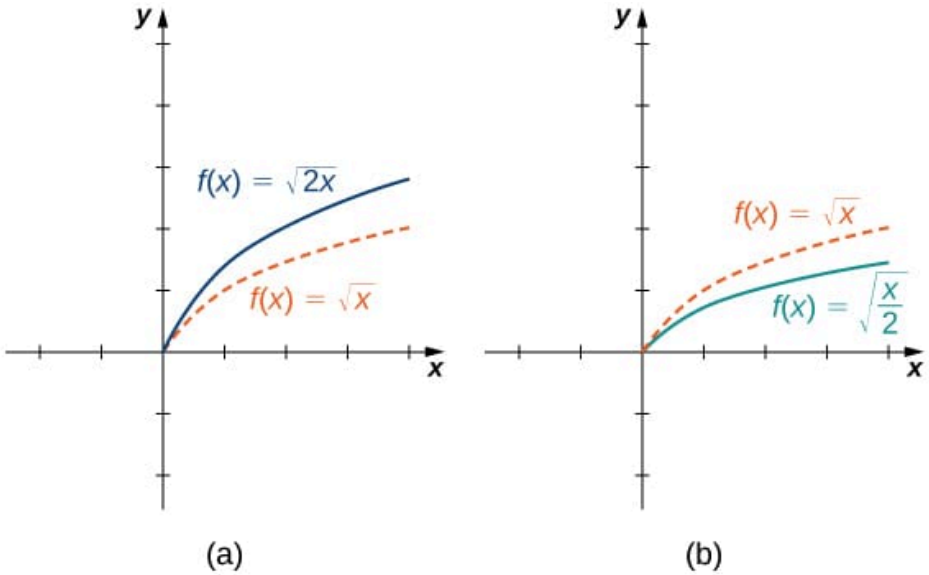


Figure 1.2.17: There are two graphs. (a) This graph demonstrates that if $c > 1$, the graph of $y = f(cx)$ is a horizontal compression of the graph of $y = f(x)$. The function is $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$, which is a curved function that starts at the origin and increases, passing through $(1, 1)$ and $(4, 2)$. The second function is $f(x) = \sqrt{2x}$, which is also a curved function that starts at the origin and increases, but passes through $(1/2, 1)$ and $(2, 2)$. The second graph is a horizontal compression of the first graph. (b) This graph demonstrates that if \(0

We have explored what happens to the graph of a function f when we multiply f by a constant $c > 0$ to get a new function $cf(x)$. We have also discussed what happens to the graph of a function $f$when we multiply the independent variable x by $c > 0$ to get a new function $f(cx)$. However, we have not addressed what happens to the graph of the function if the constant c is negative. If we

have a constant $c < 0$, we can write c as a positive number multiplied by -1; but, what kind of transformation do we get when we multiply the function or its argument by -1? When we multiply all the outputs by -1, we get a reflection about the x-axis. When we multiply all inputs by -1, we get a reflection about the y-axis. For example, the graph of $f(x) = -(x^3 + 1)$ is the graph of $y = (x^3 + 1)$ reflected about the x-axis. The graph of $f(x) = (-x)^3 + 1$ is the graph of $y = x^3 + 1$ reflected about the y-axis (Figure 1.2.18).

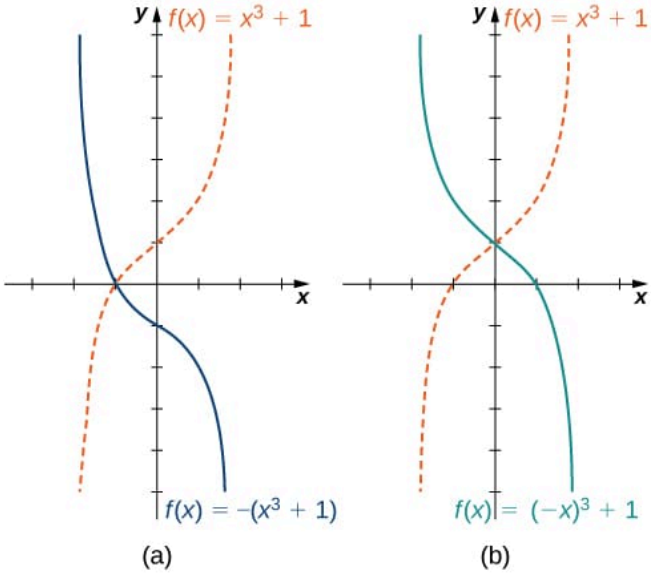


Figure 1.2.18: There are two graphs. (a) This graph demonstrates that the graph of $y = -f(x)$ is the graph of $y = f(x)$ reflected about the x-axis. Two functions are graphed. The first function is $f(x) = x^3 + 1$, which is a curved increasing function that has an x-intercept at (-1, 0) and a y -intercept at \)(0, 1)\). The second function is $f(x) = -(x^3 + 1)$, which is a curved decreasing function that has an x-intercept at $(-1, 0)$ and a y -intercept at $(0, -1)$. (b) This graph demonstrates that the graph of $y = f(-x)$ is the graph of $y = f(x)$ reflected about the y-axis. The first function is $f(x) = x^3 + 1$, as before. The second function is $f(x) = (-x)^3 + 1$, which is a curved decreasing function that has an x-intercept at $(1, 0)$ and a y-intercept at $(0, 1)$.

If the graph of a function consists of more than one transformation of another graph, it is important to transform the graph in the correct order. Given a function $f(x)$, the graph of the related function $y = cf(a(x + b)) + d$ can be obtained from the graph of $y = f(x)$by performing the transformations in the following order.

- Horizontal shift of the graph of $y = f(x)$. If $b > 0$, shift left. If $b < 0$ shift right.
- Horizontal scaling of the graph of $y = f(x + b)$ by a factor of $|a|$. If $a < 0$, reflect the graph about the y-axis.
- Vertical scaling of the graph of $y = f(a(x + b))$ by a factor of $|c|$. If $c < 0$, reflect the graph about the x -axis.
- Vertical shift of the graph of $y = cf(a(x + b))$. If $d > 0$, shift up. If $d < 0$, shift down.

We can summarize the different transformations and their related effects on the graph of a function in the following table.

Table 1.2.1*: Summary of transformations*

Transformation of $f(c > 0)$	Effect of the graph of f
0)\" style="text-align:center;vertical-align:middle;">$f(x) + c$	Vertical shift up c units
0)\" style="text-align:center;vertical-align:middle;">$f(x) - c$	Vertical shift down c units
0)\" style="text-align:center;vertical-align:middle;">$f(x + c)$	Shift left by c units
0)\" style="text-align:center;vertical-align:middle;">$f(x - c)$	Shift right by c units
0)\" style="text-align:center;vertical-align:middle;">$cf(x)$	Vertical stretch if $c > 1$; vertical compression if \(0<1\)>

Transformation of $f(c > 0)$	Effect of the graph of f
0)\" style="text-align:center;vertical-align:middle;">$f(cx)$	Horizontal stretch if \(0<1\);> horizontal compression if $c > 1$
0)\" style="text-align:center;vertical-align:middle;">$-f(x)$	Reflection about the x-axis
0)\" style="text-align:center;vertical-align:middle;">$f(-x)$	Reflection about the y-axis

Example 1.2.10: Transforming a Function

For each of the following functions, a. and b., sketch a graph by using a sequence of transformations of a well-known function.

a. $f(x) = -|x + 2| - 3$
b. $f(x) = 3\sqrt{-x} + 1$

Solution

1.Starting with the graph of $y = |x|$, shift 2 units to the left, reflect about the x-axis, and then shift down 3 units.

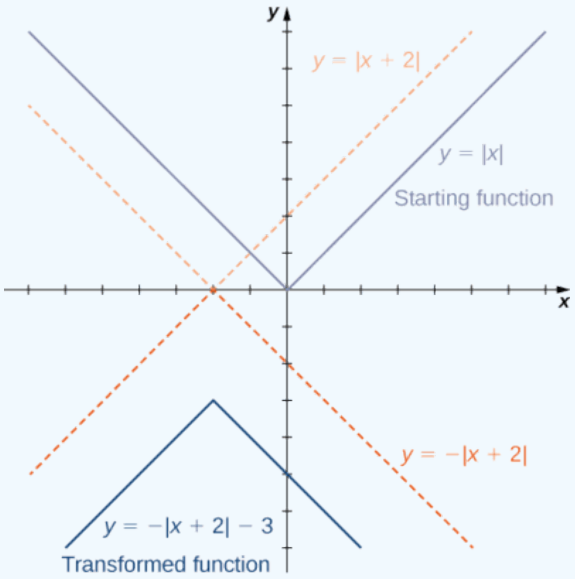


Figure 1.2.19: The function $f(x) = -|x + 2| - 3$ can be viewed as a sequence of three transformations of the function $y = |x|$. We start with the first graph, \f(x)=|x|\), the standard absolute value function. The second function is $f(x) = |x + 2|$, which is the same shape as the first function, but is shifted left 2 units. The third function is $f(x) = -|x + 2|$, which is the second function reflected about the x-axis. The fourth and final "transformed" function is $f(x) = -|x + 2| - 3$ is the third function shifted down 3 units.

2. Starting with the graph of $y = \sqrt{x}$, reflect about the y-axis, stretch the graph vertically by a factor of 3, and move up 1 unit.

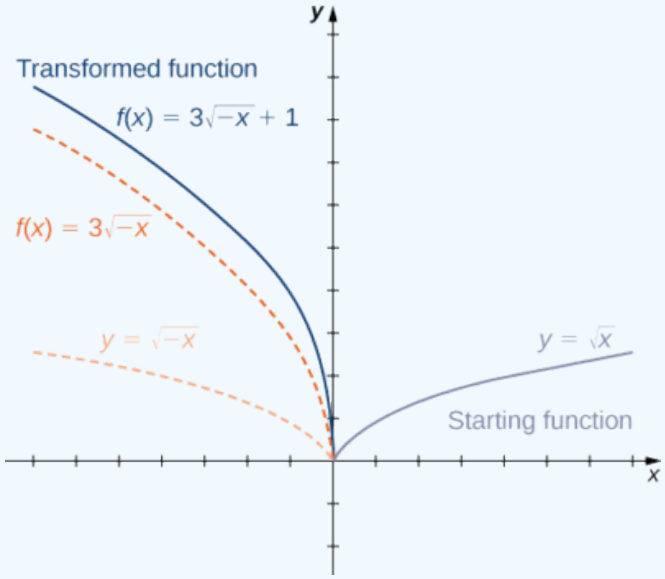


Figure 1.2.20: The function $f(x) = 3\sqrt{-x} + 1$ can be viewed as a sequence of three transformations of the function $y = \sqrt{x}$. We start with the first graph, $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$, which. is a curved function that begins at the origin and increases. The second function is $f(x) = \sqrt{-x}$, which is the reflection of the first graph across the y-axis. The third function is $f(x) = 3\sqrt{-x}$", which is a vertical stretch of the second function by a factor of 3. The fourth and final "transformed" function is $f(x) = 3\sqrt{-x} + 1$ is the third function shifted up 1 unit.

Exercise 1.2.7

Describe how the function $f(x) = -(x + 1)^2 - 4$ can be graphed using the graph of $y = x^2$ and a sequence of transformations

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- The power function $f(x) = x^n$ is an even function if n is even and $n \neq 0$, and it is an odd function if n is odd.
- The root function $f(x) = x^{1/n}$ has the domain $[0, \infty)$ if n is even and the domain $(-\infty, \infty)$ if n is odd. If n is odd, then $f(x) = x^{1/n}$ is an odd function.
- The domain of the rational function $f(x) = p(x)/q(x)$, where $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ are polynomial functions, is the set of x such that $q(x) \neq 0$.
- Functions that involve the basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and powers are algebraic functions. All other functions are transcendental. Trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions are examples of transcendental functions.
- A polynomial function f with degree $n \geq 1$ satisfies $f(x) \to \pm\infty$ as $x \to \pm\infty$. The sign of the output as $x \to \infty$ depends on the sign of the leading coefficient only and on whether n is even or odd.
- Vertical and horizontal shifts, vertical and horizontal scalings, and reflections about the x- and y-axes are examples of transformations of functions.

Key Equations

- **Point-slope equation of a line**

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

- **Slope-intercept form of a line**

$$y = mx + b$$

- **Standard form of a line**

$$ax + by = c$$

- **Polynomial function**

$$f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0$$

Glossary

Algebraic function
A function involving any combination of only the basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, powers, and roots applied to an input variable x

Cubic function
A polynomial of degree 3; that is, a function of the form $f(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$, where $a \neq 0$

Degree
For a polynomial function, the value of the largest exponent of any term

Linear function
A function that can be written in the form $f(x) = mx + b$

Logarithmic function
A function of the form $f(x) = \log_b(x)$ for some base $b > 0,\ b \neq 1$ such that $y = \log_b(x)$ if and only if $b^y = x$

Mathematical model
A method of simulating real-life situations with mathematical equations

Piecewise-defined function
A function that is defined differently on different parts of its domain

Point-slope equation
Equation of a linear function indicating its slope and a point on the graph of the function

Polynomial function
A function of the form $f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \ldots + a_1 x + a_0$

Power function
A function of the form $f(x) = x^n$ for any positive integer $n \geq 1$

Quadratic function
A polynomial of degree 2; that is, a function of the form $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$ where $a \neq 0$

Rational function
A function of the form $f(x) = p(x)/q(x)$, where $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ are polynomials

Root function
A function of the form $f(x) = x^{1/n}$ for any integer $n \geq 2$

Slope
The change in y for each unit change in x

Slope-intercept form
Equation of a linear function indicating its slope and y-intercept

Transcendental function
A function that cannot be expressed by a combination of basic arithmetic operations

Transformation of a function
A shift, scaling, or reflection of a function

Answers

Exercise 1.2.1

The slope $m = \Delta y / \Delta x$.

Exercise 1.2.1

$m = 1/2$.

The point-slope form is $y - 4 = \frac{1}{2}(x - 1)$.

The slope-intercept form is $y = \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{7}{2}$.

Exercise 1.2.2

Use the quadratic formula.

Exercise 1.2.2

The zeros are $x = 1 \pm \sqrt{3}/3$. The parabola opens upward.

Exercise 1.2.3

The denominator cannot be zero. Solve the equation $y = (5x + 2)/(2x - 1)$ for x to find the range.

The domain is the set of real numbers x such that $x \neq 1/2$. The range is the set $\{y \mid y \neq 5/2\}$.

Exercise 1.2.4

Determine the values of x when the expression in the denominator of f is nonzero, and find the values of x when the expression inside the radical of g is nonnegative.

Exercise 1.2.4

The domain of f is $(-\infty, \infty)$. The domain of g is $\{x \mid x \geq 1/5\}$.

Exercise 1.2.5**:**

Algebraic

Exercise 1.2.6

The piecewise-defined function is constant on the intervals $(0, 1]$, $(1, 2]$, ...

Exercise 1.2.6

\[C(x)=\begin{cases}49, 0

Exercise 1.2.7

Shift the graph $y = x^2$ to the left 1 unit, reflect about the x-axis, then shift down 4 units.

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1.2E: Exercises for Section 1.2

Exercises 1 - 8

For each pair of points,

a. **Find the slope of the line passing through the points and**
b. **Indicate whether the line is increasing, decreasing, horizontal, or vertical.**

1. $(-2,4)$ and $(1,1)$

   Answer

   a. $m=-1$
   b. Decreasing

2. $(-1,4)$ and $(3,-1)$
3. $(3,5)$ and $(-1,2)$

   Answer

   a. $m=3/4$
   b. Increasing

4. $(6,4)$ and $(4,-3)$
5. $(2,3)$ and $(5,7)$

   Answer

   a. $m=4/3$
   b. Increasing

6. $(1,9)$ and $(-8,5)$
7. $(2,4)$ and $(1,4)$

   Answer

   a. $m=0$
   b. Horizontal

8. $(1,4)$ and $(1,0)$

Exercises 9 - 16

Write the equation of the line satisfying the given conditions in slope-intercept form.

9. Slope $=-6$, passes through $(1,3)$

   Answer

   $$y=-6x+9$$

10. Slope $=3$, passes through $(-3,2)$
11. Slope $=\frac{1}{3}$, passes through $(0,4)$

    Answer

    $$y=\frac{1}{3}x+4$$

12. Slope $=\frac{2}{5}$, x-intercept $=8$
13. Passing through $(2,1)$ and $(-2,-1)$

Answer

$y = \frac{1}{2}x$

14. Passing through $(-3, 7)$ and $(1, 2)$
15. x-intercept =5 and y-intercept =-3

Answer

$y = \frac{3}{5}x - 3$

16. x-Intercept =-6 and y-intercept =9

Exercises 17 - 24

For each linear equation,

a. **Give the slope m and y-intercept b, if any, and**
b. **Graph the line.**

17. $y = 2x - 3$

Answer

a. $m = 2, \quad b = -3$
b.

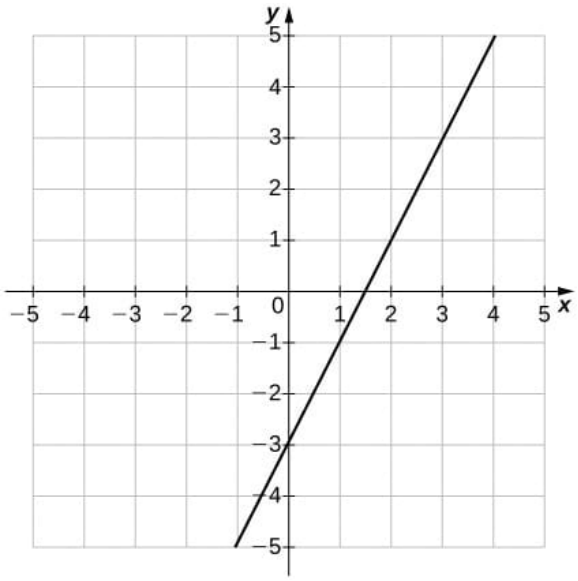


Figure $1.2E.1$: This graph shows an increasing straight line function with a y-intercept at $(0, -3)$ and a x-intercept at $(1.5, 0)$.

18. $y = -\frac{1}{7}x + 1$
19. $f(x) = -6x$

Answer

a. $m = -6, \quad b = 0$
b.

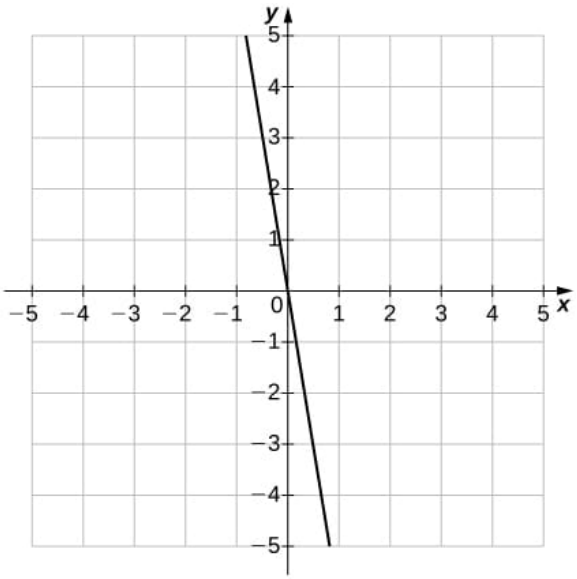


Figure $1.2E.1$: This graph shows a decreasing straight line function with a y-intercept and x-intercept both at the origin.

20. $f(x) = -5x + 4$
21. $4y + 24 = 0$

Answer

a. $m = 0, \quad b = -6$
b.

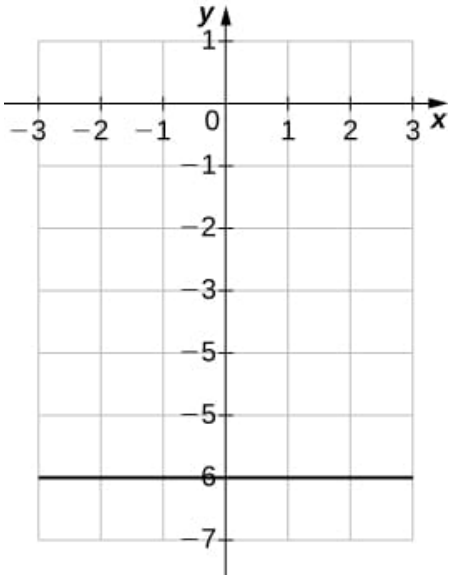


Figure $1.2E.1$: This graph shows a horizontal straight line function with a y -intercept at $(0, -6)$ and no x-intercept.

22. $8x - 4 = 0$
23. $2x + 3y = 6$

Answer

a. $m = -\frac{2}{3}, \quad b = 2$
b.

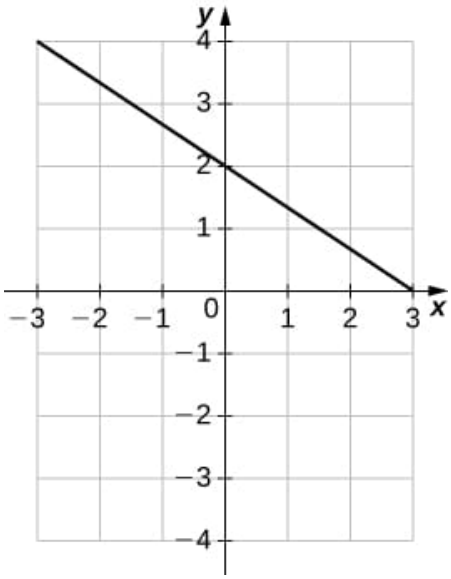


Figure $1.2E.1$: This graph shows a decreasing straight line function with a y-intercept at $(0, 2)$ and a $x-intercept$ at $(3, 0)$.

24. $6x - 5y + 15 = 0$

Exercises 25 - 29

a. **For each polynomial,**
b. **Find the degree;**
c. **Find the zeros, if any;**
d. **Find the y-intercept(s), if any;**
e. **Use the leading coefficient to determine the graph's end behavior; and**
f. **Determine algebraically whether the polynomial is even, odd, or neither.**

25. $f(x) = 2x^2 - 3x - 5$

Answer

a. 2
b. $\frac{5}{2},\ -1$;
c. -5
d. Both ends rise
e. Neither

26. $f(x) = -3x^2 + 6x$
27. $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 1$

Answer

a. 2
b. $\pm\sqrt{2}$
c. -1
d. Both ends rise
e. Even

28. $f(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 - x - 3$
29. $f(x) = 3x - x^3$

Answer

a. 3
b. $0, \pm\sqrt{3}$

c. 0
d. Left end rises, right end falls
e. Odd

Exercises 30 - 31

Use the graph of $f(x) = x^2$ to graph each transformed function g.

30. $g(x) = x^2 - 1$
31. $g(x) = (x + 3)^2 + 1$

Answer

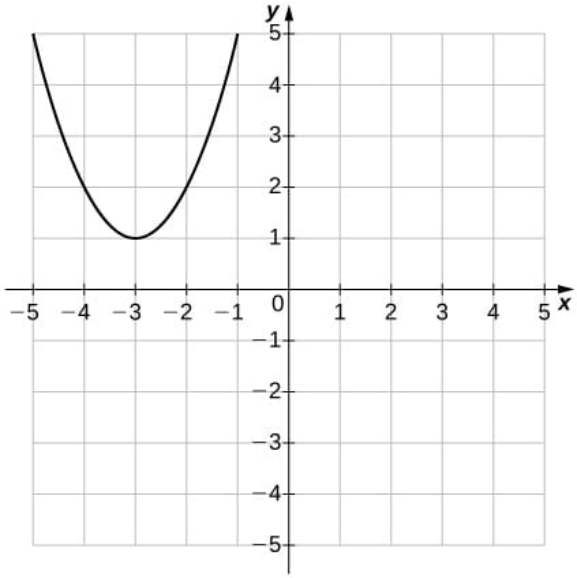


Figure $1.2E.1$: This graph shows a parabolic function that decreases until the point $(-3, 1)$, then begins increasing. The y -intercept is not shown and there are no x-intercepts. The graph passes through points $(-4, 2)$ and $(-2, 2)$.

Exercises 32 - 33

Use the graph of $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ to graph each transformed function g.

32. $g(x) = \sqrt{x + 2}$
33. $g(x) = -\sqrt{x} - 1$

Answer

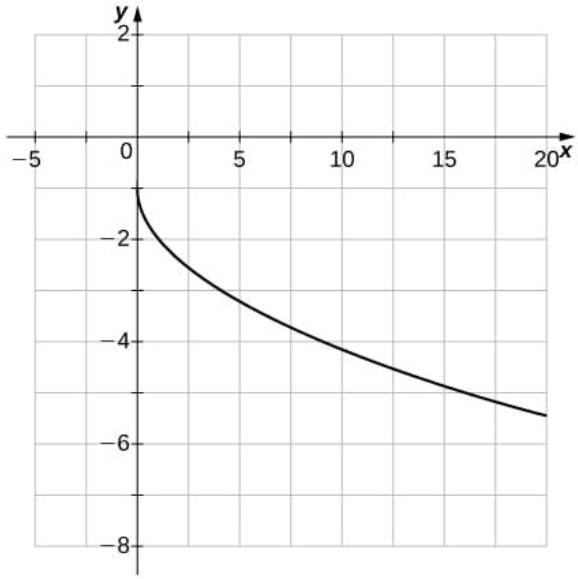


Figure $1.2E.1$: This graph shows a parabolic function that decreases until the point $(-3, 1)$, then begins increasing. It's the lower half of a parabola that opens to the right. The y-intercept occrs at $(0, -1)$, and there are no x-intercepts.

Exercises 34 - 35

Use the graph of $y = f(x)$ to graph each transformed function g.

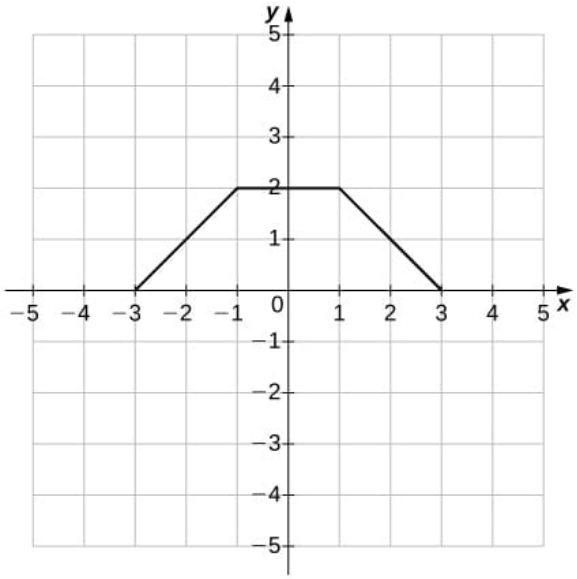


Figure $1.2E.1$: This graph shows a function that starts at point $(-3, 0)$, where it begins to increase linearly until the point $(-1, 2)$. After the point $(-1, 2)$, the function becomes a horizontal line and stays that way until the point $(1, 2)$. After the point $(1, 2)$, the function begins to decrease linearly until the point $(3, 0)$, where the function ends.

34. $g(x) = f(x) + 1$
35. $g(x) = f(x - 1) + 2$

Answer

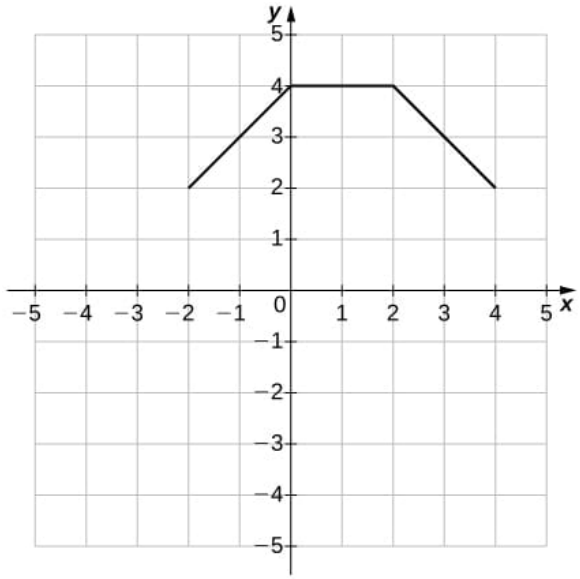


Figure $1.2E.1$: This graph shows a function that starts at point $(-2, 2)$, where it begins to increase linearly until the point $(0, 4)$. After the point $(0, 4)$, the function becomes a horizontal line and stays that way until the point $(2, 4)$. After the point $(2, 4)$, the function begins to decrease until the point $(4, 2)$, where the function ends.

Exercises 36 - 39

For each of the piecewise-defined functions,

a. **Evaluate at the given values of the independent variable, and**
b. **Sketch the graph.**

36. $f(x) = \begin{cases} 4x+3, & \text{if } x \le 0 \\ -x+1, & \text{if } x > 0 \end{cases}$; $f(-3)$; $f(0)$; $f(2)$

37. $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2-3, & \text{if } x \le 0 \\ 4x-3, & \text{if } x > 0 \end{cases}$; $f(-4)$; $f(0)$; $f(2)$

Answer

a. $f(-4) = 13, \quad f(0) = -3, \quad f(2) = 5$
b.

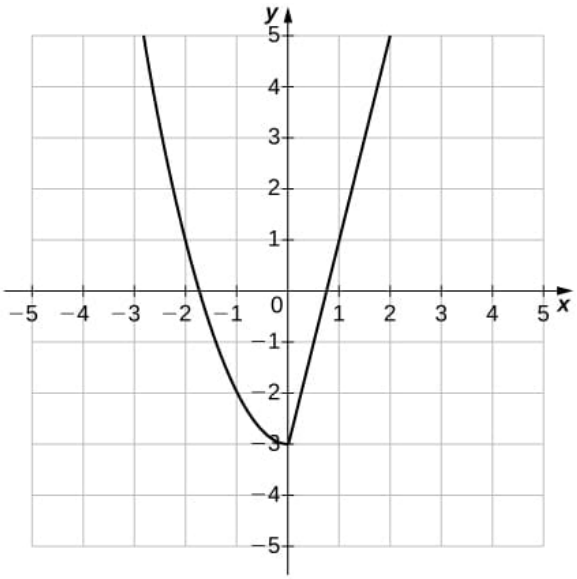


Figure $1.2E.1$: This graph is of a function that has two pieces. The first piece is a decreasing curve that ends at the point $(0, -3)$. The second piece is an increasing line that begins at the point $(0, -3)$. The function has a x-intercepts at the approximate point $(1.7, 0)$ and the point $(0.75, 0)$ and a y-intercept at $(0, -3)$.

38. $h(x) = \begin{cases} x+1, & \text{if } x \le 5 \\ 4, & \text{if } x > 5 \end{cases}$; $h(0)$; $h(\pi)$; $h(5)$

39. $g(x) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{3}{x-2}, & \text{if } x \neq 2 \\ 4, & \text{if } x = 2 \end{cases}$; $g(0)$; $g(-4)$; $g(2)$

Answer

a. $g(0) = -\frac{3}{2}$, $g(-4) = -\frac{1}{2}$, $g(2) = 4$

b.

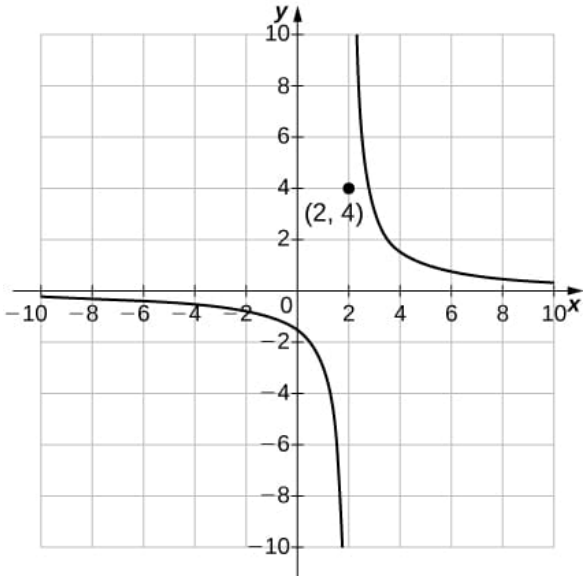


Figure $1.2E.1$: This graph is of a function that has two pieces. The first piece is a decreasing curve that ends at the point $(0, -3)$. The second piece is an increasing line that begins at the point $(0, -3)$. The function has a x-intercepts at the approximate point $(1.7, 0)$ and the point $(0.75, 0)$ and a y-intercept at $(0, -3)$.

Exercises 40 - 44

Determine whether the statement is *true or false*. Explain why.

10. $f(x) = \dfrac{4x+1}{7x-2}$ is a transcendental function.
11. $g(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$ is an odd root function.

Answer

True; $n = 3$

12. A logarithmic function is an algebraic function.
13. A function of the form $f(x) = x^b$, where b is a real valued constant, is an exponential function.

Answer

False; $f(x) = x^b$, where b is a real-valued constant, is a power function

14. The domain of an even root function is all real numbers.
15. [T] A company purchases some computer equipment for $20,500. At the end of a 3-year period, the value of the equipment has decreased linearly to $12,301.

a. Find a function $y = V(t)$ that determines the value V of the equipment at the end of t years.
b. Find and interpret the meaning of the x- and y-intercepts for this situation.
c. What is the value of the equipment at the end of 5 years?
d. When will the value of the equipment be $3000?

Answer

a. $V(t) = -2733t + 20500$
b. $(0, 20, 500)$ means that the initial purchase price of the equipment is $20,500; $(7.5, 0)$ means that in 7.5 years the computer equipment has no value.
c. $6835
d. In approximately 6.4 years

16. [T] Total online shopping during the Christmas holidays has increased dramatically during the past 5 years. In 2012 $(t = 0)$,total online holiday sales were $42.3 billion, whereas in 2013 they were $48.1 billion.

a. Find a linear function S that estimates the total online holiday sales in the year t.

b. Interpret the slope of the graph of S.

c. Use part a. to predict the year when online shopping during Christmas will reach $60 billion.

17. [T] A family bakery makes cupcakes and sells them at local outdoor festivals. For a music festival, there is a fixed cost of $125 to set up a cupcake stand. The owner estimates that it costs $0.75 to make each cupcake. The owner is interested in determining the total cost C as a function of number of cupcakes made

a. Find a linear function that relates cost C to x, the number of cupcakes made.
b. Find the cost to bake 160 cupcakes.
c. If the owner sells the cupcakes for $1.50 apiece, how many cupcakes does she need to sell to start making profit? (Hint: Use the INTERSECTION function on a calculator to find this number.)

Answer

a. $C = 0.75x + 125$
b. $245
c. 167 cupcakes

18. [T] A house purchased for $250,000 is expected to be worth twice its purchase price in 18 years.

a. Find a linear function that models the price P of the house versus the number of years t since the original purchase.
b. Interpret the slope of the graph of P.
c. Find the price of the house 15 years from when it was originally purchased.

19. [T] A car was purchased for $26,000. The value of the car depreciates by $1500 per year.

a. Find a linear function that models the value V of the car after t years.
b. Find and interpret $V(4)$.

Answer

a. $V(t) = -1500t + 26,000$
b. In 4 years, the value of the car is $20,000.

50. [T] A condominium in an upscale part of the city was purchased for $432,000. In 35 years it is worth $60,500. Find the rate of depreciation.
51. [T] The total cost C (in thousands of dollars) to produce a certain item is modeled by the function $C(x) = 10.50x + 28,500$, where x is the number of items produced. Determine the cost to produce 175 items.

Answer

$30,337,500

52. [T] A professor asks her class to report the amount of time t they spent writing two assignments. Most students report that it takes them about 45 minutes to type a four-page assignment and about 1.5 hours to type a nine-page assignment.

a. Find the linear function $y = N(t)$ that models this situation, where N is the number of pages typed and t is the time in minutes.
b. Use part a. to determine how many pages can be typed in 2 hours.
c. Use part a. to determine how long it takes to type a 20-page assignment.

53. [T] The output (as a percent of total capacity) of nuclear power plants in the United States can be modeled by the function $P(t) = 1.8576t + 68.052$, where t is time in years and $t = 0$ corresponds to the beginning of 2000. Use the model to predict the percentage output in 2015.

Answer

96% of the total capacity

54. [T] The admissions office at a public university estimates that 65% of the students offered admission to the class of 2019 will actually enroll.

a. Find the linear function $y = N(x)$, where N is the number of students that actually enroll and x is the number of all students offered admission to the class of 2019.
b. If the university wants the 2019 freshman class size to be 1350, determine how many students should be admitted.

Contributors

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1.3: Trigonometric Functions

Learning Objectives

- Convert angle measures between degrees and radians.
- Recognize the triangular and circular definitions of the basic trigonometric functions.
- Write the basic trigonometric identities.
- Identify the graphs and periods of the trigonometric functions.
- Describe the shift of a sine or cosine graph from the equation of the function.

Trigonometric functions are used to model many phenomena, including sound waves, vibrations of strings, alternating electrical current, and the motion of pendulums. In fact, almost any repetitive, or cyclical, motion can be modeled by some combination of trigonometric functions. In this section, we define the six basic trigonometric functions and look at some of the main identities involving these functions.

Radian Measure

To use trigonometric functions, we first must understand how to measure the angles. Although we can use both radians and degrees, **radians** are a more natural measurement because they are related directly to the unit circle, a circle with radius 1. The radian measure of an angle θ, let s be the length of the corresponding arc on the unit circle (Figure $1.3.1$). We say the angle corresponding to the arc of length 1 has radian measure 1.

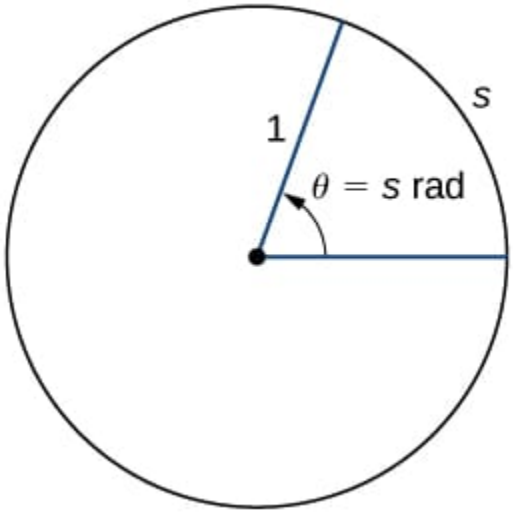


Figure $1.3.1$: The radian measure of an angle θ is the arc length s of the associated arc on the unit circle. From the center of the unit circle (radius 1), a line segment extends horizontally to the right a point on the edge of the circle and another that extends to another point on the edge of the circle. The curved segment on the edge of the circle that connects the two points at the end of the line segments is labeled s, the arc length. The angle at the center of the circle formed by the two line segments is shown as an arrow pointing counterclockwise, and labeled "$\theta = s$ radians".

Since an angle of $360\,^\circ$ corresponds to the circumference of a circle, or an arc of length 2π, we conclude that an angle with a degree measure of $360\,^\circ$ has a radian measure of 2π. Similarly, we see that $180\,^\circ$ is equivalent to π radians. Table $1.3.1$ shows the relationship between common degree and radian values.

Table $1.3.1$: Common Angles Expressed in Degrees and Radians

Degrees	Radians	Degrees	Radians
0	0	120	$2\pi/3$

Degrees	Radians	Degrees	Radians
30	$\pi/6$	135	$3\pi/4$
45	$\pi/4$	150	$5\pi/6$
60	$\pi/3$	180	π
90	$\pi/2$		

Converting between Radians and Degrees

a. Express $225\,^\circ$ using radians.
b. Express $5\pi/3$ rad using degrees.

Solution

Use the fact that $180°$ is equivalent to π radians as a **conversion factor** (Table $1.3.1$):

$$1 = \frac{\pi \text{ rad}}{180^\circ} = \frac{180^\circ}{\pi \text{ rad}}.$$

a. $225\,^\circ = 225\,^\circ \cdot \left(\frac{\pi}{180^\circ}\right) = \left(\frac{5\pi}{4}\right)$ rad
b. $\frac{5\pi}{3}$ rad = $\frac{5\pi}{3} \cdot \frac{180^\circ}{\pi} = 300°$

Exercise $1.3.1$

a. Express $210\,^\circ$ using radians.
b. Express $11\pi/6$ rad using degrees.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The Six Basic Trigonometric Functions

Trigonometric functions allow us to use angle measures, in radians or degrees, to find the coordinates of a point on any circle—not only on a unit circle—or to find an angle given a point on a circle. They also define the relationship between the sides and angles of a triangle.

To define the trigonometric functions, first consider the unit circle centered at the origin and a point $P = (x, y)$ on the unit circle. Let θ be an angle with an initial side that lies along the positive x-axis and with a terminal side that is the line segment OP. An angle in this position is said to be in standard position (Figure $1.3.2$). We can then define the values of the six trigonometric functions for θ in terms of the coordinates x and y.

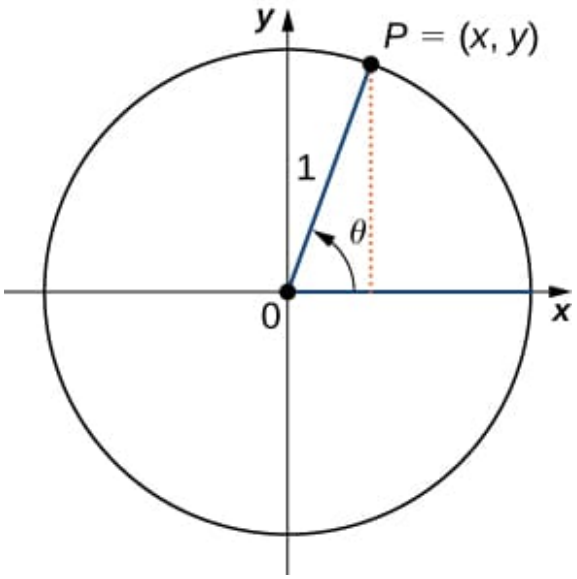


Figure 1.3.2: An angle θ is marked on a unit circle in standard position. The point on the edge of the circle corresponding to the angle θ is labeled "$P = (x, y)$".

Definition: Trigonometric functions

Let $P = (x, y)$ be a point on the unit circle centered at the origin O. Let θ be an angle with an initial side along the positive x -axis and a terminal side given by the line segment OP. The trigonometric functions are then defined as

Table 1.3.1: Definitions of the six trigonometric functions

Trigonometric Function	Reciprocal Trigonometric Function
$\sin\theta = y$	$\csc\theta = \frac{1}{y}$
$\cos\theta = x$	$\sec\theta = \frac{1}{x}$
$\tan\theta = \frac{y}{x}$	$\cot\theta = \frac{x}{y}$

If $x = 0, \sec\theta$ and $\tan\theta$ are undefined. If $y = 0$, then $\cot\theta$ and $\csc\theta$ are undefined.

We can see that for a point $P = (x, y)$ on a circle of radius r with a corresponding angle θ, the coordinates x and y satisfy

$$\cos\theta = \frac{x}{r} \tag{1.3.1}$$

$$x = r\cos\theta \tag{1.3.2}$$

and

$$\sin\theta = \frac{y}{r} \tag{1.3.3}$$

$$y = r\sin\theta. \tag{1.3.4}$$

The values of the other trigonometric functions can be expressed in terms of x, y, and r (Figure 1.3.3).

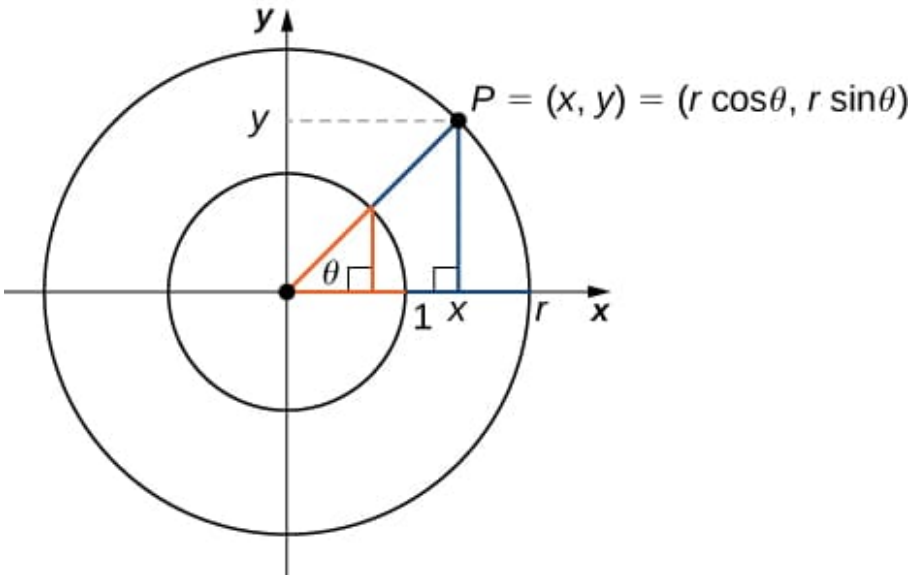


Figure 1.3.3: For a point $P = (x, y)$ on a circle of radius 1 corresponding to the angle θ in standard position, the coordinates x and y satisfy $x = r\cos\theta$ and $y = r\sin\theta$.

Table 1.3.2 shows the values of sine and cosine at the major angles in the first quadrant. From this table, we can determine the values of sine and cosine at the corresponding angles in the other quadrants. The values of the other trigonometric functions are calculated easily from the values of $\sin\theta$ and $\cos\theta$.

Table 1.3.2: Values of $\sin\theta$ and $\cos\theta$ at Major Angles θ in the First Quadrant

θ	$\sin\theta$	$\cos\theta$
0	0	1
$\frac{\pi}{6}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$
$\frac{\pi}{4}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$
$\frac{\pi}{3}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
$\frac{\pi}{2}$	1	0

Example 1.3.2: Evaluating Trigonometric Functions

Evaluate each of the following expressions.

a. $\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{3}\right)$
b. $\cos\left(-\frac{5\pi}{6}\right)$
c. $\tan\left(\frac{15\pi}{4}\right)$

Solution:

a) On the unit circle, the angle $\theta = \frac{2\pi}{3}$ corresponds to the point $\left(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$. Therefore,

$$\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{3}\right) = y = \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right).$$

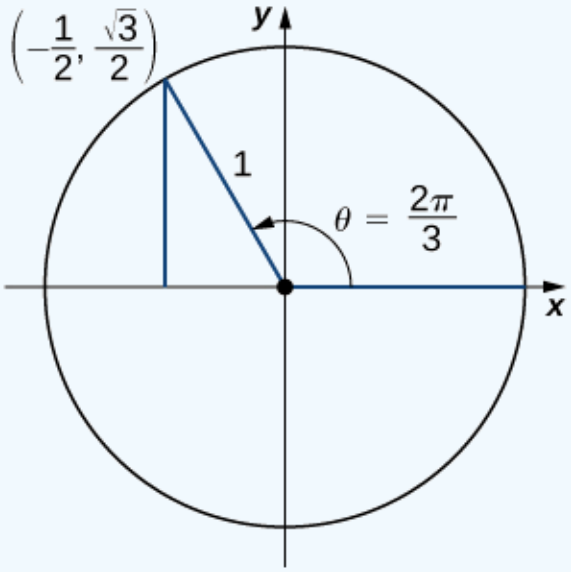


Figure 1.3.4: The angle $\theta = \frac{2\pi}{3}$ is marked in standard position on the unit circle. The coordinates of the corresponding point on the unit circle are $(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2})$.

b) An angle $\theta = -\frac{5\pi}{6}$ corresponds to a revolution in the negative direction, as shown. Therefore,

$$\cos\left(-\frac{5\pi}{6}\right) = x = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}.$$

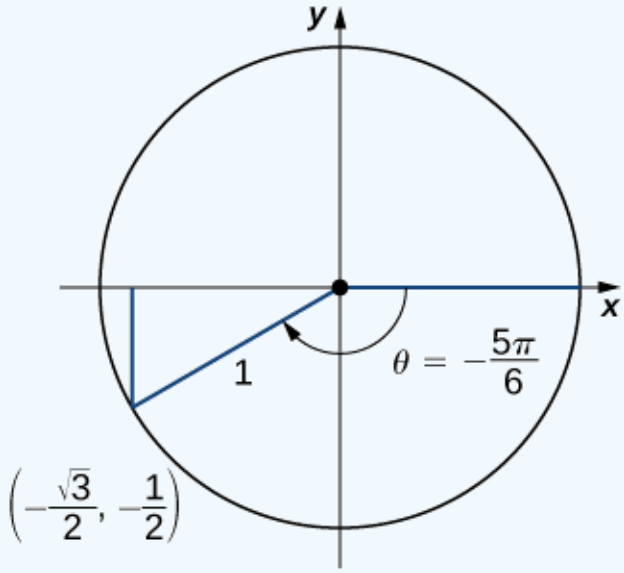


Figure 1.3.5: The angle $\theta = -\frac{5\pi}{6}$ is marked in standard position on the unit circle. The coordinates of the corresponding point on the unit circle are $(-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})$.

c) An angle $\theta = \frac{15\pi}{4} = 2\pi + \frac{7\pi}{4}$. Therefore, this angle corresponds to more than one revolution, as shown. Knowing the fact that an angle of $\frac{7\pi}{4}$ corresponds to the point $(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2})$, we can conclude that

$$\tan\left(\frac{15\pi}{4}\right) = \frac{y}{x} = -1.$$

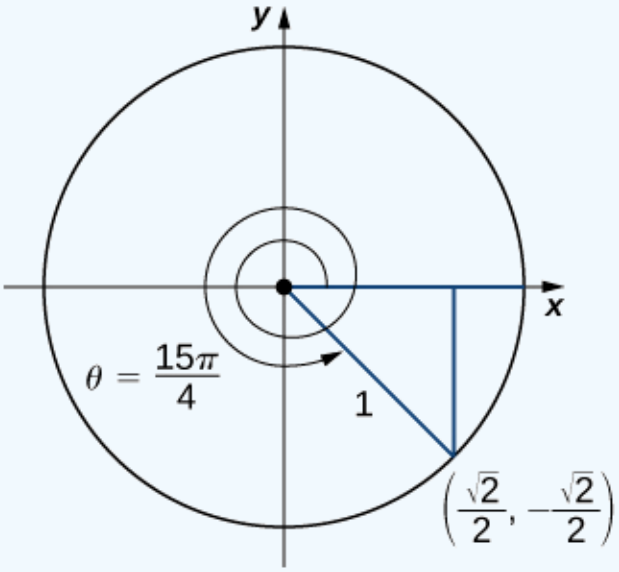


Figure 1.3.6: The angle $\theta = \frac{15\pi}{4}$ is marked in standard position on the unit circle. The coordinates of the corresponding point on the unit circle are $(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2})$.

Exercise 1.3.2

Evaluate $\cos(3\pi/4)$ and $\sin(-\pi/6)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

As mentioned earlier, the ratios of the side lengths of a right triangle can be expressed in terms of the trigonometric functions evaluated at either of the acute angles of the triangle. Let θ be one of the acute angles. Let A be the length of the adjacent leg, O be the length of the opposite leg, and H be the length of the hypotenuse. By inscribing the triangle into a circle of radius H, as shown in Figure 1.3.4, we see that A, H, and O satisfy the following relationships with θ:

Table 1.3.2: Definitions of the six trigonometric functions as ratios of sides of a triangle

Trigonometric Function	Reciprocal Trigonometric Function
$\sin\theta = \frac{O}{H}$	$\csc\theta = \frac{H}{O}$
$\cos\theta = \frac{A}{H}$	$\sec\theta = \frac{H}{A}$
$\tan\theta = \frac{O}{A}$	$\cot\theta = \frac{A}{O}$

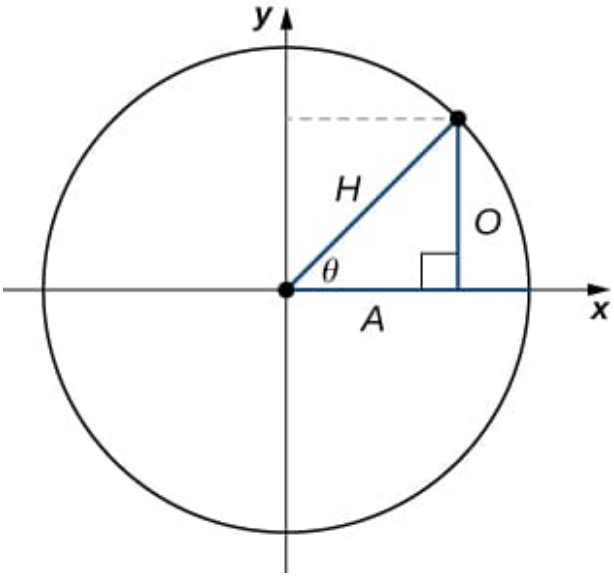


Figure 1.3.7: By inscribing a right triangle in a circle, we can express the ratios of the side lengths in terms of the trigonometric functions evaluated at θ. The angle θ is marked in standard position and a point corresponding to this angle is marked on the circle. The distance from the origin to this point is marked as "H" (for hypotenuse), the base of the triangle is marked as "A" (for adjacent), and the height of the triangle is marked as "O" (for opposite).

Example 1.3.3: Constructing a Wooden Ramp

A wooden ramp is to be built with one end on the ground and the other end at the top of a short staircase. If the top of the staircase is 4 ft from the ground and the angle between the ground and the ramp is to be $10°$, how long does the ramp need to be?

Solution

Let x denote the length of the ramp. In the following image, we see that x needs to satisfy the equation $\sin(10\ °) = 4/x$. Solving this equation for x, we see that $x = 4/\sin(10\ °) \approx 23.035$ ft.

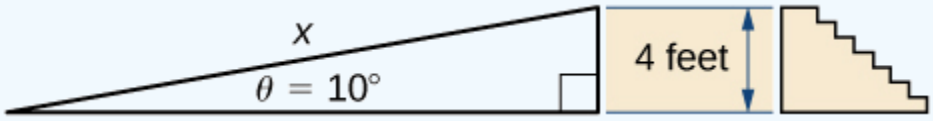


Figure 1.3.8: An image of a ramp and a staircase. The ramp starts at a point and increases diagonally upwards and to the right at an angle of $10\ °$ for x feet. At the end of the ramp, which is 4 feet off the ground, a staircase descends downwards and to the right.

Exercise 1.3.3

A house painter wants to lean a 20-ft ladder against a house. If the angle between the base of the ladder and the ground is to be $60°$, how far from the house should she place the base of the ladder?

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Trigonometric Identities

A **trigonometric identity** is an equation involving trigonometric functions that is true for all angles θ for which the functions are defined. We can use the identities to help us solve or simplify equations. The main trigonometric identities are listed next.

Trigonometric Identities

Reciprocal identities

$$\tan\theta = \frac{\sin\theta}{\cos\theta}$$

$$\cot\theta = \frac{\cos\theta}{\sin\theta}$$

$$\csc\theta = \frac{1}{\sin\theta}$$

$$\sec\theta = \frac{1}{\cos\theta}$$

Pythagorean identities

$$\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta = 1 \tag{1.3.5}$$

$$1 + \tan^2\theta = \sec^2\theta \tag{1.3.6}$$

$$1 + \cot^2\theta = \csc^2\theta \tag{1.3.7}$$

Addition and subtraction formulas

$$\sin(\alpha \pm \beta) = \sin\alpha\cos\beta \pm \cos\alpha\sin\beta$$

$$\cos(\alpha \pm \beta) = \cos\alpha\cos\beta \mp \sin\alpha\sin\beta$$

Double-angle formulas

$$\sin(2\theta) = 2\sin\theta\cos\theta \tag{1.3.8}$$

$$\cos(2\theta) = 2\cos^2\theta - 1 \tag{1.3.9}$$

$$= 1 - 2\sin^2\theta \tag{1.3.10}$$

$$= \cos^2\theta - \sin^2\theta \tag{1.3.11}$$

Example 1.3.4: Solving Trigonometric Equations

For each of the following equations, use a trigonometric identity to find all solutions.

a. $1 + \cos(2\theta) = \cos\theta$
b. $\sin(2\theta) = \tan\theta$

Solution

a) Using the double-angle formula for $\cos(2\theta)$, we see that θ is a solution of

$$1 + \cos(2\theta) = \cos\theta$$

if and only if

$$1 + 2\cos^2\theta - 1 = \cos\theta,$$

which is true if and only if

$$2\cos^2\theta - \cos\theta = 0.$$

To solve this equation, it is important to note that we need to factor the left-hand side and not divide both sides of the equation by $\cos\theta$. The problem with dividing by $\cos\theta$ is that it is possible that $\cos\theta$ is zero. In fact, if we did divide both sides of the equation by $\cos\theta$, we would miss some of the solutions of the original equation. Factoring the left-hand side of the equation, we see that θ is a solution of this equation if and only if

$$\cos\theta(2\cos\theta - 1) = 0.$$

Since $\cos\theta = 0$ when

$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2} \pm \pi, \frac{\pi}{2} \pm 2\pi, \ldots,$$

and $\cos\theta = 1/2$ when

$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{\pi}{3} \pm 2\pi, \ldots \text{ or } \theta = -\frac{\pi}{3}, -\frac{\pi}{3} \pm 2\pi, \ldots,$$

we conclude that the set of solutions to this equation is

$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{2} + n\pi, \ \theta = \frac{\pi}{3} + 2n\pi$$

and

$$\theta = -\frac{\pi}{3} + 2n\pi, \ n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \ldots.$$

b) Using the double-angle formula for $\sin(2\theta)$ and the reciprocal identity for $\tan(\theta)$, the equation can be written as

$$2\sin\theta\cos\theta = \frac{\sin\theta}{\cos\theta}.$$

To solve this equation, we multiply both sides by $\cos\theta$ to eliminate the denominator, and say that if θ satisfies this equation, then θ satisfies the equation

$$2\sin\theta\cos^2\theta - \sin\theta = 0.$$

However, we need to be a little careful here. Even if θ satisfies this new equation, it may not satisfy the original equation because, to satisfy the original equation, we would need to be able to divide both sides of the equation by $\cos\theta$. However, if $\cos\theta = 0$, we cannot divide both sides of the equation by $\cos\theta$. Therefore, it is possible that we may arrive at extraneous solutions. So, at the end, it is important to check for extraneous solutions. Returning to the equation, it is important that we factor $\sin\theta$ out of both terms on the left-hand side instead of dividing both sides of the equation by $\sin\theta$. Factoring the left-hand side of the equation, we can rewrite this equation as

$$\sin\theta(2\cos^2\theta - 1) = 0.$$

Therefore, the solutions are given by the angles θ such that $\sin\theta = 0$ or $\cos^2\theta = 1/2$. The solutions of the first equation are $\theta = 0, \pm\pi, \pm 2\pi, \ldots$. The solutions of the second equation are $\theta = \pi/4, (\pi/4) \pm (\pi/2), (\pi/4) \pm \pi, \ldots$. After checking for extraneous solutions, the set of solutions to the equation is

$$\theta = n\pi$$

and

$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{n\pi}{2}$$

with $n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \ldots$.

Exercise 1.3.4

Find all solutions to the equation $\cos(2\theta) = \sin\theta$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 1.3.5: Proving a Trigonometric Identity

Prove the trigonometric identity $1 + \tan^2\theta = \sec^2\theta$.

Solution:

We start with the Pythagorean identity (Equation 1.3.5)

$$\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta = 1.$$

Dividing both sides of this equation by $\cos^2\theta$, we obtain

$$\frac{\sin^2\theta}{\cos^2\theta} + 1 = \frac{1}{\cos^2\theta}.$$

Since $\sin\theta/\cos\theta = \tan\theta$ and $1/\cos\theta = \sec\theta$, we conclude that

$$\tan^2\theta + 1 = \sec^2\theta.$$

Exercise 1.3.5

Prove the trigonometric identity $1 + \cot^2\theta = \csc^2\theta$.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Graphs and Periods of the Trigonometric Functions

We have seen that as we travel around the unit circle, the values of the trigonometric functions repeat. We can see this pattern in the graphs of the functions. Let $P = (x, y)$ be a point on the unit circle and let θ be the corresponding angle . Since the angle θ and $\theta + 2\pi$ correspond to the same point P, the values of the trigonometric functions at θ and at $\theta + 2\pi$ are the same. Consequently, the trigonometric functions are **periodic functions**. The period of a function f is defined to be the smallest positive value p such that $f(x + p) = f(x)$ for all values x in the domain of f. The sine, cosine, secant, and cosecant functions have a period of 2π. Since the tangent and cotangent functions repeat on an interval of length π, their period is π (Figure 1.3.9).

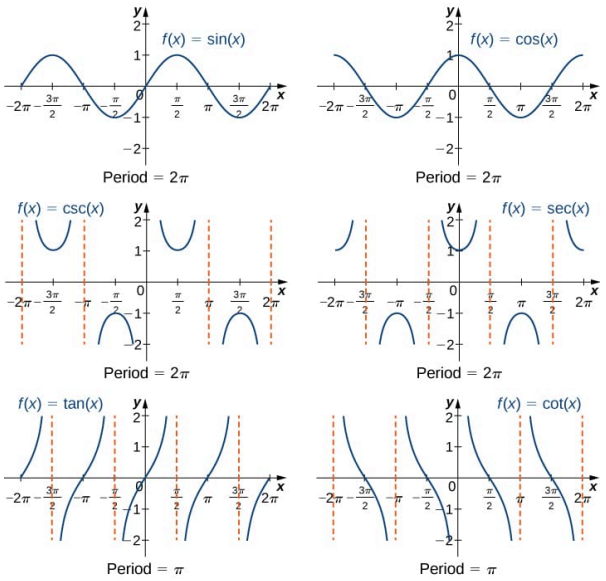


Figure 1.3.9: The six trigonometric functions are periodic. Each graph has an x-axis that runs from -2π to 2π and a y-axis that runs from -2 to 2. (a) The graph of $f(x) = \sin(x)$ has a sinusoidal shape. It starts at the point $(-2\pi, 0)$ and increases until the point $(-(3\pi)/2, 1)$. After this point, the function decreases until the point $(-(\pi/2), -1)$. After this point, the function increases until the point $(\pi/2, 1)$. After this point, the function decreases until the point $(3\pi/2), -1)$. After this point, the function begins to increase again. The x intercepts shown on the graph are at the points $(-2\pi, 0), (-\pi, 0), (0, 0), (\pi, 0), (2\pi, 0)$. The y-intercept is at the origin. (b) The graph of $f(x) = \cos(x)$ is also a sinusoidal function. The graph of $f(x) = \cos(x)$ can be obtained from the graph of $f(x) = \sin(x)$ by shifting the graph $\pi/2$ units to the left. The x intercepts shown on the graph are at the points $(-(3\pi/2), 0), (-\pi/2, 0), (\pi/2, 0), ((3\pi/2), 0)$. The y-intercept is at the point $(0, 1)$. (c) The graph of $f(x) = \csc(x)$ has vertical asymptotes at $x = 0$, $x = \pm\pi$, $x = \pm 2\pi$, ... Between the $x = -2\pi$ and $x = -\pi$ asymptotes, the function looks like an upward facing "U", with a minimum at the point $(-(3\pi/2), 1)$. Between the $x = -\pi$ and $x = 0$ asymptotes, the function looks like a downward facing "U", with a maximum at the point $(-\pi/2, -1)$. Due to the periodic nature of the graph, it continues like this with period 2π. (d) The graph of $f(x) = \sec(x)''$ has vertical asymptotes at $x = \pm\pi/2$, $x = \pm 3\pi/2$, ... The graph of $f(x) = \sec(x)$ can be obtained from the graph of $f(x) = \csc(x)$ by shifting the graph $\pi/2$ units to the left. (e) The graph of $f(x) = \tan(x)''$ has vertical asymptotes at $x = \pm\pi/2$, $x = \pm 3\pi/2$, ... In between all of the vertical asymptotes, the function is always increasing but it never touches the asymptotes. The x intercepts on this graph occur at the points $(-2\pi, 0), (-\pi, 0), (0, 0), (\pi, 0), (2\pi, 0)$. The y-intercept is at the origin. (f) The graph of $f(x) = \cot(x)$ has vertical asymptotes at $x = 0$, $x = \pm\pi$, $x = \pm 2\pi$, ... In between all of the vertical asymptotes, the function is always decreasing but it never touches the asymptotes. The x-intercepts on this graph occur at the points $(-3\pi/2, 0), (-\pi/2, 0), (\pi/2, 0), and (3\pi/2), 0)$ and there is no y-intercept.

Just as with algebraic functions, we can apply transformations to trigonometric functions. In particular, consider the following function:

$$f(x) = A\sin(B(x - \alpha)) + C.$$

In Figure 1.3.6, the constant α causes a horizontal or phase shift. The factor B changes the period. This transformed sine function will have a period $2\pi/|B|$. The factor A results in a vertical stretch by a factor of $|A|$. We say $|A|$ is the "amplitude of f." The constant C causes a vertical shift.

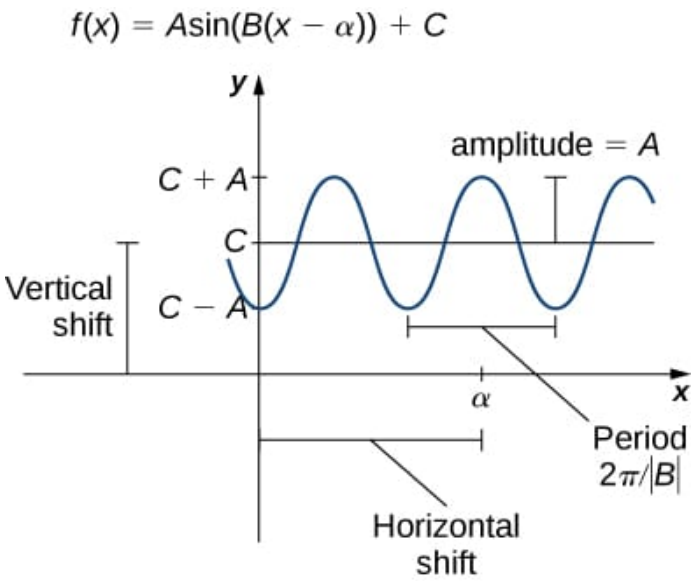


Figure 1.3.6: A graph of a general sine function of the form $f(x) = A\sin(B(x-\alpha)) + C$. Along the y-axis, there are 3 values are marked - starting from the bottom and moving up - "$C-A, C, C+A$". The graph's range is $[C-A, C+A]$The distance from the origin to "C" is labeled "vertical shift". The distance from "$C-A$" to "C" and the distance from "C" to "$C+A$" is "A", which is labeled "amplitude". On the x-axis, the value "α" is marked, and the distance between the origin and "α" is labeled "horizontal shift". The distance between two successive minimum values of the function is "$\frac{2\pi}{|B|}$" is labeled the period.

Notice in Figure 1.3.6 that the graph of $y = \cos x$ is the graph of $y = \sin x$ shifted to the left $\pi/2$ units. Therefore, we can write

$$\cos x = \sin(x + \pi/2).$$

Similarly, we can view the graph of $y = \sin x$ as the graph of $y = \cos x$ shifted right $\pi/2$ units, and state that $\sin x = \cos(x - \pi/2)$.

A shifted sine curve arises naturally when graphing the number of hours of daylight in a given location as a function of the day of the year. For example, suppose a city reports that June 21 is the longest day of the year with 15.7 hours and December 21 is the shortest day of the year with 8.3 hours. It can be shown that the function

$$h(t) = 3.7\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{365}(x - 80.5)\right) + 12$$

is a model for the number of hours of daylight h as a function of day of the year t (Figure 1.3.7).

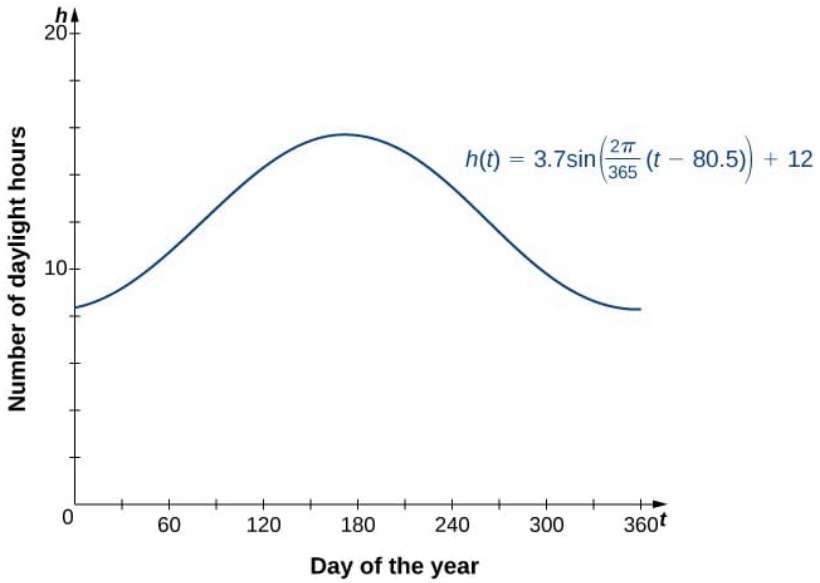


Figure 1.3.7: The hours of daylight as a function of day of the year can be modeled by a shifted sine curve. The horizontal axis runs from 0 to 365 and is labeled "t|, representing "Day of the year". The vertical axis runs from 0 to 20 and is labeled "h", representing "Number of daylight hours". The graph is of the function $h(t) = 3.7\sin(\frac{2\pi}{365})(t - 80.5)) + 12$", $which is a wave function. The function starts at the approximate point \((0, 8.4)$ and begins increasing until the approximate point $(182.5, 15.6)$. After this point, the function decreases until the approximate point $(365, 8.4)$. After this point, the function begins increasing again.

Example 1.3.6: Sketching the Graph of a Transformed Sine Curve

Sketch a graph of $f(x) = 3\sin(2(x - \frac{\pi}{4})) + 1$.

Solution

This graph is a phase shift of $y = \sin(x)$ to the right by $\pi/4$ units, followed by a horizontal compression by a factor of 2, a vertical stretch by a factor of 3, and then a vertical shift by 1 unit. The period of f is π.

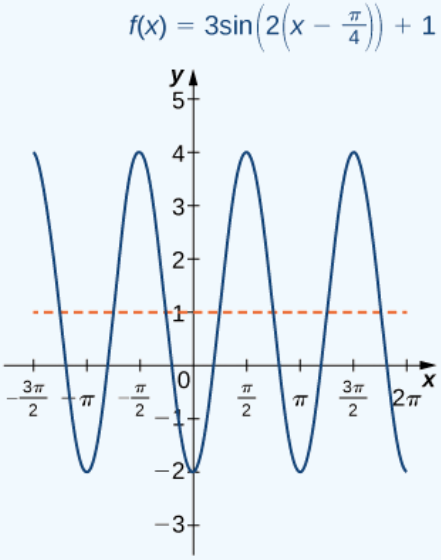


Figure 1.3.8: The graph of $f(x) = 3\sin(2(x - \frac{\pi}{4})) + 1$. The x-axis runs from $-\frac{3\pi}{2}$ to \(2\pi$ and the y-axis runs from -3 to 5. The graph is a wave function that starts decreasing from the point (\(- \frac{3\pi}{2}, 4)$ until it hits the point $(-\pi, -2)$. At this point, the function begins increasing until it hits the point $(-\frac{\pi}{2}, 4)$. $After this point, the function begins decreasing until it hits the point$ \((0, -2)$. After this point, the function increases until it hits the point $(\frac{\pi}{2}, 4)$. After this point, the function decreases until it hits the point $(\pi, -2)$. After this point, the function increases until it hits the point $(\frac{3\pi}{2}), 4)$. After this point, the function decreases again.

Exercise 1.3.6

Describe the relationship between the graph of $f(x) = 3\sin(4x) - 5$ and the graph of $y = \sin(x)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- Radian measure is defined such that the angle associated with the arc of length 1 on the unit circle has radian measure 1. An angle with a degree measure of $180°$ has a radian measure of π rad.
- For acute angles θ,the values of the trigonometric functions are defined as ratios of two sides of a right triangle in which one of the acute angles is θ.
- For a general angle θ, let (x, y) be a point on a circle of radius r corresponding to this angle θ. The trigonometric functions can be written as ratios involving x, y, and r.
- The trigonometric functions are periodic. The sine, cosine, secant, and cosecant functions have period 2π. The tangent and cotangent functions have period π.

Key Equations

- **Generalized sine function**

$$f(x) = A\sin(B(x - \alpha)) + C$$

Glossary

Periodic function
A function is periodic if it has a repeating pattern as the values of x move from left to right

Radians
For a circular arc of length s on a circle of radius 1, the radian measure of the associated angle θ is s

Trigonometric functions
Functions of an angle defined as ratios of the lengths of the sides of a right triangle

Trigonometric identity
An equation involving trigonometric functions that is true for all angles θ for which the functions in the equation are defined

Answers

Exercise 1.3.1
π radians is equal to 180°

Exercise 1.3.1
a. $7\pi/6$
b. 330°

Exercise 1.3.2
Look at angles on the unit circle.

Exercise 1.3.2

$$\cos(3\pi/4) = -\sqrt{2}/2$$
$$\sin(-\pi/6) = -1/2$$

Exercise 1.3.3
Draw a right triangle with hypotenuse 20.

Exercise 1.3.3

10 ft

Exercise 1.3.4

Use the double-angle formula for cosine (Equation 1.3.8).

Exercise 1.3.4

$\theta = \frac{3\pi}{2} + 2n\pi, \frac{\pi}{6} + 2n\pi, \frac{5\pi}{6} + 2n\pi$

for $n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \ldots$.

Exercise 1.3.5

Divide both sides of the identity $\sin^2\theta + \cos^2\theta = 1$ by $\sin^2\theta$.

Exercise 1.3.6

The graph of f can be sketched using the graph of $y = \sin(x)$ and a sequence of three transformations.

Exercise 1.3.6

To graph $f(x) = 3\sin(4x) - 5$, the graph of $y = \sin(x)$ needs to be compressed horizontally by a factor of 4, then stretched vertically by a factor of 3, then shifted down 5 units. The function f will have a period of $\pi/2$ and an amplitude of 3.

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1.3E: Exercises for Section 1.3

Exercises 1 - 5

Convert each angle in degrees to radians. Write the answer as a multiple of π.

1. $240\,^\circ$

   Answer

   $\frac{4\pi}{3}$ rad

2. $15\,^\circ$
3. $60\,^\circ$

   Answer

   $\frac{\pi}{3}$ rad

4. $-225\,^\circ$
5. $330\,^\circ$

   Answer

   $\frac{11\pi}{6}$ rad

Exercises 6 - 10

Convert each angle in radians to degrees.

6. $\frac{\pi}{2}$ rad
7. $\frac{7\pi}{6}$ rad

   Answer

   $210\,^\circ$

8. $\frac{11\pi}{2}$ rad
9. -3π rad

   Answer

   $-540\,^\circ$

10. $\frac{5\pi}{12}$ rad

Exercises 11 - 16

Evaluate the functional values.

11. $\cos\frac{4\pi}{3}$

    Answer

    $\cos\frac{4\pi}{3} = -0.5$

12. $\tan\frac{19\pi}{4}$
13. $\sin\left(-\frac{3\pi}{4}\right)$

Answer

$$\sin\left(-\tfrac{3\pi}{4}\right) = -\tfrac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

14. $\sec\left(-\tfrac{\pi}{6}\right)$
15. $\sin\left(-\tfrac{\pi}{12}\right)$

Answer

$$\sin\left(-\tfrac{\pi}{12}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{3}-1}{2\sqrt{2}}$$

16. $\cos\left(-\tfrac{5\pi}{12}\right)$

Exercises 17 - 22

Consider triangle ABC, a right triangle with a right angle at C. Find the following, rounding to one decimal place where necessary.

a. **Find the missing side of the triangle.**
b. **Find the six trigonometric function values for the angle at A.**

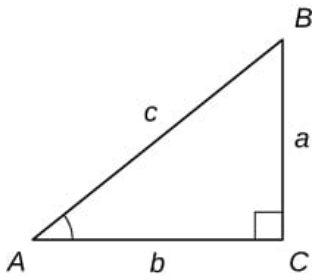


Figure $1.3E.1$: An image of a triangle. The three corners of the triangle are labeled “A”, “B”, and “C”. Between the corner A and corner C is the side b. Between corner C and corner B is the side a. Between corner B and corner A is the side c. The angle of corner C is marked with a right triangle symbol. The angle of corner A is marked with an angle symbol.

17. $a = 4,\ \ c = 7$

Answer

a. $b = 5.7$
b. $\sin A = \tfrac{4}{7},\ \cos A = \tfrac{5.7}{7},\ \tan A = \tfrac{4}{5.7},\ \csc A = \tfrac{7}{4},\ \sec A = \tfrac{7}{5.7},\ \cot A = \tfrac{5.7}{4}$

18. $a = 21,\ \ c = 29$
19. $a = 85.3,\ \ b = 125.5$

Answer

a. $c = 151.7$
b. $\sin A = 0.5623,\ \cos A = 0.8273,\ \tan A = 0.6797,\ \csc A = 1.778,\ \sec A = 1.209,\ \cot A = 1.471$

20. $b = 40,\ \ c = 41$
21. $a = 84,\ \ b = 13$

Answer

a. $c = 85$
b. $\sin A = \tfrac{84}{85},\ \cos A = \tfrac{13}{85},\ \tan A = \tfrac{84}{13},\ \csc A = \tfrac{85}{84},\ \sec A = \tfrac{85}{13},\ \cot A = \tfrac{13}{84}$

22. $b = 28,\ \ c = 35$

Exercises 23 - 26

\(P\) is a point on the unit circle. Find the following, rationalizing the denominators.

a. **The (exact) missing coordinate value of each point and**
b. **The values of the six trigonometric functions for the angle θ with a terminal side that passes through point P.**

23. $P\left(\frac{7}{25}, y\right), \quad y > 0$

Answer

a. $y = \frac{24}{25}$
b. $\sin\theta = \frac{24}{25}, \ \cos\theta = \frac{7}{25}, \ \tan\theta = \frac{24}{7}, \ \csc\theta = \frac{25}{24}, \ \sec\theta = \frac{25}{7}, \ \cot\theta = \frac{7}{24}$

24. $P\left(-\frac{15}{17}, y\right), \quad y > 0$
25. $P\left(x, \frac{\sqrt{7}}{3}\right), \quad x > 0$

Answer

a. $x = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}$
b. $\sin\theta = \frac{\sqrt{7}}{3}, \ \cos\theta = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}, \ \tan\theta = -\frac{\sqrt{14}}{2}, \ \csc\theta = \frac{3\sqrt{7}}{7}, \ \sec\theta = -\frac{3\sqrt{2}}{2}, \ \cot\theta = -\frac{\sqrt{14}}{7}$

26. $P\left(x, -\frac{\sqrt{15}}{4}\right), \quad y > 0$

Exercises 27 - 34

Simplify each expression by writing it in terms of sines and cosines, then simplify. The final answer does not have to be in terms of sine and cosine only.

27. $\tan^2 x + \sin x \csc x$

Answer

$\sec^2 x$

28. $\sec x \sin x \cot x$
29. $\dfrac{\tan^2 x}{\sec^2 x}$

Answer

$\sin^2 x$

30. $\sec x - \cos x$
31. $(1 + \tan\theta)^2 - 2\tan\theta$

Answer

$\sec^2\theta$

32. $(\sin x)(\csc x - \sin x)$
33. $\dfrac{\cos t}{\sin t} + \dfrac{\sin t}{1 + \cos t}$

Answer

$\dfrac{1}{\sin t} = \csc t$

34. $\dfrac{1 + \tan^2\alpha}{1 + \cot^2\alpha}$

Exercises 35 - 42

Verify that each equation is an identity.

35. $\dfrac{\tan\theta\cot\theta}{\csc\theta} = \sin\theta$
36. $\dfrac{\sec^2\theta}{\tan\theta} = \sec\theta\csc\theta$
37. $\dfrac{\sin t}{\csc t} + \dfrac{\cos t}{\sec t} = 1$
38. $\dfrac{\sin x}{\cos x + 1} + \dfrac{\cos x - 1}{\sin x} = 0$
39. $\cot\gamma + \tan\gamma = \sec\gamma\csc\gamma$
40. $\sin^2\beta + \tan^2\beta + \cos^2\beta = \sec^2\beta$
41. $\dfrac{1}{1-\sin\alpha} + \dfrac{1}{1+\sin\alpha} = 2\sec^2\alpha$
42. $\dfrac{\tan\theta - \cot\theta}{\sin\theta\cos\theta} = \sec^2\theta - \csc^2\theta$

Exercises 43 - 50

Solve the trigonometric equations on the interval $0 \le \theta < 2\pi$.

43. $2\sin\theta - 1 = 0$

Answer

$\left\{\frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{5\pi}{6}\right\}$

44. $1 + \cos\theta = \frac{1}{2}$
45. $2\tan^2\theta = 2$

Answer

$\left\{\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4}\right\}$

46. $4\sin^2\theta - 2 = 0$
47. $\sqrt{3}\cot\theta + 1 = 0$

Answer

$\left\{\frac{2\pi}{3}, \frac{5\pi}{3}\right\}$

48. $3\sec\theta - 2\sqrt{3} = 0$
49. $2\cos\theta\sin\theta = \sin\theta$

Answer

$\left\{0, \pi, \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{5\pi}{3}\right\}$

50. $\csc^2\theta + 2\csc\theta + 1 = 0$

Exercises 51 - 54

Each graph is of the form $y = A\sin Bx$ or $y = A\cos Bx$, where $B > 0$. Write the equation of the graph.
51.

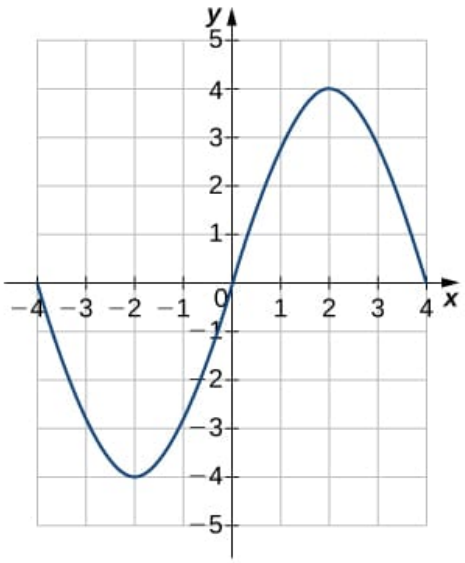


Figure $1.3E.2$: The graph is of a wave function that starts at the point $(-4, 0)$ and decreases until the point $(-2, 4)$. After this point the function begins increasing until it hits the point $(2, 4)$. After this point the function begins decreasing again. The x-intercepts of the function on this graph are at $(-4, 0)$, $(0, 0)$, and $(4, 0)$. The y-intercept is at the origin.

Answer

$$y = 4 \sin\left(\tfrac{\pi}{4}x\right)$$

52.

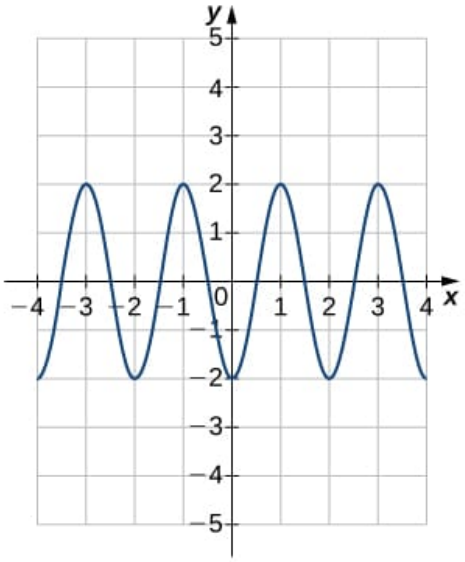


Figure $1.3E.3$: The graph is of a wave function that starts at the point $(-4, -2)$ and increases until the point $(-3, 2)$. After this point the function decreases until it hits the point $(-2, -2)$. After this point the function increases until it hits the point $(-1, 2)$. After this point the function decreases until it hits the point $(0, -2)$. After this point the function increases until it hits the point $(1, 2)$. After this point the function decreases until it hits the point $(2, -2)$. After this point the function increases until it hits the point $(3, 2)$. After this point the function begins decreasing again. The x-intercepts of the function on this graph are at $(-3.5, 0), (-2.5, 0), (-1.5, 0), (-0.5, 0), (0.5, 0), (1.5, 0), (2.5, 0), (3.5, 0)$. The $y - interceptisatthe\backslash(0, -2)$.

53.

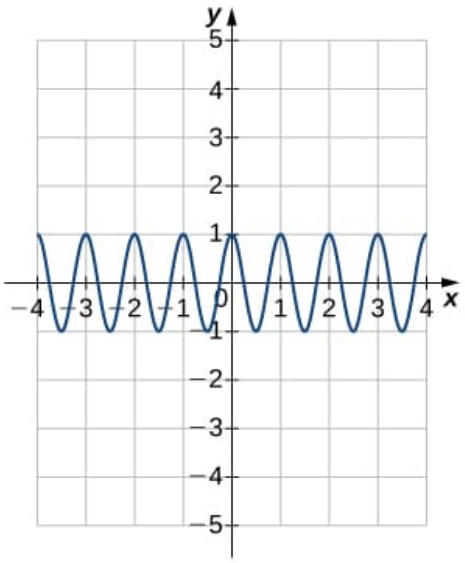


Figure $1.3E.4$: The graph is of a wave function. There are many periods, and we describe a few here. The function begins decreasing at the point $(-1, 1)$ and decreases until the point $(-0.5, -1)$. After this point the function increases until it hits the point $(0, 1)$. After this point the function decreases until it hits the point $(0.5, -1)$. After this point the function increases until it hits the point $(1, 1)$. After this point the function decreases again. The x-intercepts of the function on this graph are at $(-0.75, 0), (-0.25, 0), (0.25, 0), (0.75, 0)$. The y $-intercept is at \((0, 1)$.

Answer

$$y = \cos 2\pi x$$

54.

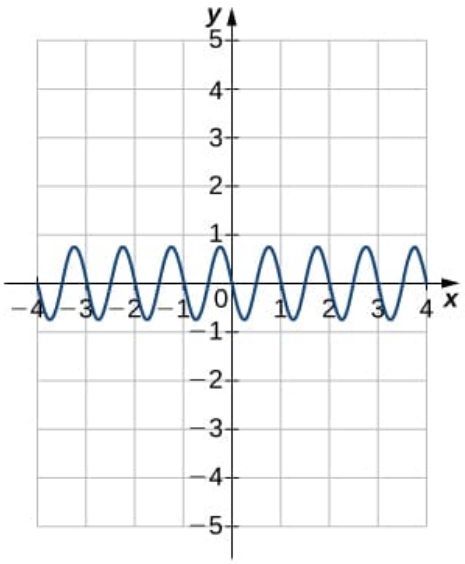


Figure $1.3E.5$: The graph is of a wave function. There are many periods, and we describe a few here. The function begins decreasing at the point $(-1.25, 0.75)$ and decreases until the point $(-0.75, -0.75)$. After this point the function increases until it hits the point $(0.25, 0.75)$. After this point the function decreases until it hits the point $(0.25, -0.75)$. After this point the function increases until it hits the point $(0.75, 0.75)$. After this point the function decreases again. The x-intercepts of the function on this graph are at $(-1, 0), (-0.5, 0), (0, 0), (0.5, 0)$. The y -intercept is at the origin.

Exercises 55 - 60

Find

a. **The amplitude,**

b. **The period, and**
c. **The phase shift with direction for each function.**

55. $y = \sin\left(x - \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$

Answer

a. 1
b. 2π
c. $\frac{\pi}{4}$ units to the right

56. $y = 3\cos(2x + 3)$
57. $y = -\frac{1}{2}\sin\left(\frac{1}{4}x\right)$

Answer

a. $\frac{1}{2}$
b. 8π
c. No phase shift

58. $y = 2\cos\left(x - \frac{\pi}{3}\right)$
59. $y = -3\sin(\pi x + 2)$

Answer

a. 3
b. 2
c. $\frac{2}{\pi}$ units to the left

60. $y = 4\cos\left(2x - \frac{\pi}{2}\right)$
61. [T] The diameter of a wheel rolling on the ground is 40 in. If the wheel rotates through an angle of $120°$, how many inches does it move? Approximate to the nearest whole inch.

Answer

Approximately 42 in.

62. [T] Find the length of the arc intercepted by central angle θ in a circle of radius r. Round to the nearest hundredth.

a. $r = 12.8$ cm, $\theta = \frac{5\pi}{6}$ rad
b. $r = 4.378$ cm, $\theta = \frac{7\pi}{6}$ rad
c. $r = 0.964$ cm, $\theta = 50°$
d. $r = 8.55$ cm, $\theta = 325°$

63. [T] As a point P moves around a circle, the measure of the angle changes. The measure of how fast the angle is changing is called angular speed, ω, and is given by $\omega = \theta/t$, where θ is in radians and t is time. Find the angular speed for the given data. Round to the nearest thousandth.

a. $\theta = \frac{7\pi}{4}$ rad, $t = 10$ sec
b. $\theta = \frac{3\pi}{5}$ rad, $t = 8$ sec
c. $\theta = \frac{2\pi}{9}$ rad, $t = 1$ min
d. $\theta = 23.76$ rad, $t = 14$ min

Answer

a. 0.550 rad/sec
b. 0.236 rad/sec
c. 0.698 rad/min
d. 1.697 rad/min

64. [T] A total of $250,000\ \text{m}^2$ of land is needed to build a nuclear power plant. Suppose it is decided that the area on which the power plant is to be built should be circular.

a. Find the radius of the circular land area.

b. If the land area is to form a $45°$ sector of a circle instead of a whole circle, find the length of the curved side.

35. [T] The area of an isosceles triangle with equal sides of length x is $\frac{1}{2}x^2 \sin\theta$,

where θ is the angle formed by the two sides. Find the area of an isosceles triangle with equal sides of length 8 in. and angle $\theta = \frac{5\pi}{12}$ rad.

Answer

$\approx 30.9 \text{ in}^2$

36. [T] A particle travels in a circular path at a constant angular speed ω. The angular speed is modeled by the function $\omega = 9|\cos(\pi t - \pi/12)|$. Determine the angular speed at $t = 9$ sec.

37. [T] An alternating current for outlets in a home has voltage given by the function $V(t) = 150\cos 368t$, where V is the voltage in volts at time t in seconds.

a. Find the period of the function and interpret its meaning.
b. Determine the number of periods that occur when 1 sec has passed.

Answer

a. $\frac{\pi}{184}$; the voltage repeats every $\frac{\pi}{184}$ sec
b. Approximately 59 periods

38. [T] The number of hours of daylight in a northeast city is modeled by the function

$$N(t) = 12 + 3\sin\left[\frac{2\pi}{365}(t - 79)\right],$$

where t is the number of days after January 1.

a. Find the amplitude and period.
b. Determine the number of hours of daylight on the longest day of the year.
c. Determine the number of hours of daylight on the shortest day of the year.
d. Determine the number of hours of daylight 90 days after January 1.
e. Sketch the graph of the function for one period starting on January 1.

39. [T] Suppose that $T = 50 + 10\sin\left[\frac{\pi}{12}(t - 8)\right]$ is a mathematical model of the temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) at t hours after midnight on a certain day of the week.

a. Determine the amplitude and period.
b. Find the temperature 7 hours after midnight.
c. At what time does $T = 60°$?
d. Sketch the graph of T over $0 \le t \le 24$.

Answer

a. Amplitude = 10; Period=24
b. $47.4°$F
c. 14 hours later, or 2 p.m.
d.

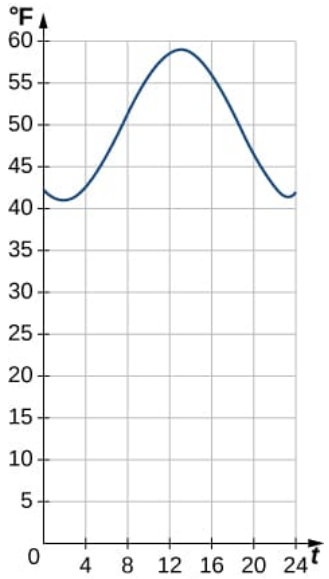


Figure $1.3E.6$: In this graph, the horizontal axis runs from 0 to $365 and is labeled \(t$, representing hours after midnight. The vertical axis runs from 0 to 20 and is labeled T, representing temperature, in degrees Fahrenheit. The graph is of a wave function that starts at the approximate point $(0, 41.3)$ and begins decreasing until the point $(2, 40)$. After this point, the function increases until the point $(14, 60)$. After this point, the function begins decreasing again.

70. [T] The function $H(t) = 8 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{6}t\right)$ models the height H (in feet) of the tide t hours after midnight. Assume that $t = 0$ is midnight.

a. Find the amplitude and period.
b. Graph the function over one period.
c. What is the height of the tide at 4:30 a.m.?

Contributors

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1.4: Inverse Functions

Learning Objectives

- Determine the conditions for when a function has an inverse.
- Use the horizontal line test to recognize when a function is one-to-one.
- Find the inverse of a given function.
- Draw the graph of an inverse function.
- Evaluate inverse trigonometric functions.

An inverse function reverses the operation done by a particular function. In other words, whatever a function does, the inverse function undoes it. In this section, we define an inverse function formally and state the necessary conditions for an inverse function to exist. We examine how to find an inverse function and study the relationship between the graph of a function and the graph of its inverse. Then we apply these ideas to define and discuss properties of the inverse trigonometric functions.

Existence of an Inverse Function

We begin with an example. Given a function f and an output $y = f(x)$, we are often interested in finding what value or values x were mapped to y by f. For example, consider the function $f(x) = x^3 + 4$. Since any output $y = x^3 + 4$, we can solve this equation for x to find that the input is $x = \sqrt[3]{y-4}$. This equation defines x as a function of y. Denoting this function as f^{-1}, and writing $x = f^{-1}(y) = \sqrt[3]{y-4}$, we see that for any x in the domain of f, $f^{-1}f(x)) = f^{-1}(x^3 + 4) = x$. Thus, this new function, f^{-1}, "undid" what the original function f did. A function with this property is called the inverse function of the original function.

Definition: Inverse Functions

Given a function f with domain D and range R, its *inverse function* (if it exists) is the function f^{-1} with domain R and range D such that $f^{-1}(y) = x$ if and only if $f(x) = y$. In other words, for a function f and its inverse f^{-1},

$$f^{-1}(f(x)) = x$$

for all x in D and

$$f(f^{-1}(y)) = y$$

for all y in R.

Note that f^{-1} is read as "f inverse." Here, the -1 is not used as an exponent so

$$f^{-1}(x) \neq \frac{1}{f(x)}.$$

Figure $1.4.1$shows the relationship between the domain and range of f and the domain and range of f^{-1}.

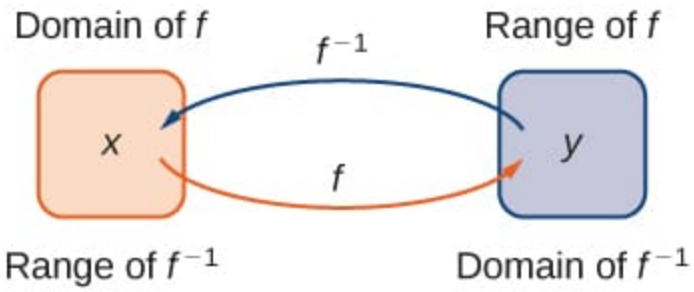


Figure 1.4.1: Given a function f and its inverse f^{-1}, $f^{-1}(y) = x$ if and only if $f(x) = y$. The diagram shows an orange box containing the letter x representing the domain of f, and a gray box containing the letter y representing the range of f. An orange arrow titled f is drawn from the orange box to the gray box. A gray arrow titled f^{-1} is draw from the gray box to the orange box. The range of f is also the domain of f^{-1} and the domain of f is also the range of f^{-1}.

edRecall that a function has exactly one output for each input. Therefore, to define an inverse function, we need to map each input to exactly one output. For example, let's try to find the inverse function for $f(x) = x^2$. Solving the equation $y = x^2$ for x, we arrive at the equation $x = \pm\sqrt{y}$. This equation does not describe x as a function of y because there are two solutions to this equation for every $y > 0$. The problem with trying to find an inverse function for $f(x) = x^2$ is that two inputs are sent to the same output for each output $y > 0$. The function $f(x) = x^3 + 4$ discussed earlier did not have this problem. For that function, each input was sent to a different output. A function that sends each input to a different output is called a one-to-one function.

Definition: One-to-One functions

We say a function f is a one-to-one function if $f(x_1) \neq f(x_2)$ when $x_1 \neq x_2$.

One way to determine whether a function is one-to-one is by looking at its graph. If a function is one-to-one, then no two inputs can be sent to the same output. Therefore, if we draw a horizontal line anywhere in the xy-plane, according to the **horizontal line test**, it cannot intersect the graph more than once. We note that the horizontal line test is different from the vertical line test. The vertical line test determines whether a graph is the graph of a function. The horizontal line test determines whether a function is one-to-one (Figure 1.4.2).

Horizontal Line Test

A function f is one-to-one if and only if every horizontal line intersects the graph of f no more than once.

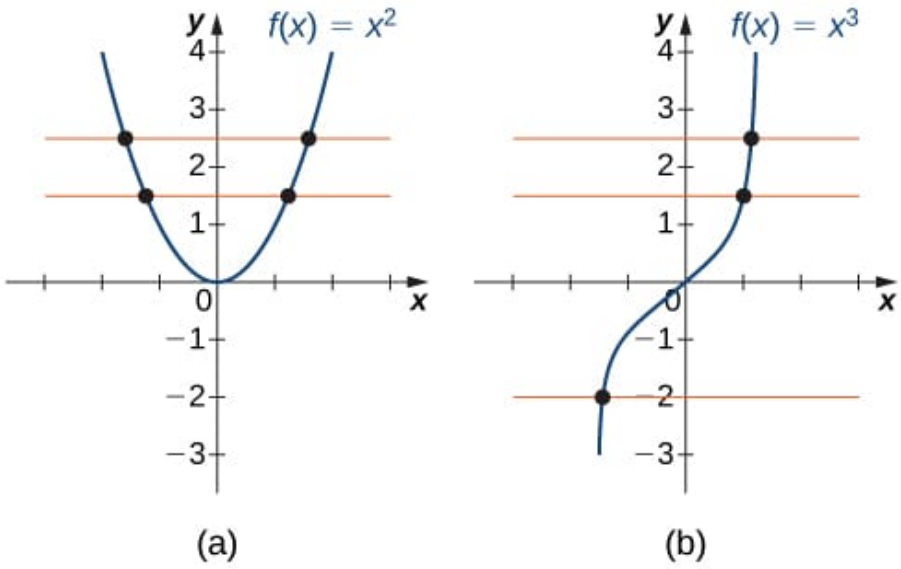


Figure 1.4.2: (a) The function $f(x) = x^2$ has a graph that's a parabola opening up with vertex at the origin. Two horizontal orange lines cross the graph at about $y = 1.5, y = 2.5$ showing that the function is not one-to-one because it fails the horizontal line test since both lines cross the graph twice (b) The function $f(x) = x^3$ is one-to-one because it passes the horizontal line test. Three horizontal lines cross the graph at about $y = -2, y = 1.5, y = 2.5$. Each crosses the graph only once.

=Example 1.4.1: Determining Whether a Function Is One-to-One

For each of the following functions, use the horizontal line test to determine whether it is one-to-one.

a)

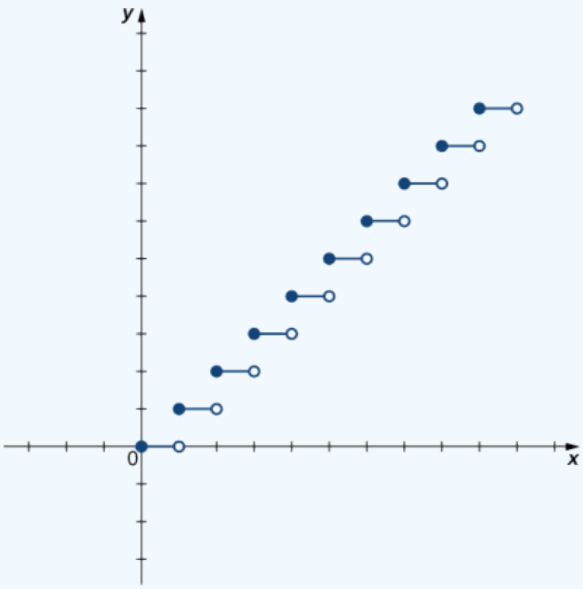


Figure 1.4.3: Step function, closed on left side and open on right side: For $0 \leq x < 1$, $y = 0$; for $1 \leq x < 2$, $y = 1$, $2 \leq x < 3$, $y = 2$, ... , $9 \leq x < 10$, $y = 9$.

b)

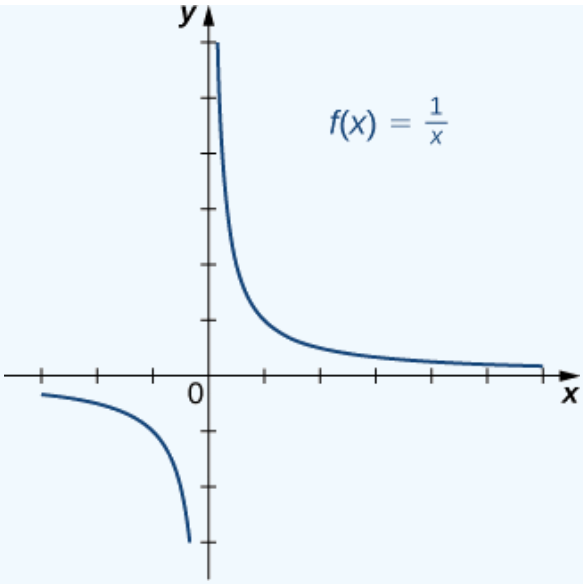


Figure $1.4.4$: The graph of $f(x) = 1/x$ is a hyperbola with asymptotes $x = 0$ and $y = 0$. The graph exists in the first and third quadrant and is symmetric across the origin. In the first quadrant, the graph is a decreasing function starting at about $1/6, 6$, passing through $1, 1)$, and approaching the x-axis as x increases.

Solution

a) Since the horizontal line $y = n$ for any integer $n \geq 0$ intersects the graph more than once, this function is not one-to-one.

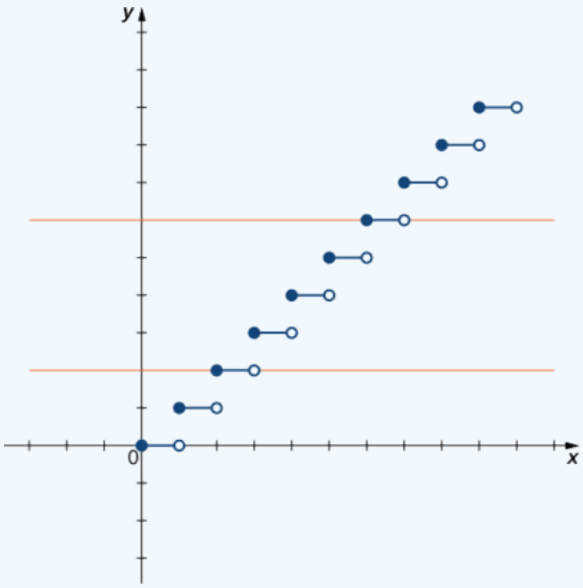


Figure $1.4.5$: The step function from function Figure $1.4.3$ with orange horizontal lines as $y = 2$ and $y = 6$.

b) Since every horizontal line intersects the graph once (at most), this function is one-to-one.

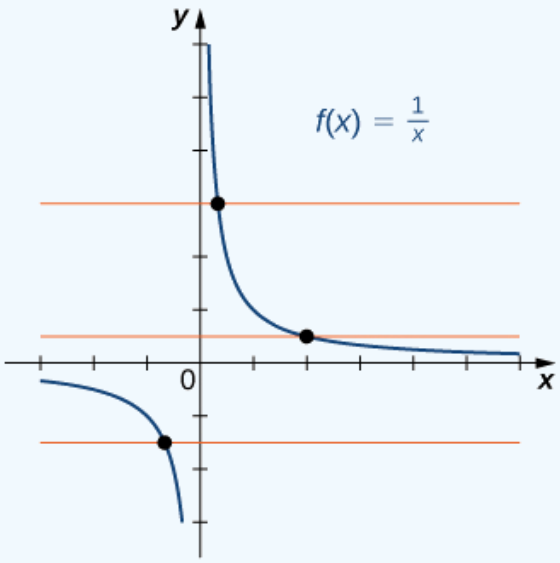


Figure 1.4.6: The hyperbola from function Figure 1.4.4 with orange horizontal lines as $y = -1.5$, $y = 0.5$, and $y = 3$.

Exercise 1.4.1

Is the function f graphed in the following image one-to-one?

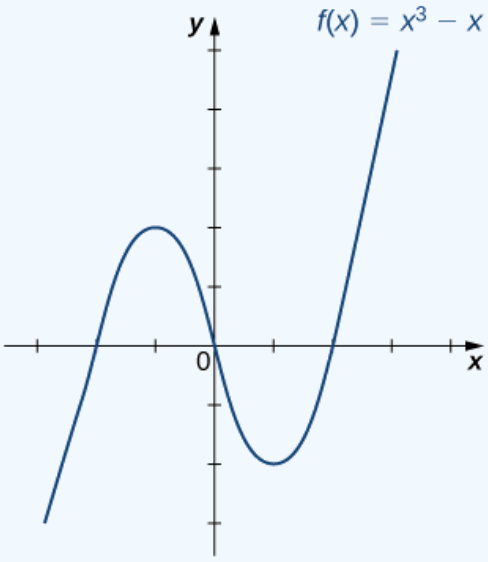


Figure 1.4.7: The graph of the cubic function $f(x) = x^3 - x$ begins low in the third quadrant, increases to $(-1, 2)$, decreases to $(1, -2)$, and then increases into the first quadrant. The graph is symmetric about the origin.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Finding a Function's Inverse

We can now consider one-to-one functions and show how to find their inverses. Recall that a function maps elements in the domain of f to elements in the range of f. The inverse function maps each element from the range of f back to its corresponding element from the domain of f. Therefore, to find the inverse function of a one-to-one function f, given any y in the range of f, we

need to determine which x in the domain of f satisfies $f(x) = y$. Since f is one-to-one, there is exactly one such value x. We can find that value x by solving the equation $f(x) = y$ for x. Doing so, we are able to write x as a function of y where the domain of this function is the range of f and the range of this new function is the domain of f. Consequently, this function is the inverse of f , and we write $x = f^{-1}(y)$. Since we typically use the variable x to denote the independent variable and y to denote the dependent variable, we often interchange the roles of x and y, and write $y = f^{-1}(x)$. Representing the inverse function in this way is also helpful later when we graph a function f and its inverse f^{-1} on the same axes.

Problem-Solving Strategy: Finding an Inverse Function

1. Solve the equation $y = f(x)$ for x.
2. Interchange the variables x and y and write $y = f^{-1}(x)$.

Example 1.4.2: Finding an Inverse Function

Find the inverse for the function $f(x) = 3x - 4$. State the domain and range of the inverse function. Verify that $f^{-1}(f(x)) = x$.

Solution

Follow the steps outlined in the strategy.

Step 1. If $y = 3x - 4$, then $3x = y + 4$ and $x = \frac{1}{3}y + \frac{4}{3}$.

Step 2. Rewrite as $y = \frac{1}{3}x + \frac{4}{3}$ and let $y = f^{-1}(x)$.Therefore, $f^{-1}(x) = \frac{1}{3}x + \frac{4}{3}$.

Since the domain of f is $(-\infty, \infty)$, the range of f^{-1} is $(-\infty, \infty)$. Since the range of f is $(-\infty, \infty)$, the domain of f^{-1} is $(-\infty, \infty)$.

You can verify that $f^{-1}(f(x)) = x$ by writing

$$f^{-1}(f(x)) = f^{-1}(3x - 4) = \tfrac{1}{3}(3x - 4) + \tfrac{4}{3} = x - \tfrac{4}{3} + \tfrac{4}{3} = x.$$

Note that for $f^{-1}(x)$ to be the inverse of $f(x)$, both $f^{-1}(f(x)) = x$ and $f(f^{-1}(x)) = x$ for all x in the domain of the inside function.

Exercise 1.4.2

Find the inverse of the function $f(x) = 3x/(x - 2)$. State the domain and range of the inverse function.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Graphing Inverse Functions

Let's consider the relationship between the graph of a function f and the graph of its inverse. Consider the graph of f shown in Figure 1.4.8 and a point (a, b) on the graph. Since $b = f(a)$, then $f^{-1}(b) = a$. Therefore, when we graph f^{-1}, the point (b, a) is on the graph. As a result, the graph of f^{-1} is a reflection of the graph of f about the line $y = x$.

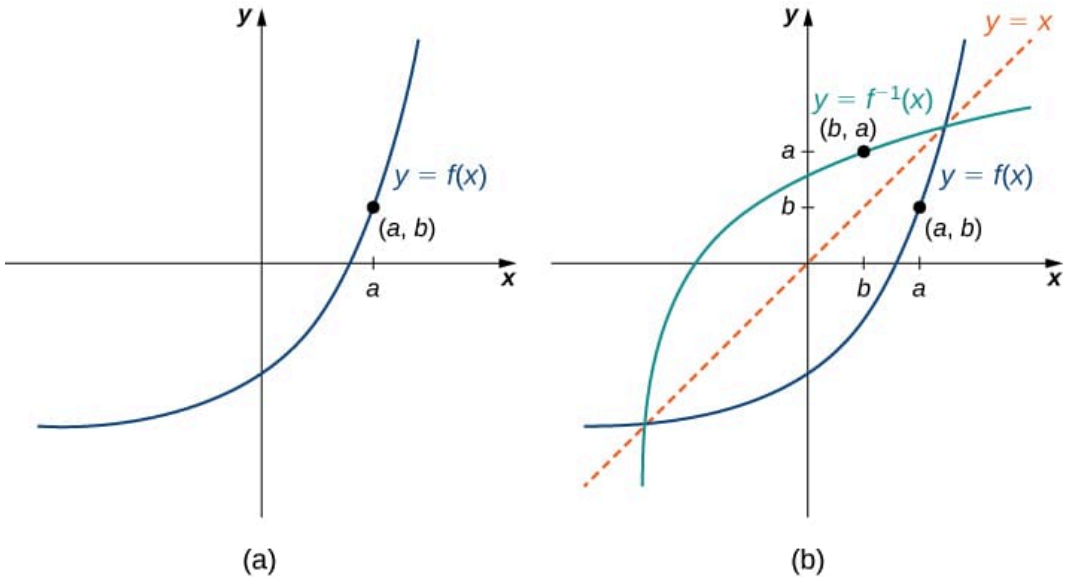


Figure 1.4.8: (a) The graph of this function f shows point (a, b) on the graph of f. (b) Since (a, b) is on the graph of f, the point (b, a) is on the graph of f^{-1}. The graph of f^{-1} is a reflection of the graph of f about the line $y = x$.

Example 1.4.3: Sketching Graphs of Inverse Functions

For the graph of f in the following image, sketch a graph of f^{-1} by sketching the line $y = x$ and using symmetry. Identify the domain and range of f^{-1}.

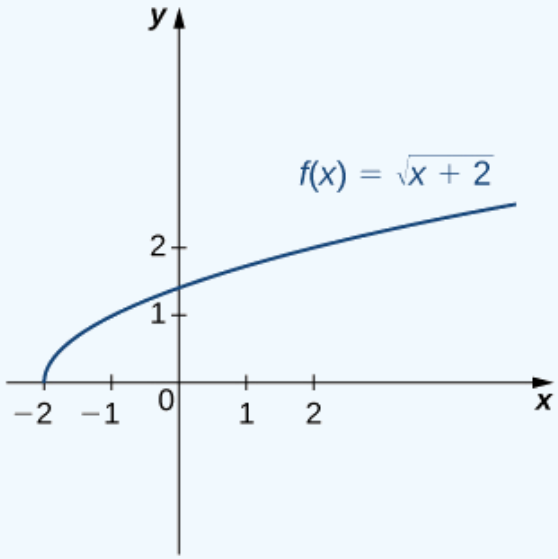


Figure 1.4.9: The graph of $f(x) = \sqrt{x + 2}$ starts at the point $(-2, 0)$ and increases at decreasing rate, passing through the points $(0, \sqrt{2})$ and $(2, 2)$.

Solution

Reflect the graph about the line $y = x$. The domain of f^{-1} is $[0, \infty)$. The range of f^{-1} is $[-2, \infty)$. By using the preceding strategy for finding inverse functions, we can verify that the inverse function is $f^{-1}(x) = x^2 - 2$, as shown in the graph.

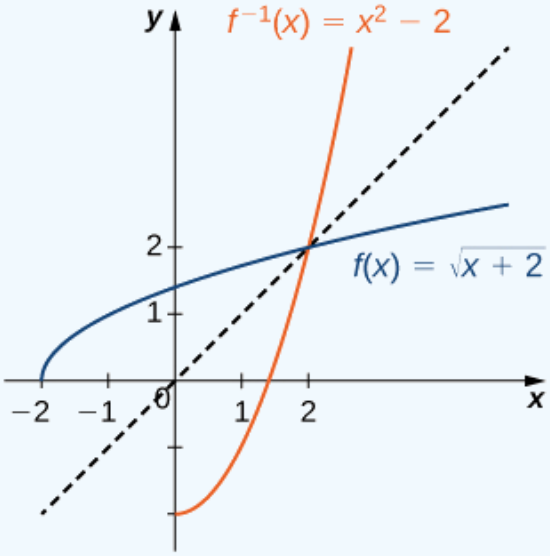


Figure 1.4.10: Two graphs are shown: The first graph is the one given in Figure 1.4.9. The second graph is the inverse function, $f^{-1}(x) = x^2 - 2$. The f^{-1} graph starts at $(0, -2)$ and increases at an increasing rate, passing through the points $(\sqrt{2}, 0)$ and $(2, 2)$. The two graphs are reflections of each other across the line $y = x$.

Exercise 1.4.3

Sketch the graph of $f(x) = 2x + 3$ and the graph of its inverse using the symmetry property of inverse functions.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Restricting Domains

As we have seen, $f(x) = x^2$ does not have an inverse function because it is not one-to-one. However, we can choose a subset of the domain of f such that the function is one-to-one. This subset is called a **restricted domain**. By restricting the domain of f, we can define a new function g such that the domain of g is the restricted domain of f and $g(x) = f(x)$ for all x in the domain of g. Then we can define an inverse function for g on that domain. For example, since $f(x) = x^2$ is one-to-one on the interval $[0, \infty)$, we can define a new function g such that the domain of g is $[0, \infty)$ and $g(x) = x^2$ for all x in its domain. Since g is a one-to-one function, it has an inverse function, given by the formula $g^{-1}(x) = \sqrt{x}$. On the other hand, the function $f(x) = x^2$ is also one-to-one on the domain $(-\infty, 0]$. Therefore, we could also define a new function h such that the domain of h is $(-\infty, 0]$ and $h(x) = x^2$ for all x in the domain of h. Then h is a one-to-one function and must also have an inverse. Its inverse is given by the formula $h^{-1}(x) = -\sqrt{x}$ (Figure 1.4.12).

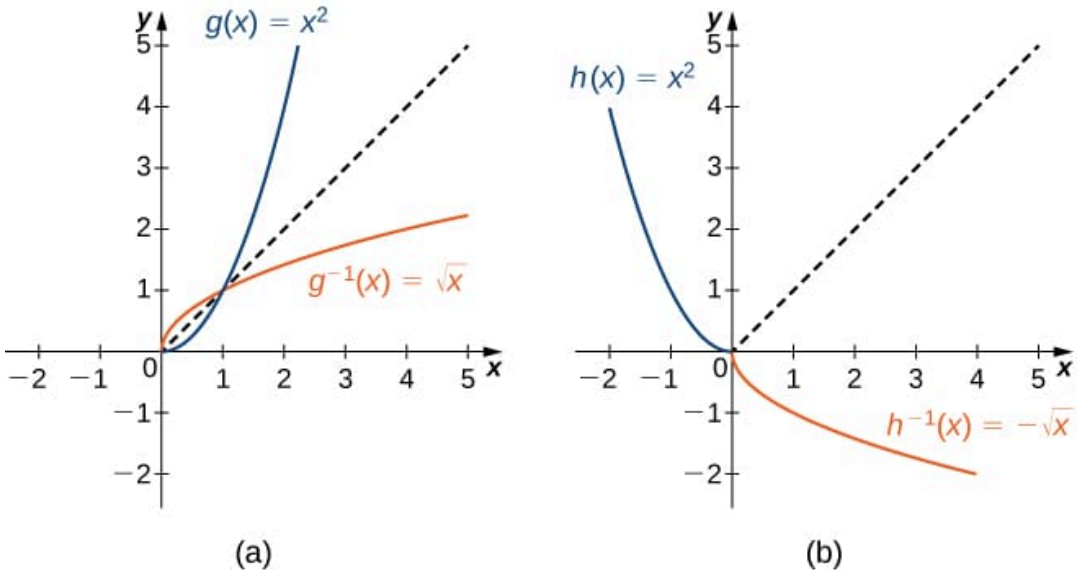


Figure 1.4.12: (a) For $g(x) = x^2$ restricted to $[0, \infty)$, $g^{-1}(x) = \sqrt{x}$. (b) For $h(x) = x^2$ restricted to $(-\infty, 0]$, $h^{-1}(x) = -\sqrt{x}$.

Example 1.4.4: Restricting the Domain

Consider the function $f(x) = (x + 1)^2$.

a. Sketch the graph of f and use the horizontal line test to show that f is not one-to-one.
b. Show that f is one-to-one on the restricted domain $[-1, \infty)$. Determine the domain and range for the inverse of f on this restricted domain and find a formula for f^{-1}.

Solution

a) The graph of f is the graph of $y = x^2$ shifted left 1 unit. Since there exists a horizontal line intersecting the graph more than once, f is not one-to-one.

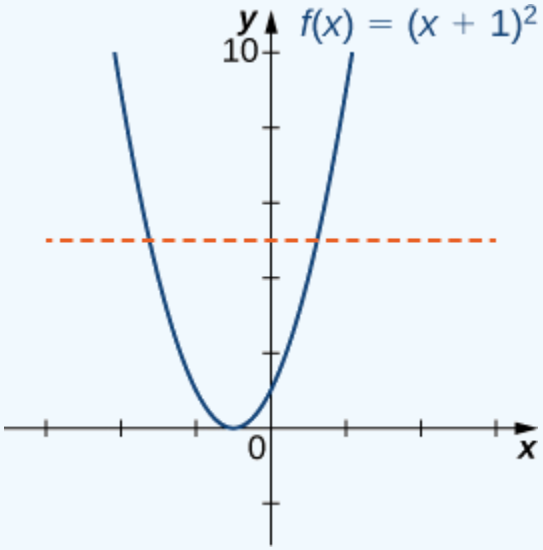


Figure 1.4.13: The graph of the parabola given by $f(x) = (x + 1)^2$. It opens upward and has vertex $(-1, 0)$. There is a horizontal dashed at about $y = 2.5$ that crosses the graph of f twice.

b) On the interval $[-1, \infty)$, f is one-to-one.

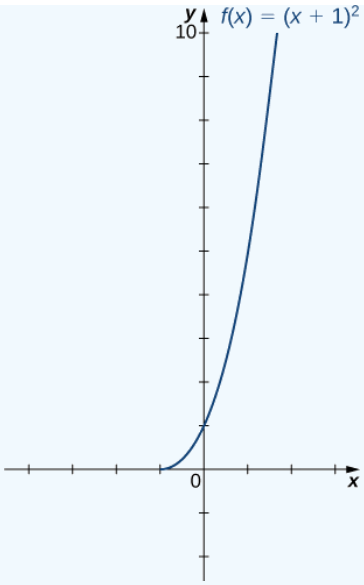


Figure 1.4.14: The graph of the right half of the parabola given by $f(x) = (x+1)^2$ described in Figure 1.4.13. With the restricted domain, the function is one-to-one.

The domain and range of f^{-1} are given by the range and domain of f, respectively. Therefore, the domain of f^{-1} is $[0, \infty)$ and the range of f^{-1} is $[-1, \infty)$. To find a formula for f^{-1}, solve the equation $y = (x+1)^2$ for x. If $y = (x+1)^2$, then $x = -1 \pm \sqrt{y}$. Since we are restricting the domain to the interval where $x \geq -1$, we need $\pm\sqrt{y} \geq 0$. Therefore, $x = -1 + \sqrt{y}$. Interchanging x and y, we write $y = -1 + \sqrt{x}$ and conclude that $f^{-1}(x) = -1 + \sqrt{x}$.

Exercise 1.4.4

Consider $f(x) = 1/x^2$ restricted to the domain $(-\infty, 0)$. Verify that f is one-to-one on this domain. Determine the domain and range of the inverse of f and find a formula for f^{-1}.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Inverse Trigonometric Functions

The six basic trigonometric functions are periodic, and therefore they are not one-to-one. However, if we restrict the domain of a trigonometric function to an interval where it is one-to-one, we can define its inverse. Consider the sine function. The sine function is one-to-one on an infinite number of intervals, but the standard convention is to restrict the domain to the interval $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$. By doing so, we define the inverse sine function on the domain $[-1, 1]$ such that for any x in the interval $[-1, 1]$, the inverse sine function tells us which angle θ in the interval $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ satisfies $\sin\theta = x$. Similarly, we can restrict the domains of the other trigonometric functions to define **inverse trigonometric functions**, which are functions that tell us which angle in a certain interval has a specified trigonometric value.

Definition: inverse trigonometric functions

The inverse sine function, denoted $\sin^{-1}$ or $\arcsin$, and the inverse cosine function, denoted $\cos^{-1}$ or $\arccos$, are defined on the domain $D = \{x | -1 \leq x \leq 1\}$ as follows:

$$\sin^{-1}(x) = y$$

- if and only if $\sin(y) = x$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq y \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$;

$$\cos^{-1}(x) = y$$

- if and only if $\cos(y) = x$ and $0 \leq y \leq \pi$.

The inverse tangent function, denoted $\tan^{-1}$ or $\arctan$, and inverse cotangent function, denoted $\cot^{-1}$ or arccot, are defined on the domain \(D=\{x|−∞

$$\tan^{-1}(x) = y$$

- if and only if $\tan(y) = x$ and \(−\frac{π}{2}

$$\cot^{-1}(x) = y$$

- if and only if $\cot(y) = x$ and \(0

The inverse cosecant function, denoted $\csc^{-1}$ or arccsc, and inverse secant function, denoted $\sec^{-1}$ or arcsec, are defined on the domain $D = \{x \mid |x| \geq 1\}$ as follows:

$$\csc^{-1}(x) = y$$

- if and only if $\csc(y) = x$ and $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq y \leq \frac{\pi}{2},\ y \neq 0$;

$$\sec^{-1}(x) = y$$

- if and only if $\sec(y) = x$ and$0 \leq y \leq \pi,\ y \neq \pi/2$.

To graph the inverse trigonometric functions, we use the graphs of the trigonometric functions restricted to the domains defined earlier and reflect the graphs about the line $y = x$ (Figure $1.4.15$).

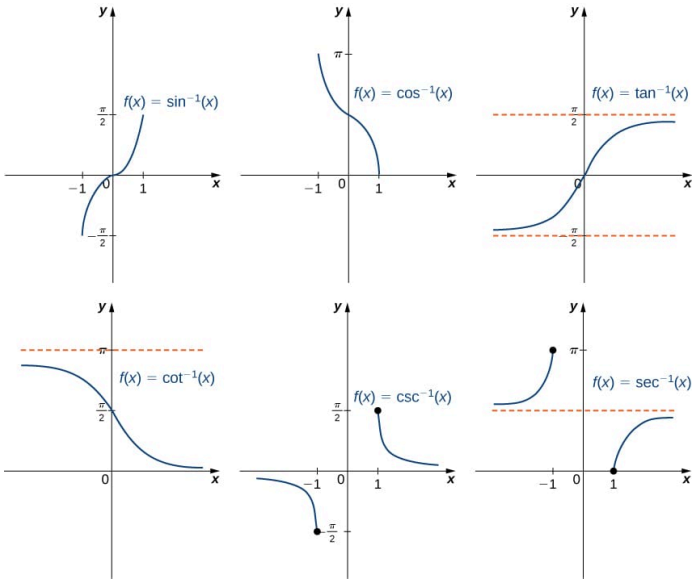


Figure 1.4.15: The graph of each of the six inverse trigonometric functions is a reflection about the line $y = x$ of the corresponding restricted trigonometric function. The graph of $f(x) = \sin^{-1}(x)$ is an increasing function that passes through the points $(-1, -\pi/2)$, $(0, 0)$ and $(1, \pi/2)$ over the domain $[-1, 1]$. The graph of $f(x) = \cos^{-1}(x)$ is a decreasing function that passes through the points $(-1, \pi)$, $(0, 1)$ and $(1, 0)$ over the domain $[-1, 1]$. The graph of $f(x) = \tan^{-1}(x)$ is an increasing function that is contained between the horizontal asymptotes $y = -\pi/2$ and $y = \pi/2$. It passes through the point $(0, 0)$ and has the domain $(-\infty, \infty)$. The graph of $f(x) = \cot^{-1}(x)$ is a decreasing function that is contained between the horizontal asymptotes $y = 0$ and $y = \pi$. It passes through the point $(0, \pi/2)$ and has the domain $(-\infty, \infty)$. The graph of $f(x) = \csc^{-1}(x)$ is a decreasing function defined over the domain $(-\infty, -1] \cup [1, \infty$. The graph has a horizontal asymptote at $y = 0$, with the graph residing in the third quadrant and the first quadrant. The graph starts on the left in the third quadrant along the x-axis, decreases to the point $(-1, -\pi/2)$ and stops. It starts again in the first quadrant at the point $(1, \pi/2)$, decreases and approaches the x-axis. The graph of $f(x) = \sec^{-1}(x)$ is an increasing function defined over the domain $(-\infty, -1] \cup [1, \infty$. The graph has a horizontal asymptote at $y = \pi/2$, with the graph residing in the second quadrant and the first quadrant. The graph starts on the left in the second quadrant just above the asymptote $y = \pi/2$, increases to the point $(-1, -\pi)$ and stops. It starts again in the first quadrant at the point $(1, 0)$, increases and approaches the the asymptote $y = \pi/2$ from below.

When evaluating an inverse trigonometric function, the output is an angle. For example, to evaluate $\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$, we need to find an angle θ such that $\cos\theta = \frac{1}{2}$. Clearly, many angles have this property. However, given the definition of $\cos^{-1}$, we need the angle θ that not only solves this equation, but also lies in the interval $[0, \pi]$. We conclude that $\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{\pi}{3}$.

We now consider a composition of a trigonometric function and its inverse. For example, consider the two expressions $\sin\left(\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)\right)$ and $\sin^{-1}(\sin(\pi))$.

For the first one, we simplify as follows:

$$\sin\left(\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)\right) = \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}.$$

For the second one, we have

$$\sin^{-1}(\sin(\pi)) = \sin^{-1}(0) = 0.$$

The inverse function is supposed to "undo" the original function, so why isn't $\sin^{-1}(\sin(\pi)) = \pi$? Recalling our definition of inverse functions, a function f and its inverse f^{-1} satisfy the conditions $f(f^{-1}(y)) = y$ for all y in the domain of f^{-1} and $f^{-1}(f(x)) = x$ for all x in the domain of f, so what happened here? The issue is that the inverse sine function, $\sin^{-1}$, is the inverse of the restricted sine function defined on the domain $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$. Therefore, for x in the interval $[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$, it is true that $\sin^{-1}(\sin x) = x$. However, for values of x outside this interval, the equation does not hold, even though $\sin^{-1}(\sin x)$ is defined for all real numbers x.

What about $\sin(\sin^{-1} y)$? Does that have a similar issue? The answer is no. Since the domain of $\sin^{-1}$ is the interval $[-1, 1]$, we conclude that $\sin\left(\sin^{-1} y\right) = y$ if $-1 \leq y \leq 1$ and the expression is not defined for other values of y. To summarize,

$$\sin(\sin^{-1} y) = y \text{ if } -1 \leq y \leq 1$$

and

$$\sin^{-1}(\sin x) = x \text{ if } -\tfrac{\pi}{2} \le x \le \tfrac{\pi}{2}.$$

Similarly, for the cosine function,

$$\cos(\cos^{-1} y) = y \text{ if } -1 \le y \le 1$$

and

$$\cos^{-1}(\cos x) = x \text{ if } 0 \le x \le \pi.$$

Similar properties hold for the other trigonometric *functions and their inverses*.

Example 1.4.5: Evaluating Expressions Involving Inverse Trigonometric Functions

Evaluate each of the following expressions.

a. $\sin^{-1}\left(-\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$
b. $\tan\left(\tan^{-1}\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)\right)$
c. $\cos^{-1}\left(\cos\left(\frac{5\pi}{4}\right)\right)$
d. $\sin^{-1}\left(\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{3}\right)\right)$

Solution

a. Evaluating $\sin^{-1}(-\sqrt{3}/2)$ is equivalent to finding the angle θ such that $\sin\theta = -\sqrt{3}/2$ and $-\pi/2 \le \theta \le \pi/2$. The angle $\theta = -\pi/3$ satisfies these two conditions. Therefore, $\sin^{-1}(-\sqrt{3}/2) = -\pi/3$.
b. First we use the fact that $\tan^{-1}(-1/\sqrt{3}) = -\pi/6$. Then $\tan(-\pi/6) = -1/\sqrt{3}$. Therefore, $\tan(\tan^{-1}(-1/\sqrt{3})) = -1/\sqrt{3}$.
c. To evaluate $\cos^{-1}(\cos(5\pi/4))$,first use the fact that $\cos(5\pi/4) = -\sqrt{2}/2$. Then we need to find the angle θ such that $\cos(\theta) = -\sqrt{2}/2$ and $0 \le \theta \le \pi$. Since $3\pi/4$ satisfies both these conditions, we have $\cos^{-1}(\cos(5\pi/4)) = \cos^{-1}(-\sqrt{2}/2)) = 3\pi/4$.
d. Since $\cos(2\pi/3) = -1/2$, we need to evaluate $\sin^{-1}(-1/2)$. That is, we need to find the angle θ such that $\sin(\theta) = -1/2$ and $-\pi/2 \le \theta \le \pi/2$. Since $-\pi/6$ satisfies both these conditions, we can conclude that $\sin^{-1}(\cos(2\pi/3)) = \sin^{-1}(-1/2) = -\pi/6$.

The Maximum Value of a Function

In many areas of science, engineering, and mathematics, it is useful to know the maximum value a function can obtain, even if we don't know its exact value at a given instant. For instance, if we have a function describing the strength of a roof beam, we would want to know the maximum weight the beam can support without breaking. If we have a function that describes the speed of a train, we would want to know its maximum speed before it jumps off the rails. Safe design often depends on knowing maximum values.

This project describes a simple example of a function with a maximum value that depends on two equation coefficients. We will see that maximum values can depend on several factors other than the independent variable x.

1. Consider the graph in Figure 1.4.16 of the function $y = \sin x + \cos x$. Describe its overall shape. Is it periodic? How do you know?

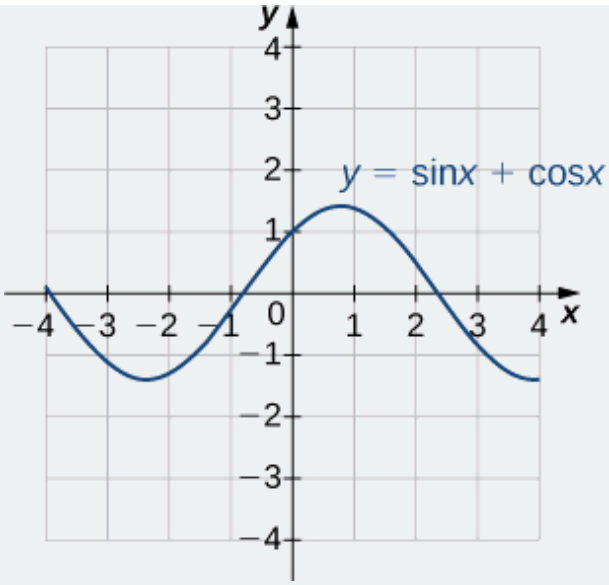


Figure 1.4.16: The graph of $y = \sin x + \cos x$. The graph of this sinusoidal function is shaped like a wave. It appears to be a left shift of sine function by about 0.8 units - or a right shift of a cosine function by about 0.8 units - with amplitude 1.3.

Using a graphing calculator or other graphing device, estimate the x- and y-values of the maximum point for the graph (the first such point where $x > 0$). It may be helpful to express the x-value as a multiple of π.

2. Now consider other graphs of the form $y = A\sin x + B\cos x$ for various values of A and B. Sketch the graph when $A = 2$ and $B = 1$, and find the x- and y-values for the maximum point. (Remember to express the x-value as a multiple of π, if possible.) Has it moved?

3. Repeat for $A = 1,\ \ B = 2$. Is there any relationship to what you found in part (2)?

4. Complete the following table, Table 1.4.1, adding a few choices of your own for A and B :

Table 1.4.1: Table of A, B, x, and y

A	B	x	y	A	B	x	y
0	1			3	4		
1	0			4	3		
1	1			$\sqrt{3}$	1		
1	2			1	$\sqrt{3}$		
2	1			12	5		
2	2			5	12		

5. Try to figure out the formula for the y-values.

6. The formula for the x-values is a little harder. The most helpful points from the table are $(1, 1),\ \ (1, \sqrt{3}),\ \ (\sqrt{3}, 1)$. (Hint: Consider inverse trigonometric functions.)

7. If you found formulas for parts (5) and (6), show that they work together. That is, substitute the x-value formula you found into $y = A\sin x + B\cos x$ and simplify it to arrive at the y-value formula you found.

Key Concepts

- For a function to have an inverse, the function must be one-to-one. Given the graph of a function, we can determine whether

the function is one-to-one by using the horizontal line test.

- If a function is not one-to-one, we can restrict the domain to a smaller domain where the function is one-to-one and then define the inverse of the function on the smaller domain.
- For a function f and its inverse f^{-1}, $f(f^{-1}(x)) = x$ for all x in the domain of f^{-1} and $f^{-1}(f(x)) = x$ for all x in the domain of f.
- Since the trigonometric functions are periodic, we need to restrict their domains to define the inverse trigonometric functions.
- The graph of a function f and its inverse f^{-1} are symmetric about the line $y = x$.

Key Equations

- **Inverse function**

  $f^{-1}(f(x)) = x$ for all x in D, and $f(f^{-1}(y)) = y$ for all y in R.

Glossary

Horizontal line test
: A function f is one-to-one if and only if every horizontal line intersects the graph of f, at most, once

Inverse function
: For a function f, the inverse function f^{-1} satisfies $f^{-1}(y) = x$ if $f(x) = y$

Inverse trigonometric functions
: The inverses of the trigonometric functions are defined on restricted domains where they are one-to-one functions

One-to-one function
: A function f is one-to-one if $f(x_1) \neq f(x_2)$ if $x_1 \neq x_2$

Restricted domain
: A subset of the domain of a function f

Answers

Exercise 1.4.1

Use the horizontal line test.

Exercise 1.4.1

No

Exercise 1.4.2

Use the Problem-Solving Strategy for finding inverse functions.

Exercise 1.4.2

$f^{-1}(x) = \dfrac{2x}{x-3}$. The domain of f^{-1} is $\{x \mid x \neq 3\}$. The range of f^{-1} is $\{y \mid y \neq 2\}$.

Exercise 1.4.3

The graphs are symmetric about the line $y = x$

Exercise 1.4.3

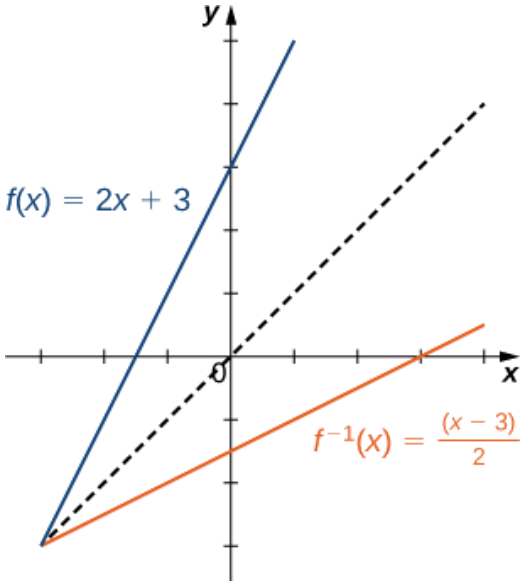


Figure 1.4.11: Two graphs are shown: The first graph is the linear function with y-intercept 3 and slope 2. The other graph is the graph of $f^{-1}(x) = \frac{x-3}{2}, which is also a linear function with \(y$-intercept $-3/2$ and slope $1/2$. The two graphs are reflections of each other across the line $y = x$.

Exercise 1.4.4

The domain and range of f^{-1} is given by the range and domain of f, respectively. To find f^{-1}, solve $y = 1/x^2$ for x.

Exercise 1.4.4

The domain of f^{-1} is $(0, \infty)$. The range of f^{-1} is $(-\infty, 0)$. The inverse function is given by the formula $f^{-1}(x) = -1/\sqrt{x}$.

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1.4E: Exercises for Section 1.4

Exercises 1 - 6

Use the horizontal line test to determine whether each of the given graphs is one-to-one.

1.

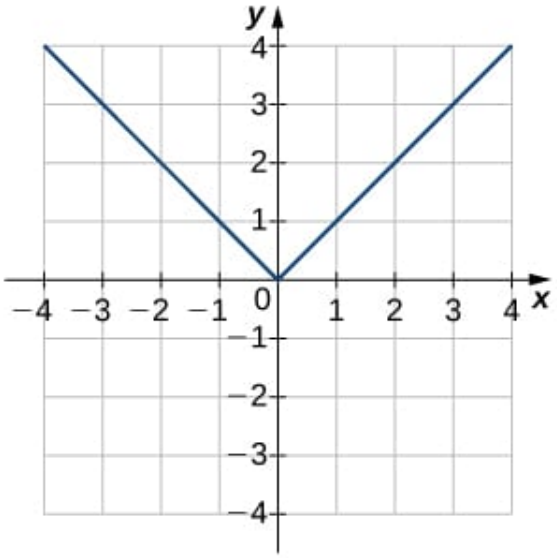


Figure $1.4E.1$: This graph is 'V' shaped, passing through $(-4,4),(0,0)(4,4)$.

Answer

Not one-to-one

2.

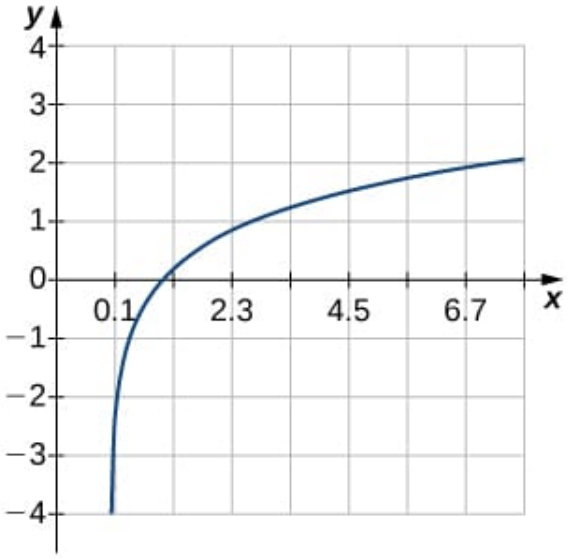


Figure $1.4E.2$: This graph increases throughout, passing through approximately $(0.1,-3),(2.3,0.8),(4.5,1.5),(6.7,1.9)$.

3.

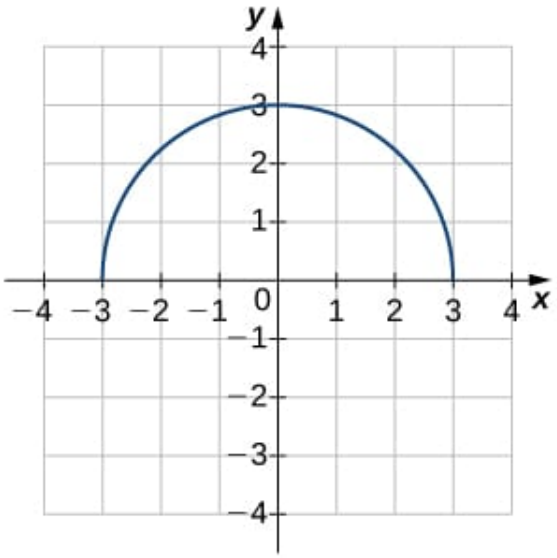


Figure $1.4E.3$: This is the graph of the upper half of a circle, passing through $(-3,0),(0,3),(3,0)$.

Answer

Not one-to-one

4.

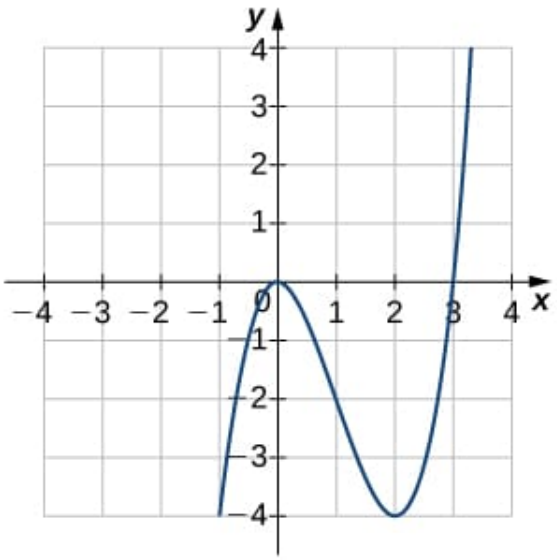


Figure $1.4E.4$: The graph appears to be a cubic polynomial graph, passing through the points $(-1,-4),(0,0),(2,-4),(3.2,3)$.

5.

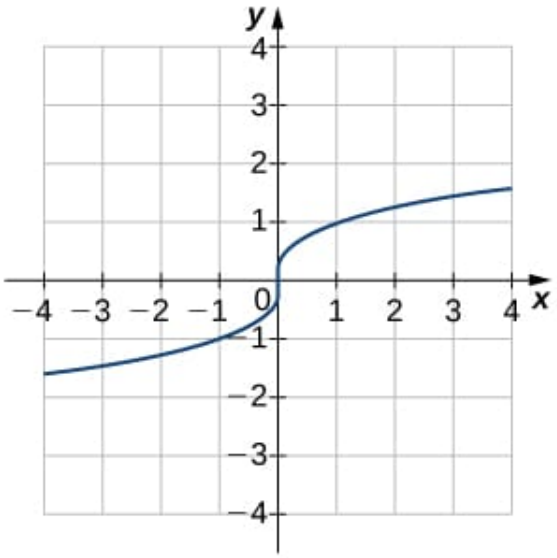


Figure $1.4E.5$: The graph of an increasing graph passing through the points $(-4,-1.5),(-1,-1),(0,0),(1,1),(4,1.5)$.

Answer

One-to-one

6.

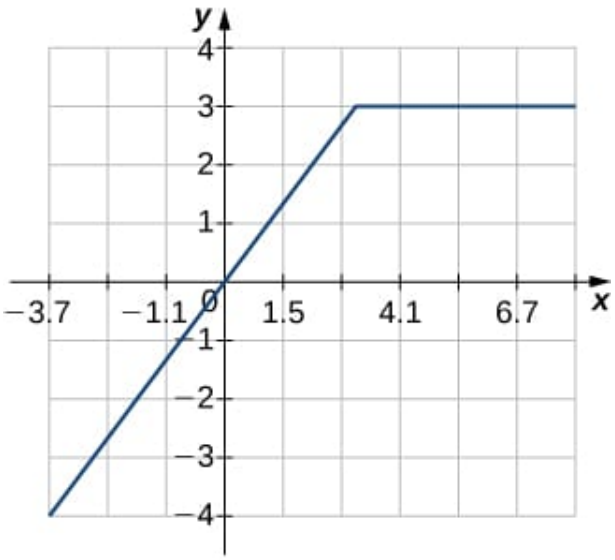


Figure $1.4E.6$: The graph of a piecewise function. The first section is a line segment starting at $(-3.7,-4)$ and ending at about $(2.5,3)$. The second section is a horizontal line segment starting at $(2.5,3)$ and ending at about $(7,3)$.

Exercises 7 - 12

a. **Find the inverse function**
b. **Find the domain and range of the inverse function**

7. $f(x)=x^2-4, \quad x\geq 0$

Answer

a. $f^{-1}(x)=\sqrt{x+4}$
b. Domain: $x\geq -4$, Range: $y\geq 0$

8. $f(x)=\sqrt[3]{x-4}$

9. $f(x) = x^3 + 1$

Answer

a. $f^{-1}(x) = \sqrt[3]{x-1}$
b. Domain: all real numbers, Range: all real numbers

10. $f(x) = (x-1)^2, \quad x \leq 1$
11. $f(x) = \sqrt{x-1}$

Answer

a. $f^{-1}(x) = x^2 + 1$
b. Domain: $x \geq 0$, Range: $y \geq 1$

12. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{x+2}$

Exercises 13 - 16

Use the graph of f to sketch the graph of its inverse function.
13.

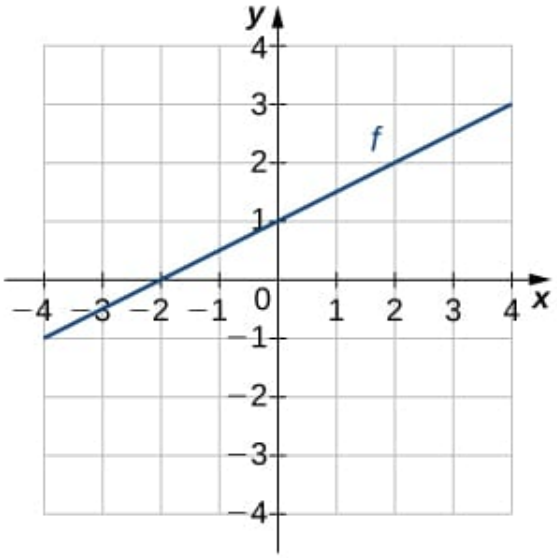


Figure $1.4E.7$: The graph of a line with slope $\frac{1}{2}$ and y-intercept 1.

Answer

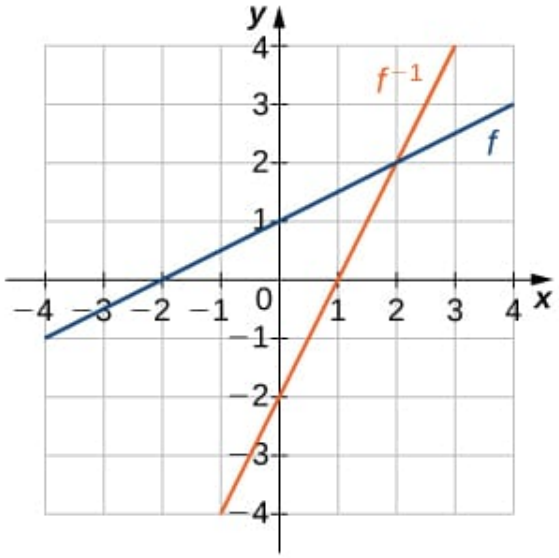


Figure $1.4E.8$: There are two graphs. The graph of function f is as described in Figure $1.4E.7$. The graph of the function f^{-1} is a line with slope 2 and y-intercept -2.

14.

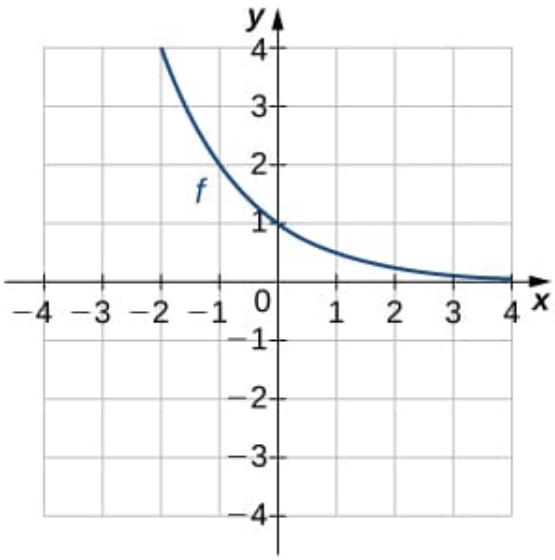


Figure $1.4E.9$: The graph of a decreasing graph that passes through the points $(-2, 4), (-1, 2), (0, 1), (1, 0.5)(4, 0.1)$.

15.

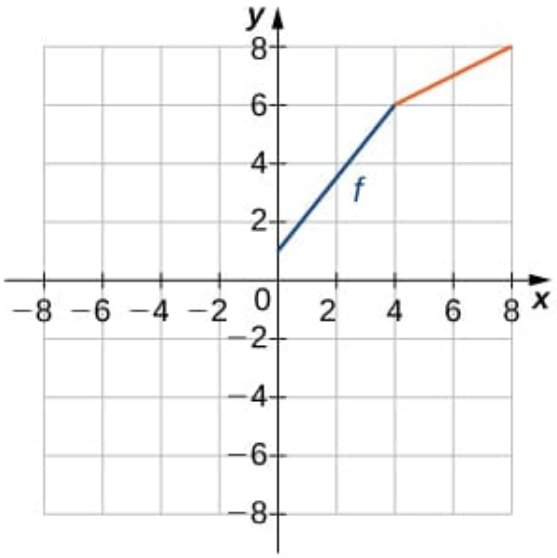


Figure $1.4E.10$: The graph of a piecewise function. The first section is a line segment starting at $(0, 1)$ and ending at about $(4, 6)$. The second section is a line segment starting at $(4, 6)$ and ending at about $(8, 8)$.

Answer

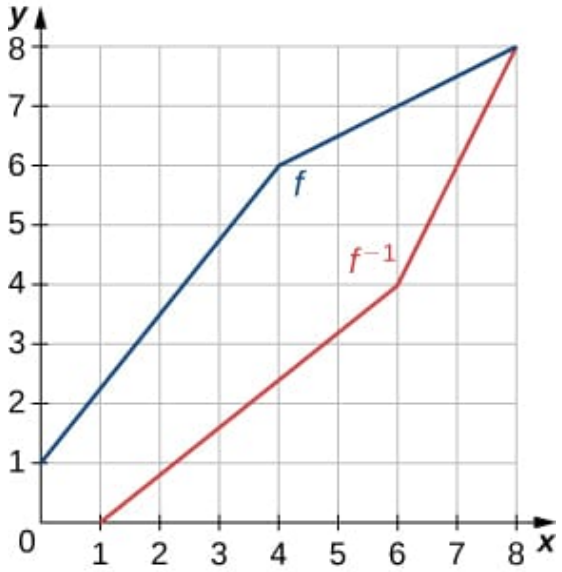


Figure $1.4E.11$: There are two graphs. The graph of function f is as described in Figure $1.4E.10$. The graph of the function f^{-1} is a piecewise graph with two line segments: The first line segment goes from $(1, 0)$ to $(6, 4)$. The second segment goes from $(6, 4)$ to $(8, 8)$.

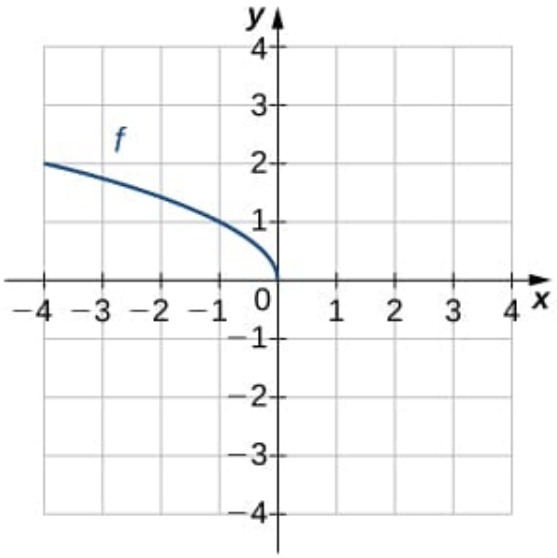


Figure $1.4E.12$: The graph of decreasing function in the second quadrant passing through $(-4, 2), (-2, 1.5), (0, 0)$.

Exercises 17 - 24

Use composition to determine which pairs of functions are inverses.

17. $f(x) = 8x, \quad g(x) = \dfrac{x}{8}$

Answer

These are inverses.

18. $f(x) = 8x + 3, \quad g(x) = \dfrac{x - 3}{8}$
19. $f(x) = 5x - 7, \quad g(x) = \dfrac{x + 5}{7}$

Answer

These are not inverses.

20. $f(x) = \frac{2}{3}x + 2, \quad g(x) = \frac{3}{2}x + 3$
21. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{x - 1}, \ x \neq 1, \quad g(x) = \dfrac{1}{x} + 1, \ x \neq 0$

Answer

These are inverses.

22. $f(x) = x^3 + 1, \quad g(x) = (x - 1)^{1/3}$
23. $f(x) = x^2 + 2x + 1, \ x \geq -1, \quad g(x) = -1 + \sqrt{x}, \ x \geq 0$

Answer

These are inverses.

24. $f(x) = \sqrt{4 - x^2}, \ 0 \leq x \leq 2, \quad g(x) = \sqrt{4 - x^2}, \ 0 \leq x \leq 2$

Exercises 25 - 33

Evaluate the function. Give the exact value.

25. $\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}\right)$

Answer

$\frac{\pi}{6}$

26. $\cos^{-1}\left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)$
27. $\cot^{-1}(1)$

Answer

$\frac{\pi}{4}$

28. $\sin^{-1}(-1)$
29. $\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$

Answer

$\frac{\pi}{6}$

30. $\cos\left(\tan^{-1}(\sqrt{3})\right)$
31. $\sin\left(\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)\right)$

Answer

$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$

32. $\sin^{-1}\left(\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right)\right)$
33. $\tan^{-1}\left(\tan\left(-\frac{\pi}{6}\right)\right)$

Answer

$-\frac{\pi}{6}$

Exercises 34 - 46

34. The function $C = T(F) = (5/9)(F - 32)$ converts degrees Fahrenheit to degrees Celsius.

    a. Find the inverse function $F = T^{-1}(C)$
    b. What is the inverse function used for?

35. [T] The velocity V (in centimeters per second) of blood in an artery at a distance x cm from the center of the artery can be modeled by the function $V = f(x) = 500(0.04 - x^2)$ for $0 \leq x \leq 0.2$.

    a. Find $x = f^{-1}(V)$.
    b. Interpret what the inverse function is used for.
    c. Find the distance from the center of an artery with a velocity of 15 cm/sec, 10 cm/sec, and 5 cm/sec.

    Answer

    a. $x = f^{-1}(V) = \sqrt{0.04 - \frac{V}{500}}$
    b. The inverse function determines the distance from the center of the artery at which blood is flowing with velocity V.
    c. 0.1 cm; 0.14 cm; 0.17 cm

36. A function that converts dress sizes in the United States to those in Europe is given by $D(x) = 2x + 24$.

    a. Find the European dress sizes that correspond to sizes 6, 8, 10, and 12 in the United States.
    b. Find the function that converts European dress sizes to U.S. dress sizes.
    c. Use part b. to find the dress sizes in the United States that correspond to 46, 52, 62, and 70.

37. [T] The cost to remove a toxin from a lake is modeled by the function $C(p) = \frac{75p}{85 - p}$, where C is the cost (in thousands of dollars) and p is the amount of toxin in a small lake (measured in parts per billion [ppb]). This model is valid only when the amount of toxin is less than 85 ppb.

a. Find the cost to remove 25 ppb, 40 ppb, and 50 ppb of the toxin from the lake.
b. Find the inverse function.
c. Use part b. to determine how much of the toxin is removed for $50,000.

Answer

a. $31,250, $66,667, $107,143
b. $p = \dfrac{85C}{C + 75}$
c. 34 ppb

38. [T] A race car is accelerating at a velocity given by $v(t) = \frac{25}{4}t + 54$,, where v is the velocity (in feet per second) at time t.

a. Find the velocity of the car at 10 sec.
b. Find the inverse function.
c. Use part b. to determine how long it takes for the car to reach a speed of 150 ft/sec.

39. [T] An airplane's Mach number M is the ratio of its speed to the speed of sound. When a plane is flying at a constant altitude, then its Mach angle is given by $\mu = 2\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{M}\right)$. Find the Mach angle (to the nearest degree) for the following Mach numbers.

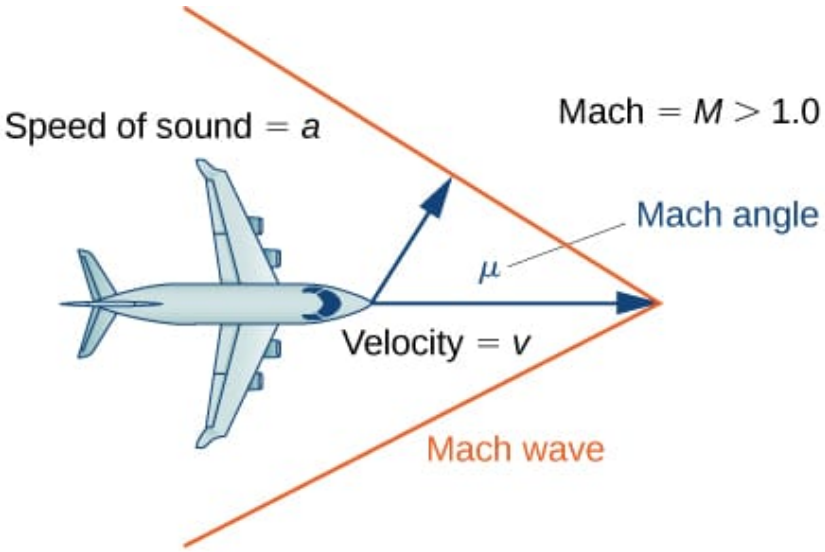


Figure $1.4E.13$: A diagram of an airplane traveling at a velocity v. The diagram illustrates the Mach wave as two orange lines forming a cone shape from a point in front of the plane through the sides of the plane. The Mach angle μ is labeled between the plane's velocity vector and the Mach wave. The labels 'Speed of sound = a', 'Velocity = v', 'Mach = $M > 1.0$', 'Mach wave', and 'Mach angle' indicate key elements of the diagram.

a. $\mu = 1.4$
b. $\mu = 2.8$
c. $\mu = 4.3$

Answer

a. $\sim 92\,^\circ$
b. $\sim 42\,^\circ$
c. $\sim 27\,^\circ$

40. [T] Using $\mu = 2\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{M}\right)$, find the Mach number M for the following angles.

a. $\mu = \frac{\pi}{6}$
b. $\mu = \frac{2\pi}{7}$
c. $\mu = \frac{3\pi}{8}$

41. [T] The temperature (in degrees Celsius) of a city in the northern United States can be modeled by the function

$$T(x) = 5 + 18 \sin\left[\tfrac{\pi}{6}(x - 4.6)\right],$$

where x is time in months and $x = 1.00$ corresponds to January 1. Determine the month and day when the temperature is $21\ ^\circ C$.

Answer

$x \approx 6.69,\ 8.51$; so, the temperature occurs on June 21 and August 15

12. [T] The depth (in feet) of water at a dock changes with the rise and fall of tides. It is modeled by the function $D(t) = 5 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{6}t - \frac{7\pi}{6}\right) + 8$, where t is the number of hours after midnight. Determine the first time after midnight when the depth is 11.75 ft.
13. [T] An object moving in simple harmonic motion is modeled by the function $s(t) = -6 \cos\left(\dfrac{\pi t}{2}\right)$, where s is measured in inches and t is measured in seconds. Determine the first time when the distance moved is 4.5 in.

Answer

~ 1.5 sec

14. [T] A local art gallery has a portrait 3 ft in height that is hung 2.5 ft above the eye level of an average person. The viewing angle θ can be modeled by the function $\theta = \tan^{-1}\frac{5.5}{x} - \tan^{-1}\frac{2.5}{x}$, where x is the distance (in feet) from the portrait. Find the viewing angle when a person is 4 ft from the portrait.
15. [T] Use a calculator to evaluate $\tan^{-1}(\tan(2.1))$ and $\cos^{-1}(\cos(2.1))$. Explain the results of each.

Answer

$\tan^{-1}(\tan(2.1)) \approx -1.0416$; the expression does not equal 2.1 since $2.1 > 1.57 = \frac{\pi}{2}$—in other words, it is not in the restricted domain of $\tan x$. $\cos^{-1}(\cos(2.1)) = 2.1$, since 2.1 is in the restricted domain of $\cos x$.

16. [T] Use a calculator to evaluate $\sin(\sin^{-1}(-2))$ and $\tan(\tan^{-1}(-2))$. Explain the results of each.

Contributors

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1.5: Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

Learning Objectives

- Identify the form of an exponential function.
- Explain the difference between the graphs of x^b and b^x.
- Recognize the significance of the number e.
- Identify the form of a logarithmic function.
- Explain the relationship between exponential and logarithmic functions.
- Describe how to calculate a logarithm to a different base.
- Identify the hyperbolic functions, their graphs, and basic identities.

In this section we examine exponential and logarithmic functions. We use the properties of these functions to solve equations involving exponential or logarithmic terms, and we study the meaning and importance of the number e. We also define hyperbolic and inverse hyperbolic functions, which involve combinations of exponential and logarithmic functions. (Note that we present alternative definitions of exponential and logarithmic functions in the chapter Applications of Integrations, and prove that the functions have the same properties with either definition.)

Exponential Functions

Exponential functions arise in many applications. One common example is **population growth.** For example, if a population starts with P_0 individuals and then grows at an annual rate of 2%, its population after 1 year is

$$P(1) = P_0 + 0.02P_0 = P_0(1 + 0.02) = P_0(1.02).$$

Its population after 2 years is

$$P(2) = P(1) + 0.02P(1) = P(1)(1.02) = P_0(1.02)^2.$$

In general, its population after t years is

$$P(t) = P_0(1.02)^t,$$

which is an exponential function. More generally, any function of the form $f(x) = b^x$, where $b > 0$, $b \neq 1$, is an exponential function with **base** b and **exponent** x. Exponential functions have constant bases and variable exponents. Note that a function of the form $f(x) = x^b$ for some constant b is not an exponential function but a power function.

To see the difference between an exponential function and a power function, we compare the functions $y = x^2$ and $y = 2^x$. In Table $1.5.1$, we see that both 2^x and x^2 approach infinity as $x \to \infty$. Eventually, however, 2^x becomes larger than x^2 and grows more rapidly as $x \to \infty$. In the opposite direction, as $x \to -\infty$, $x^2 \to \infty$, whereas $2^x \to 0$. The line $y = 0$ is a horizontal asymptote for $y = 2^x$.

Table $1.5.1$*: Values of* $x, x^2,$ *and* 2^x

x	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
x^2	9	4	1	0	1	4	9	16	25	36
2^x	1/8	1/4	1/2	1	2	4	8	16	32	64

In Figure $1.5.1$, we graph both $y = x^2$ and $y = 2^x$ to show how the graphs differ.

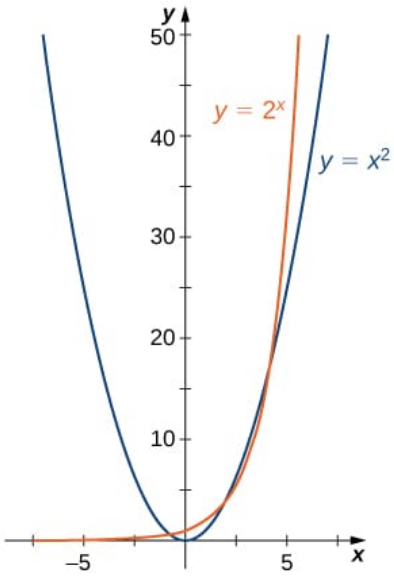


Figure 1.5.1: Both 2^x and x^2 approach infinity as $x \to \infty$, but 2^x grows more rapidly than x^2. As $x \to -\infty$, $x^2 \to \infty$, whereas $2^x \to 0$.

Evaluating Exponential Functions

Recall the properties of exponents: If x is a positive integer, then we define $b^x = b \cdot b \cdots b$ (with x factors of b). If x is a negative integer, then $x = -y$ for some positive integer y, and we define $b^x = b^{-y} = 1/b^y$. Also, b^0 is defined to be 1. If x is a rational number, then $x = p/q$, where p and q are integers and $b^x = b^{p/q} = \sqrt[q]{b^p}$. For example, $9^{3/2} = \sqrt{9^3} = \left(\sqrt{9}\right)^3 = 27$. However, how is b^x defined if x is an irrational number? For example, what do we mean by $2^{\sqrt{2}}$? This is too complex a question for us to answer fully right now; however, we can make an approximation.

Table 1.5.2: Values of 2^x for a List of Rational Numbers Approximating $\sqrt{2}$

x	1.4	1.41	1.414	1.4142	1.41421	1.414213
2^x	2.639	2.65737	2.66475	2.665119	2.665138	2.665143

In Table 1.5.2, we list some rational numbers approaching $\sqrt{2}$, and the values of 2^x for each rational number x are presented as well. We claim that if we choose rational numbers x getting closer and closer to $\sqrt{2}$, the values of 2^x get closer and closer to some number L. We define that number L to be $2^{\sqrt{2}}$.

Example 1.5.1: Bacterial Growth

Suppose a particular population of bacteria is known to double in size every 4 hours. If a culture starts with 1000 bacteria, the number of bacteria after 4 hours is $n(4) = 1000 \cdot 2$. The number of bacteria after 8 hours is $n(8) = n(4) \cdot 2 = 1000 \cdot 2^2$. In general, the number of bacteria after $4m$ hours is $n(4m) = 1000 \cdot 2^m$. Letting $t = 4m$, we see that the number of bacteria after t hours is $n(t) = 1000 \cdot 2^{t/4}$. Find the number of bacteria after 6 hours, 10 hours, and 24 hours.

Solution

The number of bacteria after 6 hours is given by

$$n(6) = 1000 \cdot 2^{6/4} \approx 2828 \,\text{bacteria}.$$

The number of bacteria after 10 hours is given by

$$n(10) = 1000 \cdot 2^{10/4} \approx 5657 \,\text{bacteria}.$$

The number of bacteria after 24 hours is given by $n(24) = 1000 \cdot 2^6 = 64,000$ bacteria.

Exercise 1.5.1

Given the exponential function $f(x) = 100 \cdot 3^{x/2}$, evaluate $f(4)$ and $f(10)$.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Graphing Exponential Functions

For any base $b > 0$, $b \neq 1$, the exponential function $f(x) = b^x$ is defined for all real numbers x and $b^x > 0$. Therefore, the domain of $f(x) = b^x$ is $(-\infty, \infty)$ and the range is $(0, \infty)$. To graph b^x, we note that for $b > 1$, b^x is increasing on $(-\infty, \infty)$ and $b^x \to \infty$ as $x \to \infty$, whereas $b^x \to 0$ as $x \to -\infty$. On the other hand, if \(0

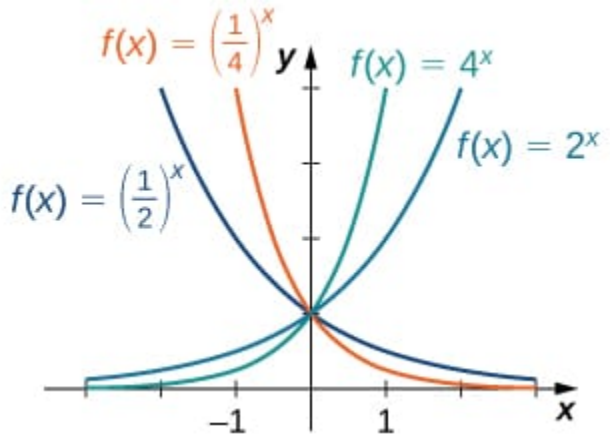


Figure 1.5.2: If $b > 1$, then b^x is increasing on $(-\infty, \infty)$. If \(0

Note that exponential functions satisfy the general laws of exponents. To remind you of these laws, we state them as rules.

Laws of Exponents

For any constants $a > 0$, $b > 0$, and for all x and y,

1. $b^x \cdot b^y = b^{x+y}$
2. $\dfrac{b^x}{b^y} = b^{x-y}$
3. $(b^x)^y = b^{xy}$
4. $(ab)^x = a^x b^x$
5. $\dfrac{a^x}{b^x} = \left(\dfrac{a}{b}\right)^x$

Example 1.5.2: Using the Laws of Exponents

Use the laws of exponents to simplify each of the following expressions.

a. $\dfrac{(2x^{2/3})^3}{(4x^{-1/3})^2}$

b. $\dfrac{(x^3y^{-1})^2}{(xy^2)^{-2}}$

Soution

a. We can simplify as follows:

$$\frac{(2x^{2/3})^3}{(4x^{-1/3})^2} = \frac{2^3(x^{2/3})^3}{4^2(x^{-1/3})^2} = \frac{8x^2}{16x^{-2/3}} = \frac{x^2x^{2/3}}{2} = \frac{x^{8/3}}{2}.$$

b. We can simplify as follows:

$$\frac{(x^3y^{-1})^2}{(xy^2)^{-2}} = \frac{(x^3)^2(y^{-1})^2}{x^{-2}(y^2)^{-2}} = \frac{x^6y^{-2}}{x^{-2}y^{-4}} = x^6x^2y^{-2}y^4 = x^8y^2.$$

Exercise 1.5.2

Use the laws of exponents to simplify $\frac{6x^{-3}y^2}{12x^{-4}y^5}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The Number e

A special type of exponential function appears frequently in real-world applications. To describe it, consider the following example of exponential growth, which arises from **compounding interest** in a savings account. Suppose a person invests P dollars in a savings account with an annual interest rate r, compounded annually. The amount of money after 1 year is

$$A(1) = P + rP = P(1 + r).$$

The amount of money after 2 years is

$$A(2) = A(1) + rA(1) = P(1 + r) + rP(1 + r) = P(1 + r)^2.$$

More generally, the amount after t years is

$$A(t) = P(1 + r)^t.$$

If the money is compounded 2 times per year, the amount of money after half a year is

$$A\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = P + \left(\frac{r}{2}\right)P = P\left(1 + \left(\frac{r}{2}\right)\right).$$

The amount of money after 1 year is

$$A(1) = A\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{r}{2}\right)A\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = P\left(1 + \frac{r}{2}\right) + \frac{r}{2}\left(\left(P(1 + \frac{r}{2}\right)\right) = P\left(1 + \frac{r}{2}\right)^2.$$

After t years, the amount of money in the account is

$$A(t) = P\left(1 + \frac{r}{2}\right)^{2t}.$$

More generally, if the money is compounded n times per year, the amount of money in the account after t years is given by the function

$$A(t) = P\left(1 + \frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}.$$

What happens as $n \to \infty$? To answer this question, we let $m = n/r$ and write

$$\left(1+\frac{r}{n}\right)^{nt}=\left(1+\frac{1}{m}\right)^{mrt},$$

and examine the behavior of $(1+1/m)^m$ as $m\to\infty$, using a table of values (Table 1.5.3).

Table 1.5.3: Values of $\left(1+\frac{1}{m}\right)^m$ *as* $m\to\infty$

m	10	100	1000	10,000	100,000	1,000,000
$\left(1+\frac{1}{m}\right)^m$	2.5937	2.7048	2.71692	2.71815	2.718268	2.718280

Looking at this table, it appears that $(1+1/m)^m$ is approaching a number between 2.7 and 2.8 as $m\to\infty$. In fact, $(1+1/m)^m$ does approach some number as $m\to\infty$. We call this number e. To six decimal places of accuracy,

$$e\approx 2.718282.$$

Leonhard Euler

The letter e was first used to represent this number by the Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler during the 1720s. Although Euler did not discover the number, he showed many important connections between e and logarithmic functions. We still use the notation e today to honor Euler's work because it appears in many areas of mathematics and because we can use it in many practical applications.

Returning to our savings account example, we can conclude that if a person puts P dollars in an account at an annual interest rate r, compounded continuously, then $A(t)=Pe^{rt}$. This function may be familiar. Since functions involving base e arise often in applications, we call the function $f(x)=e^x$ the **natural exponential function**. Not only is this function interesting because of the definition of the number e, but also, as discussed next, its graph has an important property.

Since $e>1$, we know $f(x)=e^x$ is increasing on $(-\infty,\infty)$. In Figure 1.5.3, we show a graph of $f(x)=e^x$ along with a tangent line to the graph of f at $x=0$. We give a precise definition of tangent line in the next chapter; but, informally, we say a tangent line to a graph of f at $x=a$ is a line that passes through the point $(a,f(a))$ and has the same "slope" as f at that point . The function $f(x)=e^x$ is the only exponential function b^x with tangent line at $x=0$ that has a slope of 1. As we see later in the text, having this property makes the natural exponential function the most simple exponential function to use in many instances.

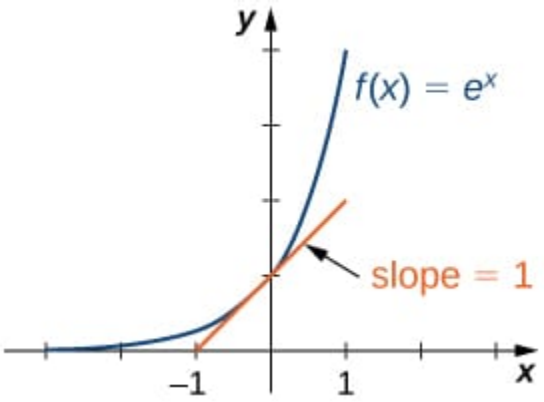


Figure 1.5.3: The graph of $f(x)=e^x$ increases faster and faster. It has a tangent line with slope 1 at $x=0$.

Example 1.5.3: Compounding Interest

Suppose $\$500$ is invested in an account at an annual interest rate of $r=5.5\%$, compounded continuously.

a. Let t denote the number of years after the initial investment and $A(t)$ denote the amount of money in the account at time t. Find a formula for $A(t)$.

b. Find the amount of money in the account after 10 years and after 20 years.

Solution

a. If P dollars are invested in an account at an annual interest rate r, compounded continuously, then $A(t) = Pe^{rt}$. Here $P = \$500$ and $r = 0.055$. Therefore, $A(t) = 500e^{0.055t}$.

b. After 10 years, the amount of money in the account is

$$A(10) = 500e^{0.055 \cdot 10} = 500e^{0.55} \approx \$866.63.$$

After 20 years, the amount of money in the account is

$$A(20) = 500e^{0.055 \cdot 20} = 500e^{1.1} \approx \$1,502.08.$$

Exercise 1.5.3

If $\$750$ is invested in an account at an annual interest rate of 4%, compounded continuously, find a formula for the amount of money in the account after t years. Find the amount of money after 30 years.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Logarithmic Functions

Using our understanding of exponential functions, we can discuss their inverses, which are the logarithmic functions. These come in handy when we need to consider any phenomenon that varies over a wide range of values, such as the pH scale in chemistry or decibels in sound levels.

The exponential function $f(x) = b^x$ is *one-to-one*, with domain $(-\infty, \infty)$ and range $(0, \infty)$. Therefore, it has an inverse function, called the logarithmic function with base b. For any $b > 0,\ b \neq 1$, the logarithmic function with base b, denoted $\log_b$, has domain $(0, \infty)$ and range $(-\infty, \infty)$,and satisfies

$$\log_b(x) = y$$

if and only if $b^y = x$.

For example,

$$\log_2(8) = 3$$

since $2^3 = 8$,

$$\log_{10}\left(\frac{1}{100}\right) = -2$$

since $10^{-2} = \dfrac{1}{10^2} = \dfrac{1}{100}$,

$$\log_b(1) = 0$$

since $b^0 = 1$ for any base $b > 0$.

Furthermore, since $y = \log_b(x)$ and $y = b^x$ are inverse functions,

$$\log_b(b^x) = x$$

and

$$b^{\log_b(x)} = x.$$

The most commonly used logarithmic function is the function $\log_e$. Since this function uses natural e as its base, it is called the **natural logarithm**. Here we use the notation $\ln(x)$ or $\ln x$ to mean $\log_e(x)$. For example,

$$\ln(e) = \log_e(e) = 1$$
$$\ln(e^3) = \log_e(e^3) = 3$$
$$\ln(1) = \log_e(1) = 0.$$

Since the functions $f(x) = e^x$ and $g(x) = \ln(x)$ are inverses of each other,

$$\ln(e^x) = x \text{ and } e^{\ln x} = x,$$

and their graphs are symmetric about the line $y = x$ (Figure $1.5.4$).

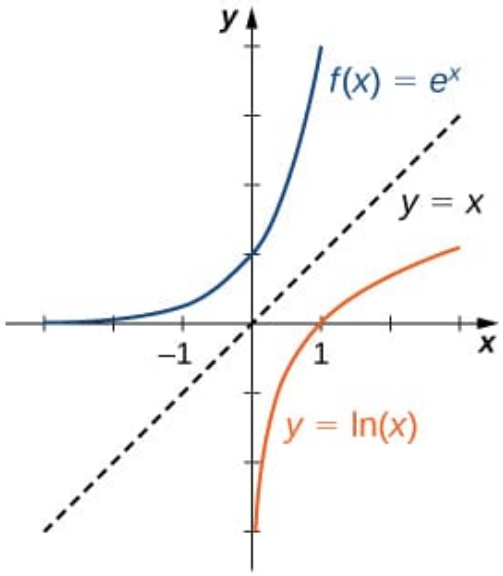


Figure $1.5.4$: The functions $y = e^x$ and $y = \ln(x)$ are inverses of each other, so their graphs are symmetric about the diagonal line $y = x$. $y = e^x$ increases faster and faster, while $y = \ln(x)$ increases more and more slowly.

In general, for any base $b > 0$, $b \neq 1$, the function $g(x) = \log_b(x)$ is symmetric about the line $y = x$ with the function $f(x) = b^x$. Using this fact and the graphs of the exponential functions, we graph functions $\log_b$ for several values of $b > 1$ (Figure $1.5.5$).

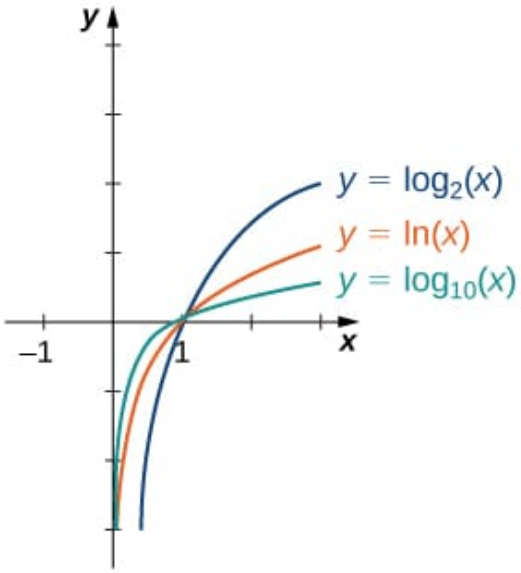


Figure 1.5.5: The graphs of $y = \log_1 0(x)$, $y = \log_e(x) = \ln(x)$, and $y = \log_2(x)$, are shown. $y = \log_1 0(x)$ grows the most slowly, while $y = \log_2(x)$ grows the fastest. All are constantly increasing, but grow less fast as $x \to \infty$.

Before solving some equations involving exponential and logarithmic functions, let's review the basic properties of logarithms.

Properties of Logarithms

If $a,\ b,\ c > 0,\ b \neq 1$, and r is any real number, then

- **Product property**

$$\log_b(ac) = \log_b(a) + \log_b(c) \tag{1.5.1}$$

- **Quotient property**

$$\log_b\left(\frac{a}{c}\right) = \log_b(a) - \log_b(c) \tag{1.5.2}$$

- **Power property**

$$\log_b(a^r) = r\log_b(a) \tag{1.5.3}$$

Example 1.5.4: Solving Equations Involving Exponential Functions

Solve each of the following equations for x.

a. $5^x = 2$
b. $e^x + 6e^{-x} = 5$

Solution

a. Applying the natural logarithm function to both sides of the equation, we have

$$\ln 5^x = \ln 2.$$

Using the power property of logarithms,

$$x \ln 5 = \ln 2.$$

Therefore,

$$x = \frac{\ln 2}{\ln 5}.$$

b. Multiplying both sides of the equation by e^x,we arrive at the equation

$$e^{2x} + 6 = 5e^x.$$

Rewriting this equation as

$$e^{2x} - 5e^x + 6 = 0,$$

we can then rewrite it as a quadratic equation in e^x:

$$(e^x)^2 - 5(e^x) + 6 = 0.$$

Now we can solve the quadratic equation. Factoring this equation, we obtain

$$(e^x - 3)(e^x - 2) = 0.$$

Therefore, the solutions satisfy $e^x = 3$ and $e^x = 2$. Taking the natural logarithm of both sides gives us the solutions $x = \ln 3, \ln 2$.

Exercise 1.5.4

Solve

$$e^{2x}/(3 + e^{2x}) = 1/2.$$

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 1.5.5: Solving Equations Involving Logarithmic Functions

Solve each of the following equations for x.

a. $\ln\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = 4$
b. $\log_{10}\sqrt{x} + \log_{10} x = 2$
c. $\ln(2x) - 3\ln(x^2) = 0$

Solution

a. By the definition of the natural logarithm function,

$$\ln\left(\frac{1}{x}\right) = 4$$

- if and only if $e^4 = \frac{1}{x}$.

Therefore, the solution is $x = 1/e^4$.

b. Using the product (Equation 1.5.1) and power (Equation 1.5.3) properties of logarithmic functions, rewrite the left-hand side of the equation as

$$\begin{aligned}\log_{10}\sqrt{x}+\log_{10}x &= \log_{10}x\sqrt{x}\\ &= \log_{10}x^{3/2}\\ &= \frac{3}{2}\log_{10}x.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the equation can be rewritten as

$$\frac{3}{2}\log_{10}x = 2$$

or

$$\log_{10}x = \frac{4}{3}.$$

The solution is $x = 10^{4/3} = 10\sqrt[3]{10}$.

c. Using the power property (Equation 1.5.3) of logarithmic functions, we can rewrite the equation as $\ln(2x) - \ln(x^6) = 0$.

Using the quotient property (Equation 1.5.2), this becomes

$$\ln\left(\frac{2}{x^5}\right) = 0$$

Therefore, $2/x^5 = 1$, which implies $x = \sqrt[5]{2}$. We should then check for any extraneous solutions.

Exercise 1.5.5

Solve $\ln(x^3) - 4\ln(x) = 1$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

When evaluating a logarithmic function with a calculator, you may have noticed that the only options are $\log_{10}$ or $\log$, called the **common logarithm**, or $\ln$, which is the natural logarithm. However, exponential functions and logarithm functions can be expressed in terms of any desired base b. If you need to use a calculator to evaluate an expression with a different base, you can apply the change-of-base formulas first. Using this change of base, we typically write a given exponential or logarithmic function in terms of the natural exponential and natural logarithmic functions.

Rule: Change-of-Base Formulas

Let $a > 0,\ b > 0$, and $a \neq 1,\ b \neq 1$.

1. $a^x = b^{x\log_b a}$ for any real number x.

   If $b = e$, this equation reduces to $a^x = e^{x\log_e a} = e^{x\ln a}$.

2. $\log_a x = \dfrac{\log_b x}{\log_b a}$ for any real number $x > 0$.

   If $b = e$, this equation reduces to $\log_a x = \dfrac{\ln x}{\ln a}$.

Proof

For the first change-of-base formula, we begin by making use of the power property of logarithmic functions. We know that for any base $b > 0,\ b \neq 1$, $\log_b(a^x) = x \log_b a$. Therefore,

$$b^{\log_b(a^x)} = b^{x \log_b a}.$$

In addition, we know that b^x and $\log_b(x)$ are inverse functions. Therefore,

$$b^{\log_b(a^x)} = a^x.$$

Combining these last two equalities, we conclude that $a^x = b^{x \log_b a}$.

To prove the second property, we show that

$$(\log_b a) \cdot (\log_a x) = \log_b x.$$

Let $u = \log_b a, v = \log_a x$, and $w = \log_b x$. We will show that $u \cdot v = w$. By the definition of logarithmic functions, we know that $b^u = a,\ a^v = x$, and $b^w = x$. From the previous equations, we see that

$$b^{uv} = (b^u)^v = a^v = x = b^w.$$

Therefore, $b^{uv} = b^w$. Since exponential functions are one-to-one, we can conclude that $u \cdot v = w$.

□

Example 1.5.6: Changing Bases

Use a calculating utility to evaluate $\log_3 7$ with the change-of-base formula presented earlier.

Solution

Use the second equation with $a = 3$ and $b = e$: $\log_3 7 = \dfrac{\ln 7}{\ln 3} \approx 1.77124$.

Exercise 1.5.6

Use the change-of-base formula and a calculating utility to evaluate $\log_4 6$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Example 1.5.7: The Richter Scale for Earthquakes

In 1935, Charles Richter developed a scale (now known as the Richter scale) to measure the magnitude of an **earthquake**. The scale is a base-10 logarithmic scale, and it can be described as follows: Consider one earthquake with magnitude R_1 on the Richter scale and a second earthquake with magnitude R_2 on the Richter scale. Suppose $R_1 > R_2$, which means the earthquake of magnitude R_1 is stronger, but how much stronger is it than the other earthquake?



Figure 1.5.6: Photograph of a desert with brown mountains amid a geologic fault line (Public Domain NPS / Robb Hannawacker via Flickr)

A way of measuring the intensity of an earthquake is by using a seismograph to measure the amplitude of the earthquake waves. If A_1 is the amplitude measured for the first earthquake and A_2 is the amplitude measured for the second earthquake, then the amplitudes and magnitudes of the two earthquakes satisfy the following equation:

$$R_1 - R_2 = \log_{10}\left(\frac{A1}{A2}\right).$$

Consider an earthquake that measures 8 on the Richter scale and an earthquake that measures 7 on the Richter scale. Then,

$$8 - 7 = \log_{10}\left(\frac{A1}{A2}\right).$$

Therefore,

$$\log_{10}\left(\frac{A1}{A2}\right) = 1,$$

which implies $A_1/A_2 = 10$ or $A_1 = 10A_2$. Since A_1 is 10 times the size of A_2, we say that the first earthquake is 10 times as intense as the second earthquake. On the other hand, if one earthquake measures 8 on the Richter scale and another measures 6, then the relative intensity of the two earthquakes satisfies the equation

$$\log_{10}\left(\frac{A1}{A2}\right) = 8 - 6 = 2.$$

Therefore, $A_1 = 100A_2$.That is, the first earthquake is 100 times more intense than the second earthquake.

How can we use logarithmic functions to compare the relative severity of the magnitude 9 earthquake in Japan in 2011 with the magnitude 7.3 earthquake in Haiti in 2010?

Solution

To compare the Japan and Haiti earthquakes, we can use an equation presented earlier:

$$9 - 7.3 = \log_{10}\left(\frac{A1}{A2}\right).$$

Therefore, $A_1/A_2 = 10^{1.7}$, and we conclude that the earthquake in Japan was approximately 50 times more intense than the earthquake in Haiti.

Exercise 1.5.7

Compare the relative severity of a magnitude 8.4 earthquake with a magnitude 7.4 earthquake.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Hyperbolic Functions

The hyperbolic functions are defined in terms of certain combinations of e^x and e^{-x}. These functions arise naturally in various engineering and physics applications, including the study of water waves and vibrations of elastic membranes. Another common use for a hyperbolic function is the representation of a hanging chain or cable, also known as a *catenary* (Figure $1.5.7$). If we introduce a coordinate system so that the low point of the chain lies along the y-axis, we can describe the height of the chain in terms of a hyperbolic function. First, we define the **hyperbolic functions.**



Figure $1.5.7$: A spiderweb is covered in dew drops. Strands of silk radiate from the center and are held by concentric strands. The shape of a strand of silk holding the radii together is slightly curved. The curve can be described in terms of a hyperbolic function. The same shape applies to a chain or cable hanging from two supports with only its own weight. (CC BY-SA 3.0, Brocken Inaglory via Wikimedia Commons)

Definitions: hyperbolic functions

Hyperbolic cosine

$$\cosh x = \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{2}$$

Hyperbolic sine

$$\sinh x = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{2}$$

Hyperbolic tangent

$$\tanh x = \frac{\sinh x}{\cosh x} = \frac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$$

Hyperbolic cosecant

$$\operatorname{csch} x = \frac{1}{\sinh x} = \frac{2}{e^x - e^{-x}}$$

Hyperbolic secant

$$\operatorname{sech} x = \frac{1}{\cosh x} = \frac{2}{e^x + e^{-x}}$$

Hyperbolic cotangent

$$\coth x = \frac{\cosh x}{\sinh x} = \frac{e^x + e^{-x}}{e^x - e^{-x}}$$

The name $\cosh$ rhymes with "gosh," whereas the name $\sinh$ is pronounced "cinch." Tanh, sech, csch, and $\coth$ are pronounced "tanch," "seech," "coseech," and "cotanch," respectively.

Using the definition of $\cosh(x)$ and principles of physics, it can be shown that the height of a hanging chain, such as the one in Figure $1.5.8$, can be described by the function $h(x) = a\cosh(x/a) + c$ for certain constants a and c.

But why are these functions called hyperbolic functions? To answer this question, consider the quantity $\cosh^2 t - \sinh^2 t$. Using the definition of $\cosh$ and $\sinh$, we see that

$$\cosh^2 t - \sinh^2 t = \frac{e^{2t} + 2 + e^{-2t}}{4} - \frac{e^{2t} - 2 + e^{-2t}}{4} = 1.$$

This identity is the analog of the trigonometric identity $\cos^2 t + \sin^2 t = 1$. Here, given a value t, the point $(x, y) = (\cosh t, \sinh t)$ lies on the unit hyperbola $x^2 - y^2 = 1$ (Figure $1.5.8$).

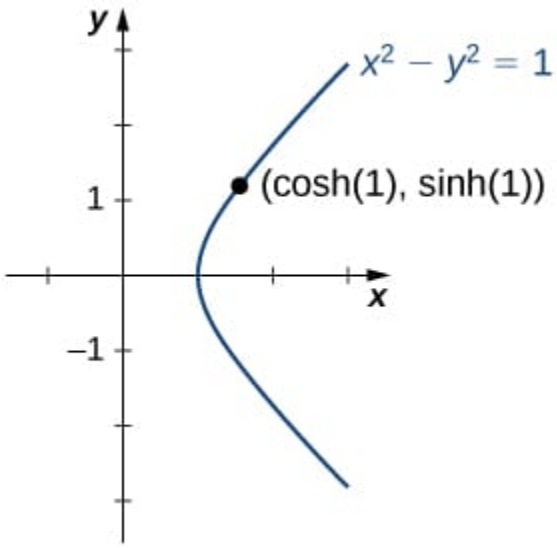


Figure $1.5.8$:The unit hyperbola $x^2 - y^2 = 1$. The shape is like the letter C facing to the right with x-intercept (1,0).

Graphs of Hyperbolic Functions

To graph $\cosh x$ and $\sinh x$, we make use of the fact that both functions approach $(1/2)e^x$ as $x \to \infty$, since $e^{-x} \to 0$ as $x \to \infty$. As $x \to -\infty, \cosh x$ approaches $1/2e^{-x}$, whereas $\sinh x$ approaches $-1/2e^{-x}$. Therefore, using the graphs of $1/2e^x, 1/2e^{-x}$, and $-1/2e^{-x}$ as guides, we graph $\cosh x$ and $\sinh x$. To graph $\tanh x$, we use the fact that $\tanh(0) = 0$, $-1 < \tanh(x) < 1$ for all x, $\tanh x \to 1$ as $x \to \infty$, and $\tanh x \to -1$ as $x \to -\infty$. The graphs of the other three hyperbolic functions can be sketched using the graphs of $\cosh x$, $\sinh x$, and $\tanh x$ (Figure $1.5.9$).

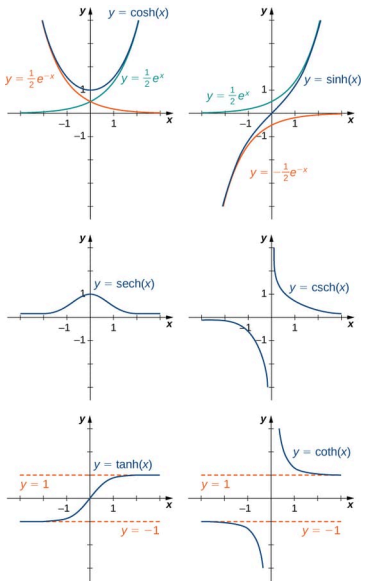


Figure 1.5.9: The hyperbolic functions involve combinations of e^x and e^{-x}. The graph of $cosh(x)$ is similar in shape to a parabola $y = x^2$ but with vertex $(0, 1)$. The graph of $sinh(x)$ is similar to the cubic function $y = x^3$, though with less curvature. The graph of $sech(x)$ is mound-shaped and centered at the y-axis. The graph of $csch(x)$ is similar to the reciprocal function $y = \dfrac{1}{x}$. The graph of $tanh(x)$ is similar to the cube root function $y = x^(1/3)$, though with less curvature. The graph of $coth(x)$ is also like $y = \dfrac{1}{x}$, though with the two opposing curves held apart by horizontal asymptotes at $y = \pm 1$.

Identities Involving Hyperbolic Functions

The identity $\cosh^2 t - \sinh^2 t = 1$, shown in Figure 1.5.8, is one of several identities involving the hyperbolic functions, some of which are listed next. The first four properties follow easily from the definitions of hyperbolic sine and hyperbolic cosine. Except for some differences in signs, most of these properties are analogous to identities for trigonometric functions.

Identities Involving Hyperbolic Functions

1. $\cosh(-x) = \cosh x$
2. $\sinh(-x) = -\sinh x$
3. $\cosh x + \sinh x = e^x$
4. $\cosh x - \sinh x = e^{-x}$
5. $\cosh^2 x - \sinh^2 x = 1$
6. $1 - \tanh^2 x = \operatorname{sech}^2 x$
7. $\coth^2 x - 1 = \operatorname{csch}^2 x$
8. $\sinh(x \pm y) = \sinh x \cosh y \pm \cosh x \sinh y$
9. $\cosh(x \pm y) = \cosh x \cosh y \pm \sinh x \sinh y$

Example 1.5.8: Evaluating Hyperbolic Functions

a. Simplify $\sinh(5 \ln x)$.
b. If $\sinh x = 3/4$, find the values of the remaining five hyperbolic functions.

Solution:

a. Using the definition of the $\sinh$ function, we write

$$\sinh(5 \ln x) = \frac{e^{5 \ln x} - e^{-5 \ln x}}{2} = \frac{e^{\ln(x^5)} - e^{\ln(x^{-5})}}{2} = \frac{x^5 - x^{-5}}{2}.$$

b. Using the identity $\cosh^2 x - \sinh^2 x = 1$,we see that

$$\cosh^2 x = 1 + \left(\tfrac{3}{4}\right)^2 = \frac{25}{16}.$$

Since $\cosh x \geq 1$ for all x, we must have $\cosh x = 5/4$. Then, using the definitions for the other hyperbolic functions, we conclude that $\tanh x = 3/5, \operatorname{csch} x = 4/3, \operatorname{sech} x = 4/5$, and $\coth x = 5/3$.

Exercise 1.5.8

Simplify $\cosh(2 \ln x)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Inverse Hyperbolic Functions

From the graphs of the hyperbolic functions, we see that all of them are one-to-one except $\cosh x$ and $\operatorname{sech} x$. If we restrict the domains of these two functions to the interval $[0, \infty)$, then all the hyperbolic functions are one-to-one, and we can define the **inverse hyperbolic functions**. Since the hyperbolic functions themselves involve exponential functions, the inverse hyperbolic functions involve logarithmic functions.

Definitions: Inverse Hyperbolic Functions

$$\sinh^{-1} x = \operatorname{arcsinh} x = \ln\left(x + \sqrt{x^2+1}\right) \qquad \cosh^{-1} x = \operatorname{arccosh} x = \ln\left(x + \sqrt{x^2-1}\right)$$

$$\tanh^{-1} x = \operatorname{arctanh} x = \frac{1}{2}\ln\left(\frac{1+x}{1-x}\right) \qquad \coth^{-1} x = \operatorname{arccot} x = \frac{1}{2}\ln\left(\frac{x+1}{x-1}\right)$$

$$\operatorname{sech}^{-1} x = \operatorname{arcsech} x = \ln\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{1-x^2}}{x}\right) \qquad \operatorname{csch}^{-1} x = \operatorname{arccsch} x = \ln\left(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{\sqrt{1+x^2}}{|x|}\right)$$

Let's look at how to derive the first equation. The others follow similarly. Suppose $y = \sinh^{-1} x$. Then, $x = \sinh y$ and, by the definition of the hyperbolic sine function, $x = \dfrac{e^y - e^{-y}}{2}$. Therefore,

$$e^y - 2x - e^{-y} = 0.$$

Multiplying this equation by e^y, we obtain

$$e^{2y} - 2xe^y - 1 = 0.$$

This can be solved like a quadratic equation, with the solution

$$e^y = \frac{2x \pm \sqrt{4x^2+4}}{2} = x \pm \sqrt{x^2+1}.$$

Since $e^y > 0$,the only solution is the one with the positive sign. Applying the natural logarithm to both sides of the equation, we conclude that

$$y = \ln(x + \sqrt{x^2+1}).$$

Example 1.5.9: Evaluating Inverse Hyperbolic Functions

Evaluate each of the following expressions.

$$\sinh^{-1}(2)$$

$$\tanh^{-1}(1/4)$$

Solution:

$$\sinh^{-1}(2) = \ln(2+\sqrt{2^2+1}) = \ln(2+\sqrt{5}) \approx 1.4436$$

$$\tanh^{-1}(1/4) = \frac{1}{2}\ln\left(\frac{1+1/4}{1-1/4}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\ln\left(\frac{5/4}{3/4}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\ln\left(\frac{5}{3}\right) \approx 0.2554$$

Exercise 1.5.9

Evaluate $\tanh^{-1}(1/2)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- The exponential function $y = b^x$ is increasing if $b > 1$ and decreasing if \(0
- The logarithmic function $y = \log_b(x)$ is the inverse of $y = b^x$. Its domain is $(0, \infty)$ and its range is $(-\infty, \infty)$.
- The natural exponential function is $y = e^x$ and the natural logarithmic function is $y = \ln x = \log_e x$.
- Given an exponential function or logarithmic function in base a, we can make a change of base to convert this function to any base $b > 0$, $b \neq 1$. We typically convert to base e.
- The hyperbolic functions involve combinations of the exponential functions e^x and e^{-x}. As a result, the inverse hyperbolic functions involve the natural logarithm.

Glossary

Base
The number b in the exponential function $f(x) = b^x$ and the logarithmic function $f(x) = \log_b x$

Exponent
The value x in the expression b^x

Hyperbolic functions
The functions denoted $\sinh,\ \cosh,\ \tanh,\ \text{csch},\ \text{sech}$, and $\coth$, which involve certain combinations of e^x and e^{-x}

Inverse hyperbolic functions
The inverses of the hyperbolic functions where $\cosh$ and sech are restricted to the domain $[0, \infty)$;each of these functions can be expressed in terms of a composition of the natural logarithm function and an algebraic function

Natural exponential function
The function $f(x) = e^x$

Natural logarithm
The function $\ln x = \log_e x$

Number e
As m gets larger, the quantity $(1 + (1/m)^m$ gets closer to some real number; we define that real number to be e; the value of e is approximately 2.718282

Answers

Exercise 1.5.1

$f(4) = 900$

$f(10) = 24,300.$

Exercise 1.5.2

$x^a/x^b = x^{a-b}$

Exercise 1.5.2

$x/(2y^3)$

Exercise 1.5.3

$A(t) = Pe^{rt}$

Exercise 1.5.3

$A(t) = 750e^{0.04t}$. After 30 years, there will be approximately $\$2,490.09$.

Exercise 1.5.4

First solve the equation for e^{2x}

Exercise 1.5.4

$x = \dfrac{\ln 3}{2}$.

Exercise 1.5.5

First use the power property, then use the product property of logarithms.

Exercise 1.5.5

$x = \dfrac{1}{e}$

Exercise 1.5.6

Use the change of base to rewrite this expression in terms of expressions involving the natural logarithm function.

$\log_4 6 = \dfrac{\ln 6}{\ln 4} \approx 1.29248$

Exercise 1.5.7

$R_1 - R_2 = \log_{10}(A1/A2)$.

The magnitude 8.4 earthquake is roughly 10 times as severe as the magnitude 7.4 earthquake.

Exercise 1.5.8

Use the definition of the $\cosh$ function and the power property of logarithm functions.

$(x^2 + x^{-2})/2$

Exercise 1.5.9

Use the definition of $\tanh^{-1} x$ and simplify.

$\dfrac{1}{2}\ln(3) \approx 0.5493$.

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1.5E: Exercises for Section 1.5

Exercises 1 - 4

Evaluate the given exponential functions as indicated, accurate to two significant digits after the decimal.

1. $f(x) = 5^x$

a. $x = 3$
b. $x = \frac{1}{2}$
c. $x = \sqrt{2}$

Answer

a. 125
b. 2.24
c. 9.74

2. $f(x) = (0.3)^x$

a. $x = -1$
b. $x = 4$
c. $x = -1.5$

3. $f(x) = 10^x$

a. $x = -2$
b. $x = 4$
c. $x = \frac{5}{3}$

Answer

a. 0.01
b. $10,000$
c. 46.42

4. $f(x) = e^x$

a. $x = 2$
b. $x = -3.2$
c. $x = \pi$

Exercises 5 - 10

Match the exponential equation to the correct graph.

a. $y = 4^{-x}$
b. $y = 3^{x-1}$
c. $y = 2^{x+1}$
d. $y = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^x + 2$
e. $y = -3^{-x}$
f. $y = 1 - 5^x$
5.

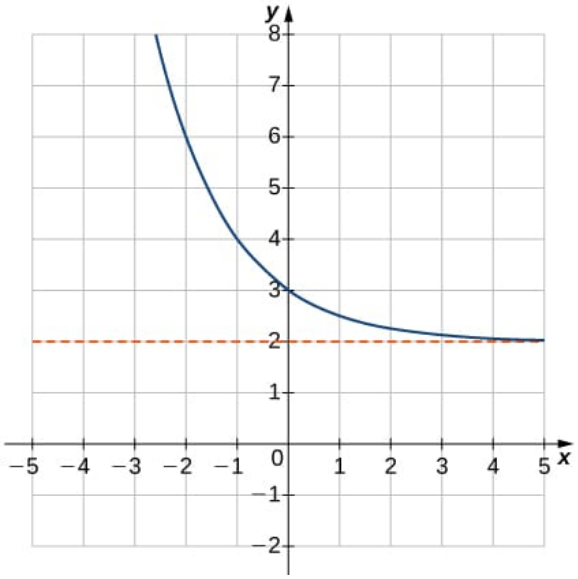


Figure $1.5E.1$: The graph is decreasing fast through $(-3, 9)$ and decreases at a continuously slower rate as x goes to infinity approaching flatness near the horizontal asymptote $y = 2$.

Answer

d

6.

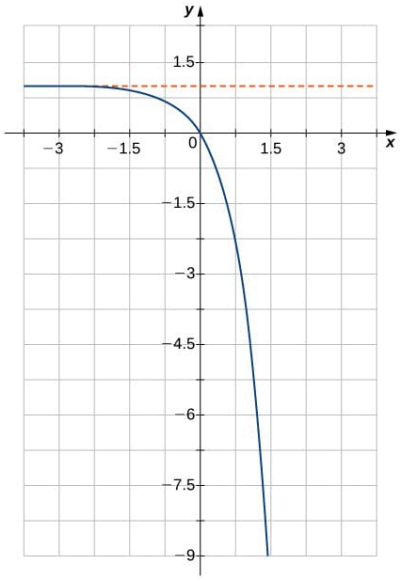


Figure $1.5E.2$: The graph is decreasing at a continuously faster rate as x goes to infinity. It starts from negative infinity separating slowly from the horizontal asymptote of $y = 1$ and falls precipitously for positive x.

7.

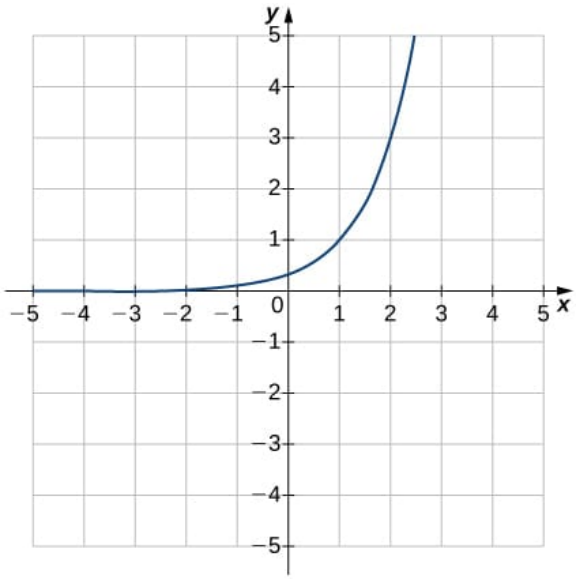


Figure $1.5E.3$: The graph is increasing at a continuously faster rate as x goes to infinity. It starts from negative infinity separating slowly from the horizontal asymptote of $y = 0$ and grows increasingly for positive x passing through $(2, 3)$.

Answer

b

8.

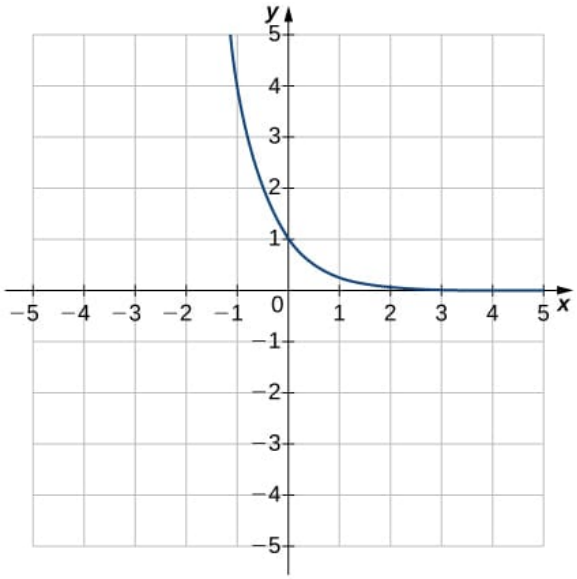


Figure $1.5E.4$: The graph is decreasing through $(-1, 4)$ and decreases at a continuously slower rate as x goes to infinity approaching flatness near the horizontal asymptote $y = 0$.

9.

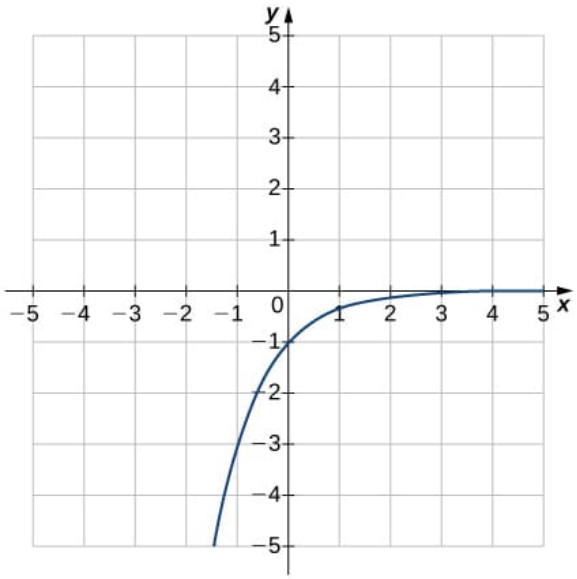


Figure $1.5E.5$: The graph is increasing at a continuously slower rate, starting from a steep increase near $(-2, -6)$ then approaching flatness near the horizontal asymptote $y = 0$.

Answer

e

10.

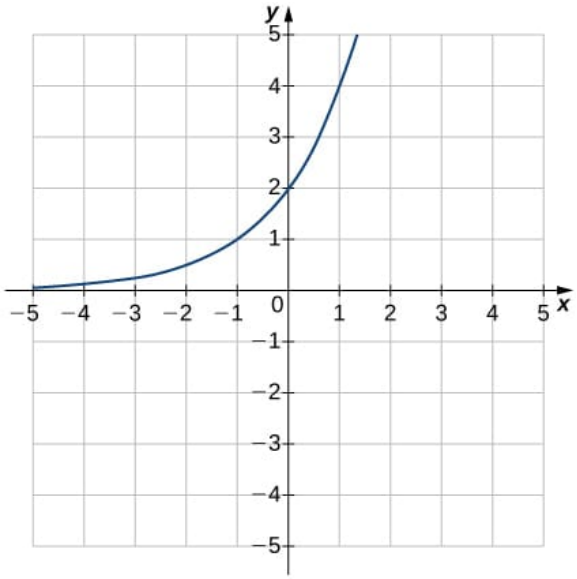


Figure $1.5E.6$: The graph is increasing at a continuously faster rate as x goes to infinity. It starts from negative infinity separating slowly from the horizontal asymptote of $y = 0$ and grows increasingly for positive x passing through $(1, 4)$.

Exercises 11 - 17

Sketch the graph of the exponential function. Determine the domain, range, and horizontal asymptote.

11. $f(x) = e^x + 2$

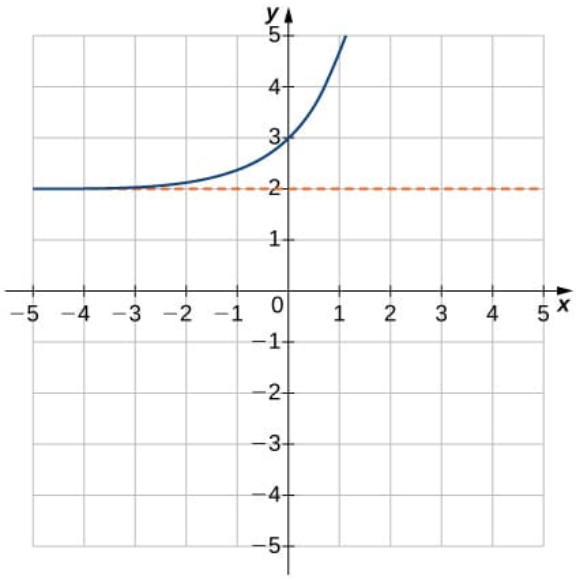


Figure $1.5E.7$: The graph is increasing at a continuously faster rate as x goes to infinity. It starts from negative infinity separating slowly from the horizontal asymptote of $y = 2$ and grows increasingly for positive x passing near $(1, 5)$.

Answer

Domain: all real numbers, Range: $(2, \infty)$, $y = 2$

12. $f(x) = -2^x$

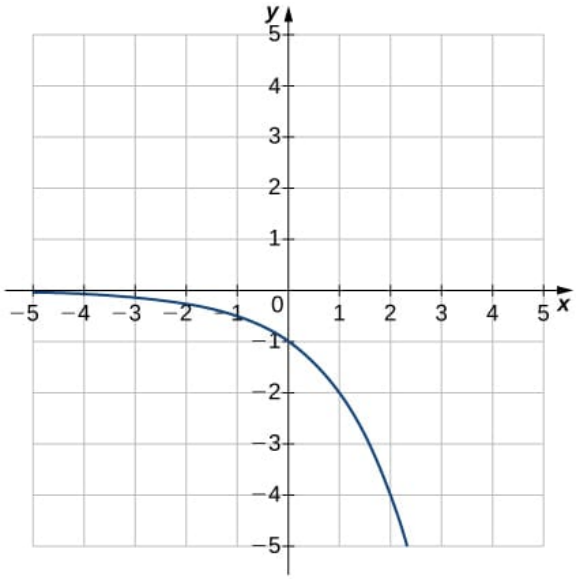


Figure $1.5E.8$: The graph is decreasing at a continuously faster rate as x goes to infinity. It starts from negative infinity separating slowly from the horizontal asymptote of $y = 0$ and passes through $(1, -2)$ falling more and more.

13. $f(x) = 3^{x+1}$

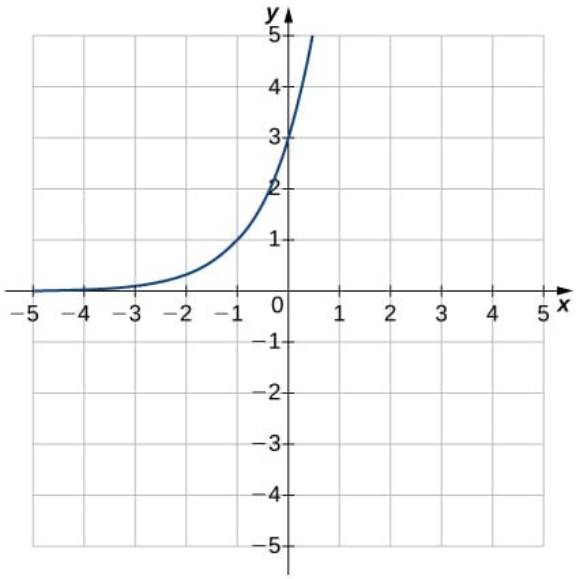


Figure $1.5E.9$: The graph is increasing at a continuously faster rate as x goes to infinity. It starts from negative infinity separating slowly from the horizontal asymptote of $y = 0$ and grows increasingly for positive x passing through $(0, 3)$.

Answer

Domain: all real numbers, Range: $(0, \infty)$, $y = 0$

14. $f(x) = 4^x - 1$

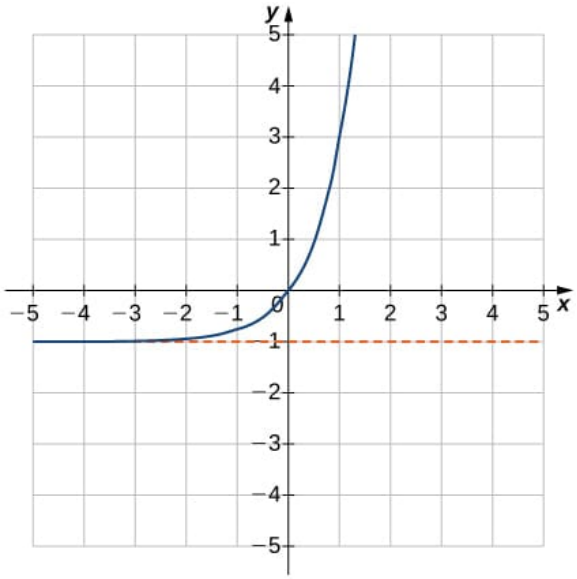


Figure $1.5E.10$: The graph is increasing at a continuously faster rate as x goes to infinity. It starts from negative infinity separating slowly from the horizontal asymptote of $y = -1$ and grows increasingly for positive x passing through $(1, 3)$.

15. $f(x) = 1 - 2^{-x}$

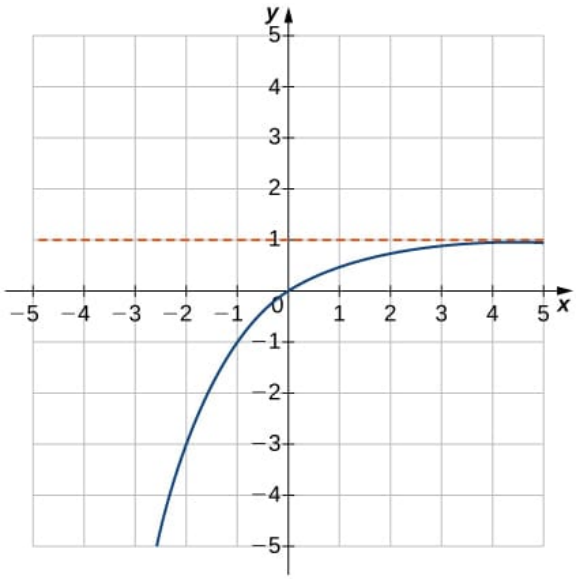


Figure $1.5E.11$: The graph is increasing at a continuously slower rate, starting from a steep increase near $(-3,-6)$, crossing through the origin, then approaching flatness near the asymptote $y=1$.

Answer

Domain: all real numbers, Range: $(-\infty,1),\ \ y=1$

16. $f(x)=5^{x+1}+2$

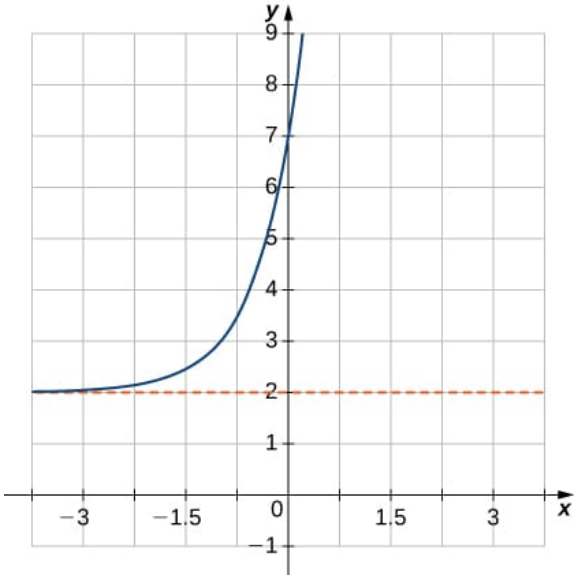


Figure $1.5E.12$: The graph is increasing at a continuously faster rate as x goes to infinity. It starts from negative infinity separating slowly from the horizontal asymptote of $y=2$ and grows increasingly for positive x passing through $(0,7)$.

17. $f(x)=e^{-x}-1$

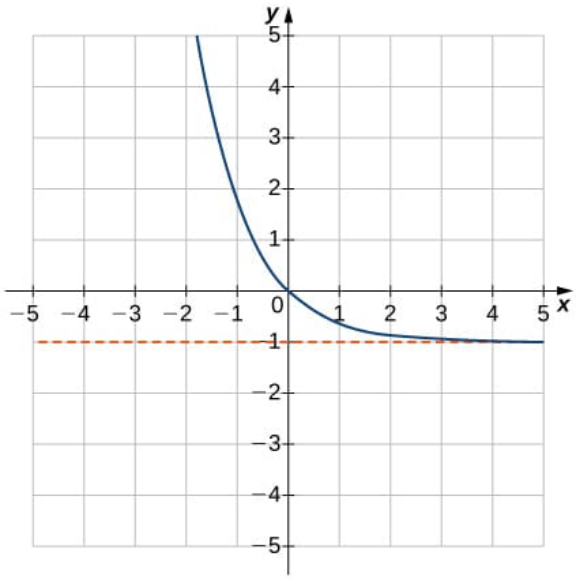


Figure $1.5E.13$: The graph is decreasing fast near $(-2, 6)$ and decreases at a continuously slower rate as x goes to infinity approaching flatness near the horizontal asymptote $y = -1$.

Answer

Domain: all real numbers, Range: $(-1, \infty)$, $y = -1$

Exercises 18 - 25

Write the equation in equivalent exponential form.

18. $\log_3 81 = 4$
19. $\log_8 2 = \frac{1}{3}$

Answer

$8^{1/3} = 2$

20. $\log_5 1 = 0$
21. $\log_5 25 = 2$

Answer

$5^2 = 25$

22. $\log 0.1 = -1$
23. $\ln\left(\frac{1}{e^3}\right) = -3$

Answer

$e^{-3} = \dfrac{1}{e^3}$

24. $\log_9 3 = 0.5$
25. $\ln 1 = 0$

Answer

$e^0 = 1$

Exercises 26 - 35

Write the equation in equivalent logarithmic form.

26. $2^3 = 8$
27. $4^{-2} = \frac{1}{16}$

Answer

$\log_4\left(\frac{1}{16}\right) = -2$

28. $10^2 = 100$
29. $9^0 = 1$

Answer

$\log_9 1 = 0$

30. $\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)^3 = \frac{1}{27}$
31. $\sqrt[3]{64} = 4$

Answer

$\log_{64} 4 = \frac{1}{3}$

32. $e^x = y$
33. $9^y = 150$

Answer

$\log_9 150 = y$

34. $b^3 = 45$
35. $4^{-3/2} = 0.125$

Answer

$\log_4 0.125 = -\frac{3}{2}$

Exercises 36 - 41

Sketch the graph of the logarithmic function. Determine the domain, range, and vertical asymptote.

36. $f(x) = 3 + \ln x$

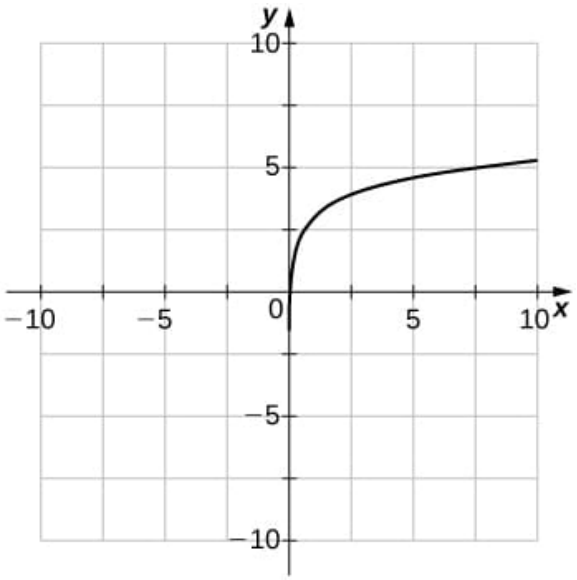


Figure $1.5E.14$: The graph increases with a vertical asymptote of $x = 0$ on the left, then grows at a continuously slower rate as x goes to infinity passing through $(7.5, 5)$.

37. $f(x) = \ln(x-1)$

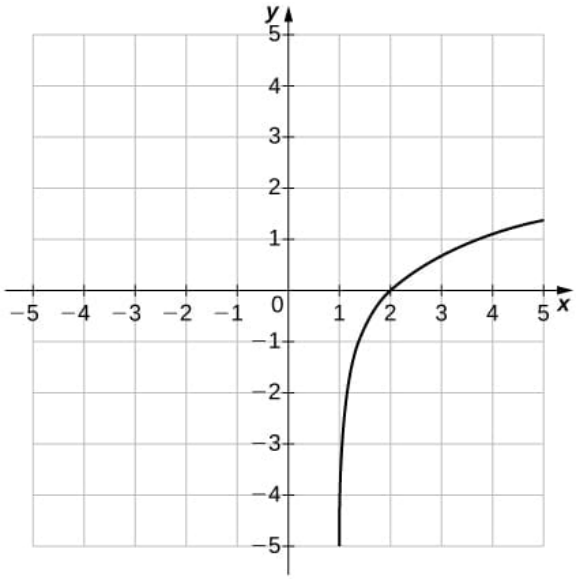


Figure $1.5E.15$: The graph increases with a vertical asymptote of $x = 1$ on the left, then grows at a continuously slower rate as x goes to infinity passing near $(4, 1)$.

Answer

Domain: $(1, \infty)$, Range: $(-\infty, \infty)$, $x = 1$

38. $f(x) = \ln(-x)$

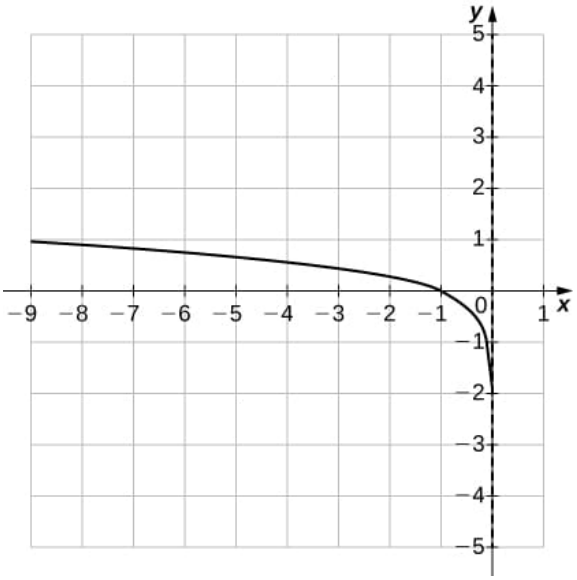


Figure $1.5E.16$: The graph decreases with a vertical asymptote of $x = 0$ on the right. It starts out nearly flat when it passes through $(-9, 1)$ then falls at a continuously faster rate as x approaches 0.

39. $f(x) = 1 - \ln x$

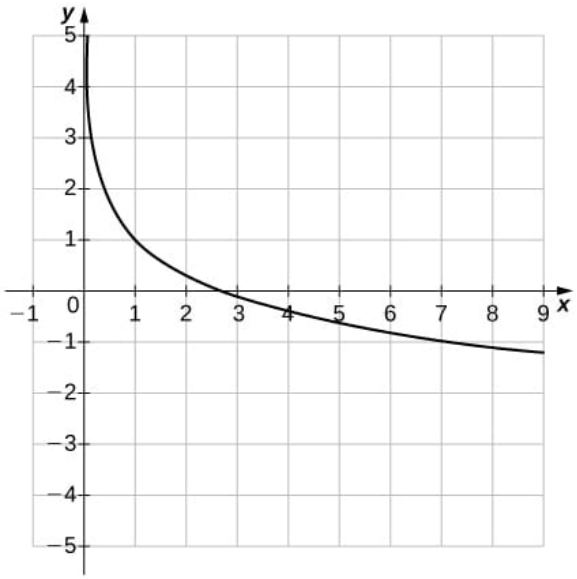


Figure $1.5E.17$: The graph is decreasing fast with the vertical asymptote $x = 0$ on the left. It decreases at a continuously slower rate as x goes to infinity and passes through $(7, -1)$.

Answer

Domain: $(0, \infty)$, Range: $(-\infty, \infty)$, $x = 0$

40. $f(x) = \log x - 1$

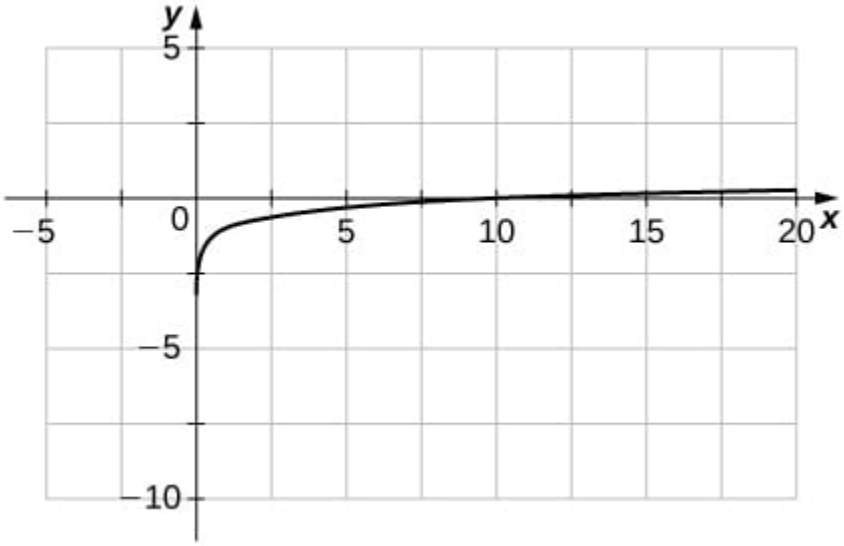


Figure $1.5E.18$: The graph increases fast with a vertical asymptote of $x = 0$ on the left, then grows at a continuously slower rate as x goes to infinity passing through $(10, 0)$.

41. $f(x) = \ln(x + 1)$

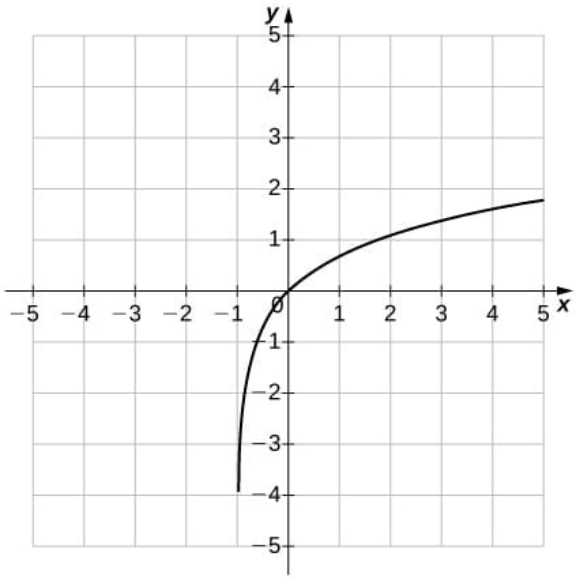


Figure $1.5E.19$: The graph increases fast with a vertical asymptote of $x = -1$ on the left, then grows at a continuously slower rate as x goes to infinity passing near $(6, 2)$.

Answer

Domain: $(-1, \infty)$, Range: $(-\infty, \infty)$, $x = -1$

Exercises 42 - 47

Use properties of logarithms to write the expressions as a sum, difference, and/or product of logarithms.

42. $\log x^4 y$
43. $\log_3 \frac{9a^3}{b}$

Answer

$2 + 3\log_3 a - \log_3 b$

44. $\ln a\sqrt[3]{b}$
45. $\log_5 \sqrt{125xy^3}$

Answer

$\frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\log_5 x + \frac{3}{2}\log_5 y$

46. $\log_4 \frac{\sqrt[3]{xy}}{64}$
47. $\ln\left(\frac{6}{\sqrt{e^3}}\right)$

Answer

$-\frac{3}{2} + \ln 6$

Exercises 48 - 55

Solve the exponential equation exactly.

48. $5^x = 125$
49. $e^{3x} - 15 = 0$

Answer

$\frac{\ln 15}{3}$

50. $8^x = 4$

51. $4^{x+1} - 32 = 0$

Answer

$\frac{3}{2}$

52. $3^{x/14} = \frac{1}{10}$
53. $10^x = 7.21$

Answer

$\log 7.21$

54. $4 \cdot 2^{3x} - 20 = 0$
55. $7^{3x-2} = 11$

Answer

$\frac{2}{3} + \frac{\log 11}{3 \log 7}$

Exercises 56 - 63

Solve the logarithmic equation exactly, if possible.

56. $\log_3 x = 0$
57. $\log_5 x = -2$

Answer

$x = \frac{1}{25}$

58. $\log_4(x + 5) = 0$
59. $\log(2x - 7) = 0$

Answer

$x = 4$

60. $\ln \sqrt{x + 3} = 2$
61. $\log_6(x + 9) + \log_6 x = 2$

Answer

$x = 3$

62. $\log_4(x + 2) - \log_4(x - 1) = 0$
63. $\ln x + \ln(x - 2) = \ln 4$

Answer

$1 + \sqrt{5}$

Exercises 64 - 69

Use the change-of-base formula and either base 10 or base e to evaluate the given expressions. Answer in exact form and in approximate form, rounding to four decimal places.

64. $\log_5 47$
65. $\log_7 82$

Answer

$\frac{\log 82}{\log 7} \approx 2.2646$

66. $\log_6 103$

57. $\log_{0.5} 211$

Answer

$$\frac{\log 211}{\log 0.5} \approx -7.7211$$

58. $\log_2 \pi$
59. $\log_{0.2} 0.452$

Answer

$$\frac{\log 0.452}{\log 0.2} \approx 0.4934$$

Exercises 70 - 81

70. Rewrite the following expressions in terms of exponentials and simplify.

a. $2\cosh(\ln x)$
b. $\cosh 4x + \sinh 4x$
c. $\cosh 2x - \sinh 2x$
d. $\ln(\cosh x + \sinh x) + \ln(\cosh x - \sinh x)$

71. [T] The number of bacteria N in a culture after t days can be modeled by the function $N(t) = 1300 \cdot (2)^{t/4}$. Find the number of bacteria present after 15 days.

Answer

$\sim 17,491$

72. [T] The demand D (in millions of barrels) for oil in an oil-rich country is given by the function $D(p) = 150 \cdot (2.7)^{-0.25p}$, where p is the price (in dollars) of a barrel of oil. Find the amount of oil demanded (to the nearest million barrels) when the price is between $15 and $20.
73. [T] The amount A of a $100,000 investment paying continuously and compounded for t years is given by $A(t) = 100,000 \cdot e^{0.055t}$. Find the amount A accumulated in 5 years.

Answer

Approximately $131,653 is accumulated in 5 years.

74. [T] An investment is compounded monthly, quarterly, or yearly and is given by the function $A = P\left(1 + \frac{j}{n}\right)^{nt}$, where A is the value of the investment at time t, P is the initial principle that was invested, j is the annual interest rate, and n is the number of time the interest is compounded per year. Given a yearly interest rate of 3.5% and an initial principle of $100,000, find the amount A accumulated in 5 years for interest that is compounded a. daily, b., monthly, c. quarterly, and d. yearly.
75. [T] The concentration of hydrogen ions in a substance is denoted by $[H+]$, measured in moles per liter. The pH of a substance is defined by the logarithmic function $pH = -\log[H+]$. This function is used to measure the acidity of a substance. The pH of water is 7. A substance with a pH less than 7 is an acid, whereas one that has a pH of more than 7 is a base.

a. Find the pH of the following substances. Round answers to one digit.
b. Determine whether the substance is an acid or a base.

i. Eggs: $[H+] = 1.6 \times 10^{-8}$ mol/L
ii. Beer: $[H+] = 3.16 \times 10^{-3}$ mol/L
iii. Tomato Juice: $[H+] = 7.94 \times 10^{-5}$ mol/L

Answer

i. a. pH = 8 b. Base
ii. a. pH = 3 b. Acid
iii. a. pH = 4 b. Acid

76. [T] Iodine-131 is a radioactive substance that decays according to the function $Q(t) = Q_0 \cdot e^{-0.08664t}$, where Q_0 is the initial quantity of a sample of the substance and t is in days. Determine how long it takes (to the nearest day) for 95% of a quantity

to decay.

77. [T] According to the World Bank, at the end of 2013 $(t = 0)$ the U.S. population was 316 million and was increasing according to the following model:

$$P(t) = 316e^{0.0074t},$$

where P is measured in millions of people and t is measured in years after 2013.

a. Based on this model, what will be the population of the United States in 2020?
b. Determine when the U.S. population will be twice what it is in 2013.

Answer

a. ~ 333 million
b. 94 years from 2013, or in 2107

78. [T] The amount A accumulated after 1000 dollars is invested for t years at an interest rate of 4% is modeled by the function $A(t) = 1000(1.04)^t$.

a. Find the amount accumulated after 5 years and 10 years.
b. Determine how long it takes for the original investment to triple.

79. [T] A bacterial colony grown in a lab is known to double in number in 12 hours. Suppose, initially, there are 1000 bacteria present.

a. Use the exponential function $Q = Q_0e^{kt}$ to determine the value k, which is the growth rate of the bacteria. Round to four decimal places.
b. Determine approximately how long it takes for $200,000$ bacteria to grow.

Answer

a. $k \approx 0.0578$
b. ≈92 hours

80. [T] The rabbit population on a game reserve doubles every 6 months. Suppose there were 120 rabbits initially.

a. Use the exponential function $P = P_0a^t$ to determine the growth rate constant a. Round to four decimal places.
b. Use the function in part a. to determine approximately how long it takes for the rabbit population to reach 3500.

81. [T] The 1906 earthquake in San Francisco had a magnitude of 8.3 on the Richter scale. At the same time, in Japan, an earthquake with magnitude 4.9 caused only minor damage. Approximately how much more energy was released by the San Francisco earthquake than by the Japanese earthquake?

Answer

The San Francisco earthquake had $10^{3.4}$ or ~ 2512 times more energy than the Japan earthquake.

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1.6: Chapter 1 Review Exercises

Exercises 1 - 4

Answer true or false. Justify your answer with a proof or a counterexample.

1. A function is always one-to-one.
2. $f \circ g = g \circ f$, assuming f and g are functions.

Answer

False

3. A relation that passes the horizontal and vertical line tests is a one-to-one function.
4. A relation passing the horizontal line test is a function.

Answer

False

Exercises 5 - 10

State the domain and range of the given function.

$f = x^2 + 2x - 3$, $g = \ln(x - 5)$, $h = \dfrac{1}{x + 4}$

5. h
6. g

Answer

Domain: $x > 5$, Range: all real numbers

7. $h \circ f$
8. $g \circ f$

Answer

Domain: $x > 2$ and $x < -4$, Range: all real numbers

Exercises 9 - 10

Find the degree, y-intercept, and zeros for the following polynomial functions.

9. $f(x) = 2x^2 + 9x - 5$
10. $f(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - 2x$

Answer

Degree of 3, y-intercept: $(0, 0)$, Zeros: $0,\ \sqrt{3} - 1,\ -1 - \sqrt{3}$

Exercises 11 - 12

Simplify the following trigonometric expressions.

11. $\dfrac{\tan^2 x}{\sec^2 x} + \cos^2 x$
12. $\cos^2 x - \sin^2 x$

Answer

$\cos(2x)$

Exercises 13 - 14

Solve the following trigonometric equations on the interval $\theta = [-2\pi, 2\pi]$ exactly.

13. $6\cos 2x - 3 = 0$
14. $\sec^2 x - 2\sec x + 1 = 0$

Answer

$0, \pm 2\pi$

In exercises 15 - 16

Solve the following logarithmic equations.

15. $5^x = 16$
16. $\log_2(x+4) = 3$

Answer

4

Exercises 17-18

Are the following functions one-to-one over their domain of existence? Does the function have an inverse? If so, find the inverse $f^{-1}(x)$ of the function. Justify your answer.

17. $f(x) = x^2 + 2x + 1$
18. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{x}$

Answer

One-to-one; yes, the function has an inverse; inverse: $f^{-1}(x) = \dfrac{1}{x}$

Exercises 19 - 20

Determine the largest domain on which the function is one-to-one and find the inverse on that domain.

19. $f(x) = \sqrt{9-x}$
20. $f(x) = x^2 + 3x + 4$

Answer

$x \geq -\frac{3}{2}, \quad f^{-1}(x) = -\frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{4x-7}$

21. A car is racing along a circular track with diameter of 1 mi. A trainer standing in the center of the circle marks his progress every 5 sec. After 5 sec, the trainer has to turn 55° to keep up with the car. How fast is the car traveling?

Exercises 22 - 23

Consider a restaurant owner who wants to sell T-shirts advertising his brand. He recalls that there is a fixed cost and variable cost, although he does not remember the values. He does know that the T-shirt printing company charges $440 for 20 shirts and $1000 for 100 shirts.

22.

a. Find the equation $C = f(x)$ that describes the total cost as a function of number of shirts and
b. determine how many shirts he must sell to break even if he sells the shirts for $10 each.

Answer

a. $C(x) = 300 + 7x$
b. 100 shirts

23.

a. Find the inverse function $x = f^{-1}(C)$ and describe the meaning of this function.
b. Determine how many shirts the owner can buy if he has $8000 to spend.

Exercises 24 - 25

Consider the population of Ocean City, New Jersey, which is cyclical by season.

24. The population can be modeled by $P(t) = 82.5 - 67.5\cos[(\pi/6)t]$, where t is time in months ($t = 0$ represents January 1) and P is population (in thousands). During a year, in what intervals is the population less than 20,000? During what intervals is the population more than 140,000?

Answer

The population is less than 20,000 from December 8 through January 23 and more than 140,000 from May 29 through August 2

25. In reality, the overall population is most likely increasing or decreasing throughout each year. Let's reformulate the model as $P(t) = 82.5 - 67.5\cos[(\pi/6)t] + t$, where t is time in months ($t = 0$ represents January 1) and P is population (in thousands). When is the first time the population reaches 200,000?

Exercises 26-27

Consider radioactive dating. A human skeleton is found in an archeological dig. Carbon dating is implemented to determine how old the skeleton is by using the equation $y = e^{rt}$, where y is the percentage of radiocarbon still present in the material, t is the number of years passed, and $r = -0.0001210$ is the decay rate of radiocarbon.

26. If the skeleton is expected to be 2000 years old, what percentage of radiocarbon should be present?

Answer

78.51%

27. Find the inverse of the carbon-dating equation. What does it mean? If there is 25% radiocarbon, how old is the skeleton?

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2: LIMITS

The idea of a limit is central to all of calculus. We begin this chapter by examining why limits are so important. Then, we go on to describe how to find the limit of a function at a given point. Not all functions have limits at all points, and we discuss what this means and how we can tell if a function does or does not have a limit at a particular value. This chapter has been created in an informal, intuitive fashion, but this is not always enough if we need to prove a mathematical statement involving limits. The last section of this chapter presents the more precise definition of a limit and shows how to prove whether a function has a limit.

Science fiction writers often imagine spaceships that can travel to far-off planets in distant galaxies. However, back in 1905, Albert Einstein showed that a limit exists to how fast any object can travel. The problem is that the faster an object moves, the more mass it attains (in the form of energy), according to the equation

$$m = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

where m_0 is the object's mass at rest, v is its speed, and c is the speed of light. What is this speed limit? (We explore this problem further in the chapter)

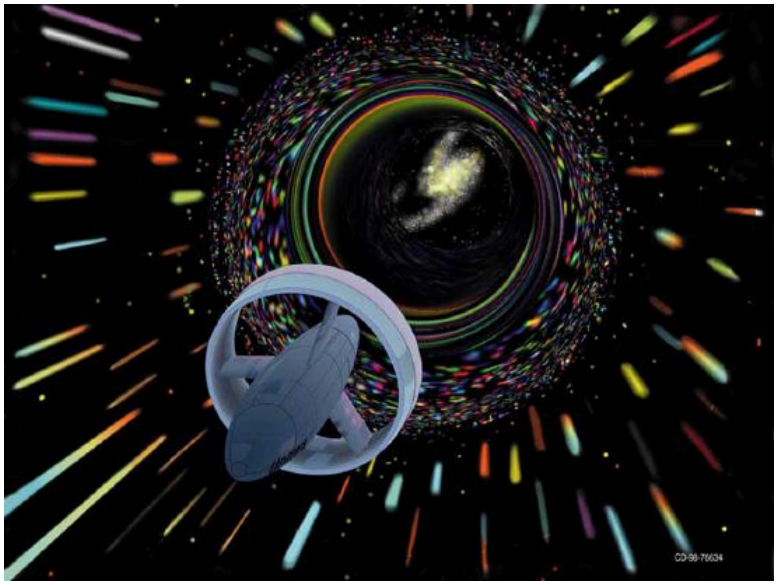


Figure 2.1: The vision of human exploration by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to distant parts of the universe illustrates the idea of space travel at high speeds. But, is there a limit to how fast a spacecraft can go? (Digital art by Les Bossinas (Cortez III Service Corp. is in the Public Domain)

2.1: A Preview of Calculus

2.1E: Exercises for Section 2.1

2.2: The Limit of a Function

2.2E: Exercises for Section 2.2

2.3: The Limit Laws

2.3E: Exercises for Section 2.3

2.4: Continuity

2.4E: Exercises for Section 2.4

2.5: The Precise Definition of a Limit

2.5E: Exercises for Section 2.5

2.6: Chapter 2 Review Exercises

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2.1: A Preview of Calculus

Learning Objectives

- Describe the tangent problem and how it led to the idea of a derivative.
- Explain how the idea of a limit is involved in solving the tangent problem.
- Recognize a tangent to a curve at a point as the limit of secant lines.
- Identify instantaneous velocity as the limit of average velocity over a small time interval.
- Describe the area problem and how it was solved by the integral.
- Explain how the idea of a limit is involved in solving the area problem.
- Recognize how the ideas of limit, derivative, and integral led to the studies of infinite series and multivariable calculus.

As we embark on our study of calculus, we shall see how its development arose from common solutions to practical problems in areas such as engineering physics—like the space travel problem posed in the chapter opener. Two key problems led to the initial formulation of calculus: (1) the tangent problem, or how to determine the slope of a line tangent to a curve at a point; and (2) the area problem, or how to determine the area under a curve.

The Tangent Problem and Differential Calculus

Rate of change is one of the most critical concepts in calculus. We begin our investigation of rates of change by looking at the graphs of the three lines $f(x) = -2x - 3$, $g(x) = \frac{1}{2}x + 1$, and $h(x) = 2$, shown in Figure $2.1.1$.

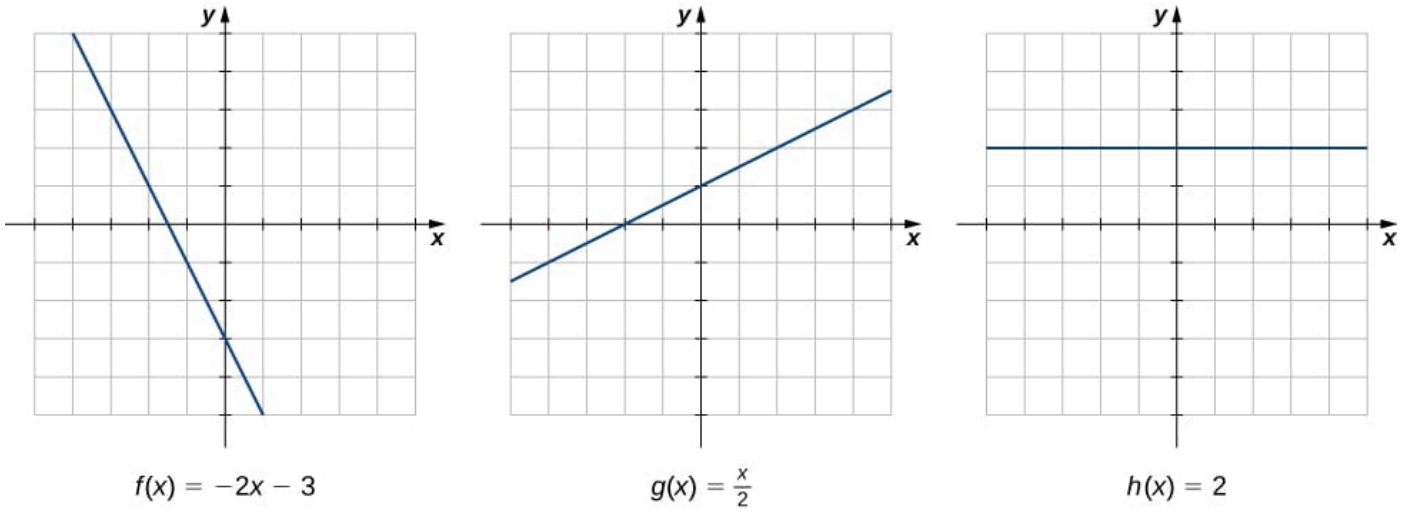


Figure $2.1.1$: The rate of change of a linear function is constant in each of these three graphs, with the constant determined by the slope. The line $f(x) = -2x - 3$ has slope -2, $g(x) = \frac{1}{2}x + 1$ has slope $\frac{1}{2}$, and $h(x) = 2$ has slope 0.

As we move from left to right along the graph of $f(x) = -2x - 3$, we see that the graph decreases at a constant rate. For every 1 unit we move to the right along the x-axis, the y-coordinate decreases by 2 units. This **rate of change** is determined by the slope (-2) of the line. Similarly, the slope of $1/2$ in the function $g(x)$ tells us that for every change in x of 1 unit there is a corresponding change in y of $1/2$ unit. The function $h(x) = 2$ has a slope of zero, indicating that the values of the function remain constant. We see that the slope of each linear function indicates the rate of change of the function.

Compare the graphs of these three functions with the graph of $k(x) = x^2$ (Figure $2.1.2$). The graph of $k(x) = x^2$ starts from the left by decreasing rapidly, then begins to decrease more slowly and level off, and then finally begins to increase—slowly at first, followed by an increasing rate of increase as it moves toward the right. Unlike a linear function, no single number represents the rate of change for this function. We quite naturally ask: How do we measure the rate of change of a nonlinear function?

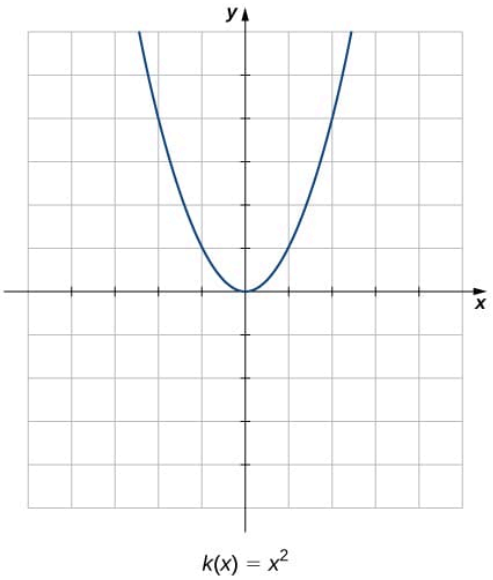


Figure 2.1.2: The function $k(x) = x^2$, whose graph is a parabola, does not have a constant rate of change.

We can approximate the rate of change of a function $f(x)$ at a point $(a, f(a))$ on its graph by taking another point $(x, f(x))$ on the graph of $f(x)$, drawing a line through the two points, and calculating the slope of the resulting line. Such a line is called a secant line. Figure 2.1.3 shows a *secant line* to a function $f(x)$ at a point $(a, f(a))$.

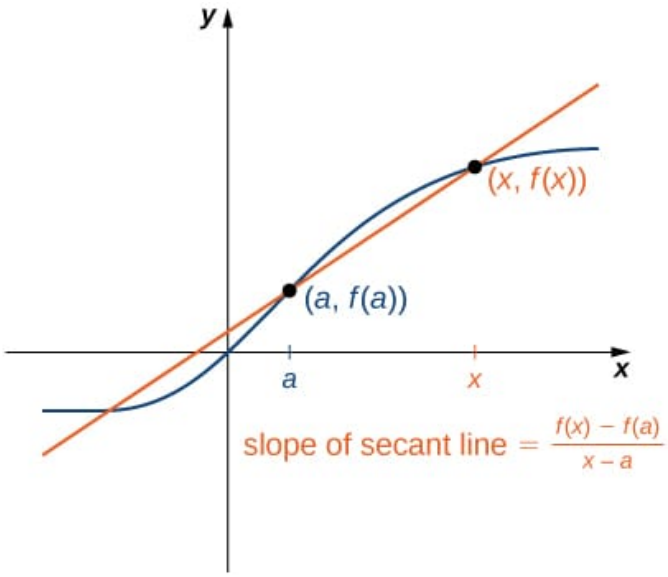


Figure 2.1.3: The slope of a secant line through a fixed point $(a, f(a))$ and a generic nearby point $(x, f(x))$ estimates the rate of change of the function at the point $(a, f(a))$.

We formally define a secant line as follows:

Definition: Secant Line

The **secant** to the function $f(x)$ through the points $(a, f(a)$ and $(x, f(x))$ is the line passing through these points. Its slope is given by

$$m_{\text{sec}} = \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}. \tag{2.1.1}$$

The accuracy of approximating the rate of change of the function with a secant line depends on how close x is to a. As we see in

Figure 2.1.4, if x is closer to a, the slope of the secant line is a better measure of the rate of change of $f(x)$ at a.

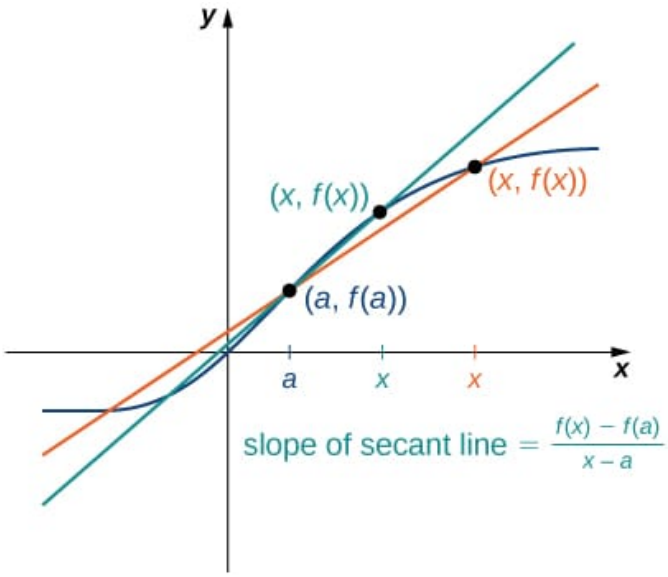


Figure 2.1.4: As x gets closer to a, the slope of the secant line becomes a better approximation to the rate of change of the function $f(x)$ at a.

The secant lines themselves approach a line that is called the **tangent** to the function $f(x)$ at a (Figure 2.1.5). The slope of the tangent line to the graph at a measures the rate of change of the function at a. This value also represents the derivative of the function $f(x)$ at a, or the rate of change of the function at a. This derivative is denoted by $f\,'(a)$. **Differential calculus** is the field of calculus concerned with the study of derivatives and their applications.

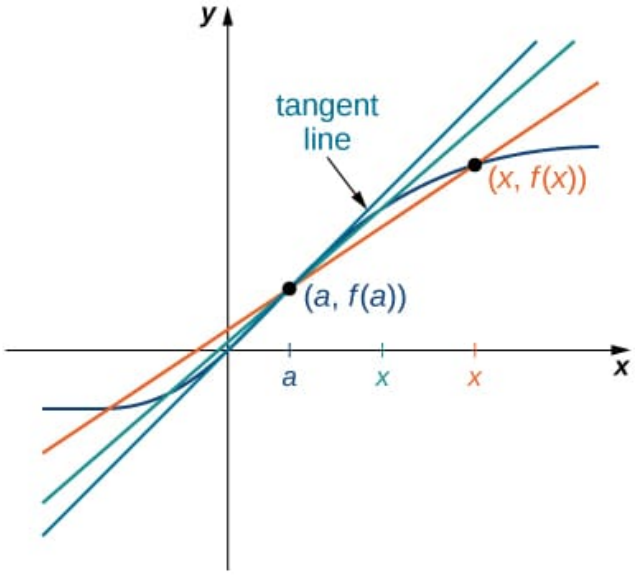


Figure 2.1.5: Solving the Tangent Problem: As x approaches a, the secant lines approach the tangent line.

Example illustrates how to find slopes of secant lines. These slopes estimate the slope of the tangent line or, equivalently, the rate of change of the function at the point at which the slopes are calculated.

Example 2.1.1: Finding Slopes of Secant Lines

Estimate the slope of the tangent line (rate of change) to $f(x) = x^2$ at $x = 1$ by finding slopes of secant lines through $(1, 1)$ and each of the following points on the graph of $f(x) = x^2$.

a. $(2,4)$
b. $\left(\frac{3}{2},\frac{9}{4}\right)$

Solution:

Use the formula for the slope of a secant line (Equation 2.1.1).

a. $m_{\text{sec}} = \frac{4-1}{2-1} = 3$

b. $m_{\text{sec}} = \frac{\frac{9}{4}-1}{\frac{3}{2}-1} = \frac{5}{2} = 2.5$

The point in part b. is closer to the point $(1,1)$, so the slope of 2.5 is closer to the slope of the tangent line. A good estimate for the slope of the tangent would be in the range of 2 to 2.5 (Figure 2.1.5).

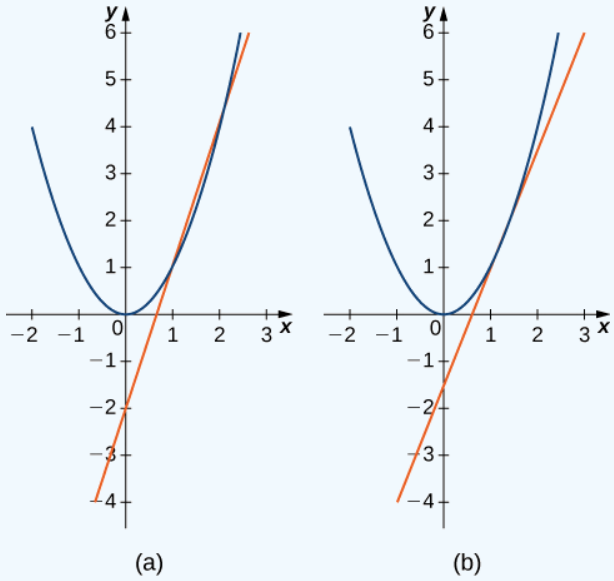


Figure 2.1.5: The secant lines to $f(x) = x^2$ at $(1,1)$ through (a) $(2,4)$ and (b) $\left(\frac{3}{2},\frac{9}{4}\right)$ provide successively closer approximations to the tangent line to $f(x) = x^2$ at $(1,1)$.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 3 minutes 44 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates approximating the tangent line with a secant line. After estimating the slope of the tangent line, the video also finds the approximate equation of the tangent line. Question: Zoom in on the graph of $y = x^3 - 2x^2 - x + 5$ to use the secant line to approximate the equation of the tangent line to the graph at the point $(1,3)$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 2.1.1

Estimate the slope of the tangent line (rate of change) to $f(x) = x^2$ at $x = 1$ by finding slopes of secant lines through $(1, 1)$ and the point $(\frac{5}{4}, \frac{25}{16})$ on the graph of $f(x) = x^2$.

Answer available at the end of this section.

We continue our investigation by exploring a related question. Keeping in mind that velocity may be thought of as the rate of change of position, suppose that we have a function, $s(t)$, that gives the position of an object along a coordinate axis at any given time t. Can we use these same ideas to create a reasonable definition of the instantaneous velocity at a given time $t = a$? We start by approximating the instantaneous velocity with an average velocity. First, recall that the speed of an object traveling at a constant rate is the ratio of the distance traveled to the length of time it has traveled. We define the *average velocity* of an object over a time period to be the change in its position divided by the length of the time period.

Definition: Average Velocity

Let $s(t)$ be the position of an object moving along a coordinate axis at time t. The **average velocity** of the object over a time interval $[a, t]$ where \(a

$$v_{\text{ave}} = \frac{s(t) - s(a)}{t - a}. \tag{2.1.2}$$

As t is chosen closer to a, the average velocity becomes closer to the instantaneous velocity. Note that finding the average velocity of a position function over a time interval is essentially the same as finding the slope of a secant line to a function. Furthermore, to find the slope of a tangent line at a point a, we let the x-values approach a in the slope of the secant line. Similarly, to find the instantaneous velocity at time a, we let the t-values approach a in the average velocity. This process of letting x or t approach a in an expression is called taking a **limit**. Thus, we may define the *instantaneous velocity* as follows.

Definition: Instantaneous Velocity

For a position function $s(t)$, the **instantaneous velocity** at a time $t = a$ is the value that the average velocities approach on intervals of the form $[a, t]$ and $[t, a]$ as the values of t become closer to a, provided such a value exists.

Example 2.1.2 illustrates this concept of limits and average velocity.

Example 2.1.2: Finding Average Velocity

A rock is dropped from a height of 64 ft. It is determined that its height (in feet) above ground t seconds later (for $0 \le t \le 2$) is given by $s(t) = -16t^2 + 64$. Find the average velocity of the rock over each of the given time intervals. Use this information to guess the instantaneous velocity of the rock at time $t = 0.5$.

a. $[0.49, 0.5]$
b. $[0.5, 0.51]$

Solution

Substitute the data into Equation 2.1.2 for the definition of average velocity.

a. $$v_{\text{ave}} = \frac{s(0.49) - s(0.5)}{0.49 - 0.5} = -15.84$$

b. $$v_{\text{ave}} = \frac{s(0.51) - s(0.5)}{0.51 - 0.5} = -16.016$$

The instantaneous velocity is somewhere between –15.84 and –16.16 ft/sec. A good guess might be –16 ft/sec.

Exercise 2.1.2

An object moves along a coordinate axis so that its position at time t is given by $s(t) = t^3$. Estimate its instantaneous velocity at time $t = 2$ by computing its average velocity over the time interval $[2, 2.001]$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The Area Problem and Integral Calculus

We now turn our attention to a classic question from calculus. Many quantities in physics—for example, quantities of work—may be interpreted as the area under a curve. This leads us to ask the question: How can we find the area between the graph of a function and the x-axis over an interval (Figure 2.1.6)?

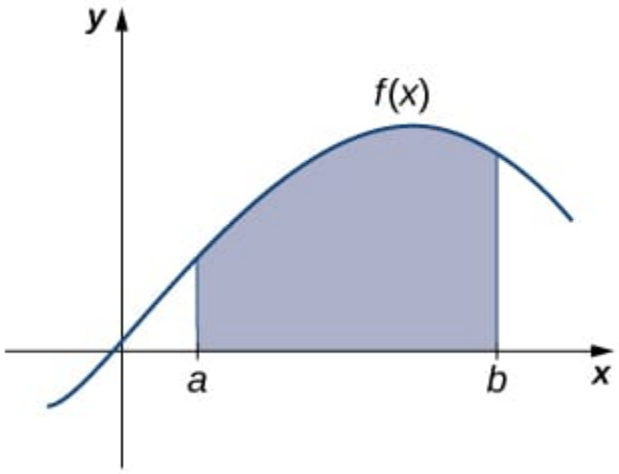


Figure 2.1.6: The Area Problem: Given a function $y = f(x)$, how do we find the area between the graph of f and the x-axis between $x = a$ and $x = b$?

As in the answer to our previous questions on velocity, we first try to approximate the solution. We approximate the area by dividing up the interval $[a, b]$ into smaller intervals in the shape of rectangles. The approximation of the area comes from adding up the areas of these rectangles (Figure 2.1.7).

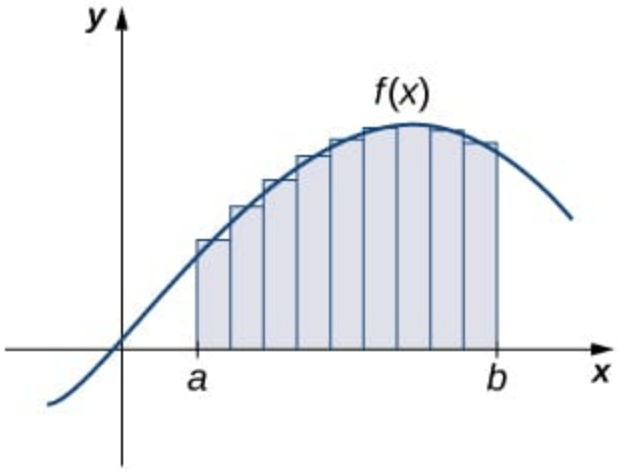


Figure 2.1.7: Given a function $y = f(x)$, the area between the graph of f and the x-axis between $x = a$ and $x = b$? is approximated by summing the areas of thin rectangles.

As the widths of the rectangles become smaller (approach zero), the sums of the areas of the rectangles approach the area between the graph of $f(x)$ and the x-axis over the interval $[a, b]$. Once again, we find ourselves taking a limit. Limits of this type serve as a basis for the definition of the definite integral. **Integral calculus** is the study of integrals and their applications.

Example 2.1.3: Estimation Using Rectangles

Estimate the area between the x-axis and the graph of $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ over the interval $[0, 3]$ by using the three rectangles shown in Figure 2.1.8.

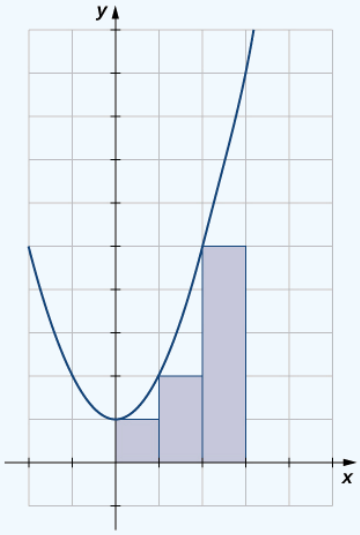


Figure 2.1.8: The area of the region under the curve of $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ from $x = 0$ to $x = 3$ is estimated using rectangles. The width of each rectangle is 1 unit and the height is the the function value at the left endpoint of the rectangle.

Solution

The areas of the three rectangles are 1 unit^2, 2 unit^2, and 5 unit^2. Using these rectangles, our area estimate is 8 unit^2.

Exercise 2.1.3

Estimate the area between the x-axis and the graph of $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ over the interval $[0, 3]$ by using the three rectangles shown in Figure 2.1.9.

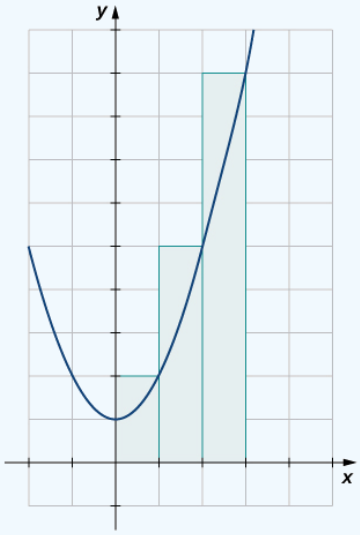


Figure 2.1.9: The area of the region under the curve of $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ from $x = 0$ to $x = 3$ is estimated using rectangles. The width of each rectangle is 1 unit and the height is the the function value at the right endpoint of the rectangle.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Other Aspects of Calculus

So far, we have studied functions of one variable only. Such functions can be represented visually using graphs in two dimensions; however, there is no good reason to restrict our investigation to two dimensions. Suppose, for example, that instead of determining the velocity of an object moving along a coordinate axis, we want to determine the velocity of a rock fired from a catapult at a given time, or of an airplane moving in three dimensions. We might want to graph real-value functions of two variables or determine volumes of solids of the type shown in Figure 2.1.10. That is, given a multivariate function $z = f(x, y)$ - whose graph is a surface in a 3-dimensional coordinate system - we may determine the volume between the surface and a region in the xy-plane. These are only a few of the types of questions that can be asked and answered using *multivariable calculus*. Informally, multivariable calculus can be characterized as the study of the calculus of functions of two or more variables. However, before exploring these and other ideas, we must first lay a foundation for the study of calculus in one variable by exploring the concept of a limit.

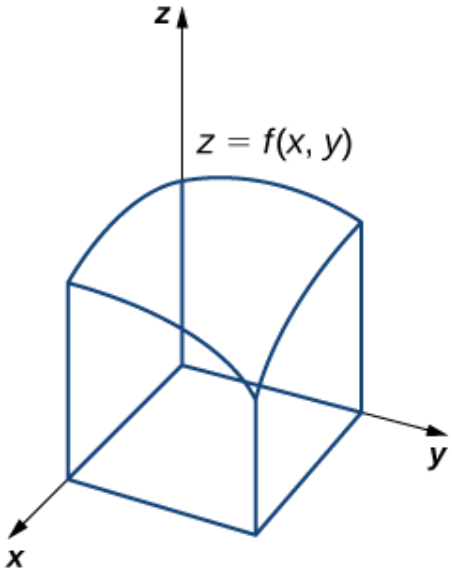


Figure 2.1.10: We can use multivariable calculus to find the volume between a surface defined by a function $z = f(x, y)$ and a region in the xy -plane.

Key Concepts

- Differential calculus arose from trying to solve the problem of determining the slope of a line tangent to a curve at a point. The slope of the tangent line indicates the rate of change of the function, also called the *derivative*. Calculating a derivative requires finding a limit.
- Integral calculus arose from trying to solve the problem of finding the area of a region between the graph of a function and the x-axis. We can approximate the area by dividing it into thin rectangles and summing the areas of these rectangles. This summation leads to the value of a function called the *integral*. The integral is also calculated by finding a limit and, in fact, is related to the derivative of a function.
- Multivariable calculus enables us to solve problems in three-dimensional space, including determining motion in space and finding volumes of solids.

Key Equations

- **Slope of a Secant Line**

$$m_{\text{sec}} = \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$$

- **Average Velocity over Interval [a,t]**

$$v_{\text{ave}} = \frac{s(t) - s(a)}{t - a}$$

Glossary

Average velocity
: The change in an object's position divided by the length of a time period; the average velocity of an object over a time interval $[t, a]$ (if \(ta\)), with a position given by $s(t)$, that is $v_{\text{ave}} = \frac{s(t) - s(a)}{t - a}$

Differential calculus
: The field of calculus concerned with the study of derivatives and their applications

Instantaneous velocity
: The instantaneous velocity of an object with a position function that is given by $s(t)$ is the value that the average

velocities on intervals of the form $[t, a]$ and $[a, t]$ approach as the values of t move closer to a, provided such a value exists

Integral calculus
The study of integrals and their applications

Limit
The process of letting x or t approach a in an expression; the limit of a function $f(x)$ as x approaches a is the value that $f(x)$ approaches as x approaches a

Multivariable calculus
The study of the calculus of functions of two or more variables

Secant
A secant line to a function $f(x)$ at a is a line through the point $(a, f(a))$ and another point on the function; the slope of the secant line is given by $m_{\text{sec}} = \dfrac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$

Tangent
A tangent line to the graph of a function at a point $(a, f(a))$ is the line that secant lines through $(a, f(a))$ approach as they are taken through points on the function with x-values that approach a; the slope of the tangent line to a graph at a measures the rate of change of the function at a

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Answers

Exercise 2.1.1
2.25

Exercise 2.1.2
Use Equation 2.1.2 with $v_{\text{ave}} = \dfrac{s(2.001) - s(2)}{2.001 - 2}$.

Exercise 2.1.2
12.006001

Exercise 2.1.3
Use Example 2.1.3 as a guide

Exercise 2.1.3
16 $unit^2$

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2.1E: Exercises for Section 2.1

Exercises 1 - 3

The Points $P(1,2)$ and $Q(x,y)$ are on the graph of the function $f(x)=x^2+1$.

1. [T] Complete the following table with the appropriate values: y-coordinate of Q, the point $Q(x,y)$, and the slope of the secant line passing through points P and Q. Round your answer to eight significant digits.

Table 2.1E.1: Estimating the slope of a tangent line numerically

x	y	$Q(x,y)$	m_{sec}
1.1	a.	e.	i.
1.01	b.	f.	j.
1.001	c.	g.	k.
1.0001	d.	h.	l.

Answer

a. 2.21000000
b. 2.02010000
c. 2.00200100
d. 2.00020000
e. (1.10000000, 2.21000000)
f. (1.01000000, 2.02010000)
g. (1.00100000, 2.00200100)
h. (1.00010000, 2.00020000)
i. 2.10000000
j. 2.01000000
k. 2.00100000
l. 2.00010000

2. Use the values in the right column of the table in the preceding exercise to guess the value of the slope of the line tangent to f at $x=1$.
3. Use the value in the preceding exercise to find the equation of the tangent line at point P. Graph $f(x)$ and the tangent line.

Answer

$y=2x$

Exercises 4 - 6

The points $P(1,1)$ and $Q(x,y)$ are on the graph of the function $f(x)=x^3$.

4. [T] Complete the following table with the appropriate values: y-coordinate of Q, the point $Q(x,y)$, and the slope of the secant line passing through points P and Q. Round your answer to eight significant digits.

Table 2.1E.2: Estimating the slope of a tangent line numerically

x	y	$Q(x,y)$	m_{sec}
1.1	a.	e.	i.
1.01	b.	f.	j.
1.001	c.	g.	k.

x	y	$Q(x,y)$	m_{sec}
1.0001	d.	h.	l.2

5. Use the values in the right column of the table in the preceding exercise to guess the value of the slope of the tangent line to f at $x=1$.

Answer

3

6. Use the value in the preceding exercise to find the equation of the tangent line at point P. Graph $f(x)$ and the tangent line.

Exercises 7 - 9

The points $P(4,2)$ and $Q(x,y)$ are on the graph of the function $f(x)=\sqrt{x}$.

7. [T] Complete the following table with the appropriate values: y-coordinate of Q, the point $Q(x,y)$, and the slope of the secant line passing through points P and Q. Round your answer to eight significant digits.

Table $2.1E.3$: Estimating the slope of a tangent line numerically

x	y	$Q(x,y)$	m_{sec}
4.1	a.	e.	i.
4.01	b.	f.	j.
4.001	c.	g.	k.
4.0001	d.	h.	l.

Answer

a. 2.0248457
b. 2.0024984
c. 2.0002500
d. 2.0000250
e. (4.1000000,2.0248457)
f. (4.0100000,2.0024984)
g. (4.0010000,2.0002500)
h. (4.00010000,2.0000250)
i. 0.24845673
j. 0.24984395
k. 0.24998438
l. 0.24999844

8. Use the values in the right column of the table in the preceding exercise to guess the value of the slope of the tangent line to f at $x=4$.
9. Use the value in the preceding exercise to find the equation of the tangent line at point P.

Answer

$y=\frac{x}{4}+1$

Exercises 10 - 12

The points $P(1.5,0)$ and $Q(\phi,y)$ are on the graph of the function $f(\phi)=\cos(\pi\phi)$.

10. [T] Complete the following table with the appropriate values: y-coordinate of Q, the point $Q(\phi,y)$, and the slope of the secant line passing through points P and Q. Round your answer to eight significant digits.

Table 2.1E.4: Estimating the slope of a tangent line numerically

x	y	$Q(\phi, y)$	m_{sec}
1.4	a.	e.	i.
1.49	b.	f.	j.
1.499	c.	g.	k.
1.4999	d.	h.	l.

11. Use the values in the right column of the table in the preceding exercise to guess the value of the slope of the tangent line to f at $\phi = 1.5$.

Answer

π

12. Use the value in the preceding exercise to find the equation of the tangent line at point P.

Exercises 13 - 15

The points $P(-1, -1)$ and $Q(x, y)$ are on the graph of the function $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$.

13. [T] Complete the following table with the appropriate values: y-coordinate of Q, the point $Q(x, y)$, and the slope of the secant line passing through points P and Q. Round your answer to eight significant digits.

Table 2.1E.5: Estimating the slope of a tangent line numerically

x	y	$Q(x, y)$	m_{sec}
-1.05	a.	e.	i.
-1.01	b.	f.	j.
-1.005	c.	g.	k.
-1.001	d.	h.	l.

Answer

a. −0.95238095
b. −0.99009901
c. −0.99502488
d. −0.99900100
e. (−1;.0500000,−0;.95238095)
f. (−1;.0100000,−0;.9909901)
g. (−1;.0050000,−0;.99502488)
h. (1.0010000,−0;.99900100)
i. −0.95238095
j. −0.99009901
k. −0.99502488
l. −0.99900100

14. Use the values in the right column of the table in the preceding exercise to guess the value of the slope of the line tangent to f at $x = -1$.
15. Use the value in the preceding exercise to find the equation of the tangent line at point P.

Answer

$y = -x - 2$

Exercises 16 - 17

The position function of a ball dropped from the top of a 200-meter tall building is given by $s(t) = 200 - 4.9t^2$, where position s is measured in meters and time t is measured in seconds. Round your answer to eight significant digits.

16. [T] Compute the average velocity of the ball over the given time intervals.

    a. [4.99,5]
    b. [5,5.01]
    c. [4.999,5]
    d. [5,5.001]

17. Use the preceding exercise to guess the instantaneous velocity of the ball at $t = 5$ sec.

    Answer

    -49 m/sec (velocity of the ball is 49 m/sec downward)

Exercises 18 - 19

Consider a stone tossed into the air from ground level with an initial velocity of 15 m/sec. Its height in meters at time t seconds is $h(t) = 15t - 4.9t^2$.

18. [T] Compute the average velocity of the stone over the given time intervals.

    a. [1,1.05]
    b. [1,1.01]
    c. [1,1.005]
    d. [1,1.001]

19. Use the preceding exercise to guess the instantaneous velocity of the stone at $t = 1$ sec.

    Answer

    5.2 m/sec

Exercises 20 - 21

Consider a rocket shot into the air that then returns to Earth. The height of the rocket in meters is given by $h(t) = 600 + 78.4t - 4.9t^2$, where t is measured in seconds.

20. [T] Compute the average velocity of the rocket over the given time intervals.

    a. [9,9.01]
    b. [8.99,9]
    c. [9,9.001]
    d. [8.999,9]

21. Use the preceding exercise to guess the instantaneous velocity of the rocket at $t = 9$ sec.

    Answer

    -9.8 m/sec

Exercises 22 -23

Consider an athlete running a 40-m dash. The position of the athlete is given by $d(t) = \frac{t^3}{6} + 4t$, where d is the position in meters and t is the time elapsed, measured in seconds.

22. [T] Compute the average velocity of the runner over the given time intervals.

    a. [1.95,2.05]
    b. [1.995,2.005]
    c. [1.9995,2.0005]
    d. [2,2.00001]

23. Use the preceding exercise to guess the instantaneous velocity of the runner at $t = 2$ sec.

    Answer

    6 m/sec

Exercises 24 - 25

Consider the function $f(x) = |x|$.

24. Sketch the graph of f over the interval $[-1, 2]$ and shade the region above the x-axis.
25. Use the preceding exercise to find the exact value of the area between the x-axis and the graph of f over the interval $[-1, 2]$ using rectangles. For the rectangles, use the square units, and approximate both above and below the lines. Use geometry to find the exact answer.

    Answer

    Under, 1 $unit^2$; over: 4 $unit^2$.
    The exact area of the two triangles is $\frac{1}{2}(1)(1) + \frac{1}{2}(2)(2) = 2.5 units^2$.

Exercises 26 - 27

Consider the function $f(x) = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$. (Hint: This is the upper half of a circle of radius 1 positioned at $(0, 0)$.)

26. Sketch the graph of f over the interval $[-1, 1]$.
27. Use the preceding exercise to find the exact area between the x-axis and the graph of f over the interval $[-1, 1]$ using rectangles. For the rectangles, use squares 0.4 by 0.4 units, and approximate both above and below the lines. Use geometry to find the exact answer.

    Answer

    Under, 0.96 units^2; over, 1.92 units^2).
    The exact area of the semicircle with radius 1 is $\frac{\pi(1)^2}{2} = \frac{\pi}{2} \text{ units}^2$

Exercises 28 - 29

Consider the function $f(x) = -x^2 + 1$.

28. Sketch the graph of f over the interval $[-1, 1]$.
29. Approximate the area of the region between the x-axis and the graph of f over the interval $[-1, 1]$.

    Answer

    Approximately $1.3333333 \text{ units}^2$

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2.2: The Limit of a Function

Learning Objectives

- Using correct notation, describe the limit of a function.
- Use a table of values to estimate the limit of a function or to identify when the limit does not exist.
- Use a graph to estimate the limit of a function or to identify when the limit does not exist.
- Define one-sided limits and provide examples.
- Explain the relationship between one-sided and two-sided limits.
- Using correct notation, describe an infinite limit.
- Define a vertical asymptote.

The concept of a limit or limiting process, essential to the understanding of calculus, has been around for thousands of years. In fact, early mathematicians used a limiting process to obtain better and better approximations of areas of circles. Yet, the formal definition of a limit—as we know and understand it today—did not appear until the late 19th century. We therefore begin our quest to understand limits, as our mathematical ancestors did, by using an intuitive approach. At the end of this chapter, armed with a conceptual understanding of limits, we examine the formal definition of a limit.

We begin our exploration of limits by taking a look at the graphs of the functions

- $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}$,
- $g(x) = \dfrac{|x - 2|}{x - 2}$, and
- $h(x) = \dfrac{1}{(x - 2)^2}$,

which are shown in Figure $2.2.1$. In particular, let's focus our attention on the behavior of each graph at and around $x = 2$.

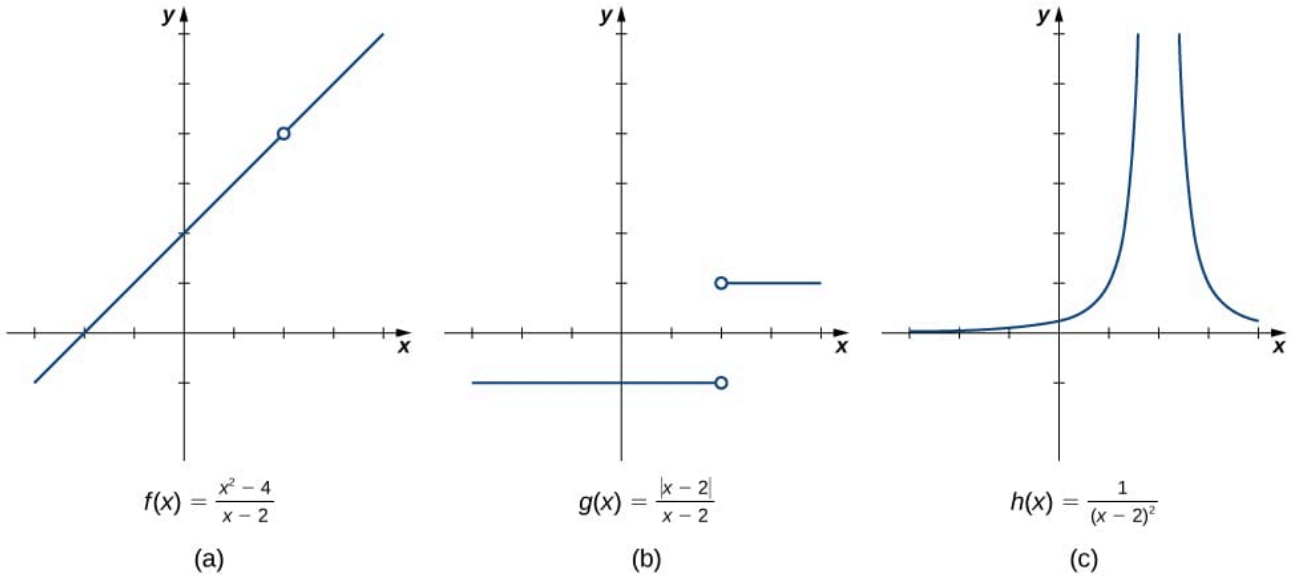


Figure $2.2.1$: These graphs show the behavior of three different functions around $x = 2$. Three graphs of functions. (a) This is the graph of $f(x) = (x^2–4)/(x - 2)$. Since $x^2–4)/(x - 2)$ simplifies to $x + 2$ when $x \neq 2$, the graph is a line with an open circle at $(2, 4)$, indicating that $f(x)$ is not defined at $x = 2$. (b) This is the graph of $g(x) = |x–2|/(x - 2)$, which contains two lines: $x = 1$ for $x > 2$ and $x = -1$ for $x < 2$. There are open circles at both endpoints $(2, 1)$ and $(-2, 1)$, since $g(x)$ is undefined at $x = 2$. (c) This is the graph of $h(x) = 1/(x - 2)^2$, which is also undefined at $x = 2$, and has a vertical asymptote at $x = 2$.

Each of the three functions is undefined at $x = 2$, but if we make this statement and no other, we give a very incomplete picture of how each function behaves in the vicinity of $x = 2$. To express the behavior of each graph in the vicinity of 2 more completely,

we need to introduce the concept of a limit.

Intuitive Definition of a Limit

Let's first take a closer look at how the function $f(x) = (x^2 - 4)/(x - 2)$ behaves around $x = 2$ in Figure 2.2.1. As the values of x approach 2 from either side of 2, the values of $y = f(x)$ approach 4. Mathematically, we say that the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches 2 is 4. Symbolically, we express this limit as

$$\lim_{x \to 2} f(x) = 4.$$

From this very brief informal look at one limit, let's start to develop an *intuitive definition of the limit*. We can think of the limit of a function at a number a as being the one real number L that the functional values approach as the x-values approach a, provided such a real number L exists. Stated more carefully, we have the following definition:

Definition (Intuitive): Limit

Let $f(x)$ be a function defined at all values in an open interval containing a, with the possible exception of a itself, and let L be a real number. If all values of the function $f(x)$ approach the real number L as the values of $x(\neq a)$ approach the number a, then we say that the **limit** of $f(x)$ as x approaches a is L. (More succinct, as x gets closer to a, $f(x)$ gets closer and stays close to L.) Symbolically, we express this idea as

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L. \tag{2.2.1}$$

We can estimate limits by constructing tables of functional values and by looking at their graphs. This process is described in the following Problem-Solving Strategy.

Problem-Solving Strategy: Evaluating a Limit Using a Table of Functional Values

1. To evaluate $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)$, we begin by completing a table of functional values. We should choose two sets of x-values—one set of values approaching a and less than a, and another set of values approaching a and greater than a. Table 2.2.1 demonstrates what your tables might look like.

Table 2.2.1: Table of values for $f(x)$ to approximate the limit as x approaches a

x	$f(x)$	x	$f(x)$
$a - 0.1$	$f(a - 0.1)$	$a + 0.1$	$f(a + 0.1)$
$a - 0.01$	$f(a - 0.01)$	$a + 0.001$	$f(a + 0.001)$
$a - 0.001$	$f(a - 0.001)$	$a + 0.0001$	$f(a + 0.001)$
$a - 0.0001$	$f(a - 0.0001)$	$a + 0.00001$	$f(a + 0.0001)$
Use additional values as necessary.		Use additional values as necessary.	

2. Next, let's look at the values in each of the $f(x)$ columns and determine whether the values seem to be approaching a single value as we move down each column. In our columns, we look at the sequence $f(a - 0.1)$, $f(a - 0.01)$, $f(a - 0.001)$, $f(a - 0.0001)$, and so on, and $f(a + 0.1)$, $f(a + 0.01)$, $f(a + 0.001)$, $f(a + 0.0001)$, and so on. (Note: Although we have chosen the x-values $a \pm 0.1$, $a \pm 0.01$, $a \pm 0.001$, $a \pm 0.0001$, and so forth, and these values will probably work nearly every time, on very rare occasions we may need to modify our choices.)

3. If both columns approach a common y-value L, we state $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L$. We can use the following strategy to confirm the result obtained from the table or as an alternative method for estimating a limit.

4. Using a graphing calculator or computer software that allows us graph functions, we can plot the function $f(x)$, making sure the functional values of $f(x)$ for x-values near a are in our window. We can use the trace feature to move along the graph of the function and watch the y-value readout as the x-values approach a. If the y-values approach L as our x-values approach a from both directions, then $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L$. We may need to zoom in on our graph and repeat this process several times.

We apply this Problem-Solving Strategy to compute a limit in Examples $2.2.1A$ and $2.2.1B$.

Example $2.2.1A$: Evaluating a Limit Using a Table of Functional Values

Evaluate $\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin x}{x}$ using a table of functional values.

Solution

We have calculated the values of $f(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x}$ for the values of x listed in Table $2.2.2$.

Table $2.2.2$: Table of values for $\frac{\sin x}{x}$ to approximate the limit as x approaches 0

x	$\frac{\sin x}{x}$	x	$\frac{\sin x}{x}$
-0.1	0.998334166468	0.1	0.998334166468
-0.01	0.999983333417	0.01	0.999983333417
-0.001	0.999999833333	0.001	0.999999833333
-0.0001	0.999999998333	0.0001	0.999999998333

Note: The values in this table were obtained using a calculator and using all the places given in the calculator output.

As we read down each $\frac{\sin x}{x}$ column, we see that the values in each column appear to be approaching one. Thus, it is fairly reasonable to conclude that $\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1$. A calculator-or computer-generated graph of $f(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x}$ would be similar to that shown in Figure $2.2.2$, and it confirms our estimate.

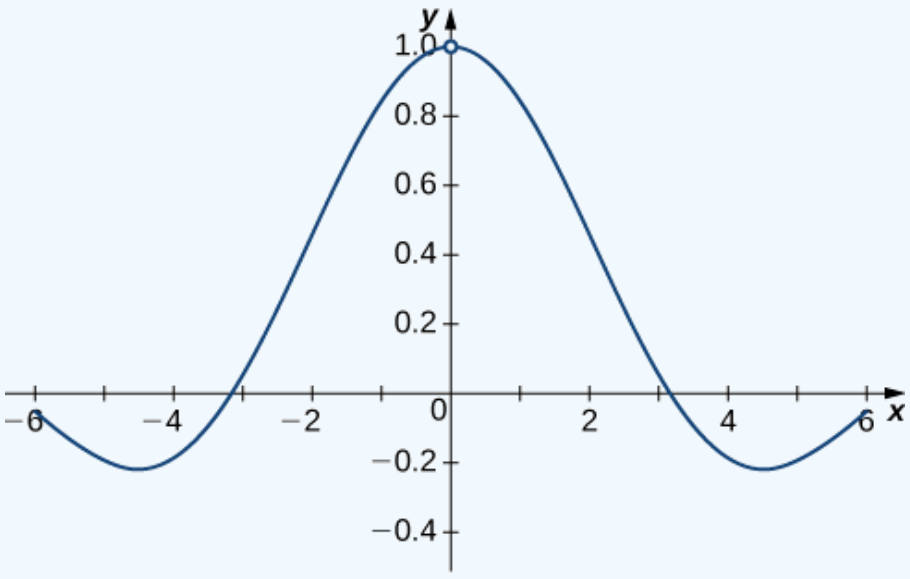


Figure $2.2.2$: A graph of $f(x) = \sin(x)/x$. The function is undefined at $x = 0$. But the values of $f(x) = \sin(x)/x$ for values of x near 0 are close to 1. The graph confirms our estimate from Table $2.2.2$.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 2 minutes 59 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to estimate $\lim_{x\to 4}\dfrac{2-\sqrt{x}}{4-x}$ numerically using a table of values.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Example $2.2.1B$: Evaluating a Limit Using a Table of Functional Values

Evaluate $\lim_{x\to 4}\dfrac{\sqrt{x}-2}{x-4}$ using a table of functional values.

Solution

As before, we use a table—in this case, Table $2.2.3$—to list the values of the function for the given values of x.

Table $2.2.3$: Table of values for $\frac{\sqrt{x}-2}{x-4}$ to approximate the limit as x approaches 4

x	$\frac{\sqrt{x}-2}{x-4}$	x	$\frac{\sqrt{x}-2}{x-4}$
3.9	0.251582341869	4.1	0.248456731317
3.99	0.25015644562	4.01	0.24984394501
3.999	0.250015627	4.001	0.249984377
3.9999	0.250001563	4.0001	0.249998438
3.99999	0.25000016	4.00001	0.24999984

After inspecting this table, we see that the functional values less than 4 appear to be decreasing toward 0.25 whereas the functional values greater than 4 appear to be increasing toward 0.25. We conclude that $\lim_{x\to 4}\dfrac{\sqrt{x}-2}{x-4}=0.25$. We confirm this estimate using the graph of $f(x)=\dfrac{\sqrt{x}-2}{x-4}$ shown in Figure $2.2.3$.

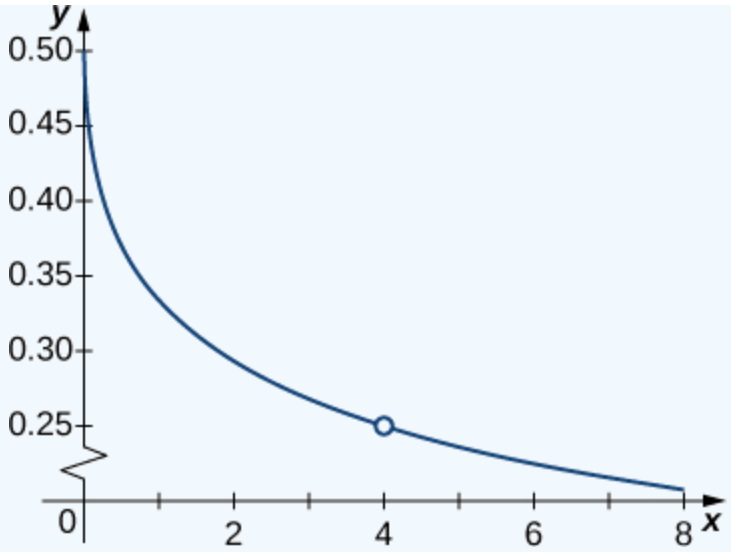


Figure 2.2.3: A graph of the function $f(x) = (sqrt(x)–2)/(x-4)$ over the interval $[0, 8]$. The function decreases over the interval, and is undefined at $x = 4$, indicated by an open circle on the function at $x = 4$ at the point $(4, 1/4)$.The graph confirms the estimate from Table 2.2.3.

Interactive Element

Using a Table to Estimate a Limit

The goal is to use the table to come up with your best guess for the limit. Enter in values of x one at a time and after each entry hit "Calculate $f(x)$". Then, when the table is completed, enter in your best guess for the limit. If you think that the limit does not exist, enter "DNE".

x	$f(x)$

Calculate $f(x) = \frac{\sin(5x)}{x}$ | Calculate $f(x) = \frac{|x|}{x}$ | Calculate $f(x) = |x|^x$ | Calculate $f(x) = \frac{1-\cos(x)}{x}$ | Calculate $f(x) = \cos(\frac{1}{x})\sin(\frac{1}{x})$

Calculate $\lim_{x \to 0} f(x)$ Check Answer

Enter into the table a value for x.

Exercise 2.2.1

Estimate $\lim_{x \to 1} \frac{\frac{1}{x} - 1}{x - 1}$ using a table of functional values. Use a graph to confirm your estimate.

Hint available at the end of this section.

At this point, we see from Examples $2.2.1A$ and $2.2.1b$ that it may be just as easy, if not easier, to estimate a limit of a function by inspecting its graph as it is to estimate the limit by using a table of functional values. In Example $2.2.2$, we evaluate a limit exclusively by looking at a graph rather than by using a table of functional values.

Example 2.2.2: Evaluating a Limit Using a Graph

For $g(x)$ shown in Figure $2.2.4$, evaluate $\lim_{x \to -1} g(x)$.

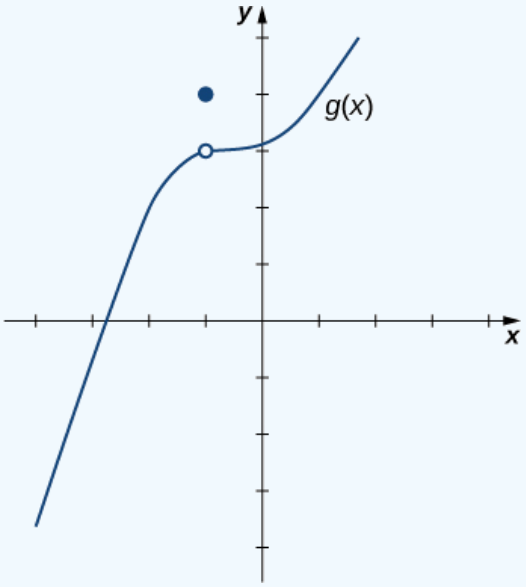


Figure $2.2.4$: The graph of a generic curving function $g(x)$. The graph excludes the point $(-1, 3)$ on an otherwise smooth curve as an open circle at that point occurs on the graph, indicating that $g(-1) \neq 3$. A closed circle at (-1, 4) indicates that $g(-1) \neq 3$.

Solution:

Despite the fact that $g(-1) = 4$, as the x-values approach -1 from either side, the $g(x)$ values approach 3. Therefore, $\lim_{x \to -1} g(x) = 3$. Note that we can determine this limit without even knowing the algebraic expression of the function.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 1 minutes 37 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to find $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x)$ given the graph of f.

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Based on Example 2.2.2, we make the following observation: It is possible for the limit of a function to exist at a point, and for the function to be defined at this point, but the limit of the function and the value of the function at the point may be different.

Exercise 2.2.2

Use the graph of $h(x)$ in Figure 2.2.5 to evaluate $\lim_{x\to 2} h(x)$, if possible.

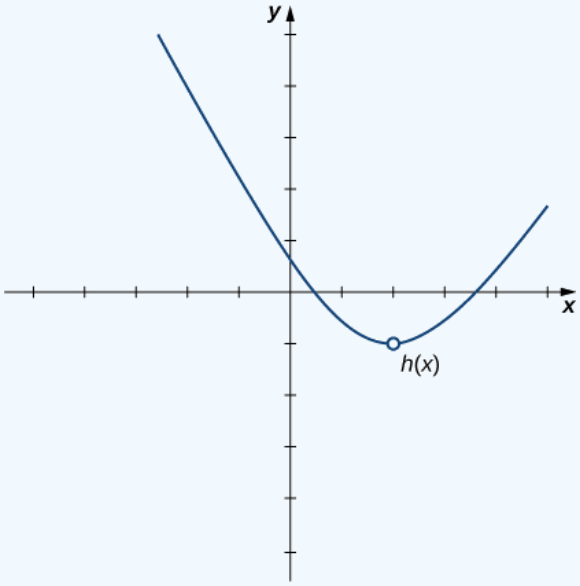


Figure 2.2.5: A graph of the function $h(x)$, which is a parabola graphed over $[-2.5, 5]$. There is an open circle where the vertex should be at the point $(2, -1)$, indicating that $h(2) \neq -1$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Looking at a table of functional values or looking at the graph of a function provides us with useful insight into the value of the limit of a function at a given point. However, these techniques rely too much on guesswork. We eventually need to develop alternative methods of evaluating limits. These new methods are more algebraic in nature and we explore them in the next section; however, at this point we introduce two special limits that are foundational to the techniques to come.

Theorem: Two Important Limits

Let a be a real number and c be a constant.

i. $\lim_{x\to a} x = a$
ii. $\lim_{x\to a} c = c$

We can make the following observations about these two limits.

i. For the first limit, observe that as x approaches a, so does $f(x)$, because $f(x) = x$. Consequently, $\lim_{x\to a} x = a$.
ii. For the second limit, consider Table 2.2.4.

Table 2.2.4: Table of values for c to approximate the limit as x approaches a

x	$f(x) = c$	x	$f(x) = c$
$a - 0.1$	c	$a + 0.1$	c
$a - 0.01$	c	$a + 0.01$	c

x	$f(x)=c$	x	$f(x)=c$
$a-0.001$	c	$a+0.001$	c
$a-0.0001$	c	$a+0.0001$	c

Observe that for all values of x (regardless of whether they are approaching a), the values $f(x)$ remain constant at c. We have no choice but to conclude $\lim\limits_{x\to a} c = c$.

The Existence of a Limit

As we consider the limit in the next example, keep in mind that for the limit of a function to exist at a point, the functional values must approach a single real-number value at that point. If the functional values do not approach a single value, then the limit does not exist.

Example 2.2.3: Evaluating a Limit That Fails to Exist

Evaluate $\lim\limits_{x\to 0} \sin(1/x)$ using a table of values.

Solution

Table 2.2.5 lists values for the function $\sin(1/x)$ for the given values of x.

Table 2.2.5: Table of values to evaluate $\lim\limits_{x\to 0} \sin(1/x)$ numerically

x	$\sin(1/x)$	x	$\sin(1/x)$
-0.1	0.544021110889	0.1	−0.544021110889
-0.01	0.50636564111	0.01	−0.50636564111
-0.001	−0.8268795405312	0.001	0.8268795405312
-0.0001	0.305614388888	0.0001	−0.305614388888
-0.00001	−0.035748797987	0.00001	0.035748797987
-0.000001	0.349993504187	0.000001	−0.349993504187

After examining the table of functional values, we can see that the y-values do not seem to approach any one single value. It appears the limit does not exist. Before drawing this conclusion, let's take a more systematic approach. Take the following sequence of x-values approaching 0:

$$\frac{2}{\pi}, \frac{2}{3\pi}, \frac{2}{5\pi}, \frac{2}{7\pi}, \frac{2}{9\pi}, \frac{2}{11\pi}, \ldots.$$

The corresponding y-values are

$$1, -1, 1, -1, 1, -1, \ldots.$$

At this point we can indeed conclude that $\lim\limits_{x\to 0} \sin(1/x)$ does not exist. (Mathematicians frequently abbreviate "does not exist" as DNE. Thus, we would write $\lim\limits_{x\to 0} \sin(1/x)$ DNE.) The graph of $f(x)=\sin(1/x)$ is shown in Figure 2.2.6 and it gives a clearer picture of the behavior of $\sin(1/x)$ as x approaches 0. You can see that $\sin(1/x)$ oscillates ever more wildly between -1 and 1 as x approaches 0.

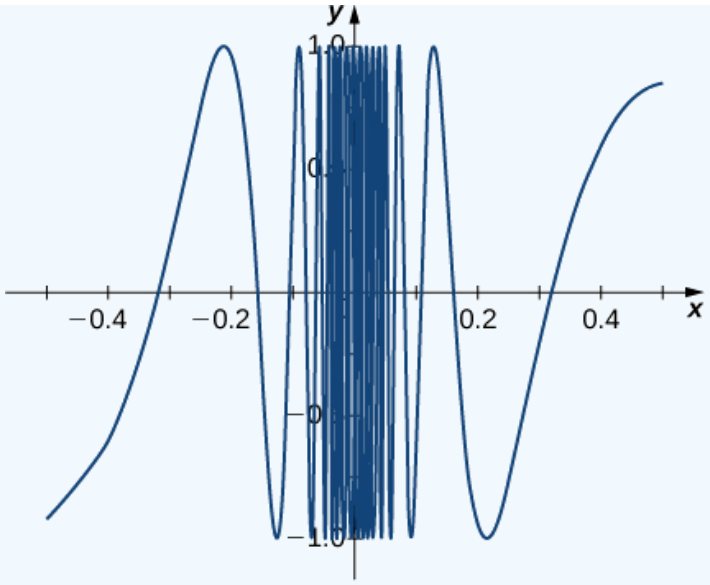


Figure 2.2.6: The graph of $f(x) = \sin(1/x)$ oscillates vertically between -1 and 1 with an increasing frequency as x approaches 0.

Exercise 2.2.3

Use a table of functional values to evaluate $\lim_{x \to 2} \dfrac{|\, x^2 - 4\,|}{x - 2}$, if possible.

Hint available at the end of this section.

One-Sided Limits

Sometimes indicating that the limit of a function fails to exist at a point does not provide us with enough information about the behavior of the function at that particular point. To see this, we now revisit the function $g(x) = |x - 2|/(x - 2)$ introduced at the beginning of the section (see Figure 2.2.1(b)). As we pick values of x close to 2, $g(x)$ does not approach a single value, so the limit as x approaches 2 does not exist—that is, $\lim_{x \to 2} g(x)$ DNE. However, this statement alone does not give us a complete picture of the behavior of the function around the x-value 2. To provide a more accurate description, we introduce the idea of a **one-sided limit**. For all values to the left of 2 (or the negative side of 2), $g(x) = -1$. Thus, as x approaches 2 from the left, $g(x)$ approaches -1. Mathematically, we say that the limit as x approaches 2 from the left is -1. Symbolically, we express this idea as

$$\lim_{x \to 2^-} g(x) = -1.$$

Similarly, as x approaches 2 from the right (or from the positive side), $g(x)$ approaches 1. Symbolically, we express this idea as

$$\lim_{x \to 2^+} g(x) = 1.$$

We can now present an informal definition of one-sided limits.

Definition: One-sided Limits

We define two types of one-sided limits.

Limit from the left:

Let $f(x)$ be a function defined at all values in an open interval of the form (z, a), and let L be a real number. If the values of the function $f(x)$ approach the real number L as the values of x (where \(x

$$\lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = L. \tag{2.2.2}$$

Limit from the right:

Let $f(x)$ be a function defined at all values in an open interval of the form (a, c), and let L be a real number. If the values of the function $f(x)$ approach the real number L as the values of x (where $x > a$) approach the number a, then we say that L is the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches a from the right. Symbolically, we express this idea as

$$\lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = L. \tag{2.2.3}$$

Example 2.2.4: Evaluating One-Sided Limits

For the function $f(x) = \begin{cases} x+1, & \text{if } x < 2 \\ x^2 - 4, & \text{if } x \geq 2 \end{cases}$, evaluate each of the following limits.

a. $\lim_{x \to 2^-} f(x)$
b. $\lim_{x \to 2^+} f(x)$

Solution

We can use tables of functional values again. Observe in Table 2.2.6 that for values of x less than 2, we use $f(x) = x + 1$ and for values of x greater than 2, we use $f(x) = x^2 - 4$.

Table 2.2.6: Table of values for $f(x)$ to approximate the limit as x approaches 2 from the left and from the right

x	$f(x) = x + 1$	x	$f(x) = x^2 - 4$
1.9	2.9	2.1	0.41
1.99	2.99	2.01	0.0401
1.999	2.999	2.001	0.004001
1.9999	2.9999	2.0001	0.00040001
1.99999	2.99999	2.00001	0.0000400001

Based on this table, we can conclude that a. $\lim_{x \to 2^-} f(x) = 3$ and b. $\lim_{x \to 2^+} f(x) = 0$. Therefore, the (two-sided) limit of $f(x)$ does not exist at $x = 2$. Figure 2.2.7 shows a graph of $f(x)$ and reinforces our conclusion about these limits.

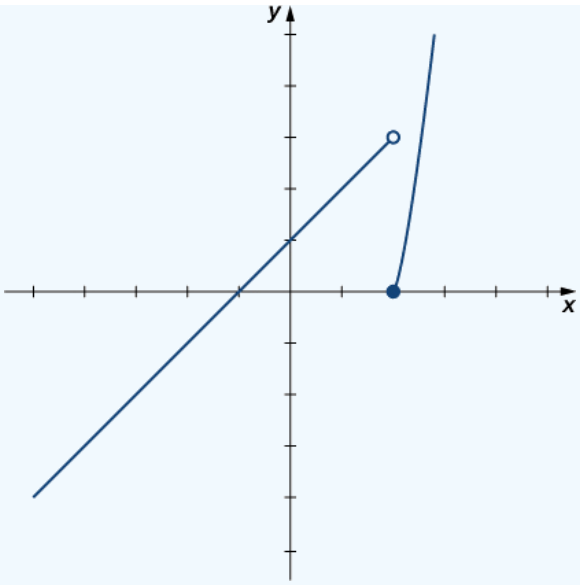


Figure 2.2.7: The graph of the piecewise function $f(x) = \begin{cases} x+1, & \text{if } x < 2 \\ x^2 - 4, & \text{if } x \geq 2 \end{cases}$ has a break at $x = 2$. The first piece is the line $y = x + 1$, graphed with an open circle at $(2, 3)$, where the endpoint would be, since the formula applies only for x values less than 2. The second piece is part of the right half of a parabola opening upward, starting at the point $(2, 0)$ shown as a solid circle.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of the this concept.

- **Video Length**: 1 minutes 25 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to find $\lim_{x \to 1} f(x)$ given a graph of f, if it exists.

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Exercise 2.2.4

Use a table of functional values to estimate the following limits, if possible.

a. $\lim_{x \to 2^-} \dfrac{|\, x^2 - 4 \,|}{x - 2}$

b. $\lim_{x \to 2^+} \dfrac{|\, x^2 - 4 \,|}{x - 2}$

Hint available at the end of this section.

Let us now consider the relationship between the limit of a function at a point and the limits from the right and left at that point. It seems clear that if the limit from the right and the limit from the left have a common value, then that common value is the limit of the function at that point. Similarly, if the limit from the left and the limit from the right take on different values, the limit of the function does not exist. These conclusions are summarized in Note.

Theorem: Relating One-Sided and Two-Sided Limits

Let $f(x)$ be a function defined at all values in an open interval containing a, with the possible exception of a itself, and let L be a real number. Then,

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L \tag{2.2.4}$$

if and only if $\lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = L$ and $\lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = L$.

Infinite Limits

Evaluating the limit of a function at a point or evaluating the limit of a function from the right and left at a point helps us to characterize the behavior of a function around a given value. As we shall see, we can also describe the behavior of functions that do not have finite limits.

We now turn our attention to $h(x) = 1/(x-2)^2$, the third and final function introduced at the beginning of this section (see Figure $2.2.1$(c)). From its graph we see that as the values of x approach 2, the values of $h(x) = 1/(x-2)^2$ become larger and larger and, in fact, become infinite. Mathematically, we say that the limit of $h(x)$ as x approaches 2 is positive infinity. Symbolically, we express this idea as

$$\lim_{x \to 2} h(x) = +\infty.$$

More generally, we define *infinite limits* as follows:

Definitions: Infinite Limits

We define three types of *infinite limits*.

Infinite limits from the left: Let $f(x)$ be a function defined at all values in an open interval of the form (b, a).

i. If the values of $f(x)$ increase without bound as the values of x (where \(x

ii. If the values of $f(x)$ decrease without bound as the values of x (where \(x

Infinite limits from the right: Let $f(x)$ be a function defined at all values in an open interval of the form (a, c).

i. If the values of $f(x)$ increase without bound as the values of x (where $x > a$) approach the number a, then we say that the limit as x approaches a from the left is positive infinity and we write

$$\lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = +\infty. \tag{2.2.5}$$

ii. If the values of $f(x)$ decrease without bound as the values of x (where $x > a$) approach the number a, then we say that the limit as x approaches a from the left is negative infinity and we write

$$\lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = -\infty. \tag{2.2.6}$$

Two-sided infinite limit: Let $f(x)$ be defined for all $x \neq a$ in an open interval containing a

i. If the values of $f(x)$ increase without bound as the values of x (where $x \neq a$) approach the number a, then we say that the limit as x approaches a is positive infinity and we write

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = +\infty. \tag{2.2.7}$$

ii. If the values of $f(x)$ decrease without bound as the values of x (where $x \neq a$) approach the number a, then we say that the limit as x approaches a is negative infinity and we write

$$\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = -\infty. \tag{2.2.8}$$

It is important to understand that when we write statements such as $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = +\infty$ or $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = -\infty$ we are describing the behavior of the function, as we have just defined it. We are not asserting that a limit exists. For the limit of a function $f(x)$ to exist at a, it must approach a real number L as x approaches a. That said, if, for example, $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = +\infty$, we always write $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = +\infty$ rather than $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)$ DNE.

Example 2.2.5: Recognizing an Infinite Limit

Evaluate each of the following limits, if possible. Use a table of functional values and graph $f(x) = 1/x$ to confirm your conclusion.

a. $\lim_{x\to 0^-} \frac{1}{x}$
b. $\lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{1}{x}$
c. $\lim_{x\to 0} \frac{1}{x}$

Solution

Begin by constructing a table of functional values.

Table 2.2.7: Table of values for $\frac{1}{x}$ to approximate the limit as x approaches 0 from the left and from the right

x	$\frac{1}{x}$	x	$\frac{1}{x}$
-0.1	-10	0.1	10
-0.01	-100	0.01	100
-0.001	-1000	0.001	1000
-0.0001	-10,000	0.0001	10,000
-0.00001	-100,000	0.00001	100,000
-0.000001	-1,000,000	0.000001	1,000,000

a. The values of $1/x$ decrease without bound as x approaches 0 from the left. We conclude that

$$\lim_{x\to 0^-} \frac{1}{x} = -\infty.$$

b. The values of $1/x$ increase without bound as x approaches 0 from the right. We conclude that

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{1}{x} = +\infty.$$

c. Since $\lim_{x\to 0^-} \frac{1}{x} = -\infty$ and $\lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{1}{x} = +\infty$ have different values, we conclude that

$$\lim_{x\to 0} \frac{1}{x} \quad \text{DNE.}$$

The graph of $f(x) = 1/x$ in Figure 2.2.8 confirms these conclusions.

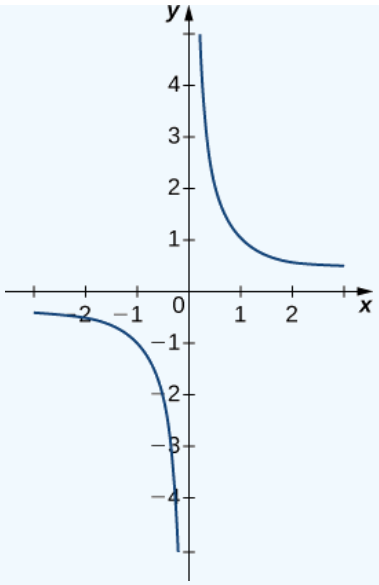


Figure 2.2.8: The graph of $f(x) = 1/x$ confirms that the limit as x approaches 0 does not exist, as the graph of the $f(x)$ approaches $-\infty$ from the left and $+\infty$ from the right.

Exercise 2.2.5

Evaluate each of the following limits, if possible. Use a table of functional values and graph $f(x) = 1/x^2$ to confirm your conclusion.

a. $\lim\limits_{x \to 0^-} \dfrac{1}{x^2}$
b. $\lim\limits_{x \to 0^+} \dfrac{1}{x^2}$
c. $\lim\limits_{x \to 0} \dfrac{1}{x^2}$

Hint available at the end of this section.

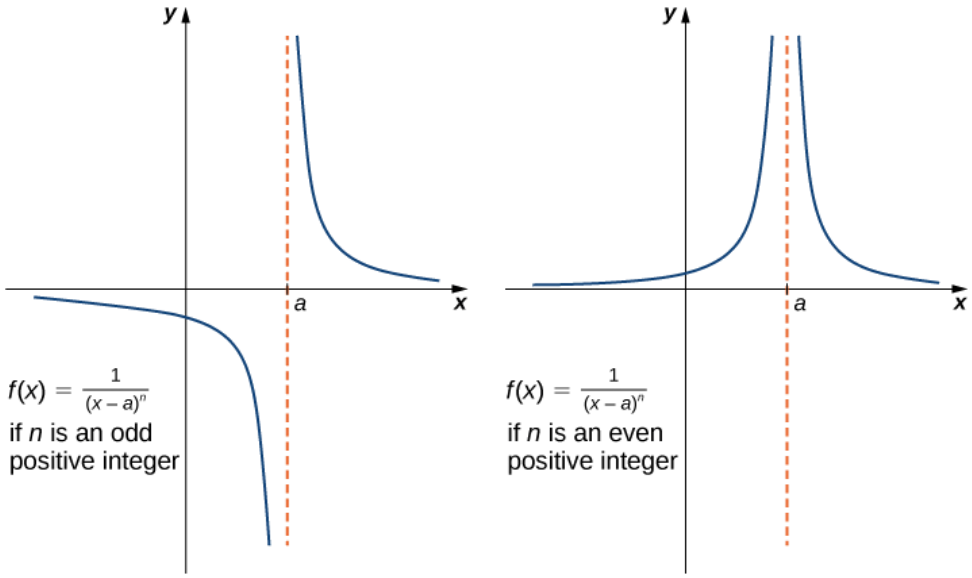


Figure 2.2.9: The function $f(x) = 1/(x-a)^n$ has infinite limits as x approaches a. The first of the two graphs shows the case where n is an odd positive integer, and the second shows the case where n is an even positive integer. In the first, as x approaches a, $f(x)$ approaches $-\infty$ from the left and $+\infty$ from the right. In the second, as x approaches a, $f(x)$ approaches $+\infty$ from the left and $+\infty$ from the right.

Theorem: Infinite Limits from Positive Integers

If n is a positive even integer, then

$$\lim_{x \to a} \frac{1}{(x-a)^n} = +\infty. \tag{2.2.9}$$

If n is a positive odd integer, then

$$\lim_{x \to a^+} \frac{1}{(x-a)^n} = +\infty \tag{2.2.10}$$

and

$$\lim_{x \to a^-} \frac{1}{(x-a)^n} = -\infty. \tag{2.2.11}$$

We should also point out that in the graphs of $f(x) = 1/(x-a)^n$, points on the graph having x-coordinates very near to a are very close to the vertical line $x = a$. That is, as x approaches a, the points on the graph of $f(x)$ are closer to the line $x = a$. The line $x = a$ is called a vertical asymptote of the graph. We formally define a *vertical asymptote* as follows:

Definition: Vertical Asymptotes

Let $f(x)$ be a function. If any of the following conditions hold, then the line $x = a$ is a **vertical asymptote** of $f(x)$.

$$\lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = +\infty \tag{2.2.12}$$

$$\lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = -\infty \tag{2.2.13}$$

$$\lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = +\infty \tag{2.2.14}$$

$$\lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = -\infty \tag{2.2.15}$$

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = +\infty \tag{2.2.16}$$

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = -\infty \tag{2.2.17}$$

Example 2.2.6: Finding a Vertical Asymptote

Evaluate each of the following limits using Equations 2.2.9, 2.2.10, and 2.2.11 above. Identify any vertical asymptotes of the function $f(x) = 1/(x+3)^4$.

a. $\lim_{x \to -3^-} \frac{1}{(x+3)^4}$
b. $\lim_{x \to -3^+} \frac{1}{(x+3)^4}$
c. $\lim_{x \to -3} \frac{1}{(x+3)^4}$

Solution

We can use the above equations directly.

a. $\lim_{x \to -3^-} \frac{1}{(x+3)^4} = +\infty$

b. $\lim_{x\to -3^+} \dfrac{1}{(x+3)^4} = +\infty$

c. $\lim_{x\to -3} \dfrac{1}{(x+3)^4} = +\infty$

The function $f(x) = 1/(x+3)^4$ has a vertical asymptote of $x = -3$.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of the this concept.

- **Video Length**: 2 minutes 5 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to find $\lim_{x\to 2^+} \dfrac{x-1}{x^2-4}$, if it exists. Such limits are helpful in determining locations of vertical asymptotes.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 2.2.6

Evaluate each of the following limits. Identify any vertical asymptotes of the function $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{(x-2)^3}$.

a. $\lim_{x\to 2^-} \dfrac{1}{(x-2)^3}$

b. $\lim_{x\to 2^+} \dfrac{1}{(x-2)^3}$

c. $\lim_{x\to 2} \dfrac{1}{(x-2)^3}$

Answer a available at the end of this section.

In the next example we put our knowledge of various types of limits to use to analyze the behavior of a function at several different points.

Example 2.2.7: Behavior of a Function at Different Points

Use the graph of $f(x)$ in Figure 2.2.10 to determine each of the following values:

a. $\lim_{x\to -4^-} f(x)$; $\lim_{x\to -4^+} f(x)$; $\lim_{x\to -4} f(x)$; $f(-4)$

b. $\lim_{x\to -2^-} f(x)$; $\lim_{x\to -2^+} f(x)$; $\lim_{x\to -2} f(x)$; $f(-2)$

c. $\lim_{x\to 1^-} f(x)$; $\lim_{x\to 1^+} f(x)$; $\lim_{x\to 1} f(x)$; $f(1)$

d. $\lim_{x\to 3^-} f(x)$; $\lim_{x\to 3^+} f(x)$; $\lim_{x\to 3} f(x)$; $f(3)$

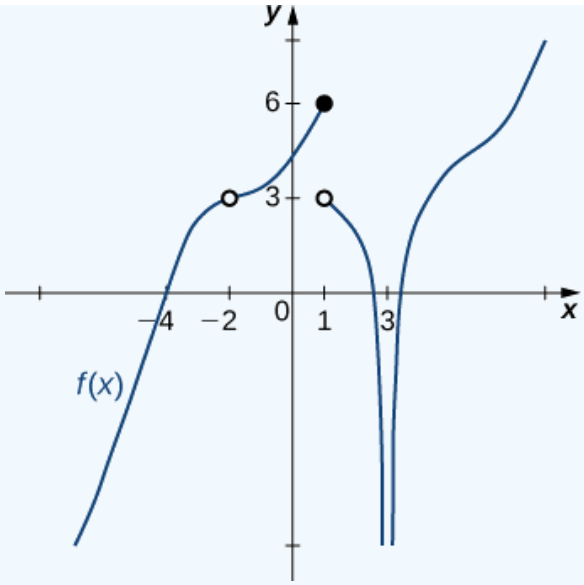


Figure 2.2.10: The graph shows $f(x)$. There is a smooth curve for values of $x < -2$; at $(-2, 3)$, there is an open circle. There is a smooth curve between $(-2, 1]$ with a closed circle at $(1, 6)$. There is an open circle at $(1, 3)$, and a smooth curve stretching from there down towards $-\inf$ as x approaches 3 from the left. The function also curves down towards $-\inf$ as x approaches 3 from the right also. The function then continues up.

Solution

Using the definitions above and the graph for reference, we arrive at the following values:

a. $\lim\limits_{x \to -4^-} f(x) = 0$; $\lim\limits_{x \to -4^+} f(x) = 0$; $\lim\limits_{x \to -4} f(x) = 0$; $f(-4) = 0$
b. $\lim\limits_{x \to -2^-} f(x) = 3$; $\lim\limits_{x \to -2^+} f(x) = 3$; $\lim\limits_{x \to -2} f(x) = 3$; $f(-2)$ is undefined
c. $\lim\limits_{x \to 1^-} f(x) = 6$; $\lim\limits_{x \to 1^+} f(x) = 3$; $\lim\limits_{x \to 1} f(x)$ DNE; $f(1) = 6$
d. $\lim\limits_{x \to 3^-} f(x) = -\infty$; $\lim\limits_{x \to 3^+} f(x) = -\infty$; $\lim\limits_{x \to 3} f(x) = -\infty$; $f(3)$ is undefined

Exercise 2.2.7

Evaluate $\lim\limits_{x \to 1} f(x)$ for $f(x)$ shown here (Figure 2.2.11):

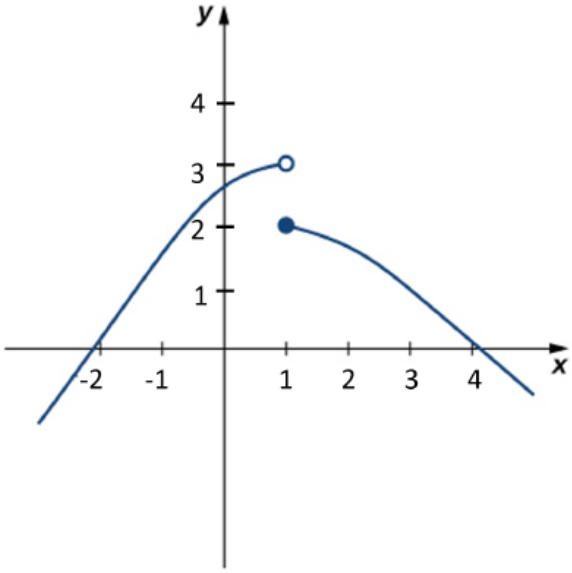


Figure 2.2.11: The graph of a piecewise function f. The graph of a piecewise function. The first segment curves from the third quadrant to the first, crossing through the second quadrant, with endpoint at $(1, 3)$ indicated by an open circle. The second segment starts at a closed circle at $(1, 2)$, and curves down from the first quadrant to the fourth quadrant.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Example 2.2.8: Einstein's Equation

In the Chapter opener we mentioned briefly how Albert Einstein showed that a limit exists to how fast any object can travel. Given Einstein's equation for the mass of a moving object

$$m = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}},$$

what is the value of this bound?

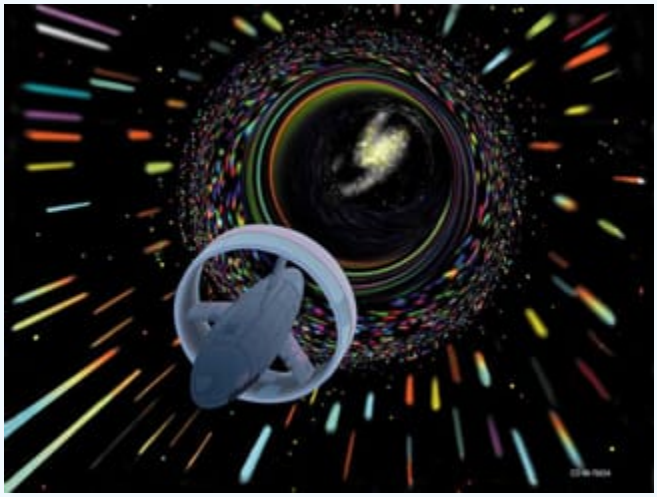


Figure 2.2.12: A futuristic spacecraft with a circular ring design is depicted traveling through a colorful wormhole in space. The wormhole appears as a swirling vortex of multicolored light, leading to a bright galaxy at its center. The background is a deep black space, with streaks of light radiating outward, suggesting high-speed motion or a warp drive effect. (Digital art by Les Bossinas (Cortez III Service Corp.), is in the Public Domain)

Solution

Our starting point is Einstein's equation for the mass of a moving object,

$$m = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}},$$

where m_0 is the object's mass at rest, v is its speed, and c is the speed of light. To see how the mass changes at high speeds, we can graph the ratio of masses m/m_0 as a function of the ratio of speeds, v/c (Figure 2.2.13).

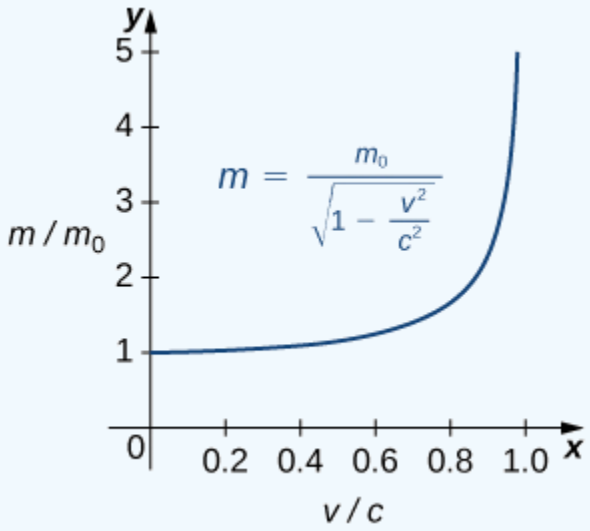


Figure 2.2.13 A graph showing the ratio of masses as a function of the ratio of speed in Einstein's equation for the mass of a moving object. The x-axis is the ratio of the speeds, v/c. The y-axis is the ratio of the masses, m/m_0. The graph is only in quadrant 1. It starts at $(0, 1)$ and curves up slowly until about 0.8, where it increases very rapidly. There is a vertical asymptote at $x = 1$, which corresponds to $v/c = 1$.

We can see that as the ratio of speeds approaches 1—that is, as the speed of the object approaches the speed of light—the ratio of masses increases without bound. In other words, the function has a vertical asymptote at $v/c = 1$. We can try a few values of this ratio to test this idea.

Table 2.2.8

v/c	$\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}$	m/m_o
0.99	0.1411	7.089
0.999	0.0447	22.37
0.9999	0.0141	70.7

Thus, according to Table 2.2.8:, if an object with mass 100 kg is traveling at 0.9999c, its mass becomes 7071 kg. Since no object can have an infinite mass, we conclude that no object can travel at or more than the speed of light.

Key Concepts

- A table of values or graph may be used to estimate a limit.
- If the limit of a function at a point does not exist, it is still possible that the limits from the left and right at that point may exist.
- If the limits of a function from the left and right exist and are equal, then the limit of the function is that common value.
- We may use limits to describe infinite behavior of a function at a point.

Key Equations

- **Intuitive Definition of the Limit**

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L$$

- **Two Important Limits**

$$\lim_{x \to a} x = a \qquad \lim_{x \to a} c = c$$

- **One-Sided Limits**

$$\lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = L \qquad \lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = L$$

- **Infinite Limits from the Left**

$$\lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = +\infty \qquad \lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = -\infty$$

- **Infinite Limits from the Right**

$$\lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = +\infty \qquad \lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = -\infty$$

- **Two-Sided Infinite Limits**

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = +\infty\text{: } \lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = +\infty \text{ and } \lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = +\infty$$

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = -\infty\text{: } \lim_{x \to a^-} f(x) = -\infty \text{ and } \lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = -\infty$$

Glossary

Infinite limit
A function has an infinite limit at a point a if it either increases or decreases without bound as it approaches a

Intuitive definition of the limit
If all values of the function $f(x)$ approach the real number L as the values of $x(\neq a)$ approach a, $f(x)$ approaches L

One-sided limit
A one-sided limit of a function is a limit taken from either the left or the right

Vertical asymptote
A function has a vertical asymptote at $x = a$ if the limit as x approaches a from the right or left is infinite

Contributors and Attributions

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Answers

Exercise 2.2.1

Use 0.9, 0.99, 0.999, 0.9999, 0.99999 and 1.1, 1.01, 1.001, 1.0001, 1.00001 as your table values.

$$\lim_{x \to 1} \frac{\frac{1}{x} - 1}{x - 1} = -1$$

Exercise 2.2.2

What y-value does the function approach as the x-values approach 2?

$\lim_{x \to 2} h(x) = -1.$

Exercise 2.2.3

Use x-values 1.9, 1.99, 1.999, 1.9999, 1.99999 and 2.1, 2.01, 2.001, 2.0001, 2.00001 in your table.

$\lim_{x \to 2} \frac{|\, x^2 - 4 \,|}{x - 2}$ does not exist.

Exercise 2.2.4

Use x-values 1.9, 1.99, 1.999, 1.9999, 1.99999 to estimate $\lim_{x \to 2^-} \frac{|\, x^2 - 4 \,|}{x - 2}$.

Use x-values 2.1, 2.01, 2.001, 2.0001, 2.00001 to estimate $\lim_{x \to 2^+} \frac{|\, x^2 - 4 \,|}{x - 2}$.

(These tables are available from a previous Checkpoint problem.)

a. $\lim_{x \to 2^-} \frac{|\, x^2 - 4 \,|}{x - 2} = -4$

$\lim_{x \to 2^+} \frac{|\, x^2 - 4 \,|}{x - 2} = 4$

Exercise 2.2.5

Follow the procedures from Example 2.2.4.

a. $\lim_{x \to 0^-} \frac{1}{x^2} = +\infty$;

b. $\lim_{x \to 0^+} \frac{1}{x^2} = +\infty$;

c. $\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{1}{x^2} = +\infty$

It is useful to point out that functions of the form $f(x) = 1/(x - a)^n$, where n is a positive integer, have infinite limits as x approaches a from either the left or right (Figure 2.2.9). These limits are summarized in the above definitions.

Exercise 2.2.6

$\lim_{x \to 2^-} \frac{1}{(x - 2)^3} = -\infty$

$\lim_{x \to 2^+} \frac{1}{(x - 2)^3} = +\infty$

$\lim_{x \to 2} \frac{1}{(x - 2)^3}$ DNE. The line $x = 2$ is the vertical asymptote of $f(x) = 1/(x - 2)^3$.

Exercise 2.2.7

Compare the limit from the right with the limit from the left.

$\lim_{x \to 1} f(x)$ does not exist

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2.2E: Exercises for Section 2.2

Intuitive Definition of Limits

Exercise 1

1. [T] **Consider the function** $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2 - 1}{|x - 1|}$. Complete the Table $2.2E.1$ for the function. Round your solutions to four decimal places.

Table $2.2E.1$*: Table of values for* $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2 - 1}{|x - 1|}$ *to approximate the limit as* x *approaches* 1

x	$f(x)$	x	$f(x)$
0.9	a.	1.1	e.
0.99	b.	1.01	f.
0.999	c.	1.001	g.
0.9999	d.	1.0001	h.

What do your results in the preceding exercise indicate about the two-sided limit $\lim\limits_{x \to 1} f(x)$? Explain your response.

Answer

$\lim\limits_{x \to 1} f(x)$ does not exist because $\lim\limits_{x \to 1^-} f(x) = -2 \neq \lim\limits_{x \to 1^+} f(x) = 2$.

Exercises 2 - 3

Consider the function $f(x) = (1 + x)^{1/x}$**.**

2. [T] Make a table showing the values of f for $x = -0.01,\ -0.001,\ -0.0001,\ -0.00001$ and for $x = 0.01,\ 0.001,\ 0.0001,\ 0.00001$. Round your solutions to five decimal places.

Table $2.2E.2$*: Table of values for* $f(x) = (1 + x)^{1/x}$ *to approximate the limit as* x *approaches* 0

x	$f(x)$	x	$f(x)$
-0.01	a.	0.01	e.
-0.001	b.	0.001	f.
-0.0001	c.	0.0001	g.
-0.00001	d.	0.00001	h.

What does the table of values in the preceding exercise indicate about the function $f(x) = (1 + x)^{1/x}$?

3. To which mathematical constant do the values in the preceding exercise appear to be approaching? This is the actual limit here.

Answer

$\lim\limits_{x \to 0} (1 + x)^{1/x} = \backslash \mathrm{e} \approx 2.7183.$

Exercises 4 - 6

Use the given values to set up a table to evaluate the limits. Round your solutions to eight decimal places.

4. [T] $\lim_{x\to 0}\dfrac{\sin 3x}{x}$ $\pm 0.1,\ \pm 0.01,\ \pm 0.001,\ \pm 0.0001$

Table 2.2E.3: Table of values for $\frac{\sin 2x}{x}$ to approximate the limit as x approaches 0

x	$\frac{\sin 2x}{x}$	x	$\frac{\sin 2x}{x}$
-0.1	a.	0.1	e.
-0.01	b.	0.01	f.
-0.001	c.	0.001	g.
-0.0001	d.	0.0001	h.

5. [T] $\lim_{x\to 0}\dfrac{\sin 2x}{x}$; $\pm 0.1,\ \pm 0.01,\ \pm 0.001,\ \pm .0001$

Table 2.2E.4: Table of values for $\frac{\sin 3x}{x}$ to approximate the limit as x approaches 0

x	$\frac{\sin 3x}{x}$	x	$\frac{\sin 3x}{x}$
-0.1	a.	0.1	e.
-0.01	b.	0.01	f.
-0.001	c.	0.001	g.
-0.0001	d.	0.0001	h.

Answer

a. 2.95520207
b. 2.99955002
c. 2.9999955
d. 2.99999996
e. 2.95520207
f. 2.99955002
g. 2.9999955
h. 2.99999996

$$\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{\sin 3x}{x}=3$$

6. Use the preceding two exercises to conjecture (guess) the value of the following limit: $\lim_{x\to 0}\dfrac{\sin ax}{x}$ for a, a positive real value.

[T] Exercises 7 - 12

Set up a table of values to find the indicated limit. Round to eight significant digits.

7. $\lim_{x\to 1}(1-2x)$

Table 2.2E.5: Table of values for $1-2x$ to approximate the limit as x approaches 1

x	$1-2x$	x	$1-2x$
0.9	a.	1.1	e.
0.99	b.	1.01	f.
0.999	c.	1.001	g.

x	$1-2x$	x	$1-2x$
0.9999	d.	1.0001	h.

Answer

a. −0.80000000
b. −0.98000000
c. −0.99800000
d. −0.99980000
e. −1.2000000
f. −1.0200000
g. −1.0020000
h. −1.0002000;

$$\lim_{x\to 1}(1-2x)=-1$$

8. $\lim_{x\to 0}\dfrac{5}{1-e^{1/x}}$

Table 2.2E.6: Table of values for $\frac{5}{1-e^{1/x}}$ to approximate the limit as x approaches 0

x	$\frac{5}{1-e^{1/x}}$	x	$\frac{5}{1-e^{1/x}}$
-0.1	a.	0.1	e.
-0.01	b.	0.01	f.
-0.001	c.	0.001	g.
-0.0001	d.	0.0001	h.

9. $\lim_{z\to 0}\dfrac{z-1}{z^2(z+3)}$

Table 2.2E.7: Table of values for $\frac{z-1}{z^2(z+3)}$ to approximate the limit as z approaches 0

z	$\frac{z-1}{z^2(z+3)}$	z	$\frac{z-1}{z^2(z+3)}$
-0.1	a.	0.1	e.
-0.01	b.	0.01	f.
-0.001	c.	0.001	g.
-0.0001	d.	0.0001	h.

Answer

a. −37.931034
b. −3377.9264
c. −333,777.93
d. −33,337,778
e. −29.032258
f. −3289.0365
g. −332,889.04
h. −33,328,889

$$\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{z-1}{z^2(z+3)}=-\infty$$

10. $\lim_{t\to 0^+}\dfrac{\cos t}{t}$

Table 2.2E.8: Table of values for $\frac{\cos t}{t}$ to approximate the limit as t approaches 0

t	$\frac{\cos t}{t}$
0.1	a.
0.01	b.
0.001	c.
0.0001	d.

11. $\lim_{x\to 2} \dfrac{1-\frac{2}{x}}{x^2-4}$

Table 2.2E.9: Table of values for $\frac{1-\frac{2}{x}}{x^2-4}$ to approximate the limit as x approaches 2

x	$\frac{1-\frac{2}{x}}{x^2-4}$	x	$\frac{1-\frac{2}{x}}{x^2-4}$
1.9	a.	2.1	e.
1.99	b.	2.01	f.
1.999	c.	2.001	g.
1.9999	d.	2.0001	h.

Answer

a. 0.13495277
b. 0.12594300
c. 0.12509381
d. 0.12500938
e. 0.11614402
f. 0.12406794
g. 0.12490631
h. 0.12499063;

$$\therefore \lim_{x\to 2} \frac{1-\frac{2}{x}}{x^2-4} = 0.1250 = \frac{1}{8}$$

12. $\lim_{x\to 2} \dfrac{x^2-4}{x^2+x-6}$

Table 2.2E.10: Table of values for $\frac{x^2-4}{x^2+x-6}$ to approximate the limit as x approaches 2

x	$\frac{x^2-4}{x^2+x-6}$	x	$\frac{x^2-4}{x^2+x-6}$
1.9	a.	2.1	e.
1.99	b.	2.01	f.
1.999	c.	2.001	g.
1.9999	d.	2.0001	h.

[T] Exercises 13 - 14

Set up a table of values and round to eight significant digits. Based on the table of values, make a guess about what the limit is. Then, use a calculator to graph the function and determine the limit. Was the conjecture correct? If not, why does the method of tables fail?

13. $\lim_{\alpha\to 0^+} \dfrac{1}{\alpha}\cos\left(\dfrac{\pi}{\alpha}\right)$

Table $2.2E.11$*: Table of values for* $\frac{1}{\alpha}\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{\alpha}\right)$ *to approximate the limit as* α *approaches* 0^+

α	$\frac{1}{\alpha}\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{\alpha}\right)$
0.1	a.
0.01	b.
0.001	c.
0.0001	d.

Answer

a. 10.00000; b. 100.00000; c. 1000.0000; d. 10,000.000;
Guess: $\lim_{\alpha\to 0^+}\frac{1}{\alpha}\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{\alpha}\right)=\infty$;
Actual: DNE , since the graph shows the function oscillates wildly between values approaching positive infinity and values approaching negative infinity, as the value of α approaches 0 from the positive side.

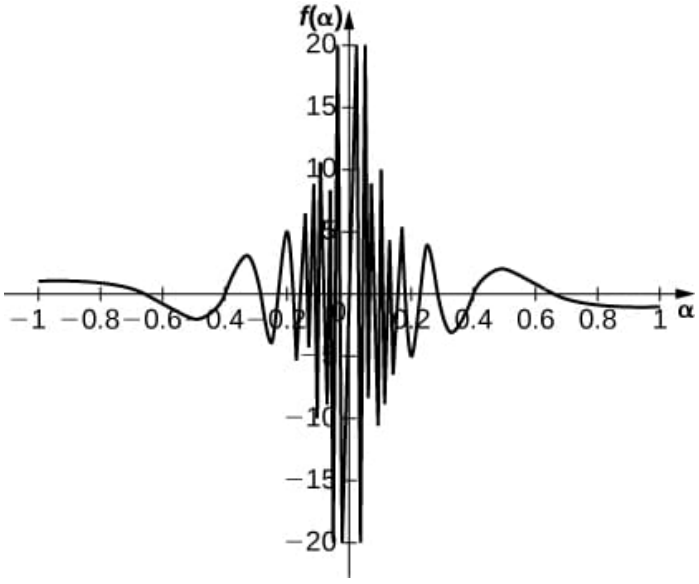


Figure $2.2E.1$: A graph of the function $y=(1/\alpha)*\cos(\pi/\alpha)$, which oscillates gently until the interval $[-.2,.2]$, where it oscillates rapidly, going to ∞ and $-infty$ as it approaches the y-axis.

14. $\lim_{\theta\to 0}\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{\theta}\right)$

Table $2.2E.12$*: Table of values for* $\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{\theta}\right)$ *to approximate the limit as* θ *approaches* 0

θ	$\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{\theta}\right)$	θ	$\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{\theta}\right)$
-0.1	a.	0.1	e.
-0.01	b.	0.01	f.
-0.001	c.	0.001	g.
-0.0001	d.	0.0001	h.

Exercises 15 - 17

Consider the graph of the function $y=f(x)$ **shown here. Which of the statements about** $y=f(x)$ **are true and which are false? Explain why a statement is false.**

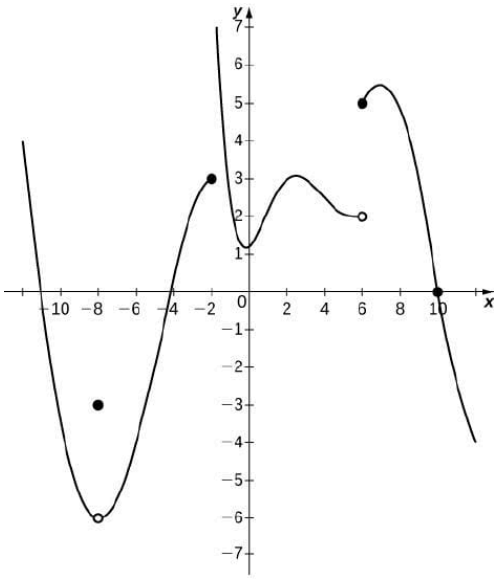


Figure $2.2E.2$: This graph of a piecewise function with two segments and is graphed over $-11 \leq x \leq 11$. The first segment is a curve opening upward over $-11 \leq x \leq -2$, with vertex at $(-8, -6)$. However, $(-8, -6)$ is marked with an open circle, and there is a closed circle instead at the point $(-8, -3)$. The segment ends at $(-2, 3)$, where there is a closed circle. The second segment stretches up to infinity as x approaches -2 from the right, changes direction to increasing at about $(0, 1.25)$, increases until about $(2.25, 3)$, and decreases until $(6, 2)$, where there is an open circle. The last segment starts at $(6, 5)$, increases slightly, and then decreases into the fourth quadrant , crossing the x-axis at $(10, 0)$. All of the changes in direction are smooth.

15. $\lim\limits_{x \to -2^+} f(x) = 3$

Answer

False; $\lim\limits_{x \to -2^+} f(x) = +\infty$

16. $\lim\limits_{x \to -8} f(x) = f(-8)$
17. $\lim\limits_{x \to 6} f(x) = 5$

Answer

False; $\lim\limits_{x \to 6} f(x)$ DNE since $\lim\limits_{x \to 6^-} f(x) = 2$ and $\lim\limits_{x \to 6^+} f(x) = 5$.

Exercises 18 - 22

Use the following graph of the function $y = f(x)$ to find the values, if possible. Estimate when necessary.

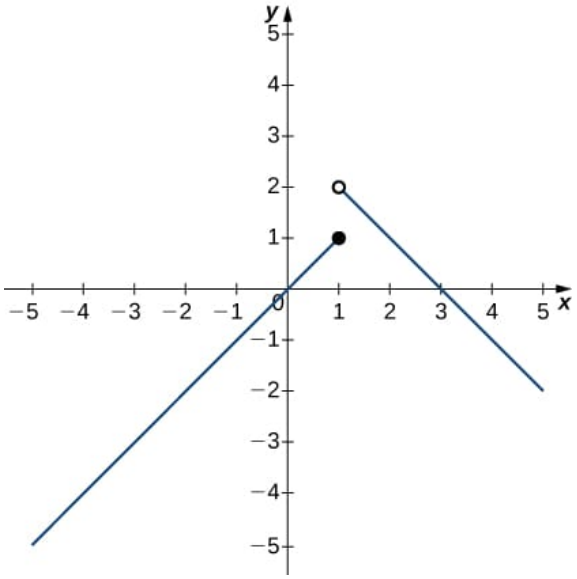


Figure $2.2E.3$: This graph of a piecewise function with two segments, and is graphed over $-5 \leq x \leq 5$. The first segment exists for $x \leq 1$, and the second segment exists for $x > 1$. The first segment is linear with a slope of 1 and goes through the origin. Its endpoint is a closed circle at $(1, 1)$. The second segment is also linear with a slope of -1. It begins with the open circle at $(1, 2)$.

18. $\lim_{x \to 1^-} f(x)$
19. $\lim_{x \to 1^+} f(x)$

Answer

2

20. $\lim_{x \to 1} f(x)$
21. $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x)$

Answer

1

22. $f(1)$

Exercises 23 - 26

Use the graph of the function $y = f(x)$ shown here to find the values, if possible. Estimate when necessary.

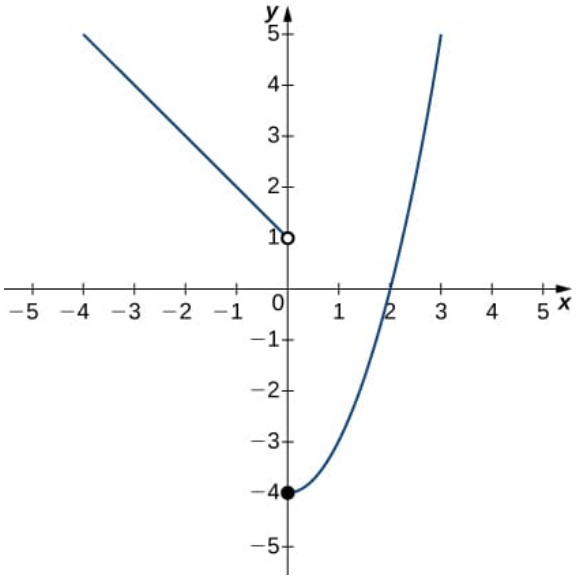


Figure $2.2E.4$: A graph of a piecewise function with two segments. The first is a linear function with slope -1 for $x < 0$. There is an open circle at $(0, 1)$. The second segment is over $x \geq 0$), and is the right half of a parabola opening upward. Its vertex is a closed circle at $(0, -4)$, and it goes through the point $(2, 0)$.

23. $\lim_{x \to 0^-} f(x)$

Answer

1

24. $\lim_{x \to 0^+} f(x)$

25. $\lim_{x \to 0} f(x)$

Answer

DNE

26. $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x)$

Exercises 27 - 32

Use the graph of the function $y = f(x)$ shown here to find the values, if possible. Estimate when necessary.

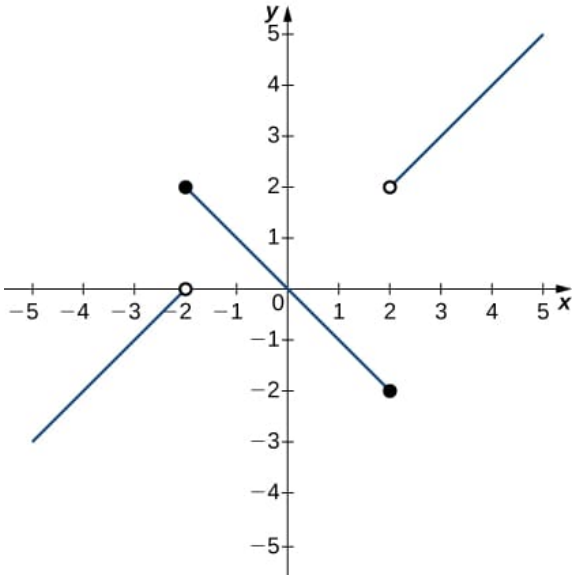


Figure $2.2E.5$: A graph of a piecewise function with three segments, all linear. The first exists for $x < -2$, has a slope of 1, and ends at the open circle at $(-2, 0)$. The second exists over the interval $-2 \leq x \leq 2$, has a slope of -1, goes through the origin, and has closed circles at its endpoints $(-2, 2)$ and $(2, -2)$. The third exists for $x > 2$, has a slope of 1, and begins at the open circle $(2, 2)$

27. $\lim_{x \to -2^-} f(x)$

Answer

0

28. $\lim_{x \to -2^+} f(x)$

29. $\lim_{x \to -2} f(x)$

Answer

DNE

30. $\lim_{x \to 2^-} f(x)$

31. $\lim_{x \to 2^+} f(x)$

Answer

2

32. $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x)$

Exercises 33 - 35

Use the graph of the function $y = g(x)$ shown here to find the values, if possible. Estimate when necessary.

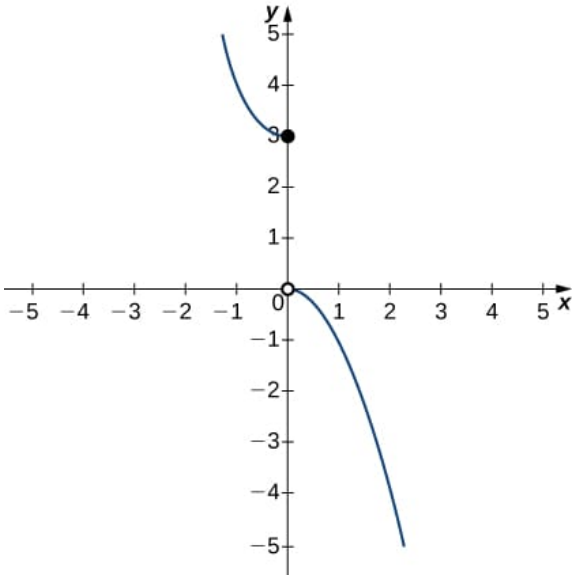


Figure $2.2E.6$: A graph of a piecewise function with two segments. The first exists for $x \geq 0$ and is the left half of an upward opening parabola with vertex at the closed circle $(0, 3)$. The second exists for $x > 0$ and is the right half of a downward opening parabola with vertex at the open circle $(0, 0)$.

33. $\lim_{x \to 0^-} g(x)$

Answer

3

34. $\lim_{x \to 0^+} g(x)$

35. $\lim_{x \to 0} g(x)$

Answer

DNE

Exercises 36 - 38

Use the graph of the function $y = h(x)$ shown here to find the values, if possible. Estimate when necessary.

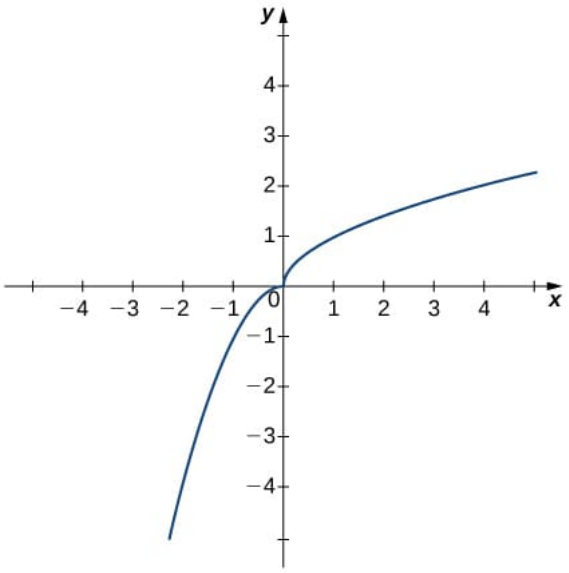


Figure $2.2E.7$: A graph of a function with two segments, split at \x=0\. The first segment is a curve falls in the third quadrant, and appears to be the left half of a downward facing parabola with vertex at $(0, 0)$. The second segment is a curve in the first quadrant appears to be the top half of a parabola opening to the right of the y-axis with vertex at the origin.

36. $\lim_{x \to 0^-} h(x)$
37. $\lim_{x \to 0^+} h(x)$

Answer

0

38. $\lim_{x \to 0} h(x)$

Exercises 39 - 43

Use the graph of the function $y = f(x)$ shown here to find the values, if possible. Estimate when necessary.

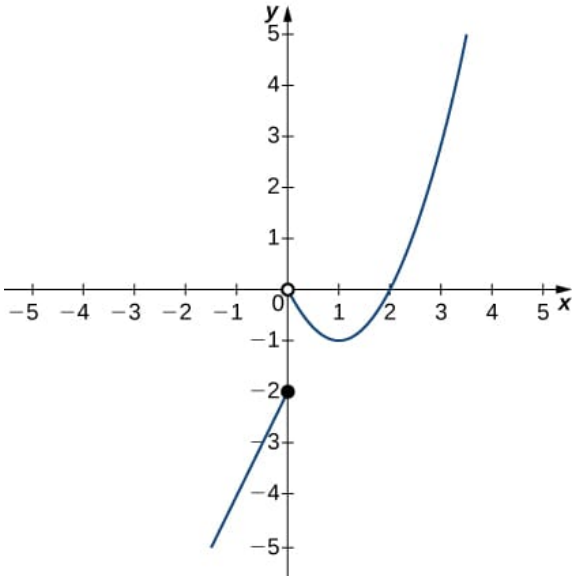


Figure $2.2E.8$: A graph of a piecewise-defined function with two segments. The first segment exists over $x < 0$, is a straight line with slope 2, and contains a closed circle at $(0, -2)$. The second segment is a curve that appears to be part of an upward opening parabola with vertex at $(1, -1)$. It exists for $x > 0$, and there is a closed circle at the origin.

39. $\lim_{x \to 0^-} f(x)$

Answer

-2

40. $\lim_{x \to 0^+} f(x)$
41. $\lim_{x \to 0} f(x)$

Answer

DNE

42. $\lim_{x \to 1} f(x)$
43. $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x)$

Answer

0

Infinite Limits

Exercises 44 - 48

Sketch the graph of a function with the given properties.

44. $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x) = 1, \quad \lim_{x \to 4^-} f(x) = 3, \quad \lim_{x \to 4^+} f(x) = 6, \quad x = 4$ is not defined.
45. $\lim_{x \to -\infty} f(x) = 0, \quad \lim_{x \to -1^-} f(x) = -\infty, \quad \lim_{x \to -1^+} f(x) = \infty, \quad \lim_{x \to 0} f(x) = f(0), \quad f(0) = 1, \quad \lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) = -\infty$

Answer

Answers may vary

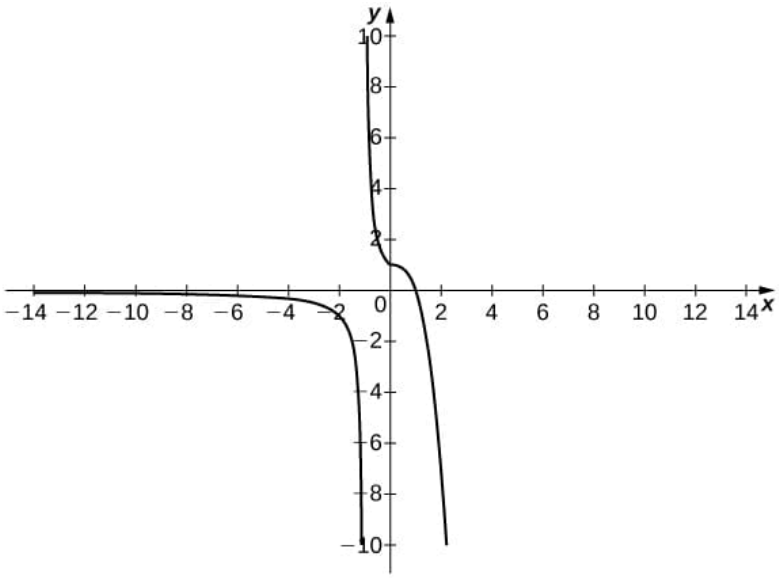


Figure $2.2E.9$: A graph of a piecewise function $f(x)$ with two segments, with $f(x)$ decreasing over each segment. The first segment is in the third quadrant and $f(x)$ approaches $-\infty$ as x approaches $-1)\ from the left. The second segment passes through \((0, 1)$, and is such that $f(x)$ approaches $+\infty$ as x approaches \(-1)\ from the right.

46. $\lim_{x \to -\infty} f(x) = 2, \quad \lim_{x \to 3^-} f(x) = -\infty, \quad \lim_{x \to 3^+} f(x) = \infty, \quad \lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) = 2, \quad f(0) = -\frac{1}{3}$

17. $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x) = 2, \quad \lim_{x\to-2} f(x) = -\infty, \quad \lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = 2, \quad f(0) = 0$

Answer

Answer may vary

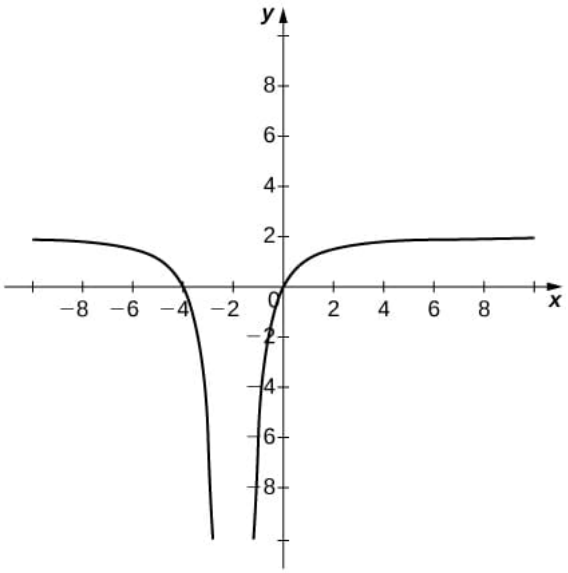


Figure $2.2E.10$: A graph of a piecewise function $f(x)$ with two segments. The first segment is a decreasing function that approaches $-\infty$ as x approaches -2 from the left. The second segment is an increasing function that approaches $-\infty$ as x approaches -2 from the right. The graph also has a horizontal asymptote $y = 2$.

18. $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x) = 0, \quad \lim_{x\to-1^-} f(x) = \infty, \quad \lim_{x\to-1^+} f(x) = -\infty, \quad f(0) = -1, \quad \lim_{x\to1^-} f(x) = -\infty, \quad \lim_{x\to1^+} f(x) = \infty, \quad \lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = 0$

19. Shock waves arise in many physical applications, ranging from supernovas to detonation waves. A graph of the density of a shock wave with respect to distance, x, is shown here. We are mainly interested in the location of the front of the shock, labeled X_{SF} in the diagram.

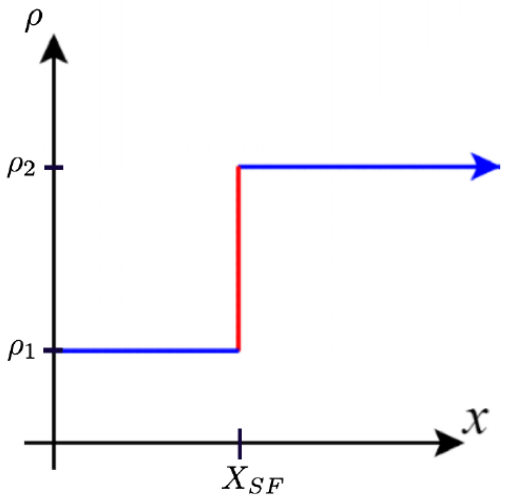


Figure $2.2E.11$: A graph in quadrant one of the density of a shockwave with three labeled points: ρ_1 and ρ_2 on the y-axis, with $\rho_1 > \rho_2$, and x_SF on the x-axis. It consists of $y = \rho_1$ from 0 to x_SF, $x = x_SF$ from $y = \rho_1$ to $y = \rho_2$, and $y = \rho_2$ for values greater than or equal to x_SF

a. Evaluate $\lim_{x\to X_{SF}^+} \rho(x)$.

b. Evaluate $\lim_{x \to X_{SF}^-} \rho(x)$.

c. Evaluate $\lim_{x \to X_{SF}} \rho(x)$. Explain the physical meanings behind your answers.

Answer

a. ρ_2

b. ρ_1

c. DNE unless $\rho_1 = \rho_2$. As you approach X_{SF} from the right, you are in the high-density area of the shock. When you approach from the left, you have not experienced the "shock" yet and are at a lower density.

50. A track coach uses a camera with a fast shutter to estimate the position of a runner with respect to time. A table of the values of position of the athlete versus time is given here, where x is the position in meters of the runner and t is time in seconds. What is $\lim_{t \to 2} x(t)$? What does it mean physically?

Table $2.2E.13$: Table of values for $x(m)$ over various values of time t in seconds

$t(sec)$	$x(m)$
1.75	4.5
1.95	6.1
1.99	6.42
2.01	6.58
2.05	6.9
2.25	8.5

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2.3: The Limit Laws

Learning Objectives

- Recognize and use the limit laws to evaluate the limit of a function.
- Evaluate the limit of a polynomial or rational function.
- Evaluate the limit of a function by factoring.
- Evaluate the limit of a function by using conjugates.
- Evaluate the limit of a function involving a complex fraction.
- Evaluate one-sided limits.
- Evaluate the limit of a function by using the squeeze theorem.

In the previous section, we evaluated limits by looking at graphs or by constructing a table of values. In this section, we establish laws for calculating limits and learn how to apply these laws. In the Student Project at the end of this section, you have the opportunity to apply these limit laws to derive the formula for the area of a circle by adapting a method devised by the Greek mathematician Archimedes. We begin by restating two useful limit results from the previous section. These two results, together with the limit laws, serve as a foundation for calculating many limits.

Evaluating Limits with the Limit Laws

The first two limit laws were stated previously and we repeat them here. These basic results, together with the other limit laws, allow us to evaluate limits of many algebraic functions.

Theorem: Basic Limit Results

For any real number a and any constant c,

I. $\lim\limits_{x \to a} x = a$
II. $\lim\limits_{x \to a} c = c$

Example 2.3.1: Evaluating a Basic Limit

Evaluate each of the following limits using Note.

a. $\lim\limits_{x \to 2} x$
b. $\lim\limits_{x \to 2} 5$

Solution

a. The limit of x as x approaches a is a: $\lim\limits_{x \to 2} x = 2$.
b. The limit of a constant is that constant: $\lim\limits_{x \to 2} 5 = 5$.

We now take a look at the **limit laws**, the individual properties of limits. The proofs that these laws hold are omitted here.

Theorem: Limit Laws

Let $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ be defined for all $x \neq a$ over some open interval containing a. Assume that L and M are real numbers such that $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L$ and $\lim_{x \to a} g(x) = M$. Let c be a constant. Then, each of the following statements holds:

- **Sum law for limits**:

$$\lim_{x \to a}(f(x) + g(x)) = \lim_{x \to a} f(x) + \lim_{x \to a} g(x) = L + M \tag{2.3.1}$$

- **Difference law for limits**:

$$\lim_{x \to a}(f(x) - g(x)) = \lim_{x \to a} f(x) - \lim_{x \to a} g(x) = L - M \tag{2.3.2}$$

- **Constant multiple law for limits**:

$$\lim_{x \to a} cf(x) = c \cdot \lim_{x \to a} f(x) = cL \tag{2.3.3}$$

- **Product law for limits**:

$$\lim_{x \to a}(f(x) \cdot g(x)) = \lim_{x \to a} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \to a} g(x) = L \cdot M \tag{2.3.4}$$

- **Quotient law for limits**:

$$\lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x \to a} f(x)}{\lim_{x \to a} g(x)} = \frac{L}{M} \tag{2.3.5}$$

for $M \neq 0$.

- **Power law for limits**:

$$\lim_{x \to a} \big(f(x)\big)^n = \Big(\lim_{x \to a} f(x)\Big)^n = L^n \tag{2.3.6}$$

for every positive integer n.

- **Root law for limits**:

$$\lim_{x \to a} \sqrt[n]{f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{\lim_{x \to a} f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{L} \tag{2.3.7}$$

for all L if n is odd and for $L \geq 0$ if n is even.

We now practice applying these limit laws to evaluate a limit.

Example 2.3.2A: Evaluating a Limit Using Limit Laws

Use the limit laws to evaluate

$$\lim_{x \to -3}(4x + 2).$$

Solution

Let's apply the limit laws one step at a time to be sure we understand how they work. We need to keep in mind the requirement that, at each application of a limit law, the new limits must exist for the limit law to be applied.

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x\to -3}(4x+2) &= \lim_{x\to -3}4x + \lim_{x\to -3}2 && \text{Apply the sum law.}\\ &= 4\cdot\lim_{x\to -3}x + \lim_{x\to -3}2 && \text{Apply the constant multiple law.}\\ &= 4\cdot(-3)+2 = -10. && \text{Apply the basic limit results and simplify.}\end{aligned}$$

Example 2.3.2B: Using Limit Laws Repeatedly

Use the limit laws to evaluate

$$\lim_{x\to 2}\frac{2x^2-3x+1}{x^3+4}.$$

Solution

To find this limit, we need to apply the limit laws several times. Again, we need to keep in mind that as we rewrite the limit in terms of other limits, each new limit must exist for the limit law to be applied.

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x\to 2}\frac{2x^2-3x+1}{x^3+4} &= \frac{\lim_{x\to 2}(2x^2-3x+1)}{\lim_{x\to 2}(x^3+4)} && \text{Apply the quotient law, make sure that } (2)^3+4\neq 0.\\ &= \frac{2\cdot\lim_{x\to 2}x^2-3\cdot\lim_{x\to 2}x+\lim_{x\to 2}1}{\lim_{x\to 2}x^3+\lim_{x\to 2}4} && \text{Apply the sum law and constant multiple law.}\\ &= \frac{2\cdot\left(\lim_{x\to 2}x\right)^2-3\cdot\lim_{x\to 2}x+\lim_{x\to 2}1}{\left(\lim_{x\to 2}x\right)^3+\lim_{x\to 2}4} && \text{Apply the power law.}\\ &= \frac{2(4)-3(2)+1}{(2)^3+4}=\frac{1}{4}. && \text{Apply the basic limit laws and simplify.}\end{aligned}$$

Exercise 2.3.1

Use the limit laws to evaluate $\lim_{x\to 6}(2x-1)\sqrt{x+4}$. In each step, indicate the limit law applied.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Limits of Polynomial and Rational Functions

By now you have probably noticed that, in each of the previous examples, it has been the case that $\lim_{x\to a}f(x)=f(a)$. This is not always true, but it does hold for all polynomials for any choice of a and for all rational functions at all values of a for which the rational function is defined.

Theorem: Limits of Polynomial and Rational Functions

Let $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ be polynomial functions. Let a be a real number. Then,

$$\lim_{x\to a}p(x)=p(a) \tag{2.3.8}$$

$$\lim_{x\to a}\frac{p(x)}{q(x)}=\frac{p(a)}{q(a)} \tag{2.3.9}$$

when $q(a) \neq 0$.

To see that this theorem holds, consider the polynomial

$$p(x) = c_n x^n + c_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + c_1 x + c_0. \tag{2.3.10}$$

By applying the sum, constant multiple, and power laws, we end up with

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \to a} p(x) &= \lim_{x \to a} (c_n x^n + c_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + c_1 x + c_0) \\ &= c_n \left(\lim_{x \to a} x \right)^n + c_{n-1} \left(\lim_{x \to a} x \right)^{n-1} + \cdots + c_1 \left(\lim_{x \to a} x \right) + \lim_{x \to a} c_0 \\ &= c_n a^n + c_{n-1} a^{n-1} + \cdots + c_1 a + c_0 \\ &= p(a) \end{aligned}$$

It now follows from the quotient law that if $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ are polynomials for which $q(a) \neq 0$,

then

$$\lim_{x \to a} \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} = \frac{p(a)}{q(a)}. \tag{2.3.11}$$

Example 2.3.3: Evaluating a Limit of a Rational Function

Evaluate the $\lim_{x \to 3} \dfrac{2x^2 - 3x + 1}{5x + 4}$.

Solution

Since 3 is in the domain of the rational function $f(x) = \dfrac{2x^2 - 3x + 1}{5x + 4}$, we can calculate the limit by substituting 3 for x into the function. Thus,

$$\lim_{x \to 3} \frac{2x^2 - 3x + 1}{5x + 4} = \frac{10}{19}.$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 3 minutes 21 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates using factoring to find $\lim_{x \to 2} \dfrac{3x^2 - 10x + 8}{5x^2 - 8x - 4}$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 2.3.2

Evaluate $\lim_{x \to -2} (3x^3 - 2x + 7)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Additional Limit Evaluation Techniques

As we have seen, we may evaluate easily the limits of polynomials and limits of some (but not all) rational functions by direct substitution. However, as we saw in the introductory section on limits, it is certainly possible for $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)$ to exist when $f(a)$ is undefined. The following observation allows us to evaluate many limits of this type:

If for all $x \neq a$, $f(x) = g(x)$ over some open interval containing a, then

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = \lim_{x \to a} g(x). \tag{2.3.12}$$

To understand this idea better, consider the limit $\lim_{x \to 1} \dfrac{x^2 - 1}{x - 1}$.

The function

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 1}{x - 1} = \frac{(x - 1)(x + 1)}{x - 1}$$

and the function $g(x) = x + 1$ are identical for all values of $x \neq 1$. The graphs of these two functions are shown in Figure 2.3.1.

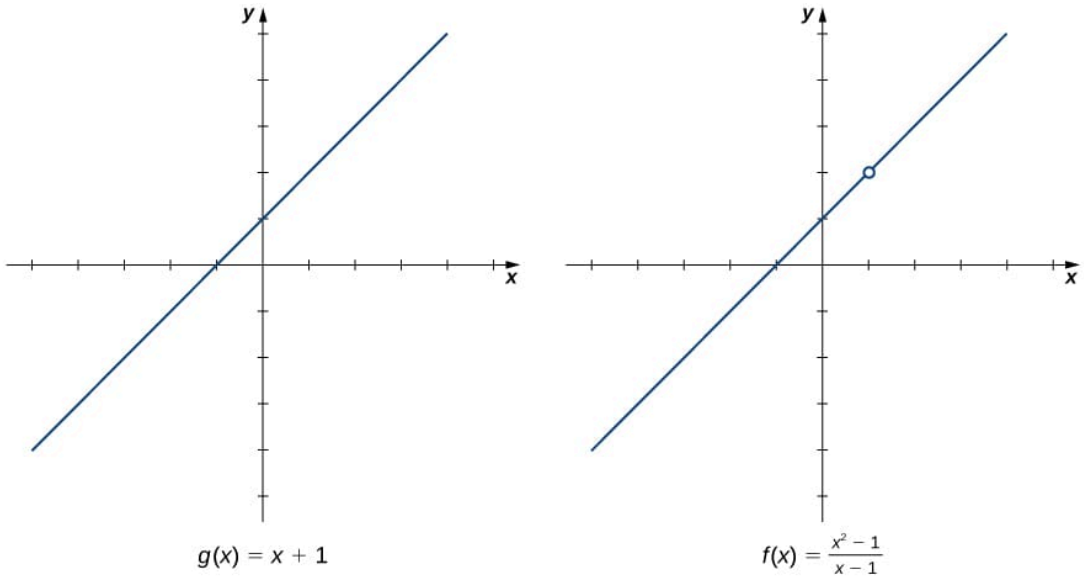


Figure 2.3.1: The graphs of $g(x) = x + 1$ and $f(x) = (x^2–1)/(x–1)$ are sketched side by side. They are identical for all $x \neq 1$. Since $f(1)$ is undefined, as there is an open circle at $(1, 2)$ in its graph. Both functions have limit of 2 as x approaches 1

We see that

$$\lim_{x \to 1} \frac{x^2 - 1}{x - 1} = \lim_{x \to 1} \frac{(x - 1)(x + 1)}{x - 1} = \lim_{x \to 1} (x + 1) = 2.$$

The limit has the form $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)g(x)$, where $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = 0$ and $\lim_{x \to a} g(x) = 0$. (In this case, we say that $f(x)/g(x)$ has the indeterminate form $0/0$.) The following Problem-Solving Strategy provides a general outline for evaluating limits of this type.

Problem-Solving Strategy: Calculating a Limit When $f(x)/g(x)$ has the Indeterminate Form $0/0$

1. First, we need to make sure that our function has the appropriate form and cannot be evaluated immediately using the limit laws.
2. We then need to try to simplify with $f(x)/g(x)$ for all $x \neq a$ over some interval containing a. To do this, we may need to try one or more of the following steps:

a. If $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are polynomials, we should factor each function and cancel out any common factors.
b. If the numerator or denominator contains a difference involving a square root, we should try multiplying the numerator and denominator by the conjugate of the expression involving the square root.
c. If $f(x)/g(x)$ is a complex fraction, we begin by simplifying it.

3. Last, we apply the limit laws.

The next examples demonstrate the use of this Problem-Solving Strategy. Example 2.3.4 illustrates the factor-and-cancel technique; Example 2.3.5 shows multiplying by a conjugate. In Example 2.3.6, we look at simplifying a complex fraction.

Example 2.3.4: Evaluating a Limit by Factoring and Canceling

Evaluate $\lim\limits_{x\to 3}\dfrac{x^2-3x}{2x^2-5x-3}$.

Solution

Step 1. The function $f(x)=\dfrac{x^2-3x}{2x^2-5x-3}$ is undefined for $x=3$. In fact, if we substitute 3 into the function we get $0/0$, which is undefined. Factoring and canceling is a good strategy:

$$\lim_{x\to 3}\frac{x^2-3x}{2x^2-5x-3}=\lim_{x\to 3}\frac{x(x-3)}{(x-3)(2x+1)}$$

Step 2. For all $x\neq 3$, $\dfrac{x^2-3x}{2x^2-5x-3}=\dfrac{x}{2x+1}$. Therefore,

$$\lim_{x\to 3}\frac{x(x-3)}{(x-3)(2x+1)}=\lim_{x\to 3}\frac{x}{2x+1}.$$

Step 3. Evaluate using the limit laws:

$$\lim_{x\to 3}\frac{x}{2x+1}=\frac{3}{7}.$$

Exercise 2.3.3

Evaluate $\lim\limits_{x\to -3}\dfrac{x^2+4x+3}{x^2-9}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 2.3.5: Evaluating a Limit by Multiplying by a Conjugate

Evaluate $\lim\limits_{x\to -1}\dfrac{\sqrt{x+2}-1}{x+1}$.

Solution

Step 1. $\dfrac{\sqrt{x+2}-1}{x+1}$ has the form $0/0$ at –1. Let's begin by multiplying by $\sqrt{x+2}+1$, the conjugate of $\sqrt{x+2}-1$, on the numerator and denominator:

$$\lim_{x\to -1}\frac{\sqrt{x+2}-1}{x+1}=\lim_{x\to -1}\frac{\sqrt{x+2}-1}{x+1}\cdot\frac{\sqrt{x+2}+1}{\sqrt{x+2}+1}.$$

Step 2. We then multiply out the numerator. We don't multiply out the denominator because we are hoping that the $(x+1)$ in the denominator cancels out in the end:

$$= \lim_{x \to -1} \frac{x+1}{(x+1)(\sqrt{x+2}+1)}.$$

Step 3. Then we cancel:

$$= \lim_{x \to -1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+2}+1}.$$

Step 4. Last, we apply the limit laws:

$$\lim_{x \to -1} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+2}+1} = \frac{1}{2}.$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of the this concept.

- **Video Length**: 2 minutes 45 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates using a conjugate root to find $\lim_{x \to 3} \frac{2-\sqrt{7-x}}{x-3}$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 2.3.4

Evaluate $\lim_{x \to 5} \frac{\sqrt{x-1}-2}{x-5}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 2.3.6: Evaluating a Limit Involving a Complex Fraction

Evaluate $\lim_{x \to 1} \frac{\frac{1}{x+1}-\frac{1}{2}}{x-1}$.

Solution

Step 1. $\frac{\frac{1}{x+1}-\frac{1}{2}}{x-1}$ has the form $0/0$ at 1. We simplify the algebraic fraction by multiplying by $2(x+1)/2(x+1)$:

$$\lim_{x \to 1} \frac{\frac{1}{x+1}-\frac{1}{2}}{x-1} = \lim_{x \to 1} \frac{\frac{1}{x+1}-\frac{1}{2}}{x-1} \cdot \frac{2(x+1)}{2(x+1)}.$$

Step 2. Next, we multiply through the numerators. Do not multiply the denominators because we want to be able to cancel the factor $(x-1)$:

$$= \lim_{x \to 1} \frac{2-(x+1)}{2(x-1)(x+1)}.$$

Step 3. Then, we simplify the numerator:

$$= \lim_{x \to 1} \frac{-x+1}{2(x-1)(x+1)}.$$

Step 4. Now we factor out –1 from the numerator:

$$= \lim_{x \to 1} \frac{-(x-1)}{2(x-1)(x+1)}.$$

Step 5. Then, we cancel the common factors of $(x-1)$:

$$= \lim_{x \to 1} \frac{-1}{2(x+1)}.$$

Step 6. Last, we evaluate using the limit laws:

$$\lim_{x \to 1} \frac{-1}{2(x+1)} = -\frac{1}{4}.$$

Exercise 2.3.5

Evaluate $\lim_{x \to -3} \dfrac{\dfrac{1}{x+2}+1}{x+3}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example does not fall neatly into any of the patterns established in the previous examples. However, with a little creativity, we can still use these same techniques.

Example 2.3.7: Evaluating a Limit When the Limit Laws Do Not Apply

Evaluate $\lim_{x \to 0} \left(\dfrac{1}{x} + \dfrac{5}{x(x-5)} \right)$.

Solution:

Both $1/x$ and $5/x(x-5)$ fail to have a limit at zero. Since neither of the two functions has a limit at zero, we cannot apply the sum law for limits; we must use a different strategy. In this case, we find the limit by performing addition and then applying one of our previous strategies. Observe that

$$\frac{1}{x} + \frac{5}{x(x-5)} = \frac{x-5+5}{x(x-5)} = \frac{x}{x(x-5)}.$$

Thus,

$$\lim_{x \to 0} \left(\frac{1}{x} + \frac{5}{x(x-5)} \right) = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{x}{x(x-5)} = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{1}{x-5} = -\frac{1}{5}.$$

Exercise 2.3.6

Evaluate $\lim_{x\to 3}\left(\frac{1}{x-3}-\frac{4}{x^2-2x-3}\right)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Let's now revisit one-sided limits. Simple modifications in the limit laws allow us to apply them to one-sided limits. For example, to apply the limit laws to a limit of the form $\lim_{x\to a^-} h(x)$, we require the function $h(x)$ to be defined over an open interval of the form (b,a); for a limit of the form $\lim_{x\to a^+} h(x)$, we require the function $h(x)$ to be defined over an open interval of the form (a,c). Example 2.3.8A illustrates this point.

Example 2.3.8A: Evaluating a One-Sided Limit Using the Limit Laws

Evaluate each of the following limits, if possible.

a. $\lim_{x\to 3^-}\sqrt{x-3}$
b. $\lim_{x\to 3^+}\sqrt{x-3}$

Solution

Figure 2.3.2 illustrates the function $f(x)=\sqrt{x-3}$ and aids in our understanding of these limits.

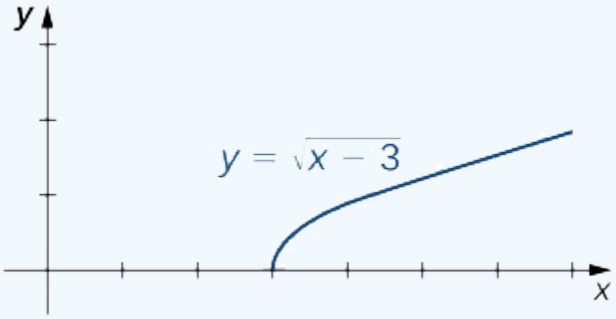


Figure 2.3.2: The graph shows the function $f(x)=\sqrt{x-3}$. The graph of the function looks like the top half of a parabola opening to the right with vertex at $(3,0)$.

a. The function $f(x)=\sqrt{x-3}$ is defined over the interval $[3,+\infty)$. Since this function is not defined to the left of 3, we cannot apply the limit laws to compute $\lim_{x\to 3^-}\sqrt{x-3}$. In fact, since $f(x)=\sqrt{x-3}$ is undefined to the left of 3, $\lim_{x\to 3^-}\sqrt{x-3}$ does not exist.
b. Since $f(x)=\sqrt{x-3}$ is defined to the right of 3, the limit laws do apply to $\lim_{x\to 3^+}\sqrt{x-3}$. By applying these limit laws we obtain $\lim_{x\to 3^+}\sqrt{x-3}=0$.

In Example 2.3.8B we look at one-sided limits of a piecewise-defined function and use these limits to draw a conclusion about a two-sided limit of the same function.

Example 2.3.8B: Evaluating a Two-Sided Limit Using the Limit Laws

For $f(x)=\begin{cases}4x-3, & \text{if } x<2\\ (x-3)^2, & \text{if } x\geq 2\end{cases}$, evaluate each of the following limits:

a. $\lim_{x \to 2^-} f(x)$
b. $\lim_{x \to 2^+} f(x)$
c. $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x)$

Solution

Figure 2.3.3 illustrates the function $f(x)$ and aids in our understanding of these limits.

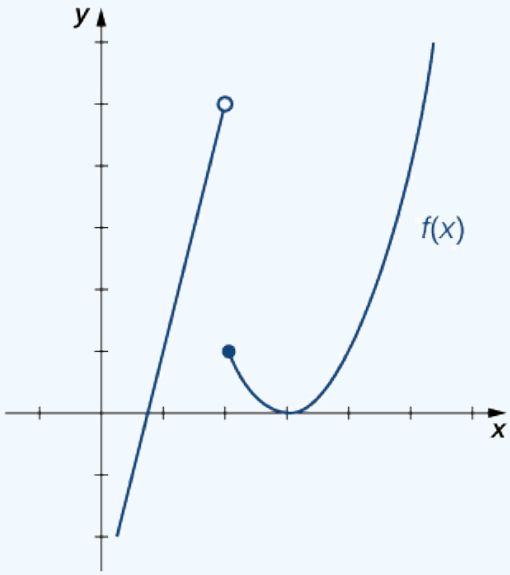


Figure 2.3.3: This graph shows a piecewise function $f(x)$ that has two segments. For $x < 2$, the function is linear with the equation $4x - 3$. There is an open circle at $(2, 5)$. The second segment is a parabola and exists for $x \geq 2$, with the equation $(x - 3)^2$. There is a closed circle at $(2, 1)$. The vertex of the parabola is at $(3, 0)$.

a. Since $f(x) = 4x - 3$ for all x in $(-\infty, 2)$, replace $f(x)$ in the limit with $4x - 3$ and apply the limit laws:

$$\lim_{x \to 2^-} f(x) = \lim_{x \to 2^-} (4x - 3) = 5$$

b. Since $f(x) = (x - 3)^2$for all x in $(2, +\infty)$, replace $f(x)$ in the limit with $(x - 3)^2$ and apply the limit laws:

$$\lim_{x \to 2^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \to 2^-} (x - 3)^2 = 1.$$

c. Since $\lim_{x \to 2^-} f(x) = 5$ and $\lim_{x \to 2^+} f(x) = 1$, we conclude that $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x)$ does not exist.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of the this concept.

- **Video Length**: 1 minute 34 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates finding a one-sided limit for the function $f(x) = \begin{cases} 5 - x, & \text{if } x \leq 2 \\ x^2, & \text{if } x > 2 \end{cases}$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Exercise 2.3.7

Graph $f(x) = \begin{cases} -x-2, & \text{if } x < -1 \\ 2, & \text{if } x = -1 \\ x^3, & \text{if } x > -1 \end{cases}$ and evaluate $\lim_{x \to -1^-} f(x)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

We now turn our attention to evaluating a limit of the form $\lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$, where $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = K$, where $K \neq 0$ and $\lim_{x \to a} g(x) = 0$. That is, $f(x)/g(x)$ has the form $K/0, K \neq 0$ at a.

Example 2.3.9: Evaluating a Limit of the Form $K/0,\ K \neq 0$ Using the Limit Laws

Evaluate $\lim_{x \to 2^-} \frac{x-3}{x^2-2x}$.

Solution

Step 1. After substituting in $x = 2$, we see that this limit has the form $-1/0$. That is, as x approaches 2 from the left, the numerator approaches -1; and the denominator approaches 0. Consequently, the magnitude of $\frac{x-3}{x(x-2)}$ becomes infinite. To get a better idea of what the limit is, we need to factor the denominator:

$$\lim_{x \to 2^-} \frac{x-3}{x^2-2x} = \lim_{x \to 2^-} \frac{x-3}{x(x-2)}$$

Step 2. Since $x-2$ is the only part of the denominator that is zero when 2 is substituted, we then separate $1/(x-2)$ from the rest of the function:

$$= \lim_{x \to 2^-} \frac{x-3}{x} \cdot \frac{1}{x-2}$$

Step 3. Using the Limit Laws, we can write:

$$= \left(\lim_{x \to 2^-} \frac{x-3}{x} \right) \cdot \left(\lim_{x \to 2^-} \frac{1}{x-2} \right).$$

Step 4. $\lim_{x \to 2^-} \frac{x-3}{x} = -\frac{1}{2}$ and $\lim_{x \to 2^-} \frac{1}{x-2} = -\infty$. Therefore, the product of $(x-3)/x$ and $1/(x-2)$ has a limit of $+\infty$:

$$\lim_{x \to 2^-} \frac{x-3}{x^2-2x} = +\infty.$$

Exercise 2.3.8

Evaluate $\lim_{x \to 1} \frac{x+2}{(x-1)^2}$.

Solution available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The Squeeze Theorem

The techniques we have developed thus far work very well for algebraic functions, but we are still unable to evaluate limits of very basic trigonometric functions. The next theorem, called the **squeeze theorem,** proves very useful for establishing basic trigonometric limits. This theorem allows us to calculate limits by "squeezing" a function, with a limit at a point a that is unknown, between two functions having a common known limit at a. Figure $2.3.5$ illustrates this idea.

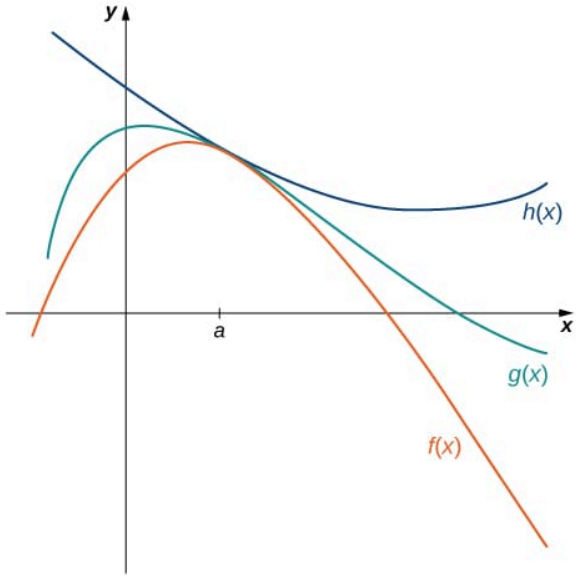


Figure $2.3.5$: A graph of three functions, $f(x), g(x), h(x)$ over a small interval containing $x = a$. Over this interval, the graph of the function $g(x)$ is trapped between the graphs of $h(x)$, which gives greater y values for the same x values, and the graph of $f(x)$, which gives smaller y values for the same x values. The functions all approach the same limit as x approaches a.

Theorem: The Squeeze Theorem

Let $f(x), g(x)$, and $h(x)$ be defined for all $x \neq a$ over an open interval containing a. If

$$f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x) \tag{2.3.13}$$

for all $x \neq a$ in an open interval containing a and

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L = \lim_{x \to a} h(x) \tag{2.3.14}$$

where L is a real number, then $\lim_{x \to a} g(x) = L$.

Example $2.3.10$: Applying the Squeeze Theorem

Apply the squeeze theorem to evaluate $\lim_{x \to 0} x \cos x$.

Solution

Because $-1 \leq \cos x \leq 1$ for all x, we have $-x \leq x \cos x \leq x$ for $x \geq 0$ and $-x \geq x \cos x \geq x$ for $x \leq 0$ (if x is negative the direction of the inequalities changes when we multiply). Since $\lim_{x \to 0}(-x) = 0 = \lim_{x \to 0} x$, from the squeeze theorem, we obtain $\lim_{x \to 0} x \cos x = 0$. The graphs of $f(x) = -x, \;\; g(x) = x \cos x$, and $h(x) = x$ are shown in Figure $2.3.6$.

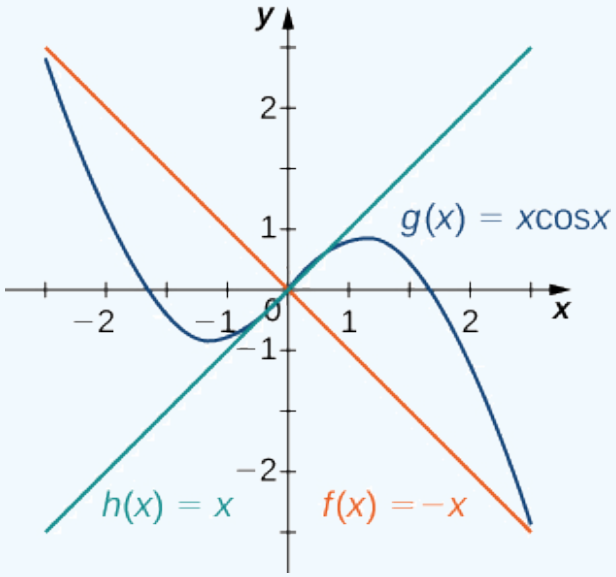


Figure 2.3.6: The graph of three functions is shown over $-3 \leq x \leq 3$. The first, $h(x) = x$, is a linear function with slope of 1 going through the origin. The second, $f(x) = -x$, is also a linear function, but with slope of -1, also going through the origin. The third, $g(x) = x \cos x$, curves between the graph of h and g, opens upward for $x > 0$ and downward for $x > 0$, and goes through the origin.

Exercise 2.3.9

Use the squeeze theorem to evaluate $\lim_{x \to 0} x^2 \sin \frac{1}{x}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

We now use the squeeze theorem to tackle several very important limits. Although this discussion is somewhat lengthy, these limits prove invaluable for the development of the material in both the next section and the next chapter. The first of these limits is $\lim_{\theta \to 0} \sin \theta$. Consider the unit circle shown in Figure 2.3.7. In the figure, we see that $\sin \theta$ is the y-coordinate on the unit circle and it corresponds to the line segment shown in blue. The radian measure of angle θ is the length of the arc it subtends on the unit circle. Therefore, we see that for $0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}, 0 < \sin \theta < \theta$.

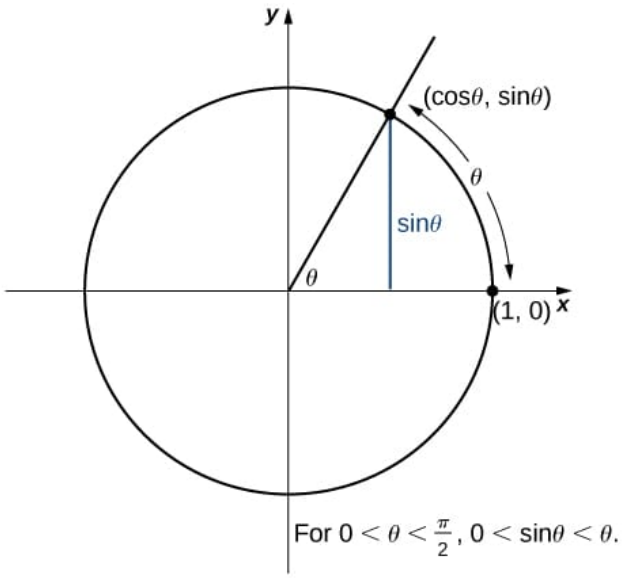


Figure 2.3.7: A diagram of the unit circle in the xy-plane. It is a circle with radius 1 and center at the origin. A specific point $(\cos(\theta), \sin(\theta))$ is labeled in first quadrant on the circle. This point is one vertex of a right triangle inside the circle, with other vertices at the origin and $(\cos(\theta), 0)$. As such, the lengths of the sides are $\cos(\theta)$ for the base and $\sin(\theta)$ for the height, where θ is the angle created by the hypotenuse and the base. The radian measure of angle theta is the length of the arc it subtends on the unit circle. The diagram shows that for $0 < \theta < \pi/2$, $0 < \sin(\theta) < \theta$.

Because $\lim\limits_{\theta \to 0^+} 0 = 0$ and $\lim\limits_{x \to 0^+} \theta = 0$, by using the squeeze theorem we conclude that

$$\lim_{\theta \to 0^+} \sin\theta = 0.$$

To see that $\lim\limits_{\theta \to 0^-} \sin\theta = 0$ as well, observe that for $-\dfrac{\pi}{2} < \theta < 0, 0 < -\theta < \dfrac{\pi}{2}$ and hence, $0 < \sin(-\theta) < -\theta$. Consequently, $0 < -\sin\theta < -\theta$. It follows that $0 > \sin\theta > \theta$. An application of the squeeze theorem produces the desired limit. Thus, since $\lim\limits_{\theta \to 0^+} \sin\theta = 0$ and $\lim\limits_{\theta \to 0^-} \sin\theta = 0$,

$$\lim_{\theta \to 0} \sin\theta = 0$$

Next, using the identity $\cos\theta = \sqrt{1 - \sin^2\theta}$ for $-\dfrac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \dfrac{\pi}{2}$, we see that

$$\lim_{\theta \to 0} \cos\theta = \lim_{\theta \to 0} \sqrt{1 - \sin^2\theta} = 1.$$

We now take a look at a limit that plays an important role in later chapters—namely, $\lim\limits_{\theta \to 0} \dfrac{\sin\theta}{\theta}$. To evaluate this limit, we use the unit circle in Figure 2.3.8. Notice that this figure adds one additional triangle to Figure 2.3.7. We see that the length of the side opposite angle θ in this new triangle is $\tan\theta$. Thus, we see that for $0 < \theta < \dfrac{\pi}{2}$, $\sin\theta < \theta < \tan\theta$.

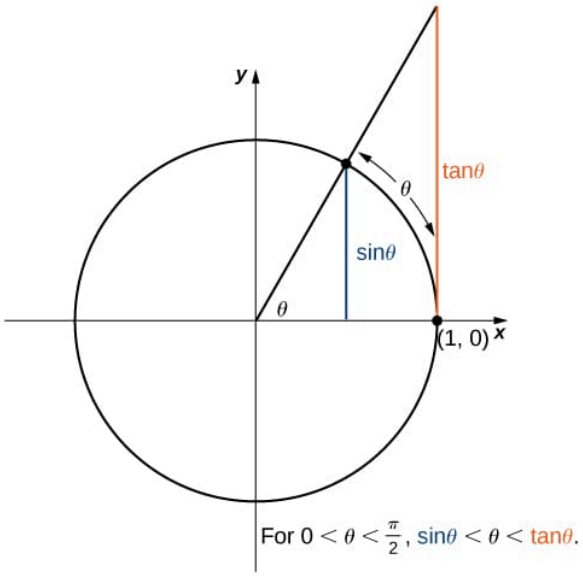


Figure 2.3.8: The diagram from Figure 2.3.7 has additional information here. The triangle is expanded to a similar triangle with the base stretching from the origin to the point $(1,0)$, the height going from $(1,0)$ to $(1,\tan(\theta))$, and the hypotenuse going from the origin to $(1,\tan(\theta))$. As such, the height is now $\tan(\theta)$. It shows that for $0<\theta<\pi/2$, $\sin(\theta)<\theta<\tan(\theta)$.

By dividing by $\sin\theta$ in all parts of the inequality, we obtain

$$1<\frac{\theta}{\sin\theta}<\frac{1}{\cos\theta}.$$

Equivalently, we have

$$1>\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta}>\cos\theta.$$

Since $\lim\limits_{\theta\to 0^+}1=1=\lim\limits_{\theta\to 0^+}\cos\theta$, we conclude that $\lim\limits_{\theta\to 0^+}\dfrac{\sin\theta}{\theta}=1$. By applying a manipulation similar to that used in demonstrating that $\lim\limits_{\theta\to 0^-}\sin\theta=0$, we can show that $\lim\limits_{\theta\to 0^-}\dfrac{\sin\theta}{\theta}=1$. Thus,

$$\lim_{\theta\to 0}\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta}=1. \tag{2.3.15}$$

In Example 2.3.11, we use this limit to establish $\lim\limits_{\theta\to 0}\dfrac{1-\cos\theta}{\theta}=0$. This limit also proves useful in later chapters.

Example 2.3.11: Evaluating an Important Trigonometric Limit

Evaluate $\lim\limits_{\theta\to 0}\dfrac{1-\cos\theta}{\theta}$.

Solution

In the first step, we multiply by the conjugate so that we can use a trigonometric identity to convert the cosine in the numerator to a sine:

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{\theta\to 0}\frac{1-\cos\theta}{\theta} &= \lim_{\theta\to 0}\frac{1-\cos\theta}{\theta}\cdot\frac{1+\cos\theta}{1+\cos\theta}\\ &= \lim_{\theta\to 0}\frac{1-\cos^2\theta}{\theta(1+\cos\theta)}\\ &= \lim_{\theta\to 0}\frac{\sin^2\theta}{\theta(1+\cos\theta)}\\ &= \lim_{\theta\to 0}\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta}\cdot\frac{\sin\theta}{1+\cos\theta}\\ &= \left(\lim_{\theta\to 0}\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta}\right)\cdot\left(\lim_{\theta\to 0}\frac{\sin\theta}{1+\cos\theta}\right)\\ &= 1\cdot\frac{0}{2}=0.\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\lim_{\theta\to 0}\frac{1-\cos\theta}{\theta}=0. \tag{2.3.16}$$

Below is a video example of finding a limit analytically of a trigonometric expression that's related to $\frac{\sin x}{x}$.

Example 2.3.12

Find the limit analytically:

$$\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{\sin(6x)}{x} \tag{2.3.17}$$

Solution

- **Video Length**: 2 minutes 32 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates finding a limit involving the sine function.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Exercise 2.3.11

Evaluate $\lim_{\theta\to 0}\frac{1-\cos\theta}{\sin\theta}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Deriving the Formula for the Area of a Circle

Some of the geometric formulas we take for granted today were first derived by methods that anticipate some of the methods of calculus. The Greek mathematician *Archimedes* (ca. 287–212; BCE) was particularly inventive, using polygons inscribed within circles to approximate the area of the circle as the number of sides of the polygon increased. He never came up with the idea of a limit, but we can use this idea to see what his geometric constructions could have predicted about the limit.

We can estimate the area of a circle by computing the area of an inscribed regular polygon. Think of the regular polygon as being made up of n triangles. By taking the limit as the vertex angle of these triangles goes to zero, you can obtain the area of the circle. To see this, carry out the following steps:

1.Express the height h and the base b of the isosceles triangle in Figure $2.3.9$ in terms of θ and r.

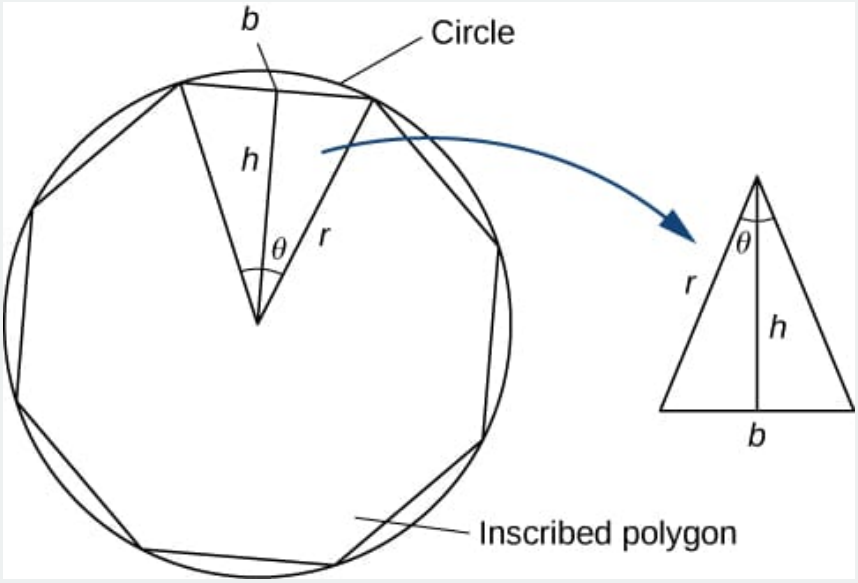


Figure $2.3.9$: A diagram of a circle with an inscribed polygon – an octagon shown here. An isosceles triangle is drawn with one of the sides of the octagon as the base b and center of the circle/octagon as the top vertex. The height h goes from the center of the base b to the center of the circle/octagon, and each of the legs is also radius r of the circle. The angle created by the height h and one of the legs r is labeled as θ.

2. Using the expressions that you obtained in step 1, express the area of the isosceles triangle in terms of θ and r.

(Substitute $\frac{1}{2}\sin\theta$ for $\sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)\cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$ in your expression.)

3. If an n-sided regular polygon is inscribed in a circle of radius r, find a relationship between θ and n. Solve this for n. Keep in mind there are 2π radians in a circle. (Use radians, not degrees.)

4. Find an expression for the area of the n-sided polygon in terms of r and θ.

5. To find a formula for the area of the circle, find the limit of the expression in step 4 as θ goes to zero. (Hint: $\lim_{\theta\to 0}\frac{\sin\theta}{\theta} = 1$).

The technique of estimating areas of regions by using polygons is revisited in Introduction to Integration.

Key Concepts

- The limit laws allow us to evaluate limits of functions without having to go through step-by-step processes each time.
- For polynomials and rational functions,

$$\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = f(a). \tag{2.3.18}$$

- You can evaluate the limit of a function by factoring and canceling, by multiplying by a conjugate, or by simplifying a complex fraction.
- The squeeze theorem allows you to find the limit of a function if the function is always greater than one function and less than another function with limits that are known.

Key Equations

- **Basic Limit Results**

$$\lim_{x \to a} x = a \qquad \lim_{x \to a} c = c$$

- **Important Limits**

$$\lim_{\theta \to 0} \sin \theta = 0$$

$$\lim_{\theta \to 0} \cos \theta = 1$$

$$\lim_{\theta \to 0} \frac{\sin \theta}{\theta} = 1$$

$$\lim_{\theta \to 0} \frac{1 - \cos \theta}{\theta} = 0$$

Glossary

Constant multiple law for limits
The limit law

$$\lim_{x \to a} cf(x) = c \cdot \lim_{x \to a} f(x) = cL$$

Difference law for limits
The limit law

$$\lim_{x \to a} (f(x) - g(x)) = \lim_{x \to a} f(x) - \lim_{x \to a} g(x) = L - M$$

Limit laws
The individual properties of limits; for each of the individual laws, let $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ be defined for all $x \neq a$ over some open interval containing a; assume that L and M are real numbers so that $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L$ and $\lim_{x \to a} g(x) = M$; let c be a constant

Power law for limits
The limit law

$$\lim_{x \to a} (f(x))^n = (\lim_{x \to a} f(x))^n = L^n$$

for every positive integer n

Product law for limits
The limit law

$$\lim_{x \to a} (f(x) \cdot g(x)) = \lim_{x \to a} f(x) \cdot \lim_{x \to a} g(x) = L \cdot M$$

Quotient law for limits
The limit law $\lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{\lim_{x \to a} f(x)}{\lim_{x \to a} g(x)} = \frac{L}{M}$ for M≠0

Root law for limits
The limit law $\lim_{x \to a} \sqrt[n]{f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{\lim_{x \to a} f(x)} = \sqrt[n]{L}$ for all L if n is odd and for $L \geq 0$ if n is even

Squeeze theorem
States that if $f(x) \leq g(x) \leq h(x)$ for all $x \neq a$ over an open interval containing a and $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L = \lim_{x \to a} h(x)$ where L is a real number, then $\lim_{x \to a} g(x) = L$

Sum law for limits

The limit law $\lim_{x\to a}(f(x)+g(x)) = \lim_{x\to a} f(x) + \lim_{x\to a} g(x) = L + M$

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Answers

Exercise $2.3.1$

Begin by applying the product law.

Exercise $2.3.1$

$11\sqrt{10}$

Exercise $2.3.2$

Use LIMITS OF POLYNOMIAL AND RATIONAL FUNCTIONS as reference

Exercise $2.3.2$

–13

Exercise $2.3.3$

Follow the steps in the Problem-Solving Strategy

Exercise $2.3.3$

$\frac{1}{3}$

Exercise $2.3.4$

Follow the steps in the Problem-Solving Strategy

Exercise $2.3.4$

$\frac{1}{4}$

Exercise $2.3.5$

Follow the steps in the Problem-Solving Strategy and

Exercise $2.3.5$

–1

Exercise $2.3.6$

Use the same technique as Example $2.3.7$. Don’t forget to factor $x^2 - 2x - 3$ before getting a common denominator.

Exercise $2.3.6$

$\frac{1}{4}$

Exercise $2.3.7$

Use the method in Example $2.3.8B$ to evaluate the limit.

Exercise $2.3.7$

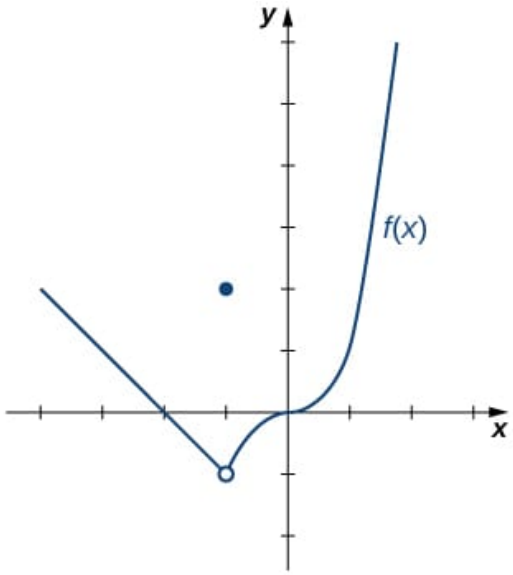


Figure 2.3.4: The graph of a piecewise function with three segments. The first is a linear function, $-x-2$, for $x<-1$. There is an open circle at $(-1,-1)$. The next segment is simply the point $(-1,2)$. The third segment is the function x^3 for $x>-1$.

$$\lim_{x\to -1^-} f(x) = -1$$

Exercise 2.3.8

Use the methods from Example 2.3.9.

Exercise 2.3.8

$+\infty$

Exercise 2.3.9

Use the fact that $-x^2 \le x^2 \sin(1/x) \le x^2$ to help you find two functions such that $x^2 \sin(1/x)$ is squeezed between them.

Exercise 2.3.9

0

Exercise 2.3.11

Multiply numerator and denominator by $1+\cos\theta$.

Exercise 2.3.11

0

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2.3E: Exercises for Section 2.3

Exercises 1 - 4

Use the limit laws to evaluate each limit. Justify each step by indicating the appropriate limit law(s).

1. $\lim_{x\to 0}\ (4x^2-2x+3)$

   Answer

   Use constant multiple law and difference law:

   $$\lim_{x\to 0}\ (4x^2-2x+3) = 4\lim_{x\to 0} x^2 - 2\lim_{x\to 0} x + \lim_{x\to 0} 3 = 0+0+3 = 3$$

2. $\lim_{x\to 1} \dfrac{x^3+3x^2+5}{4-7x}$
3. $\lim_{x\to -2} \sqrt{x^2-6x+3}$

   Answer

   Use root law: $\lim_{x\to -2} \sqrt{x^2-6x+3} = \sqrt{\lim_{x\to -2}(x^2-6x+3)} = \sqrt{19}$

4. $\lim_{x\to -1} (9x+1)^2$

Exercises 5 - 10

Use direct substitution to evaluate the limit of each continuous function.

5. $\lim_{x\to 7} x^2$

   Answer

   $$\lim_{x\to 7} x^2 \ = \ 49$$

6. $\lim_{x\to -2} (4x^2-1)$
7. $\lim_{x\to 0} \dfrac{1}{1+\sin x}$

   Answer

   $$\lim_{x\to 0} \frac{1}{1+\sin x} \ = \ 1$$

8. $\lim_{x\to 2} e^{2x-x^2}$
9. $\lim_{x\to 1} \dfrac{2-7x}{x+6}$

   Answer

   $$\lim_{x\to 1} \frac{2-7x}{x+6} \ = \ -\frac{5}{7}$$

10. $\lim_{x\to 3} \ln e^{3x}$

Exercises 11 - 20

Use direct substitution to show that each limit leads to the indeterminate form $0/0$. Then, evaluate the limit analytically.

11. $\lim\limits_{x\to 4}\dfrac{x^2-16}{x-4}$

Answer

When $x=4$, $\dfrac{x^2-16}{x-4}=\dfrac{16-16}{4-4}=\dfrac{0}{0}$;

then, $\lim\limits_{x\to 4}\dfrac{x^2-16}{x-4}=\lim\limits_{x\to 4}\dfrac{(x+4)(x-4)}{x-4}=\lim\limits_{x\to 4}(x+4)=4+4=8$

12. $\lim\limits_{x\to 2}\dfrac{x-2}{x^2-2x}$
13. $\lim\limits_{x\to 6}\dfrac{3x-18}{2x-12}$

Answer

When $x=6$, $\dfrac{3x-18}{2x-12}=\dfrac{18-18}{12-12}=\dfrac{0}{0}$;

then, $\lim\limits_{x\to 6}\dfrac{3x-18}{2x-12}=\lim\limits_{x\to 6}\dfrac{3(x-6)}{2(x-6)}=\lim\limits_{x\to 6}\dfrac{3}{2}=\dfrac{3}{2}$

14. $\lim\limits_{h\to 0}\dfrac{(1+h)^2-1}{h}$
15. $\lim\limits_{t\to 9}\dfrac{t-9}{\sqrt{t}-3}$

Answer

When $t=9$, $\dfrac{t-9}{\sqrt{t}-3}=\dfrac{9-9}{3-3}=\dfrac{0}{0}$;

then, $\lim\limits_{t\to 9}\dfrac{t-9}{\sqrt{t}-3}=\lim\limits_{t\to 9}\dfrac{t-9}{\sqrt{t}-3}\dfrac{\sqrt{t}+3}{\sqrt{t}+3}=\lim\limits_{t\to 9}\dfrac{(t-9)(\sqrt{t}+3)}{t-9}=\lim\limits_{t\to 9}(\sqrt{t}+3)=\sqrt{9}+3=6$

16. $\lim\limits_{h\to 0}\dfrac{\dfrac{1}{a+h}-\dfrac{1}{a}}{h}$, where a is a real-valued constant
17. $\lim\limits_{\theta\to\pi}\dfrac{\sin\theta}{\tan\theta}$

Answer

When $\theta=\pi$, $\dfrac{\sin\theta}{\tan\theta}=\dfrac{\sin\pi}{\tan\pi}=\dfrac{0}{0}$;

then, $\lim\limits_{\theta\to\pi}\dfrac{\sin\theta}{\tan\theta}=\lim\limits_{\theta\to\pi}\dfrac{\sin\theta}{\frac{\sin\theta}{\cos\theta}}=\lim\limits_{\theta\to\pi}\cos\theta=\cos\pi=-1$

18. $\lim\limits_{x\to 1}\dfrac{x^3-1}{x^2-1}$
19. $\lim\limits_{x\to 1/2}\dfrac{2x^2+3x-2}{2x-1}$

Answer

When $x=1/2$, $\dfrac{2x^2+3x-2}{2x-1}=\dfrac{\frac{1}{2}+\frac{3}{2}-2}{1-1}=\dfrac{0}{0}$;

then, $\lim\limits_{x\to 1/2}\dfrac{2x^2+3x-2}{2x-1}=\lim\limits_{x\to 1/2}\dfrac{(2x-1)(x+2)}{2x-1}=\lim\limits_{x\to 1/2}(x+2)=\dfrac{1}{2}+2=\dfrac{5}{2}$

20. $\lim_{x\to -3}\dfrac{\sqrt{x+4}-1}{x+3}$

Exercises 21 - 24

Use direct substitution to obtain an undefined expression. Then, use the method used in Example 9 of this section to simplify the function and determine the limit.

21. $\lim_{x\to -2^-}\dfrac{2x^2+7x-4}{x^2+x-2}$

Answer

$-\infty$

22. $\lim_{x\to -2^+}\dfrac{2x^2+7x-4}{x^2+x-2}$

23. $\lim_{x\to 1^-}\dfrac{2x^2+7x-4}{x^2+x-2}$

Answer

$-\infty$

24. $\lim_{x\to 1^+}\dfrac{2x^2+7x-4}{x^2+x-2}$

Exercises 25 - 32

Assume that $\lim_{x\to 6} f(x)=4$, $\lim_{x\to 6} g(x)=9$, and $\lim_{x\to 6} h(x)=6$. Use these three facts and the limit laws to evaluate each limit.

25. $\lim_{x\to 6} 2f(x)g(x)$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 6} 2f(x)g(x)=2\left(\lim_{x\to 6} f(x)\right)\left(\lim_{x\to 6} g(x)\right)=2(4)(9)=72$$

26. $\lim_{x\to 6}\dfrac{g(x)-1}{f(x)}$

27. $\lim_{x\to 6}\left(f(x)+\dfrac{1}{3}g(x)\right)$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 6}\left(f(x)+\frac{1}{3}g(x)\right)=\lim_{x\to 6} f(x)+\frac{1}{3}\lim_{x\to 6} g(x)=4+\frac{1}{3}(9)=7$$

28. $\lim_{x\to 6}\dfrac{\left(h(x)\right)^3}{2}$

29. $\lim_{x\to 6}\sqrt{g(x)-f(x)}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 6}\sqrt{g(x)-f(x)}=\sqrt{\lim_{x\to 6} g(x)-\lim_{x\to 6} f(x)}=\sqrt{9-4}=\sqrt{5}$$

30. $\lim_{x\to 6} x\cdot h(x)$

31. $\lim_{x\to 6}[(x+1)\cdot f(x)]$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 6}[(x+1)f(x)]=\left(\lim_{x\to 6}(x+1)\right)\left(\lim_{x\to 6} f(x)\right)=7(4)=28$$

32. $\lim_{x\to 6}(f(x)\cdot g(x)-h(x))$

[T] In exercises 33 - 35

Use a calculator to draw the graph of each piecewise-defined function and study the graph to evaluate the given limits.

33. $f(x)=\begin{cases}x^2, & x\le 3\\ x+4, & x>3\end{cases}$
    a. $\lim_{x\to 3^-} f(x)$
    b. $\lim_{x\to 3^+} f(x)$

Answer

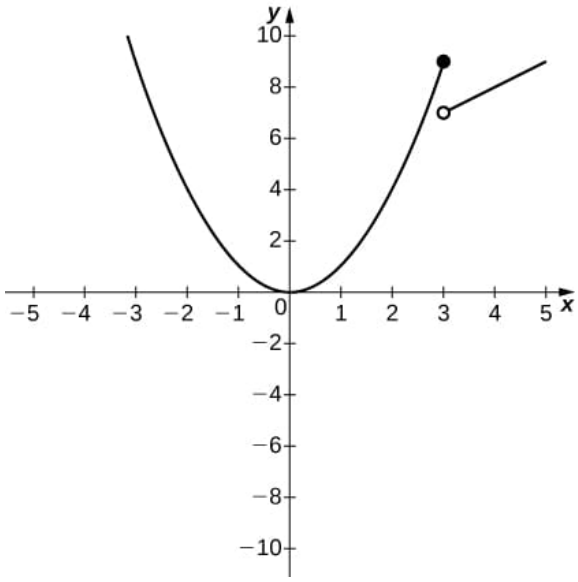


Figure $2.3E.1$: The graph of a piecewise function with two segments. The first is the parabola x^2, which exists for $x\le 3$. The vertex is at the origin, it opens upward, and there is a closed circle at the endpoint $(3,9)$. The second segment is the line $x+4$, which is a linear function existing for $x>3$. There is an open circle at $(3,7)$, and the slope is 1

a. 9
b. 7

34. $g(x)=\begin{cases}x^3-1, & x\le 0\\ 1, & x>0\end{cases}$
    a. $\lim_{x\to 0^-} g(x)$
    b. $\lim_{x\to 0^+} g(x)$

35. $h(x)=\begin{cases}x^2-2x+1, & x<2\\ 3-x, & x\ge 2\end{cases}$
    a. $\lim_{x\to 2^-} h(x)$
    b. $\lim_{x\to 2^+} h(x)$

Exercises 36 - 43

Use the following graphs and the limit laws to evaluate each limit.

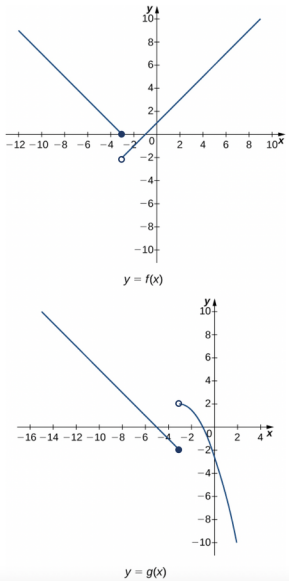


Figure $2.3E.2$: Two graphs of piecewise functions are given. The upper function is the graph of $f(x)$, which has two linear segments. The first segment is a line with slope -1 graphed over $x \leq -3$, and toward the point $(-3, 0)$ at $x = -3$. The second segment has slope 1 graphed over $x > -3$, and goes to the point $(-3, -2)$ at $x = -3$. The lower piecewise function has a linear segment and a curved segment. The linear segment is graphed over for $x \leq -3$ and has slope -1. It goes to the point $(-3, -2)$ at $x = -3$. The curved segment appears to be the right half of a downward opening parabola, is graphed over $x > -3$, and goes to the vertex point $(-3, 2)$ at $x = -3$.

36. $\lim\limits_{x \to -3^+} (f(x) + g(x))$
37. $\lim\limits_{x \to -3^-} (f(x) - 3g(x))$

Answer

$$\lim_{x \to -3^-} (f(x) - 3g(x)) = \lim_{x \to -3^-} f(x) - 3 \lim_{x \to -3^-} g(x) = 0 + 6 = 6$$

38. $\lim\limits_{x \to 0} \dfrac{f(x)g(x)}{3}$
39. $\lim\limits_{x \to -5} \dfrac{2 + g(x)}{f(x)}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x \to -5} \frac{2 + g(x)}{f(x)} = \frac{2 + \left(\lim\limits_{x \to -5} g(x)\right)}{\lim\limits_{x \to -5} f(x)} = \frac{2 + 0}{2} = 1$$

40. $\lim\limits_{x \to 1} (f(x))^2$
41. $\lim\limits_{x \to 1} \sqrt[3]{f(x) - g(x)}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x \to 1} \sqrt[3]{f(x) - g(x)} = \sqrt[3]{\lim_{x \to 1} f(x) - \lim_{x \to 1} g(x)} = \sqrt[3]{2 + 5} = \sqrt[3]{7}$$

42. $\lim\limits_{x \to -7} (x \cdot g(x))$
43. $\lim\limits_{x \to -9} [x \cdot f(x) + 2 \cdot g(x)]$

Answer

$$\lim_{x \to -9} (xf(x) + 2g(x)) = \left(\lim_{x \to -9} x\right) \left(\lim_{x \to -9} f(x)\right) + 2 \lim_{x \to -9} g(x) = (-9)(6) + 2(4) = -46$$

Exercises 44 - 46

Evaluate the limit using the squeeze theorem. Use a calculator to graph the functions $f(x)$, $g(x)$, and $h(x)$ when possible.

14. [T] True or False? If $2x - 1 \leq g(x) \leq x^2 - 2x + 3$, then $\lim_{x \to 2} g(x) = 0$.

15. [T] $\lim_{\theta \to 0} \theta^2 \cos\left(\frac{1}{\theta}\right)$

Answer

The limit is zero.

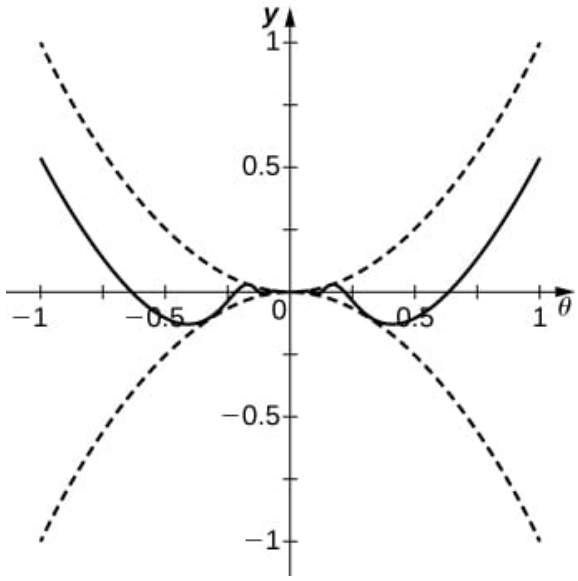


Figure $2.3E.3$: The graph of three functions over the domain [-1,1]. The uppermost function is the graph of $y = \theta^2$, which is a parabola that opens up, and with vertex at $(0, 0)$. The lowermost function is the graph of $y = -\theta^2$, which is a also parabola, but one that opens down, and with vertex at $(0, 0)$. The function between these two is $y = \theta^2 \cos(1/\theta)$, and is trapped between the two other functions.

16. $\lim_{x \to 0} f(x)$, where $f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & x \text{ rational} \\ x^2, & x \text{ irrational} \end{cases}$

17. [T] In physics, the magnitude of an electric field generated by a point charge at a distance r in vacuum is governed by Coulomb's law: $E(r) = \frac{q}{4\pi\varepsilon_0 r^2}$, where E represents the magnitude of the electric field, q is the charge of the particle, r is the distance between the particle and where the strength of the field is measured, and $\frac{1}{4\pi\varepsilon_0}$ is Coulomb's constant: $8.988 \times 109N \cdot m^2/C^2$.
    a. Use a graphing calculator to graph $E(r)$ given that the charge of the particle is $q = 10^{-10}$.
    b. Evaluate $\lim_{r \to 0^+} E(r)$. What is the physical meaning of this quantity? Is it physically relevant? Why are you evaluating from the right?

Answer

a. See Figure $2.3E.4$.
b. ∞. The magnitude of the electric field as you approach the particle q becomes infinite. It does not make physical sense to evaluate negative distance.

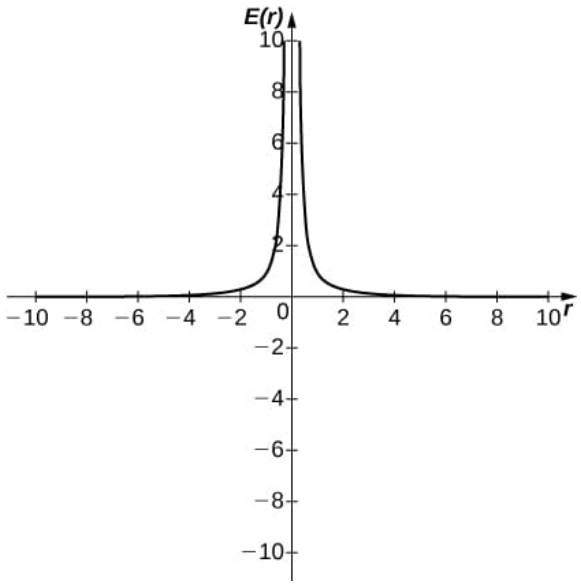


Figure $2.3E.4$: A graph of a function with two sections. The first section is a curve in the second quadrant and curves asymptotically to ∞ along the $y-axis$ and to the x-axis as x approaches $-\infty$. The second is in the first quadrant and also curves asymptotically to ∞ along the $y-axis$ and to the x-axis as x approaches $+\infty$. It appears to be the graph of $y=\frac{1}{x^2}$.

18. [T] The density of an object is given by its mass divided by its volume: $\rho = m/V$.

    a. Use a calculator to plot the volume as a function of density $(V = m/\rho)$, assuming you are examining something of mass 8 kg $(m = 8)$.
    b. Evaluate $\lim\limits_{x\to 0^+} V(\rho)$ and explain the physical meaning.

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2.4: Continuity

Learning Objectives

- Explain the three conditions for continuity at a point.
- Describe three kinds of discontinuities.
- Define continuity on an interval.
- State the theorem for limits of composite functions.
- Provide an example of the intermediate value theorem.

Many functions have the property that their graphs can be traced with a pencil without lifting the pencil from the page. Such functions are called *continuous*. Other functions have points at which a break in the graph occurs, but satisfy this property over intervals contained in their domains. They are continuous on these intervals and are said to have a *discontinuity* at a point where a break occurs.

We begin our investigation of continuity by exploring what it means for a function to have *continuity at a point*. Intuitively, a function is continuous at a particular point if there is no break in its graph at that point.

Continuity at a Point

Before we look at a formal definition of what it means for a function to be continuous at a point, let's consider various functions that fail to meet our intuitive notion of what it means to be continuous at a point. We then create a list of conditions that prevent such failures.

Our first function of interest is shown in Figure $2.4.1$. We see that the graph of $f(x)$ has a hole at a. In fact, $f(a)$ is undefined. At the very least, for $f(x)$ to be continuous at a, we need the following condition:

i. $f(a)$ is defined

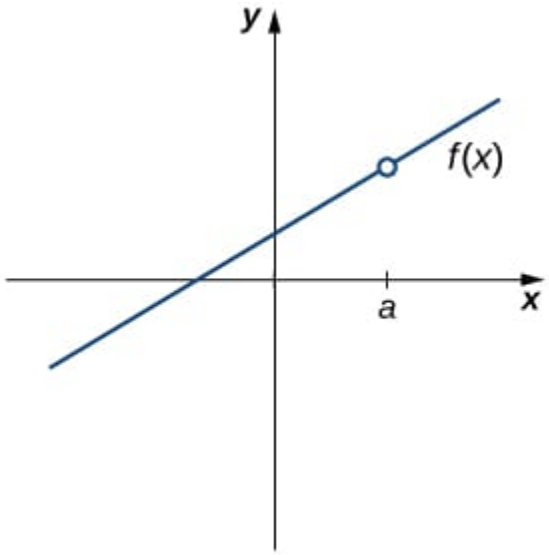


Figure $2.4.1$: The graph of a function $f(x)$ has a number a indicated on the x-axis. The function $f(x)$ is not continuous at $x = a$ because $f(a)$ is undefined, marked by an open circle on the line above a.

However, as we see in Figure $2.4.2$, this condition alone is insufficient to guarantee continuity at the point a. Although $f(a)$ is defined, the function has a gap at a. In this example, the gap exists because $\lim\limits_{x \to a} f(x)$ does not exist. We must add another condition for continuity at a—namely,

ii. $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)$ **exists**

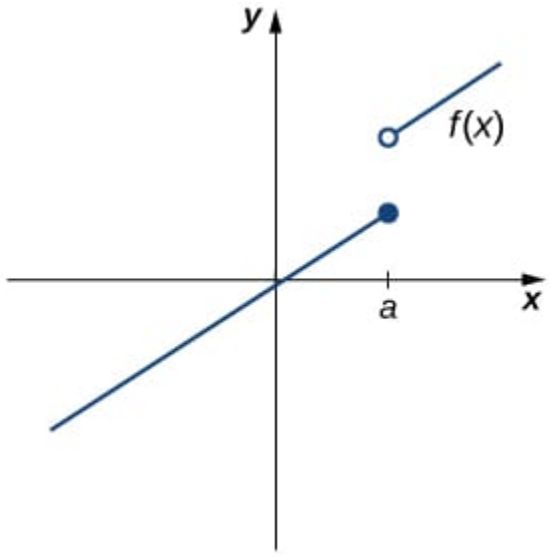


Figure 2.4.2: The graph of a piecewise function $f(x)$ with two parts, with number a indicated on the x-axis. The first part is an increasing linear function defined for $x \leq a$ that that stops at the point $(a, f(a))$, which is marked with a solid circle. The other segment is also an increasing linear function and defined over $x > a$, containing an open circle on the line over a. The graphs of the two segments do not connect at $x = a$. Hence, the function $f(x)$ is not continuous at aa because $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)$ does not exist.

However, as we see in Figure 2.4.3, these two conditions by themselves do not guarantee continuity at a point. The function in this figure satisfies both of our first two conditions, but is still not continuous at a. We must add a third condition to our list:

iii. $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = f(a)$

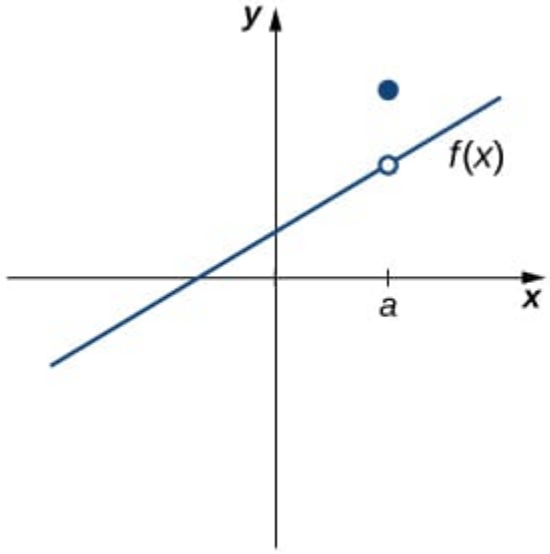


Figure 2.4.3: The graph of a function $f(x)$ has a number a indicated on the x-axis. $f(a)$ is defined but away from the rest of the graph of f, indicated by an open circle on the graph of f above a, and closed circle a bit above the graph. Hence, the function $f(x)$ is not continuous at a because $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) \neq f(a)$.

Now we put our list of conditions together and form a definition of continuity at a point.

Definition: Continuous at a Point

A function $f(x)$ is **continuous at a point** a if and only if the following three conditions are satisfied:

i. $f(a)$ is defined
ii. $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)$ exists
iii. $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = f(a)$

A function is **discontinuous at a point** a if it fails to be continuous at a.

The following procedure can be used to analyze the continuity of a function at a point using this definition.

Problem-Solving Strategy: Determining Continuity at a Point

1. Check to see if $f(a)$ is defined. If $f(a)$ is undefined, we need go no further. The function is not continuous at a. If $f(a)$ is defined, continue to step 2.
2. Compute $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)$. In some cases, we may need to do this by first computing $\lim_{x \to a^-} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \to a^+} f(x)$. If $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)$ does not exist (that is, it is not a real number), then the function is not continuous at a and the problem is solved. If $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)$ exists, then continue to step 3.
3. Compare $f(a)$ and $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)$. If $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) \neq f(a)$, then the function is not continuous at a. If $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = f(a)$, then the function is continuous at a.

The next three examples demonstrate how to apply this definition to determine whether a function is continuous at a given point. These examples illustrate situations in which each of the conditions for continuity in the definition succeed or fail.

Example $2.4.1A$: Determining Continuity at a Point, Condition 1

Using the definition, determine whether the function $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}$ is continuous at $x = 2$. Justify the conclusion.

Solution

Let's begin by trying to calculate $f(2)$. We can see that $f(2) = 0/0$, which is undefined. Therefore, $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}$ is discontinuous at 2 because $f(2)$ is undefined. The graph of $f(x)$ is shown in Figure $2.4.4$.

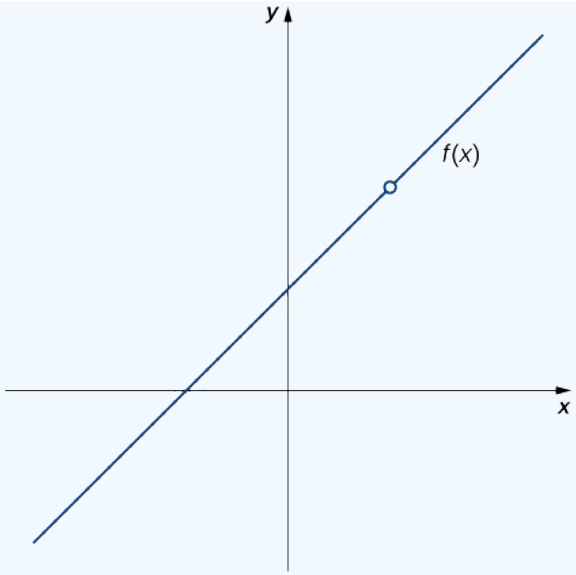


Figure 2.4.4: Since $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2} = x + 2$ if $x \neq 2$, the graph of f is a line with a hole at $(2, 4)$. Since $f(2)$ is undefined, the function $f(x)$ is discontinuous at 2.

Example $2.4.1B$: Determining Continuity at a Point, Condition 2

Using the definition, determine whether the function $f(x) = \begin{cases} -x^2 + 4, & \text{if } x \leq 3 \\ 4x - 8, & \text{if } x > 3 \end{cases}$ is continuous at $x = 3$. Justify the conclusion.

Solution

Let's begin by trying to calculate $f(3)$.

$$f(3) = -(3^2) + 4 = -5.$$

Thus, $f(3)$ is defined. Next, we calculate $\lim\limits_{x \to 3} f(x)$. To do this, we must compute $\lim\limits_{x \to 3^-} f(x)$ and $\lim\limits_{x \to 3^+} f(x)$:

$$\lim_{x \to 3^-} f(x) = -(3^2) + 4 = -5$$

and

$$\lim_{x \to 3^+} f(x) = 4(3) - 8 = 4.$$

Therefore, $\lim\limits_{x \to 3} f(x)$ does not exist. Thus, $f(x)$ is not continuous at 3. The graph of $f(x)$ is shown in Figure $2.4.5$.

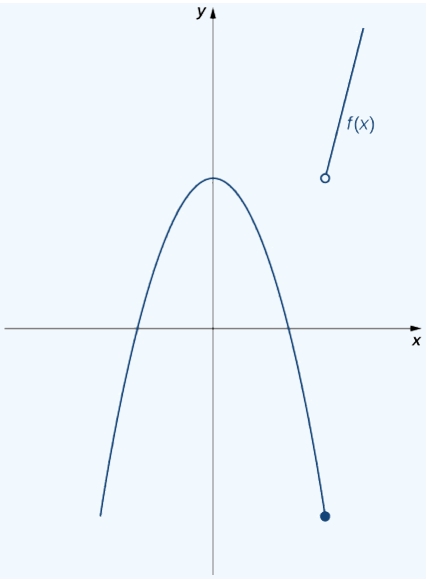


Figure 2.4.5: The graph of the given piecewise function has two segments. The first segment is a downward opening parabola given by $y = -x^2 + 4$ graphed over $x \leq 3$. The parabola is symmetric about the y-axis with its vertex is on the y axis at $(0, 4)$. There is a closed circle on the parabola for $x = 3$ at the point $(3, -5)$. The second segment is an increasing linear function given by $y = 4x - 8$, which exists for values of $x > 3$. There is an open circle at the end of the line above $x = 3$. The function $f(x)$ is not continuous at 3 because $\lim_{x \to 3} f(x)$ does not exist.

Example 2.4.1C: Determining Continuity at a Point, Condition 3

Using the definition, determine whether the function $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{\sin x}{x}, & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 1, & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$ is continuous at $x = 0$.

Solution

First, observe that

$$f(0) = 1$$

Next,

$$\lim_{x \to 0} f(x) = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 1.$$

Last, compare $f(0)$ and $\lim_{x \to 1} f(x)$. We see that

$$f(0) = 1 = \lim_{x \to 0} f(x).$$

Since all three of the conditions in the definition of continuity are satisfied, $f(x)$ is continuous at $x = 0$.

Exercise 2.4.1

Using the definition, determine whether the function $f(x) = \begin{cases} 2x + 1, & \text{if } x < 1 \\ 2, & \text{if } x = 1 \\ -x + 4, & \text{if } x > 1 \end{cases}$ is continuous at $x = 1$. If the function is not continuous at 1, indicate the condition for continuity at a point that fails to hold.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Consider the video example below in which we find the value of an unknown number a to make a piecewise function continuous by ensuring that the limit from the left and the limit from the right are the same at the x value in question.

Example 2.4.2

Find the constant a such that the function is continuous:

$$f(x) = \begin{cases} 3x - a, & \text{if } x < 2 \\ 3x^2, & \text{if } x \geq 2 \end{cases} \tag{2.4.1}$$

Solution

- **Video Length**: 2 minutes 5 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates an example about piecewise functions and continuity.

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By applying the definition of continuity and previously established theorems concerning the evaluation of limits, we can state the following theorem.

Theorem: Continuity of Polynomials and Rational Functions

Polynomials and rational functions are continuous at every point in their domains.

Proof

Previously, we showed that if $p(x)$ and $q(x)$ are polynomials, $\lim_{x \to a} p(x) = p(a)$ for every polynomial $p(x)$ and $\lim_{x \to a} \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} = \frac{p(a)}{q(a)}$ as long as $q(a) \neq 0$. Therefore, polynomials and rational functions are continuous on their domains.

□

We now apply Note to determine the points at which a given rational function is continuous.

Example 2.4.3:Continuity of a Rational Function

For what values of x is $f(x) = \frac{x+1}{x-5}$ continuous?

Solution

The rational function $f(x) = \frac{x+1}{x-5}$ is continuous for every value of x except $x = 5$.

Exercise 2.4.2

For what values of x is $f(x) = 3x^4 - 4x^2$ continuous?

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Types of Discontinuities

As we have seen in Example and Example, discontinuities take on several different appearances. We classify the types of discontinuities we have seen thus far as removable discontinuities, infinite discontinuities, or jump discontinuities. Intuitively, a **removable discontinuity** is a discontinuity for which there is a hole in the graph, a **jump discontinuity** is a noninfinite discontinuity for which the sections of the function do not meet up, and an **infinite discontinuity** is a discontinuity located at a vertical asymptote. Figure 6 illustrates the differences in these types of discontinuities. Although these terms provide a handy way of describing three common types of discontinuities, keep in mind that not all discontinuities fit neatly into these categories.

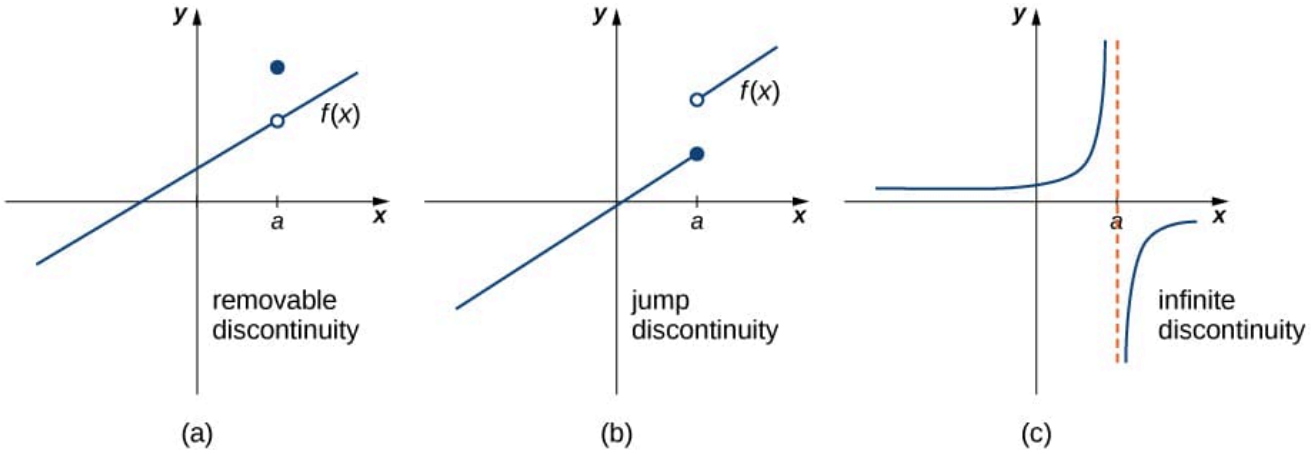


Figure $2.4.6$: Discontinuities are classified as (a) removable, (b) jump, or (c) infinite. The first, (a), shows a removable discontinuity at $x = a$. Here, the graph of a function $f(x)$ has a number a indicated on the x-axis. $f(a)$ is defined but away from the rest of the graph of f, indicated by an open circle on the graph of f above a, and closed circle a bit above the graph. The second, (b), shows a jump discontinuity at $x = a$. Here, the graph is a piecewise function $f(x)$ with two parts, with number a indicated on the x-axis. The first part is line over $x \leq a$ that that stops at the point $(a, f(a))$, which is marked with a solid circle. The other segment is also a line and drawn over $x > a$, containing an open circle on it over a. The graphs of the two segments do not connect at $x = a$. The third, (c), shows an infinite discontinuity at $x = a$. Here, the function has two parts separated by an asymptote at $x = a$. The first segment is the graph of a function stretching along y-axis to ∞ as x approaches 0 from the left. The second segment is the graph of a function stretching along y-axis to $-\infty$ as x approaches 0 from the right.

These three discontinuities are formally defined as follows:

Definition

If $f(x)$ is discontinuous at a, then

1. f has a **removable discontinuity** at a if $\lim\limits_{x \to a} f(x)$ exists. (Note: When we state that $\lim\limits_{x \to a} f(x)$ exists, we mean that $\lim\limits_{x \to a} f(x) = L$, where L is a real number.)
2. f has a **jump discontinuity** at a if $\lim\limits_{x \to a^-} f(x)$ and $\lim\limits_{x \to a^+} f(x)$ both exist, but $\lim\limits_{x \to a^-} f(x) \neq lim_{x \to a^+} f(x)$. (Note: When we state that $\lim\limits_{x \to a^-} f(x)$ and $\lim\limits_{x \to a^+} f(x)$ both exist, we mean that both are real-valued and that neither take on the values $\pm\infty$.)
3. f has an **infinite discontinuity** at a if $\lim\limits_{x \to a^-} f(x) = \pm\infty$ or $\lim\limits_{x \to a^+} f(x) = \pm\infty$.

Example 2.4.4: Classifying a Discontinuity

In Example 2.4.1A, we showed that $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2 - 4}{x - 2}$ is discontinuous at $x = 2$. Classify this discontinuity as removable, jump, or infinite.

Solution

To classify the discontinuity at 2 we must evaluate $\lim\limits_{x \to 2} f(x)$:

Erroneous nesting of equation structures

Since f is discontinuous at 2 and $\lim\limits_{x \to 2} f(x)$ exists, f has a removable discontinuity at $x = 2$.

Example 2.4.5: Classifying a Discontinuity

In Example, we showed that $f(x) = \begin{cases} -x^2 + 4, & \text{if } x \leq 3 \\ 4x - 8, & \text{if } x > 3 \end{cases}$ is discontinuous at $x = 3$. Classify this discontinuity as removable, jump, or infinite.

Solution

Earlier, we showed that f is discontinuous at 3 because $\lim\limits_{x \to 3} f(x)$ does not exist. However, since $\lim\limits_{x \to 3^-} f(x) = -5$ and $\lim\limits_{x \to 3^-} f(x) = 4$ both exist, we conclude that the function has a jump discontinuity at 3.

Example 2.4.6: Classifying a Discontinuity

Determine whether $f(x) = \dfrac{x + 2}{x + 1}$ is continuous at -1. If the function is discontinuous at -1, classify the discontinuity as removable, jump, or infinite.

Solution

The function value $f(-1)$ is undefined. Therefore, the function is not continuous at -1. To determine the type of discontinuity, we must determine the limit at -1. We see that $\lim\limits_{x \to -1^-} \dfrac{x + 2}{x + 1} = -\infty$ and $\lim\limits_{x \to -1^+} \dfrac{x + 2}{x + 1} = +\infty$. Therefore, the function has an infinite discontinuity at -1.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of the this concept.

- **Video Length**: 1 minute 42 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to: (1) Find the x-values at which the function $f(x) = \frac{x-1}{x^2-1}$ is not continuous, and (2) Determine which of the discontinuities are removable.

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Exercise 2.4.3

For $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2, & \text{if } x \neq 1 \\ 3, & \text{if } x = 1 \end{cases}$, decide whether f is continuous at 1. If f is not continuous at 1, classify the discontinuity as removable, jump, or infinite.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Continuity over an Interval

Now that we have explored the concept of continuity at a point, we extend that idea to *continuity over an interval*. As we develop this idea for different types of intervals, it may be useful to keep in mind the intuitive idea that a function is continuous over an interval if we can use a pencil to trace the function between any two points in the interval without lifting the pencil from the paper. In preparation for defining continuity on an interval, we begin by looking at the definition of what it means for a function to be continuous from the right at a point and continuous from the left at a point.

Continuity from the Right and from the Left

A function $f(x)$ is said to be **continuous from the right** at a if $\lim\limits_{x \to a^+} f(x) = f(a)$.

A function $f(x)$ is said to be **continuous from the left** at a if $\lim\limits_{x \to a^-} f(x) = f(a)$

A function is **continuous over an open interval** if it is continuous at every point in the interval. A function $f(x)$ is **continuous over a closed interval** of the form $[a, b]$ if it is continuous at every point in (a, b) and is continuous from the right at a and is continuous from the left at b. Analogously, a function $f(x)$ is continuous over an interval of the form $(a, b]$ if it is continuous over (a, b) and is continuous from the left at b. Continuity over other types of intervals are defined in a similar fashion.

Requiring that $\lim\limits_{x \to a^+} f(x) = f(a)$ and $\lim\limits_{x \to b^-} f(x) = f(b)$ ensures that we can trace the graph of the function from the point $(a, f(a))$ to the point $(b, f(b))$ without lifting the pencil. If, for example, $\lim\limits_{x \to a^+} f(x) \neq f(a)$, we would need to lift our pencil to jump from $f(a)$ to the graph of the rest of the function over $(a, b]$.

Example 2.4.7: Continuity on an Interval

State the interval(s) over which the function $f(x) = \dfrac{x - 1}{x^2 + 2x}$ is continuous.

Solution

Since $f(x) = \dfrac{x - 1}{x^2 + 2x}$ is a rational function, it is continuous at every point in its domain. The domain of $f(x)$ is the set $(-\infty, -2) \cup (-2, 0) \cup (0, +\infty)$. Thus, $f(x)$ is continuous over each of the intervals $(-\infty, -2)$, $(-2, 0)$, and $(0, +\infty)$.

Example 2.4.8: Continuity over an Interval

State the interval(s) over which the function $f(x) = \sqrt{4 - x^2}$ is continuous.

Solution

From the limit laws, we know that $\lim_{x\to a}\sqrt{4-x^2}=\sqrt{4-a^2}$ for all values of a in $(-2,2)$. We also know that $\lim_{x\to -2^+}\sqrt{4-x^2}=0$ exists and $\lim_{x\to 2^-}\sqrt{4-x^2}=0$ exists. Therefore, $f(x)$ is continuous over the interval $[-2,2]$.

Exercise 2.4.4

State the interval(s) over which the function $f(x)=\sqrt{x+3}$ is continuous.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The Note allows us to expand our ability to compute limits. In particular, this theorem ultimately allows us to demonstrate that trigonometric functions are continuous over their domains.

Theorem: Composite Function Theorem

If $f(x)$ is continuous at L and $\lim_{x\to a}g(x)=L$, then

$$\lim_{x\to a}f\big(g(x)\big)=f\Big(\lim_{x\to a}g(x)\Big)=f(L).$$

Before we move on to Example, recall that earlier, in the section on limit laws, we showed $\lim_{x\to 0}\cos x=1=\cos(0)$. Consequently, we know that $f(x)=\cos x$ is continuous at 0. In Example we see how to combine this result with the composite function theorem.

Example 2.4.9: Limit of a Composite Cosine Function

Evaluate $\lim_{x\to \pi/2}\cos\left(x-\dfrac{\pi}{2}\right)$.

Solution

The given function is a composite of $\cos x$ and $x-\frac{\pi}{2}$. Since $\lim_{x\to\pi/2}\left(x-\dfrac{\pi}{2}\right)=0$ and $\cos x$ is continuous at 0, we may apply the composite function theorem. Thus,

$$\lim_{x\to\pi/2}\cos\left(x-\frac{\pi}{2}\right)=\cos\left(\lim_{x\to\pi/2}\left(x-\frac{\pi}{2}\right)\right)=\cos(0)=1.$$

Exercise 2.4.4:

Evaluate $\lim_{x\to\pi}\sin(x-\pi)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The proof of the next theorem uses the composite function theorem as well as the continuity of $f(x)=\sin x$ and $g(x)=\cos x$ at the point 0 to show that trigonometric functions are continuous over their entire domains.

Theorem: Continuity of Trigonometric Functions

Trigonometric functions are continuous over their entire domains.

Proof

We begin by demonstrating that $\cos x$ is continuous at every real number. To do this, we must show that $\lim_{x \to a} \cos x = \cos a$ for all values of a.

Erroneous nesting of equation structures

The proof that $\sin x$ is continuous at every real number is analogous. Because the remaining trigonometric functions may be expressed in terms of $\sin x$ and $\cos x$, their continuity follows from the quotient limit law.

□

As you can see, the composite function theorem is invaluable in demonstrating the continuity of trigonometric functions. As we continue our study of calculus, we revisit this theorem many times.

The Intermediate Value Theorem

Functions that are continuous over intervals of the form $[a, b]$, where a and b are real numbers, exhibit many useful properties. Throughout our study of calculus, we will encounter many powerful theorems concerning such functions. The first of these theorems is the **Intermediate Value Theorem.**

Theorem: The Intermediate Value Theorem

Let f be continuous over a closed, bounded interval $[a, b]$. If z is any real number between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$, then there is a number c in $[a, b]$ satisfying $f(c) = z$. See Figure 2.4.7.

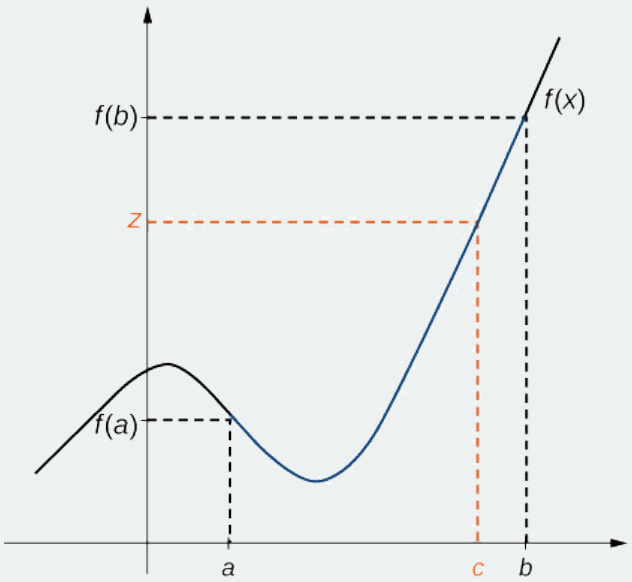


Figure 2.4.7: The graph of a continuous curved function is shown over the interval $[a, b]$. The values $f(a)$ and $f(b)$ are marked on the y-axis. A value z is marked between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$ on the y-axis. Since f is continuous, there is a number $c \in [a, b]$ that satisfies $f(c) = z$.

Example 2.4.10: Application of the Intermediate Value Theorem

Show that $f(x) = x - \cos x$ has at least one zero.

Solution

Since $f(x) = x - \cos x$ is continuous over $(-\infty, +\infty)$, it is continuous over any closed interval of the form $[a, b]$. If you can find an interval $[a, b]$ such that $f(a)$ and $f(b)$ have opposite signs, you can use the Intermediate Value Theorem to conclude there must be a real number c in (a, b) that satisfies $f(c) = 0$. Note that

$$f(0) = 0 - \cos(0) = -1 < 0$$

and

$$f(\tfrac{\pi}{2}) = \tfrac{\pi}{2} - \cos\tfrac{\pi}{2} = \tfrac{\pi}{2} > 0.$$

Using the Intermediate Value Theorem, we can see that there must be a real number c in $[0, \pi/2]$ that satisfies $f(c) = 0$. Therefore, $f(x) = x - \cos x$ has at least one zero.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of the this concept.

- **Video Length**: 2 minutes 33 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to prove that the function $f(x) = x^4 - x^3 - 3x + 1$ has a zero in the interval $[1, 2]$.

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Example 2.4.11: When Can You Apply the Intermediate Value Theorem?

If $f(x)$ is continuous over $[0, 2]$, $f(0) > 0$ and $f(2) > 0$, can we use the Intermediate Value Theorem to conclude that $f(x)$ has no zeros in the interval $[0, 2]$? Explain.

Solution

No. The Intermediate Value Theorem only allows us to conclude that we can find a value between $f(0)$ and $f(2)$; it doesn't allow us to conclude that we can't find other values. To see this more clearly, consider the function $f(x) = (x - 1)^2$. It satisfies $f(0) = 1 > 0, f(2) = 1 > 0$, and $f(1) = 0$.

Example 2.4.12: When Can You Apply the Intermediate Value Theorem?

For $f(x) = 1/x, f(-1) = -1 < 0$ and $f(1) = 1 > 0$. Can we conclude that $f(x)$ has a zero in the interval $[-1, 1]$?

Solution

No. The function is not continuous over $[-1, 1]$. The Intermediate Value Theorem does not apply here.

Exercise 2.4.5

Show that $f(x) = x^3 - x^2 - 3x + 1$ has a zero over the interval $[0, 1]$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- For a function to be continuous at a point, it must be defined at that point, its limit must exist at the point, and the value of the function at that point must equal the value of the limit at that point.
- Discontinuities may be classified as removable, jump, or infinite.
- A function is continuous over an open interval if it is continuous at every point in the interval. It is continuous over a closed interval if it is continuous at every point in its interior and is continuous at its endpoints.
- The composite function theorem states: If $f(x)$ is continuous at L and $\lim_{x\to a} g(x) = L$, then $\lim_{x\to a} f\big(g(x)\big) = f\big(\lim_{x\to a} g(x)\big) = f(L)$.
- The Intermediate Value Theorem guarantees that if a function is continuous over a closed interval, then the function takes on every value between the values at its endpoints.

Glossary

Continuity at a point
A function $f(x)$ is continuous at a point a if and only if the following three conditions are satisfied: (1) $f(a)$ is defined, (2) $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)$ exists, and (3) $\lim x \to af(x) = f(a)$

Continuity from the left
A function is continuous from the left at b if $\lim_{x\to b^-} f(x) = f(b)$

Continuity from the right
A function is continuous from the right at a if $\lim_{x\to a^+} f(x) = f(a)$

Continuity over an interval
A function that can be traced with a pencil without lifting the pencil; a function is continuous over an open interval if it is continuous at every point in the interval; a function $f(x)$ is continuous over a closed interval of the form $[a, b]$ if it is continuous at every point in (a, b), and it is continuous from the right at a and from the left at b

Discontinuity at a point
A function is discontinuous at a point or has a discontinuity at a point if it is not continuous at the point

Infinite discontinuity
An infinite discontinuity occurs at a point a if $\lim_{x\to a^-} f(x) = \pm\infty$ or $\lim_{x\to a^+} f(x) = \pm\infty$

Intermediate Value Theorem
Let f be continuous over a closed bounded interval $[a, b]$ if z is any real number between $f(a)$ and $f(b)$, then there is a number c in $[a, b]$ satisfying $f(c) = z$

Jump discontinuity
A jump discontinuity occurs at a point a if $\lim_{x\to a^-} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x\to a^+} f(x)$ both exist, but $\lim_{x\to a^-} f(x) \neq \lim_{x\to a^+} f(x)$

Removable discontinuity
A removable discontinuity occurs at a point a if $f(x)$ is discontinuous at a, but $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)$ exists

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Answers

Exercise 2.4.1

Check each condition of the definition.

Exercise 2.4.1

f is not continuous at 1 because $f(1) = 2 \neq 3 = \lim_{x \to 1} f(x)$.

Exercise 2.4.2

Use the Continuity of Polynomials and Rational Functions stated above.

Exercise 2.4.2

$f(x)$ is continuous at every real number.

Exercise 2.4.3

Consider the definitions of the various kinds of discontinuity stated above. If the function is discontinuous at 1, look at $\lim_{x \to 1} f(x)$

Exercise 2.4.3

Discontinuous at 1; removable

Exercise 2.4.4

Use Example 2.4.7 as a guide.

Exercise 2.4.4

$[-3, +\infty)$

Exercise 2.4.4**:**

$f(x) = \sin x$ is continuous at 0. Use Example 2.4.8 as a guide.

Exercise 2.4.4**:**

0

Exercise 2.4.5

Find $f(0)$ and $f(1)$. Apply the Intermediate Value Theorem.

Exercise 2.4.5

$f(0) = 1 > 0, \quad f(1) = -2 < 0; \quad f(x)$ is continuous over $[0, 1]$. It must have a zero on this interval.

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2.4E: Exercises for Section 2.4

Exercises 1 - 8

Determine the point(s), if any, at which each function is discontinuous. Classify any discontinuity as *jump*, *removable*, *infinite*, or *other*.

1. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$

   Answer

   The function is defined for all x in the interval $(0, \infty)$.

2. $f(x) = \dfrac{2}{x^2 + 1}$
3. $f(x) = \dfrac{x}{x^2 - x}$

   Answer

   Removable discontinuity at $x = 0$; infinite discontinuity at $x = 1$.

4. $g(t) = t^{-1} + 1$
5. $f(x) = \dfrac{5}{e^x - 2}$

   Answer

   Infinite discontinuity at $x = \ln 2$

6. $f(x) = \dfrac{|x - 2|}{x - 2}$
7. $H(x) = \tan 2x$

   Answer

   Infinite discontinuities at $x = \dfrac{(2k+1)\pi}{4}$, for $k = 0,\ \pm 1,\ \pm 2,\ \pm 3,\ \ldots$

8. $f(t) = \dfrac{t + 3}{t^2 + 5t + 6}$

Exercises 9 - 14

Decide if the function continuous at the given point. If it is discontinuous, what type of discontinuity is it?

9. $\dfrac{2x^2 - 5x + 3}{x - 1}$ at $x = 1$

   Answer

   No. It is a removable discontinuity.

10. $h(\theta) = \dfrac{\sin\theta - \cos\theta}{\tan\theta}$ at $\theta = \pi$
11. $g(u) = \begin{cases} \dfrac{6u^2 + u - 2}{2u - 1}, & \text{if } u \neq \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{7}{2}, & \text{if } u = \frac{1}{2} \end{cases}$, at $u = \frac{1}{2}$

    Answer

    Yes. It is continuous.

12. $f(y)=\dfrac{\sin(\pi y)}{\tan(\pi y)}$, at $y=1$
13. $f(x)=\begin{cases}x^2-e^x, & \text{if } x<0\\ x-1, & \text{if } x\geq 0\end{cases}$, at $x=0$

Answer

Yes. It is continuous.

14. $f(x)=\begin{cases}x\sin(x), & \text{if } x\leq \pi\\ x\tan(x), & \text{if } x>\pi\end{cases}$, at $x=\pi$

Exercises 15 - 19

Find the value(s) of k that makes each function continuous over the given interval.

15. \(f(x)=\begin{cases}3x+2, & \text{if }x

Answer

$k=-5$

16. $f(\theta)=\begin{cases}\sin\theta, & \text{if } 0\leq\theta<\frac{\pi}{2}\\ \cos(\theta+k), & \text{if } \frac{\pi}{2}\leq\theta\leq\pi\end{cases}$
17. $f(x)=\begin{cases}\dfrac{x^2+3x+2}{x+2}, & \text{if } x\neq -2\\ k, & \text{if } x=-2\end{cases}$

Answer

$k=-1$

18. $f(x)=\begin{cases}e^{kx}, & \text{if } 0\leq x<4\\ x+3, & \text{if } 4\leq x\leq 8\end{cases}$
19. \(f(x)=\begin{cases}\sqrt{kx}, & \text{if }0≤x≤3\x+1, & \text{if }3

Answer

$k=\frac{16}{3}$

Exercises 20 - 21

Use the Intermediate Value Theorem (IVT).

20. Let $h(x)=\begin{cases}3x^2-4, & \text{if } x\leq 2\\ 5+4x, & \text{if } x>2\end{cases}$ Over the interval $[0,4]$, there is no value of x such that $h(x)=10$, although $h(0)<10$ and $h(4)>10$. Explain why this does not contradict the IVT.
21. A particle moving along a line for time t has a position function $s(t)$, which is continuous. Assume $s(2)=5$ and $s(5)=2$. Another particle moves such that its position is given by $h(t)=s(t)-t$. Explain why there must be a value c for \(2

Answer

Since both s and $y=t$ are continuous everywhere, then $h(t)=s(t)-t$ is continuous everywhere and, in particular, it is continuous over the closed interval $[2,5]$. Also, $h(2)=3>0$ and $h(5)=-3<0$. Therefore, by the IVT, there is a value $x=c$ such that $h(c)=0$.

Exercises 22 - 28

22. [T] Use the statement “The cosine of t is equal to t cubed."

    a. Write a mathematical equation of the statement.
    b. Prove that the equation in part a. has at least one real solution.
    c. Use a calculator to find an interval of length 0.01 that contains a solution.

23. Apply the IVT to determine whether $2^x = x^3$ has a solution in one of the intervals $[1.25, 1.375]$ or $[1.375, 1.5]$. Briefly explain your response for each interval.

Answer

The function $f(x) = 2^x - x^3$ is continuous over the interval $[1.25, 1.375]$ and has opposite signs at the endpoints.

24. Consider the graph of the function $y = f(x)$ shown in the following graph (Figure $2.4E.1$).

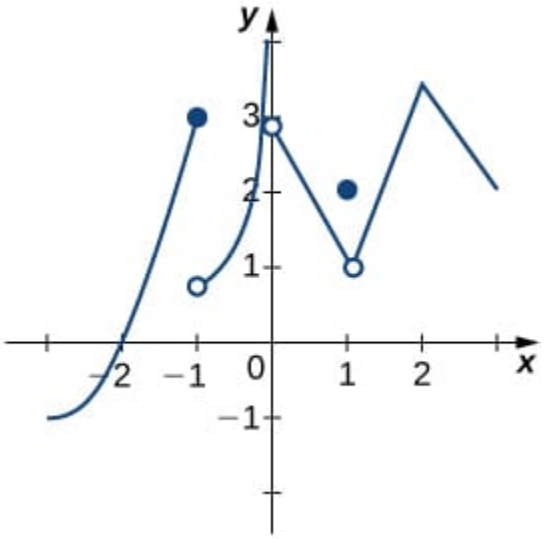


Figure $2.4E.1$: This is the graph of a piecewise function $y = f(x)$ with 4 segments, graphed over the interval $[-3, 3]$. The first segment begins at $x = -3$ in the third quadrant and ascends into the second quadrant stopping at the point $(-1, 3)$, which is marked as a solid circle. The second segment begins at the point $(-1, 0)$, which is shown as an open circle, rising towards $+\infty$ as x approaches 0 from the left. The third segment begins at the point $(0, 3)$, which is an open circle, and descends linearly to the point $(1, 1)$, which is shown as an open circle. The point $(1, 2)$ is shown as a solid circle, indicating that $f(1) = 2$. The final segment of the graph begins at the point $(1, 1)$, which is shown as an open circle, rises linearly to the point $(2, 3.5)$, approximately, and descends linearly from there

a. Find all values for which the function is discontinuous.
b. For each value in part a., state why the formal definition of continuity does not apply.
c. Classify each discontinuity as either jump, removable, or infinite.

25. Let $f(x) = \begin{cases} 3x, & \text{if } x > 1 \\ x^3, & \text{if } x < 1 \end{cases}$.

a. Sketch the graph of f.
b. Is it possible to find a value k such that $f(1) = k$, which makes $f(x)$ continuous for all real numbers? Briefly explain.

Answer

a. See Figure $2.4E.2$ below.
b. It is not possible to redefine $f(1)$ since the discontinuity is a jump discontinuity

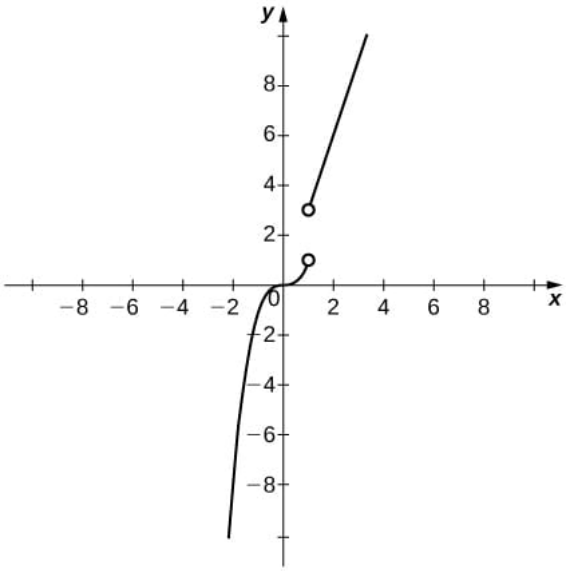


Figure $2.4E.2$: A graph of the given piecewise function containing two segments. The first segment appears to be the graph of x^3 and is graphed over $x < 1$ and ends with an open circle at (1,1). The second segment appears to be the graph of $3x$ and is graphed over $x > 1$. It begins with an open circle at $(1, 3)$.

26. Let $f(x) = \dfrac{x^4 - 1}{x^2 - 1}$ for $x \neq -1, 1$.

    a. Sketch the graph of f.
    b. Is it possible to find values k_1 and k_2 such that $f(-1) = k$ and $f(1) = k_2$, and that makes $f(x)$ continuous for all real numbers? Briefly explain.

27. Sketch the graph of the function $y = f(x)$ with properties i. through vii.

    i. The domain of f is $(-\infty, +\infty)$.
    ii. f has an infinite discontinuity at $x = -6$.
    iii. $f(-6) = 3$
    iv. $\lim\limits_{x \to -3^-} f(x) = \lim\limits_{x \to -3^+} f(x) = 2$
    v. $f(-3) = 3$
    vi. f is left continuous but not right continuous at $x = 3$.
    vii. $\lim\limits_{x \to -\infty} f(x) = -\infty$ and $\lim\limits_{x \to +\infty} f(x) = +\infty$

Answer

Answers may vary; see the following example in Figure $2.4E.3$.

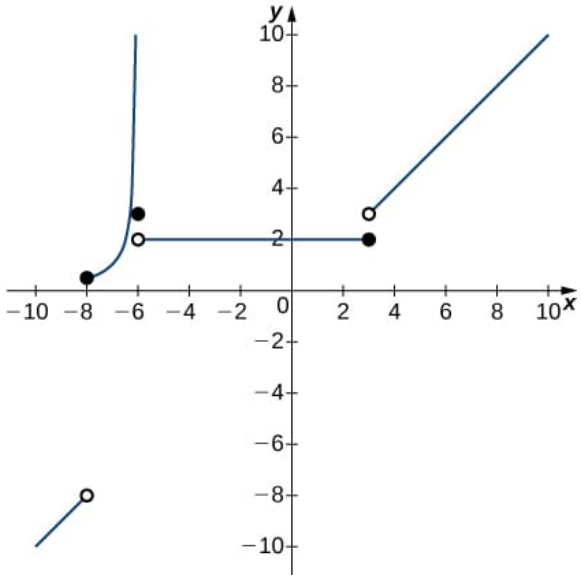


Figure $2.4E.3$: A graph of a piecewise function with several segments. The first segment is an increasing line graphed over $x < -8$. It ends at an open circle at $(-8, -8)$. The second is an increasing curve that is graphed over $-8 \leq x < -6$. It begins with a closed circle at $(-8, 0)$, and goes to ∞ as x goes to -6 from the left. The third is a closed circle at the point $(-6, 3)$. The fourth is a line that is graphed over $-6 < x \leq 3$. It begins with an open circle at $(-6, 2)$ and ends with a closed circle at $(3, 2)$. The fifth is an increasing line starting with an open circle at $(3, 3)$, and graphed over $x > 3$.

28. Sketch the graph of the function $y = f(x)$ with properties i. through iv.

i. The domain of f is $[0, 5]$.
ii. $\lim_{x \to 1^+} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \to 1^-} f(x)$ exist and are equal.
iii. $f(x)$ is left continuous but not continuous at $x = 2$, and right continuous but not continuous at $x = 3$.
iv. $f(x)$ has a removable discontinuity at $x = 1$, a jump discontinuity at $x = 2$, and the following limits hold: $\lim_{x \to 3^-} f(x) = -\infty$ and $\lim_{x \to 3^+} f(x) = 2$.

Exercises 29 - 30

Suppose $y = f(x)$ is defined for all x. For each description, sketch a graph with the indicated property.

29. Discontinuous at $x = 1$ with $\lim_{x \to -1} f(x) = -1$ and $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x) = 4$

Answer

Answers may vary; see the following example in Figure $2.4E.4$

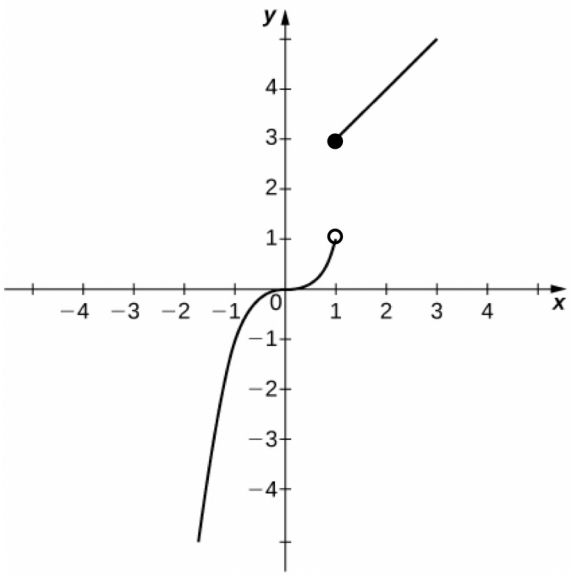


Figure $2.4E.4$: The graph of a piecewise function with two parts. The first part is an increasing curve that's graphed over $x < 1$. It ends at $(1, 1)$. The second part is an increasing line that's graphed over $x > 1$. It begins at $(1, 3)$.

30. Discontinuous at $x = 2$ but continuous elsewhere with $\lim_{x \to 0} f(x) = \frac{1}{2}$

Exercises 31 - 37

Determine whether each of the given statements is true. Justify your response with an explanation or counterexample.

31. $f(t) = \dfrac{2}{e^t - e^{-t}}$ is continuous everywhere.

Answer

False. It is continuous over $(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$.

32. If the left- and right-hand limits of $f(x)$ as $x \to a$ exist and are equal, then f cannot be discontinuous at $x = a$.
33. If a function is not continuous at a point, then it is not defined at that point.

Answer

False. Consider $f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 4, & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$.

34. According to the IVT, $\cos x - \sin x - x = 2$ has a solution over the interval $[-1, 1]$.
35. If $f(x)$ is continuous such that $f(a)$ and $f(b)$ have opposite signs, then $f(x) = 0$ has exactly one solution in $[a, b]$.

Answer

False. Consider $f(x) = \cos(x)$ on $[-\pi, 2\pi]$.

36. The function $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2 - 4x + 3}{x^2 - 1}$ is continuous over the interval $[0, 3]$.
37. If $f(x)$ is continuous everywhere and $f(a), f(b) > 0$, then there is no root of $f(x)$ in the interval $[a, b]$.

Answer

False. The IVT does not work in reverse! Consider $(x - 1)^2$ over the interval $[-2, 2]$.

[T] Exercises 38 - 39

The following problems consider the scalar form of Coulomb's law, which describes the electrostatic force between two

point charges, such as electrons. It is given by the equation $F(r) = k_e \frac{|q_1 q_2|}{r^2}$, where k_e is Coulomb's constant, q_i are the magnitudes of the charges of the two particles, and r is the distance between the two particles.

38. To simplify the calculation of a model with many interacting particles, after some threshold value $r = R$, we approximate F as zero.

    a. Explain the physical reasoning behind this assumption.
    b. What is the force equation?
    c. Evaluate the force F using both Coulomb's law and our approximation, assuming two protons with a charge magnitude of 1.6022×10^{-19} coulombs (C), and the Coulomb constant $k_e = 8.988 \times 10^9 Nm^2/C^2$ are 1 m apart. Also, assume $R < 1$ m. How much inaccuracy does our approximation generate? Is our approximation reasonable?
    d. Is there any finite value of R for which this system remains continuous at R?

39. Instead of making the force 0 at R, we let the force be $10 - 20$ for $r \geq R$. Assume two protons, which have a magnitude of charge $1.6022 \times 10^{-19}\ C$, and the Coulomb constant $k_e = 8.988 \times 10^9\ Nm^2/C^2$. Is there a value R that can make this system continuous? If so, find it.

    Answer

    $R = 0.0001519$ m

Exercises 40 - 42

Recall the discussion on spacecraft from the chapter opener. The following problems consider a rocket launch from Earth's surface. The force of gravity on the rocket is given by $F(d) = -mk/d^2$, where m is the mass of the rocket, d is the distance of the rocket from the center of Earth, and k is a constant.

40. [T] Determine the value and units of k given that the mass of the rocket on Earth is 3 million kg. (Hint: The distance from the center of Earth to its surface is 6378 km.)
41. [T] After a certain distance D has passed, the gravitational effect of Earth becomes quite negligible, so we can approximate the force function by \(F(d)=\begin{cases}–\dfrac{mk}{d^2}, & \text{if }d

    Answer

    $D = 63.78$ km

42. As the rocket travels away from Earth's surface, there is a distance D where the rocket sheds some of its mass, since it no longer needs the excess fuel storage. We can write this function as \(F(d)=\begin{cases} –\dfrac{m_1k}{d^2}, & \text{if }d

Exercises 43 - 44

Prove each function is continuous everywhere.

43. $f(\theta) = \sin\theta$

    Answer

    For all values of a, $f(a)$ is defined, $\lim_{\theta \to a} f(\theta)$ exists, and $\lim_{\theta \to a} f(\theta) = f(a)$. Therefore, $f(\theta)$ is continuous everywhere.

44. $g(x) = |x|$
45. Where is $f(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \text{ is irrational} \\ 1, & \text{if } x \text{ is rational} \end{cases}$ continuous?

    Answer

    Nowhere

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2.5: The Precise Definition of a Limit

Learning Objectives

- Describe the epsilon-delta definition of a limit.
- Apply the epsilon-delta definition to find the limit of a function.
- Describe the epsilon-delta definitions of one-sided limits and infinite limits.
- Use the epsilon-delta definition to prove the limit laws.

By now you have progressed from the very informal definition of a limit in the introduction of this chapter to the intuitive understanding of a limit. At this point, you should have a very strong intuitive sense of what the limit of a function means and how you can find it. In this section, we convert this intuitive idea of a limit into a formal definition using precise mathematical language. The formal definition of a limit is quite possibly one of the most challenging definitions you will encounter early in your study of calculus; however, it is well worth any effort you make to reconcile it with your intuitive notion of a limit. Understanding this definition is the key that opens the door to a better understanding of calculus.

Quantifying Closeness

Before stating the formal definition of a limit, we must introduce a few preliminary ideas. Recall that the distance between two points a and b on a number line is given by $|a-b|$.

- The statement $|f(x)-L|$<ε may be interpreted as: The distance between $f(x)$ and L is less than ε.
- The statement $0<|x-a|<\delta$ may be interpreted as: $x\neq a$ and the distance between x and a is less than δ.

It is also important to look at the following equivalences for absolute value:

- The statement $|f(x)-L|<\varepsilon$ is equivalent to the statement \(L–ε
- The statement $0<|x-a|<\delta$ is equivalent to the statement \(a–δ

With these clarifications, we can state the formal **epsilon-delta definition of the limit**.

Definition: Finite Limits (Formal)

Let $f(x)$ be defined for all $x\neq a$ over an open interval containing a. Let L be a real number. Then

$$\lim_{x\to a} f(x)=L \tag{2.5.1}$$

if, for every $\varepsilon>0$, there exists a $\delta>0$, such that if $0<|x-a|<\delta$, then $|f(x)-L|<\varepsilon$.

This definition may seem rather complex from a mathematical point of view, but it becomes easier to understand if we break it down phrase by phrase. The statement itself involves something called a **universal quantifier** (for every $\varepsilon>0$), an **existential quantifier** (there exists a $\delta>0$), and, last, a **conditional statement** (if $0<|x-a|<\delta$, then $|f(x)-L|<\varepsilon$). Let's take a look at Table $2.5.1$, which breaks down the definition and translates each part.

Table $2.5.1$

Definition	Translation
1. For every $\varepsilon>0$,	1. For every positive distance ε from L,
2. there exists a $\delta>0$,	2. There is a positive distance δ from a,
3. such that	3. such that

Definition	Translation
4. if $0 < \|x - a\| < \delta$, then $\|f(x) - L\| < \varepsilon$.	4. if x is closer than δ to a and $x \neq a$, then $f(x)$ is closer than ε to L.

We can get a better handle on this definition by looking at the definition geometrically. Figure shows possible values of δ for various choices of $\varepsilon > 0$ for a given function $f(x)$, a number a, and a limit L at a. Notice that as we choose smaller values of ε (the distance between the function and the limit), we can always find a δ small enough so that if we have chosen an x value within δ of a, then the value of $f(x)$ is within ε of the limit L.

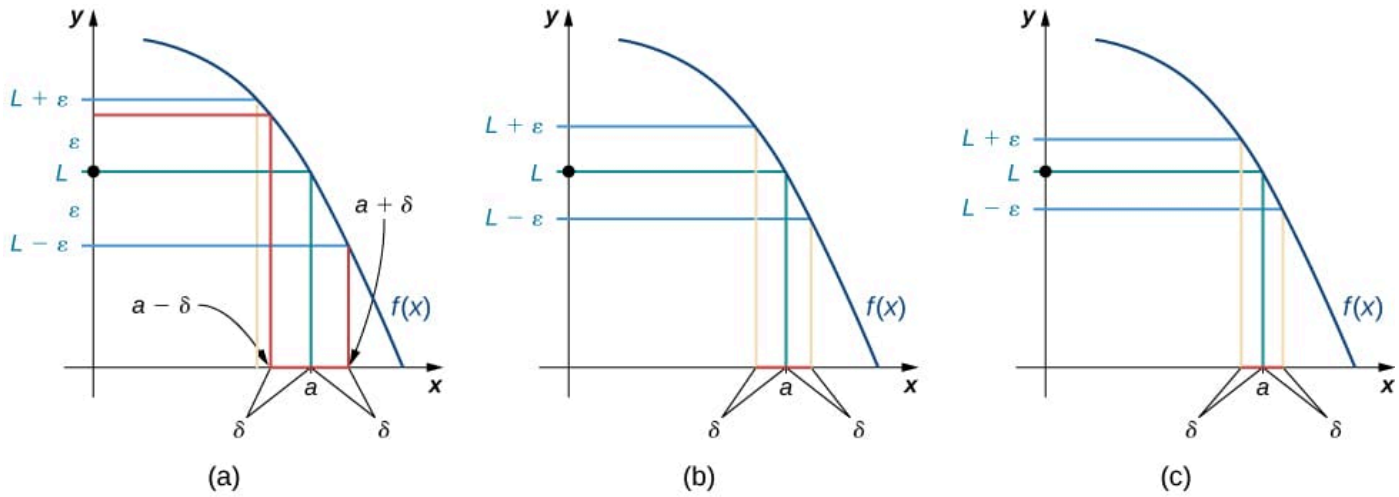


Figure 2.5.1: There are three graphs side by side showing possible values of δ, given successively smaller choices of ε. Each graph of a generic function $f(x)$ that's continuous at $x = a$. Each graph has the point (a, L) marked on the curve, where L is the limit of the function as x approaches a. On either side of L on the y-axis, a distance ε is marked off - namely, a line is drawn at $y = L + \varepsilon$ and $y = L–\varepsilon$. As smaller values of epsilon are chosen going from the first graph to the third graph, smaller values of δ to the left and right of point a can be found so that if we have chosen an x value within δ units of a, then the value of $f(x)$ is within ε of the limit L.

Interactive Element

Seeing the Epsilon-Delta Definition of a Limit

Given $f(x)$, c and ϵ, use the δ-slider to find a δ and a limit value L with $\lim_{x \to c} f(x) = L$ such that for the given ϵ, if $|x - c| < \delta$ then $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$.

$f(x) = 5 - 2x, c = 2$ $f(x) = \frac{x^2-1}{x+1}, c = 1$ $f(x) = x^2, c = 1$ $f(x) = \frac{x^3+1}{x+1}, c = -1$ $f(x) = (x^2)^x, c = 0$

75

\epsilon = 0.3\delta = 1

$\lim_{x \to c} f(x) =$ $\delta =$ Check Answer New ε

Use the slider to explore the values of δ that might work for the given value of ϵ.

Looking at this diagram, what does it mean to say "Given $\epsilon > 0$, choose $\delta > 0$ such that if $|x - c| < \delta$ then $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$"? This means that if you restrict the x-values allowed to be within the two vertical lines, then the graph will not go below the lower horizontal line or above the upper horizontal line. Being between the two vertical lines is the same as saying $|x - c| < \delta$ and being between the two horizontal lines is the same as saying $|f(x) - L| < \epsilon$.

Note

Visit the following applet to experiment with finding values of δ for selected values of ε:

- The epsilon-delta definition of limit

Example $2.5.2$ shows how you can use this definition to prove a statement about the limit of a specific function at a specified value.

Example $2.5.1$: Proving a Statement about the Limit of a Specific Function

Prove that $\lim\limits_{x\to 1}\ (2x+1)=3$.

Solution

Let $\varepsilon > 0$.

The first part of the definition begins "For every $\varepsilon > 0$."This means we must prove that whatever follows is true no matter what positive value of ε is chosen. By stating "Let

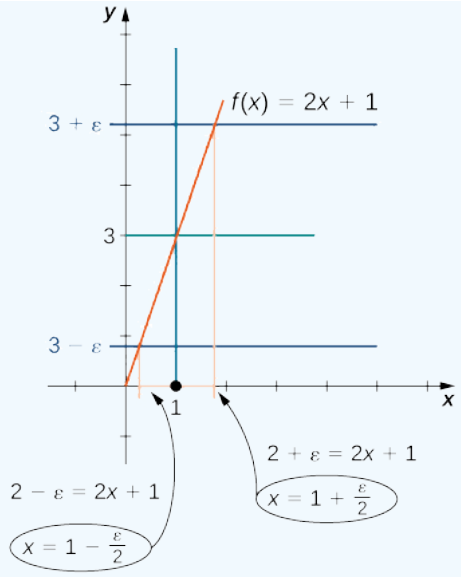
$\varepsilon > 0$," we signal our intent to do so.

Choose $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{2}$.

The definition continues with "there exists a $\delta > 0$. " The phrase "there exists" in a mathematical statement is always a signal for a scavenger hunt. In other words, we must go and find δ. So, where exactly did $\delta = \varepsilon/2$ come from? There are two basic approaches to tracking down δ. One method is purely algebraic and the other is geometric.

We begin by tackling the problem from an algebraic point of view. Since ultimately we want $|(2x+1)-3| < \varepsilon$, we begin by manipulating this expression: $|(2x+1)-3| < \varepsilon$ is equivalent to $|2x-2| < \varepsilon$, which in turn is equivalent to $|2||x-1| < \varepsilon$. Last, this is equivalent to $|x-1| < \varepsilon/2$. Thus, it would seem that $\delta = \varepsilon/2$ is appropriate.

We may also find δ through geometric methods. Figure $2.5.2$ demonstrates how this is done.



δ is the length of the smaller of the two distances marked in brown.

$$\delta = \min\{1 + \tfrac{\varepsilon}{2} - 1,\ 1 - (1 - \tfrac{\varepsilon}{2})\}$$
$$= \min\{\tfrac{\varepsilon}{2}, \tfrac{\varepsilon}{2}\}$$
$$= \tfrac{\varepsilon}{2}$$

Figure 2.5.2: This graph shows how to find δ geometrically. The function $2x + 1$ is drawn from $x = 0$ to $x = 2$. The limit 3 is drawn at line $y = 3$, intersecting the function at $(1, 3)$. Two horizontal blue lines are drawn at $y = 3 + \varepsilon$ and $y = 3 - \varepsilon$, indicating tolerance that ε provides around the limit 3. Finally, two vertical pink lines are drawn down from the points of intersection of the function and the blue lines. Since the blue lines and the function intersect, we can solve for x. For the line corresponding to $y = 3–\varepsilon$, we have $3–\varepsilon = 2x + 1$, which simplifies to $x = 1–\varepsilon/2$. For the line corresponding to $y = 3 + \varepsilon$, we have $3 + \varepsilon = 2x + 1$, which simplifies to $x = 1 + \varepsilon/2$. δ is the smaller of the two distances between 1 and where the pink lines intersect with the x-axis. We have $\delta = \min\{1 + \varepsilon/2 - 1, 1–(1–\varepsilon/2)\} = \min\{\varepsilon/2, \varepsilon/2\} = \varepsilon/2$.

Assume $0 < |x - 1| < \delta$. When δ has been chosen, our goal is to show that if $0 < |x - 1| < \delta$, then $|(2x + 1) - 3| < \varepsilon$. To prove any statement of the form “If this, then that,” we begin by assuming “this” and trying to get “that.”

Thus,

$|(2x + 1) - 3| = |2x - 2|$ Property of absolute value

$= |2(x - 1)|$

$= |2||x - 1|$ $|2| = 2$

$= 2|x - 1|$

$< 2 \cdot \delta$ Using the assumption that $0 < |x - 1| < \delta$

$= 2 \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{2} = \varepsilon$ Using our choice of $\delta = \varepsilon/2$

Analysis

In this part of the proof, we started with $|(2x + 1) - 3|$ and used our assumption $0 < |x - 1| < \delta$ in a key part of the chain of inequalities to get $|(2x + 1) - 3|$ to be less than ε. We could just as easily have manipulated the assumed inequality $0 < |x - 1| < \delta$ to arrive at $|(2x + 1) - 3| < \varepsilon$ as follows:

$0 < |x - 1| < \delta \Rightarrow |x - 1| < \delta$

\(⇒–δ

\(⇒–\frac{ε}{2}

$\Rightarrow -\varepsilon < 2x - 2 < \varepsilon$

$\Rightarrow -\varepsilon < 2x - 2 < \varepsilon$

$$\Rightarrow |2x-2| < \varepsilon$$

$$\Rightarrow |(2x+1)-3| < \varepsilon.$$

Therefore, $\lim_{x\to 1} (2x+1) = 3$. (Having completed the proof, we state what we have accomplished.)

After removing all the remarks, here is a final version of the proof:

Let $\varepsilon > 0$.

Choose $\delta = \varepsilon/2$.

Assume $0 < |x-1| < \delta$.

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} |(2x+1)-3| &= |2x-2| \\ &= |2(x-1)| \\ &= |2||x-1| \\ &= 2|x-1| \\ &< 2\cdot\delta \\ &= 2\cdot\frac{\varepsilon}{2} \\ &= \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, $\lim_{x\to 1} (2x+1) = 3$.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of the this concept.

- **Video Length**: 3 minutes 43 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrate how use the $\varepsilon - \delta$ definition of the limit to prove that $\lim_{x\to 5} (3x-9) = 6$

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

The following Problem-Solving Strategy summarizes the type of proof we worked out in Example 2.5.2.

Problem-Solving Strategy: Proving That $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = L$ for a Specific Function $f(x)$

1. Let's begin the proof with the following statement: Let $\varepsilon > 0$.
2. Next, we need to obtain a value for δ. After we have obtained this value, we make the following statement, filling in the blank with our choice of δ: Choose $\delta =$_____.
3. The next statement in the proof should be (at this point, we fill in our given value for a): Assume $0 < |x-a| < \delta$.
4. Next, based on this assumption, we need to show that $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$, where $f(x)$ and L are our function $f(x)$ and our limit L. At some point, we need to use $0 < |x-a| < \delta$.
5. We conclude our proof with the statement: Therefore, $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = L$.

Example 2.5.2: Proving a Statement about a Limit

Complete the proof that $\lim_{x\to -1}\ (4x+1) = -3$ by filling in the blanks.

Let _____.

Choose $\delta =$_____.

Assume $0 < |x$–_____| $< \delta$.

Thus, |_____–_____|=_____ε.

Solution

We begin by filling in the blanks where the choices are specified by the definition. Thus, we have

Let $\varepsilon > 0$.

Choose δ=_____.

Assume $0 < |x-(-1)| < \delta$. (or equivalently, $0 < |x+1| < \delta$.)

Thus, $|(4x+1)-(-3)| = |4x+4| = |4||x+1| < 4\delta$_____$\varepsilon$.

Focusing on the final line of the proof, we see that we should choose $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$.

We now complete the final write-up of the proof:

Let $\varepsilon > 0$.

Choose $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{4}$.

Assume $0 < |x-(-1)| < \delta$ (or equivalently, $0 < |x+1| < \delta$.)

Thus, $|(4x+1)-(-3)| = |4x+4]| = |4||x+1| < 4\delta = 4(\varepsilon/4) = \varepsilon$.

Exercise 2.5.1

Complete the proof that $\lim_{x\to 2}\ (3x-2) = 4$ by filling in the blanks.

Let _____.

Choose $\delta =$_____.

Assume $0 < |x -$___| <___.

Thus,

|_____–___|=_____ε.

Therefore, $\lim_{x\to 2}\ (3x-2) = 4$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

In Examples 2.5.1 and 2.5.2, the proofs were fairly straightforward, since the functions with which we were working were linear. In

Example 2.5.4, we see how to modify the proof to accommodate a nonlinear function.

Example 2.5.3: Proving a Statement about the Limit of a Specific Function (Geometric Approach)

Prove that $\lim_{x \to 2} x^2 = 4$.

Solution

1. Let $\varepsilon > 0$. The first part of the definition begins "For every $\varepsilon > 0$," so we must prove that whatever follows is true no matter what positive value of ε is chosen. By stating "Let $\varepsilon > 0$," we signal our intent to do so.

2. Without loss of generality, assume $\varepsilon \leq 4$. Two questions present themselves: Why do we want $\varepsilon \leq 4$ and why is it okay to make this assumption? In answer to the first question: Later on, in the process of solving for δ, we will discover that δ involves the quantity $\sqrt{4-\varepsilon}$. Consequently, we need $\varepsilon \leq 4$. In answer to the second question: If we can find $\delta > 0$ that "works" for $\varepsilon \leq 4$, then it will "work" for any $\varepsilon > 4$ as well. Keep in mind that, although it is always okay to put an upper bound on ε, it is never okay to put a lower bound (other than zero) on ε.

3. Choose $\delta = min 2 - \sqrt{4-\varepsilon}, \sqrt{4+\varepsilon} - 2$. Figure 2.5.3 shows how we made this choice of δ.

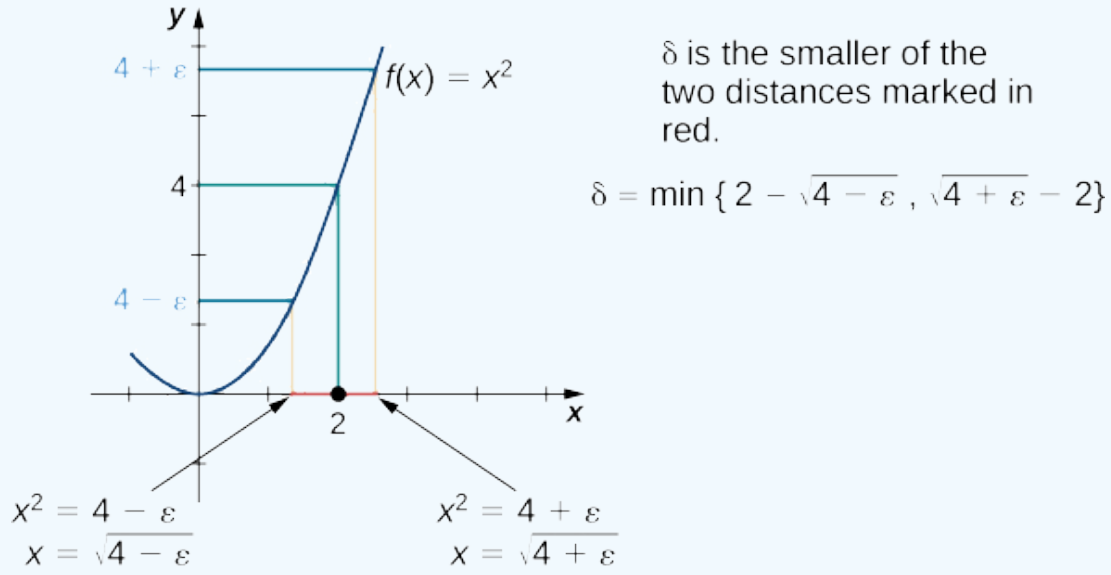


Figure 2.5.3: This graph shows how to find δ geometrically. The function $f(x) = x^2$ is drawn from $x = -1$ to $x = 3$. The limit 4 is drawn at line $y = 4$, intersecting the function at $(2, 4)$. Two horizontal blue lines are drawn at $y = 4 + \varepsilon$ and $y = 4 - \varepsilon$, indicating tolerance that ε provides around the limit 4. Finally, two vertical pink lines are drawn down from the points of intersection of the function and the blue lines. Since the blue lines and the function intersect, we can solve for x. For the line corresponding to $y = 4–\varepsilon$, we have $4–\varepsilon = x^2$, which simplifies to $x = \sqrt{(4–\varepsilon)}$. For the line corresponding to $y = 4 + \varepsilon$, we have $4 + \varepsilon = x^2$, which simplifies to $x = sqrt(4 + \varepsilon)$. δ is the smaller of the two distances between 2 and where the pink lines intersect with the x-axis. We have $\delta = \min\{2 - \sqrt{(4-\varepsilon)}, \sqrt{(4+\varepsilon)} - 2\}$.

4. We must show: If $0 < |x - 2| < \delta$, then $|x^2 - 4| < \varepsilon$, so we must begin by assuming

$$0 < |x - 2| < \delta.$$

We don't really need $0 < |x - 2|$ (in other words, $x \neq 2$) for this proof. Since $0 < |x - 2| < \delta \Rightarrow |x - 2| < \delta$, it is okay to drop $0 < |x - 2|$.

$$|x - 2| < \delta.$$

Hence,

\(–δ

Recall that $\delta = min\{2 - \sqrt{4-\varepsilon}, \sqrt{4+\varepsilon} - 2\}$. Thus, $\delta \geq 2 - \sqrt{4-\varepsilon}$ and consequently $-(2 - \sqrt{4-\varepsilon}) \leq -\delta$. We also use $\delta \leq \sqrt{4+\varepsilon} - 2$ here. We might ask at this point: Why did we substitute $2 - \sqrt{4-\varepsilon}$ for δ on the left-hand side of the inequality and $\sqrt{4+\varepsilon} - 2$ on the right-hand side of the inequality? If we look at Figure $2.5.3$, we see that $2 - \sqrt{4-\varepsilon}$ corresponds to the distance on the left of 2 on the x-axis and $\sqrt{4+\varepsilon} - 2$ corresponds to the distance on the right. Thus,

\(−(2−\sqrt{4−ε})≤−δ

We simplify the expression on the left:

\(−2+\sqrt{4−ε}

Then, we add 2 to all parts of the inequality:

\(\sqrt{4−ε}

We square all parts of the inequality. It is okay to do so, since all parts of the inequality are positive:

\(4−ε

We subtract 4 from all parts of the inequality:

\(−ε

Last,

$$|x^2 - 4| < \varepsilon.$$

5. Therefore,

$$\lim_{x \to 2} x^2 = 4.$$

Exercise $2.5.2$

Find δ corresponding to $\varepsilon > 0$ for a proof that $\lim_{x \to 9} \sqrt{x} = 3$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The geometric approach to proving that the limit of a function takes on a specific value works quite well for some functions. Also, the insight into the formal definition of the limit that this method provides is invaluable. However, we may also approach limit proofs from a purely algebraic point of view. In many cases, an algebraic approach may not only provide us with additional insight into the definition, it may prove to be simpler as well. Furthermore, an algebraic approach is the primary tool used in proofs of statements about limits. For Example $2.5.5$, we take on a purely algebraic approach.

Example $2.5.4$:Proving a Statement about the Limit of a Specific Function (Algebraic Approach)

Prove that $\lim_{x \to -1} (x^2 - 2x + 3) = 6$.

Solution

Let's use our outline from the Problem-Solving Strategy:

1. Let $\varepsilon > 0$.

2. Choose $\delta = \min\{1, \varepsilon/5\}$. This choice of δ may appear odd at first glance, but it was obtained by taking a look at our ultimate desired inequality: $|\ (x^2 - 2x + 3) - 6\ | < \varepsilon$. This inequality is equivalent to $|x + 1| \cdot |x - 3| < \varepsilon$. At this point, the temptation simply to choose $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{x-3}$ is very strong. Unfortunately, our choice of δ must depend on ε only and no other variable. If we can replace $|x - 3|$ by a numerical value, our problem can be resolved. This is the place where assuming $\delta \leq 1$ comes into play. The choice of $\delta \leq 1$ here is arbitrary. We could have just as easily used any other positive number. In some proofs, greater care in this choice may be necessary. Now, since $\delta \leq 1$ and $|x + 1| < \delta \leq 1$, we are able to show that $|x - 3| < 5$. Consequently, $|x + 1| \cdot |x - 3| < |x + 1| \cdot 5$. At this point we realize that we also need $\delta \leq \varepsilon/5$. Thus, we choose $\delta = \min\{1, \varepsilon/5\}$.

3. Assume $0 < |x + 1| < \delta$. Thus,

$$|x + 1| < 1 \text{ and } |x + 1| < \frac{\varepsilon}{5}.$$

Since $|x + 1| < 1$, we may conclude that \(–1

$$\left|(x^2 - 2x + 3) - 6\right| = |x + 1| \cdot |x - 3| < \frac{\varepsilon}{5} \cdot 5 = \varepsilon.$$

Therefore,

$$\lim_{x \to -1} (x^2 - 2x + 3) = 6.$$

Exercise 2.5.3

Complete the proof that $\lim_{x \to 1} x^2 = 1$.

Let $\varepsilon > 0$; choose $\delta = \min\{1, \varepsilon/3\}$; assume $0 < |x - 1| < \delta$.

Since $|x - 1| < 1$, we may conclude that \(–1

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

You will find that, in general, the more complex a function, the more likely it is that the algebraic approach is the easiest to apply. The algebraic approach is also more useful in proving statements about limits.

Proving Limit Laws

We now demonstrate how to use the epsilon-delta definition of a limit to construct a rigorous proof of one of the limit laws. The **triangle inequality** is used at a key point of the proof, so we first review this key property of absolute value.

Definition: The Triangle Inequality

The **triangle inequality** states that if a and b are any real numbers, then $|a + b| \leq |a| + |b|$.

Proof

We prove the following limit law: If $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L$ and $\lim_{x \to a} g(x) = M$, then $\lim_{x \to a}\ (f(x) + g(x)) = L + M$.

Let $\varepsilon > 0$.

Choose $\delta_1 > 0$ so that if $0 < |x - a| < \delta_1$, then $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon/2$.

Choose $\delta_2 > 0$ so that if $0 < |x - a| < \delta_2$, then $|g(x) - M| < \varepsilon/2$.

Choose $\delta = \min\{\delta_1, \delta_2\}$.

Assume $0 < |x - a| < \delta$.

Thus,

$$0 < |x - a| < \delta_1 \text{ and } 0 < |x - a| < \delta_2.$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} |(f(x) + g(x)) - (L + M)| &= |(f(x) - L) + (g(x) - M)| \\ &\leq |f(x) - L| + |g(x) - M| \\ &< \frac{\varepsilon}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} = \varepsilon \end{aligned}$$

□

We now explore what it means for a limit not to exist. The limit $\lim\limits_{x \to a} f(x)$ does not exist if there is no real number L for which $\lim\limits_{x \to a} f(x) = L$. Thus, for all real numbers L, $\lim\limits_{x \to a} f(x) \neq L$. To understand what this means, we look at each part of the definition of $\lim\limits_{x \to a} f(x) = L$ together with its opposite. A translation of the definition is given in Table 2.5.2.

Table 2.5.2: Development of the negation of the $\varepsilon - \delta$ definition of the limit

Definition	Opposite
1. For every $\varepsilon > 0$,	1. There exists $\varepsilon > 0$ so that
2. there exists a $\delta > 0$, so that	2. for every $\delta > 0$,
3. if $0 < \|x - a\| < \delta$, then $\|f(x) - L\| < \varepsilon$.	3. There is an x satisfying $0 < \|x - a\| < \delta$ so that $\|f(x) - L\| \geq \varepsilon$.

Translation of the Definition of $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L$ and its Opposite

Finally, we may state what it means for a limit not to exist. The limit $\lim\limits_{x \to a} f(x)$ does not exist if for every real number L, there exists a real number $\varepsilon > 0$ so that for all $\delta > 0$, there is an x satisfying $0 < |x - a| < \delta$, so that $|f(x) - L| \geq \varepsilon$. Let's apply this in Example 2.5.6 to show that a limit does not exist.

Example 2.5.5: Showing That a Limit Does Not Exist

Show that $\lim\limits_{x \to 0} \dfrac{|x|}{x}$ does not exist. The graph of $f(x) = |x|/x$ is shown here (Figure 2.5.4):

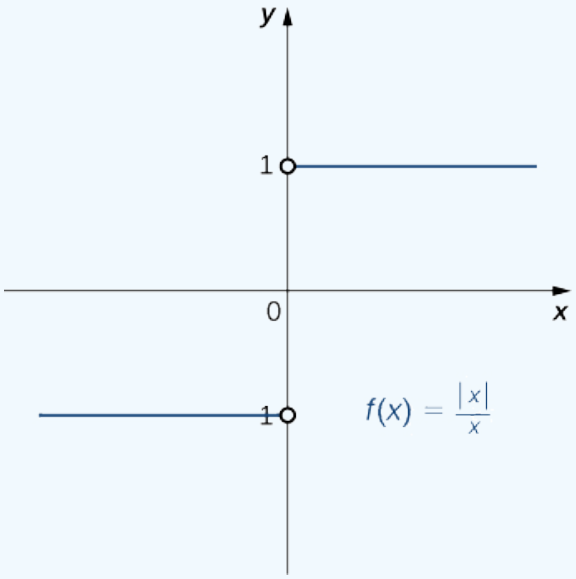


Figure 2.5.4: A graph of a function with two segments. The first segment is graphed over $x < 0$, and it is a horizontal line at $y = -1$ that ends at the y-axis in an open circle at $(0, -1)$. The second section is graphed over $x > 0$, and it is a horizontal line $y = 1$ that ends at the y-axis in an open circle at $(0, 1)$.

Solution

Suppose that L is a candidate for a limit. Choose $\varepsilon = 1/2$.

Let $\delta > 0$. Either $L \geq 0$ or $L < 0$. If $L \geq 0$, then let $x = -\delta/2$.

Thus,

$$|x - 0| = |-\tfrac{\delta}{2} - 0| = \tfrac{\delta}{2} < \delta$$

and

$$\left|\frac{|-\frac{\delta}{2}|}{-\frac{\delta}{2}} - L\right| = |-1 - L| = L + 1 \geq 1 > \tfrac{1}{2} = \varepsilon.$$

On the other hand, if $L < 0$, then let $x = \delta/2$. Thus,

$$|x - 0| = |\tfrac{\delta}{2} - 0| = \tfrac{\delta}{2} < \delta$$

and

$$\left|\frac{|\frac{\delta}{2}|}{\frac{\delta}{2}} - L\right| = |1 - L| = |L| + 1 \geq 1 > \tfrac{1}{2} = \varepsilon.$$

Thus, for any value of L, $\lim_{x \to 0} \dfrac{|x|}{x} \neq L$.

One-Sided Limits

Just as we first gained an intuitive understanding of limits and then moved on to a more rigorous definition of a limit, we now revisit one-sided limits. To do this, we modify the epsilon-delta definition of a limit to give formal epsilon-delta definitions for limits from the right and left at a point. These definitions only require slight modifications from the definition of the limit. In the definition of the limit from the right, the inequality \(0

Definition: One-Sided Limits (Formal)

Limit from the Right: Let $f(x)$ be defined over an open interval of the form (a, b) where \(a

$$\lim_{x \to a^+} f(x) = L \tag{2.5.2}$$

if for every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a $\delta > 0$, such that if \(0

Limit from the Left: Let $f(x)$ be defined over an open interval of the form (b, c) where \(b

$$\lim_{x \to c^-} f(x) = L \tag{2.5.3}$$

if for every $\varepsilon > 0$,there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that if \(−δ

Example 2.5.6: Proving a Statement about a Limit From the Right

Prove that

$$\lim_{x \to 4^+} \sqrt{x-4} = 0.$$

Solution

Let $\varepsilon > 0$.

Choose $\delta = \varepsilon^2$. Since we ultimately want $|\sqrt{x-4} - 0| < \varepsilon$, we manipulate this inequality to get $\sqrt{x-4} < \varepsilon$ or, equivalently, \(0

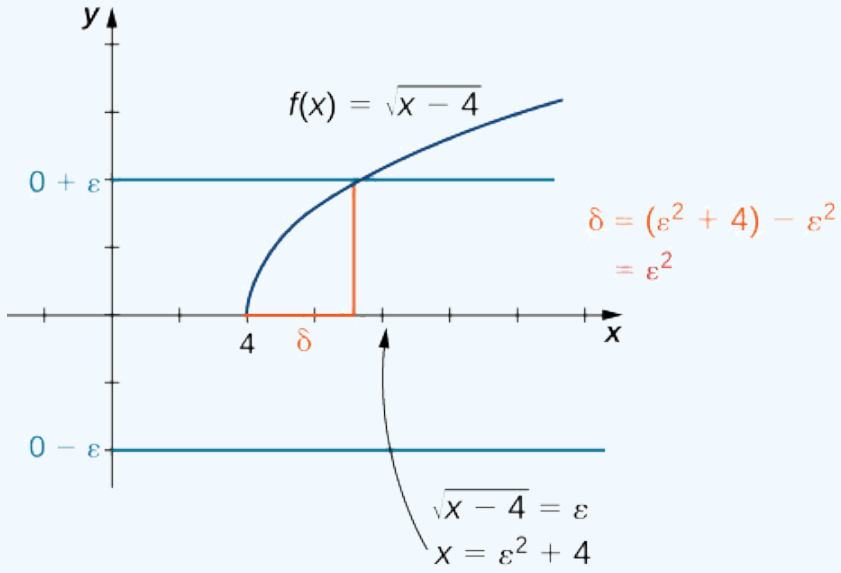


Figure 2.5.5: The function $f(x) = \sqrt{x-4}$ is drawn for $x > 4$. Since the proposed limit is 0, lines $y = 0 + \varepsilon$ and $y = 0–\varepsilon$ are drawn in blue. Since only the top blue line corresponding to $y = 0 + \varepsilon$ intersects the function, one red line is drawn from the point of intersection to the x -axis. This x value is found by solving $\sqrt{x-4} = \varepsilon$, or $x = \varepsilon^2 + 4$. δ is then the distance between this point and 4, which is ε^2.

Assume \(0

Exercise 2.5.4

Find δ corresponding to ε for a proof that $\lim_{x \to 1^-} \sqrt{1-x} = 0$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Infinite Limits

We conclude the process of converting our intuitive ideas of various types of limits to rigorous formal definitions by pursuing a formal definition of infinite limits. To have $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = +\infty$, we want the values of the function $f(x)$ to get larger and larger as x approaches a. Instead of the requirement that $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$ for arbitrarily small ε when $0 < |x - a| < \delta$ for small enough δ, we want $f(x) > M$ for arbitrarily large positive M when $0 < |x - a| < \delta$ for small enough δ. Figure 2.5.6 illustrates this idea by showing the value of δ for successively larger values of M.

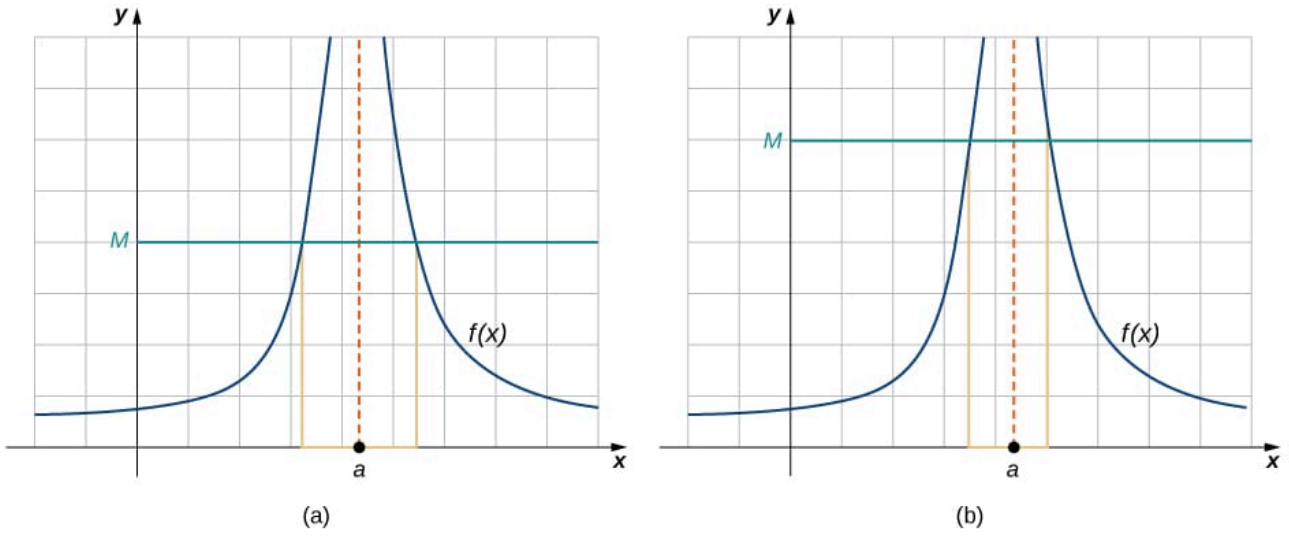


Figure 2.5.6: Two side by side graphs of the same function $f(x)$ with a vertical asymptote at $x = a$ with $f(x)$ approaching $+\infty$ as x approaches a from each side. The first graph has a value M greater than zero marked on the y-axis and a horizontal line drawn from there ($y = M$) to intersect with the graph of f, which happens twice. Lines are drawn down from the points of intersection to the x-axis. δ is the smaller of the distances between point a and these new spots on the x-axis. The same lines are drawn on the second graph, but this time, M is larger, resulting in smaller δ.

Definition: Infinite Limits (Formal)

Let $f(x)$ be defined for all $x \neq a$ in an open interval containing a. Then, we have an infinite limit

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = +\infty \tag{2.5.4}$$

if for every $M > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if $0 < |x - a| < \delta$, then $f(x) > M$.

Let $f(x)$ be defined for all $x \neq a$ in an open interval containing a. Then, we have a negative infinite limit

$$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = -\infty \tag{2.5.5}$$

if for every $M > 0$, there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if $0 < |x - a| < \delta$, then $f(x) < -M$.

Example 2.5.7: Proving a Statement about an Infinite Limit

Prove that $\lim\limits_{x\to 3} \dfrac{1}{(x-3)^2} = \infty$.

Solution

We use a very similar approach to our previous Problem-Solving Strategy. We first find an appropriate $\delta > 0$. Then we write our proof.

Step 1: First we find an appropriate $\delta > 0$.

1. Let M be any real number such that $M > 0$.

2. Let $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{(x-3)^2} > M$. Then we solve for the expression $x - 3$.

Multiplying both sides of the inequality by the positive quantity $(x-3)^2$ and dividing both sides by the positive quantity M gives us:

$$\frac{1}{M} > (x-3)^2$$

Taking the square root of both sides, we have,

$$\sqrt{\frac{1}{M}} > |x-3|. \qquad \left(\text{Remember that } \sqrt{x^2} = |x|.\right)$$

Rewriting this statement gives us, $0 < |x-3| < \sqrt{\dfrac{1}{M}}$. From this we choose $\delta = \sqrt{\dfrac{1}{M}}$.

Step 2: Now we write a proof.

3. Let $\delta = \sqrt{\dfrac{1}{M}}$ and assume $0 < |x-3| < \delta = \sqrt{\dfrac{1}{M}}$.

Thus,

$$|x-3| < \sqrt{\frac{1}{M}}.$$

Squaring both sides gives us,

$$(x-3)^2 < \frac{1}{M}.$$

Taking the reciprocal of both sides (and remembering that this will reverse the direction of the inequality),

$$\frac{1}{(x-3)^2} > M.$$

Therefore, we have proven that

$$\lim_{x\to 3} \frac{1}{(x-3)^2} = \infty.$$

A very similar proof will be needed for a limit that is equal to $-\infty$.

Note that a one-sided limit approach will often need to be taken with this type of limit. For example, to prove: $\lim\limits_{x\to 0^+} \dfrac{1}{x} = \infty$.

Key Concepts

- The intuitive notion of a limit may be converted into a rigorous mathematical definition known as the epsilon-delta definition of the limit.
- The epsilon-delta definition may be used to prove statements about limits.
- The epsilon-delta definition of a limit may be modified to define one-sided limits.
- A similar definition of an infinite limit can be used to prove statements about infinite limits.

Glossary

Epsilon-delta definition of the limit
$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = L$ if for every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that if $0 < |x - a| < \delta$, then $|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$

Triangle inequality
If a and b are any real numbers, then $|a + b| \leq |a| + |b|$

Formal definition of an infinite limit
$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = \infty$ if for every $M > 0$, there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that if $0 < |x - a| < \delta$, then $f(x) > M$
$\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = -\infty$ if for every $M > 0$, there exists a $\delta > 0$ such that if $0 < |x - a| < \delta$, then $f(x) < -M$

Contributors and Attributions

- Gilbert Strang (MIT) and Edwin “Jed” Herman (Harvey Mudd) with many contributing authors. This content by OpenStax is licensed with a CC-BY-SA-NC 4.0 license. Download for free at http://cnx.org.
- Paul Seeburger (Monroe Community College), added Example $2.5.8$ and entries for infinite limits under Key Concepts and the Glossary.

Answers

Exercise $2.5.1$
Follow the outline in the Problem-Solving Strategy that we worked out in full in Example $2.5.3$.

Exercise $2.5.1$
Let $\varepsilon > 0$; choose $\delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{3}$; assume $0 < |x - 2| < \delta$.
Thus, $|(3x - 2) - 4| = |3x - 6| = |3| \cdot |x - 2| < 3 \cdot \delta = 3 \cdot (\varepsilon/3) = \varepsilon$.
Therefore, $\lim_{x \to 2}(3x - 2) = 4$.

Exercise $2.5.2$
Draw a graph similar to the one in Example $2.5.4$.

Exercise $2.5.2$
Choose $\delta = \min\{9 - (3 - \varepsilon)^2,\ \ (3 + \varepsilon)^2 - 9\}$.

Exercise $2.5.3$
Use Example $2.5.5$ as a guide.

Exercise $2.5.3$
$| x^2 - 1 | = |x - 1| \cdot |x + 1| < \varepsilon/3 \cdot 3 = \varepsilon$

Exercise $2.5.4$
Sketch the graph and use Example $2.5.7$ as a solving guide.

Exercise $2.5.4$
$\delta = \varepsilon^2$

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2.5E: Exercises for Section 2.5

Exercises 1 - 3

Write the appropriate $\varepsilon - \delta$ definition for each of the given statements.

1. $\lim_{t \to b} g(t) = M$

Answer

For every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a $\delta > 0$, so that if $0 < |t - b| < \delta$, then $|g(t) - M| < \varepsilon$

2. $\lim_{x \to c} h(x) = L$
3. $\lim_{x \to a} \varphi(x) = A$

Answer

For every $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a $\delta > 0$, so that if $0 < |x - a| < \delta$, then $|\varphi(x) - A| < \varepsilon$

Exercises 4 - 5

The following graph of the function f in Figure $2.5E.1$ satisfies $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x) = 2$. In the following exercises, determine a value of $\delta > 0$ that satisfies each statement.

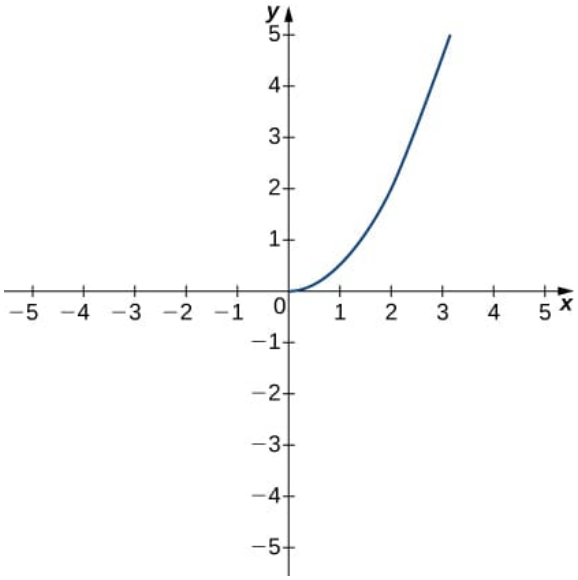


Figure $2.5E.1$: A function drawn in the first quadrant for $x > 0$. It is a single continuous curve that is increasing and concave up, passing through the points, approximately, $(0, 0)$, $(1, 0.5)$, $(2, 2)$, and $(3, 4)$.

4. If $0 < |x - 2| < \delta$, then $|f(x) - 2| < 1$.
5. If $0 < |x - 2| < \delta$, then $|f(x) - 2| < 0.5$.

Answer

$\delta \leq 0.25$

Exercises 6 - 7

The following graph of the function f in Figure $2.5E.2$ satisfies $\lim_{x\to 3} f(x) = -1$. In the following exercises, determine a value of $\delta > 0$ that satisfies each statement.

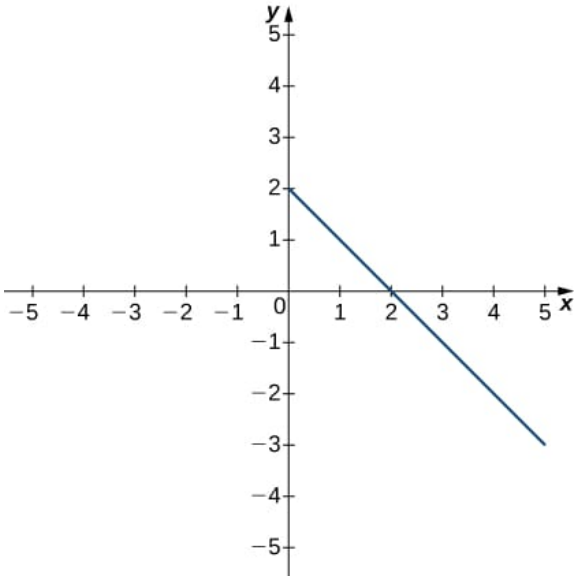


Figure $2.5E.2$: A graph of a decreasing linear function, with points $(0, 2)$, $(1, 1)$, $(2, 0)$, $(3, -1)$, $(4, -2)$, and so on for $x \geq 0$.

6. If $0 < |x - 3| < \delta$, then $|f(x) + 1| < 1$.
7. If $0 < |x - 3| < \delta$, then $|f(x) + 1| < 2$.

Answer

$\delta \leq 2$

Exercises 8 - 9

The following graph of the function f in Figure $2.5E.3$ satisfies $\lim_{x\to 3} f(x) = 2$. In the following exercises, for each value of ε, find a value of $\delta > 0$ such that the precise definition of limit holds true.

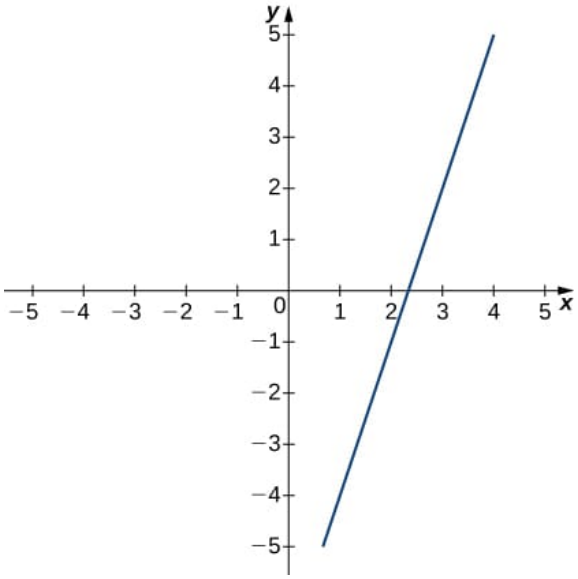


Figure $2.5E.3$: A graph of an increasing linear function intersecting the x-axis at about $(2\frac{1}{3}, 0)$ and going through the points $(3, 2)$, $(1, -4)$ and $(4, 5)$

8. $\varepsilon = 1.5$
9. $\varepsilon = 3$

Answer

$\delta \leq 1$

[T] Exercises 10 - 11

Use a graphing calculator to find a number δ such that the statements hold true.

10. $\left|\sin(2x) - \frac{1}{2}\right| < 0.1$, whenever $\left|x - \frac{\pi}{12}\right| < \delta$
11. $\left|\sqrt{x-4} - 2\right| < 0.1$, whenever $|x - 8| < \delta$

Answer

$\delta < 0.3900$

Exercises 12 - 16

Use the precise definition of limit to prove the given limits.

12. $\lim\limits_{x \to 2} (5x + 8) = 18$
13. $\lim\limits_{x \to 3} \dfrac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3} = 6$

Answer

Let $\delta = \varepsilon$. If $0 < |x - 3| < \varepsilon$, then $\left|\dfrac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3} - 6\right| = \left|\dfrac{(x+3)(x-3)}{x-3} - 6\right| = |x + 3 - 6| = |x - 3| < \varepsilon$.

14. $\lim\limits_{x \to 2} \dfrac{2x^2 - 3x - 2}{x - 2} = 5$
15. $\lim\limits_{x \to 0} x^4 = 0$

Answer

Let $\delta = \sqrt[4]{\varepsilon}$. If $0 < |x| < \sqrt[4]{\varepsilon}$, then $\left|x^4 - 0\right| = x^4 < \varepsilon$.

16. $\lim_{x\to 2}(x^2+2x)=8$

Exercises 17 - 19

Use the precise definition of limit to prove the given one-sided limits.

17. $\lim_{x\to 5^-}\sqrt{5-x}=0$

Answer

Let $\delta=\varepsilon^2$. If $-\varepsilon^2<x-5<0$, we can multiply through by -1 to get $0<5-x<\varepsilon^2$.
Then $\left|\sqrt{5-x}-0\right|=\sqrt{5-x}<\sqrt{\varepsilon^2}=\varepsilon$.

18. $\lim_{x\to 0^+} f(x)=-2$, where $f(x)=\begin{cases}8x-3, & \text{if } x<0\\ 4x-2, & \text{if } x\geq 0\end{cases}$.
19. $\lim_{x\to 1^-} f(x)=3$, where $f(x)=\begin{cases}5x-2, & \text{if } x<1\\ 7x-1, & \text{if } x\geq 1\end{cases}$.

Answer

Let $\delta=\varepsilon/5$. If $-\varepsilon/5<x-1<0$, we can multiply through by -1 to get $0<1-x<\varepsilon/5$.
Then $|f(x)-3|=|5x-2-3|=|5x-5|=5(1-x)$, since $x<1$ here.
And $5(1-x)<5(\varepsilon/5)=\varepsilon$.

Exercises 20 - 22

Use the precise definition of limit to prove the given infinite limits.

20. $\lim_{x\to 0}\dfrac{1}{x^2}=\infty$
21. $\lim_{x\to -1}\dfrac{3}{(x+1)^2}=\infty$

Answer

Let $\delta=\sqrt{\frac{3}{N}}$. If $0<|x+1|<\sqrt{\frac{3}{N}}$, then $f(x)=\frac{3}{(x+1)^2}>N$.

22. $\lim_{x\to 2}-\dfrac{1}{(x-2)^2}=-\infty$

Exercises 23 - 28

22. An engineer is using a machine to cut a flat square of Aerogel of area $144\ \text{cm}^2$. If there is a maximum error tolerance in the area of $8\ \text{cm}^2$, how accurately must the engineer cut on the side, assuming all sides have the same length? How do these numbers relate to δ, ε, a, and L?

Answer

$0.033\ \text{cm},\ \ \varepsilon=8,\ \ \delta=0.33,\ \ a=12,\ \ L=144$

24. Use the precise definition of limit to prove that the following limit does not exist: $\lim_{x\to 1}\dfrac{|x-1|}{x-1}$.
25. Using precise definitions of limits, prove that $\lim_{x\to 0} f(x)$ does not exist, given that $f(x)$ is the ceiling function. (Hint: Try any $\delta<1$.)

Answer

Answers may very.

26. Using precise definitions of limits, prove that $\lim_{x\to 0} f(x)$ does not exist: $f(x)=\begin{cases}1, & \text{if } x \text{ is rational}\\ 0, & \text{if } x \text{ is irrational}\end{cases}$. (Hint: Think about how you can always choose a rational number \(0

27. Using precise definitions of limits, determine $\lim_{x\to 0} f(x)$ for $f(x) = \begin{cases} x, & \text{if } x \text{ is rational} \\ 0, & \text{if } x \text{ is irrational} \end{cases}$. (Hint: Break into two cases, x rational and x irrational.)

Answer

0

28. Using the function from the previous exercise, use the precise definition of limits to show that $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)$ does not exist for $a \neq 0$

Exercises 29 - 31

Suppose that $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = L$ and $\lim_{x\to a} g(x) = M$ both exist. Use the precise definition of limits to prove the following limit laws:

29. $\lim_{x\to a}(f(x) - g(x)) = L - M$

Answer

$f(x) - g(x) = f(x) + (-1)g(x)$

30. $\lim_{x\to a}[cf(x)] = cL$ for any real constant c (Hint: Consider two cases: $c = 0$ and $c \neq 0$.)
31. $\lim_{x\to a}[f(x)g(x)] = LM$. (Hint: $|f(x)g(x) - LM| = |f(x)g(x) - f(x)M + f(x)M - LM| \leq |f(x)||g(x) - M| + |M||f(x) - L|$.)

Answer

Answers may vary.

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2.6: Chapter 2 Review Exercises

Exercises 1 - 5

Decide if the statement is true or false. Justify your answer with a proof or a counterexample.

1. The average rate of change a function f over an interval can be represented graphically as the slope a tangent line to a point on the graph of f.

   Answer

   False, the average rate of change can be represented as the slope of a *secant* line.

2. A function has to be continuous at $x = a$ if the $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)$ exists.
3. You can use the quotient rule to evaluate $\lim_{x \to 0} \dfrac{\sin x}{x}$.

   Answer

   False, since we cannot have $\lim_{x \to 0} x = 0$ in the denominator.

4. If there is a vertical asymptote at $x = a$ for the function $f(x)$, then f is undefined at the point $x = a$.
5. If $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)$ does not exist, then f is undefined at the point $x = a$.

   Answer

   False. A jump discontinuity is possible.

6. Using the graph given in Figure $2.6.1$, find each limit or explain why the limit does not exist.

   a. $\lim_{x \to -1} f(x)$
   b. $\lim_{x \to 1} f(x)$
   c. $\lim_{x \to 0^+} f(x)$
   d. $\lim_{x \to 2} f(x)$

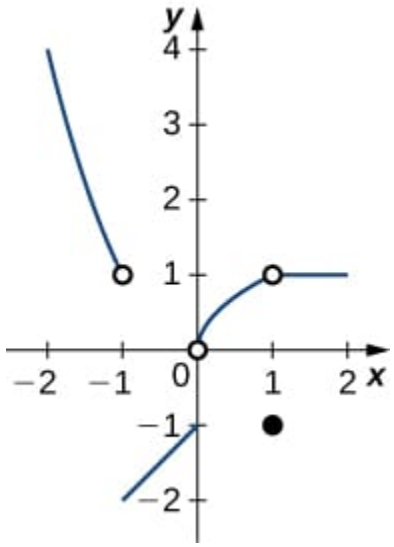


Figure $2.6.1$: This piecewise function has several segments. The first segment is a decreasing concave up curve graphed over $x < -1$. It ends at an open circle at $(-1, 1)$. The second segment is an increasing linear function starting at (-1, -2) and ending at (0,-1), with the curve including both endpoints. The third segment is an increasing concave down curve graphed over \(0 1\), starting at the open circle at $(1, 1)$

Exercises 7 - 16

Evaluate the limit algebraically or explain why the limit does not exist.

7. $\lim_{x\to 2} \dfrac{2x^2-3x-2}{x-2}$

Answer

5

8. $\lim_{x\to 0} 3x^2-2x+4$
9. $\lim_{x\to 3} \dfrac{x^3-2x^2-1}{3x-2}$

Answer

$8/7$

10. $\lim_{x\to \pi/2} \dfrac{\cot x}{\cos x}$
11. $\lim_{x\to -5} \dfrac{x^2+25}{x+5}$

Answer

DNE

12. $\lim_{x\to 2} \dfrac{3x^2-2x-8}{x^2-4}$
13. $\lim_{x\to 1} \dfrac{x^2-1}{x^3-1}$

Answer

$2/3$

14. $\lim_{x\to 1} \dfrac{x^2-1}{\sqrt{x}-1}$
15. $\lim_{x\to 4} \dfrac{4-x}{\sqrt{x}-2}$

Answer

-4

16. $\lim_{x\to 4} \dfrac{1}{\sqrt{x}-2}$

Exercises 17 - 18

Use the Squeeze Theorem to prove the limit.

17. $\lim_{x\to 0} x^2\cos(2\pi x)=0$

Answer

Since $-1 \le \cos(2\pi x) \le 1$, then $-x^2 \le x^2\cos(2\pi x) \le x^2$. Since $\lim_{x\to 0} x^2 = 0 = \lim_{x\to 0} -x^2$, it follows that $\lim_{x\to 0} x^2\cos(2\pi x)=0$.

18. $\lim_{x\to 0} x^3\sin\left(\dfrac{\pi}{x}\right)=0$

Exercises 19

18. Determine the domain such that the function $f(x) = \sqrt{x-2} + xe^x$ is continuous over its domain.

Answer

$[2, \infty]$

Exercises 20 - 21

Determine the value of c such that the function remains continuous. Draw your resulting function to ensure it is continuous.

20. $f(x) = \begin{cases} x^2 + 1, & \text{if } x > c \\ 2^x, & \text{if } x \leq c \end{cases}$
21. $f(x) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{x+1}, & \text{if } x > -1 \\ x^2 + c, & \text{if } x \leq -1 \end{cases}$

Exercises 22 - 23

Use the precise definition of limit to prove the limit.

22. $\lim\limits_{x \to 1} (8x + 16) = 24$
23. $\lim\limits_{x \to 0} x^3 = 0$

Answer

$\delta = \sqrt[3]{\varepsilon}$

Exercises 24 - 26

24. A ball is thrown into the air and the vertical position is given by $x(t) = -4.9t^2 + 25t + 5$. Use the Intermediate Value Theorem to show that the ball must land on the ground sometime between 5 sec and 6 sec after the throw.
25. A particle moving along a line has a displacement according to the function $x(t) = t^2 - 2t + 4$, where x is measured in meters and t is measured in seconds. Find the average velocity over the time period $t = [0, 2]$.

Answer

0 m/sec

26. From the previous exercises, estimate the instantaneous velocity at $t = 2$ by checking the average velocity within $t = 0.01$ sec.

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3: DERIVATIVES

Calculating velocity and changes in velocity are important uses of calculus, but it is far more widespread than that. Calculus is important in all branches of mathematics, science, and engineering, and it is critical to analysis in business and health as well. In this chapter, we explore one of the main tools of calculus, the derivative, and show convenient ways to calculate derivatives. We apply these rules to a variety of functions in this chapter so that we can then explore applications of these techniques.

The Hennessey Venom GT is one of the fastest cars in the world. In 2014, it reached a record-setting speed of 270.49 mph. It can go from 0 to 200 mph in 14.51 seconds. The techniques in this chapter can be used to calculate the acceleration the Venom achieves in this feat.)



Figure 3.1: The Hennessey Venom GT can go from 0 to 200 mph in 14.51 seconds. (CC BY 2.0, Axion23, via Wikimedia Commons)

3.1: Defining the Derivative

3.1E: Exercises for Section 3.1

3.2: The Derivative as a Function

3.2E: Exercises for Section 3.2

3.3: Differentiation Rules

3.3E: Exercises for Section 3.3

3.4: Derivatives as Rates of Change

3.4E: Exercises for Section 3.4

3.5: Derivatives of Trigonometric Functions

3.5E: Exercises for Section 3.5

3.6: The Chain Rule

3.6E: Exercises for Section 3.6

3.7: Derivatives of Inverse Functions

3.7E: Exercises for Section 3.7

3.8: Implicit Differentiation

3.8E: Exercises for Section 3.8

3.9: Derivatives of Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

3.9E: Exercises for Section 3.9

3.10: Chapter 3 Review Exercises

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3.1: Defining the Derivative

Learning Objectives

- Recognize the meaning of the tangent to a curve at a point.
- Calculate the slope of a tangent line.
- Identify the derivative as the limit of a difference quotient.
- Calculate the derivative of a given function at a point.
- Describe the velocity as a rate of change.
- Explain the difference between average velocity and instantaneous velocity.
- Estimate the derivative from a table of values.

Now that we have both a conceptual understanding of a limit and the practical ability to compute limits, we have established the foundation for our study of calculus, the branch of mathematics in which we compute derivatives and integrals. Most mathematicians and historians agree that calculus was developed independently by the the German Gottfried **Leibniz (1646–1716)** Figure 3.1.1 and Englishman Isaac **Newton (1643–1727)** Figure 3.1.2. When we credit Newton and Leibniz with developing calculus, we are really referring to the fact that Newton and Leibniz were the first to understand the relationship between the derivative and the integral. Both mathematicians benefited from the work of predecessors, such as Barrow, Fermat, and Cavalieri. The initial relationship between the two mathematicians appears to have been amicable; however, in later years a bitter controversy erupted over whose work took precedence. Although it seems likely that Newton did, indeed, arrive at the ideas behind calculus first, we are indebted to Leibniz for the notation that we commonly use.



Figure 3.1.1:Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz by Christoph Bernhard Francke is in the Public Domain

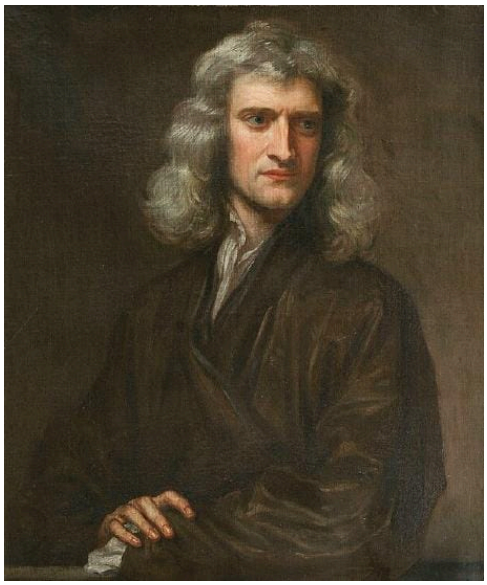


Figure 3.1.2: Sir Isaac Newton by Godfrey Kneller is in the Public Domain

Tangent Lines

We begin our study of calculus by revisiting the notion of secant lines and tangent lines. Recall that we used the slope of a secant line to a function at a point $(a, f(a))$ to estimate the rate of change, or the rate at which one variable changes in relation to another variable. We can obtain the slope of the secant by choosing a value of x near a and drawing a line through the points $(a, f(a))$ and $(x, f(x))$, as shown in Figure 3.1.2. The slope of this line is given by an equation in the form of a difference quotient:

$$m_{\text{sec}} = \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$$

We can also calculate the slope of a secant line to a function at a value a by using this equation and replacing x with $a + h$, where h is a value close to a. We can then calculate the slope of the line through the points $(a, f(a))$ and $(a + h, f(a + h))$. In this case, we find the secant line has a slope given by the following difference quotient with increment h:

$$m_{\text{sec}} = \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{a + h - a} = \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

Definition: Difference Quotient

Let f be a function defined on an interval I containing a. If $x \neq a$ is in I, then

$$Q = \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} \tag{3.1.1}$$

is a **difference quotient**.

Also, if $h \neq 0$ is chosen so that $a + h$ is in I, then

$$Q = \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h} \tag{3.1.2}$$

is a difference quotient with increment h.

These two expressions for calculating the slope of a secant line are illustrated in Figure 3.1.2. We will see that each of these two methods for finding the slope of a secant line is of value. Depending on the setting, we can choose one or the other. The primary consideration in our choice usually depends on ease of calculation.

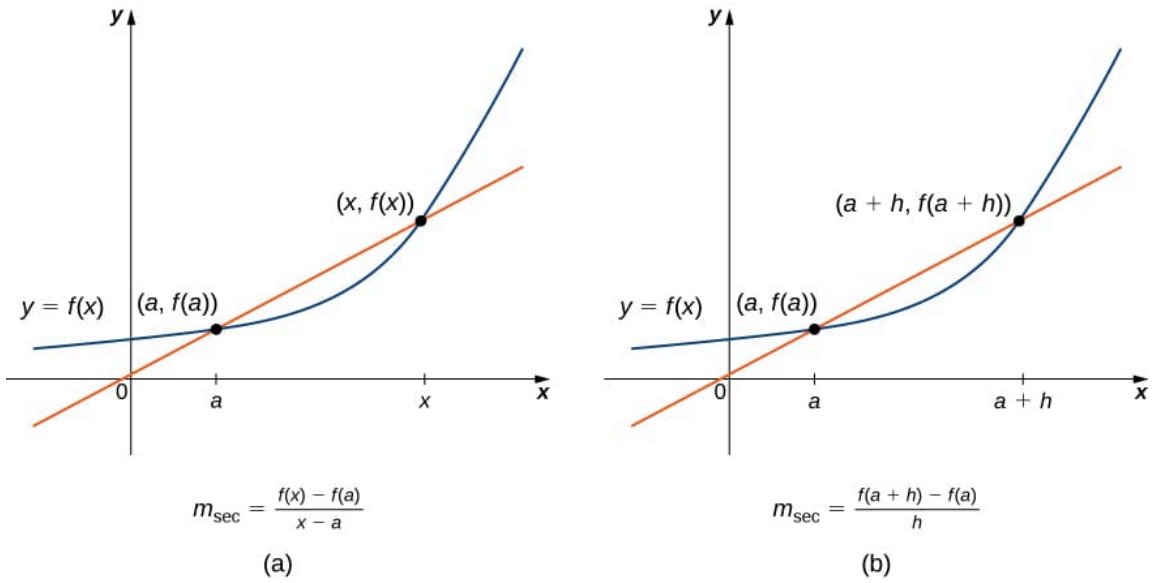


Figure 3.1.2: A two-part diagram illustrating the concept of the secant line and its slope for a function $y = f(x)$. (a) A graph showing the function $y = f(x)$ with a secant line passing through two points: $(a, f(a))$ and $(x, f(x))$. The secant line approximates the slope of the function between these two points. The formula for the secant slope is given as $m_{\text{sec}} = \frac{f(x)-f(a)}{x-a}$. (b) A similar graph, but instead of using x, the second point is represented as $(a + h, f(a + h))$. The secant line still connects two points, $(a, f(a))$ and $(a + h, f(a + h))$, with the slope formula rewritten as $m_{\text{sec}} = \frac{f(a+h)-f(a)}{h}$. Both diagrams visually demonstrate the concept of the secant line as an approximation to the derivative by connecting two points on the curve.

In Figure 3.1.3a we see that, as the values of x approach a, the slopes of the secant lines provide better estimates of the rate of change of the function at a. Furthermore, the secant lines themselves approach the tangent line to the function at a, which represents the limit of the secant lines. Similarly, Figure 3.1.3b shows that as the values of h get closer to 0, the secant lines also approach the tangent line. The slope of the tangent line at a is the rate of change of the function at a, as shown in Figure 3.1.3c.

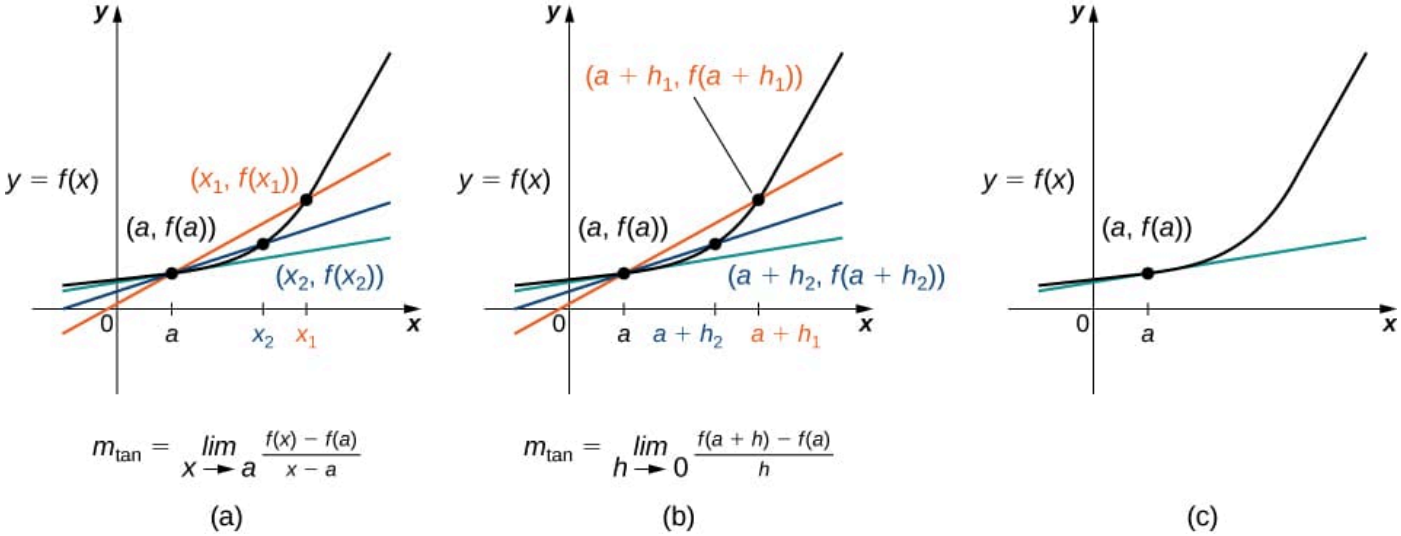


Figure 3.1.3: A three-part diagram illustrating the concept of the derivative using secant lines and the tangent line to a curve $y = f(x)$ at a point $(a, f(a))$. (a) A graph showing the function $y = f(x)$ with two secant lines passing through $(a, f(a))$ and points $(x_1, f(x_1)$ and $(x_2, f(x_2))$, where x_1 and x_2 are approaching a. The slope of the secant line is given by the limit definition $m_{\text{tan}} = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x)-f(a)}{x-a}$ (b) A similar graph but using the alternate definition of the derivative. The secant lines pass through $(a, f(a))$ and points $(a + h_1, f(a + h_1))$ and $(a + h_2, f(a + h_2))$, where h_1 and h_2 are approaching 0. The slope of the secant line is given by $m_{\text{tan}} = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(a+h)-f(a)}{h}$. (c) A final graph showing only the tangent line at $(a, f(a))$, indicating the instantaneous rate of change at that point.

In Figure 3.1.4 we show the graph of $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ and its tangent line at $(1, 1)$ in a series of tighter intervals about $x = 1$. As the intervals become narrower, the graph of the function and its tangent line appear to coincide, making the values on the tangent line a good approximation to the values of the function for choices of x close to 1. In fact, the graph of $f(x)$ itself appears to be **locally linear** in the immediate vicinity of $x = 1$.

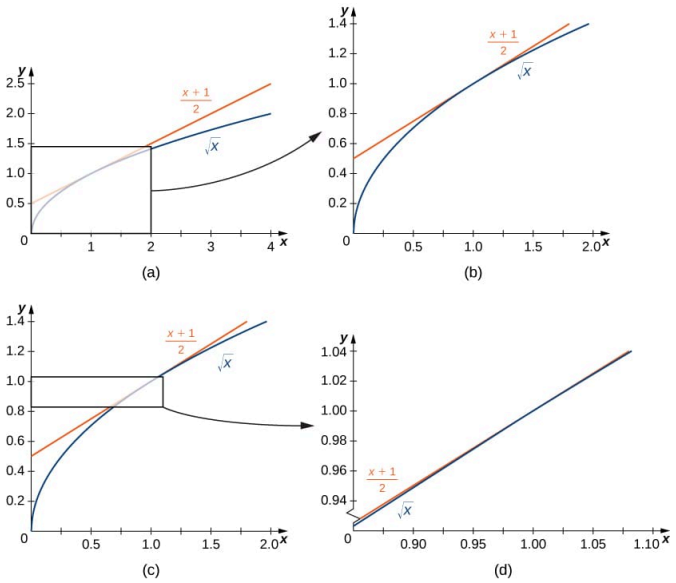


Figure 3.1.4: A set of four mathematical graphs labeled (a), (b), (c), and (d), illustrating the function $y = \sqrt{x}$ (in blue) and its linear approximation $y = \frac{x+1}{2}$ (in orange). Each graph zooms in progressively to highlight the local linearity of the function near a specific point. Graph (a) shows both functions over a wider range with a zoomed-in section. Graph (b) provides a closer view of the curves. Graph (c) zooms in further to emphasize the approximation. Graph (d) presents an even more refined view, where the two functions are nearly indistinguishable.

Interactive Element

A Visualization of the Tangent Line

Move the point and shrink and change the width of the secant line to see the secant line approximate the tangent line. The tangent line is shown in blue and the secant line is shown in red.

The secant line has slope a.

The tangent line has slope b.

50

x = 5

50

Width = 1

- ○ From the Left
- ○ From the Right
- ◉ From Both Sides

Formally we may define the tangent line to the graph of a function as follows.

Definition: Tangent Line

Let $f(x)$ be a function defined in an open interval containing a. The **tangent line** to $f(x)$ at a is the line passing through the point $(a, f(a))$ having slope

$$m_{\tan} = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} \tag{3.1.3}$$

provided this limit exists.

Equivalently, we may define the **tangent line** to $f(x)$ at a to be the line passing through the point $(a, f(a))$ having slope

$$m_{\tan} = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h} \tag{3.1.4}$$

provided this limit exists.

Just as we have used two different expressions to define the slope of a secant line, we use two different forms to define the slope of the tangent line. In this text we use both forms of the definition. As before, the choice of definition will depend on the setting. Now that we have formally defined a tangent line to a function at a point, we can use this definition to find equations of tangent lines.

Example 3.1.1: Finding a Tangent Line

Find the equation of the line tangent to the graph of $f(x) = x^2$ at $x = 3$.

Solution

First find the slope of the tangent line. In this example, use Equation 3.1.3.

$$\begin{aligned} m_{\tan} &= \lim_{x \to 3} \frac{f(x) - f(3)}{x - 3} && \text{Apply the definition.} \\ &= \lim_{x \to 3} \frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3} && \text{Substitute } f(x) = x^2 \text{ and } f(3) = 9 \\ &= \lim_{x \to 3} \frac{(x-3)(x+3)}{x-3} = \lim_{x \to 3}(x+3) = 6 && \text{Factor the numerator to evaluate the limit.} \end{aligned}$$

Next, find a point on the tangent line. Since the line is tangent to the graph of $f(x)$ at $x = 3$, it passes through the point $(3, f(3))$. We have $f(3) = 9$, so the tangent line passes through the point $(3, 9)$.

Using the point-slope equation of the line with the slope $m = 6$ and the point $(3, 9)$, we obtain the line $y - 9 = 6(x - 3)$. Simplifying, we have $y = 6x - 9$. The graph of $f(x) = x^2$ and its tangent line at 3 are shown in Figure 3.1.5.

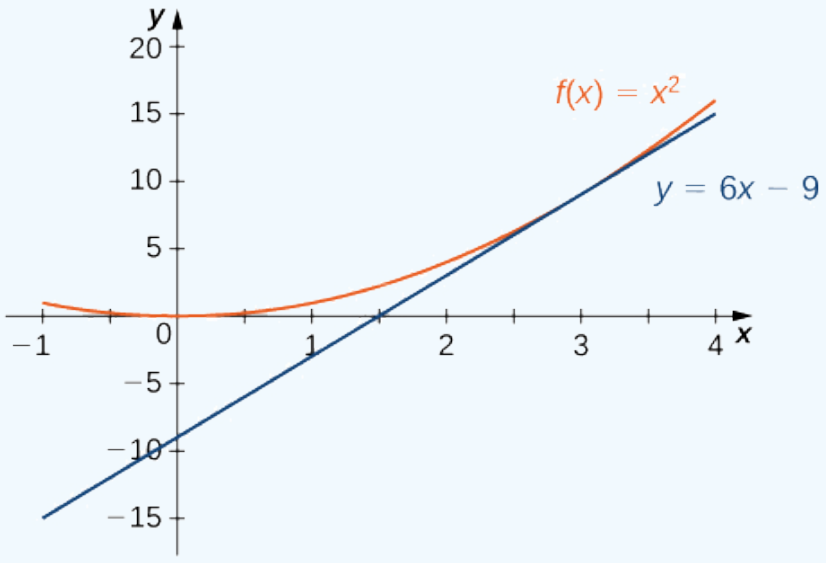


Figure 3.1.5: The function $f(x) = x^2$ and its tangent line at $x = 3$, $y = 6x - 9$, are sketched, demonstrating that the tangent line is very close the the functions graph near $x = 3$.

Example 3.1.2: The Slope of a Tangent Line Revisited

Use Equation 3.1.4 to find the slope of the line tangent to the graph of $f(x) = x^2$ at $x = 3$.

Solution

The steps are very similar to Example 3.1.2. See Equation 3.1.4 for the definition.

$$\begin{aligned} m_{\tan} &= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{f(3+h) - f(3)}{h} && \text{Apply the definition.} \\ &= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{(3+h)^2 - 9}{h} && \text{Substitute } f(3+h) = (3+h)^2 \text{ and } f(3) = 9 \\ &= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{9 + 6h + h^2 - 9}{h} && \text{Expand and simplify to evaluate the limit.} \\ &= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{h(6+h)}{h} = \lim_{h\to 0}(6+h) = 6 \end{aligned}$$

We obtained the same value for the slope of the tangent line by using the other definition, demonstrating that the formulas can be interchanged.

Example 3.1.3: Finding the Equation of a Tangent Line

Find the equation of the line tangent to the graph of $f(x) = 1/x$ at $x = 2$.

Solution

We can use Equation 3.1.3, but as we have seen, the results are the same if we use Equation 3.1.4.

$$\begin{aligned} m_{\tan} &= \lim_{x\to 2} \frac{f(x) - f(2)}{x - 2} && \text{Apply the definition.} \\ &= \lim_{x\to 2} \frac{\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{2}}{x - 2} && \text{Substitute } f(x) = \frac{1}{x} \text{ and } f(2) = \frac{1}{2} \\ &= \lim_{x\to 2} \frac{\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{2}}{x - 2} \cdot \frac{2x}{2x} && \text{Multiply numerator and denominator by } 2x \text{ to simplify fractions.} \\ &= \lim_{x\to 2} \frac{(2-x)}{(x-2)(2x)} && \text{Simplify.} \\ &= \lim_{x\to 2} \frac{-1}{2x} && \text{Simplify using } \frac{2-x}{x-2} = -1, \text{ for } x \neq 2. \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} && \text{Evaluate the limit.} \end{aligned}$$

We now know that the slope of the tangent line is $-\frac{1}{4}$. To find the equation of the tangent line, we also need a point on the line. We know that $f(2) = \frac{1}{2}$. Since the tangent line passes through the point $(2, \frac{1}{2})$ we can use the point-slope equation of a line to find the equation of the tangent line. Thus the tangent line has the equation $y = -\frac{1}{4}x + 1$. The graphs of $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ and $y = -\frac{1}{4}x + 1$ are shown in Figure 3.1.6.

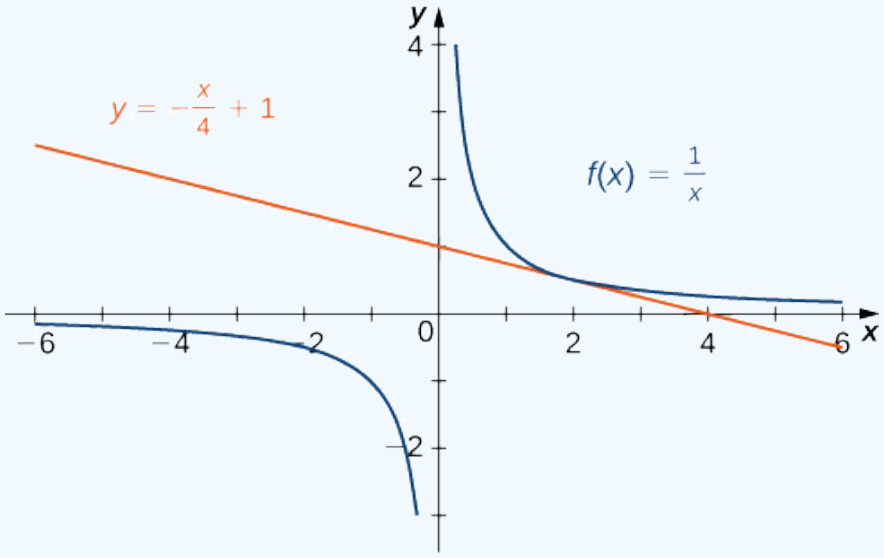


Figure 3.1.6: The function $f(x) = 1/x$ and its tangent line at $x = 2$, $y = -x/4 + 1$, are sketched, demonstrating that the tangent line is very close the the functions graph near $x = 2$.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 4 minutes 28 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to find the tangent line using the limit definition. Find the equation of the tangent line to $f(x) = x^2 - 7x$ at the point $(1, -6)$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 3.1.1

Find the slope of the line tangent to the graph of $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ at $x = 4$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The Derivative of a Function at a Point

The type of limit we compute in order to find the slope of the line tangent to a function at a point occurs in many applications across many disciplines. These applications include velocity and acceleration in physics, marginal profit functions in business, and growth rates in biology. This limit occurs so frequently that we give this value a special name: the **derivative.** The process of finding a derivative is called **differentiation**.

Definition: Derivative

Let $f(x)$ be a function defined in an open interval containing a. The **derivative** of the function $f(x)$ at a, denoted by $f\,'(a)$, is defined by

$$f'(a) = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} \tag{3.1.5}$$

provided this limit exists.

Alternatively, we may also define the derivative of $f(x)$ at a as

$$f'(a) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}. \tag{3.1.6}$$

Example 3.1.4: Estimating a Derivative

For $f(x) = x^2$, use a table to estimate $f\,'(3)$ using Equation 3.1.5.

Solution

Create a table using values of x just below 3 and just above 3.

Table 3.1.1: Table of values just below x = 3 and just above x = 3

x	$\frac{x^2 - 9}{x - 3}$
2.9	5.9
2.99	5.99
2.999	5.999
3.001	6.001
3.01	6.01
3.1	6.1

After examining the table, we see that a good estimate is $f\,'(3) = 6$.

Exercise 3.1.2

For $f(x) = x^2$, use a table to estimate $f\,'(3)$ using Equation 3.1.6.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 3.1.5: Finding a Derivative

For $f(x) = 3x^2 - 4x + 1$, find $f\,'(2)$ by using Equation 3.1.5.

Solution

Substitute the given function and value directly into the equation.

$$
\begin{aligned}
f'(x) &= \lim_{x\to 2}\frac{f(x)-f(2)}{x-2} && \text{Apply the definition.}\\
&= \lim_{x\to 2}\frac{(3x^2-4x+1)-5}{x-2} && \text{Substitute } f(x)=3x^2-4x+1 \text{ and } f(2)=5.\\
&= \lim_{x\to 2}\frac{(x-2)(3x+2)}{x-2} && \text{Simplify and factor the numerator.}\\
&= \lim_{x\to 2}(3x+2) && \text{Cancel the common factor.}\\
&= 8 && \text{Evaluate the limit.}
\end{aligned}
$$

Example 3.1.6: Revisiting the Derivative

For $f(x)=3x^2-4x+1$, find $f\,'(2)$ by using Equation 3.1.6.

Solution

Using this equation, we can substitute two values of the function into the equation, and we should get the same value as in Example 3.1.6.

$$
\begin{aligned}
f'(2) &= \lim_{h\to 0}\frac{f(2+h)-f(2)}{h} && \text{Apply the definition.}\\
&= \lim_{h\to 0}\frac{(3(2+h)^2-4(2+h)+1)-5}{h} && \text{Substitute } f(2)=5 \text{ and } f(2+h)=3(2+h)^2-4(2+h)+1.\\
&= \lim_{h\to 0}\frac{3(4+4h+h^2)-8-4h+1-5}{h} && \text{Expand the numerator.}\\
&= \lim_{h\to 0}\frac{12+12h+3h^2-12-4h}{h} && \text{Distribute and begin simplifying the numerator.}\\
&= \lim_{h\to 0}\frac{3h^2+8h}{h} && \text{Finish simplifying the numerator.}\\
&= \lim_{h\to 0}\frac{h(3h+8)}{h} && \text{Factor the numerator.}\\
&= \lim_{h\to 0}(3h+8) && \text{Cancel the common factor.}\\
&= 8 && \text{Evaluate the limit.}
\end{aligned}
$$

The results are the same whether we use Equation 3.1.5 or Equation 3.1.6.

Exercise 3.1.3

For $f(x)=x^2+3x+2$, find $f\,'(1)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Velocities and Rates of Change

Now that we can evaluate a derivative, we can use it in velocity applications. Recall that if $s(t)$ is the position of an object moving along a coordinate axis, the **average velocity** of the object over a time interval $[a,t]$ if $t>a$ or $[t,a]$ if \(t

$$v_{\text{ave}}=\frac{s(t)-s(a)}{t-a}. \tag{3.1.7}$$

As the values of t approach a, the values of v_{ave} approach the value we call the **instantaneous velocity** at a. That is, instantaneous velocity at a, denoted $v(a)$, is given by

$$v(a) = s'(a) = \lim_{t \to a} \frac{s(t) - s(a)}{t - a}. \tag{3.1.8}$$

To better understand the relationship between average velocity and instantaneous velocity, see Figure 3.1.7. In this figure, the slope of the tangent line (shown in red) is the instantaneous velocity of the object at time $t = a$ whose position at time t is given by the function $s(t)$. The slope of the secant line (shown in green) is the average velocity of the object over the time interval $[a, t]$.

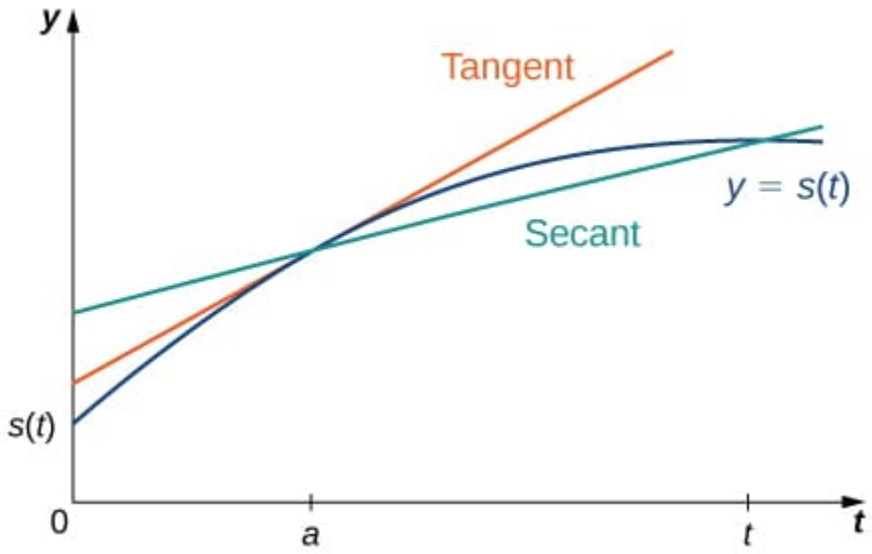


Figure 3.1.7: The slope of the secant line passing through $a, s(a))$ and $t, s(t))$ is the average velocity over the interval $[a, t]$. The slope of the tangent line at $a, s(a))$ is the instantaneous velocity.

We can use Equation 3.1.8 to calculate the instantaneous velocity, or we can estimate the velocity of a moving object by using a table of values. We can then confirm the estimate by using Equation 3.1.7.

Example 3.1.7: Estimating Velocity

A lead weight on a spring is oscillating up and down. Its position at time t with respect to a fixed horizontal line is given by $s(t) = \sin t$ (Figure 3.1.8). Use a table of values to estimate $v(0)$. Check the estimate by using Equation 3.1.8.

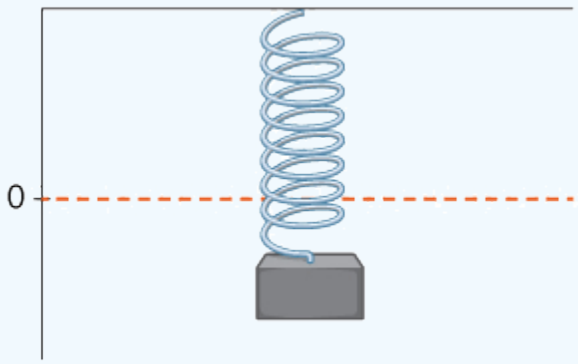


Figure 3.1.8: A lead weight suspended from a spring in vertical oscillatory motion.

Solution

We can estimate the instantaneous velocity at $t = 0$ by computing a table of average velocities using values of t approaching 0, as shown in Table 3.1.2.

Table 3.1.2: Average velocities using values of t approaching 0

t	$\frac{\sin t-\sin 0}{t-0}=\frac{\sin t}{t}$
−0.1	0.998334166
−0.01	0.9999833333
−0.001	0.999999833
0.001	0.999999833
0.01	0.9999833333
0.1	0.998334166

From the table we see that the average velocity over the time interval $[-0.1, 0]$ is 0.998334166, the average velocity over the time interval $[-0.01, 0]$ is 0.9999833333, and so forth. Using this table of values, it appears that a good estimate is $v(0) = 1$.

By using Equation 3.1.8, we can see that

$$v(0) = s'(0) = \lim_{t\to 0} \frac{\sin t - \sin 0}{t - 0} = \lim_{t\to 0} \frac{\sin t}{t} = 1.$$

Thus, in fact, $v(0) = 1$.

Exercise 3.1.4

A rock is dropped from a height of 64 feet. Its height above ground at time t seconds later is given by $s(t) = -16t^2 + 64, \quad 0 \le t \le 2$. Find its instantaneous velocity 1 second after it is dropped, using Equation 3.1.8.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

As we have seen throughout this section, the slope of a tangent line to a function and instantaneous velocity are related concepts. Each is calculated by computing a derivative and each measures the instantaneous rate of change of a function, or the rate of change of a function at any point along the function.

Definition: Instantaneous Rate of Change

The **instantaneous rate of change** of a function $f(x)$ at a value a is its derivative $f'(a)$.

Example 3.1.8: Chapter Opener: Estimating Rate of Change of Velocity

Reaching a top speed of 270.49 mph, the Hennessey Venom GT is one of the fastest cars in the world. In tests it went from 0 to 60 mph in 3.05 seconds, from 0 to 100 mph in 5.88 seconds, from 0 to 200 mph in 14.51 seconds, and from 0 to 229.9 mph in 19.96 seconds. Use this data to draw a conclusion about the rate of change of velocity (that is, its **acceleration**) as it approaches 229.9 mph. Does the rate at which the car is accelerating appear to be increasing, decreasing, or constant?



Figure 3.1.9: The Hennessey Venom GT can go from 0 to 200 mph in 14.51 seconds. (CC BY 2.0, Axion23, via Wikimedia Commons)

Solution: First observe that 60 mph = 88 ft/s, 100 mph ≈146.67 ft/s, 200 mph ≈293.33 ft/s, and 229.9 mph ≈337.19 ft/s. We can summarize the information in a table.

Table 3.1.3: $v(t)$ at different values of t

t	$v(t)$
0	0
3.05	88
5.88	147.67
14.51	293.33
19.96	337.19

Now compute the average acceleration of the car in feet per second on intervals of the form $[t, 19.96]$ as t approaches 19.96, as shown in the following table.

Table 3.1.4: Average acceleration

t	$\frac{v(t)-v(19.96)}{t-19.96}=\frac{v(t)-337.19}{t-19.96}$
0.0	16.89
3.05	14.74
5.88	13.46
14.51	8.05

The rate at which the car is accelerating is decreasing as its velocity approaches 229.9 mph (337.19 ft/s).

Example 3.1.9: Rate of Change of Temperature

A homeowner sets the thermostat so that the temperature in the house begins to drop from $70\,^\circ F$ at 9 p.m., reaches a low of $60\,^\circ$ during the night, and rises back to $70\,^\circ$ by 7 a.m. the next morning. Suppose that the temperature in the house is given by $T(t) = 0.4t^2 - 4t + 70$ for $0 \le t \le 10$, where t is the number of hours past 9 p.m. Find the instantaneous rate of change of the temperature at midnight.

Solution

Since midnight is 3 hours past 9 p.m., we want to compute $T\,'(3)$. Refer to Equation 3.1.5.

$$\begin{aligned}
T'(3) &= \lim_{t\to 3} \frac{T(t) - T(3)}{t-3} && \text{Apply the definition.}\\
&= \lim_{t\to 3} \frac{0.4t^2 - 4t + 70 - 61.6}{t-3} && \text{Substitute } T(t) = 0.4t^2 - 4t + 70 \text{ and } T(3) = 61.6.\\
&= \lim_{t\to 3} \frac{0.4t^2 - 4t + 8.4}{t-3} && \text{Simplify.}\\
&= \lim_{t\to 3} \frac{0.4(t-3)(t-7)}{t-3} &&\\
&= \lim_{t\to 3} 0.4(t-7) && \text{Cancel.}\\
&= -1.6 && \text{Evaluate the limit.}
\end{aligned}$$

The instantaneous rate of change of the temperature at midnight is $-1.6\,^\circ F$ per hour.

Example 3.1.10: Rate of Change of Profit

A toy company can sell x electronic gaming systems at a price of $p = -0.01x + 400$ dollars per gaming system. The cost of manufacturing x systems is given by $C(x) = 100x + 10,000$ dollars. Find the rate of change of profit when $10,000$ games are produced. Should the toy company increase or decrease production?

Solution

The profit $P(x)$ earned by producing x gaming systems is $R(x) - C(x)$, where $R(x)$ is the revenue obtained from the sale of x games. Since the company can sell x games at $p = -0.01x + 400$ per game,

$$R(x) = xp = x(-0.01x + 400) = -0.01x^2 + 400x.$$

Consequently,

$$P(x) = -0.01x^2 + 300x - 10,000.$$

Therefore, evaluating the rate of change of profit gives

$$\begin{aligned}
P'(10000) &= \lim_{x\to 10000} \frac{P(x) - P(10000)}{x - 10000}\\
&= \lim_{x\to 10000} \frac{-0.01x^2 + 300x - 10000 - 1990000}{x - 10000}\\
&= \lim_{x\to 10000} \frac{-0.01x^2 + 300x - 2000000}{x - 10000}\\
&= 100
\end{aligned}$$

.

Since the rate of change of profit $P\,'(10,000) > 0$ and $P(10,000) > 0$, the company should increase production.

Exercise 3.1.5

A coffee shop determines that the daily profit on scones obtained by charging s dollars per scone is $P(s) = -20s^2 + 150s - 10$. The coffee shop currently charges $\$3.25$ per scone. Find $P\,'(3.25)$, the rate of change of profit when the price is $\$3.25$ and decide whether or not the coffee shop should consider raising or lowering its prices on scones.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- The slope of the tangent line to a curve measures the instantaneous rate of change of a curve. We can calculate it by finding the limit of the difference quotient or the difference quotient with increment h.
- The derivative of a function $f(x)$ at a value a is found using either of the definitions for the slope of the tangent line.
- Velocity is the rate of change of position. As such, the velocity $v(t)$ at time t is the derivative of the position $s(t)$ at time t. Average velocity is given by

  $$v_{\text{ave}} = \frac{s(t) - s(a)}{t - a}.$$

  Instantaneous velocity is given by

  $$v(a) = s'(a) = \lim_{t \to a} \frac{s(t) - s(a)}{t - a}.$$

- We may estimate a derivative by using a table of values.

Key Equations

- **Difference quotient**

  $$Q = \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$$

- **Difference quotient with increment h**

  $$Q = \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{a + h - a} = \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

- **Slope of tangent line**

  $$m_{\tan} = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$$

  $$m_{\tan} = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

- **Derivative of f(x) at a**

  $$f\,'(a) = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$$

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

- **Average velocity**

  $$v_{\text{ave}} = \frac{s(t) - s(a)}{t - a}$$

- **Instantaneous velocity**

$$v(a) = s\,'(a) = \lim_{t \to a} \frac{s(t) - s(a)}{t - a}$$

Glossary

Derivative
: The slope of the tangent line to a function at a point, calculated by taking the limit of the difference quotient, is the derivative

Difference quotient
: The difference quotient of a function $f(x)$ at a is given by

$$\frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h} \text{ or } \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$$

Differentiation
: The process of taking a derivative

Instantaneous rate of change
: The rate of change of a function at any point along the function a, also called $f\,'(a)$, or the derivative of the function at a

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Answers

Exercise 3.1.1
Use either Equation 3.1.3 or Equation 3.1.4. Multiply the numerator and the denominator by a conjugate.

Exercise 3.1.1
$\frac{1}{4}$

Exercise 3.1.2
Evaluate $\frac{(x+h) - x^2}{h}$ at $h = -0.1,\ -0.01,\ -0.001,\ 0.001,\ 0.01,\ 0.1$

Exercise 3.1.2
6

Exercise 3.1.3
Use either Equation 3.1.5, Equation 3.1.6, or try both.

Exercise 3.1.3
$f\,'(1) = 5$

Exercise 3.1.4
$v(t) = s\,'(t)$. Follow the earlier examples of the derivative using Equation 3.1.8.

Exercise 3.1.4
–32 ft/s

Exercise 3.1.5
Use Example 3.1.11 for a guide.

Exercise 3.1.5
$P\,'(3.25) = 20 > 0$; raise prices

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3.1E: Exercises for Section 3.1

Exercises 1 - 10

Use the equation $m_{\text{sec}} = \dfrac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$ to find the slope of the secant line between the values x_1 and x_2 for each function $y = f(x)$.

1. $f(x) = 4x + 7; \quad x_1 = 2, \quad x_2 = 5$

   Answer

   $m_{\text{sec}} = 4$

2. $f(x) = 8x - 3; \quad x_1 = -1, \quad x_2 = 3$
3. $f(x) = x^2 + 2x + 1; \quad x_1 = 3, \quad x_2 = 3.5$

   Answer

   $m_{\text{sec}} = 8.5$

4. $f(x) = -x^2 + x + 2; \quad x_1 = 0.5, \quad x_2 = 1.5$
5. $f(x) = \dfrac{4}{3x - 1}; \quad x_1 = 1, \quad x_2 = 3$

   Answer

   $m_{\text{sec}} = -\frac{3}{4}$

6. $f(x) = \dfrac{x - 7}{2x + 1}; \quad x_1 = -2, \quad x_2 = 0$
7. $f(x) = \sqrt{x}; \quad x_1 = 1, \quad x_2 = 16$

   Answer

   $m_{\text{sec}} = 0.2$

8. $f(x) = \sqrt{x - 9}; \quad x_1 = 10, \quad x_2 = 13$
9. $f(x) = x^{1/3} + 1; \quad x_1 = 0, \quad x_2 = 8$

   Answer

   $m_{\text{sec}} = 0.25$

10. $f(x) = 6x^{2/3} + 2x^{1/3}; \quad x_1 = 1, \quad x_2 = 27$

Exercises 11 - 20

a. **Use the equation $m_{\tan} = \lim\limits_{h \to 0} \dfrac{f(a + h) - f(a)}{h}$ to find the slope of the tangent line $m_{\tan} = f\,'(a)$.**

b. **Find the equation of the tangent line to f at $x = a$.**

11. $f(x) = 3 - 4x, \quad a = 2$

    Answer

    a. $m_{\tan} = -4$

    b. $y = -4x + 3$

12. $f(x) = \dfrac{x}{5} + 6, \quad a = -1$
13. $f(x) = x^2 + x, \quad a = 1$

Answer

a. $m_{\tan} = 3$
b. $y = 3x - 1$

14. $f(x) = 1 - x - x^2, \quad a = 0$
15. $f(x) = \dfrac{7}{x}, \quad a = 3$

Answer

a. $m_{\tan} = \frac{-7}{9}$
b. $y = \frac{-7}{9}x + \frac{14}{3}$

16. $f(x) = \sqrt{x+8}, \quad a = 1$
17. $f(x) = 2 - 3x^2, \quad a = -2$

Answer

a. $m_{\tan} = 12$
b. $y = 12x + 14$

18. $f(x) = \dfrac{-3}{x-1}, \quad a = 4$
19. $f(x) = \dfrac{2}{x+3}, \quad a = -4$

Answer

a. $m_{\tan} = -2$
b. $y = -2x - 10$

20. $f(x) = \dfrac{3}{x^2}, \quad a = 3$

Exercises 21 - 30

For the functions $y = f(x)$, find $f'(a)$ using the equation $f'(a) = \lim_{x \to a} \dfrac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$.

21. $f(x) = 5x + 4, \quad a = -1$

Answer

$f'(-1) = 5$

22. $f(x) = -7x + 1, \quad a = 3$
23. $f(x) = x^2 + 9x, \quad a = 2$

Answer

$f'(2) = 13$

24. $f(x) = 3x^2 - x + 2, \quad a = 1$
25. $f(x) = \sqrt{x}, \quad a = 4$

Answer

$f'(4) = \frac{1}{4}$

26. $f(x) = \sqrt{x-2}, \quad a = 6$
27. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{x}, \quad a = 2$

Answer

$f'(2) = -\frac{1}{4}$

28. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{x-3}, \quad a = -1$

29. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{x^3}, \quad a = 1$

Answer

$$f'(1) = -3$$

30. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{\sqrt{x}}, \quad a = 4$

Exercises 31 - 34

Given the function $y = f(x)$,

a. **Find the slope of the secant line PQ for each point $Q(x, f(x))$ with x value given in the table.**
b. **Use the answers from a. to estimate the value of the slope of the tangent line at P.**
c. **Use the answer from b. to find the equation of the tangent line to f at point P.**

31. [T] $f(x) = x^2 + 3x + 4, \quad P(1, 8)$ (Round to 6 decimal places.)

Table 3.1E.1: Table of values as x approaches 1

x	Slope m_{PQ}	x	Slope m_{PQ}
1.1	(i)	0.9	(vii)
1.01	(ii)	0.99	(viii)
1.001	(iii)	0.999	(ix)
1.0001	(iv)	0.9999	(x)
1.00001	(v)	0.99999	(xi)
1.000001	(vi)	0.999999	(xii)

Answer

a. (i)5.100000, (ii)5.010000, (iii)5.001000, (iv)5.000100, (v)5.000010, (vi)5.000001, (vii)4.900000, (viii)4.990000, (ix)4.999000, (x)4.999900, (xi)4.999990, (x)4.999999
b. $m_{\tan} = 5$
c. $y = 5x + 3$

32. [T] $f(x) = \dfrac{x+1}{x^2-1}, \quad P(0, -1)$

Table 3.1E.2: Table of values as x approaches 0

x	Slope m_{PQ}	x	Slope m_{PQ}
0.1	(i)	−0.1	(vii)
0.01	(ii)	−0.01	(viii)
0.001	(iii)	−0.001	(ix)
0.0001	(iv)	−0.0001	(x)
0.00001	(v)	−0.00001	(xi)
0.000001	(vi)	−0.000001	(xii)

33. [T] $f(x) = 10e^{0.5x}, \quad P(0, 10)$ (Round to 4 decimal places.)

Table 3.1E.3: Table of values as x approaches 0

x	Slope m_{PQ}
−0.1	(i)
−0.01	(ii)
−0.001	(iii)
−0.0001	(iv)
−0.00001	(v)
−0.000001	(vi)

Answer

a. $(i) 4.8771,\ (ii) 4.9875,\ (iii) 4.9988,\ (iv) 4.9999,\ (v) 4.9999,\ (vi) 4.9999$
b. $m_{\tan} = 5$
c. $y = 5x + 10$

34. [T] $f(x) = \tan(x), \quad P(\pi, 0)$

Table 3.1E.4: Table of values as x approaches π

x	Slope m_{PQ}
3.1	(i)
3.14	(ii)
3.141	(iii)
3.1415	(iv)
3.14159	(v)
3.141592	(vi)

Exercises 35 - 38

[T] For the following position functions $y = s(t)$, an object is moving along a straight line, where t is in seconds and s is in meters. Find

a. **the simplified expression for the average velocity from $t = 2$ to $t = 2 + h$;**
b. **the average velocity between $t = 2$ and $t = 2 + h$, where $(i)\ h = 0.1,\ (ii)\ h = 0.01,\ (iii)\ h = 0.001$, and $(iv)\ h = 0.0001$; and**
c. **use the answer from a. to estimate the instantaneous velocity at $t = 2$ second.**

35. $s(t) = \frac{1}{3}t + 5$

Answer

a. $\frac{1}{3}$;
b. $(i)\ \frac{1}{3}$ m/s, $(ii)\ \frac{1}{3}$ m/s, $(iii)\ \frac{1}{3}$ m/s, $(iv)\ \frac{1}{3}$ m/s;
c. $\frac{1}{3}$ m/s

36. $s(t) = t^2 - 2t$
37. $s(t) = 2t^3 + 3$

Answer

a. $2(h^2 + 6h + 12)$;
b. $(i)\ 25.22$ m/s, $(ii)\ 24.12$ m/s, $(iii)\ 24.01$ m/s, $(iv)\ 24$ m/s;
c. 24 m/s

38. $s(t) = \dfrac{16}{t^2} - \dfrac{4}{t}$

Exercises 39 - 44

Use the limit definition of derivative to show that the derivative does not exist at $x = a$ for each of the given functions.

39. $f(x) = x^{1/3}, \quad x = 0$

Answer

$$\lim_{x \to 0^-} \frac{x^{1/3} - 0}{x - 0} = \lim_{x \to 0^-} \frac{1}{x^{2/3}} = \infty$$

40. $f(x) = x^{2/3}, \quad x = 0$

41. $f(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x < 1 \\ x, & \text{if } x \geq 1 \end{cases}, \quad x = 1$

Answer

$$\lim_{x \to 1^-} \frac{1 - 1}{x - 1} = 0 \neq 1 = \lim_{x \to 1^+} \frac{x - 1}{x - 1}$$

42. $f(x) = \dfrac{|x|}{x}, \quad x = 0$

43. [T] The position in feet of a race car along a straight track after t seconds is modeled by the function $s(t) = 8t^2 - \frac{1}{16}t^3$.

a. Find the average velocity of the vehicle over the following time intervals to four decimal places:
   i. $[4, 4.1]$
   ii. $[4, 4.01]$
   iii. $[4, 4.001]$
   iv. $[4, 4.0001]$

b. Use a. to draw a conclusion about the instantaneous velocity of the vehicle at $t = 4$ seconds.

Answer

a. $(i) 61.7244 ft/s, \ (ii) 61.0725 ft/s, \ (iii) 61.0072 ft/s, \ (iv) 61.0007 ft/s$
b. At 4 seconds the race car is traveling at a rate/velocity of 61 ft/s

44. [T] The distance in feet that a ball rolls down an incline is modeled by the function $s(t) = 14t^2$, where t is seconds after the ball begins rolling.

a. Find the average velocity of the vehicle over the following time intervals to four decimal places:
   i. $[5, 5.1]$
   ii. $[5, 5.01]$
   iii. $[5, 5.001]$
   iv. $[5, 5.0001]$

b. Use a. to draw a conclusion about the instantaneous velocity of the vehicle at $t = 5$ seconds.

45. Two vehicles start out traveling side by side along a straight road. Their position functions, shown in the following graph, are given by $s = f(t)$ and $s = g(t)$, where s is measured in feet and t is measured in seconds.

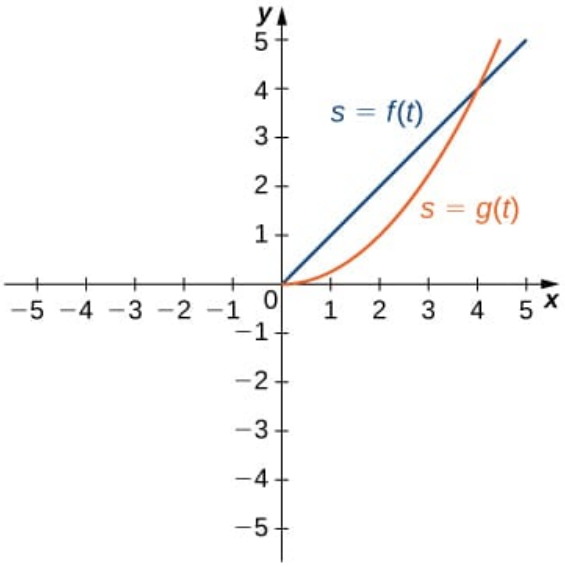


Figure $3.1E.1$: The image is a graph showing two functions, $s = f(t)$ and $s = g(t)$, plotted on the coordinate plane. The function $f(t)$ is shown in blue, and $g(t)$ is shown in orange. Both functions start from the origin $0, 0)$ and increase as t increases. The function $g(t)$ appears to grow at an increasing rate compared to $f(t)$, suggesting $g(t)$ might be an exponential or quadratic function while $f(t)$ might be linear.

a. Which vehicle has traveled farther at $t = 2$ seconds?
b. What is the approximate velocity of each vehicle at $t = 3$ seconds?
c. Which vehicle is traveling faster at $t = 4$ seconds?
d. What is true about the positions of the vehicles at $t = 4$ seconds?

Answer

a. The vehicle represented by $f(t)$, because it has traveled 2 feet, whereas $g(t)$ has traveled 1 foot.
b. The velocity of $f(t)$ is constant at 1 ft/s, while the velocity of $g(t)$ is approximately 2 ft/s.
c. The vehicle represented by $g(t)$, with a velocity of approximately 4 ft/s.
d. Both have traveled 4 feet in 4 seconds.

16. [T] The total cost $C(x)$, in hundreds of dollars, to produce x jars of mayonnaise is given by $C(x) = 0.000003x^3 + 4x + 300$.

a. Find the average cost per jar over the following intervals:
   i. $[100, 100.1]$
   ii. $[100, 100.01]$
   iii. $[100, 100.001]$
   iv. $[100, 100.0001]$

b. Use a. to draw a to estimate the average cost to produce $t = 100$ jars of mayonnaise.

17. [T] For the function $f(x) = x^3 - 2x^2 - 11x + 12$, do the following.

a. Use a graphing calculator to graph f in an appropriate viewing window.
b. Use the ZOOM feature on the calculator to approximate the two values of $x = a$ for which $m_{tan} = f\,'(a) = 0$.

Answer

a.

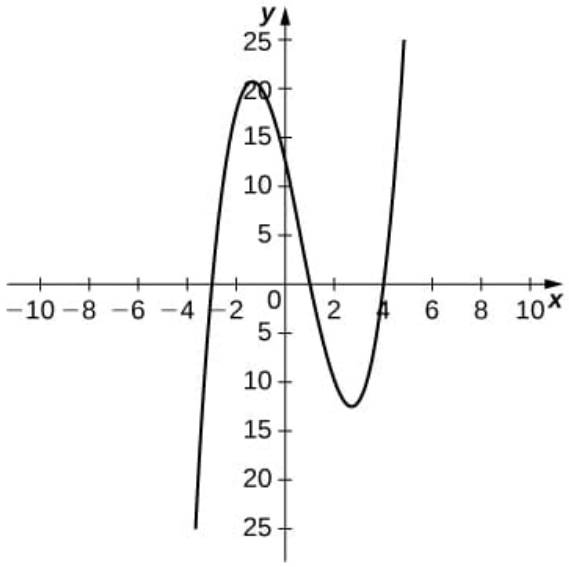


Figure $3.1E.2$: The image is a graph of a polynomial or rational function with notable features. The graph has a turning point at a high value on the y-axis, then decreases to a local minimum before increasing again. There appears to be a vertical asymptote or discontinuity between $x = 3$ and $x = 4$, where the function sharply diverges. The curve extends both left and right beyond the shown portion of the graph.

b. $a \approx -1.361,\ 2.694$

18. [T] For the function $f(x) = \dfrac{x}{1 + x^2}$, do the following.

a. Use a graphing calculator to graph f in an appropriate viewing window.
b. Use the ZOOM feature on the calculator to approximate the values of $x = a$ for which $m_{\tan} = f\,'(a) = 0$.

19. Suppose that $N(x)$ computes the number of gallons of gas used by a vehicle traveling x miles. Suppose the vehicle gets 30 mpg.

a. Find a mathematical expression for $N(x)$.
b. What is $N(100)$? Explain the physical meaning.
c. What is $N\,'(100)$? Explain the physical meaning.

Answer

a. $N(x) = \dfrac{x}{30}$
b. ~ 3.3 gallons. When the vehicle travels 100 miles, it has used 3.3 gallons of gas.
c. $\frac{1}{30}$. The rate of gas consumption in gallons per mile that the vehicle is achieving after having traveled 100 miles.

50. [T] For the function $f(x) = x^4 - 5x^2 + 4$, do the following.

a. Use a graphing calculator to graph f in an appropriate viewing window.
b. Use the $nDeriv$ function, which numerically finds the derivative, on a graphing calculator to estimate $f\,'(-2),\ f\,'(-0.5),\ f\,'(1.7)$, and $f\,'(2.718)$.

51. [T] For the function $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2}{x^2 + 1}$, do the following.

a. Use a graphing calculator to graph f in an appropriate viewing window.
b. Use the $nDeriv$ function on a graphing calculator to find $f\,'(-4),\ f\,'(-2),\ f\,'(2)$, and $f\,'(4)$.

Answer

a.

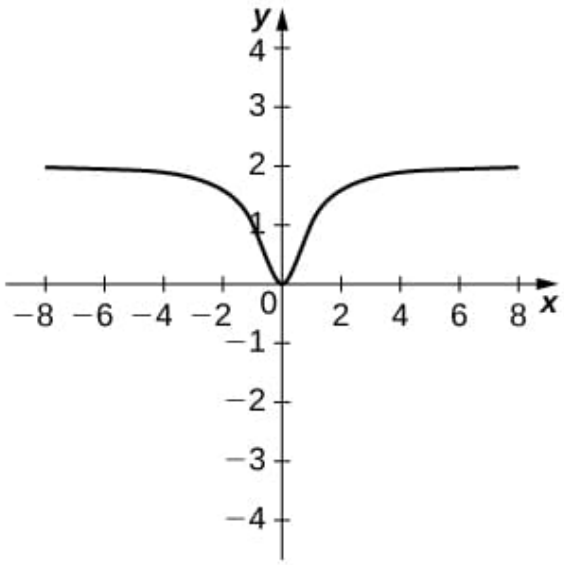


Figure $3.1E.3$: The image is a graph of a function that exhibits symmetry around the y-axis. The function has a local minimum at the origin $(0, 0)$ and appears to approach a horizontal asymptote at a positive y-value as x moves toward both positive and negative infinity.

b. $-0.028, -0.16, 0.16, 0.028$

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3.2: The Derivative as a Function

Learning Objectives

- Define the derivative function of a given function.
- Graph a derivative function from the graph of a given function.
- State the connection between derivatives and continuity.
- Describe three conditions for when a function does not have a derivative.
- Explain the meaning of a higher-order derivative.

As we have seen, the derivative of a function at a given point gives us the rate of change or slope of the tangent line to the function at that point. If we differentiate a position function at a given time, we obtain the velocity at that time. It seems reasonable to conclude that knowing the derivative of the function at every point would produce valuable information about the behavior of the function. However, the process of finding the derivative at even a handful of values using the techniques of the preceding section would quickly become quite tedious. In this section we define the derivative function and learn a process for finding it.

Derivative Functions

The derivative function gives the derivative of a function at each point in the domain of the original function for which the derivative is defined. We can formally define a derivative function as follows.

Definition: Derivative Function

Let f be a function. The **derivative function**, denoted by f', is the function whose domain consists of those values of x such that the following limit exists:

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}. \tag{3.2.1}$$

A function $f(x)$ is said to be **differentiable at** a if $f'(a)$ exists. More generally, a function is said to be **differentiable on** S if it is differentiable at every point in an open set S, and a differentiable function is one in which $f'(x)$ exists on its domain.

In the next few examples we use Equation 3.2.1 to find the derivative of a function.

Example 3.2.1: Finding the Derivative of a Square-Root Function

Find the derivative of $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$.

Solution

Start directly with the definition of the derivative function.

Substitute $f(x+h) = \sqrt{x+h}$ and $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ into $f'(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$.

Guide to finding the derivative

$f'(x) = \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{\sqrt{x+h}-\sqrt{x}}{h}$	
$= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{\sqrt{x+h}-\sqrt{x}}{h} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{x+h}+\sqrt{x}}{\sqrt{x+h}+\sqrt{x}}$	Multiply numerator and denominator by $\sqrt{x+h}+\sqrt{x}$ without distributing in the denominator.
$= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{h}{h\left(\sqrt{x+h}+\sqrt{x}\right)}$	Multiply the numerators and simplify.
$= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{1}{\left(\sqrt{x+h}+\sqrt{x}\right)}$	Cancel the h.
$= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$	Evaluate the limit

Example 3.2.2: Finding the Derivative of a Quadratic Function

Find the derivative of the function $f(x) = x^2 - 2x$.

Solution

Follow the same procedure here, but without having to multiply by the conjugate.

Substitute $f(x+h) = (x+h)^2 - 2(x+h)$ and $f(x) = x^2 - 2x$ into $f'(x) = \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}$.

Guide to finding the derivative

$f'(x) = \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{((x+h)^2 - 2(x+h)) - (x^2 - 2x)}{h}$	
$= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{x^2+2xh+h^2-2x-2h-x^2+2x}{h}$	Expand $(x+h)^2 - 2(x+h)$.
$= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{2xh-2h+h^2}{h}$	Simplify
$= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{h(2x-2+h)}{h}$	Factor out h from the numerator
$= \lim_{h\to 0} (2x-2+h)$	Cancel the common factor of h
$= 2x-2$	Evaluate the limit

Exercise 3.2.1

Find the derivative of $f(x) = x^2$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 3.2.3

Use the limit process to find the derivative of $f(x) = \frac{2}{3-x}$.

Solution

- **Video Length**: 1 minute 51 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates the using the limit definition of the derivative for a rational function

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Example 3.2.1

Use the limit process to find the derivative of $f(x) = \sqrt{2x-1}$.

Solution

- **Video Length**: 3 minute 49 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates using the limit definition of the derivative for a function involving a square root.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

We use a variety of different notations to express the derivative of a function. In Example we showed that if $f(x) = x^2 - 2x$, then $f'(x) = 2x - 2$. If we had expressed this function in the form $y = x^2 - 2x$, we could have expressed the derivative as $y' = 2x - 2$ or $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x - 2$. We could have conveyed the same information by writing $\frac{d}{dx}(x^2 - 2x) = 2x - 2$. Thus, for the function $y = f(x)$, each of the following notations represents the derivative of $f(x)$:

$$f'(x), \quad \frac{dy}{dx}, \quad y', \quad \frac{d}{dx}\big(f(x)\big).$$

In place of $f'(a)$ we may also use $\left.\frac{dy}{dx}\right|_{x=a}$. Use of the $\frac{dy}{dx}$ notation (called Leibniz notation) is quite common in engineering and physics. To understand this notation better, recall that the derivative of a function at a point is the limit of the slopes of secant lines as the secant lines approach the tangent line. The slopes of these secant lines are often expressed in the form $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$ where Δy is the difference in the y values corresponding to the difference in the x values, which are expressed as Δx (Figure 3.2.1). Thus the derivative, which can be thought of as the instantaneous rate of change of y with respect to x, is expressed as

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

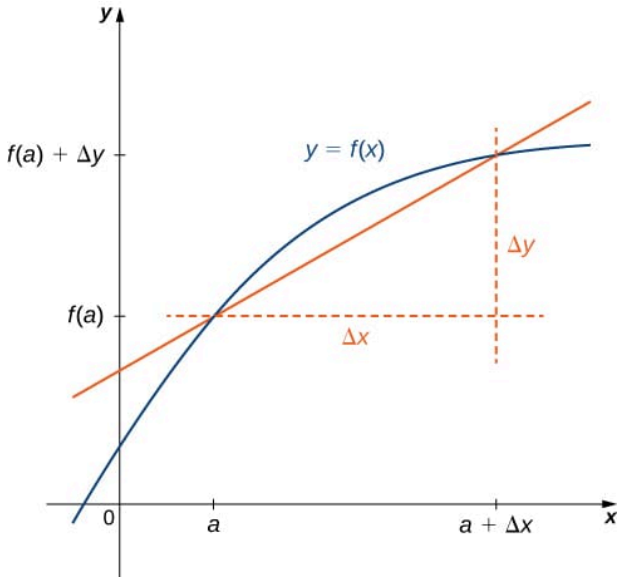


Figure 3.2.1: The derivative is expressed as $\frac{dy}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \to 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$.

Graphing a Derivative

We have already discussed how to graph a function, so given the equation of a function or the equation of a derivative function, we could graph it. Given both, we would expect to see a correspondence between the graphs of these two functions, since $f'(x)$ gives the rate of change of a function $f(x)$ (or slope of the tangent line to $f(x)$).

In Example 3.2.1, we found that for $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$, $f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$. If we graph these functions on the same axes, as in Figure 3.2.2, we can use the graphs to understand the relationship between these two functions. First, we notice that $f(x)$ is increasing over its entire domain, which means that the slopes of its tangent lines at all points are positive. Consequently, we expect $f'(x) > 0$ for all values of x in its domain. Furthermore, as x increases, the slopes of the tangent lines to $f(x)$ are decreasing and we expect to see a corresponding decrease in $f'(x)$. We also observe that $f(0)$ is undefined and that $\lim_{x \to 0^+} f'(x) = +\infty$, corresponding to a vertical tangent to $f(x)$ at 0.

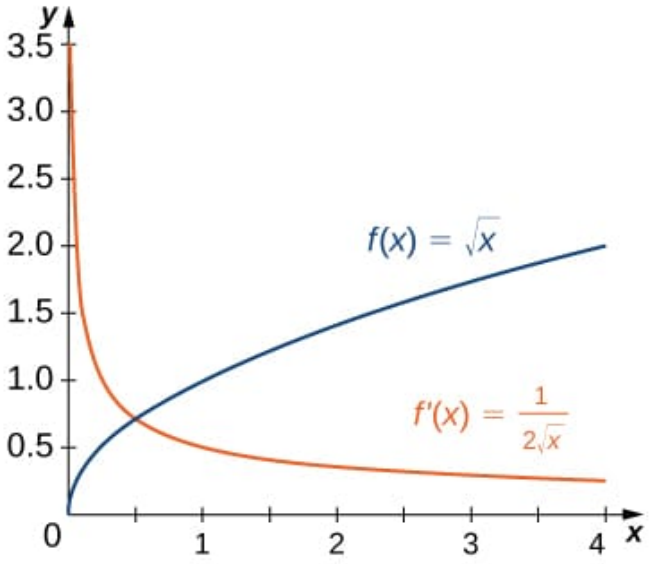


Figure 3.2.2: The derivative $f'(x)$ is positive everywhere because the function $f(x)$ is increasing.

In Example 3.2.2, we found that for $f(x) = x^2 - 2x, \quad f'(x) = 2x - 2$. The graphs of these functions are shown in Figure 3.2.3. Observe that $f(x)$ is decreasing for $x < 1$. For these same values of x, $f'(x) < 0$. For values of $x > 1$, $f(x)$ is increasing and $f'(x)$

> 0. Also, $f(x)$ has a horizontal tangent at $x = 1$ and $f'(1) = 0$.

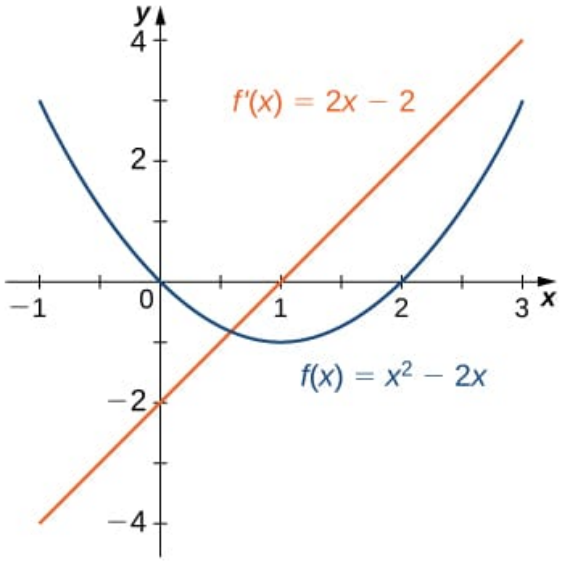


Figure 3.2.3: The function $f(x) = x^2 - 2x$ and its derivative function, $f'(x) = 2x - 2$, are graphed. The derivative $f'(x) < 0$ where the function $f(x)$ is decreasing, which is for $x < 1$. And, $f'(x) > 0$ where $f(x)$ is increasing, which is for $x > 1$. The derivative is zero where the function has a horizontal tangent.

Example 3.2.5: Sketching a Derivative Using a Function

Use the following graph of $f(x)$ to sketch a graph of $f'(x)$.

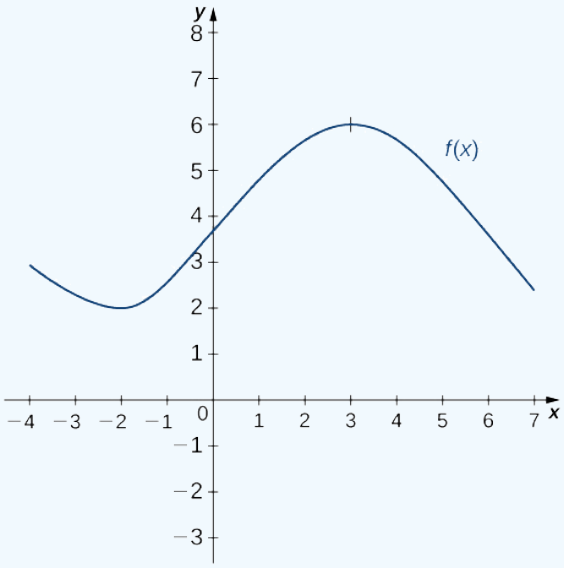


Figure 3.2.4: In the graph of the curved function f, y decreases, passing through the point $(-2, 2)$, increases, passing through the point $(3, 6)$, and then decreases.

Solution

The solution is shown in the following graph. Observe that $f(x)$ is increasing and $f'(x) > 0$ on $(-2, 3)$. Also, $f(x)$ is decreasing and $f'(x) < 0$ on $(-\infty, -2)$ and on $(3, +\infty)$. Also note that $f(x)$ has horizontal tangents at -2 and 3, and $f'(-2) = 0$ and $f'(3) = 0$.

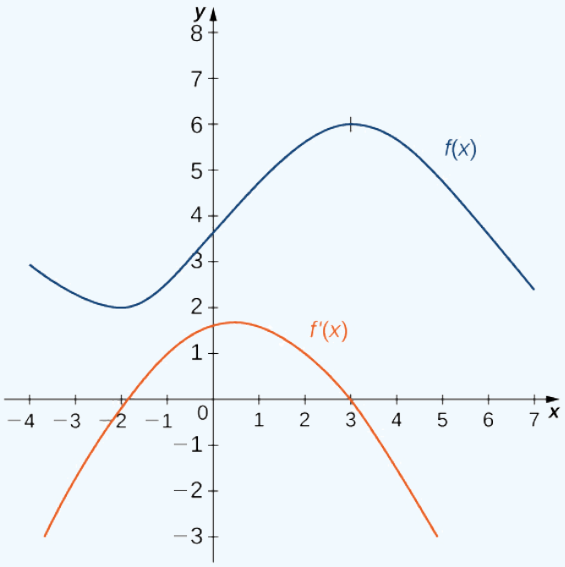


Figure 3.2.5: The function f from Figure 3.2.4 is graphed again. Also graphed is its derivative f'. In the graph of f', the graph starts out in the third quadrant, increases to the point $(-2, 0)$, and continues to increase. The graph peaks at the point $(0.5, 1.5)$, decreases, passing through $(3, 0)$ and into the fourth quadrant.

Interactive Element

Graphing the Derivative Given the Graph of the Function

You are shown the graph of $y = f(x)$. Use your mouse from very far left to right in the xy-plane, not too fast, to sketch the graph of $y = f'(x)$. Behind your sketch, the correct graph of the derivative function will be sketched.

New Function | Try Again

Exercise 3.2.2

Sketch the graph of $f(x) = x^2 - 4$. On what interval is the graph of $f'(x)$ above the x-axis?

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Derivatives and Continuity

Now that we can graph a derivative, let's examine the behavior of the graphs. First, we consider the relationship between differentiability and continuity. We will see that if a function is differentiable at a point, it must be continuous there; however, a function that is continuous at a point need not be differentiable at that point. In fact, a function may be continuous at a point and fail to be differentiable at the point for one of several reasons.

Theorem: Differentiability Implies Continuity

Let $f(x)$ be a function and a be in its domain. If $f(x)$ is differentiable at a, then f is continuous at a.

Proof

If $f(x)$ is differentiable at a, then $f'(a)$ exists and, if we let $h = x - a$, we have $x = a + h$, and as $h = x - a \to 0$, we can see that $x \to a$.

Then

$$f'(a) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

can be rewritten as

$$f'(a) = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}.$$

We want to show that $f(x)$ is continuous at a by showing that $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = f(a)$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \to a} f(x) &= \lim_{x \to a} \Big(f(x) - f(a) + f(a)\Big) \\
&= \lim_{x \to a} \left(\frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a} \cdot (x - a) + f(a)\right) && \text{Multiply and divide } (f(x) - f(a)) \text{ by } x - a. \\
&= \left(\lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}\right) \cdot \Big(\lim_{x \to a} (x - a)\Big) + \lim_{x \to a} f(a) \\
&= f'(a) \cdot 0 + f(a) \\
&= f(a).
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, since $f(a)$ is defined and $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = f(a)$, we conclude that f is continuous at a.

□

We have just proven that differentiability implies continuity, but now we consider whether continuity implies differentiability. To determine an answer to this question, we examine the function $f(x) = |x|$. This function is continuous everywhere; however, $f'(0)$ is undefined. This observation leads us to believe that continuity does not imply differentiability. Let's explore further. For $f(x) = |x|$,

$$f'(0) = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0} = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{|x| - |0|}{x - 0} = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{|x|}{x}.$$

This limit does not exist because

$$\lim_{x \to 0^-} \frac{|x|}{x} = -1 \text{ and } \lim_{x \to 0^+} \frac{|x|}{x} = 1.$$

See Figure 3.2.6.

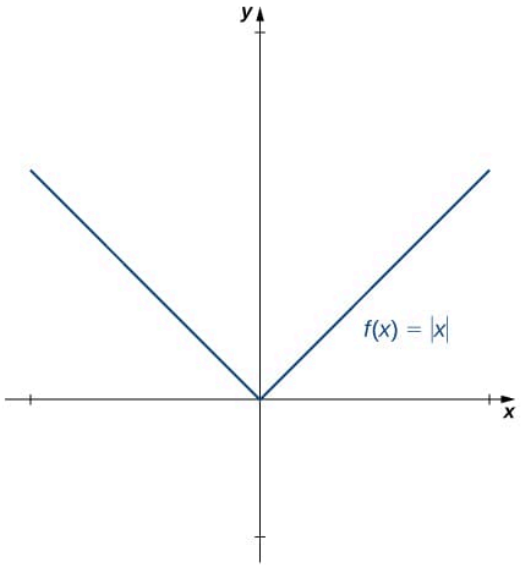


Figure 3.2.6: The function $f(x) = |x|$ is graphed. The graph has a sharp corner at the point $0, 0$; hence, the function is continuous at $x = 0$ but is not differentiable at $x = 0$.

Let's consider some additional situations in which a continuous function fails to be differentiable. Consider the function $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$:

$$f'(0) = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{\sqrt[3]{x} - 0}{x - 0} = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x^2}} = +\infty.$$

Thus $f'(0)$ does not exist. A quick look at the graph of $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$ clarifies the situation. The function has a vertical tangent line at 0 (Figure 3.2.7).

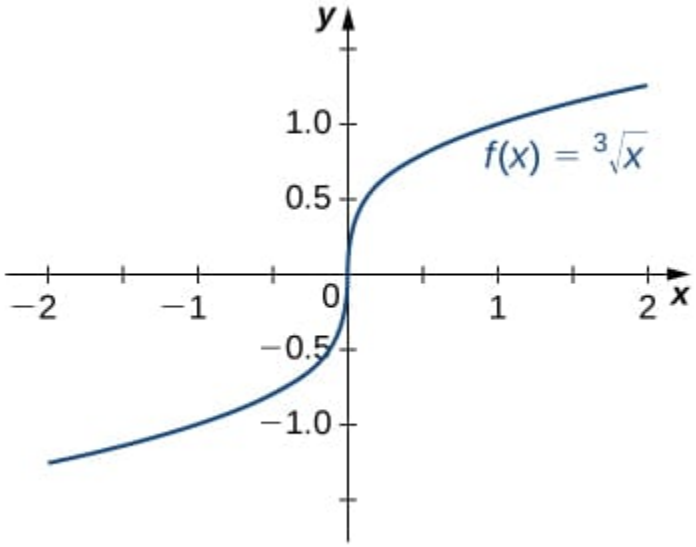


Figure 3.2.7: The function $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$ begins in the third quadrant, passes through the origin and moves into the first quadrant. The graph has a vertical tangent at $x = 0$. It is continuous at $x = 0$ but is not differentiable at $x = 0$.

The function $f(x) = \begin{cases} x \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right), & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$ also has a derivative that exhibits interesting behavior at 0.

We see that

$$f'(0) = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{x \sin(1/x) - 0}{x - 0} = \lim_{x \to 0} \sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right).$$

This limit does not exist, essentially because the slopes of the secant lines continuously change direction as they approach zero (Figure 3.2.8).

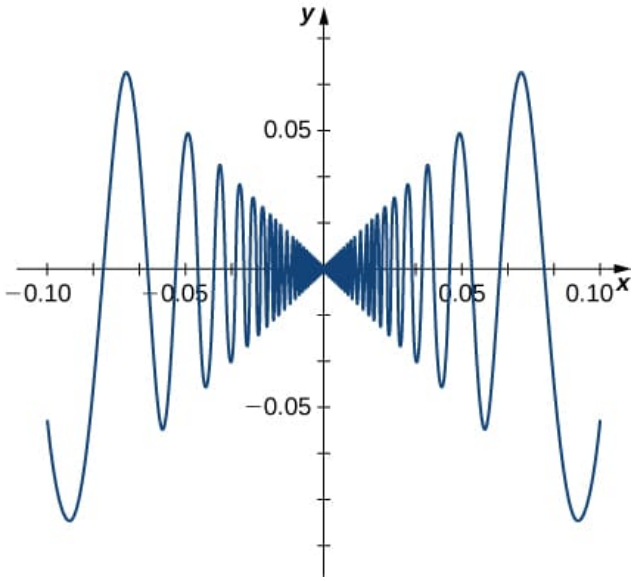


Figure 3.2.8: The function $f(x) = \begin{cases} x\sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right), & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$ consists of waves that increase in frequency without a limit as x approaches 0. The amplitude of the waves decrease to 0, though, as x approaches 0. Hence, this function is continuous at $x = 0$, but not differentiable at $x = 0$.

In summary:

1. We observe that if a function is not continuous, it cannot be differentiable, since every differentiable function must be continuous. However, if a function is continuous, it may still fail to be differentiable.
2. We saw that $f(x) = |x|$ failed to be differentiable at 0 because the limit of the slopes of the tangent lines on the left and right were not the same. Visually, this resulted in a sharp corner on the graph of the function at 0. From this we conclude that in order to be differentiable at a point, a function must be "smooth" at that point.
3. As we saw in the example of $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$, a function fails to be differentiable at a point where there is a vertical tangent line.
4. As we saw with $f(x) = \begin{cases} x\sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right), & \text{if } x \neq 0 \\ 0, & \text{if } x = 0 \end{cases}$ a function may fail to be differentiable at a point in more complicated ways as well.

Example 3.2.6: A Piecewise Function that is Continuous and Differentiable

A toy company wants to design a track for a toy car that starts out along a parabolic curve and then converts to a straight line (Figure 3.2.7). The function that describes the track is to have the form $f(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{10}x^2 + bx + c, & \text{if } x < -10 \\ -\frac{1}{4}x + \frac{5}{2}, & \text{if } x \geq -10 \end{cases}$ where x and $f(x)$ are in inches. For the car to move smoothly along the track, the function $f(x)$ must be both continuous and differentiable at -10. Find values of b and c that make $f(x)$ both continuous and differentiable.

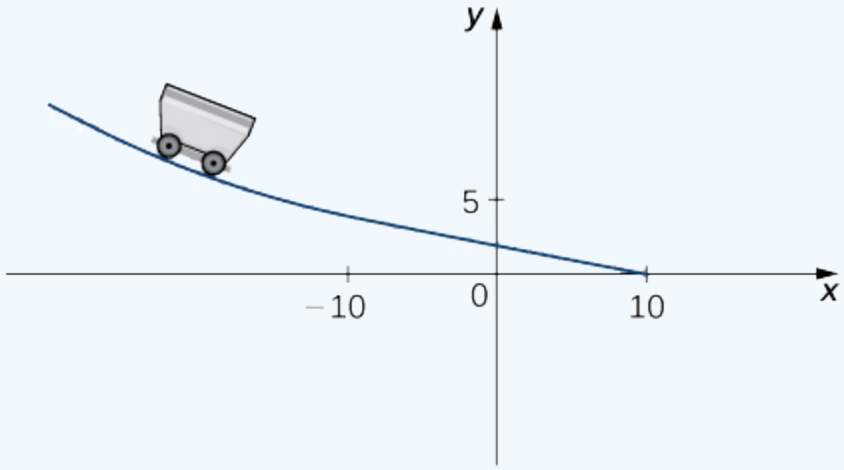


Figure 3.2.9: The figure shows a car on a curve graphed in the xy-plane. For the car to move smoothly along the track, the function must be both continuous and differentiable.

Solution

For the function to be continuous at $x = -10$, $\lim\limits_{x \to 10^-} f(x) = f(-10)$. Thus, since

$$\lim_{x \to -10^-} f(x) = \frac{1}{10}(-10)^2 - 10b + c = 10 - 10b + c \tag{3.2.2}$$

and $f(-10) = 5$, we must have $10 - 10b + c = 5$. Equivalently, we have $c = 10b - 5$.

For the function to be differentiable at -10,

$$f'(10) = \lim_{x \to -10} \frac{f(x) - f(-10)}{x + 10}$$

must exist. Since $f(x)$ is defined using different rules on the right and the left, we must evaluate this limit from the right and the left and then set them equal to each other:

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \to -10^-} \frac{f(x) - f(-10)}{x + 10} &= \lim_{x \to -10^-} \frac{\frac{1}{10}x^2 + bx + c - 5}{x + 10} \\
&= \lim_{x \to -10^-} \frac{\frac{1}{10}x^2 + bx + (10b - 5) - 5}{x + 10} && \text{Substitute } c = 10b - 5. \\
&= \lim_{x \to -10^-} \frac{x^2 - 100 + 10bx + 100b}{10(x + 10)} \\
&= \lim_{x \to -10^-} \frac{(x + 10)(x - 10 + 10b)}{10(x + 10)} && \text{Factor by grouping} \\
&= b - 2
\end{aligned}$$

We also have

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x \to -10^+} \frac{f(x) - f(-10)}{x + 10} &= \lim_{x \to -10^+} \frac{-\frac{1}{4}x + \frac{5}{2} - 5}{x + 10} \\
&= \lim_{x \to -10^+} \frac{-(x + 10)}{4(x + 10)} \\
&= -\frac{1}{4}
\end{aligned}$$

This gives us $b - 2 = -\frac{1}{4}$. Thus $b = \frac{7}{4}$ and $c = 10(\frac{7}{4}) - 5 = \frac{25}{2}$.

Exercise 3.2.3

Find values of a and b that make $f(x) = \begin{cases} ax+b, & \text{if } x < 3 \\ x^2, & \text{if } x \geq 3 \end{cases}$ both continuous and differentiable at 3.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Higher-Order Derivatives

The derivative of a function is itself a function, so we can find the derivative of a derivative. For example, the derivative of a position function is the rate of change of position, or velocity. The derivative of velocity is the rate of change of velocity, which is acceleration. The new function obtained by differentiating the derivative is called the second derivative. Furthermore, we can continue to take derivatives to obtain the third derivative, fourth derivative, and so on. Collectively, these are referred to as **higher-order derivatives**. The notation for the higher-order derivatives of $y = f(x)$ can be expressed in any of the following forms:

$$f''(x),\ f'''(x),\ f^{(4)}(x),\ \ldots\ ,\ f^{(n)}(x)$$

$$y''(x),\ y'''(x),\ y^{(4)}(x),\ \ldots\ ,\ y^{(n)}(x)$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2},\ \frac{d^3y}{dy^3},\ \frac{d^4y}{dy^4},\ \ldots\ ,\ \frac{d^ny}{dy^n}.$$

It is interesting to note that the notation for $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ may be viewed as an attempt to express $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)$ more compactly.

Analogously, $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)\right) = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}\right) = \frac{d^3y}{dx^3}$.

Example 3.2.7: Finding a Second Derivative

For $f(x) = 2x^2 - 3x + 1$, find $f''(x)$.

Solution

First find $f'(x)$.

Substitute $f(x) = 2x^2 - 3x + 1$ and $f(x+h) = 2(x+h)^2 - 3(x+h) + 1$ into $f'(x) = \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$.

Guide to finding f''

$f'(x) = \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{(2(x+h)^2 - 3(x+h) + 1) - (2x^2 - 3x + 1)}{h}$	
$= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{4xh + h^2 - 3h}{h}$	Simplify the numerator.
$= \lim_{h\to 0} (4x + h - 3)$	Factor out the h in the numerator and cancel with the h in the denominator.
$= 4x - 3$	Take the limit.

Next, find $f''(x)$ by taking the derivative of $f'(x) = 4x - 3$.

Guide to finding f''

$f''(x) = \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{f'(x+h) - f'(x)}{h}$	**Use $f'(x) = \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$ with $f'(x)$ in place of $f(x)$.**
$= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{(4(x+h) - 3) - (4x - 3)}{h}$	Substitute $f'(x+h) = 4(x+h) - 3$ and $f'(x) = 4x - 3$.
$= \lim_{h\to 0} 4$	Simplify.
$= 4$	Take the limit.

Exercise 3.2.4

Find $f''(x)$ for $f(x) = x^2$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 3.2.8: Finding Acceleration

The position of a particle along a coordinate axis at time t (in seconds) is given by $s(t) = 3t^2 - 4t + 1$ (in meters). Find the function that describes its acceleration at time t.

Solution

Since $v(t) = s'(t)$ and $a(t) = v'(t) = s''(t)$, we begin by finding the derivative of $s(t)$:

$$\begin{aligned} s'(t) &= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{s(t+h) - s(t)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{3(t+h)^2 - 4(t+h) + 1 - (3t^2 - 4t + 1)}{h} \\ &= 6t - 4. \end{aligned}$$

Next,

$$\begin{aligned} s''(t) &= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{s'(t+h) - s'(t)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{6(t+h) - 4 - (6t - 4)}{h} \\ &= 6. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, $a = 6\ \text{m/s}^2$.

Exercise 3.2.5

For $s(t) = t^3$, find $a(t)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- The derivative of a function $f(x)$ is the function whose value at x is $f'(x)$.
- The graph of a derivative of a function $f(x)$ is related to the graph of $f(x)$. Where $f(x)$ has a tangent line with positive slope, $f'(x) > 0$. Where $f(x)$ has a tangent line with negative slope, $f'(x) < 0$. Where $f(x)$ has a horizontal tangent line, $f'(x) = 0$.
- If a function is differentiable at a point, then it is continuous at that point. A function is not differentiable at a point if it is not continuous at the point, if it has a vertical tangent line at the point, or if the graph has a sharp corner or cusp.
- Higher-order derivatives are derivatives of derivatives, from the second derivative to the nth derivative.

Key Equations

- **The derivative function**

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

Glossary

Derivative function
: This function gives the derivative of a function at each point in the domain of the original function for which the derivative is defined

Differentiable at a
: A function for which $f'(a)$ exists is differentiable at a

Differentiable on S
: A function for which $f'(x)$ exists for each x in the open set S is differentiable on S

Differentiable function
: A function for which $f'(x)$ exists is a differentiable function

Higher-order derivative
: A derivative of a derivative, from the second derivative to the nth derivative, is called a higher-order derivative

Contributors and Attributions

- Gilbert Strang (MIT) and Edwin “Jed” Herman (Harvey Mudd) with many contributing authors. This content by OpenStax is licensed with a CC-BY-SA-NC 4.0 license. Download for free at http://cnx.org.

- Paul Seeburger (Monroe Community College) added explanation of the alternative definition of the derivative used in the proof of that differentiability implies continuity.

Answers

Exercise 3.2.1

Use Equation 3.2.1 and follow the example.

Exercise 3.2.1

$f'(x) = 2x$

Exercise 3.2.2

The graph of $f'(x)$ is positive where $f(x)$ is increasing.

Exercise 3.2.2

$(0, +\infty)$

Exercise 3.2.3

Use Example 3.2.4 as a guide.

Exercise 3.2.3

$a = 6$ and $b = -9$

Exercise 3.2.4

We found $f'(x) = 2x$ in a previous checkpoint. Use Equation 3.2.1 to find the derivative of $f'(x)$

Exercise 3.2.4

$f''(x) = 2$

Exercise 3.2.5

Use Example 3.2.6 as a guide.

Exercise 3.2.5

$a(t) = 6t$

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3.2E: Exercises for Section 3.2

Exercises 1 - 10

Use the definition of a derivative to find $f\,'(x)$.

1. $f(x) = 6$
2. $f(x) = 2 - 3x$

   Answer

   $$f'(x) = -3$$

3. $f(x) = \dfrac{2x}{7} + 1$
4. $f(x) = 4x^2$

   Answer

   $$f'(x) = 8x$$

5. $f(x) = 5x - x^2$
6. $f(x) = \sqrt{2x}$

   Answer

   $$f'(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2x}}$$

7. $f(x) = \sqrt{x - 6}$
8. $f(x) = \dfrac{9}{x}$

   Answer

   $$f'(x) = \frac{-9}{x^2}$$

9. $f(x) = x + \dfrac{1}{x}$
10. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$

    Answer

    $$f'(x) = \frac{-1}{2x^{3/2}}$$

Exercises 11 - 14

Use the graph of $y = f(x)$ to sketch the graph of its derivative $f\,'(x)$.

11.

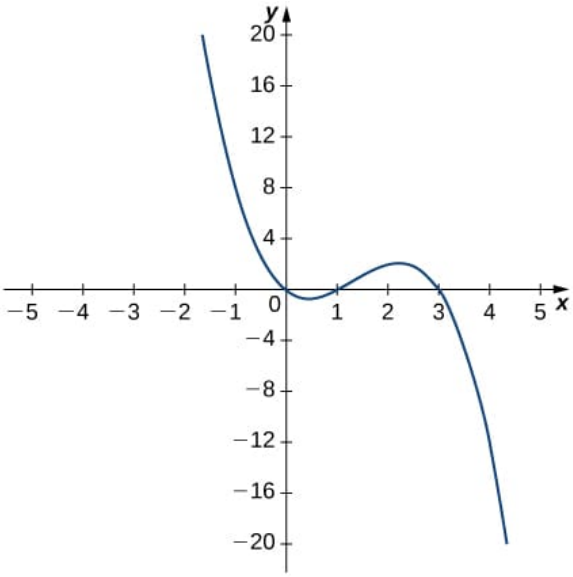


Figure $3.2E.1$: The image is a graph of a function that appears to be a cubic polynomial or a rational function. The curve starts from a high positive y-value on the left, decreases towards the origin, crosses the x-axis near $x = 0$, then rises to a local maximum around $x = 2$, before decreasing steeply into negative values for larger x.

12.

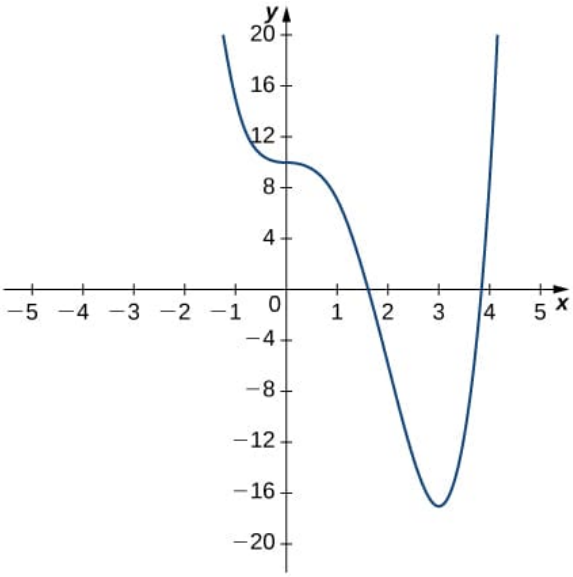


Figure $3.2E.2$: The image is a graph of a function that appears to be a polynomial of at least degree 4. The function starts at a high positive y -value on the left, gradually decreases, then briefly increases before dropping to a local minimum. After reaching this minimum, the function rises steeply again, heading towards positive infinity on the right.

Answer

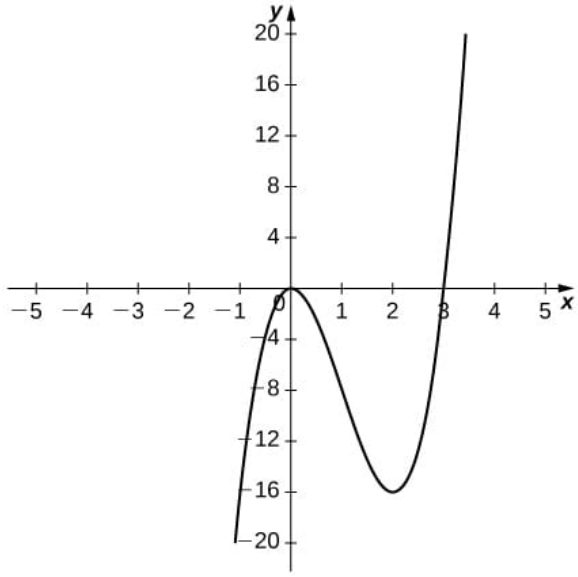


Figure $3.2E.3$: The function starts from a high negative y-value on the left, increases to cross the y-axis near the origin, then decreases to a local minimum, before rising steeply towards positive infinity on the right.

13.

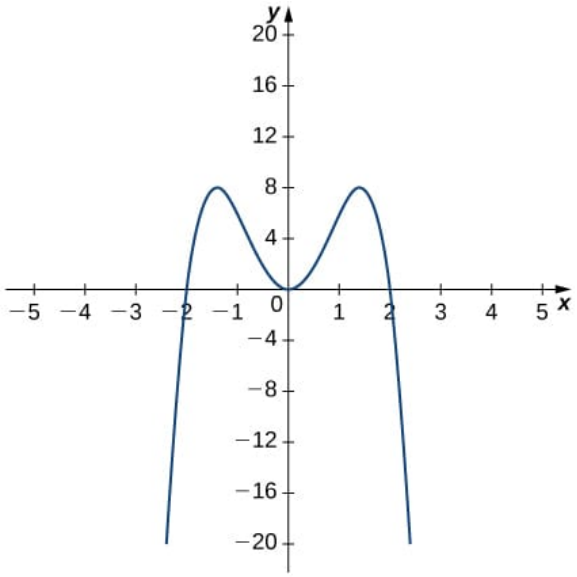


Figure $3.2E.4$: This function exhibits symmetry about the y-axis, indicating it is even. The graph has two local maxima and a local minimum at the origin, suggesting a "W" shape. The function decreases toward negative infinity for large positive and negative xxx-values.

14.

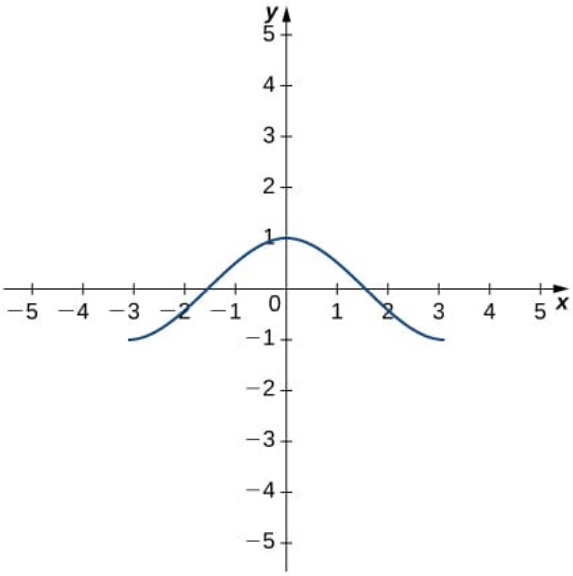


Figure $3.2E.5$: This is a graph of a smooth, symmetric function (an even function) that resembles the shape of a cosine curve. The function has a maximum at $x = 0$ with a peak value of approximately 1 and decreases symmetrically on both sides to about -1 near $x = \pm\pi$.

Answer

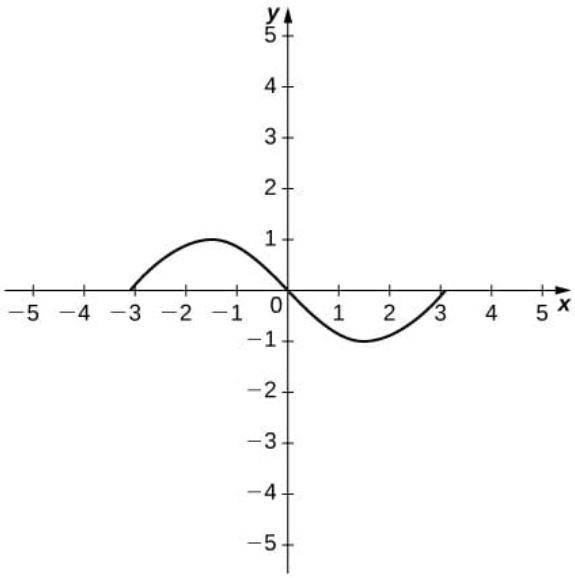


Figure $3.2E.6$: This is a graph of a smooth function that is symmetric about the origin (an odd function), and it resembles the shape of a negative sine curve. The function has a maximum value of approximately 1 that occurs at about $x = -1.5$, passes through the origin, and has a minimum value of about -1 at about $x = 1.5$.

Exercises 15 - 20

The given limit represents the derivative of a function $y = f(x)$ at $x = a$. Find $f(x)$ and a.

15. $\lim\limits_{h\to 0} \dfrac{(1+h)^{2/3} - 1}{h}$
16. $\lim\limits_{h\to 0} \dfrac{[3(2+h)^2 + 2] - 14}{h}$

Answer

$$f(x) = 3x^2 + 2, \quad a = 2$$

17. $\lim_{h\to 0} \dfrac{\cos(\pi+h)+1}{h}$

18. $\lim_{h\to 0} \dfrac{(2+h)^4-16}{h}$

Answer

$$f(x)=x^4, \quad a=2$$

19. $\lim_{h\to 0} \dfrac{[2(3+h)^2-(3+h)]-15}{h}$

20. $\lim_{h\to 0} \dfrac{e^h-1}{h}$

Answer

$$f(x)=e^x, \quad a=0$$

Exercises 21 - 24

a. **Sketch the graph.**
b. **Use the definition of a derivative to show that the fu**nction is not differentiable at $x=1$**.**

21. $f(x)=\begin{cases}2\sqrt{x}, & \text{if } 0\le x\le 1\\ 3x-1, & \text{if } x>1\end{cases}$

22. $f(x)=\begin{cases}3, & \text{if } x<1\\ 3x, & \text{if } x\ge 1\end{cases}$

Answer

a.

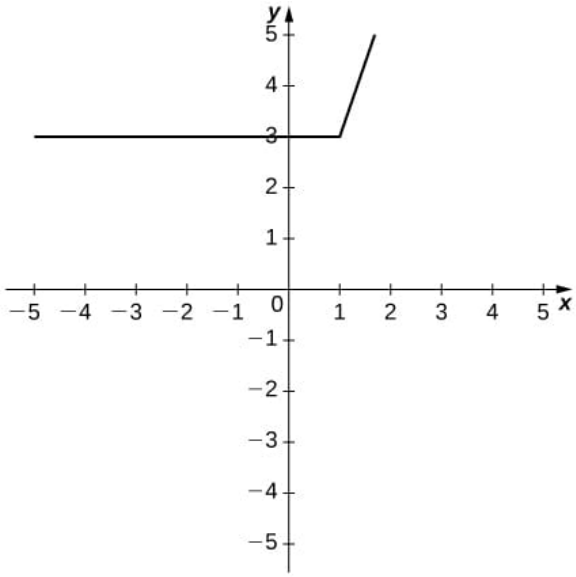


Figure $3.2E.7$: The image is a graph of a piecewise function. The function remains constant at $y=3$ for negative values of x and up to $x=1$, where it then increases with a positive slope for $x>1$.

b. $\lim_{h\to 1^-} \dfrac{3-3}{h} \neq \lim_{h\to 1^+} \dfrac{3h}{h}$

23. $f(x)=\begin{cases}-x^2+2, & \text{if } x\le 1\\ x, & \text{if } x>1\end{cases}$

24. $f(x)=\begin{cases}2x, & \text{if } x\le 1\\ \frac{2}{x}, & \text{if } x>1\end{cases}$

Answer

a.

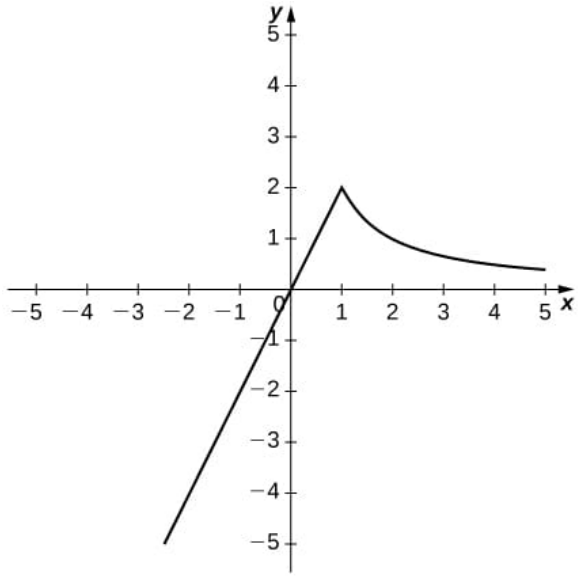


Figure $3.2E.8$: The image is a graph of a piecewise function. It consists of two distinct segments: A linear segment for $x < 1$, which appears to have a slope of about 2, and a curved segment $x > 1$, which gradually decreases as x increases, approaching the x-axis. There is a noticeable sharp corner at the point$(1, 2)$, suggesting that the function changes behavior at this point.

b. $\lim\limits_{h\to 1^-} \dfrac{2h}{h} \neq \lim\limits_{h\to 1^+} \dfrac{\frac{2}{x+h} - 2x}{h}$.

Exercises 25 - 26

For the given graph:

a. **Determine for which values of $x = a$ the $\lim\limits_{x\to a} f(x)$ exists but f is not continuous at $x = a$, and**

b. **Determine for which values of $x = a$ the function is continuous but not differentiable at $x = a$.**

25.

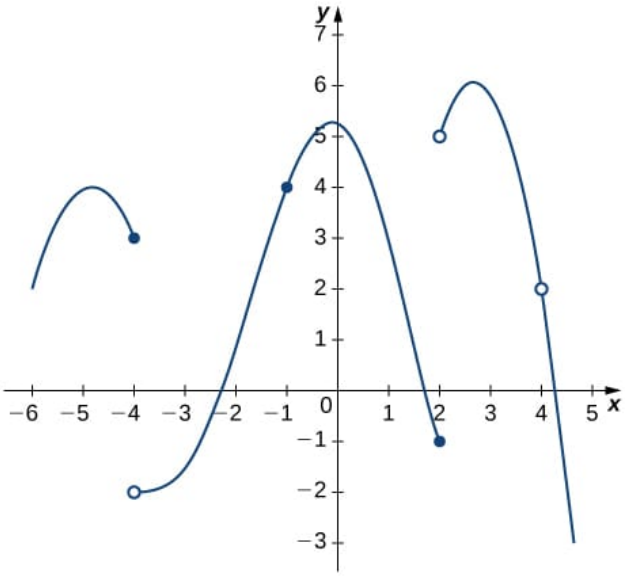


Figure $3.2E.9$: The image is a graph of a discontinuous function, featuring multiple open and closed points indicating where the function is defined or undefined.

26.

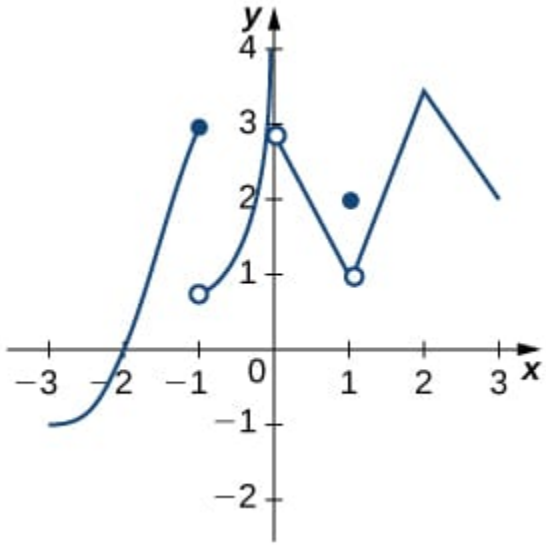


Figure $3.2E.10$: A graph plotted on an xy coordinate plane, showing a piecewise function with both continuous and discontinuous segments. The graph includes curves, straight lines, and isolated points. On the left, a smooth curve increases steeply from $x = -3$ to about $x = -1$, ending with a filled dot at approximately $(-1, 3)$. At $x = -1$, there's an open circle at $-1, 1$. The graph continues up from the open circle, with y approaching ∞. There's an open hole at the point $0, 3$, from where the graph decreases linearly until the point $(1, 1)$, where there's an open hole. There's a filled hole at $(1, 2)$. From the open hole at the point $(1, 1)$, the graph increses linearly until the point $2, 3.5$, and turns sharply and decreases linearly until the point $3, 2$.

Answer

a. $x = 1$
b. $x = 2$

27. Use the graph to evaluate a. $f\,'(-0.5)$, b. $f\,'(0)$, c. $f\,'(1)$, d. $f\,'(2)$, and e. $f\,'(3)$, if it exists.

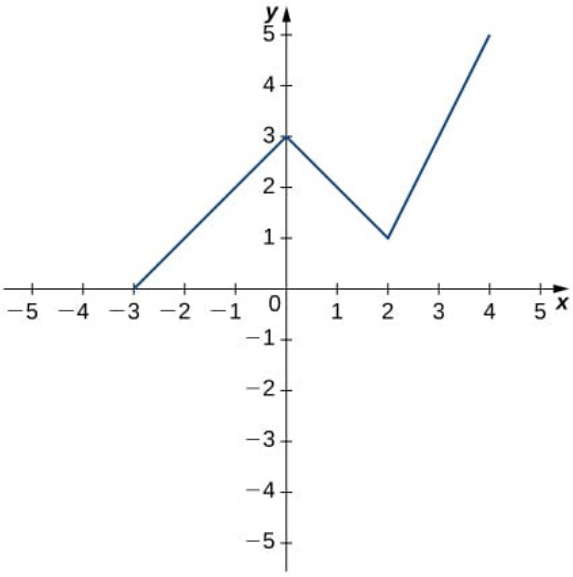


Figure $3.2E.11$: The image is a graph of a piecewise linear function with sharp corners and multiple segments. The first is a line segment from $(3, 0)$ to $(0, 3$. The second is a line segment from $(0, 3)$ to $(2, 1$. The third is a line segment from $(2, 1)$ to $(4, 5)$.

Exercises 28 - 30

Use $f''(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \dfrac{f'(x+h) - f'(x)}{h}$ **to find** $f''(x)$.

28. $f(x) = 2 - 3x$

Answer

$$f''(x) = 0$$

29. $f(x) = 4x^2$
30. $f(x) = x + \dfrac{1}{x}$

Answer

$$f''(x) = \frac{2}{x^3}$$

Exercises 31 - 36

Use a calculator to graph $f(x)$**. Determine the function** $f\,'(x)$**, then use a calculator to graph** $f\,'(x)$.

31. [T] $f(x) = -\dfrac{5}{x}$
32. [T] $f(x) = 3x^2 + 2x + 4.$

Answer

$$f\,'(x) = 6x + 2$$

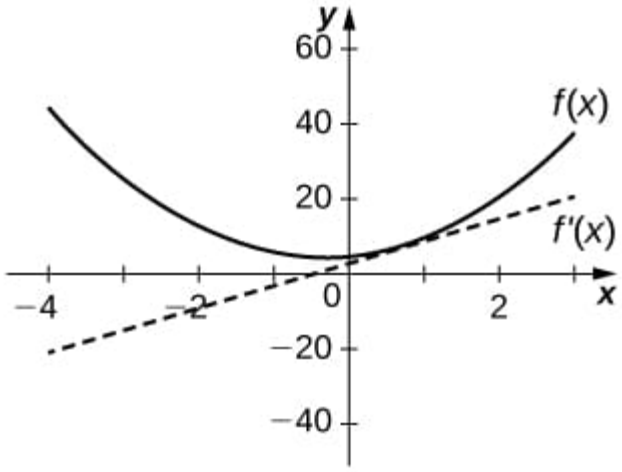


Figure $3.2E.12$: The graph displaying a function $f(x)$ and its derivative $f\,'(x)$ is shown. The graph of f is a parabola opening upwards with passing through $(0, 4)$ with its vertex just a bit left of the vertical intercept. The graph of $f\,'$ is a line with a positive slope with its horizontal intercept at $(-1/3, 0)$.

33. [T] $f(x) = \sqrt{x} + 3x$
34. [T] $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{\sqrt{2x}}$

Answer

$$f\,'(x) = -\frac{1}{(2x)^{3/2}}$$

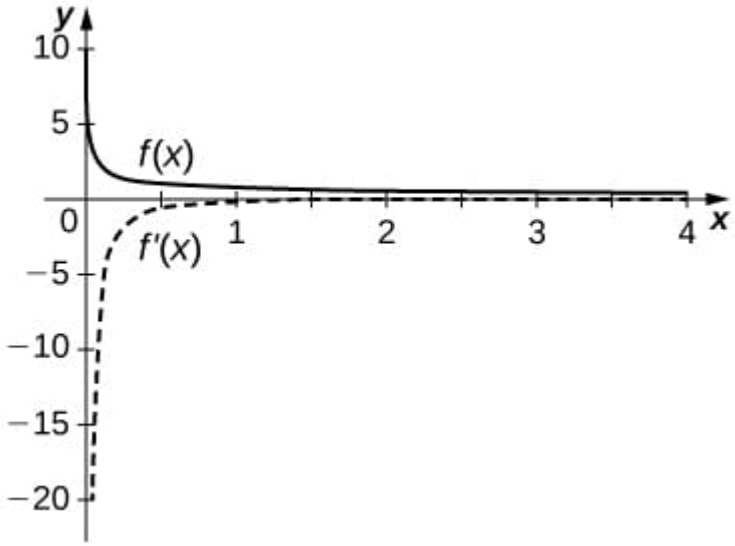


Figure $3.2E.13$: The graph displaying a function $f(x)$ and its derivative $f\,'(x)$ is shown. The graph of $(f(x)$ is sketched for $x > 0$. It It approaches the y-axis as x approaches 0 from the right. As x increases, y decreases steeply near $x = 0$ and then levels off, with the graph approaching the x-axis from above. The graph of $f\,'(x)$, the derivative, which is negative for positive x and increases sharply near $x = 0$.

35. [T] $f(x) = 1 + x + \dfrac{1}{x}$
36. [T] $f(x) = x^3 + 1$

Answer

$$f\,'(x) = 3x^2$$

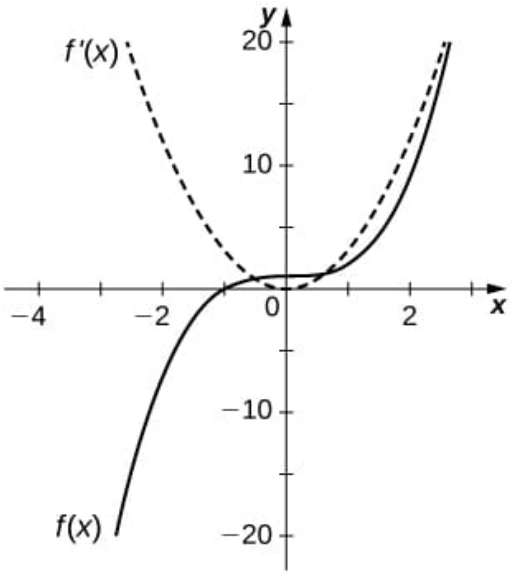


Figure $3.2E.14$: The graph displaying a function $f(x)$ and its derivative $f\,'(x)$ is shown. The graph of $f(x)$ begins low in the third quadrant, increases to the point $(-1,0)$, levels out momentarily, passes through the point $(0,1)$, and then increases rapidly into the first quadrant. The derivative $f\,'(x)$ is a parabola that opens up with its vertex at $(0,0)$.

Exercises 37 - 42

Describe what the two expressions represent in terms of each of the given situations. Be sure to include units.

a. $\dfrac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}$

b. $f\,'(x)=\lim\limits_{h\to 0}\dfrac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}$

37. $P(x)$ denotes the population of a city at time x in years.
38. $C(x)$ denotes the total amount of money (in thousands of dollars) spent on concessions by x customers at an amusement park.

Answer

a. Average rate at which customers spent on concessions in thousands per customer.
b. Rate (in thousands per customer) at which x customers spent money on concessions in thousands per customer.

39. $R(x)$ denotes the total cost (in thousands of dollars) of manufacturing x clock radios
40. $g(x)$ denotes the grade (in percentage points) received on a test, given x hours of studying.

Answer

a. Average grade received on the test with an average study time between two values.
b. Rate (in percentage points per hour) at which the grade on the test increased or decreased for a given average study time of x hours.

41. $B(x)$denotes the cost (in dollars) of a sociology textbook at university bookstores in the United States in x years since 1990.
42. $p(x)$ denotes atmospheric pressure at an altitude of x feet.

Answer

a. Average change of atmospheric pressure between two different altitudes.
b. Rate (torr per foot) at which atmospheric pressure is increasing or decreasing at x feet.

43. Sketch the graph of a function $y=f(x)$ with all of the following properties:

a. $f\,'(x)>0$ for $-2\le x<1$

b. $f'(2) = 0$
c. $f'(x) > 0$ for $x > 2$
d. $f(2) = 2$ and $f(0) = 1$
e. $\lim_{x \to -\infty} f(x) = 0$ and $\lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) = \infty$
f. $f'(1)$ does not exist.

14. Suppose temperature T in degrees Fahrenheit at a height x in feet above the ground is given by $y = T(x)$.

a. Give a physical interpretation, with units, of $T'(x)$.
b. If we know that $T'(1000) = -0.1$, explain the physical meaning.

Answer

a. The rate (in degrees per foot) at which temperature is increasing or decreasing for a given height x.
b. The rate of change of temperature as altitude changes at 1000 feet is -0.1 degrees per foot.

15. Suppose the total profit of a company is $y = P(x)$ thousand dollars when x units of an item are sold.

a. What does $\frac{P(b) - P(a)}{b - a}$ for \(0
b. What does $P'(x)$ measure, and what are the units?
c. Suppose that $P'(30) = 5$, what is the approximate change in profit if the number of items sold increases from 30 to 31?

16. The graph in the following figure models the number of people $N(t)$ who have come down with the flu t weeks after its initial outbreak in a town with a population of 50,000 citizens.

a. Describe what $N'(t)$ represents and how it behaves as t increases.
b. What does the derivative tell us about how this town is affected by the flu outbreak?

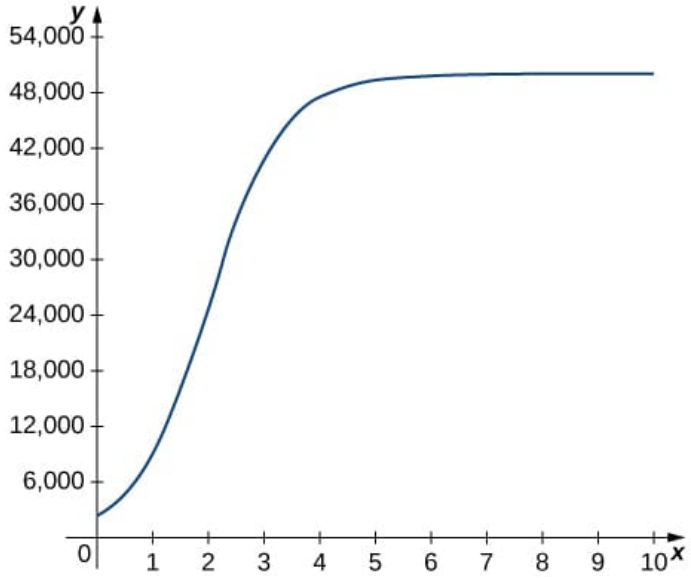


Figure $3.2E.15$: This is the graph of a function that exhibits sigmoidal (S-shaped) growth and then levels off. A steep increase for small values of x, is followed by a flattening trend starting at about x with y value of about $50,000$ about as x increases.

Answer

a. The rate at which the number of people who have come down with the flu is changing t weeks after the initial outbreak.
b. The rate is increasing sharply up to the third week, at which point it slows down and then becomes constant.

Exercises 47 - 52

Use the following table, which shows the height h of the Saturn V rocket for the Apollo 11 mission t seconds after launch.

Table 3.2E.1: Table of height of Saturn V rocket at time t

Time (seconds)	Height (meters)
0	0
1	2
2	4
3	13
4	25
5	32

47. What is the physical meaning of $h\,'(t)$? What are the units?
48. [T] Construct a table of values for $h\,'(t)$ and graph both $h(t)$ and $h\,'(t)$ on the same graph. (Hint: for interior points, estimate both the left limit and right limit and average them.)

Answer

Table 3.2E.2: Table of h'(t)

Time (seconds)	$h\,'(t)$ (m/s)
0	2
1	2
2	5.5
3	10.5
4	9.5
5	7

49. [T] The best linear fit to the data is given by $H(t) = 7.229t - 4.905$, where H is the height of the rocket (in meters) and t is the time elapsed since takeoff. From this equation, determine $H\,'(t)$. Graph $H(t$ with the given data and, on a separate coordinate plane, graph $H\,'(t)$.
50. [T] The best quadratic fit to the data is given by $G(t) = 1.429t^2 + 0.0857t - 0.1429$, where G is the height of the rocket (in meters) and t is the time elapsed since takeoff. From this equation, determine $G\,'(t)$. Graph $G(t)$ with the given data and, on a separate coordinate plane, graph $G\,'(t)$.

Answer

$$G\,'(t) = 2.858t + 0.0857$$

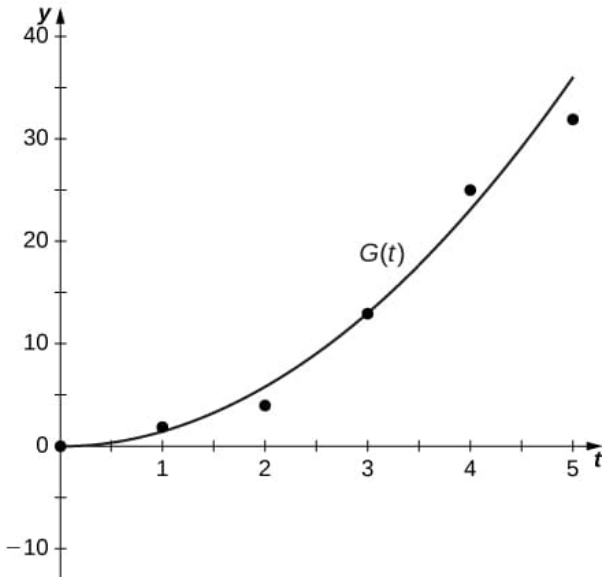


Figure $3.2E.16$: The points $(0,0),(1,2),(2,4),(3,13),(4,25),(5,32)$ are plotted. A best-fitting quadratic function titled $G(t)$ is sketched.

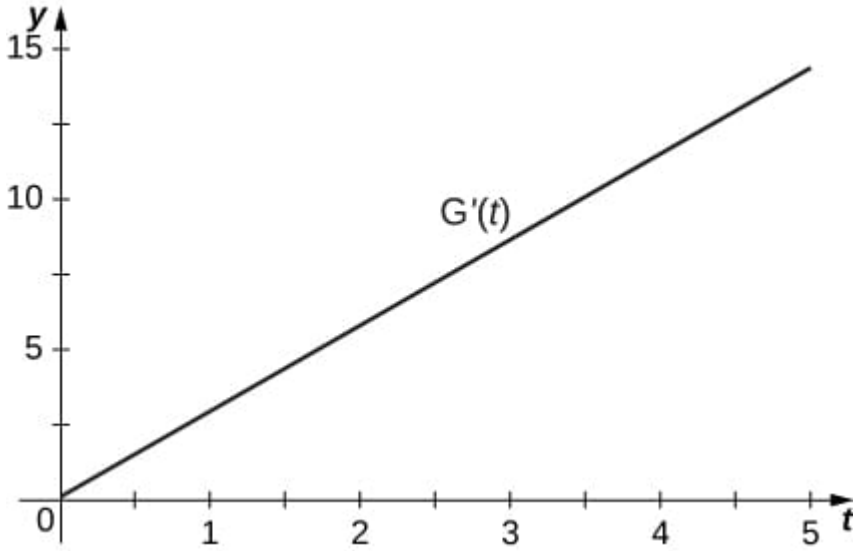


Figure $3.2E.17$: The graph of $G'(t)$ is a straight line with y-intercept slightly above 0 and slope slightly less than 3.

51. [T] The best cubic fit to the data is given by $F(t) = 0.2037t^3 + 2.956t^2 - 2.705t + 0.4683$, where F is the height of the rocket (in m) and t is the time elapsed since take off. From this equation, determine $F'(t)$. Graph $F(t)$ with the given data and, on a separate coordinate plane, graph $F'(t)$. Does the linear, quadratic, or cubic function fit the data best?
52. Using the best linear, quadratic, and cubic fits to the data, determine what $H''(t),\ G''(t)$ and $F''(t)$ are. What are the physical meanings of $H''(t),\ G''(t)$ and $F''(t)$, and what are their units?

Answer

$H''(t) = 0,\ G''(t) = 2.858$ and $f''(t) = 1.222t + 5.912$ represent the acceleration of the rocket, with units of meters per second squared $(\mathrm{m/s^2})$.

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3.3: Differentiation Rules

Learning Objectives

- State the constant, constant multiple, and power rules.
- Apply the sum and difference rules to combine derivatives.
- Use the product rule for finding the derivative of a product of functions.
- Use the quotient rule for finding the derivative of a quotient of functions.
- Extend the power rule to functions with negative exponents.
- Combine the differentiation rules to find the derivative of a polynomial or rational function.

Finding derivatives of functions by using the definition of the derivative can be a lengthy and, for certain functions, a rather challenging process. For example, previously we found that

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\sqrt{x}\right) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$$

by using a process that involved multiplying an expression by a conjugate prior to evaluating a limit.

The process that we could use to evaluate $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\sqrt[3]{x}\right)$ using the definition, while similar, is more complicated.

In this section, we develop rules for finding derivatives that allow us to bypass this process. We begin with the basics.

The Basic Rules

The functions $f(x) = c$ and $g(x) = x^n$ where n is a positive integer are the building blocks from which all polynomials and rational functions are constructed. To find derivatives of polynomials and rational functions efficiently without resorting to the limit definition of the derivative, we must first develop formulas for differentiating these basic functions.

The Constant Rule

We first apply the limit definition of the derivative to find the derivative of the constant function, $f(x) = c$. For this function, both $f(x) = c$ and $f(x + h) = c$, so we obtain the following result:

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{c - c}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{0}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \to 0} 0 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

The rule for differentiating constant functions is called the **constant rule**. It states that the derivative of a constant function is zero; that is, since a constant function is a horizontal line, the slope, or the rate of change, of a constant function is 0. We restate this rule in the following theorem.

Theorem: The Constant Rule

Let c be a constant. If $f(x) = c$, then $f\,'(c) = 0$.

Alternatively, we may express this rule as

$$\frac{d}{dx}(c) = 0. \tag{3.3.1}$$

Example 3.3.1: Applying the Constant Rule

Find the derivative of $f(x) = 8$.

Solution

This is just a one-step application of the rule: $f\,'(8) = 0$.

Exercise 3.3.1

Find the derivative of $g(x) = -3$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The Power Rule

We have shown that

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^2\right) = 2x \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d}{dx}\left(x^{1/2}\right) = \frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2}.$$

At this point, you might see a pattern beginning to develop for derivatives of the form $\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^n\right)$. We continue our examination of derivative formulas by differentiating power functions of the form $f(x) = x^n$ where n is a positive integer. We develop formulas for derivatives of this type of function in stages, beginning with positive integer powers. Before stating and proving the general rule for derivatives of functions of this form, we take a look at a specific case, $\frac{d}{dx}(x^3)$. As we go through this derivation, pay special attention to the portion of the expression in boldface, as the technique used in this case is essentially the same as the technique used to prove the general case.

Example 3.3.2: Differentiating x^3

Find $\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^3\right)$.

Solution:

Guide to finding the derivative

$\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^3\right) = \lim_{h\to 0}\frac{(x+h)^3 - x^3}{h}$	
$= \lim_{h\to 0}\frac{x^3 + 3x^2h + 3xh^2 + h^3 - x^3}{h}$	Notice that the first term in the expansion of $(x+h)^3$ is x^3 and the second term is $3x^2h$. All other terms contain powers of h that are two or greater

$\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^3\right)=\lim_{h\to 0}\frac{(x+h)^3-x^3}{h}$	
$=\lim_{h\to 0}\frac{3x^2h+3xh^2+h^3}{h}$	In this step the x^3 terms have been cancelled, leaving only terms containing h.
$=\lim_{h\to 0}\frac{h(3x^2+3xh+h^2)}{h}$	Factor out the common factor of h.
$=\lim_{h\to 0}(3x^2+3xh+h^2)$	After cancelling the common factor of h,the only term not containing h is $3x^2$.
$=3x^2$	Let h go to 0.

Exercise 3.3.2

Find $\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^4\right)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

As we shall see, the procedure for finding the derivative of the general form $f(x)=x^n$ is very similar. Although it is often unwise to draw general conclusions from specific examples, we note that when we differentiate $f(x)=x^3$, the power on x becomes the coefficient of x^2 in the derivative and the power on x in the derivative decreases by 1. The following theorem states that the **power rule** holds for all positive integer powers of x. We will eventually extend this result to negative integer powers. Later, we will see that this rule may also be extended first to rational powers of x and then to arbitrary powers of x. Be aware, however, that this rule does not apply to functions in which a constant is raised to a variable power, such as $f(x)=3^x$.

Theorem: The Power Rule

Let n be a positive integer. If $f(x)=x^n$,then

$$f'(x)=nx^{n-1}. \tag{3.3.2}$$

Alternatively, we may express this rule as

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^n\right)=nx^{n-1.} \tag{3.3.3}$$

Proof

For $f(x)=x^n$ where n is a positive integer, we have

$$f'(x)=\lim_{h\to 0}\frac{(x+h)^n-x^n}{h}.$$

Since

$$(x+h)^n = x^n + nx^{n-1}h + \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2}h^2 + \binom{n}{3}x^{n-3}h^3 + \ldots + nxh^{n-1} + h^n,$$

we see that

$$(x+h)^n - x^n = nx^{n-1}h + \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2}h^2 + \binom{n}{3}x^{n-3}h^3 + \ldots + nxh^{n-1} + h^n.$$

Next, divide both sides by h:

$$\frac{(x+h)^n - x^n}{h} = \frac{nx^{n-1}h + \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2}h^2 + \binom{n}{3}x^{n-3}h^3 + \ldots + nxh^{n-1} + h^n}{h}.$$

Thus,

$$\frac{(x+h)^n - x^n}{h} = nx^{n-1} + \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2}h + \binom{n}{3}x^{n-3}h^2 + \ldots + nxh^{n-2} + h^{n-1}.$$

Finally,

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h\to 0}(nx^{n-1} + \binom{n}{2}x^{n-2}h + \binom{n}{3}x^{n-3}h^2 + \ldots + nxh^{n-1} + h^n)$$

$$= nx^{n-1}.$$

□

Example 3.3.3: Applying the Power Rule

Find the derivative of the function $f(x) = x^{10}$ by applying the power rule.

Solution

Using the power rule with $n = 10$, we obtain

$$f'(x) = 10x^{10-1} = 10x^9.$$

Exercise 3.3.3

Find the derivative of $f(x) = x^7$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The Sum, Difference, and Constant Multiple Rules

We find our next differentiation rules by looking at derivatives of sums, differences, and constant multiples of functions. Just as when we work with functions, there are rules that make it easier to find derivatives of functions that we add, subtract, or multiply by a constant. These rules are summarized in the following theorem.

Theorem: Sum, Difference, and Constant Multiple Rules

Let $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ be differentiable functions and k be a constant. Then each of the following equations holds.

Sum Rule. The derivative of the sum of a function f and a function g is the same as the sum of the derivative of f and the derivative of g.

$$\frac{d}{dx}\big(f(x)+g(x)\big)=\frac{d}{dx}\big(f(x)\big)+\frac{d}{dx}\big(g(x)\big); \tag{3.3.4}$$

that is,

$$\text{for } s(x)=f(x)+g(x), \quad s'(x)=f'(x)+g'(x).$$

Difference Rule. The derivative of the difference of a function f and a function g is the same as the difference of the derivative of f and the derivative of g :

$$\frac{d}{dx}(f(x)-g(x))=\frac{d}{dx}(f(x))-\frac{d}{dx}(g(x)); \tag{3.3.5}$$

that is,

$$\text{for } d(x)=f(x)-g(x), \quad d'(x)=f'(x)-g'(x).$$

Constant Multiple Rule. The derivative of a constant c multiplied by a function f is the same as the constant multiplied by the derivative:

$$\frac{d}{dx}\big(kf(x)\big)=k\frac{d}{dx}\big(f(x)\big); \tag{3.3.6}$$

that is,

$$\text{for } m(x)=kf(x), \quad m'(x)=kf'(x). \tag{3.3.7}$$

Proof

We provide only the proof of the sum rule here. The rest follow in a similar manner.

For differentiable functions $f(x)$ and $g(x)$, we set $s(x)=f(x)+g(x)$. Using the limit definition of the derivative we have

$$s'(x)=\lim_{h\to 0}\frac{s(x+h)-s(x)}{h}.$$

By substituting $s(x+h)=f(x+h)+g(x+h)$ and $s(x)=f(x)+g(x)$, we obtain

$$s'(x)=\lim_{h\to 0}\frac{\big(f(x+h)+g(x+h)\big)-\big(f(x)+g(x)\big)}{h}.$$

Rearranging and regrouping the terms, we have

$$s'(x)=\lim_{h\to 0}\left(\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}+\frac{g(x+h)-g(x)}{h}\right).$$

We now apply the sum law for limits and the definition of the derivative to obtain

$$s'(x)=\lim_{h\to 0}\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}+\lim_{h\to 0}\frac{g(x+h)-g(x)}{h}=f'(x)+g'(x).$$

□

Example 3.3.4: Applying the Constant Multiple Rule

Find the derivative of $g(x)=3x^2$ and compare it to the derivative of $f(x)=x^2$.

Solution

We use the power rule directly:

$$g'(x) = \frac{d}{dx}(3x^2) = 3\frac{d}{dx}(x^2) = 3(2x) = 6x.$$

Since $f(x) = x^2$ has derivative $f\,'(x) = 2x$, we see that the derivative of $g(x)$ is 3 times the derivative of $f(x)$. This relationship is illustrated in Figure.

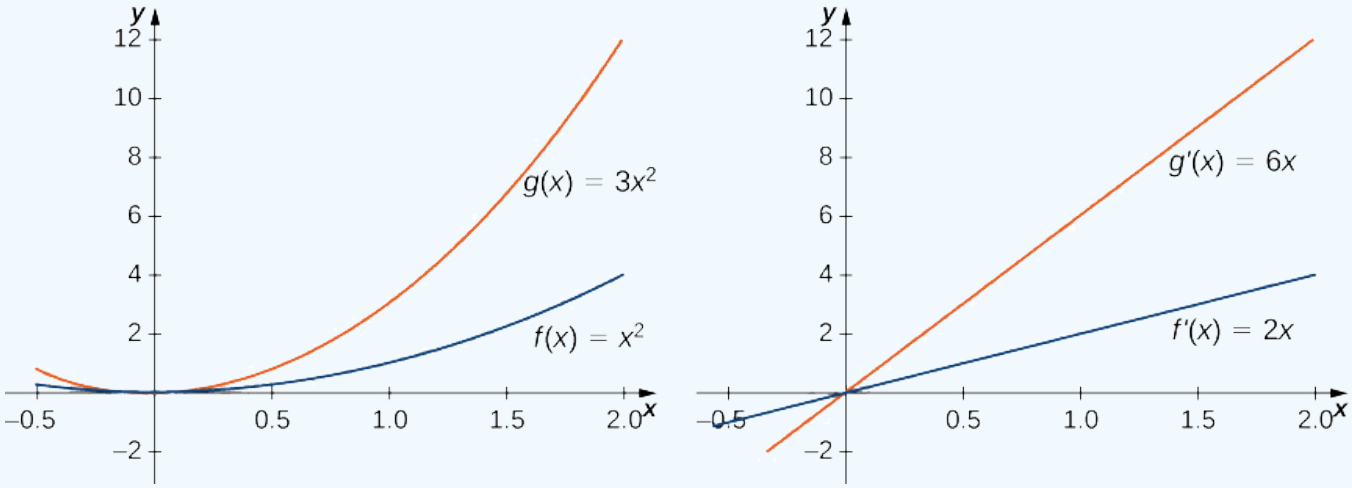


Figure 3.3.1: There are two graphs. The first graph has the function $f(x) = x^2$ and $g(x) = 3x^2$ graphed. The y-values of g are 3 times as high. The second graph has the derivatives, $f'(x) = 2x$ and $g'(x) = 6x$ graphed. Here, too, the y-values of g' are 3 times as high.

Example 3.3.5: Applying Basic Derivative Rules

Find the derivative of $f(x) = 2x^5 + 7$.

Solution

We begin by applying the rule for differentiating the sum of two functions, followed by the rules for differentiating constant multiples of functions and the rule for differentiating powers. To better understand the sequence in which the differentiation rules are applied, we use Leibniz notation throughout the solution:

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{d}{dx}\left(2x^5 + 7\right) \\ &= \frac{d}{dx}(2x^5) + \frac{d}{dx}(7) && \text{Apply the sum rule.} \\ &= 2\frac{d}{dx}(x^5) + \frac{d}{dx}(7) && \text{Apply the constant multiple rule.} \\ &= 2(5x^4) + 0 && \text{Apply the power rule and the constant rule.} \\ &= 10x^4 && \textit{Simplify.} \end{aligned}$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

Video Length: 1 minute 46 seconds

Context: This video demonstrates using the Power Rule to take a derivative: Find the derivative of the function $f(x) = 3x^5 - 4x^2 + 1$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 3.3.4

Find the derivative of $f(x) = 2x^3 - 6x^2 + 3$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 3.3.6: Finding the Equation of a Tangent Line

Find the equation of the line tangent to the graph of $f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 6$ at $x = 1$

Solution

To find the equation of the tangent line, we need a point and a slope. To find the point, compute

$$f(1) = 1^2 - 4(1) + 6 = 3.$$

This gives us the point $(1, 3)$. Since the slope of the tangent line at 1 is $f\,'(1)$, we must first find $f\,'(x)$. Using the definition of a derivative, we have

$$f'(x) = 2x - 4$$

so the slope of the tangent line is $f\,'(1) = -2$. Using the point-slope formula, we see that the equation of the tangent line is

$$y - 3 = -2(x - 1).$$

Putting the equation of the line in slope-intercept form, we obtain

$$y = -2x + 5.$$

Exercise 3.3.5

Find the equation of the line tangent to the graph of $f(x) = 3x^2 - 11$ at $x = 2$. Use the point-slope form.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

HERE

Example 3.3.7

Find the derivative of $f(x) = (3 - x^4)^2 - \frac{1}{x^3} + 5\sqrt{x} + \frac{x^2}{\sqrt{x}}$.

Solution

Video Length: 3 minute 41 seconds

Context: This video demonstrates using algebra and the Power Rule to find a derivative.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

The Product Rule

Now that we have examined the basic rules, we can begin looking at some of the more advanced rules. The first one examines the derivative of the product of two functions. Although it might be tempting to assume that the derivative of the product is the product of the derivatives, similar to the sum and difference rules, the **product rule** does not follow this pattern. To see why we cannot use this pattern, consider the function $f(x) = x^2$, whose derivative is $f\,'(x) = 2x$ and not $\frac{d}{dx}(x) \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(x) = 1 \cdot 1 = 1$.

Theorem: Product Rule

Let $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ be differentiable functions. Then

$$\frac{d}{dx}(f(x)g(x)) = \frac{d}{dx}(f(x)) \cdot g(x) + \frac{d}{dx}(g(x)) \cdot f(x). \tag{3.3.8}$$

That is,

$$\text{if } p(x) = f(x)g(x), \quad \text{then } p'(x) = f'(x)g(x) + g'(x)f(x).$$

This means that the derivative of a product of two functions is the derivative of the first function times the second function plus the derivative of the second function times the first function.

Proof

We begin by assuming that $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are differentiable functions. At a key point in this proof we need to use the fact that, since $g(x)$ is differentiable, it is also continuous. In particular, we use the fact that since $g(x)$ is continuous, $\lim_{h\to 0} g(x+h) = g(x)$.

By applying the limit definition of the derivative to $p(x) = f(x)g(x)$, we obtain

$$p'(x) = \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{f(x+h)g(x+h) - f(x)g(x)}{h}.$$

By adding and subtracting $f(x)g(x+h)$ in the numerator, we have

$$p'(x) = \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{f(x+h)g(x+h) - f(x)g(x+h) + f(x)g(x+h) - f(x)g(x)}{h}.$$

After breaking apart this quotient and applying the sum law for limits, the derivative becomes

$$p'(x) = \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{f(x+h)g(x+h) - f(x)g(x+h)}{h} + \lim_{h\to 0} \frac{f(x)g(x+h) - f(x)g(x)}{h}.$$

Rearranging, we obtain

$$p'(x) = \lim_{h\to 0}\left(\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}\cdot g(x+h)\right) + \lim_{h\to 0}\left(\frac{g(x+h)-g(x)}{h}\cdot f(x)\right)$$
$$= \left(\lim_{h\to 0}\frac{f(x+h)-f(x)}{h}\right)\cdot\left(\lim_{h\to 0} g(x+h)\right) + \left(\lim_{h\to 0}\frac{g(x+h)-g(x)}{h}\right)\cdot f(x)$$

By using the continuity of $g(x)$, the definition of the derivatives of $f(x)$ and $g(x)$, and applying the limit laws, we arrive at the product rule,

$$p'(x) = f'(x)g(x) + g'(x)f(x).$$

□

Example 3.3.8: Applying the Product Rule to Constant Functions

For $p(x) = f(x)g(x)$, use the product rule to find $p\,'(2)$ if $f(2) = 3,\ \ f\,'(2) = -4,\ \ g(2) = 1$, and $g\,'(2) = 6$.

Solution

Since $p(x) = f(x)g(x)$, $p\,'(x) = f\,'(x)g(x) + g\,'(x)f(x)$, and hence

$p\,'(2) = f\,'(2)g(2) + g\,'(2)f(2) = (-4)(1) + (6)(3) = 14.$

Example 3.3.9: Applying the Product Rule to Binomials

For $p(x) = (x^2+2)(3x^3-5x)$, find $p\,'(x)$ by applying the product rule. Check the result by first finding the product and then differentiating.

Solution

If we set $f(x) = x^2+2$ and $g(x) = 3x^3-5x$, then $f\,'(x) = 2x$ and $g\,'(x) = 9x^2-5$. Thus,

$p\,'(x) = f\,'(x)g(x) + g\,'(x)f(x) = (2x)(3x^3-5x) + (9x^2-5)(x^2+2).$

Simplifying, we have

$$p'(x) = 15x^4 + 3x^2 - 10.$$

To check, we see that $p(x) = 3x^5 + x^3 - 10x$ and, consequently, $p\,'(x) = 15x^4 + 3x^2 - 10$.

Exercise 3.3.6

Use the product rule to obtain the derivative of $p(x) = 2x^5(4x^2+x)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The Quotient Rule

Having developed and practiced the product rule, we now consider differentiating quotients of functions. As we see in the following theorem, the derivative of the quotient is not the quotient of the derivatives; rather, it is the derivative of the function in the numerator times the function in the denominator minus the derivative of the function in the denominator times the function in the numerator, all divided by the square of the function in the denominator. In order to better grasp why we cannot simply take the quotient of the derivatives, keep in mind that

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^2) = 2x, \text{ not } \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(x^3)}{\frac{d}{dx}(x)} = \frac{3x^2}{1} = 3x^2.$$

Theorem: The Quotient Rule

Let $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ be differentiable functions. Then

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}\right) = \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(f(x)) \cdot g(x) - \frac{d}{dx}(g(x)) \cdot f(x)}{\big(g(x)\big)^2}. \tag{3.3.9}$$

That is, if

$$q(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$$

then

$$q'(x) = \frac{f'(x)g(x) - g'(x)f(x)}{\big(g(x)\big)^2}.$$

The proof of the quotient rule is very similar to the proof of the product rule, so it is omitted here. Instead, we apply this new rule for finding derivatives in the next example.

Example 3.3.10: Applying the Quotient Rule

Use the quotient rule to find the derivative of $q(x) = \dfrac{5x^2}{4x+3}$.

Solution

Let $f(x) = 5x^2$ and $g(x) = 4x + 3$. Thus, $f\,'(x) = 10x$ and $g\,'(x) = 4$.

Substituting into the quotient rule, we have

$$q'(x) = \frac{f'(x)g(x) - g'(x)f(x)}{(g(x))^2} = \frac{10x(4x+3) - 4(5x^2)}{(4x+3)^2}.$$

Simplifying, we obtain

$$q'(x) = \frac{20x^2 + 30x}{(4x+3)^2}$$

Exercise 3.3.7

Find the derivative of $h(x) = \dfrac{3x+1}{4x-3}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

It is now possible to use the quotient rule to extend the power rule to find derivatives of functions of the form x^k where k is a negative integer.

Theorem: Extended Power Rule

If k is a negative integer, then

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^k) = kx^{k-1}. \tag{3.3.10}$$

Proof

If k is a negative integer, we may set $n = -k$, so that n is a positive integer with $k = -n$. Since for each positive integer n,$x^{-n} = \frac{1}{x^n}$, we may now apply the quotient rule by setting $f(x) = 1$ and $g(x) = x^n$. In this case, $f\,'(x) = 0$ and $g\,'(x) = nx^{n-1}$. Thus,

$$\frac{d}{d}(x^{-n}) = \frac{0(x^n) - 1(nx^{n-1})}{(x^n)^2}.$$

Simplifying, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{d}(x^{-n}) &= \frac{-nx^{n-1}}{x^2 n} \\ &= -nx^{(n-1)-2n} \\ &= -nx^{-n-1}.\end{aligned}$$

Finally, observe that since $k = -n$, by substituting we have

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^k) = kx^{k-1}.$$

□

Example 3.3.11: Using the Extended Power Rule

Find $\frac{d}{dx}(x^{-4})$.

Solution

By applying the extended power rule with $k = -4$, we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^{-4}) = -4x^{-4-1} = -4x^{-5}.$$

Example 3.3.12: Using the Extended Power Rule and the Constant Multiple Rule

Use the extended power rule and the constant multiple rule to find $f(x) = \frac{6}{x^2}$.

Solution

It may seem tempting to use the quotient rule to find this derivative, and it would certainly not be incorrect to do so. However, it is far easier to differentiate this function by first rewriting it as $f(x) = 6x^{-2}$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
f'(x) = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{6}{x^2}\right) = \frac{d}{dx}\left(6x^{-2}\right) & \quad \text{Rewrite } \frac{6}{x^2} \text{ as } 6x^{-2}. \\
= 6\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^{-2}\right) & \quad \text{Apply the constant multiple rule.} \\
= 6(-2x^{-3}) & \quad \text{Use the extended power rule to differentiate } x^{-2}. \\
= -12x^{-3} & \quad \text{Simplify.}
\end{aligned}
$$

Exercise 3.3.8

Find the derivative of $g(x) = \dfrac{1}{x^7}$ using the extended power rule.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Combining Differentiation Rules

As we have seen throughout the examples in this section, it seldom happens that we are called on to apply just one differentiation rule to find the derivative of a given function. At this point, by combining the differentiation rules, we may find the derivatives of any polynomial or rational function. Later on we will encounter more complex combinations of differentiation rules. A good rule of thumb to use when applying several rules is to apply the rules in reverse of the order in which we would evaluate the function.

Example 3.3.13: Combining Differentiation Rules

For $k(x) = 3h(x) + x^2 g(x)$, find $k'(x)$.

Solution: Finding this derivative requires the sum rule, the constant multiple rule, and the product rule.

Guide to finding the derivative

$k'(x) = \dfrac{d}{dx}\left(3h(x) + x^2 g(x)\right) = \dfrac{d}{dx}\left(3h(x)\right) + \dfrac{d}{dx}\left(x^2 g(x)\right)$	**Apply the sum rule.**
$= 3\dfrac{d}{dx}\left(h(x)\right) + \left(\dfrac{d}{dx}(x^2)g(x) + \dfrac{d}{dx}(g(x))x^2\right)$	Apply the constant multiple rule to differentiate $3h(x)$ and the product rule to differentiate $x^2 g(x)$.
$= 3h'(x) + 2xg(x) + g'(x)x^2$	

Example 3.3.14: Extending the Product Rule

For $k(x) = f(x)g(x)h(x)$, express $k'(x)$ in terms of $f(x), g(x), h(x)$, and their derivatives.

Solution

We can think of the function $k(x)$ as the product of the function $f(x)g(x)$ and the function $h(x)$. That is, $k(x) = (f(x)g(x)) \cdot h(x)$. Thus,

$$
\begin{aligned}
k'(x) = \frac{d}{dx}\big(f(x)g(x)\big) \cdot h(x) + \frac{d}{dx}\big(h(x)\big) \cdot \big(f(x)g(x)\big). & \quad \text{Apply the product rule to the product of } f(x)g(x) \text{ and } h(x). \\
= \big(f'(x)g(x) + g'(x)f(x)\big)h(x) + h'(x)f(x)g(x) & \quad \text{Apply the product rule to } f(x)g(x) \\
= f'(x)g(x)h(x) + f(x)g'(x)h(x) + f(x)g(x)h'(x). & \quad \text{Simplify.}
\end{aligned}
$$

Example 3.3.15: Combining the Quotient Rule and the Product Rule

For $h(x) = \dfrac{2x^3k(x)}{3x+2}$, find $h\,'(x)$.

Solution

This procedure is typical for finding the derivative of a rational function.

$$h'(x) = \frac{\frac{d}{dx}(2x^3k(x)) \cdot (3x+2) - \frac{d}{dx}(3x+2) \cdot (2x^3k(x))}{(3x+2)^2}$$ Apply the quotient rule.

$$= \frac{(6x^2k(x) + k'(x) \cdot 2x^3)(3x+2) - 3(2x^3k(x))}{(3x+2)^2}$$ Apply the product rule to find $\frac{d}{dx}(2x^3k(x))$. Use $\frac{d}{dx}(3x+2) = 3$.

$$= \frac{-6x^3k(x) + 18x^3k(x) + 12x^2k(x) + 6x^4k'(x) + 4x^3k'(x)}{(3x+2)^2}$$ Simplify

Exercise 3.3.9

Find $\dfrac{d}{dx}(3f(x) - 2g(x))$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Interactive Element

Play the Identify the Calculus Property Game

You are in charge of directing Cuddles the puppy to her home. As Cuddles walks along the path, there will be several left or right path choices to make. Each choice will have a sign that displays a calculus statement. The path with the correct statement will help lead cuddles to her home, but the path with the incorrect statement will lead her to danger.

Start Right

Click on start to begin.

Pictures: crossroads by David Lally, bear by Orin Zebest, happy home by Michael Coppola



Example 3.3.16: Determining Where a Function Has a Horizontal Tangent

Determine the values of x for which $f(x) = x^3 - 7x^2 + 8x + 1$ has a horizontal tangent line.

Solution

To find the values of x for which $f(x)$ has a horizontal tangent line, we must solve $f\,'(x) = 0$.

Since $f\,'(x) = 3x^2 - 14x + 8 = (3x - 2)(x - 4)$,

we must solve $(3x - 2)(x - 4) = 0$. Thus we see that the function has horizontal tangent lines at $x = \frac{2}{3}$ and $x = 4$ as shown in the following graph (Figure 3.3.2).

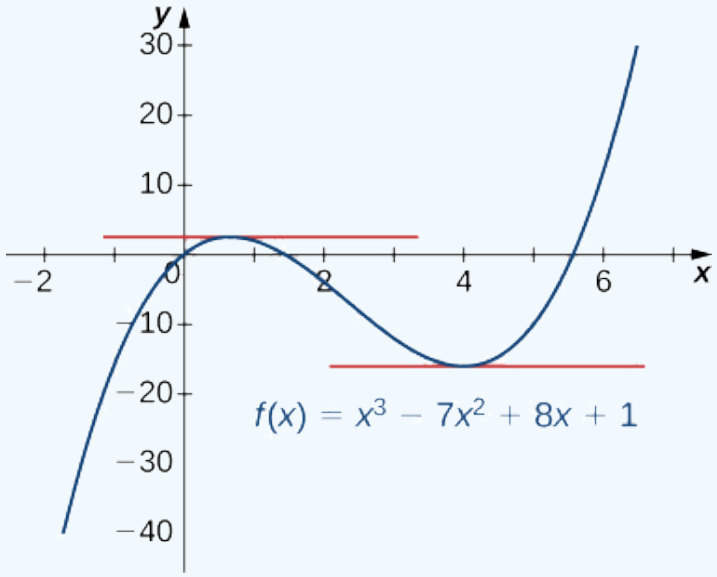


Figure 3.3.2: The cubic function f is graphed. The graph starts in the third quadrant and increases until $x = 2/3$, at which point, the tangent line to the graph is horizontal. Similarly, after that, the function decreases until $x = 4$, at which point, the tangent line is horizontal.

Example 3.3.17: Finding a Velocity

The position of an object on a coordinate axis at time t is given by $s(t) = \dfrac{t}{t^2+1}$. What is the initial velocity of the object?

Solution

Since the initial velocity is $v(0) = s\,'(0)$, begin by finding $s\,'(t)$ by applying the quotient rule:

$$s\,'(t) = \frac{1(t^2+1) - 2t(t)}{(t^2+1)^2} = \frac{1-t^2}{(t^2+1)^2}.$$

After evaluating, we see that $v(0) = 1$.

Exercise 3.3.10

Find the values of x for which the line tangent to the graph of $f(x) = 4x^2 - 3x + 2$ has a tangent line parallel to the line $y = 2x + 3$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Formula One Grandstands

Formula One car races can be very exciting to watch and attract a lot of spectators. Formula One track designers have to ensure sufficient grandstand space is available around the track to accommodate these viewers. However, car racing can be dangerous, and safety considerations are paramount. The grandstands must be placed where spectators will not be in danger should a driver lose control of a car (Figure 3.3.3).



Figure 3.3.3: An aerial view of the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya race track. (CC BY-SA 4.0, Planet Labs, Inc. via Wikimedia Commons)

Safety is especially a concern on turns. If a driver does not slow down enough before entering the turn, the car may slide off the racetrack. Normally, this just results in a wider turn, which slows the driver down. But if the driver loses control completely, the car may fly off the track entirely, on a path tangent to the curve of the racetrack.

Suppose you are designing a new Formula One track. One section of the track can be modeled by the function $f(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 + x$ (Figure 3.3.4). The current plan calls for grandstands to be built along the first straightaway and around a portion of the first curve. The plans call for the front corner of the grandstand to be located at the point $(-1.9, 2.8)$. We want to determine whether this location puts the spectators in danger if a driver loses control of the car.

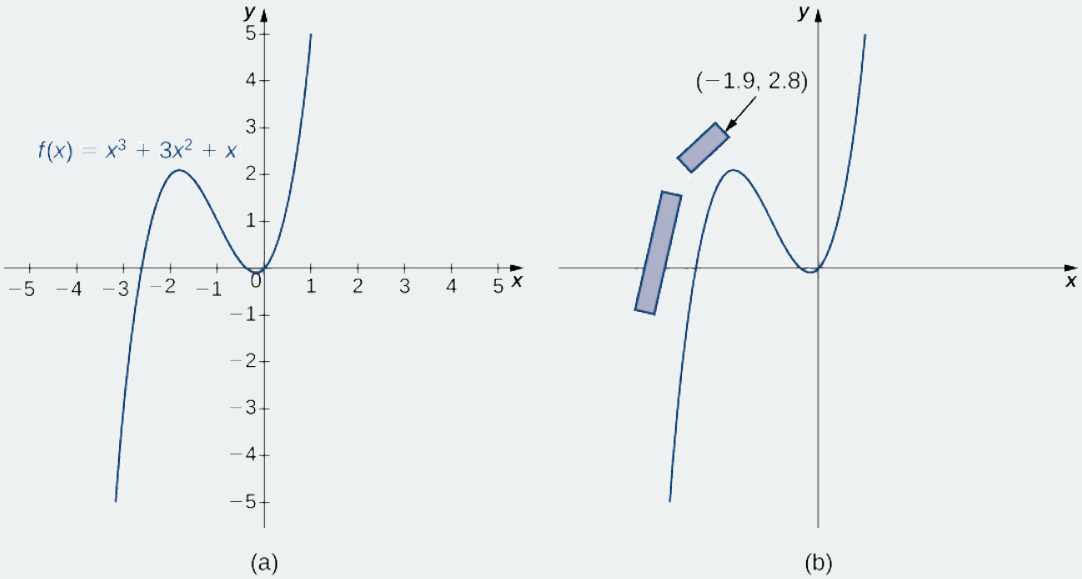


Figure 3.3.4: (a) One section of the racetrack can be modeled by the function $f(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 + x$. The graph of f, a cubic function, is sketched. It starts low in the third quadrant, increases rapidly to to a peak in the second quadrant near the point $-2, -2)$, decreases to a point near the origin, and then increases rapidly. (b) The function f is graphed again, with the grandstands shown as rectangles. The front corner of the grandstand is located at $(-1.9, 2.8)$.

1. Physicists have determined that drivers are most likely to lose control of their cars as they are coming into a turn, at the point where the slope of the tangent line is 1. Find the (x, y) coordinates of this point near the turn.
2. Find the equation of the tangent line to the curve at this point.

3. To determine whether the spectators are in danger in this scenario, find the x-coordinate of the point where the tangent line crosses the line $y = 2.8$. Is this point safely to the right of the grandstand? Or are the spectators in danger?
4. What if a driver loses control earlier than the physicists project? Suppose a driver loses control at the point $(-2.5, 0.625)$. What is the slope of the tangent line at this point?
5. If a driver loses control as described in part 4, are the spectators safe?
6. Should you proceed with the current design for the grandstand, or should the grandstands be moved?

Example 3.3.18

A rock is thrown upward with an initial velocity of 8 feet per second from the top of a 200 foot cliff. What will the rock's velocity be when it hits the bottom?

- **Video Length**: 4 minutes 6 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates finding the velocity for a motion problem.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Key Concepts

- The derivative of a constant function is zero.
- The derivative of a power function is a function in which the power on x becomes the coefficient of the term and the power on x in the derivative decreases by 1.
- The derivative of a constant c multiplied by a function f is the same as the constant multiplied by the derivative.
- The derivative of the sum of a function f and a function g is the same as the sum of the derivative of f and the derivative of g.
- The derivative of the difference of a function f and a function g is the same as the difference of the derivative of f and the derivative of g.
- The derivative of a product of two functions is the derivative of the first function times the second function plus the derivative of the second function times the first function.
- The derivative of the quotient of two functions is the derivative of the first function times the second function minus the derivative of the second function times the first function, all divided by the square of the second function.
- We used the limit definition of the derivative to develop formulas that allow us to find derivatives without resorting to the definition of the derivative. These formulas can be used singly or in combination with each other.

Glossary

Constant multiple rule
The derivative of a constant c multiplied by a function f is the same as the constant multiplied by the derivative: $\frac{d}{dx}\big(cf(x)\big) = cf\,'(x)$

Constant rule
The derivative of a constant function is zero: $\frac{d}{dx}(c) = 0$, where c is a constant

Difference rule
The derivative of the difference of a function f and a function g is the same as the difference of the derivative of f and the derivative of g: $\frac{d}{dx}\big(f(x) - g(x)\big) = f\,'(x) - g\,'(x)$

Power rule

The derivative of a power function is a function in which the power on x becomes the coefficient of the term and the power on x in the derivative decreases by 1: If n is an integer, then $\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^n\right) = nx^{n-1}$

Product rule

The derivative of a product of two functions is the derivative of the first function times the second function plus the derivative of the second function times the first function: $\frac{d}{dx}\Big(f(x)g(x)\Big) = f\,'(x)g(x) + g\,'(x)f(x)$

Quotient rule

The derivative of the quotient of two functions is the derivative of the first function times the second function minus the derivative of the second function times the first function, all divided by the square of the second function: $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}\right) = \frac{f'(x)g(x) - g'(x)f(x)}{\Big(g(x)\Big)^2}$

Sum rule

The derivative of the sum of a function f and a function g is the same as the sum of the derivative of f and the derivative of g: $\frac{d}{dx}\Big(f(x) + g(x)\Big) = f\,'(x) + g\,'(x)$

Contributors and Attributions

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Answers

Exercise 3.3.1

Use the preceding example as a guide

Exercise 3.3.1

0

Exercise 3.3.2

Use $(x+h)^4 = x^4 + 4x^3h + 6x^2h^2 + 4xh^3 + h^4$ and follow the procedure outlined in the preceding example.

Exercise 3.3.2

$\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^4\right) = 4x^3$

Exercise 3.3.3

Use the power rule with $n = 7$.

Exercise 3.3.3

$f\,'(x) = 7x^6$

Exercise 3.3.4

Use the preceding example as a guide.

Exercise 3.3.4

$f\,'(x) = 6x^2 - 12x.$

Exercise 3.3.5

Use the preceding example as a guide.

Exercise 3.3.5

$y = 12x - 23$

Exercise 3.3.6

Set $f(x) = 2x^5$ and $g(x) = 4x^2 + x$ and use the preceding example as a guide.

Exercise 3.3.6

$p\,'(x) = 10x^4(4x^2 + x) + (8x + 1)(2x^5) = 56x^6 + 12x^5.$

Exercise 3.3.7

Apply the quotient rule with $f(x) = 3x + 1$ and $g(x) = 4x - 3$.

Exercise 3.3.7

$h\,'(x) = -\frac{13}{(4x-3)^2}.$

Exercise 3.3.8

Rewrite $g(x) = \dfrac{1}{x^7} = x^{-7}$. Use the extended power rule with $k = -7$.

Exercise 3.3.8

$g\,'(x) = -7x^{-8}$.

Exercise 3.3.9

Apply the difference rule and the constant multiple rule.

Exercise 3.3.9

$3f\,'(x) - 2g\,'(x)$.

Exercise 3.3.10

Solve $f\,'(x) = 2$.

Exercise 3.3.10

$\dfrac{5}{8}$

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3.3E: Exercises for Section 3.3

Exercises 1 - 12

Find $f'(x)$ for each function.

1. $f(x) = x^7 + 10$
2. $f(x) = 5x^3 - x + 1$

Answer

$$f'(x) = 15x^2 - 1$$

3. $f(x) = 4x^2 - 7x$
4. $f(x) = 8x^4 + 9x^2 - 1$

Answer

$$f'(x) = 32x^3 + 18x$$

5. $f(x) = x^4 + 2x$
6. $f(x) = 3x\left(18x^4 + \dfrac{13}{x+1}\right)$

Answer

$$f'(x) = 270x^4 + \frac{39}{(x+1)^2}$$

7. $f(x) = (x+2)(2x^2 - 3)$
8. $f(x) = x^2\left(\dfrac{2}{x^2} + \dfrac{5}{x^3}\right)$

Answer

$$f'(x) = \frac{-5}{x^2}$$

9. $f(x) = \dfrac{x^3 + 2x^2 - 4}{3}$
10. $f(x) = \dfrac{4x^3 - 2x + 1}{x^2}$

Answer

$$f'(x) = \frac{4x^4 + 2x^2 - 2x}{x^4}$$

11. $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2 + 4}{x^2 - 4}$
12. $f(x) = \dfrac{x + 9}{x^2 - 7x + 1}$

Answer

$$f'(x) = \frac{-x^2 - 18x + 64}{(x^2 - 7x + 1)^2}$$

Exercises 13 - 16

Find the equation of the tangent line $T(x)$ to the graph of the given function at the indicated point. Use a graphing calculator to graph the function and the tangent line.

13. [T] $y = 3x^2 + 4x + 1$ at $(0, 1)$

14. [T] $y = 2\sqrt{x} + 1$ at $(4, 5)$

Answer

$T(x) = \frac{1}{2}x + 3$

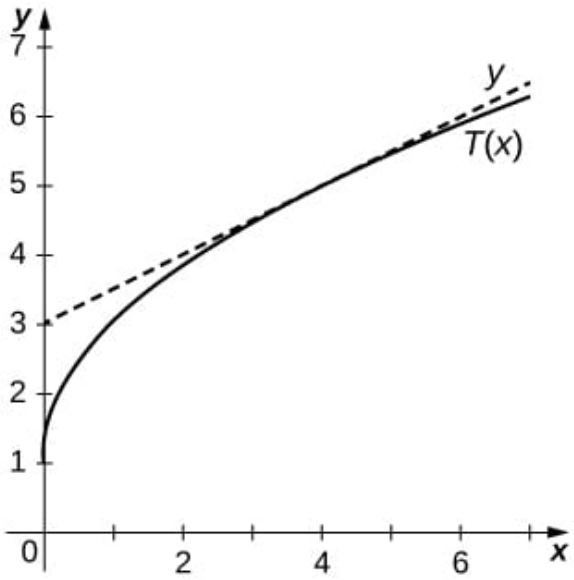


Figure $3.3E.1$: This graph of the given function passes through the point $(0, 1)$, increases rapidly initially with rate of change decreasing. The tangent line at $(4, 5)$ has a y-intercept of 3 and slope slightly less than 3.

15. [T] $y = \dfrac{2x}{x - 1}$ at $(-1, 1)$
16. [T] $y = \dfrac{2}{x} - \dfrac{3}{x^2}$ at $(1, -1)$

Answer

$T(x) = 4x - 5$

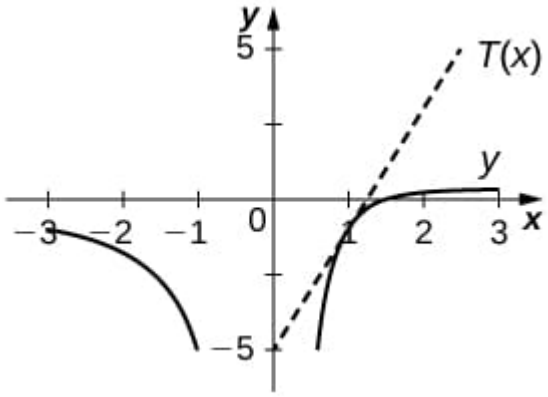


Figure $3.3E.2$: This graph of the given function is in two pieces. The first piece is a decreasing function in the third quadrant. The second piece is an increasing function that starts in the fourth quadrant and crosses at point $(1.5, 0)$ to pass into the first quadrant. The tangent line at $x = 1$ has a y-intercept at -5 and a slope a bit less than 5.

Exercises 17 - 20

Assume that $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are both differentiable functions for all x. Find the derivative of each of the functions $h(x)$.

17. $h(x) = 4f(x) + \dfrac{g(x)}{7}$
18. $h(x) = x^3 f(x)$

Answer

$$h'(x) = 3x^2 f(x) + x^3 f\,'(x)$$

19. $h(x) = \dfrac{f(x)g(x)}{2}$
20. $h(x) = \dfrac{3f(x)}{g(x) + 2}$

Answer

$$h'(x) = \frac{3f'(x)(g(x) + 2) - 3f(x)g'(x)}{(g(x) + 2)^2}$$

Exercises 21 - 24

Assume that $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are both differentiable functions with values as given in the following Table $3.3E.1$. Use the following table to calculate the following derivatives.

Table $3.3E.1$: Table of function values for f, g, f', g'

x	1	2	3	4
$f(x)$	3	5	−2	0
$g(x)$	2	3	−4	6
$f\,'(x)$	−1	7	8	−3
$g\,'(x)$	4	1	2	9

21. Find $h\,'(1)$ if $h(x) = xf(x) + 4g(x)$.
22. Find $h\,'(2)$ if $h(x) = \dfrac{f(x)}{g(x)}$.

Answer

$$h'(2) = \tfrac{16}{9}$$

23. Find $h\,'(3)$ if $h(x) = 2x + f(x)g(x)$.
24. Find $h\,'(4)$ if $h(x) = \dfrac{1}{x} + \dfrac{g(x)}{f(x)}$.

Answer

$h'(4)$ is undefined.

Exercises 25 - 27

Use the following figure to find the indicated derivatives, if they exist.

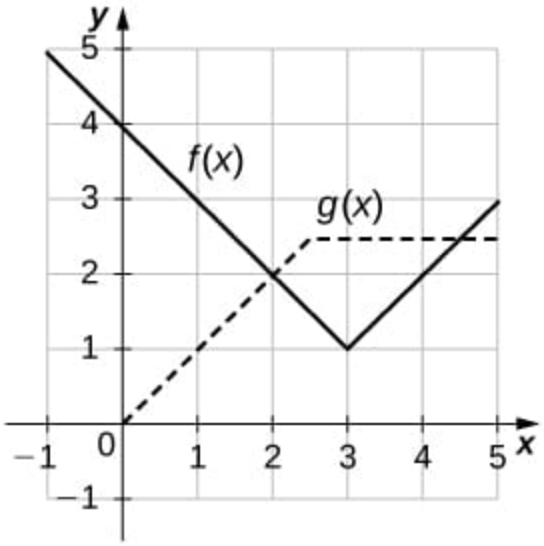


Figure $3.3E.3$: The functions f and g are graphed on the same set of axes. f decreases linearly from $(-1, 5)$ to $(3, 1)$, and increases to $(5, 3)$. g increases linearly from $(0, 0)$ to $(2.5, 2.5)$, and remains at height 2.5 until $(5, 2.5)$.

25. Let $h(x) = f(x) + g(x)$. Find
    a. $h\,'(1)$
    b. $h\,'(3)$
    c. $h\,'(4)$
26. Let $h(x) = f(x)g(x)$. Find
    a. $h\,'(1)$
    b. $h\,'(3)$
    c. $h\,'(4)$

Answer

a. $h'(1) = 2$
b. $h'(3)$ does not exist
c. $h'(4) = 2.5$

27. Let $h(x) = \dfrac{f(x)}{g(x)}$. Find
    a. $h\,'(1)$
    b. $h\,'(3)$
    c. $h\,'(4)$

Exercises 28 - 31

a. **Evaluate** $f\,'(a)$
b. **Graph the function** $f(x)$ **and the tangent line at** $x = a$**.**

28. [T] $f(x) = 2x^3 + 3x - x^2, \quad a = 2$

Answer

a. 23
b. $y = 23x - 28$

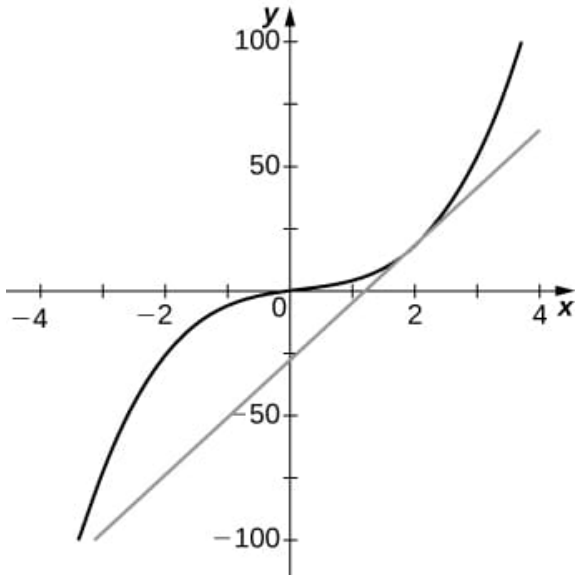


Figure $3.3E.4$: The graph of f, a cubic, increases from $(-3,-100)$ to $(0,0)$, with a horizontal tangent at $(0,0)$, and then increases to $(3,100)$. The tangent line at $x=2$ has a positive slope and a y intercept at -28.

29. [T] $f(x)=\dfrac{1}{x}-x^2, \quad a=1$
30. [T] $f(x)=x^2-x^{12}+3x+2, \quad a=0$

Answer

a. 3
b. $y=3x+2$

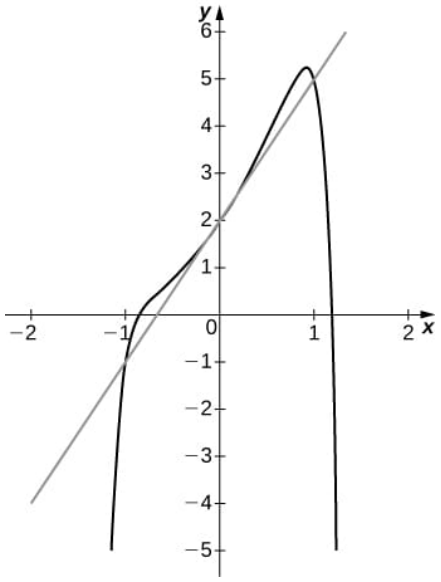


Figure $3.3E.5$: The graph of f increases from about $(-1.1,-5)$ to $(1,5)$, decreases to about $(1.2,-5)$. The tangent line at $x=0$ has a positive slope and passes through $(0,2)$ and about $(-0.7,2)$.

31. [T] $f(x)=\dfrac{1}{x}-x^{2/3}, \quad a=-1$
32. Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of $f(x)=2x^3+4x^2-5x-3$ at $x=-1$.

Answer

$y=-7x-3$

33. Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of $f(x)=x^2+\dfrac{4}{x}-10$ at $x=8$.

34. Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of $f(x) = (3x - x^2)(3 - x - x^2)$ at $x = 1$.

Answer

$y = -5x + 7$

35. Find the point on the graph of $f(x) = x^3$ such that the tangent line at that point has an x-intercept of $(6, 0)$.

36. Find the equation of the line passing through the point $P(3, 3)$ and tangent to the graph of $f(x) = \dfrac{6}{x - 1}$.

Answer

$y = -\frac{3}{2}x + \frac{15}{2}$

37. Determine all points on the graph of $f(x) = x^3 + x^2 - x - 1$ for which the slope of the tangent line is

a. horizontal
b. –1

38. Find a quadratic polynomial such that $f(1) = 5,\ \ f\,'(1) = 3$ and $f''(1) = -6$.

Answer

$y = -3x^2 + 9x - 1$

39. A car driving along a freeway with traffic has traveled $s(t) = t^3 - 6t^2 + 9t$ meters in t seconds.

a. Determine the time in seconds when the velocity of the car is 0.
b. Determine the acceleration of the car when the velocity is 0.

40. [T] A herring swimming along a straight line has traveled $s(t) = \dfrac{t^2}{t^2 + 2}$ feet in t

seconds. Determine the velocity of the herring when it has traveled 3 seconds.

Answer

$\frac{12}{121}$ or 0.0992 ft/s

41. The population in millions of arctic flounder in the Atlantic Ocean is modeled by the function $P(t) = \dfrac{8t + 3}{0.2t^2 + 1}$, where t is measured in years.

a. Determine the initial flounder population.
b. Determine $P\,'(10)$ and briefly interpret the result.

42. [T] The concentration of antibiotic in the bloodstream t hours after being injected is given by the function $C(t) = \dfrac{2t^2 + t}{t^3 + 50}$, where C is measured in milligrams per liter of blood.

a. Find the rate of change of $C(t)$.
b. Determine the rate of change for $t = 8, 12, 24$,and 36.
c. Briefly describe what seems to be occurring as the number of hours increases.

Answer

a. $\dfrac{-2t^4 - 2t^3 + 200t + 50}{(t^3 + 50)^2}$
b. -0.02395 mg/L-hr, -0.01344 mg/L-hr, -0.003566 mg/L-hr, -0.001579 mg/L-hr
c. The rate at which the concentration of drug in the bloodstream decreases is slowing to 0 as time increases.

43. A book publisher has a cost function given by $C(x) = \dfrac{x^3 + 2x + 3}{x^2}$, where x is the number of copies of a book in thousands and C is the cost, per book, measured in dollars. Evaluate $C\,'(2)$and explain its meaning.

44. [T] According to Newton's law of universal gravitation, the force F between two bodies of constant mass m_1 and m_2 is given

by the formula $F = \dfrac{Gm_1m_2}{d^2}$, where G is the gravitational constant and d is the distance between the bodies.

a. Suppose that $G, m_1,$ and m_2 are constants. Find the rate of change of force F with respect to distance d.
b. Find the rate of change of force F with gravitational constant $G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11}\text{Nm}^2/\text{kg}^2$, on two bodies 10 meters apart, each with a mass of 1000 kilograms.

Answer

a. $F'(d) = \dfrac{-2Gm_1m_2}{d_3}$
b. -1.33×10^{-7} N/m

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3.4: Derivatives as Rates of Change

Learning Objectives

- Determine a new value of a quantity from the old value and the amount of change.
- Calculate the average rate of change and explain how it differs from the instantaneous rate of change.
- Apply rates of change to displacement, velocity, and acceleration of an object moving along a straight line.
- Predict the future population from the present value and the population growth rate.
- Use derivatives to calculate marginal cost and revenue in a business situation.

In this section we look at some applications of the derivative by focusing on the interpretation of the derivative as the rate of change of a function. These applications include **acceleration** and velocity in physics, **population growth rates** in biology, and marginal functions in economics.

Amount of Change Formula

One application for derivatives is to estimate an unknown value of a function at a point by using a known value of a function at some given point together with its rate of change at the given point. If $f(x)$ is a function defined on an interval $[a, a+h]$, then the **amount of change** of $f(x)$ over the interval is the change in the y values of the function over that interval and is given by

$$f(a+h)-f(a).$$

The **average rate of change** of the function f over that same interval is the ratio of the amount of change over that interval to the corresponding change in the x values. It is given by

$$\frac{f(a+h)-f(a)}{h}.$$

As we already know, the instantaneous rate of change of $f(x)$ at a is its derivative

$$f'(a)=\lim_{h\to 0}\frac{f(a+h)-f(a)}{h}.$$

For small enough values of h, $f\,'(a)\approx\frac{f(a+h)-f(a)}{h}$. We can then solve for $f(a+h)$ to get the amount of change formula:

$$f(a+h)\approx f(a)+f'(a)h. \tag{3.4.1}$$

We can use this formula if we know only $f(a)$and $f\,'(a)$ and wish to estimate the value of $f(a+h)$. For example, we may use the current population of a city and the rate at which it is growing to estimate its population in the near future. As we can see in Figure $3.4.1$, we are approximating $f(a+h)$ by the y coordinate at a+h on the line tangent to $f(x)$ at $x=a$. Observe that the accuracy of this estimate depends on the value of h as well as the value of $f\,'(a)$.

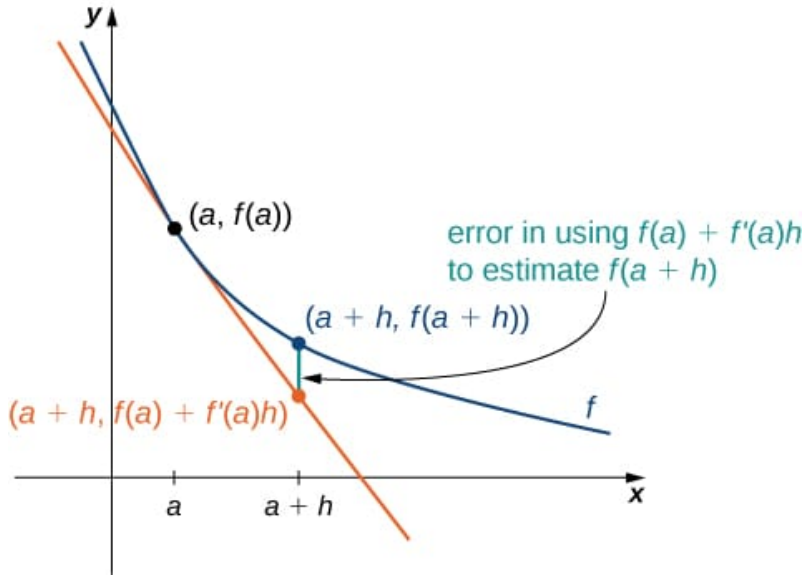


Figure 3.4.1: This graph illustrates the concept of linear approximation. The blue curve represents the function f and the orange line is the tangent line at the point $(a, f(a))$, showing the linear approximation. To the right of $(a, f(a))$, at $x = a + h$, another point $(a + h, f(a + h))$ is marked on the curve. Directly below, the corresponding point on the tangent line is labeled $(a + h, f(a) + f'(a)h)$, showing the linear approximation of f(a+h)f(a + h)f(a+h). A vertical line segment between these two points represents the "error in using $f(a) + f'(a)h$ to estimate $f(a + h)$.

Example 3.4.1: Estimating the Value of a Function

If $f(3) = 2$ and $f'(3) = 5$, estimate $f(3.2)$.

Solution

Begin by finding h. We have $h = 3.2 - 3 = 0.2$. Thus,

$$f(3.2) = f(3 + 0.2) \approx f(3) + (0.2)f'(3) = 2 + 0.2(5) = 3.$$

Exercise 3.4.1

Given $f(10) = -5$ and $f'(10) = 6$, estimate $f(10.1)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Motion along a Line

Another use for the derivative is to analyze motion along a line. We have described velocity as the rate of change of position. If we take the derivative of the velocity, we can find the acceleration, or the rate of change of velocity. It is also important to introduce the idea of *speed*, which is the magnitude of velocity. Thus, we can state the following mathematical definitions.

Definition: Velocity, Speed, Acceleration

Let $s(t)$ be a function giving the position of an object at time t.

- The **velocity** of the object at time t is given by $v(t) = s'(t)$.
- The **speed** of the object at time t is given by $|v(t)|$.
- The **acceleration** of the object at t is given by $a(t) = v'(t) = s''(t)$.

Example 3.4.2: Comparing Instantaneous Velocity and Average Velocity

A ball is dropped from a height of 64 feet. Its height above ground (in feet) t seconds later is given by $s(t) = -16t^2 + 64$. The graph is shown in Figure 3.4.2.

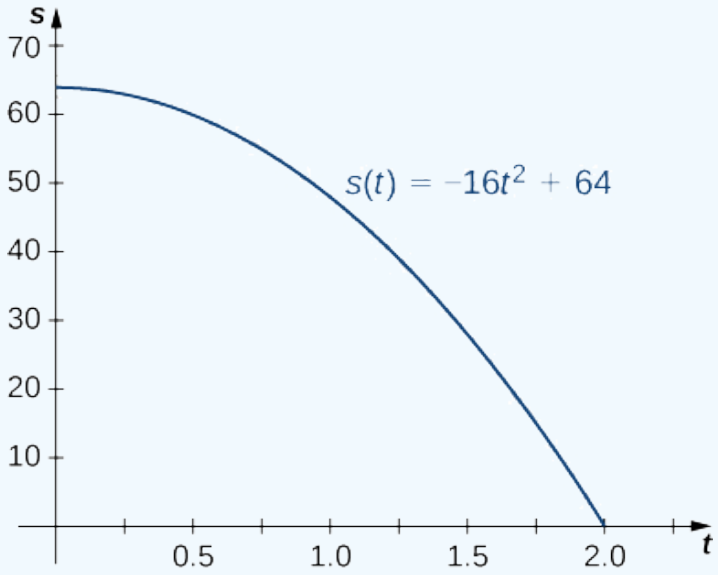


Figure 3.4.2: graph of s decreases faster and faster from $(0, 64)$ to $(2, 0)$.

a. What is the instantaneous velocity of the ball when it hits the ground?
b. What is the average velocity during its fall?

Solution

The first thing to do is determine how long it takes the ball to reach the ground. To do this, set $s(t) = 0$. Solving $-16t^2 + 64 = 0$, we get $t = 2$, so it takes 2 seconds for the ball to reach the ground.

a. The instantaneous velocity of the ball as it strikes the ground is $v(2)$. Since $v(t) = s'(t) = -32t$, we obtain $v(t) = -64$ ft/s.
b. The average velocity of the ball during its fall is

$$v_{\text{ave}} = \frac{s(2)-s(0)}{2-0} = \frac{0-64}{2} = -32 \text{ ft/s.}$$

Example 3.4.3: Interpreting the Relationship between $v(t)$ and $a(t)$

A particle moves along a coordinate axis in the positive direction to the right. Its position at time t is given by $s(t) = t^3 - 4t + 2$. Find $v(1)$ and $a(1)$ and use these values to answer the following questions.

a. Is the particle moving from left to right or from right to left at time $t = 1$?
b. Is the particle speeding up or slowing down at time $t = 1$?

Solution

Begin by finding $v(t)$ and $a(t)$.

$v(t) = s'(t) = 3t^2 - 4$ and $a(t) = v'(t) = s''(t) = 6t$.

Evaluating these functions at $t = 1$, we obtain $v(1) = -1$ and $a(1) = 6$.

a. Because $v(1) < 0$, the particle is moving from right to left.
b. Because $v(1) < 0$ and $a(1) > 0$, velocity and acceleration are acting in opposite directions. In other words, the particle is being accelerated in the direction opposite the direction in which it is traveling, causing $|v(t)|$ to decrease. The particle is slowing down.

Example 3.4.4: Position and Velocity

The position of a particle moving along a coordinate axis is given by $s(t) = t^3 - 9t^2 + 24t + 4, \quad t \geq 0.$

a. Find $v(t)$.
b. At what time(s) is the particle at rest?
c. On what time intervals is the particle moving from left to right? From right to left?
d. Use the information obtained to sketch the path of the particle along a coordinate axis.

Solution

a. The velocity is the derivative of the position function:

$$v(t) = s\,'(t) = 3t^2 - 18t + 24.$$

b. The particle is at rest when $v(t) = 0$, so set $3t^2 - 18t + 24 = 0$. Factoring the left-hand side of the equation produces $3(t - 2)(t - 4) = 0$. Solving, we find that the particle is at rest at $t = 2$ and $t = 4$.

c. The particle is moving from left to right when $v(t) > 0$ and from right to left when $v(t) < 0$. Figure 3.4.3 gives the analysis of the sign of $v(t)$ for $t \geq 0$, but it does not represent the axis along which the particle is moving.



Figure 3.4.3:The sign of $v(t)$ determines the direction of the particle. A number line is marked with 0, 2, and 4. Between 0 and 2, there is a '$+$' sign. Above 2, there is a '0'. Between 2 and 4 there is a '$-$' sign. Above 4 there is a '0'. After 4 there is a '$+$' sign.

- Since $3t^2 - 18t + 24 > 0$ on $[0, 2) \cup (4, +\infty)$, the particle is moving from left to right on these intervals.
- Since $3t^2 - 18t + 24 < 0$ on $(2, 4)$, the particle is moving from right to left on this interval.

d. Before we can sketch the graph of the particle, we need to know its position at the time it starts moving $(t = 0)$ and at the times that it changes direction $(t = 2, 4)$. We have $s(0) = 4$, $s(2) = 24$, and $s(4) = 20$. This means that the particle begins on the coordinate axis at 4 and changes direction at 24 and 20 on the coordinate axis. The path of the particle is shown on a coordinate axis in Figure 3.4.4.

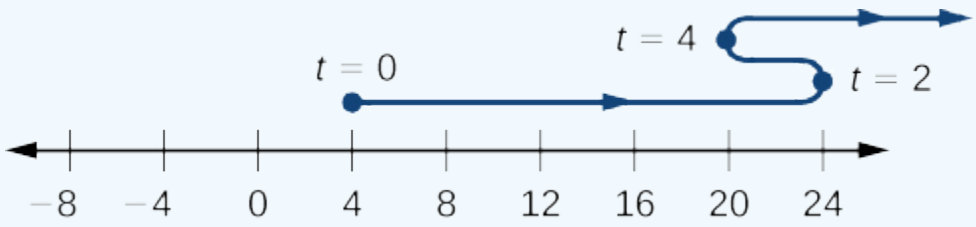


Figure 3.4.4: The path of the particle can be determined by analyzing $v(t)$. A number line is given and above it a line snakes, starting at $t = 0$ above 4 on the number line. Then the line continues to the right to the point at $t = 2$, above 24 on the number line. Then the line turns left and decreases to the point at $t = 4$ above 20 on the number line, at which point the line reverses direction again and increases to the right indefinitely.

Exercise 3.4.2

A particle moves along a coordinate axis. Its position at time t is given by $s(t) = t^2 - 5t + 1$. Is the particle moving from right to left or from left to right at time $t = 3$?

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Population Change

In addition to analyzing velocity, speed, acceleration, and position, we can use derivatives to analyze various types of populations, including those as diverse as bacteria colonies and cities. We can use a current population, together with a growth rate, to estimate the size of a population in the future. The population growth rate is the rate of change of a population and consequently can be represented by the derivative of the size of the population.

Definition

If $P(t)$ is the number of entities present in a population, then the **population growth rate** of $P(t)$ is defined to be $P'(t)$.

Example 3.4.5: Estimating a Population

The population of a city is tripling every 5 years. If its current population is 10,000, what will be its approximate population 2 years from now?

Solution

Let $P(t)$ be the population (in thousands) t years from now. Thus, we know that $P(0) = 10$ and based on the information, we anticipate $P(5) = 30$. Now estimate $P'(0)$, the current growth rate, using

$$P'(0) \approx \frac{P(5)-P(0)}{5-0} = \frac{30-10}{5} = 4.$$

By applying Equation 3.4.1 to $P(t)$, we can estimate the population 2 years from now by writing

$$P(2) \approx P(0) + (2)P'(0) \approx 10 + 2(4) = 18;$$

thus, in 2 years the population will be 18,000.

Exercise 3.4.3

The current population of a mosquito colony is known to be 3,000; that is, $P(0) = 3,000$. If $P'(0) = 100$, estimate the size of the population in 3 days, where t is measured in days.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Changes in Cost and Revenue

In addition to analyzing motion along a line and population growth, derivatives are useful in analyzing changes in cost, revenue, and profit. The concept of a marginal function is common in the fields of business and economics and implies the use of derivatives. The marginal cost is the derivative of the cost function. The marginal revenue is the derivative of the revenue function.

The marginal profit is the derivative of the profit function, which is based on the cost function and the revenue function.

Definition

- If $C(x)$ is the cost of producing x items, then the **marginal cost** $MC(x)$ is $MC(x) = C\,'(x)$.
- If $R(x)$ is the revenue obtained from selling x items, then the **marginal revenue** $MR(x)$ is $MR(x) = R\,'(x)$.
- If $P(x) = R(x) - C(x)$ is the profit obtained from selling x items, then the **marginal profit** $MP(x)$ is defined to be $MP(x) = P\,'(x) = MR(x) - MC(x) = R\,'(x) - C\,'(x)$.

We can roughly approximate

$$MC(x) = C'(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{C(x+h) - C(x)}{h}$$

by choosing an appropriate value for h. Since x represents objects, a reasonable and small value for h is 1. Thus, by substituting $h = 1$, we get the approximation $MC(x) = C\,'(x) \approx C(x+1) - C(x)$. Consequently, $C\,'(x)$ for a given value of x can be thought of as the change in cost associated with producing one additional item. In a similar way, $MR(x) = R\,'(x)$ approximates the revenue obtained by selling one additional item, and $MP(x) = P\,'(x)$ approximates the profit obtained by producing and selling one additional item.

Example 3.4.6: Applying Marginal Revenue

Assume that the number of barbeque dinners that can be sold, x, can be related to the price charged, p, by the equation $p(x) = 9 - 0.03x, 0 \leq x \leq 300$.

In this case, the revenue in dollars obtained by selling x barbeque dinners is given by

$$R(x) = xp(x) = x(9 - 0.03x) = -0.03x^2 + 9x \quad \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq 300.$$

Use the marginal revenue function to estimate the revenue obtained from selling the 101st barbeque dinner. Compare this to the actual revenue obtained from the sale of this dinner.

Solution

First, find the marginal revenue function: $MR(x) = R\,'(x) = -0.06x + 9$.

Next, use $R\,'(100)$ to approximate $R(101) - R(100)$, the revenue obtained from the sale of the 101st dinner. Since $R\,'(100) = 3$, the revenue obtained from the sale of the 101st dinner is approximately \$3.

The actual revenue obtained from the sale of the 101st dinner is

$$R(101) - R(100) = 602.97 - 600 = 2.97, \text{ or } \$2.97.$$

The marginal revenue is a fairly good estimate in this case and has the advantage of being easy to compute.

Exercise 3.4.4

Suppose that the profit obtained from the sale of x fish-fry dinners is given by $P(x) = -0.03x^2 + 8x - 50$. Use the marginal profit function to estimate the profit from the sale of the 101st fish-fry dinner.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- Using $f(a+h) \approx f(a) + f\,'(a)h$, it is possible to estimate $f(a+h)$ given $f\,'(a)$ and $f(a)$.
- The rate of change of position is velocity, and the rate of change of velocity is acceleration. Speed is the absolute value, or magnitude, of velocity.
- The population growth rate and the present population can be used to predict the size of a future population.
- Marginal cost, marginal revenue, and marginal profit functions can be used to predict, respectively, the cost of producing one more item, the revenue obtained by selling one more item, and the profit obtained by producing and selling one more item.

Glossary

Acceleration
The rate of change of the velocity, that is, the derivative of velocity

Amount of change
The amount of a function $f(x)$ over an interval $[x, x+h] is f(x+h) - f(x)$

Average rate of change
The average rate of change of a function $f(x)$ over an interval $[x, x+h]$ is $\frac{f(x+h)-f(a)}{b-a}$

Marginal cost
The derivative of the cost function, or the approximate cost of producing one more item

Marginal revenue
The derivative of the revenue function, or the approximate revenue obtained by selling one more item

Marginal profit
The derivative of the profit function, or the approximate profit obtained by producing and selling one more item

Population growth rate
The derivative of the population with respect to time

Speed
The absolute value of velocity, that is, $|v(t)|$ is the speed of an object at time t whose velocity is given by $v(t)$

Answers

Exercise 3.4.1
Use the same process as in the preceding example.

Exercise 3.4.1
-4.4

Exercise 3.4.2
Find $v(3)$ and look at the sign.

Exercise 3.4.2
left to right

Exercise 3.4.3
Use $P(3) \approx P(0) + 3P\,'(0)$

Exercise 3.4.3
3,300

Exercise 3.4.4
Use $P\,'(100)$ to approximate $P(101) - P(100)$.

Exercise 3.4.4
$2

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3.4E: Exercises for Section 3.4

Exercises 1 - 3

The given functions represent the position of a particle traveling along a horizontal line.

a. **Find the velocity and acceleration functions.**
b. **Determine the time intervals when the object is slowing down or speeding up.**

1. $s(t) = 2t^3 - 3t^2 - 12t + 8$
2. $s(t) = 2t^3 - 15t^2 + 36t - 10$

Answer

a. $v(t) = 6t^2 - 30t + 36, \quad a(t) = 12t - 30$
b. speeds up for $(2, 2.5) \cup (3, \infty)$, slows down for $(0, 2) \cup (2.5, 3)$

3. $s(t) = \dfrac{t}{1 + t^2}$
4. A rocket is fired vertically upward from the ground. The distance s in feet that the rocket travels from the ground after t seconds is given by $s(t) = -16t^2 + 560t$.

   a. Find the velocity of the rocket 3 seconds after being fired.
   b. Find the acceleration of the rocket 3 seconds after being fired.

   Answer

   a. 464 ft/s
   b. -32 ft/s^2

5. A ball is thrown downward with a speed of 8 ft/s from the top of a 64-foot-tall building. After t seconds, its height above the ground is given by $s(t) = -16t^2 - 8t + 64$.

   a. Determine how long it takes for the ball to hit the ground.
   b. Determine the velocity of the ball when it hits the ground.

6. The position function $s(t) = t^2 - 3t - 4$ represents the position of the back of a car backing out of a driveway and then driving in a straight line, where s is in feet and t is in seconds. In this case, $s(t) = 0$ represents the time at which the back of the car is at the garage door, so $s(0) = -4$ is the starting position of the car, 4 feet inside the garage.

   a. Determine the velocity of the car when $s(t) = 0$.
   b. Determine the velocity of the car when $s(t) = 14$.

   Answer

   a. 5 ft/s
   b. 9 ft/s

7. The position of a hummingbird flying along a straight line in t seconds is given by $s(t) = 3t^3 - 7t$ meters.

   a. Determine the velocity of the bird at $t = 1$ sec.
   b. Determine the acceleration of the bird at $t = 1$ sec.
   c. Determine the acceleration of the bird when the velocity equals 0.

8. A potato is launched vertically upward with an initial velocity of 100 ft/s from a potato gun at the top of an 85-foot-tall building. The distance in feet that the potato travels from the ground after t seconds is given by $s(t) = -16t^2 + 100t + 85$.

   a. Find the velocity of the potato after 0.5 s and 5.75 s.
   b. Find the speed of the potato at 0.5 s and 5.75 s.

c. Determine when the potato reaches its maximum height.
d. Find the acceleration of the potato at 0.5 s and 1.5 s.
e. Determine how long the potato is in the air.
f. Determine the velocity of the potato upon hitting the ground.

Answer

a. 84 ft/s, –84 ft/s
b. 84 ft/s
c. $\frac{25}{8}$ s
d. $-32\ \text{ft/s}^2$ in both cases
e. $\frac{1}{8}(25+\sqrt{965})$ s
f. $-4\sqrt{965}$ ft/s

9. The position function $s(t)=t^3-8t$ gives the position in miles of a freight train where east is the positive direction and t is measured in hours.

a. Determine the direction the train is traveling when $s(t)=0$.
b. Determine the direction the train is traveling when $a(t)=0$.
c. Determine the time intervals when the train is slowing down or speeding up.

10. The following graph shows the position $y=s(t)$ of an object moving along a straight line.

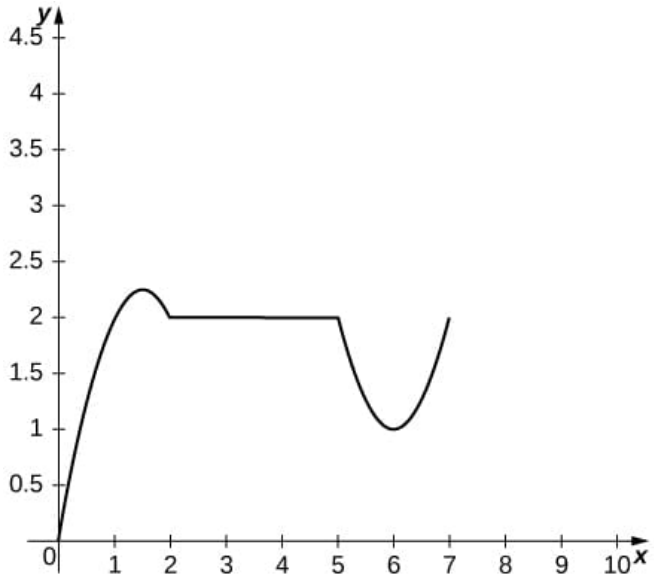


Figure $3.4E.1$: The image is a graph of a function with varying behavior, including smooth curves and flat segments. The function starts at $(0,0)$ and increases steeply, reaching a peak value of about 2.3 $x=1.5$ and decreasing until $x=2$. A flat segment follows, indicating a constant function over $2\le x\le 5$. The function then drops sharply around $x=5$, dips to a lowest value of about 1 at $x=6$ and then begins to rise again towards the end.

a. Use the graph of the position function to determine the time intervals when the velocity is positive, negative, or zero.
b. Sketch the graph of the velocity function.
c. Use the graph of the velocity function to determine the time intervals when the acceleration is positive, negative, or zero.
d. Determine the time intervals when the object is speeding up or slowing down.

Answer

a. Velocity is positive on $(0,1.5)\cup(6,7)$, negative on $(1.5,2)\cup(5,6)$, and zero on $(2,5)$.
b.

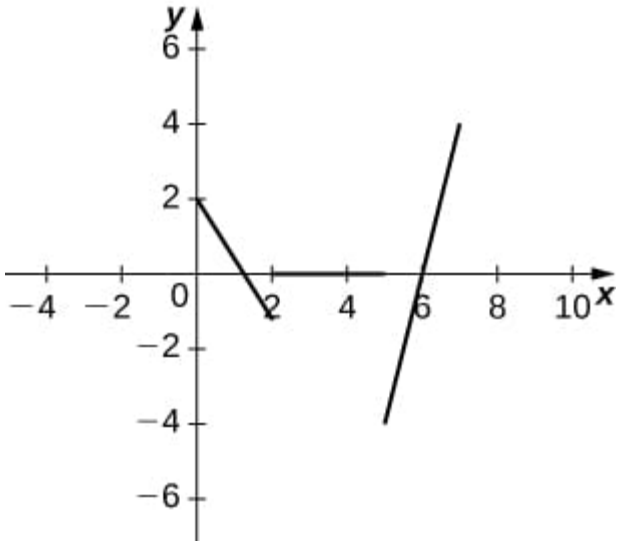


Figure $3.4E.2$: Graph of f has 3 line segments: The first is a line segment from $(0, 2)$ to $(2, -1)$, the second is a constant function from $(2, 0)$ to $(5, 0)$, and the third is a line segment from $(5, -4)$ to $(7, 4)$.

c. Acceleration is positive on $(5, 7)$, negative on $(0, 2)$, and zero on $(2, 5)$.
d. The object is speeding up on $(6, 7) \cup (1.5, 2)$ and slowing down on $(0, 1.5) \cup (5, 6)$.

11. The cost function, in dollars, of a company that manufactures food processors is given by $C(x) = 200 + \frac{7}{x} + \frac{x}{27}$, where x is the number of food processors manufactured.

    a. Find the marginal cost function.
    b. Find the marginal cost of manufacturing 12 food processors.
    c. Find the actual cost of manufacturing the thirteenth food processor.

12. The price p (in dollars) and the demand x for a certain digital clock radio is given by the price–demand function $p = 10 - 0.001x$.

    a. Find the revenue function $R(x)$
    b. Find the marginal revenue function.
    c. Find the marginal revenue at $x = 2000$ and 5000.

    Answer

    a. $R(x) = 10x - 0.001x^2$
    b. $R'(x) = 10 - 0.002x$
    c. \$6 per item, \$0 per item

13. [T] A profit is earned when revenue exceeds cost. Suppose the profit function for a skateboard manufacturer is given by $P(x) = 30x - 0.3x^2 - 250$, where x is the number of skateboards sold.

    a. Find the exact profit from the sale of the thirtieth skateboard.
    b. Find the marginal profit function and use it to estimate the profit from the sale of the thirtieth skateboard.

14. [T] In general, the profit function is the difference between the revenue and cost functions: $P(x) = R(x) - C(x)$. Suppose the price-demand and cost functions for the production of cordless drills is given respectively by $p = 143 - 0.03x$ and $C(x) = 75,000 + 65x$, where x is the number of cordless drills that are sold at a price of p dollars per drill and $C(x)$ is the cost of producing x cordless drills.

    a. Find the marginal cost function.

    b. Find the revenue and marginal revenue functions.

    c. Find $R'(1000)$ and $R'(4000)$. Interpret the results.

d. Find the profit and marginal profit functions.

e. Find $P'(1000)$ and $P'(4000)$. Interpret the results.

Answer

a. $C'(x) = 65$
b. $R(x) = 143x - 0.03x^2, R'(x) = 143 - 0.06x$
c. $R'(1000) = 83, \quad R'(4000) = -97$. At a production level of 1000 cordless drills, revenue is increasing at a rate of \$83 per drill; at a production level of 4000 cordless drills, revenue is decreasing at a rate of \$97 per drill.
d. $P(x) = -0.03x^2 + 78x - 75000, \quad P'(x) = -0.06x + 78$
e. $P'(1000) = 18, \quad P'(4000) = -162$. At a production level of 1000 cordless drills, profit is increasing at a rate of \$18 per drill; at a production level of 4000 cordless drills, profit is decreasing at a rate of \$162 per drill.

15. A small town in Ohio commissioned an actuarial firm to conduct a study that modeled the rate of change of the town's population. The study found that the town's population (measured in thousands of people) can be modeled by the function $P(t) = -\frac{1}{3}t^3 + 64t + 3000$, where t is measured in years.

a. Find the rate of change function $P'(t)$ of the population function.

b. Find $P'(1), \quad P'(2), \quad P'(3)$, and $P'(4)$. Interpret what the results mean for the town.

c. Find $P''(1), \quad P''(2), \quad P''(3)$, and $P''(4)$. Interpret what the results mean for the town's population.

16. [T] A culture of bacteria grows in number according to the function $N(t) = 3000(1 + \frac{4t}{t^2 + 100})$, where t is measured in hours.

a. Find the rate of change of the number of bacteria.

b. Find $N'(0), \quad N'(10), \quad N'(20)$, and $N'(30)$.

c. Interpret the results in (b).

d. Find $N''(0), \quad N''(10), \quad N''(20)$, and $N''(30)$. Interpret what the answers imply about the bacteria population growth.

Answer

a. $N'(t) = 3000\left(\frac{-4t^2 + 400}{(t^2 + 100)^2}\right)$
b. $120, 0, -14.4, -9.6$
c. The bacteria population increases from time 0 to 10 hours; afterwards, the bacteria population decreases.
d. $0, -6, 0.384, 0.432$. The rate at which the bacteria is increasing is decreasing during the first 10 hours. Afterwards, the bacteria population is decreasing at a decreasing rate.

17. The centripetal force of an object of mass m is given by $F(r) = \frac{mv^2}{r}$, where v is the speed of rotation and r is the distance from the center of rotation.

a. Find the rate of change of centripetal force with respect to the distance from the center of rotation.

b. Find the rate of change of centripetal force of an object with mass 1000 kilograms, velocity of 13.89 m/s, and a distance from the center of rotation of 200 meters.

The following questions concern the population (in millions) of London by decade in the 19th century, which is listed in the following table.

Table 3.4E.1: Table of population

Year Since 1800	Population (millions)
1	0.8975
11	1.040

Year Since 1800	Population (millions)
21	1.264
31	1.516
41	1.661
51	2.000
61	2.634
71	3.272
81	3.911
91	4.422

Population of LondonSource: Website of London Demographics [en.Wikipedia.org] [en.Wikipedia.org] [en.Wikipedia.org]

18. [T]

a. Using a calculator or a computer program, find the best-fit linear function to measure the population.

b. Find the derivative of the equation in a. and explain its physical meaning.

c. Find the second derivative of the equation and explain its physical meaning.

Answer

a. $P(t) = 0.03983 + 0.4280$
b. $P'(t) = 0.03983$. The population is increasing.
c. $P''(t) = 0$. The rate at which the population is increasing is constant.

19. [T]

a. Using a calculator or a computer program, find the best-fit quadratic curve through the data.

b. Find the derivative of the equation and explain its physical meaning.

c. Find the second derivative of the equation and explain its physical meaning.

For the following exercises, consider an astronaut on a large planet in another galaxy. To learn more about the composition of this planet, the astronaut drops an electronic sensor into a deep trench. The sensor transmits its vertical position every second in relation to the astronaut's position. The summary of the falling sensor data is displayed in the following table.

Table 3.4E.2: Table of position after time t

Time after dropping (s)	Position (m)
0	0
1	–1
2	–2
3	–5
4	–7
5	–14

20. [T]

a. Using a calculator or computer program, find the best-fit quadratic curve to the data.

b. Find the derivative of the position function and explain its physical meaning.

c. Find the second derivative of the position function and explain its physical meaning.

Answer

a. $p(t) = -0.6071x^2 + 0.4357x - 0.3571$
b. $p\,'(t) = -1.214x + 0.4357$. This is the velocity of the sensor.
c. $p''(t) = -1.214$. This is the acceleration of the sensor; it is a constant acceleration downward.

21. [T]

a. Using a calculator or computer program, find the best-fit cubic curve to the data.

b. Find the derivative of the position function and explain its physical meaning.

c. Find the second derivative of the position function and explain its physical meaning.

d. Using the result from c. explain why a cubic function is not a good choice for this problem.

The following problems deal with the Holling type I, II, and III equations. These equations describe the ecological event of growth of a predator population given the amount of prey available for consumption.

22. [T] The **Holling type I equation** is described by $f(x) = ax$, where x is the amount of prey available and $a > 0$ is the rate at which the predator meets the prey for consumption.

a. Graph the Holling type I equation, given $a = 0.5$.

b. Determine the first derivative of the Holling type I equation and explain physically what the derivative implies.

c. Determine the second derivative of the Holling type I equation and explain physically what the derivative implies.

d. Using the interpretations from b. and c. explain why the Holling type I equation may not be realistic.

Answer

a.

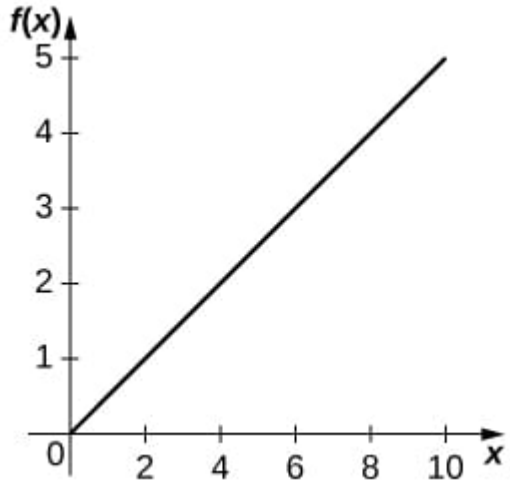


Figure $3.4E.3$: The graph is a straight line drawn through the origin with slope $1/2$.

b. $f\,'(x) = a$. The more increase in prey, the more growth for predators.
c. $f''(x) = 0$. As the amount of prey increases, the rate at which the predator population growth increases is constant.
d. This equation assumes that if there is more prey, the predator is able to increase consumption linearly. This assumption is unphysical because we would expect there to be some saturation point at which there is too much prey for the predator to consume adequately.

23. [T] The Holling type II equation is described by $f(x) = \dfrac{ax}{n+x}$, where x is the amount of prey available and $a > 0$ is the maximum consumption rate of the predator.

    a. Graph the Holling type II equation given $a = 0.5$ and $n = 5$. What are the differences between the Holling type I and II equations?

    b. Take the first derivative of the Holling type II equation and interpret the physical meaning of the derivative.

    c. Show that $f(n) = \frac{1}{2}a$ and interpret the meaning of the parameter n.

    d. Find and interpret the meaning of the second derivative. What makes the Holling type II function more realistic than the Holling type I function?

24. [T] The Holling type III equation is described by $f(x) = \dfrac{ax^2}{n^2+x^2}$, where x is the amount of prey available and $a > 0$ is the maximum consumption rate of the predator.

    a. Graph the Holling type III equation given $a = 0.5$ and $n = 5$. What are the differences between the Holling type II and III equations?

    b. Take the first derivative of the Holling type III equation and interpret the physical meaning of the derivative.

    c. Find and interpret the meaning of the second derivative (it may help to graph the second derivative).

    d. What additional ecological phenomena does the Holling type III function describe compared with the Holling type II function?

Answer

a.

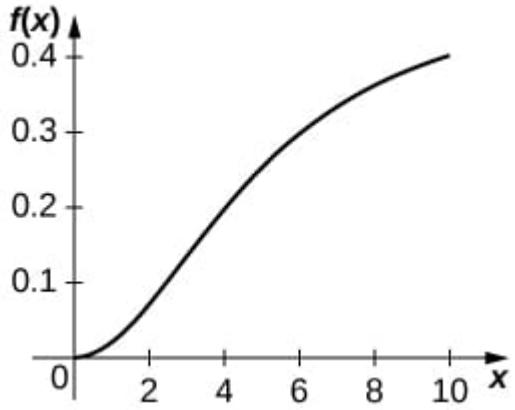


Figure $3.4E.4$: The graph increases from the origin quickly at first and then slowly to $(10, 0.4)$.

b. $f\,'(x) = \dfrac{2axn^2}{(n^2+x^2)^2}$. When the amount of prey increases, the predator growth increases.

c. $f''(x) = \dfrac{2an^2(n^2-3x^2)}{(n^2+x^2)^3}$. When the amount of prey is extremely small, the rate at which predator growth is increasing is increasing, but when the amount of prey reaches above a certain threshold, the rate at which predator growth is increasing begins to decrease.

d. At lower levels of prey, the prey is more easily able to avoid detection by the predator, so fewer prey individuals are consumed, resulting in less predator growth.

25. [T] The populations of the snowshoe hare (in thousands) and the lynx (in hundreds) collected over 7 years from 1937 to 1943 are shown in the following table. The snowshoe hare is the primary prey of the lynx.

Table 3.4E.3: Population of lynx and snowshoe hare

Population of snowshoe hare (thousands)	Population of lynx (hundreds)
20	10
5	15
65	55
95	60

Snowshoe Hare and Lynx PopulationsSource: Predator prey population [www.biotopics.co.uk].

a. Graph the data points and determine which Holling-type function fits the data best.

b. Using the meanings of the parameters a and n, determine values for those parameters by examining a graph of the data. Recall that n measures what prey value results in the half-maximum of the predator value.

c. Plot the resulting Holling-type I, II, and III functions on top of the data. Was the result from part a. correct?

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3.5: Derivatives of Trigonometric Functions

Learning Objectives

- Find the derivatives of the sine and cosine function.
- Find the derivatives of the standard trigonometric functions.
- Calculate the higher-order derivatives of the sine and cosine.

One of the most important types of motion in physics is simple harmonic motion, which is associated with such systems as an object with mass oscillating on a spring. Simple harmonic motion can be described by using either sine or cosine functions. In this section we expand our knowledge of derivative formulas to include derivatives of these and other trigonometric functions. We begin with the derivatives of the sine and cosine functions and then use them to obtain formulas for the derivatives of the remaining four trigonometric functions. Being able to calculate the derivatives of the sine and cosine functions will enable us to find the velocity and acceleration of simple harmonic motion.

Derivatives of the Sine and Cosine Functions

We begin our exploration of the derivative for the sine function by using the formula to make a reasonable guess at its derivative. Recall that for a function $f(x)$,

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

Consequently, for values of h very close to 0,

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}.$$

We see that by using $h = 0.01$,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) \approx \frac{\sin(x + 0.01) - \sin x}{0.01}$$

By setting

$$D(x) = \frac{\sin(x + 0.01) - \sin x}{0.01}$$

and using a graphing utility, we can get a graph of an approximation to the derivative of $\sin x$ (Figure $3.5.1$).

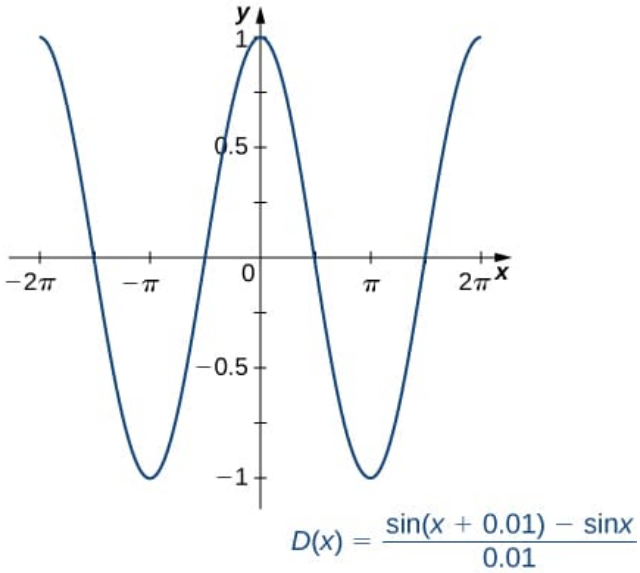


Figure 3.5.1: The graph of the function $D(x)$ looks a lot like a cosine curve, with amplitude 1, period 2π, and completing a cycle from peak to peak over $0 \le x \le 2\pi$.

Upon inspection, the graph of $D(x)$ appears to be very close to the graph of the cosine function. Indeed, we will show that

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

If we were to follow the same steps to approximate the derivative of the cosine function, we would find that

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

Theorem: The Derivatives of $\sin x$ and $\cos x$

The derivative of the sine function is the cosine and the derivative of the cosine function is the negative sine.

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) = \cos x \tag{3.5.1}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cos x) = -\sin x \tag{3.5.2}$$

Proof

Because the proofs for $\frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) = \cos x$ and $\frac{d}{dx}(\cos x) = -\sin x$ use similar techniques, we provide only the proof for $\frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) = \cos x$. Before beginning, recall two important trigonometric limits:

$$\lim_{h \to 0} \frac{\sin h}{h} = 1 \text{ and } \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{\cos h - 1}{h} = 0.$$

The graphs of $y = \frac{\sin h}{h}$ and $y = \frac{\cos h - 1}{h}$ are shown in Figure 3.5.2.

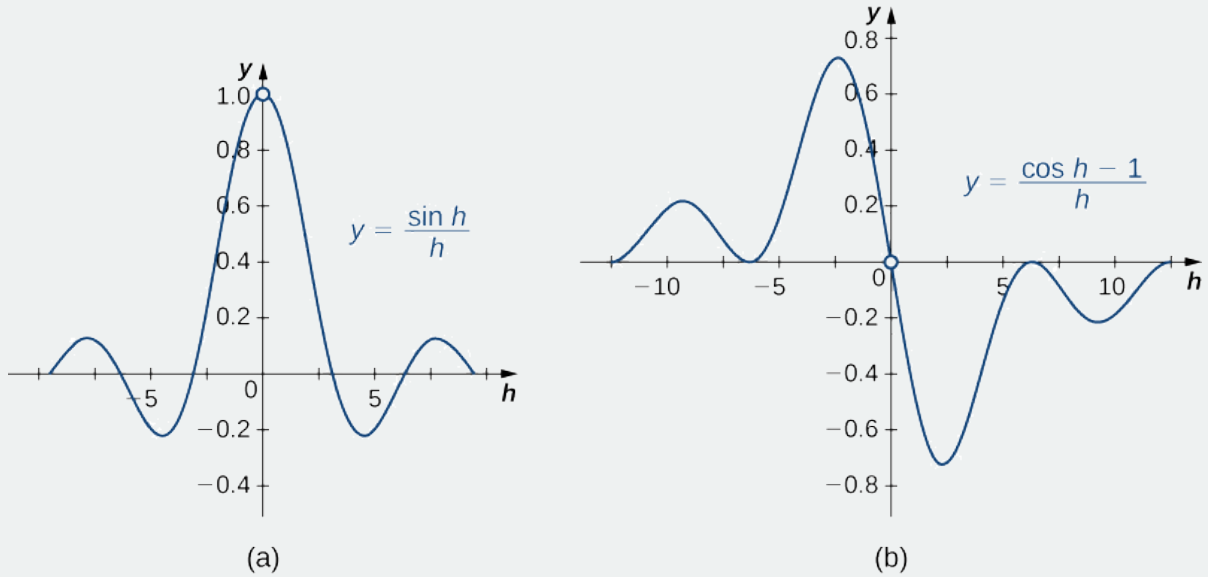


Figure 3.5.2: There are 2 graphs. (a) The first graph oscillates and has a "peak" at $(0,1)$, but the point is marked with an open hole since $\frac{\sinh}{h}$ is undefined at $h=0$. As $|x|$ increases, the amplitude of oscillation decreases. (b) The second graph is also oscillatory with decreasing amplitude as $|x|$ increases. The function is undefined at $h=0$, but the limit is 0, shown with an open hole at $(0,0)$.

We also recall the following trigonometric identity for the sine of the sum of two angles:

$$\sin(x+h)=\sin x\cos h+\cos x\sin h.$$

Now that we have gathered all the necessary equations and identities, we proceed with the proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) &= \lim_{h\to 0}\frac{\sin(x+h)-\sin x}{h} && \text{Apply the definition of the derivative.}\\
&= \lim_{h\to 0}\frac{\sin x\cos h+\cos x\sin h-\sin x}{h} && \text{Use trig identity for the sine of the sum of two angles.}\\
&= \lim_{h\to 0}\left(\frac{\sin x\cos h-\sin x}{h}+\frac{\cos x\sin h}{h}\right) && \text{Regroup.}\\
&= \lim_{h\to 0}\left(\sin x\left(\frac{\cos h-1}{h}\right)+(\cos x)\left(\frac{\sin h}{h}\right)\right) && \text{Factor out } \sin x \text{ and } \cos x\\
&= (\sin x)\lim_{h\to 0}\left(\frac{\cos h-1}{h}\right)+(\cos x)\lim_{h\to 0}\left(\frac{\sin h}{h}\right) && \text{Factor } \sin x \text{ and } \cos x \text{ out of limits.}\\
&= (\sin x)(0)+(\cos x)(1) && \text{Apply trig limit formulas.}\\
&= \cos x && \text{Simplify.}
\end{aligned}$$

□

Figure shows the relationship between the graph of $f(x)=\sin x$ and its derivative $f\,'(x)=\cos x$. Notice that at the points where $f(x)=\sin x$ has a horizontal tangent, its derivative $f\,'(x)=\cos x$ takes on the value zero. We also see that where f$(x)=\sin x$ is increasing, $f\,'(x)=\cos x>0$ and where $f(x)=\sin x$ is decreasing, $f\,'(x)=\cos x<0$.

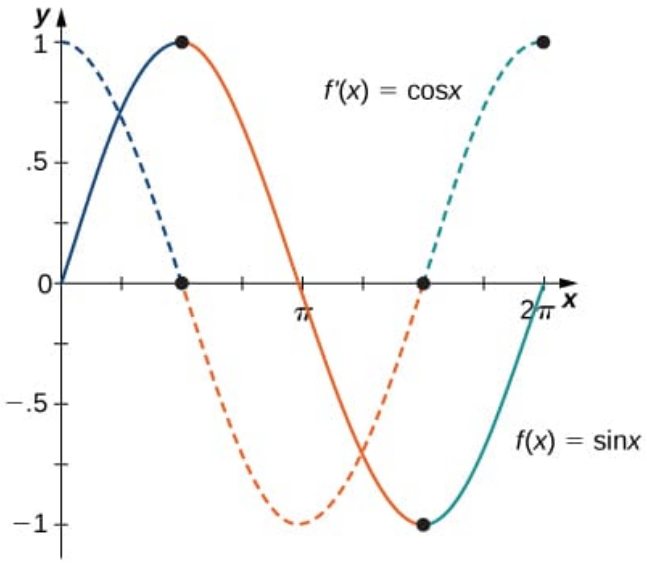


Figure 3.5.3: The graph of $f(x) = \sin x$ and $f'(x) = \cos x$ are graphed. Where $f(x)$ has a maximum or a minimum, $f'(x) = 0$ that is, $f'(x) = 0$ where $f(x)$ has a horizontal tangent. These points are noted with dots on the graphs

Example 3.5.1: Differentiating a Function Containing $\sin x$

Find the derivative of $f(x) = 5x^3 \sin x$.

Solution

Using the product rule, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{d}{dx}(5x^3) \cdot \sin x + \frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) \cdot 5x^3 \\ &= 15x^2 \cdot \sin x + \cos x \cdot 5x^3. \end{aligned}$$

After simplifying, we obtain

$$f'(x) = 15x^2 \sin x + 5x^3 \cos x.$$

Example 3.5.2

Find the equation of the tangent line to $f(x) = 1 - x + 3sinx$.

Solution

- **Video Length**: 2 minutes 33 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to find the equation of the tangent line for a trigonometric function.

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Example 3.5.3

Find the derivative of $f(x) = x^3 \tan x$.

Solution

- **Video Length**: 1 minute 55 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates using the Product Rule to find a derivative of a function involving trigonometric functions.

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Exercise 3.5.1

Find the derivative of $f(x) = \sin x \cos x$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 3.5.4: Finding the Derivative of a Function Containing cos x

Find the derivative of $g(x) = \dfrac{\cos x}{4x^2}$.

Solution

By applying the quotient rule, we have

$$g'(x) = \frac{(-\sin x)4x^2 - 8x(\cos x)}{(4x^2)^2}.$$

Simplifying, we obtain

$$g'(x) = \frac{-4x^2 \sin x - 8x \cos x}{16x^4} = \frac{-x \sin x - 2 \cos x}{4x^3}.$$

Example 3.5.5

Find the derivative of $f(x) = \dfrac{\cos x}{1 - x^2}$.

Solution

- **Video Length**: 2 minutes 14 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates using the Quotient Rule to find the derivative for a function involving trigonometric functions.

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Exercise 3.5.2

Find the derivative of $f(x) = \dfrac{x}{\cos x}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 3.5.6: An Application to Velocity

A particle moves along a coordinate axis in such a way that its position at time t is given by $s(t) = 2\sin t - t$ for $0 \le t \le 2\pi$. At what times is the particle at rest?

Solution

To determine when the particle is at rest, set $s'(t) = v(t) = 0$. Begin by finding $s'(t)$. We obtain

$$s'(t) = 2\cos t - 1,$$

so we must solve

$$2\cos t - 1 = 0 \text{ for } 0 \le t \le 2\pi.$$

The solutions to this equation are $t = \dfrac{\pi}{3}$ and $t = \dfrac{5\pi}{3}$. Thus the particle is at rest at times $t = \dfrac{\pi}{3}$ and $t = \dfrac{5\pi}{3}$.

Exercise 3.5.3

A particle moves along a coordinate axis. Its position at time t is given by $s(t) = \sqrt{3}t + 2\cos t$ for $0 \le t \le 2\pi$. At what times is the particle at rest?

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Derivatives of Other Trigonometric Functions

Since the remaining four trigonometric functions may be expressed as quotients involving sine, cosine, or both, we can use the quotient rule to find formulas for their derivatives.

Example 3.5.7: The Derivative of the Tangent Function

Find the derivative of $f(x) = \tan x$.

Solution

Start by expressing $\tan x$ as the quotient of $\sin x$ and $\cos x$:

$$f(x) = \tan x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}.$$

Now apply the quotient rule to obtain

$$f\,'(x) = \frac{\cos x \cos x - (-\sin x)\sin x}{(\cos x)^2}.$$

Simplifying, we obtain

$$f'(x) = \frac{\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x}{\cos^2 x}.$$

Recognizing that $\cos^2 x + \sin^2 x = 1$, by the Pythagorean theorem, we now have

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{\cos^2 x}$$

Finally, use the identity $\sec x = \dfrac{1}{\cos x}$ to obtain

$$f\,'(x) = \sec^2 x.$$

Exercise 3.5.4

Find the derivative of $f(x) = \cot x$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The derivatives of the remaining trigonometric functions may be obtained by using similar techniques. We provide these formulas in the following theorem.

Theorem: Derivatives of $\tan x$, $\cot x$, $\sec x$, and $\csc x$

The derivatives of the remaining trigonometric functions are as follows:

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\tan x) = \sec^2 x \tag{3.5.3}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\cot x) = -\csc^2 x \tag{3.5.4}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sec x) = \sec x \tan x \tag{3.5.5}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(\csc x) = -\csc x \cot x. \tag{3.5.6}$$

Example 3.5.8: Finding the Equation of a Tangent Line

Find the equation of a line tangent to the graph of $f(x) = \cot x$ at $x = \frac{\pi}{4}$.

Solution

To find the equation of the tangent line, we need a point and a slope at that point. To find the point, compute

$$f\left(\tfrac{\pi}{4}\right) = \cot\tfrac{\pi}{4} = 1.$$

Thus the tangent line passes through the point $\left(\frac{\pi}{4}, 1\right)$. Next, find the slope by finding the derivative of $f(x) = \cot x$ and evaluating it at $\frac{\pi}{4}$:

$$f\,'(x) = -\csc^2 x \text{ and } f\,'\left(\tfrac{\pi}{4}\right) = -\csc^2\left(\tfrac{\pi}{4}\right) = -2.$$

Using the point-slope equation of the line, we obtain

$$y - 1 = -2\left(x - \tfrac{\pi}{4}\right)$$

or equivalently,

$$y = -2x + 1 + \tfrac{\pi}{2}.$$

Example 3.5.9: Finding the Derivative of Trigonometric Functions

Find the derivative of $f(x) = \csc x + x\tan x$.

Solution

To find this derivative, we must use both the sum rule and the product rule. Using the sum rule, we find

$$f\,'(x) = \frac{d}{dx}(\csc x) + \frac{d}{dx}(x\tan x).$$

In the first term, $\frac{d}{dx}(\csc x) = -\csc x\cot x$, and by applying the product rule to the second term we obtain

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x\tan x) = (1)(\tan x) + (\sec^2 x)(x).$$

Therefore, we have

$$f\,'(x) = -\csc x\cot x + \tan x + x\sec^2 x.$$

Exercise 3.5.5

Find the derivative of $f(x) = 2\tan x - 3\cot x$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Exercise 3.5.6

Find the slope of the line tangent to the graph of $f(x) = \tan x$ at $x = \dfrac{\pi}{6}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Higher-Order Derivatives

The higher-order derivatives of $\sin x$ and $\cos x$ follow a repeating pattern. By following the pattern, we can find any higher-order

derivative of $\sin x$ and $\cos x$.

Example 3.5.10: Finding Higher-Order Derivatives of $y = \sin x$

Find the first four derivatives of $y = \sin x$.

Solution

Each step in the chain is straightforward:

$$\begin{aligned} y &= \sin x \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= \cos x \\ \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} &= -\sin x \\ \frac{d^3y}{dx^3} &= -\cos x \\ \frac{d^4y}{dx^4} &= \sin x \end{aligned}$$

Analysis

Once we recognize the pattern of derivatives, we can find any higher-order derivative by determining the step in the pattern to which it corresponds. For example, every fourth derivative of $\sin x$ equals $\sin x$, so

$$\frac{d^4}{dx^4}(\sin x) = \frac{d^8}{dx^8}(\sin x) = \frac{d^{12}}{dx^{12}}(\sin x) = \ldots = \frac{d^{4n}}{dx^{4n}}(\sin x) = \sin x$$

$$\frac{d^5}{dx^5}(\sin x) = \frac{d^9}{dx^9}(\sin x) = \frac{d^{13}}{dx^{13}}(\sin x) = \ldots = \frac{d^{4n+1}}{dx^{4n+1}}(\sin x) = \cos x.$$

Example 3.5.11

Find the second derivative of $f(x) = \sec x$.

Solution

- **Video Length**: 2 minutes 12 seconds
- **Context**: Finding the Second Derivative Involving the Product Rule.

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Exercise 3.5.7

For $y = \cos x$, find $\frac{d^4y}{dx^4}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 3.5.12: Using the Pattern for Higher-Order Derivatives of $y = \sin x$

Find $\dfrac{d^{74}}{dx^{74}}(\sin x)$.

Solution

We can see right away that for the 74th derivative of $\sin x$, $74 = 4(18) + 2$, so

$$\frac{d^{74}}{dx^{74}}(\sin x) = \frac{d^{72+2}}{dx^{72+2}}(\sin x) = \frac{d^2}{dx^2}(\sin x) = -\sin x.$$

Exercise 3.5.8

For $y = \sin x$, find $\dfrac{d^{59}}{dx^{59}}(\sin x)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 3.5.13: An Application to Acceleration

A particle moves along a coordinate axis in such a way that its position at time t is given by $s(t) = 2 - \sin t$. Find $v(\pi/4)$ and $a(\pi/4)$. Compare these values and decide whether the particle is speeding up or slowing down.

Solution

First find $v(t) = s\,'(t)$

$$v(t) = s'(t) = -\cos t.$$

Thus,

$$v\left(\tfrac{\pi}{4}\right) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}.$$

Next, find $a(t) = v\,'(t)$. Thus, $a(t) = v\,'(t) = \sin t$ and we have

$$a\left(\tfrac{\pi}{4}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}.$$

Since $v\left(\tfrac{\pi}{4}\right) = -\dfrac{\sqrt{2}}{2} < 0$ and $a\left(\tfrac{\pi}{4}\right) = \dfrac{\sqrt{2}}{2} > 0$, we see that velocity and acceleration are acting in opposite directions; that is, the object is being accelerated in the direction opposite to the direction in which it is traveling. Consequently, the particle is slowing down.

Exercise 3.5.9

A block attached to a spring is moving vertically. Its position at time t is given by $s(t) = 2\sin t$. Find $v\left(\tfrac{5\pi}{6}\right)$ and $a\left(\tfrac{5\pi}{6}\right)$. Compare these values and decide whether the block is speeding up or slowing down.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- We can find the derivatives of $\sin x$ and $\cos x$ by using the definition of derivative and the limit formulas found earlier. The results are

$$\frac{d}{dx}\big(\sin x\big) = \cos x \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d}{dx}\big(\cos x\big) = -\sin x.$$

- With these two formulas, we can determine the derivatives of all six basic trigonometric functions.

Key Equations

- **Derivative of sine function**

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

- **Derivative of cosine function**

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

- **Derivative of tangent function**

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

- **Derivative of cotangent function**

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

- **Derivative of secant function**

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

- **Derivative of cosecant function**

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

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Answers

Exercise 3.5.1

Don’t forget to use the product rule.

Exercise 3.5.1

$$f'(x) = \cos^2 x - \sin^2 x$$

Exercise 3.5.2

Use the quotient rule.

Exercise 3.5.2

$f'(x) = \dfrac{\cos x + x \sin x}{\cos^2 x}$

Exercise 3.5.3

Use the previous example as a guide.

Exercise 3.5.3

$t = \dfrac{\pi}{3}, \quad t = \dfrac{2\pi}{3}$

Exercise 3.5.4

Rewrite $\cot x$ as $\dfrac{\cos x}{\sin x}$ and use the quotient rule.

Exercise 3.5.4

$f\,'(x) = -\csc^2 x$

Exercise 3.5.5

Use the rule for differentiating a constant multiple and the rule for differentiating a difference of two functions.$f\,'(x) = 2\sec^2 x + 3\csc^2 x$

Exercise 3.5.5

$f\,'(x) = 2\sec^2 x + 3\csc^2 x$

Exercise 3.5.6

Evaluate the derivative at $x = \dfrac{\pi}{6}$.

Exercise 3.5.6

$\dfrac{4}{3}$

Exercise 3.5.7

See the previous example.

Exercise 3.5.7

$\cos x$

Exercise 3.5.8

$\dfrac{d^{59}}{dx^{59}}(\sin x) = \dfrac{d^{4 \cdot 14+3}}{dx^{4 \cdot 14+3}}(\sin x)$

Exercise 3.5.8

$-\cos x$

Exercise 3.5.9

Use Example 3.5.9 as a guide.

Exercise 3.5.9

$v\left(\frac{5\pi}{6}\right) = -\sqrt{3} < 0$ and $a\left(\frac{5\pi}{6}\right) = -1 < 0$. The block is speeding up.

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3.5E: Exercises for Section 3.5

Exercises 1 - 10

Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for the given functions.

1. $y = x^2 - \sec x + 1$

   Answer

   $$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x - \sec x \tan x$$

2. $y = 3 \csc x + \frac{5}{x}$
3. $y = x^2 \cot x$

   Answer

   $$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x \cot x - x^2 \csc^2 x$$

4. $y = x - x^3 \sin x$
5. $y = \frac{\sec x}{x}$

   Answer

   $$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x \sec x \tan x - \sec x}{x^2}$$

6. $y = \sin x \tan x$
7. $y = (x + \cos x)(1 - \sin x)$

   Answer

   $$\frac{dy}{dx} = (1 - \sin x)(1 - \sin x) - \cos x(x + \cos x)$$

8. $y = \frac{\tan x}{1 - \sec x}$
9. $y = \frac{1 - \cot x}{1 + \cot x}$

   Answer

   $$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2 \csc^2 x}{(1 + \cot x)^2}$$

10. $y = (\cos x)(1 + \csc x)$

Exercises 11 - 16

Find the equation of the tangent line to each of the given functions at the indicated values of x. Then use a calculator to graph both the function and the tangent line to ensure the equation for the tangent line is correct.

11. [T] $f(x) = -\sin x, \quad x = 0$

    Answer

    $$y = -x$$

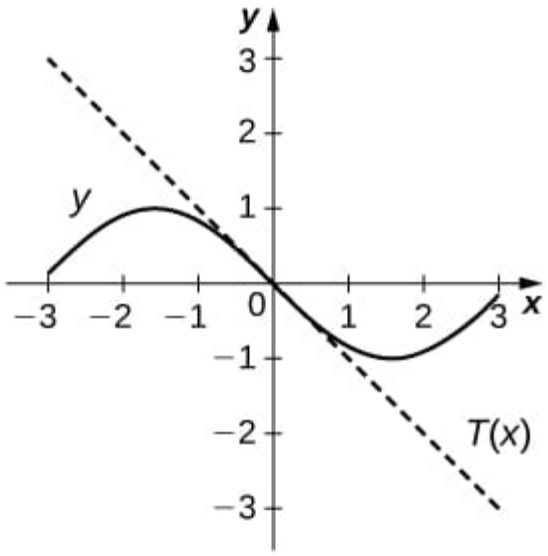


Figure $3.5E.1$: A smooth curve, labeled $y = \sin x$, is graphed. The graph oscillates above and below the x-axis. There is a dashed line labeled $T(x)$ and represents a tangent line to the given graph at $x = 0$. The tangent line has a negative slope, indicating that at the point of tangency, the function is decreasing.

12. [T] $f(x) = \csc x, \quad x = \frac{\pi}{2}$
13. [T] $f(x) = 1 + \cos x, \quad x = \frac{3\pi}{2}$

Answer

$y = x + \frac{2-3\pi}{2}$

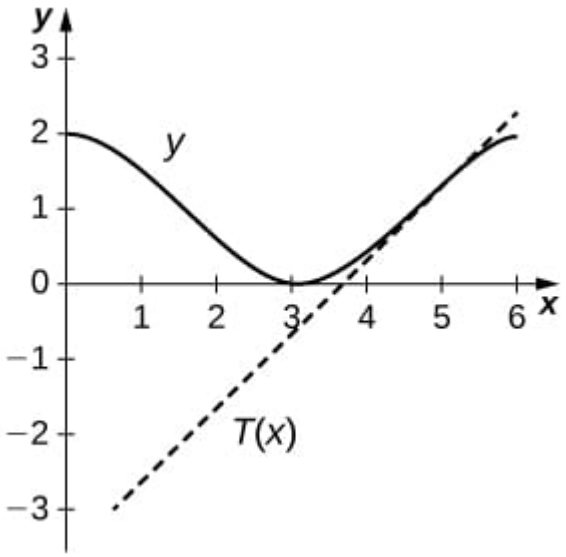


Figure $3.5E.2$: A smooth curve, labeled y, is graphed. The function starts at starts at value $y = 2$ when $x = 0$, dips to a local minimum value of 0 around $x = 3$, and then rises again. A dashed line, labeled $T(x)$, represents the tangent line to the curve at $x = \frac{3\pi}{2}$, appearing below the function and extending diagonally. This tangent line has a positive slope, indicating that at the point of tangency, the function is increasing.

14. [T] $f(x) = \sec x, \quad x = \frac{\pi}{4}$
15. [T] $f(x) = x^2 - \tan x, \quad x = 0$

Answer

$y = -x$

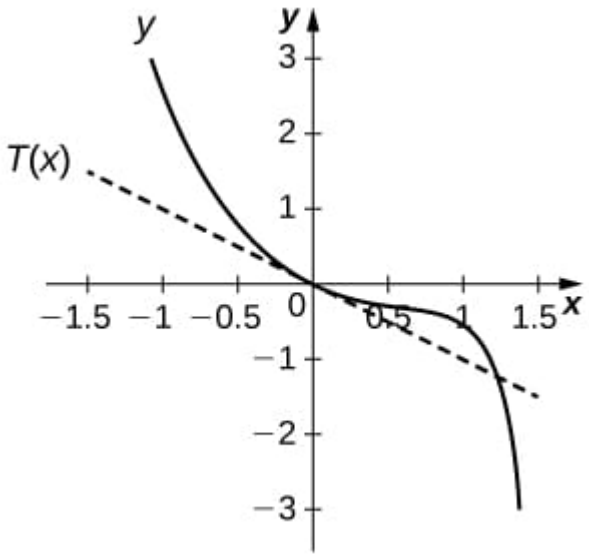


Figure $3.5E.3$: A smooth curve, labeled y, represents a function that decreases steeply from the upper left, passes through the origin, and then continues downward to the lower right, showing a turning behavior near $x = 0.5$. A dashed line, labeled $T(x)$, represents a tangent line to the function at a specific point. This tangent line has a negative slope and is positioned near the turning region of the curve, indicating the function's local behavior at that point.

Exercises 17 - 22

Find $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ for the given functions.

17. $y = x \sin x - \cos x$

Answer

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 3\cos x - x\sin x$$

18. $y = \sin x \cos x$
19. $y = x - \frac{1}{2}\sin x$

Answer

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{1}{2}\sin x$$

20. $y = \dfrac{1}{x} + \tan x$
21. $y = 2\csc x$

Answer

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 2\csc(x)\left(\csc^2(x) + \cot^2(x)\right)$$

22. $y = \sec^2 x$
23. Find all x values on the graph of $f(x) = -3\sin x \cos x$ where the tangent line is horizontal.

Answer

$x = \dfrac{(2n+1)\pi}{4}$,where n is an integer

24. Find all x values on the graph of $f(x) = x - 2\cos x$ for \(0
25. Let $f(x) = \cot x$. Determine the points on the graph of f for \(0

Answer

$$\left(\tfrac{\pi}{4}, 1\right), \quad \left(\tfrac{3\pi}{4}, -1\right), \quad \left(\tfrac{5\pi}{4}, 1\right), \quad \left(\tfrac{7\pi}{4}, -1\right)$$

26. [T] A mass on a spring bounces up and down in simple harmonic motion, modeled by the function $s(t) = -6\cos t$ where s is measured in inches and t is measured in seconds. Find the rate at which the spring is oscillating at $t = 5$ s.
27. Let the position of a swinging pendulum in simple harmonic motion be given by $s(t) = a\cos t + b\sin t$. Find the constants a and b such that when the velocity is 3 cm/s, $s = 0$ and $t = 0$.

Answer

$$a = 0, \quad b = 3$$

28. After a diver jumps off a diving board, the edge of the board oscillates with position given by $s(t) = -5\cos t$ cm at t seconds after the jump.

    a. Sketch one period of the position function for $t \geq 0$.
    b. Find the velocity function.
    c. Sketch one period of the velocity function for $t \geq 0$.
    d. Determine the times when the velocity is 0 over one period.
    e. Find the acceleration function.
    f. Sketch one period of the acceleration function for $t \geq 0$.

29. The number of hamburgers sold at a fast-food restaurant in Pasadena, California, is given by $y = 10 + 5\sin x$ where y is the number of hamburgers sold and x represents the number of hours after the restaurant opened at 11 a.m. until 11 p.m., when the store closes. Find y' and determine the intervals where the number of burgers being sold is increasing.

Answer

$y' = 5\cos(x)$, increasing on $\left(0, \tfrac{\pi}{2}\right)$, $\left(\tfrac{3\pi}{2}, \tfrac{5\pi}{2}\right)$, and $\left(\tfrac{7\pi}{2}, 12\right)$

30. [T] The amount of rainfall per month in Phoenix, Arizona, can be approximated by $y(t) = 0.5 + 0.3\cos t$, where t is months since January. Find y' and use a calculator to determine the intervals where the amount of rain falling is decreasing.

Exercises 31 - 33

Use the quotient rule to derive the given equations.

31. $\dfrac{d}{dx}(\cot x) = -\csc^2 x$
32. $\dfrac{d}{dx}(\sec x) = \sec x \tan x$
33. $\dfrac{d}{dx}(\csc x) = -\csc x \cot x$
34. Use the definition of derivative and the identity $\cos(x + h) = \cos x \cos h - \sin x \sin h$ to prove that $\dfrac{d}{dx}(\cos x) = -\sin x$.

Exercises 35 - 39

Find the requested higher-order derivative for the given functions.

35. $\dfrac{d^3y}{dx^3}$ of $y = 3\cos x$

Answer

$$\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} = 3\sin x$$

36. $\dfrac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ of $y = 3\sin x + x^2\cos x$

37. $\frac{d^4y}{dx^4}$ of $y = 5\cos x$

Answer

$$\frac{d^4y}{dx^4} = 5\cos x$$

38. $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ of $y = \sec x + \cot x$

39. $\frac{d^3y}{dx^3}$ of $y = x^{10} - \sec x$

Answer

$$\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} = 720x^7 - 5\tan(x)\sec^3(x) - \tan^3(x)\sec(x)$$

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3.6: The Chain Rule

Learning Objectives

- State the chain rule for the composition of two functions.
- Apply the chain rule together with the power rule.
- Apply the chain rule and the product/quotient rules correctly in combination when both are necessary.
- Recognize the chain rule for a composition of three or more functions.
- Describe the proof of the chain rule.

We have seen the techniques for differentiating basic functions $(x^n, \sin x, \cos x, etc.)$ as well as sums, differences, products, quotients, and constant multiples of these functions. However, these techniques do not allow us to differentiate compositions of functions, such as $h(x) = \sin(x^3)$ or $k(x) = \sqrt{3x^2 + 1}$. In this section, we study the rule for finding the derivative of the composition of two or more functions.

Deriving the Chain Rule

When we have a function that is a composition of two or more functions, we could use all of the techniques we have already learned to differentiate it. However, using all of those techniques to break down a function into simpler parts that we are able to differentiate can get cumbersome. Instead, we use the **chain rule**, which states that the derivative of a composite function is the derivative of the outer function evaluated at the inner function times the derivative of the inner function.

To put this rule into context, let's take a look at an example: $h(x) = \sin(x^3)$. We can think of the derivative of this function with respect to x as the rate of change of $\sin(x^3)$ relative to the change in x. Consequently, we want to know how $\sin(x^3)$ changes as x changes. We can think of this event as a chain reaction: As x changes, x^3 changes, which leads to a change in $\sin(x^3)$. This chain reaction gives us hints as to what is involved in computing the derivative of $\sin(x^3)$. First of all, a change in x forcing a change in x^3 suggests that somehow the derivative of x^3 is involved. In addition, the change in x^3 forcing a change in $\sin(x^3)$ suggests that the derivative of $\sin(u)$ with respect to u, where $u = x^3$, is also part of the final derivative.

We can take a more formal look at the derivative of $h(x) = \sin(x^3)$ by setting up the limit that would give us the derivative at a specific value a in the domain of $h(x) = \sin(x^3)$.

$$h'(a) = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{\sin(x^3) - \sin(a^3)}{x - a}$$

This expression does not seem particularly helpful; however, we can modify it by multiplying and dividing by the expression $x^3 - a^3$ to obtain

$$h'(a) = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{\sin(x^3) - \sin(a^3)}{x^3 - a^3} \cdot \frac{x^3 - a^3}{x - a}.$$

From the definition of the derivative, we can see that the second factor is the derivative of x^3 at $x = a$. That is,

$$\lim_{x \to a} \frac{x^3 - a^3}{x - a} = \frac{d}{dx}(x^3) = 3a^2.$$

However, it might be a little more challenging to recognize that the first term is also a derivative. We can see this by letting $u = x^3$ and observing that as $x \to a, u \to a^3$:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \to a} \frac{\sin(x^3) - \sin(a^3)}{x^3 - a^3} &= \lim_{u \to a^3} \frac{\sin u - \sin(a^3)}{u - a^3} \\ &= \frac{d}{du}(\sin u)\Big|_{u = a^3} \\ &= \cos(a^3) \end{aligned}.$$

Thus, $h'(a) = \cos(a^3) \cdot 3a^2$.

In other words, if $h(x) = \sin(x^3)$, then $h'(x) = \cos(x^3) \cdot 3x^2$. Thus, if we think of $h(x) = \sin(x^3)$ as the composition $(f \circ g)(x) = f\big(g(x)\big)$ where $f(x) = \sin x$ and $g(x) = x^3$, then the derivative of $h(x) = \sin(x^3)$ is the product of the derivative of $g(x) = x^3$ and the derivative of the function $f(x) = \sin x$ evaluated at the function $g(x) = x^3$. At this point, we anticipate that for $h(x) = \sin\big(g(x)\big)$, it is quite likely that $h'(x) = \cos\big(g(x)\big)g'(x)$. As we determined above, this is the case for $h(x) = \sin(x^3)$.

Now that we have derived a special case of the chain rule, we state the general case and then apply it in a general form to other composite functions. An informal proof is provided at the end of the section.

Theorem: The Chain Rule

Let f and g be functions. For all x in the domain of g for which g is differentiable at x and f is differentiable at $g(x)$, the derivative of the composite function

$$h(x) = (f \circ g)(x) = f\big(g(x)\big) \tag{3.6.1}$$

is given by

$$h'(x) = f'\big(g(x)\big) \cdot g'(x). \tag{3.6.2}$$

Alternatively, if y is a function of u, and u is a function of x, then

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}. \tag{3.6.3}$$

Problem-Solving Strategy: Applying the Chain Rule

1. To differentiate $h(x) = f\big(g(x)\big)$, begin by identifying $f(x)$ and $g(x)$.
2. Find $f'(x)$ and evaluate it at $g(x)$ to obtain $f'\big(g(x)\big)$.
3. Find $g'(x)$.
4. Write $h'(x) = f'\big(g(x)\big) \cdot g'(x)$.

Note: When applying the chain rule to the composition of two or more functions, keep in mind that we work our way from the outside function in. It is also useful to remember that the derivative of the composition of two functions can be thought of as having two parts; the derivative of the composition of three functions has three parts; and so on. Also, remember that we never evaluate a derivative at a derivative.

The Chain and Power Rules Combined

We can now apply the chain rule to composite functions, but note that we often need to use it with other rules. For example, to find derivatives of functions of the form $h(x) = \big(g(x)\big)^n$, we need to use the chain rule combined with the power rule. To do so, we can think of $h(x) = \big(g(x)\big)^n$ as $f\big(g(x)\big)$ where $f(x) = x^n$. Then $f'(x) = nx^{n-1}$. Thus, $f'\big(g(x)\big) = n\big(g(x)\big)^{n-1}$. This leads us to the derivative of a power function using the chain rule,

$$h'(x) = n\big(g(x)\big)^{n-1} \cdot g'(x)$$

Theorem: Power Rule for Composition of Functions (General Power Rule)

For all values of x for which the derivative is defined, if

$$h(x) = \big(g(x)\big)^n, \tag{3.6.4}$$

Then

$$h'(x) = n\big(g(x)\big)^{n-1} \cdot g'(x). \tag{3.6.5}$$

Example 3.6.1: Using the Chain and Power Rules

Find the derivative of $h(x) = \dfrac{1}{(3x^2+1)^2}$.

Solution

First, rewrite $h(x) = \dfrac{1}{(3x^2+1)^2} = (3x^2+1)^{-2}$.

Applying the power rule with $g(x) = 3x^2 + 1$, we have

$$h'(x) = -2(3x^2+1)^{-3} \cdot 6x.$$

Rewriting back to the original form gives us

$$h'(x) = \frac{-12x}{(3x^2+1)^3}$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 2 minutes 42 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates using the Chain Rule to find a derivative Find the derivative of $f(x) = \sqrt{4-9x^2}$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Exercise 3.6.1

Find the derivative of $h(x) = (2x^3 + 2x - 1)^4$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 3.6.2: Using the Chain and Power Rules with a Trigonometric Function

Find the derivative of $h(x) = \sin^3 x$.

Solution

First recall that $\sin^3 x = (\sin x)^3$, so we can rewrite $h(x) = \sin^3 x$ as $h(x) = (\sin x)^3$.

Applying the power rule with $g(x) = \sin x$, we obtain

$$h'(x) = 3(\sin x)^2 \cos x = 3\sin^2 x \cos x.$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 3 minutes 16 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to find the equation of the tangent line to $y = \cos^2 x$ at the point $\left(\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{1}{2}\right)$.

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Example 3.6.3: Finding the Equation of a Tangent Line

Find the equation of a line tangent to the graph of $h(x) = \dfrac{1}{(3x-5)^2}$ at $x = 2$.

Solution

Because we are finding an equation of a line, we need a point. The x-coordinate of the point is 2. To find the y-coordinate, substitute 2 into $h(x)$. Since $h(2) = \dfrac{1}{(3(2)-5)^2} = 1$, the point is $(2, 1)$.

For the slope, we need $h'(2)$. To find $h'(x)$, first we rewrite $h(x) = (3x-5)^{-2}$ and apply the power rule to obtain

$$h'(x) = -2(3x-5)^{-3}(3) = -6(3x-5)^{-3}.$$

By substituting, we have $h'(2) = -6(3(2)-5)^{-3} = -6$.

Therefore, the line has equation $y - 1 = -6(x-2)$. Rewriting, the equation of the line is $y = -6x + 13$.

Exercise 3.6.2

Find the equation of the line tangent to the graph of $f(x) = (x^2-2)^3$ at $x = -2$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Combining the Chain Rule with Other Rules

Now that we can combine the chain rule and the power rule, we examine how to combine the chain rule with the other rules we have learned. In particular, we can use it with the formulas for the derivatives of trigonometric functions or with the product rule.

Example 3.6.4: Using the Chain Rule on a General Cosine Function

Find the derivative of $h(x) = \cos\big(g(x)\big)$.

Solution

Think of $h(x) = \cos\big(g(x)\big)$ as $f\big(g(x)\big)$ where $f(x) = \cos x$. Since $f'(x) = -\sin x$. we have $f'\big(g(x)\big) = -\sin\big(g(x)\big)$. Then we do the following calculation.

$$\begin{aligned} h'(x) &= f'\big(g(x)\big)\cdot g'(x) && \text{Apply the chain rule.} \\ &= -\sin\big(g(x)\big)\cdot g'(x) && \text{Substitute } f'\big(g(x)\big) = -\sin\big(g(x)\big). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the derivative of $h(x) = \cos\big(g(x)\big)$ is given by $h'(x) = -\sin\big(g(x)\big)\cdot g'(x)$.

In the following example we apply the rule that we have just derived.

Example 3.6.5: Using the Chain Rule on a Cosine Function

Find the derivative of $h(x) = \cos(5x^2)$.

Solution

Let $g(x) = 5x^2$. Then $g'(x) = 10x$. Using the result from the previous example,

$$h'(x) = -\sin(5x^2)\cdot 10x = -10x\sin(5x^2)$$

Example 3.6.6: Using the Chain Rule on Another Trigonometric Function

Find the derivative of $h(x) = \sec(4x^5 + 2x)$.

Solution

Apply the chain rule to $h(x) = \sec\big(g(x)\big)$ to obtain

$$h'(x) = \sec(g(x))\tan\big(g(x)\big)\cdot g'(x).$$

In this problem, $g(x) = 4x^5 + 2x$, so we have $g'(x) = 20x^4 + 2$. Therefore, we obtain

$$h'(x) = \sec(4x^5 + 2x)\tan(4x^5 + 2x)(20x^4 + 2) = (20x^4 + 2)\sec(4x^5 + 2x)\tan(4x^5 + 2x).$$

Exercise 3.6.3

Find the derivative of $h(x) = \sin(7x + 2)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

At this point we provide a list of derivative formulas that may be obtained by applying the chain rule in conjunction with the formulas for derivatives of trigonometric functions. Their derivations are similar to those used in the examples above. For convenience, formulas are also given in Leibniz's notation, which some students find easier to remember. (We discuss the chain rule using Leibniz's notation at the end of this section.) It is not absolutely necessary to memorize these as separate formulas as they are all applications of the chain rule to previously learned formulas.

Theorem: Using the Chain Rule with Trigonometric Functions

For all values of x for which the derivative is defined,

Table 3.6.1:Trig function derivatives

$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\sin(g(x))\Big) = \cos(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$	$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\sin u\Big) = \cos u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$
$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\cos(g(x))\Big) = -\sin(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$	$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\cos u\Big) = -\sin u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$
$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\tan(g(x))\Big) = \sec^2(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$	$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\tan u\Big) = \sec^2 u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$
$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\cot(g(x))\Big) = -\csc^2(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$	$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\cot u\Big) = -\csc^2 u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$
$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\sec(g(x))\Big) = \sec(g(x))\tan(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$	$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\sec\ u\Big) = \sec\ u \tan u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}$
$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\csc(g(x))\Big) = -\csc(g(x))\cot(g(x)) \cdot g'(x)$	$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\csc\ u\Big) = -\csc\ u \cot u \cdot \frac{du}{dx}.$

Example 3.6.7: Combining the Chain Rule with the Product Rule

Find the derivative of $h(x) = (2x+1)^5(3x-2)^7$.

Solution

First apply the product rule, then apply the chain rule to each term of the product.

$$\begin{aligned} h'(x) &= \frac{d}{dx}\Big((2x+1)^5\Big) \cdot (3x-2)^7 + \frac{d}{dx}\Big((3x-2)^7\Big) \cdot (2x+1)^5 && \text{Apply the product rule.} \\ &= 5(2x+1)^4 \cdot 2 \cdot (3x-2)^7 + 7(3x-2)^6 \cdot 3 \cdot (2x+1)^5 && \text{Apply the chain rule.} \\ &= 10(2x+1)^4(3x-2)^7 + 21(3x-2)^6(2x+1)^5 && \text{Simplify.} \\ &= (2x+1)^4(3x-2)^6(10(3x-2) + 21(2x+1)) && \text{Factor out } (2x+1)^4(3x-2)^6 \\ &= (2x+1)^4(3x-2)^6(72x+1) && \text{Simplify.} \end{aligned}$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 2 minutes 41 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates using the Chain and Product Rule to find a derivative. Find the derivative of $f(x) = x^2 \sin^3 x$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Exercise 3.6.4

Find the derivative of $h(x) = \dfrac{x}{(2x+3)^3}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Composites of Three or More Functions

We can now combine the chain rule with other rules for differentiating functions, but when we are differentiating the composition of three or more functions, we need to apply the chain rule more than once. If we look at this situation in general terms, we can generate a formula, but we do not need to remember it, as we can simply apply the chain rule multiple times.

In general terms, first we let

$$k(x) = h\Big(f\big(g(x)\big)\Big).$$

Then, applying the chain rule once we obtain

$$k'(x) = \frac{d}{dx}\Big(h\big(f\big(g(x)\big)\big)\Big) = h'\Big(f\big(g(x)\big)\Big) \cdot \frac{d}{dx}\Big(f\big(g(x)\big)\Big).$$

Applying the chain rule again, we obtain

$$k'(x) = h'\Big(f\big(g(x)\big)\Big) \cdot f'\big(g(x)\big) \cdot g'(x)).$$

Rule: Chain Rule for a Composition of Three Functions

Solution

For all values of x for which the function is differentiable, if

$$k(x) = h\Big(f\big(g(x)\big)\Big),$$

then

$$k'(x) = h'\Big(f\big(g(x)\big)\Big) \cdot f'\big(g(x)\big) \cdot g'(x)).$$

In other words, we are applying the chain rule twice.

Notice that the derivative of the composition of three functions has three parts. (Similarly, the derivative of the composition of four functions has four parts, and so on.) Also, *remember, we can always work from the outside in, taking one derivative at a time*.

Example 3.6.8: Differentiating a Composite of Three Functions

Find the derivative of $k(x) = \cos^4(7x^2 + 1)$.

Solution

First, rewrite $k(x)$ as

$$k(x) = \big(\cos(7x^2 + 1)\big)^4.$$

Then apply the chain rule several times.

$$\begin{aligned}
k'(x) &= 4(\cos(7x^2+1))^3 \cdot \frac{d}{dx}\big(\cos(7x^2+1)\big) && \text{Apply the chain rule.}\\
&= 4(\cos(7x^2+1))^3(-\sin(7x^2+1)) \cdot \frac{d}{dx}\big(7x^2+1\big) && \text{Apply the chain rule.}\\
&= 4(\cos(7x^2+1))^3(-\sin(7x^2+1))(14x) && \text{Apply the chain rule.}\\
&= -56x\sin(7x^2+1)\cos^3(7x^2+1) && \text{Simplify}
\end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3.6.5

Find the derivative of $h(x) = \sin^6(x^3)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 3.6.9: Using the Chain Rule in a Velocity Problem

A particle moves along a coordinate axis. Its position at time t is given by $s(t) = \sin(2t) + \cos(3t)$. What is the velocity of the particle at time $t = \dfrac{\pi}{6}$?

Solution

To find $v(t)$, the velocity of the particle at time t, we must differentiate $s(t)$. Thus,

$$v(t) = s'(t) = 2\cos(2t) - 3\sin(3t).$$

Proof of Chain Rule

At this point, we present a very informal proof of the chain rule. For simplicity's sake we ignore certain issues: For example, we assume that $g(x) \neq g(a)$ for $x \neq a$ in some open interval containing a. We begin by applying the limit definition of the derivative to the function $h(x)$ to obtain $h'(a)$:

$$h'(a) = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{f\big(g(x)\big) - f\big(g(a)\big)}{x - a}. \tag{3.6.6}$$

Rewriting, we obtain

$$h'(a) = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{f\big(g(x)\big) - f\big(g(a)\big)}{g(x) - g(a)} \cdot \frac{g(x) - g(a)}{x - a}. \tag{3.6.7}$$

Although it is clear that

$$\lim_{x \to a} \frac{g(x) - g(a)}{x - a} = g'(a), \tag{3.6.8}$$

it is not obvious that

$$\lim_{x \to a} \frac{f\big(g(x)\big) - f\big(g(a)\big)}{g(x) - g(a)} = f'\big(g(a)\big). \tag{3.6.9}$$

To see that this is true, first recall that since g is differentiable at a, g is also continuous at a. Thus,

$$\lim_{x \to a} g(x) = g(a). \tag{3.6.10}$$

Next, make the substitution $y = g(x)$and $b = g(a)$ and use change of variables in the limit to obtain

$$\lim_{x \to a} \frac{f\big(g(x)\big) - f\big(g(a)\big)}{g(x) - g(a)} = \lim_{y \to b} \frac{f(y) - f(b)}{y - b} = f'(b) = f'\big(g(a)\big). \tag{3.6.11}$$

Finally,

$$h'(a) = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{f\big(g(x)\big) - f\big(g(a)\big)}{g(x) - g(a)} \cdot \frac{g(x) - g(a)}{x - a} = f'\big(g(a)\big) \cdot g'(a). \tag{3.6.12}$$

□

Example 3.6.10: Using the Chain Rule with Functional Values

Let $h(x) = f\big(g(x)\big)$. If $g(1) = 4, g'(1) = 3$, and $f'(4) = 7$, find $h'(1)$.

Solution

Use the chain rule, then substitute.

$$\begin{aligned} h'(1) &= f'\big(g(1)\big) \cdot g'(1) && \text{Apply the chain rule.} \\ &= f'(4) \cdot 3 && \text{Substitute } g(1) = 4 \text{ and } g'(1) = 3. \\ &= 7 \cdot 3 && \text{Substitute } f'(4) = 7. \\ &= 21 && \text{Simplify.} \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3.6.6

Given $h(x) = f(g(x))$. If $g(2) = -3, g'(2) = 4$, and $f'(-3) = 7$, find $h'(2)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The Chain Rule Using Leibniz's Notation

As with other derivatives that we have seen, we can express the chain rule using Leibniz's notation. This notation for the chain rule is used heavily in physics applications.

For $h(x) = f(g(x))$, let $u = g(x)$ and $y = h(x) = g(u)$. Thus,

$$h'(x) = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

$$f'(g(x)) = f'(u) = \frac{dy}{du}$$

and

$$g'(x) = \frac{du}{dx}.$$

Consequently,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = h'(x) = f'\big(g(x)\big) \cdot g'(x) = \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}.$$

Theorem: Chain Rule Using Leibniz's Notation

If y is a function of u, and u is a function of x, then

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}. \tag{3.6.13}$$

Example 3.6.11: Taking a Derivative Using Leibniz's Notation I

Find the derivative of $y = \left(\frac{x}{3x+2}\right)^5$.

Solution

First, let $u = \frac{x}{3x+2}$. Thus, $y = u^5$. Next, find $\frac{du}{dx}$ and $\frac{dy}{du}$. Using the quotient rule,

$$\frac{du}{dx} = \frac{2}{(3x+2)^2}$$

and

$$\frac{dy}{du} = 5u^4.$$

Finally, we put it all together.

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx} && \text{Apply the chain rule.} \\
&= 5u^4 \cdot \frac{2}{(3x+2)^2} && \text{Substitute } \frac{dy}{du} = 5u^4 \text{ and } \frac{du}{dx} = \frac{2}{(3x+2)^2}. \\
&= 5\left(\frac{x}{3x+2}\right)^4 \cdot \frac{2}{(3x+2)^2} && \text{Substitute } u = \frac{x}{3x+2}. \\
&= \frac{10x^4}{(3x+2)^6} && \text{Simplify.}
\end{aligned}$$

It is important to remember that, when using the Leibniz form of the chain rule, the final answer must be expressed entirely in terms of the original variable given in the problem.

Example 3.6.12: Taking a Derivative Using Leibniz's Notation II

Find the derivative of $y = \tan(4x^2 - 3x + 1)$.

Solution

First, let $u = 4x^2 - 3x + 1$. Then $y = \tan u$. Next, find $\frac{du}{dx}$ and $\frac{dy}{du}$:

$$\frac{du}{dx} = 8x - 3 \text{ and } \frac{dy}{du} = \sec^2 u.$$

Finally, we put it all together.

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx} && \text{Apply the chain rule.} \\
&= \sec^2 u \cdot (8x - 3) && \text{Use } \frac{du}{dx} = 8x - 3 \text{ and } \frac{dy}{du} = \sec^2 u. \\
&= \sec^2(4x^2 - 3x + 1) \cdot (8x - 3) && \text{Substitute } u = 4x^2 - 3x + 1.
\end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3.6.7

Use Leibniz's notation to find the derivative of $y = \cos(x^3)$. Make sure that the final answer is expressed entirely in terms of the variable x.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- The chain rule allows us to differentiate compositions of two or more functions. It states that for $h(x) = f\big(g(x)\big)$,

$$h'(x) = f'\big(g(x)\big) \cdot g'(x).$$

- In Leibniz's notation this rule takes the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dx}.$$

- We can use the chain rule with other rules that we have learned, and we can derive formulas for some of them.
- The chain rule combines with the power rule to form a new rule:

$$\text{If } h(x) = \big(g(x)\big)^n, \text{then } h'(x) = n\big(g(x)\big)^{n-1} \cdot g'(x).$$

- When applied to the composition of three functions, the chain rule can be expressed as follows: If $h(x) = f\Big(g\big(k(x)\big)\Big)$, then $h'(x) = f'\Big(g\big(k(x)\big)\Big) \cdot g'\big(k(x)\big) \cdot k'(x)$.

Key Equations

- **The chain rule**

$$h'(x) = f'\big(g(x)\big) \cdot g'(x)$$

- **The power rule for functions**

$$h'(x) = n\big(g(x)\big)^{n-1} \cdot g'(x)$$

Glossary

Chain rule
The chain rule defines the derivative of a composite function as the derivative of the outer function evaluated at the inner function times the derivative of the inner function

Contributors and Attributions

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Answers

Exercise 3.6.1
Use the General Power Rule (Equation 3.6.5) with $g(x) = 2x^3 + 2x - 1$.

Exercise 3.6.1
$h'(x) = 4(2x^3 + 2x - 1)^3(6x + 2) = 8(3x + 1)(2x^3 + 2x - 1)^3$

Exercise 3.6.2
Use the preceding example as a guide.

Exercise 3.6.2
$y = -48x - 88$

Exercise 3.6.3

Apply the chain rule to $h(x) = \sin\big(g(x)\big)$ first and then use $g(x) = 7x + 2$.

Exercise 3.6.3

$h'(x) = 7\cos(7x + 2)$

Exercise 3.6.4

Start out by applying the quotient rule. Remember to use the chain rule to differentiate the denominator.

Exercise 3.6.4

$h'(x) = \dfrac{3 - 4x}{(2x + 3)^4}$

Exercise 3.6.5

Rewrite $h(x) = \sin^6(x^3) = \big(\sin(x^3)\big)^6$ and use Example 3.6.8 as a guide.

Exercise 3.6.5

$h'(x) = 18x^2 \sin^5(x^3)\cos(x^3)$

Exercise 3.6.6

Follow Example 3.6.10.

Exercise 3.6.6

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Exercise 3.6.7

Let $u = x^3$.

Exercise 3.6.7

$\dfrac{dy}{dx} = -3x^2 \sin(x^3)$.

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3.6E: Exercises for Section 3.6

Exercises 1 - 6

Given $y = f(u)$ and $u = g(x)$, find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ by using Leibniz's notation for the chain rule: $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du}\frac{du}{dx}$.

1. $y = 6u^3, \quad u = 7x - 4$

   Answer

   $$\frac{dy}{dx} = 18u^2 \cdot 7 = 18(7x-4)^2 \cdot 7 = 126(7x-4)^2$$

2. $y = \sin u, \quad u = 5x - 1$
3. $y = \cos u, \quad u = -\frac{x}{8}$

   Answer

   $$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\sin u \cdot \left(-\tfrac{1}{8}\right) = \tfrac{1}{8}\sin(-\tfrac{x}{8})$$

4. $y = \tan u, \quad u = 9x + 2$
5. $y = \sqrt{4u+3}, \quad u = x^2 - 6x$

   Answer

   $$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{8x-24}{2\sqrt{4u+3}} = \frac{4x-12}{\sqrt{4x^2-24x+3}}$$

Exercises 6 - 13

For each of the following exercises

a. **Decompose each function in the form $y = f(u)$ and $u = g(x)$.**
b. **Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ as a function of x.**

6. $y = (3x-2)^6$
7. $y = (3x^2+1)^3$

   Answer

   a. $f(u) = u^3, \quad u = 3x^2 + 1;$
   b. $\frac{dy}{dx} = 18x(3x^2+1)^2$

8. $y = \sin^5(x)$
9. $y = \left(\frac{x}{7} + \frac{7}{x}\right)^7$

   Answer

   a. $f(u) = u^7, \quad u = \frac{x}{7} + \frac{7}{x};$
   b. $\frac{dy}{dx} = 7\left(\frac{x}{7} + \frac{7}{x}\right)^6 \cdot \left(\frac{1}{7} - \frac{7}{x^2}\right)$

10. $y = \tan(\sec x)$
11. $y = \csc(\pi x + 1)$

    Answer

    a. $f(u) = \csc u, \quad u = \pi x + 1;$

b. $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = -\pi \csc(\pi x + 1) \cdot \cot(\pi x + 1)$

12. $y = \cot^2 x$
13. $y = -6 \sin^{-3} x$

Exercises 14 - 23

Answer

a. $f(u) = -6u^{-3}, \quad u = \sin x$;
b. $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = 18 \sin^{-4} x \cdot \cos x$

Find $\dfrac{dy}{dx}$ for each function.

14. $y = (3x^2 + 3x - 1)^4$
15. $y = (5 - 2x)^{-2}$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{4}{(5 - 2x)^3}$$

16. $y = \cos^3(\pi x)$
17. $y = (2x^3 - x^2 + 6x + 1)^3$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 6(2x^3 - x^2 + 6x + 1)^2 \cdot (3x^2 - x + 3)$$

18. $y = \dfrac{1}{\sin^2(x)}$
19. $y = \Big(\tan x + \sin x \Big)^{-3}$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -3\Big(\tan x + \sin x \Big)^{-4} \cdot (\sec^2 x + \cos x)$$

20. $y = x^2 \cos^4 x$
21. $y = \sin(\cos 7x)$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -7 \cos(\cos 7x) \cdot \sin 7x$$

22. $y = \sqrt{6 + \sec \pi x^2}$
23. $y = \cot^3(4x + 1)$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -12 \cot^2(4x + 1) \cdot \csc^2(4x + 1)$$

Exercises 24 - 30

24. Let $y = \big[f(x)\big]^3$ and suppose that $f\,'(1) = 4$ and $\frac{dy}{dx} = 10$ for $x = 1$. Find $f(1)$.
25. Let $y = \Big(f(x) + 5x^2\Big)^4$ and suppose that $f(-1) = -4$ and $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3$ when $x = -1$. Find $f\,'(-1)$

Answer

$f\,'(-1) = 10\frac{3}{4}$

26. Let $y = (f(u) + 3x)^2$ and $u = x^3 - 2x$. If $f(4) = 6$ and $\frac{dy}{dx} = 18$ when $x = 2$, find $f\,'(4)$.

27. [T] Find the equation of the tangent line to $y = -\sin(\frac{x}{2})$ at the origin. Use a calculator to graph the function and the tangent line together.

Answer

$y = -\frac{1}{2}x$

28. [T] Find the equation of the tangent line to $y = \left(3x + \frac{1}{x}\right)^2$ at the point $(1, 16)$. Use a calculator to graph the function and the tangent line together.
29. Find the x -coordinates at which the tangent line to $y = \left(x - \frac{6}{x}\right)^8$ is horizontal.

Answer

$x = \pm\sqrt{6}$

30. [T] Find an equation of the line that is normal to $g(\theta) = \sin^2(\pi\theta)$ at the point $\left(\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}\right)$. Use a calculator to graph the function and the normal line together.

Exercises 31 - 38

Use the information in the following table to find $h\,'(a)$ at the given value for a.

Table $3.6E.1$: values for f, f', g, g'

x	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$	$g(x)$	$g'(x)$
0	2	5	0	2
1	1	–2	3	0
2	4	4	1	–1
3	3	–3	2	3

31. $h(x) = f\big(g(x)\big); \quad a = 0$

Answer

$h'(0) = 10$

32. $h(x) = g\big(f(x)\big); \quad a = 0$
33. $h(x) = \big(x^4 + g(x)\big)^{-2}; \quad a = 1$

Answer

$h'(1) = -\frac{1}{8}$

34. $h(x) = \left(\dfrac{f(x)}{g(x)}\right)^2; \quad a = 3$
35. $h(x) = f\big(x + f(x)\big); \quad a = 1$

Answer

$h'(1) = -4$

36. $h(x) = \big(1 + g(x)\big)^3; \quad a = 2$
37. $h(x) = g\big(2 + f(x^2)\big); \quad a = 1$

Answer

$h'(1) = -12$

38. $h(x) = f\big(g(\sin x)\big); \quad a = 0$

Exercises 38 - 45

38. [T] The position function of a freight train is given by $s(t) = 100(t+1)^{-2}$, with s in meters and t in seconds. At time $t = 6$ s, find the train's

    a. velocity and
    b. acceleration.
    c. Considering your results in parts a. and b., is the train speeding up or slowing down?

    Answer

    a. $v(6) = -\frac{200}{343}$ m/s,
    b. $a(6) = \frac{600}{2401}\ \text{m/s}^2$,
    c. The train is slowing down since velocity and acceleration have opposite signs.

40. [T] A mass hanging from a vertical spring is in simple harmonic motion as given by the following position function, where t is measured in seconds and s is in inches:

$$s(t) = -3\cos\left(\pi t + \frac{\pi}{4}\right).$$

    a. Determine the position of the spring at $t = 1.5$ s.
    b. Find the velocity of the spring at $t = 1.5$ s.

41. [T] The total cost to produce x boxes of Thin Mint Girl Scout cookies is C dollars, where $C = 0.0001x^3 - 0.02x^2 + 3x + 300$. In t weeks production is estimated to be $x = 1600 + 100t$ boxes.

    a. Find the marginal cost $C'(x)$.
    b. Use Leibniz's notation for the chain rule, $\frac{dC}{dt} = \frac{dC}{dx} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt}$, to find the rate with respect to time t that the cost is changing.
    c. Use your result in part b. to determine how fast costs are increasing when $t = 2$ weeks. Include units with the answer.

    Answer

    a. $C'(x) = 0.0003x^2 - 0.04x + 3$
    b. $\frac{dC}{dt} = 100 \cdot (0.0003x^2 - 0.04x + 3) = 100 \cdot (0.0003(1600 + 100t)^2 - 0.04(1600 + 100t) + 3) = 300t^2 + 9200t + 70700$
    c. Approximately \$90,300 per week

42. [T] The formula for the area of a circle is $A = \pi r^2$, where r is the radius of the circle. Suppose a circle is expanding, meaning that both the area A and the radius r (in inches) are expanding.

    a. Suppose $r = 2 - \frac{100}{(t+7)^2}$ where t is time in seconds. Use the chain rule $\frac{dA}{dt} = \frac{dA}{dr} \cdot \frac{dr}{dt}$ to find the rate at which the area is expanding.
    b. Use your result in part a. to find the rate at which the area is expanding at $t = 4$ s.

43. [T] The formula for the volume of a sphere is $S = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$, where r (in feet) is the radius of the sphere. Suppose a spherical snowball is melting in the sun.

    a. Suppose $r = \frac{1}{(t+1)^2} - \frac{1}{12}$ where t is time in minutes. Use the chain rule $\frac{dS}{dt} = \frac{dS}{dr} \cdot \frac{dr}{dt}$ to find the rate at which the snowball is melting.
    b. Use your result in part a. to find the rate at which the volume is changing at $t = 1$ min.

    Answer

    a. $\frac{dS}{dt} = -\frac{8\pi r^2}{(t+1)^3} = -\frac{8\pi\left(\frac{1}{(t+1)^2} - \frac{1}{12}\right)^2}{(t+1)^3}$
    b. The volume is decreasing at a rate of $-\frac{\pi}{36}\ \text{ft}^3$/min

14. [T] The daily temperature in degrees Fahrenheit of Phoenix in the summer can be modeled by the function $T(x) = 94 - 10\cos\left[\frac{\pi}{12}(x-2)\right]$, where x is hours after midnight. Find the rate at which the temperature is changing at 4 p.m.
15. [T] The depth (in feet) of water at a dock changes with the rise and fall of tides. The depth is modeled by the function $D(t) = 5\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{6}t - \frac{7\pi}{6}\right) + 8$, where t is the number of hours after midnight. Find the rate at which the depth is changing at 6 a.m.

Answer

2.3 ft/hr

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3.7: Derivatives of Inverse Functions

Learning Objectives

- Calculate the derivative of an inverse function.
- Recognize the derivatives of the standard inverse trigonometric functions.

In this section we explore the relationship between the derivative of a function and the derivative of its inverse. For functions whose derivatives we already know, we can use this relationship to find derivatives of inverses without having to use the limit definition of the derivative. In particular, we will apply the formula for derivatives of inverse functions to trigonometric functions. This formula may also be used to extend the power rule to rational exponents.

The Derivative of an Inverse Function

We begin by considering a function and its inverse. If $f(x)$ is both invertible and differentiable, it seems reasonable that the inverse of $f(x)$ is also differentiable. Figure $3.7.1$ shows the relationship between a function $f(x)$ and its inverse $f^{-1}(x)$. Look at the point $(a,\ f^{-1}(a))$ on the graph of $f^{-1}(x)$ having a tangent line with a slope of

$$\left(f^{-1}\right)'(a) = \frac{p}{q}. \tag{3.7.1}$$

This point corresponds to a point $(f^{-1}(a),\ a)$ on the graph of $f(x)$ having a tangent line with a slope of

$$f'\left(f^{-1}(a)\right) = \frac{q}{p}. \tag{3.7.2}$$

Thus, if $f^{-1}(x)$ is differentiable at a, then it must be the case that

$$\left(f^{-1}\right)'(a) = \frac{1}{f'\left(f^{-1}(a)\right)}.$$

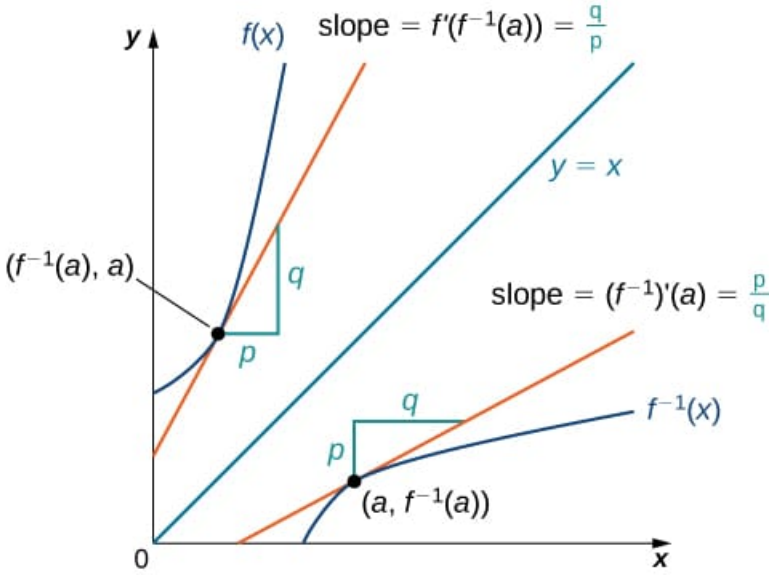


Figure 3.7.1: This image demonstrates that the slopes of a function and its inverse at corresponding points are reciprocals of each other. The graph illustrates the relationship between the graph of a function $f(x)$ and its inverse $f^{-1}(x)$, along with their respective slopes. They are symmetric about the line $y = x$. The curve labeled $f(x)$ passes through the point $(f^{-1}(a), a)$. At this point, a tangent line is drawn with a slope given by $f'(f^{-1}(a)) = \frac{q}{p}$, where p and q represent the horizontal and vertical segments of a right triangle illustrating the slope. The inverse function $f^{-1}(x)$ passes through the point $(a, f^{-1}(a))$, and its tangent line has a slope given by $(f^{-1})'(a) = \frac{p}{q}$, which is the reciprocal of the slope of f(x) at the corresponding point.

We may also derive the formula for the derivative of the inverse by first recalling that $x = f\left(f^{-1}(x)\right)$. Then by differentiating both sides of this equation (using the chain rule on the right), we obtain

$$1 = f\,'\left(f^{-1}(x)\right)\left(f^{-1}\right)\,'(x).$$

Solving for $\left(f^{-1}\right)\,'(x)$, we obtain

$$\left(f^{-1}\right)\,'(x) = \frac{1}{f'\left(f^{-1}(x)\right)}.$$

We summarize this result in the following theorem.

Theorem: Inverse Function Theorem

Let $f(x)$ be a function that is both invertible and differentiable. Let $y = f^{-1}(x)$ be the inverse of $f(x)$. For all x satisfying $f\,'\left(f^{-1}(x)\right) \neq 0$,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}\left(f^{-1}(x)\right) = \left(f^{-1}\right)'(x) = \frac{1}{f'\left(f^{-1}(x)\right)}. \tag{3.7.3}$$

Alternatively, if $y = g(x)$ is the inverse of $f(x)$, then

$$g'(x) = \frac{1}{f'\left(g(x)\right)}. \tag{3.7.4}$$

Example 3.7.1: Applying the Inverse Function Theorem

Use the inverse function theorem to find the derivative of $g(x) = \dfrac{x+2}{x}$. Compare the resulting derivative to that obtained by differentiating the function directly.

Solution

The inverse of $g(x) = \dfrac{x+2}{x}$ is $f(x) = \dfrac{2}{x-1}$.

We will use Equation 3.7.4 and begin by finding $f\,'(x)$. Thus,

$$f'(x) = \frac{-2}{(x-1)^2}$$

and

$$f'\big(g(x)\big) = \frac{-2}{(g(x)-1)^2} = \frac{-2}{\left(\dfrac{x+2}{x}-1\right)^2} = -\frac{x^2}{2}.$$

Finally,

$$g'(x) = \frac{1}{f'\big(g(x)\big)} = -\frac{2}{x^2}.$$

We can verify that this is the correct derivative by applying the quotient rule to $g(x)$ to obtain

$$g'(x) = -\frac{2}{x^2}.$$

Exercise 3.7.1

Use the inverse function theorem to find the derivative of $g(x) = \dfrac{1}{x+2}$. Compare the result obtained by differentiating $g(x)$ directly.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 3.7.2: Applying the Inverse Function Theorem

Use the inverse function theorem to find the derivative of $g(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$.

Solution

The function $g(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$ is the inverse of the function $f(x) = x^3$. Since $g\,'(x) = \dfrac{1}{f'\big(g(x)\big)}$, begin by finding $f\,'(x)$. Thus,

$$f'(x) = 3x^2$$

and

$$f'\big(g(x)\big) = 3\left(\sqrt[3]{x}\right)^2 = 3x^{2/3}$$

Finally,

$$g'(x) = \frac{1}{3x^{2/3}}.$$

If we were to integrate $g(x)$ directing, using the power rule, we would first rewrite $g(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$ as a power of x to get,

$$g(x) = x^{1/3}$$

Then we would differentiate using the power rule to obtain

$$g'(x) = \tfrac{1}{3}x^{-2/3} = \frac{1}{3x^{2/3}}.$$

Exercise 3.7.2

Find the derivative of $g(x) = \sqrt[5]{x}$ by applying the inverse function theorem.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

From the previous example, we see that we can use the inverse function theorem to extend the power rule to exponents of the form $\frac{1}{n}$, where n is a positive integer. This extension will ultimately allow us to differentiate x^q, where q is any rational number.

Theorem: Extending the Power Rule to Rational Exponents

The power rule may be extended to rational exponents. That is, if n is a positive integer, then

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^{1/n}\right) = \frac{1}{n}x^{(1/n)-1}. \tag{3.7.5}$$

Also, if n is a positive integer and m is an arbitrary integer, then

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^{m/n}\right) = \frac{m}{n}x^{(m/n)-1}. \tag{3.7.6}$$

Proof

The function $g(x) = x^{1/n}$ is the inverse of the function $f(x) = x^n$. Since $g\,'(x) = \dfrac{1}{f'\left(g(x)\right)}$, begin by finding $f\,'(x)$. Thus,

$$f\,'(x) = nx^{n-1} \text{ and } f\,'\left(g(x)\right) = n\left(x^{1/n}\right)^{n-1} = nx^{(n-1)/n}.$$

Finally,

$$g\,'(x) = \frac{1}{nx^{(n-1)/n}} = \frac{1}{n}x^{(1-n)/n} = \frac{1}{n}x^{(1/n)-1}.$$

To differentiate $x^{m/n}$ we must rewrite it as $(x^{1/n})^m$ and apply the chain rule. Thus,

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^{m/n}\right) = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\left(x^{1/n}\right)^m\right) = m\left(x^{1/n}\right)^{m-1} \cdot \frac{1}{n}x^{(1/n)-1} = \frac{m}{n}x^{(m/n)-1}.$$

□

Example 3.7.3: Applying the Power Rule to a Rational Power

Find the equation of the line tangent to the graph of $y = x^{2/3}$ at $x = 8$.

Solution

First find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ and evaluate it at $x = 8$. Since

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2}{3}x^{-1/3}$$

and

$$\left.\frac{dy}{dx}\right|_{x=8} = \frac{1}{3}$$

the slope of the tangent line to the graph at $x = 8$ is $\frac{1}{3}$.

Substituting $x = 8$ into the original function, we obtain $y = 4$. Thus, the tangent line passes through the point $(8, 4)$. Substituting into the point-slope formula for a line, we obtain the tangent line

$$y = \tfrac{1}{3}x + \tfrac{4}{3}.$$

Exercise 3.7.3

Find the derivative of $s(t) = \sqrt{2t + 1}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Derivatives of Inverse Trigonometric Functions

We now turn our attention to finding derivatives of inverse trigonometric functions. These derivatives will prove invaluable in the study of integration later in this text. The derivatives of inverse trigonometric functions are quite surprising in that their derivatives are actually algebraic functions. Previously, derivatives of algebraic functions have proven to be algebraic functions and derivatives of trigonometric functions have been shown to be trigonometric functions. Here, for the first time, we see that the derivative of a function need not be of the same type as the original function.

Example 3.7.4A: Derivative of the Inverse Sine Function

Use the inverse function theorem to find the derivative of $g(x) = \sin^{-1} x$.

Solution

Since for x in the interval $\left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$, $f(x) = \sin x$ is the inverse of $g(x) = \sin^{-1} x$, begin by finding $f\,'(x)$. Since

$$f'(x) = \cos x$$

and

$$f'\big(g(x)\big) = \cos\left(\sin^{-1} x\right) = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$$

we see that

$$g'(x) = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\sin^{-1} x\right) = \frac{1}{f'\big(g(x)\big)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}$$

Analysis

To see that $\cos(\sin^{-1} x) = \sqrt{1-x^2}$, consider the following argument. Set $\sin^{-1} x = \theta$. In this case, $\sin\theta = x$ where $-\frac{\pi}{2} \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{2}$. We begin by considering the case where $0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$. Since θ is an acute angle, we may construct a right triangle having acute angle θ, a hypotenuse of length 1 and the side opposite angle θ having length x. From the Pythagorean theorem, the side adjacent to angle θ has length $\sqrt{1-x^2}$. This triangle is shown in Figure 3.7.2 Using the triangle, we see that $\cos(\sin^{-1} x) = \cos\theta = \sqrt{1-x^2}$.

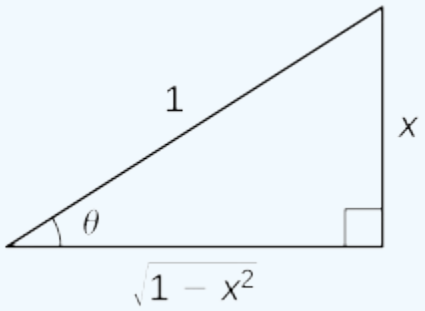


Figure 3.7.2: Using a right triangle having acute angle θ, a hypotenuse of length 1, and the side opposite angle θ having length x, we can see that $\cos(\sin^{-1} x) = \cos\theta = \sqrt{1-x^2}$.

In the case where $-\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < 0$, we make the observation that $0 < -\theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ and hence

$$\cos\left(\sin^{-1} x\right) = \cos\theta = \cos(-\theta) = \sqrt{1-x^2}.$$

Now if $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ or $\theta = -\frac{\pi}{2}, x = 1$ or $x = -1$, and since in either case $\cos\theta = 0$ and $\sqrt{1-x^2} = 0$, we have

$$\cos\left(\sin^{-1} x\right) = \cos\theta = \sqrt{1-x^2}.$$

Consequently, in all cases,

$$\cos\left(\sin^{-1} x\right) = \sqrt{1-x^2}.$$

Example 3.7.4B: Applying the Chain Rule to the Inverse Sine Function

Apply the chain rule to the formula derived in Example 3.7.4A to find the derivative of $h(x) = \sin^{-1}\left(g(x)\right)$ and use this result to find the derivative of $h(x) = \sin^{-1}(2x^3)$.

Solution

Applying the chain rule to $h(x) = \sin^{-1}\left(g(x)\right)$, we have

$$h\,'(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\left(g(x)\right)^2}} g\,'(x).$$

Now let $g(x) = 2x^3$, so $g\,'(x) = 6x^2$. Substituting into the previous result, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} h'(x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-4x^6}} \cdot 6x^2 \\ &= \frac{6x^2}{\sqrt{1-4x^6}} \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3.7.4

Use the inverse function theorem to find the derivative of $g(x) = \tan^{-1} x$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The derivatives of the remaining inverse trigonometric functions may also be found by using the inverse function theorem. These formulas are provided in the following theorem.

Theorem: Derivatives of Inverse Trigonometric Functions

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\sin^{-1}x\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \tag{3.7.7}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\cos^{-1}x\right) = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \tag{3.7.8}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\tan^{-1}x\right) = \frac{1}{1+x^2} \tag{3.7.9}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\cot^{-1}x\right) = \frac{-1}{1+x^2} \tag{3.7.10}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\sec^{-1}x\right) = \frac{1}{|x|\sqrt{x^2-1}} \tag{3.7.11}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\csc^{-1}x\right) = \frac{-1}{|x|\sqrt{x^2-1}} \tag{3.7.12}$$

Example 3.7.5A: Applying Differentiation Formulas to an Inverse Tangent Function

Find the derivative of $f(x) = \tan^{-1}(x^2)$.

Solution

Let $g(x) = x^2$, so $g\,'(x) = 2x$. Substituting into Equation 3.7.9, we obtain

$$f\,'(x) = \frac{1}{1+(x^2)^2} \cdot (2x).$$

Simplifying, we have

$$f\,'(x) = \frac{2x}{1+x^4}.$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of the this concept.

- **Video Length**: 1 minute 21 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates finding a derivative involving the arctangent function. Find the derivative of $f(x) = \arctan\left(\frac{x}{3}\right)$

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Example $3.7.5B$: Applying Differentiation Formulas to an Inverse Sine Function

Find the derivative of $h(x) = x^2 \sin^{-1} x$.

Solution

By applying the product rule, we have

$$h\,'(x) = 2x \sin^{-1} x + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \cdot x^2$$

Exercise $3.7.5$

Find the derivative of $h(x) = \cos^{-1}(3x-1)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example $3.7.6$

Find the derivative of $f(x) = arcsec(x^2)$.

Solution

- **Video Length**: 1 minute 44 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates finding a derivative involving the arcsecant function.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Example $3.7.7$: Applying the Inverse Tangent Function

The position of a particle at time t is given by $s(t) = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{t}\right)$ for $t \geq \frac{1}{2}$. Find the velocity of the particle at time $t = 1$.

Solution

Begin by differentiating $s(t)$ in order to find $v(t)$.Thus,

$$v(t) = s\,'(t) = \frac{1}{1+\left(\frac{1}{t}\right)^2} \cdot \frac{-1}{t^2}.$$

Simplifying, we have

$$v(t) = -\frac{1}{t^2+1}.$$

Thus, $v(1) = -\frac{1}{2}$.

Exercise 3.7.6

Find the equation of the line tangent to the graph of $f(x) = \sin^{-1} x$ at $x = 0$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- The inverse function theorem allows us to compute derivatives of inverse functions without using the limit definition of the derivative.
- We can use the inverse function theorem to develop differentiation formulas for the inverse trigonometric functions.

Key Equations

- **Inverse function theorem**

  $(f^{-1})'(x) = \dfrac{1}{f'\left(f^{-1}(x)\right)}$ whenever $f'\left(f^{-1}(x)\right) \neq 0$ and $f(x)$ is differentiable.

- **Power rule with rational exponents**

  $\dfrac{d}{dx}\left(x^{m/n}\right) = \dfrac{m}{n}x^{(m/n)-1}.$

- **Derivative of inverse sine function**

  $\dfrac{d}{dx}\left(\sin^{-1} x\right) = \dfrac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

- **Derivative of inverse cosine function**

  $\dfrac{d}{dx}\left(\cos^{-1} x\right) = \dfrac{-1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

- **Derivative of inverse tangent function**

  $\dfrac{d}{dx}\left(\tan^{-1} x\right) = \dfrac{1}{1+x^2}$

- **Derivative of inverse cotangent function**

  $\dfrac{d}{dx}\left(\cot^{-1} x\right) = \dfrac{-1}{1+x^2}$

- **Derivative of inverse secant function**

  $\dfrac{d}{dx}\left(\sec^{-1} x\right) = \dfrac{1}{|x|\sqrt{x^2-1}}$

- **Derivative of inverse consecant function**

  $\dfrac{d}{dx}\left(\csc^{-1} x\right) = \dfrac{-1}{|x|\sqrt{x^2-1}}$

Contributors and Attributions

- Gilbert Strang (MIT) and Edwin “Jed” Herman (Harvey Mudd) with many contributing authors. This content by OpenStax is licensed with a CC-BY-SA-NC 4.0 license. Download for free at http://cnx.org.
- Paul Seeburger (Monroe Community College) added the second half of Example $3.7.2$.

Answers

Exercise $3.7.1$

Use the preceding example as a guide.

Exercise $3.7.1$

$g\,'(x) = -\dfrac{1}{(x+2)^2}$

Exercise $3.7.2$

$g(x)$ is the inverse of $f(x) = x^5$.

Exercise $3.7.2$

$g'(x) = \frac{1}{5}x^{-4/5}$

Exercise $3.7.3$

Use the chain rule.

Exercise $3.7.3$

$s\,'(t) = (2t+1)^{-1/2}$

Exercise $3.7.4$

The inverse of $g(x)$ is $f(x) = \tan x$. Use Example $3.7.4A$ as a guide.

Exercise $3.7.4$

$g\,'(x) = \dfrac{1}{1+x^2}$

Exercise $3.7.5$

Use Equation 3.7.8. with $g(x) = 3x - 1$

Exercise $3.7.5$

$h\,'(x) = \dfrac{-3}{\sqrt{6x - 9x^2}}$

Exercise $3.7.6$

$f\,'(0)$ is the slope of the tangent line.

Exercise $3.7.6$

$y = x$

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3.7E: Exercises for Section 3.7

Exercises 1 - 4

Use the graph of $y = f(x)$ to:

a. **Sketch the graph of $y = f^{-1}(x)$.**
b. **Use part a to estimate $\left(f^{-1}\right)'(1)$.**

1.

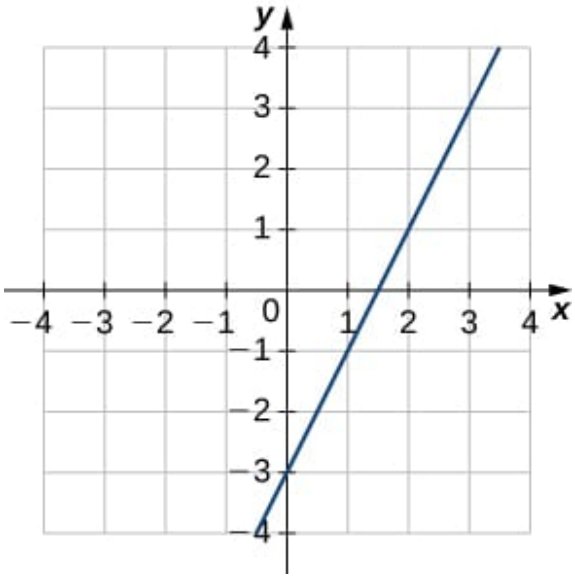


Figure $3.7E.1$: A straight line passing through $(0, -3)$ and $(3, 3)$.

2.

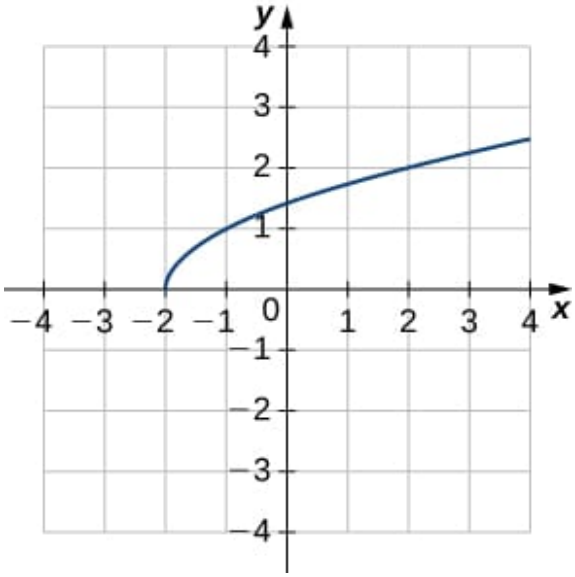


Figure $3.7E.2$: A curved graph starting at $(-2, 0)$ and passing through $(-1, 1)$ and $(2, 2)$.

Answer

a.

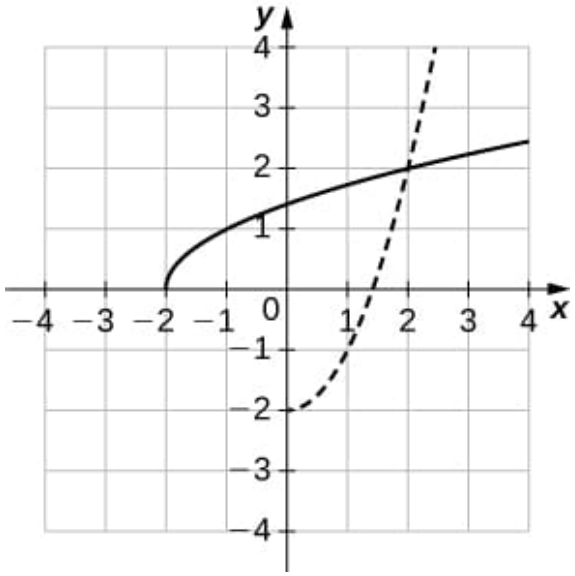


Figure $3.7E.3$: The graph from Figure $3.7E.2$ is graphed again. Also graphed is its inverse, which starts at $(0, -2)$ and passes through $(1, -1)$ and $(2, 2)$.

b. $(f^{-1})'(1) = -1$

3.

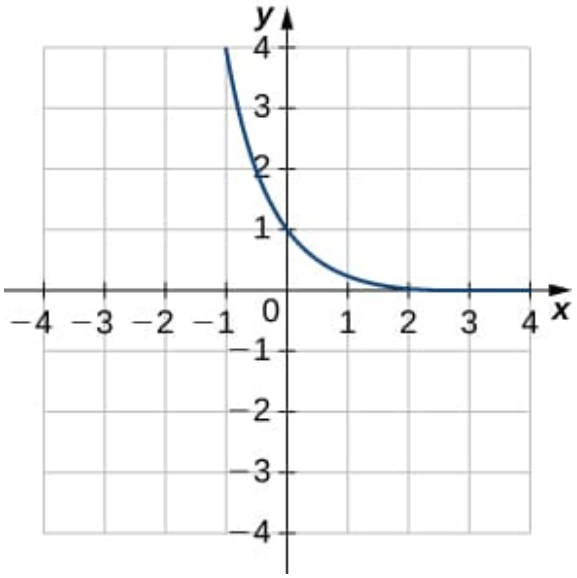


Figure $3.7E.4$: A curved line starting at $(4, 0)$ and passing through $(0, 1)$ and $(-1, 4)$.

4.

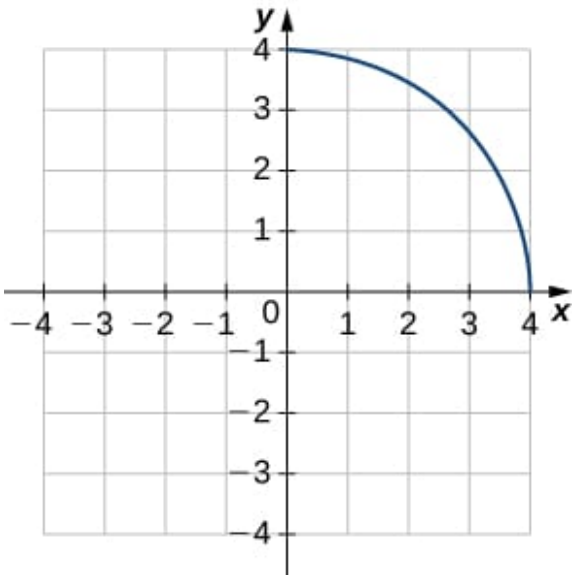


Figure $3.7E.5$: A quarter circle starting at $(0, 4)$ and ending at $(4, 0)$.

Answer

a.

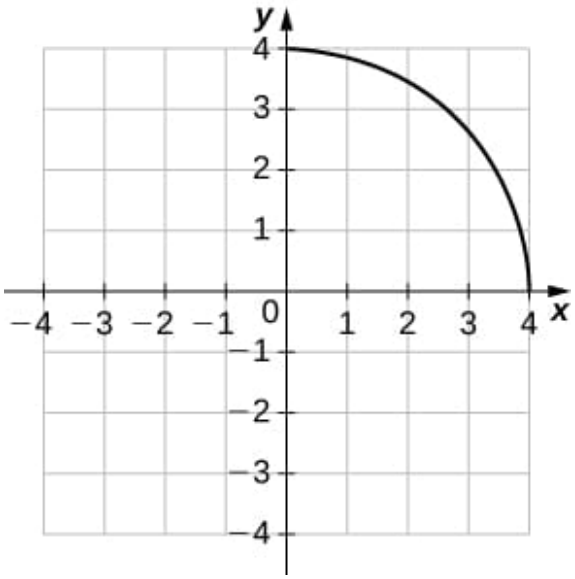


Figure $3.7E.6$: A quarter circle starting at $(0, 4)$ and ending at $(4, 0)$. Since this graph is symmetric about the $y = x$ line, it is its own inverse.

b. $(f^{-1})'(1) \approx -1/\sqrt{3}$

Exercises 5 - 8

Use the given function $y = f(x)$ to find:

a. $\dfrac{df}{dx}$ **at** $x = a$.
b. $x = f^{-1}(y)$.
c. **Use part b to find** $\dfrac{df^{-1}}{dy}$ **at** $y = f(a)$.

5. $f(x) = 6x - 1, \quad x = -2$
6. $f(x) = 2x^3 - 3, \quad x = 1$

Answer

a. $\dfrac{df}{dx} = 6$

b. $x = f^{-1}(y) = \left(\dfrac{y+3}{2}\right)^{1/3}$

c. $\dfrac{df^{-1}}{dy} = \frac{1}{6}$

7. $f(x) = 9 - x^2, \;\; 0 \le x \le 3, x = 2$
8. $f(x) = \sin x, \;\; x = 0$

Answer

a. $\dfrac{df}{dx} = 1$

b. $x = f^{-1}(y) = \sin^{-1} y$

c. $\dfrac{df^{-1}}{dy} = 1$

Exercises 9 - 14

Find $\left(f^{-1}\right)'(a)$.

9. $f(x) = x^2 + 3x + 2, \;\; x \ge -1, \;\; a = 2$
10. $f(x) = x^3 + 2x + 3, \;\; a = 0$

Answer

$\left(f^{-1}\right)'(1) = \frac{1}{5}$

11. $f(x) = x + \sqrt{x}, \;\; a = 2$
12. $f(x) = x - \frac{2}{x}, \;\; x < 0, \;\; a = 1$

Answer

$\left(f^{-1}\right)'(1) = \frac{1}{3}$

13. $f(x) = x + \sin x, \;\; a = 0$
14. $f(x) = \tan x + 3x^2, \;\; a = 0$

Answer

$\left(f^{-1}\right)'(0) = 1$

Exercises 15 - 19

a. **Find the slope of the tangent line to its inverse function f^{-1} at the indicated point P.**

b. **Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of f^{-1} at the indicated point.**

15. $f(x) = \dfrac{4}{1+x^2}, \quad P(2,1)$
16. $f(x) = \sqrt{x-4}, \quad P(2,8)$

Answer

a. 4

b. $y = 4x$

17. $f(x) = (x^3+1)^4, \quad P(16,1)$
18. $f(x) = -x^3 - x + 2, \quad P(-8,2)$

Answer

a. $-\frac{1}{13}$

b. $y = -\frac{1}{13}x + \frac{18}{13}$

19. $f(x) = x^5 + 3x^3 - 4x - 8, \quad P(-8, 1)$

Exercises 20 - 29

Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for the given function.

20. $y = \sin^{-1}(x^2)$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2x}{\sqrt{1-x^4}}$$

21. $y = \cos^{-1}\left(\sqrt{x}\right)$
22. $y = \sec^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$$

23. $y = \sqrt{\csc^{-1} x}$
24. $y = (1 + \tan^{-1} x)^3$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3(1+\tan^{-1} x)^2}{1+x^2}$$

25. $y = \cos^{-1}(2x) \cdot \sin^{-1}(2x)$
26. $y = \dfrac{1}{\tan^{-1}(x)}$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-1}{(1+x^2)(\tan^{-1} x)^2}$$

27. $y = \sec^{-1}(-x)$
28. $y = \cot^{-1}\sqrt{4-x^2}$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x}{(5-x^2)\sqrt{4-x^2}}$$

29. $y = x \cdot \csc^{-1} x$

Exercises 30 - 35

Use the given values to find $\left(f^{-1}\right)'(a)$.

30. $f(\pi) = 0, f'(\pi) = -1, a = 0$

Answer

$$\left(f^{-1}\right)'(0) = -1$$

31. $f(6) = 2, \quad f'(6) = \frac{1}{3}, \quad a = 2$
32. $f(\frac{1}{3}) = -8, \quad f'(\frac{1}{3}) = 2, \quad a = -8$

Answer

$$\left(f^{-1}\right)'(-8) = \tfrac{1}{2}$$

33. $f(\sqrt{3}) = \frac{1}{2}, f'(\sqrt{3}) = \frac{2}{3}, a = \frac{1}{2}$
34. $f(1) = -3, \quad f'(1) = 10, \quad a = -3$

Answer

$$\left(f^{-1}\right)'(-3) = \frac{1}{10}$$

35. $f(1) = 0, \quad f'(1) = -2, \quad a = 0$
36. [T] The position of a moving hockey puck after t seconds is $s(t) = tan^{-1}t$ where s is in meters.

    a. Find the velocity of the hockey puck at any time t.
    b. Find the acceleration of the puck at any time t.
    c. Evaluate parts a. and b. for $t = 2, \quad 4$,and 6 seconds.
    d. What conclusion can be drawn from the results in c.?

    Answer

    a. $v(t) = \dfrac{1}{1+t^2}$
    b. $a(t) = \dfrac{-2t}{(1+t^2)^2}$
    c. (a) $0.2, \quad 0.06, \quad 0.03$; (b) $-0.16, \quad -0.028, \quad -0.0088$
    d. The hockey puck is decelerating/slowing down at 2, 4, and 6 seconds.

37. [T] A building that is 225 feet tall casts a shadow of various lengths x as the day goes by. An angle of elevation θ is formed by lines from the top and bottom of the building to the tip of the shadow, as seen in the following figure (Figure $3.7E.7$). Find the rate of change of the angle of elevation $\frac{d\theta}{dx}$ when $x = 272$ feet.

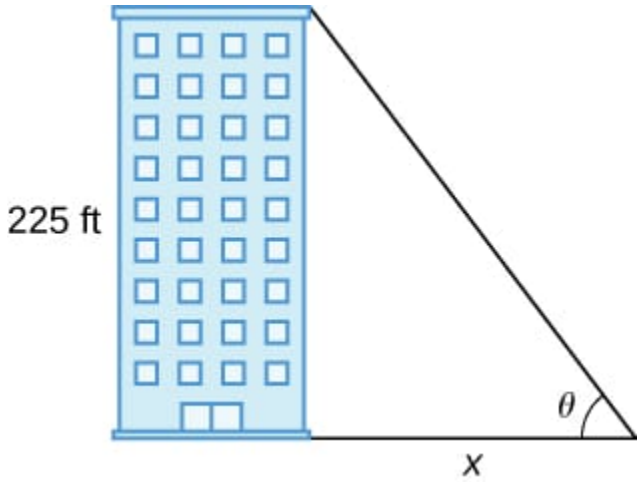


Figure $3.7E.7$: A vertical building with height 225 ft casts a shadow. The shadow's length, x, is the length of the horizontal leg of a right triangle adjacent to the building. θ is the angle opposite the vertical leg of the right triangle of length 225 ft.

38. [T] A pole stands 75 feet tall. An angle θ is formed when wires of various lengths of x feet are attached from the ground to the top of the pole, as shown in the following figure)Figure $3.7E.8$). Find the rate of change of the angle $\frac{d\theta}{dx}$ when a wire of length 90 feet is attached.

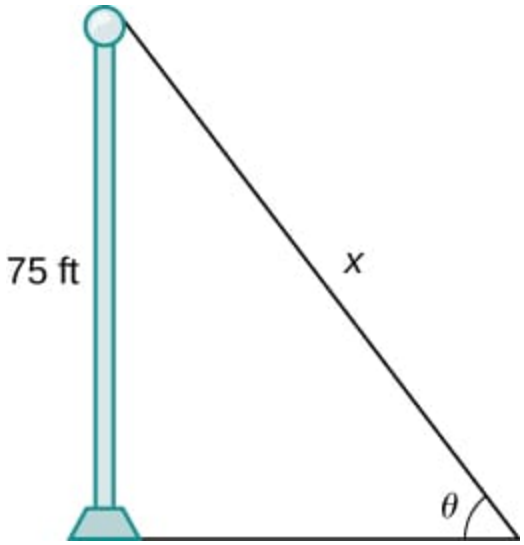


Figure $3.7E.8$: A vertical flagpole with height 75 ft is the vertical leg of a right triangle. It is opposite angle θ. The hypotenuse length is x.

Answer

-0.0168 radians per foot

39. [T] A television camera at ground level is 2000 feet away from the launching pad of a space rocket that is set to take off vertically, as seen in the following figure. The angle of elevation of the camera can be found by $\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{2000}\right)$, where x is the height of the rocket. Find the rate of change of the angle of elevation after launch when the camera and the rocket are 5000 feet apart.

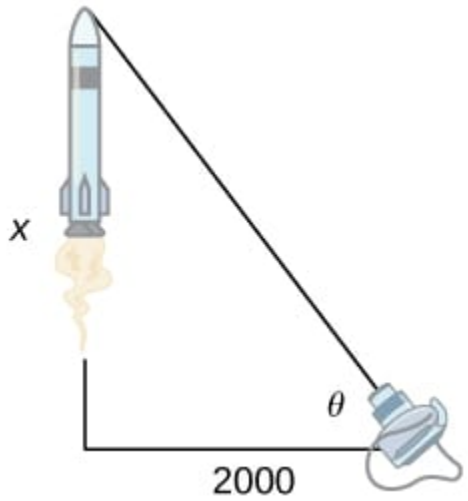


Figure $3.7E.9$: A right triangle with angle θ indicated as the angle made by the camera on the ground. The side opposite θ has length x. The adjacent side has length 2000.

40. [T] A local movie theater with a 30-foot-high screen that is 10 feet above a person's eye level when seated has a viewing angle θ (in radians) given by $\theta = \cot^{-1}\frac{x}{40} - \cot^{-1}\frac{x}{10}$, where x is the distance in feet away from the movie screen that the person is sitting, as shown in the following figure (Figure $3.7E.10$).

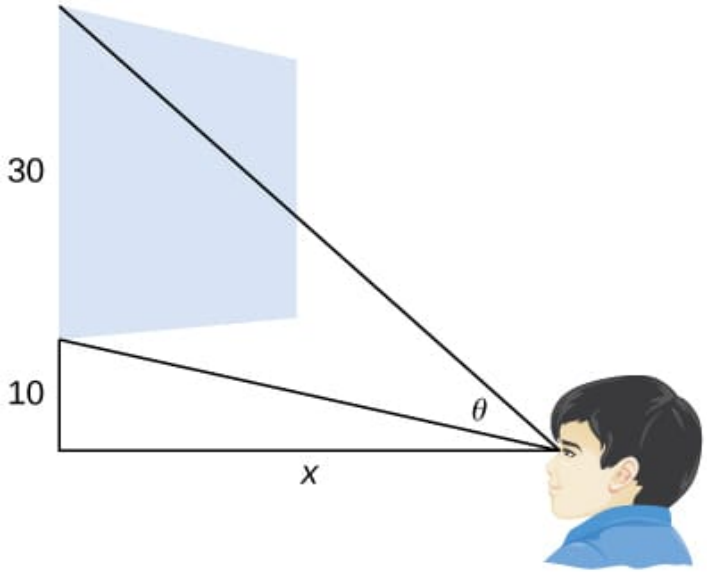


Figure $3.7E.10$: A diagram showing a person viewing a painting. Lines from the person's eye to the top and bottom of the object form an angle θ. The painting's height is labeled 30. The vertical distance between the viewer's eye and the bottom of painting is shown as 10, with the horizontal distance to the person to the wall labeled x.

a. Find $\frac{d\theta}{dx}$.
b. Evaluate $\frac{d\theta}{dx}$ for $x = 5,\ 10,\ 15$, and 20.
c. Interpret the results in part b.
d. Evaluate $\frac{d\theta}{dx}$ for $x = 25,\ 30,\ 35$, and 40.
e. Interpret the results in part d. At what distance x should the person stand to maximize his or her viewing angle?

Answer

a. $\frac{d\theta}{dx} = \frac{10}{100 + x^2} - \frac{40}{1600 + x^2}$
b. $\frac{18}{325},\ \frac{9}{340},\ \frac{42}{4745},\ 0$
c. As a person moves farther away from the screen, the viewing angle is increasing, which implies that as he or she moves farther away, his or her screen vision is widening. d. \frac{54}{12905},\,–\frac{3}{500},\,–\frac{198}{29945},\,–\frac{9}{1360}\)
d. As the person moves beyond 20 feet from the screen, the viewing angle is decreasing. The optimal distance the person should stand for maximizing the viewing angle is 20 feet.

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3.8: Implicit Differentiation

Learning Objectives

- Find the derivative of a complicated function by using implicit differentiation.
- Use implicit differentiation to determine the equation of a tangent line.

We have already studied how to find equations of tangent lines to functions and the rate of change of a function at a specific point. In all these cases we had the explicit equation for the function and differentiated these functions explicitly. Suppose instead that we want to determine the equation of a tangent line to an arbitrary curve or the rate of change of an arbitrary curve at a point. In this section, we solve these problems by finding the derivatives of functions that define y implicitly in terms of x.

Implicit Differentiation

In most discussions of math, if the dependent variable y is a function of the independent variable x, we express y in terms of x. If this is the case, we say that y is an explicit function of x. For example, when we write the equation $y = x^2 + 1$, we are defining y explicitly in terms of x. On the other hand, if the relationship between the function y and the variable x is expressed by an equation where y is not expressed entirely in terms of x, we say that the equation defines y implicitly in terms of x. For example, the equation $y - x^2 = 1$ defines the function $y = x^2 + 1$ implicitly.

Implicit differentiation allows us to find slopes of tangents to curves that are clearly not functions (they fail the vertical line test). We are using the idea that portions of y are functions that satisfy the given equation, but that y is not actually a function of x.

In general, an equation defines a function implicitly if the function satisfies that equation. An equation may define many different functions implicitly. For example, the functions

$$y = \sqrt{25 - x^2}$$

and

$$y = \begin{cases} \sqrt{25 - x^2}, & \text{if } -25 \leq x < 0 \\ -\sqrt{25 - x^2}, & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 25 \end{cases}$$

which are illustrated in Figure $3.8.1$, are just three of the many functions defined implicitly by the equation $x^2 + y^2 = 25$.

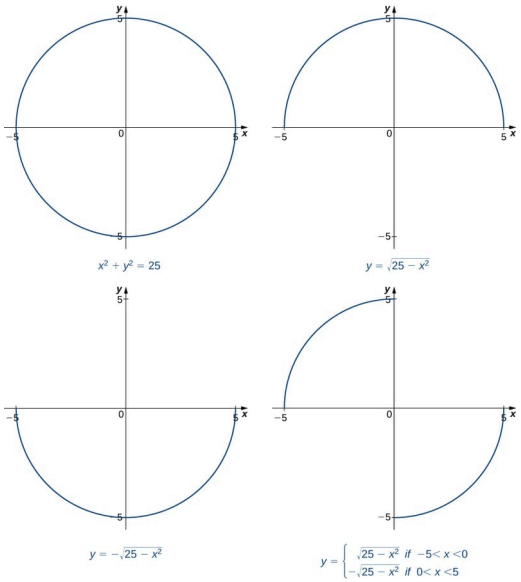


Figure 3.8.1:The equation $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ defines many functions implicitly. Graph 1 is a circle centered at the origin with radius 5. Graph 2 is the upper semicircle of the same circle, extending from $x = -5$ to $x = 5$. Graph 3 is the lower semicircle of the same circle, extending from $x = -5$ to $x = 5$. Graph 4 is the second quadrant and the fourth quadrant portions of the same circle.

If we want to find the slope of the line tangent to the graph of $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ at the point $(3, 4)$, we could evaluate the derivative of the function $y = -\sqrt{25 - x^2}$ at $x = 3$. On the other hand, if we want the slope of the tangent line at the point $(3, -4)$, we could use the derivative of $y = -\sqrt{25 - x^2}$. However, it is not always easy to solve for a function defined implicitly by an equation. Fortunately, the technique of **implicit differentiation** allows us to find the derivative of an implicitly defined function without ever solving for the function explicitly. The process of finding $\dfrac{dy}{dx}$ using implicit differentiation is described in the following problem-solving strategy.

Problem-Solving Strategy: Implicit Differentiation

To perform *implicit differentiation* on an equation that defines a function y implicitly in terms of a variable x, use the following steps:

1. Take the derivative of both sides of the equation. Keep in mind that y is a function of x. Consequently, whereas
$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) = \cos x$$
and
$$\frac{d}{dx}(\sin y) = \cos y \cdot \frac{dy}{dx}$$
because we must use the chain rule to differentiate $\sin y$ with respect to x.
2. Rewrite the equation so that all terms containing dy/dx are on the left and all terms that do not contain dy/dx are on the right.
3. Factor out dy/dx on the left.
4. Solve for dy/dx by dividing both sides of the equation by an appropriate algebraic expression.

Example 3.8.1: Using Implicit Differentiation

Assuming that y is defined implicitly by the equation $x^2 + y^2 = 25$, find $\dfrac{dy}{dx}$.

Solution

Follow the steps in the problem-solving strategy.

Table 3.8.1: Problem solving strategy for Example 3.8.1

$\frac{d}{dx}(x^2+y^2)=\frac{d}{dx}(25)$	**Step 1. Differentiate both sides of the equation.**
$\frac{d}{dx}(x^2)+\frac{d}{dx}(y^2)=0$	Step 1.1. Use the sum rule on the left.On the right $\frac{d}{dx}(25)=0$.
$2x+2y\frac{dy}{dx}=0$	Step 1.2. Take the derivatives, so $\frac{d}{dx}(x^2)=2x$ and $\frac{d}{dx}(y^2)=2y\frac{dy}{dx}$.
$2y\frac{dy}{dx}=-2x$	Step 2. Keep the terms with $\frac{dy}{dx}$ on the left.Move the remaining terms to the right.
$\frac{dy}{dx}=-\frac{x}{y}$	Step 4. Divide both sides of the equation by $2y$.(Step 3 does not apply in this case.)

Analysis

Note that the resulting expression for $\frac{dy}{dx}$ is in terms of both the independent variable x and the dependent variable y. Although in some cases it may be possible to express $\frac{dy}{dx}$ in terms of x only, it is generally not possible to do so.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 2 minutes 38 seconds
- **Context**: Implicit Differentiation. Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ if $x^2+y-2y^3=1$

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Example 3.8.2: Using Implicit Differentiation and the Product Rule

Assuming that y is defined implicitly by the equation $x^3\sin y+y=4x+3$, find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

Solution

Table 3.8.2: Problem solving strategy for Example 3.8.2

$\frac{d}{dx}(x^3\sin y+y)=\frac{d}{dx}(4x+3)$	**Step 1: Differentiate both sides of the equation.**
$\frac{d}{dx}(x^3\sin y)+\frac{d}{dx}(y)=4$	Step 1.1: Apply the sum rule on the left.On the right, $\frac{d}{dx}(4x+3)=4$.
$(\frac{d}{dx}(x^3)\cdot\sin y+\frac{d}{dx}(\sin y)\cdot x^3)+\frac{dy}{dx}=4$	Step 1.2: Use the product rule to find $\frac{d}{dx}(x^3\sin y)$.Observe that $\frac{d}{dx}(y)=\frac{dy}{dx}$.
$3x^2\sin y+(\cos y\frac{dy}{dx})\cdot x^3+\frac{dy}{dx}=4$	Step 1.3: We know $\frac{d}{dx}(x^3)=3x^2$.Use the chain rule to obtain $\frac{d}{dx}(\sin y)=\cos y\frac{dy}{dx}$.
$x^3\cos y\frac{dy}{dx}+\frac{dy}{dx}=4-3x^2\sin y$	Step 2: Keep all terms containing $\frac{dy}{dx}$ on the left. Move all other terms to the right.
$\frac{dy}{dx}(x^3\cos y+1)=4-3x^2\sin y$	Step 3: Factor out $\frac{dy}{dx}$ on the left.
$\frac{dy}{dx}=\frac{4-3x^2\sin y}{x^3\cos y+1}$	Step 4: Solve for $\frac{dy}{dx}$ by dividing both sides of the equation by $x^3\cos y+1$.

Example 3.8.3: Using Implicit Differentiation to Find a Second Derivative

Find $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ if $x^2 + y^2 = 25$.

Solution

In Example 3.8.1, we showed that $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$. We can take the derivative of both sides of this equation to find $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$.

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} &= \frac{d}{dy}\left(-\frac{x}{y}\right) && \text{Differentiate both sides of } \frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}. \\
&= -\frac{\left(1 \cdot y - x\frac{dy}{dx}\right)}{y^2} && \text{Use the quotient rule to find } \frac{d}{dy}\left(-\frac{x}{y}\right). \\
&= \frac{-y + x\frac{dy}{dx}}{y^2} && \text{Simplify.} \\
&= \frac{-y + x\left(-\frac{x}{y}\right)}{y^2} && \text{Substitute } \frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}. \\
&= \frac{-y^2 - x^2}{y^3} && \text{Simplify.}
\end{aligned}$$

At this point we have found an expression for $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$. If we choose, we can simplify the expression further by recalling that $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ and making this substitution in the numerator to obtain $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -\frac{25}{y^3}$.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 3 minutes 29 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates finding the Second Derivative Using Implicit Differentiation: Find $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ in terms of x and y. $y^2 = 2x + y$

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View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 3.8.1

Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for y defined implicitly by the equation $4x^5 + \tan y = y^2 + 5x$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Finding Tangent Lines Implicitly

Now that we have seen the technique of implicit differentiation, we can apply it to the problem of finding equations of tangent

lines to curves described by equations.

Example 3.8.4: Finding a Tangent Line to a Circle

Find the equation of the line tangent to the curve $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ at the point $(3, -4)$.

Solution

Although we could find this equation without using implicit differentiation, using that method makes it much easier. In Example 3.8.1, we found $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$.

The slope of the tangent line is found by substituting $(3, -4)$ into this expression. Consequently, the slope of the tangent line is $\frac{dy}{dx}\Big|_{(3,-4)} = -\frac{3}{-4} = \frac{3}{4}$.

Using the point $(3, -4)$ and the slope $\frac{3}{4}$ in the point-slope equation of the line, we obtain the equation $y = \frac{3}{4}x - \frac{25}{4}$ (Figure).

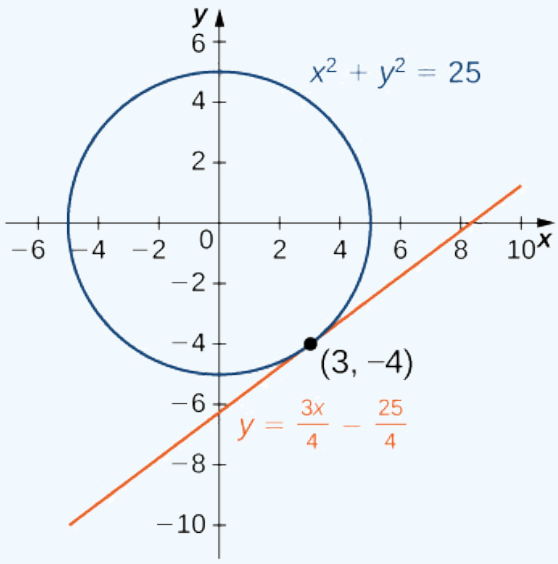


Figure 3.8.2: The line $y = \frac{3}{4}x - \frac{25}{4}$ is tangent to $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ at the point $(3, -4)$ with a slope of $\frac{3}{4}$.

Example 3.8.5: Finding the Equation of the Tangent Line to a Curve

Find the equation of the line tangent to the graph of $y^3 + x^3 - 3xy = 0$ at the point $\left(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\right)$ (Figure). This curve is known as the folium (or leaf) of Descartes.

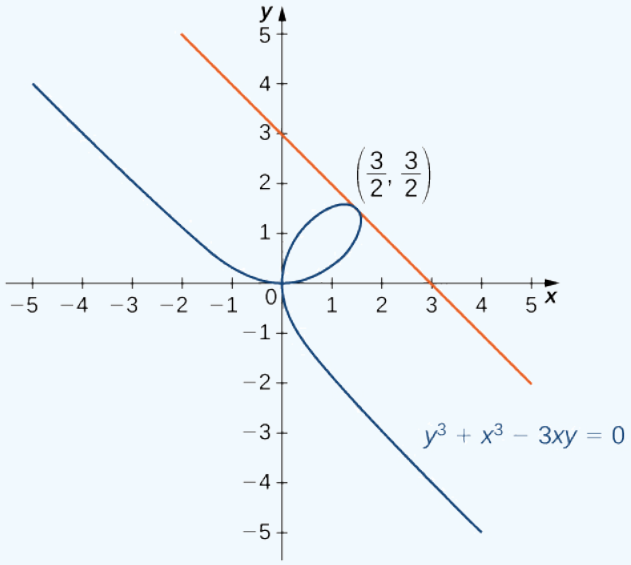


Figure 3.8.3: Finding the tangent line to the folium of Descartes at $\left(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\right)$. The folium of Descartes has a continuous graph containing nearly a straight line with slope -1 in the second and the fourth quadrant. The two sections come together at the origin and form a loop in the first quadrant.

Solution

Begin by finding $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

$$\frac{d}{dx}(y^3 + x^3 - 3xy) = \frac{d}{dx}(0)$$

$$3y^2\frac{dy}{dx} + 3x^2 - (3y + \frac{dy}{dx}3x) = 0$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3y - 3x^2}{3y^2 - 3x}.$$

Next, substitute $\left(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\right)$ into $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3y - 3x^2}{3y^2 - 3x}$ to find the slope of the tangent line:

$$\left.\frac{dy}{dx}\right|_{\left(\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\right)} = -1.$$

Finally, substitute into the point-slope equation of the line to obtain

$$y = -x + 3.$$

Example 3.8.6: Applying Implicit Differentiation

In a simple video game, a rocket travels in an elliptical orbit whose path is described by the equation $4x^2 + 25y^2 = 100$. The rocket can fire missiles along lines tangent to its path. The object of the game is to destroy an incoming asteroid traveling along the positive x-axis toward $(0, 0)$. If the rocket fires a missile when it is located at $\left(3, \frac{8}{3}\right)$, where will it intersect the x -axis?

Solution

To solve this problem, we must determine where the line tangent to the graph of

$4x^2 + 25y^2 = 100$ at $\left(3, \frac{8}{3}\right)$ intersects the x-axis. Begin by finding $\frac{dy}{dx}$ implicitly.

Differentiating, we have

$$8x + 50y\frac{dy}{dx} = 0.$$

Solving for $\frac{dy}{dx}$,

we have

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{4x}{25y}.$$

The slope of the tangent line is $\left.\frac{dy}{dx}\right|_{\left(3,\frac{8}{3}\right)} = -\frac{9}{50}$. The equation of the tangent line is $y = -\frac{9}{50}x + \frac{183}{200}$. To determine where the line intersects the x-axis, solve $0 = -\frac{9}{50}x + \frac{183}{200}$. The solution is $x = \frac{6}{13}$. The missile intersects the x-axis at the point $\left(\frac{61}{3}, 0\right)$.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 4 minutes 35 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates using implicit differentiation to find the equation of the tangent Line: Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of $14 - 3xy + \frac{4y}{x} = x$ at the point (2,3).

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Exercise 3.8.2

Find the equation of the line tangent to the hyperbola $x^2 - y^2 = 16$ at the point $(5, 3)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- We use implicit differentiation to find derivatives of implicitly defined functions (functions defined by equations).
- By using implicit differentiation, we can find the equation of a tangent line to the graph of a curve.

Glossary

Implicit differentiation

This is a technique for computing $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for a function defined by an equation, accomplished by differentiating both sides of the equation (remembering to treat the variable y as a function) and solving for $\frac{dy}{dx}$

Contributors and Attributions

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Answers

Exercise 3.8.1

Follow the problem solving strategy, remembering to apply the chain rule to differentiate $\tan y$ and y^2.

Exercise 3.8.1

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{5 - 20x^4}{\sec^2 y - 2y} \tag{3.8.1}$$

Exercise 3.8.2

$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x}{y}$

Exercise 3.8.2

$y = \frac{5}{3}x - \frac{16}{3}$

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3.8E: Exercises for Section 3.8

Exercises 1 - 10

Use implicit differentiation to find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

1. $x^2 - y^2 = 4$
2. $6x^2 + 3y^2 = 12$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-2x}{y}$$

3. $x^2y = y - 7$
4. $3x^3 + 9xy^2 = 5x^3$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x}{3y} - \frac{y}{2x}$$

5. $xy - \cos(xy) = 1$
6. $y\sqrt{x+4} = xy + 8$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y - \dfrac{y}{2\sqrt{x+4}}}{\sqrt{x+4} - x}$$

7. $-xy - 2 = \frac{x}{7}$
8. $y\sin(xy) = y^2 + 2$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y^2\cos(xy)}{2y - \sin(xy) - xy\cos(xy)}$$

9. $(xy)^2 + 3x = y^2$
10. $x^3y + xy^3 = -8$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-3x^2y - y^3}{x^3 + 3xy^2}$$

Exercises 11 - 16

Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of the given equation at the indicated point. Use a calculator or computer software to graph the function and the tangent line.

11. [T] $x^4y - xy^3 = -2, \quad (-1, -1)$
12. [T] $x^2y^2 + 5xy = 14, \quad (2, 1)$

Answer

$$y = -\tfrac{1}{2}x + 2$$

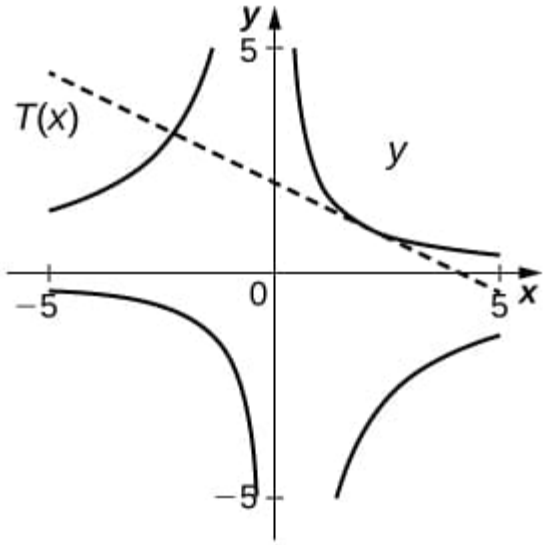


Figure $3.8E.1$: This graph of the given curve consists of four branches, one in each quadrant, which curve away from the origin and approach the x and y axes. A dashed tangent line labeled $T(x)$, which touches the curve at a particular point in the first quadrant. The tangent line has a negative slope, indicating that the function is decreasing at that point.

13. [T] $\tan(xy) = y, \quad (\frac{\pi}{4}, 1)$
14. [T] $xy^2 + \sin(\pi y) - 2x^2 = 10, \quad (2, -3)$

Answer

$y = \frac{1}{\pi+12}x - \frac{3\pi+38}{\pi+12}$

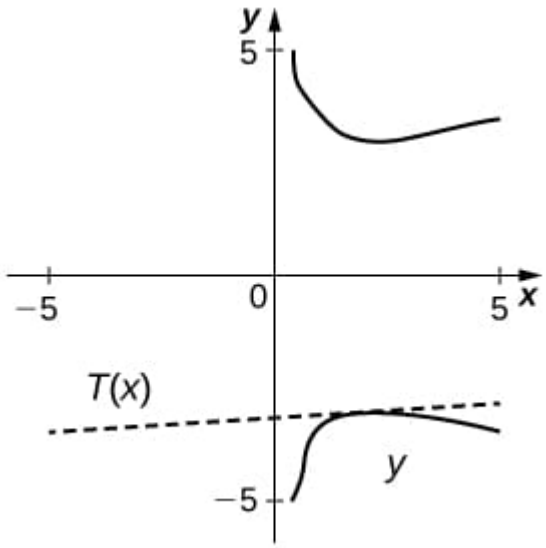


Figure $3.8E.2$: This graph of the given curve is plotted with two separate branches: One branch is located in the first quadrant, curving downward and leveling out as it moves to the right; The other branch is in the fourth quadrant, curving upward and leveling out as it moves right. A dashed tangent line labeled $T(x)$: This tangent line is positioned near the lower left branch, indicating that it touches the function at a particular point. The tangent line has a slight positive slope.

15. [T] $\frac{x}{y} + 5x - 7 = -\frac{3}{4}y, \quad (1, 2)$
16. [T] $xy + \sin(x) = 1, \quad (\frac{\pi}{2}, 0)$

Answer

$y = 0$

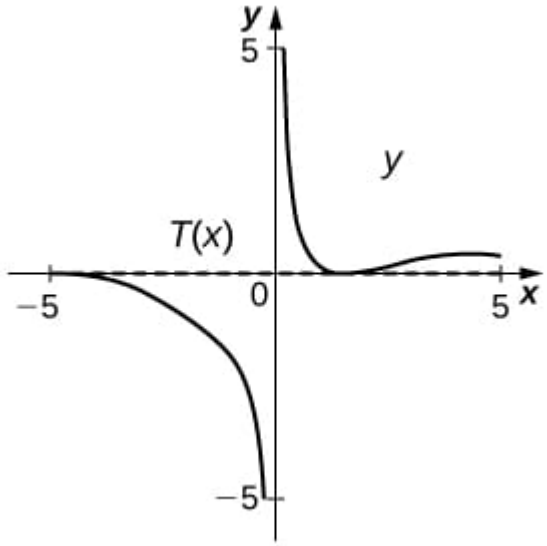


Figure $3.8E.3$: This graph of the given curve has two distinct branches: One branch is in the first quadrant, starting from a very high value near $x = 0$ and decreasing as x increases. The other branch is in the third quadrant, starting from a very low value near $x = 0$ and increasing as x becomes more negative. This suggests a vertical asymptote at $x = 0$ and a horizontal asymptote at $y = 0$. A dashed tangent line labeled $T(x)$: This tangent line is horizontal and positioned close onto the x-axis.

Exercises 17 - 26

17. [T] The graph of a folium of Descartes with equation $2x^3 + 2y^3 - 9xy = 0$ is given in the following graph.

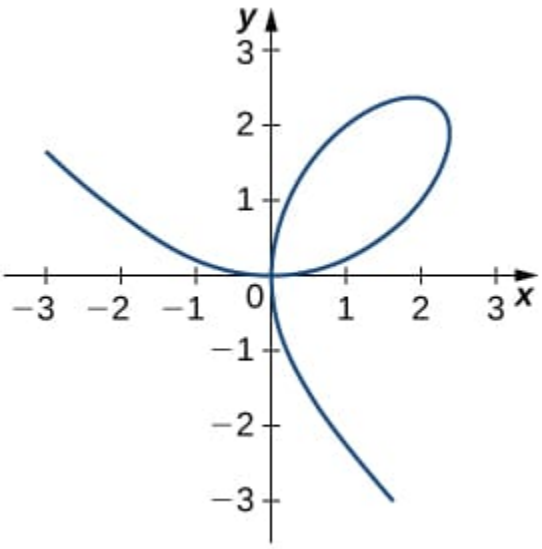


Figure $3.8E.4$: A smooth curve is plotted, resembling a looping or twisted curve that passes through the origin. The key features of the graph include: A looping structure in the first quadrant, where the curve extends upward and loops back down before moving outward to the right. There is downward extension in the fourth quadrant and an upward extention in the second quadrant, where the curve moves away from the origin. The graph is symmetric about the line $y = x$.

a. Find the equation of the tangent line at the point $(2, 1)$. Graph the tangent line along with the folium.
b. Find the equation of the normal line to the tangent line in a. at the point $(2, 1)$.

18. For the equation $x^2 + 2xy - 3y^2 = 0$,

a. Find the equation of the normal to the tangent line at the point $(1, 1)$.
b. At what other point does the normal line in a. intersect the graph of the equation?

Answer

a. $y = -x + 2$
b. $(3, -1)$

19. Find all points on the graph of $y^3 - 27y = x^2 - 90$ at which the tangent line is vertical.
20. For the equation $x^2 + xy + y^2 = 7$,

a. Find the x-intercept(s).
b. Find the slope of the tangent line(s) at the x-intercept(s).
c. What does the value(s) in part b. indicate about the tangent line(s)?

Answer

a. $\left(\pm\sqrt{7}, 0\right)$
b. -2
c. They are parallel since the slope is the same at both intercepts.

21. Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of the equation $\sin^{-1} x + \sin^{-1} y = \frac{\pi}{6}$ at the point $\left(0, \frac{1}{2}\right)$.
22. Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of the equation $\tan^{-1}(x + y) = x^2 + \frac{\pi}{4}$ at the point $(0, 1)$.

Answer

$y = -x + 1$

23. Find y' and y'' for $x^2 + 6xy - 2y^2 = 3$.
24. [T] The number of cell phones produced when x dollars is spent on labor and y dollars is spent on capital invested by a manufacturer can be modeled by the equation $60x^{3/4}y^{1/4} = 3240$.

a. Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ and evaluate at the point $(81, 16)$.
b. Interpret the result of a.

Answer

a. $\frac{dy}{dx} = -0.5926$
b. When \$81 is spent on labor and \$16 is spent on capital, the amount spent on capital is decreasing by \$0.5926 per \$1 spent on labor.

25. [T] The number of cars produced when x dollars is spent on labor and y dollars is spent on capital invested by a manufacturer can be modeled by the equation $30x^{1/3}y^{2/3} = 360$.

(Both $x$and y are measured in thousands of dollars.)

a. Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ and evaluate at the point $(27, 8)$.
b. Interpret the result of part a.

26. The volume of a right circular cone of radius x and height y is given by $V = \frac{1}{3}\pi x^2 y$. Suppose that the volume of the cone is 85π cm^3. Find $\dfrac{dy}{dx}$ when $x = 4$ and $y = 16$.

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -8$$

Exercises 27 - 28

Consider a closed rectangular box with a square base with side x and height y.

27. Find an equation for the surface area of the rectangular box, $S(x, y)$.
28. If the surface area of the rectangular box is 78 square feet, find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ when $x = 3$ feet and $y = 5$ feet.

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -2.67$$

Exercises 29 - 31

Use implicit differentiation to determine y'. Does the answer agree with the formulas we have previously determined?

29. $x = \sin y$
30. $x = \cos y$

Answer

$$y' = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}$$

31. $x = \tan y$

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3.9: Derivatives of Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

Learning Objectives

- Find the derivative of exponential functions.
- Find the derivative of logarithmic functions.
- Use logarithmic differentiation to determine the derivative of a function.

So far, we have learned how to differentiate a variety of functions, including trigonometric, inverse, and implicit functions. In this section, we explore derivatives of exponential and logarithmic functions. As we discussed in Introduction to Functions and Graphs, exponential functions play an important role in modeling population growth and the decay of radioactive materials. Logarithmic functions can help rescale large quantities and are particularly helpful for rewriting complicated expressions.

Derivative of the Exponential Function

Just as when we found the derivatives of other functions, we can find the derivatives of exponential and logarithmic functions using formulas. As we develop these formulas, we need to make certain basic assumptions. The proofs that these assumptions hold are beyond the scope of this course.

First of all, we begin with the assumption that the function $B(x) = b^x, b > 0,$ is defined for every real number and is continuous. In previous courses, the values of exponential functions for all rational numbers were defined—beginning with the definition of b^n, where n is a positive integer—as the product of b multiplied by itself n times. Later, we defined $b^0 = 1, b^{-n} = \frac{1}{b^n}$, for a positive integer n, and $b^{s/t} = (\sqrt[t]{b})^s$ for positive integers s and t. These definitions leave open the question of the value of br where r is an arbitrary real number. By assuming the continuity of $B(x) = b^x, b > 0$, we may interpret b^r as $\lim_{x \to r} b^x$ where the values of x as we take the limit are rational. For example, we may view 4^π as the number satisfying

$$4^3 < 4^\pi < 4^4, 4^{3.1} < 4^\pi < 4^{3.2}, 4^{3.14} < 4^\pi < 4^{3.15},$$

$$4^{3.141} < 4^\pi < 4^{3.142}, 4^{3.1415} < 4^\pi < 4^{3.1416}, \ldots .$$

As we see in the following table, $4^\pi \approx 77.88$.

Table $3.9.1$*: Inputs and outputs of* 4^x

x	4^x	x	4^x
4^3	64	$4^{3.141593}$	77.8802710486
$4^{3.1}$	73.5166947198	$4^{3.1416}$	77.8810268071
$4^{3.14}$	77.7084726013	$4^{3.142}$	77.9242251944
$4^{3.141}$	77.8162741237	$4^{3.15}$	78.7932424541
$4^{3.1415}$	77.8702309526	$4^{3.2}$	84.4485062895
$4^{3.14159}$	77.8799471543	4^4	256

Approximating a Value of 4^π

We also assume that for $B(x) = b^x,\ b > 0$, the value $B'(0)$ of the derivative exists. In this section, we show that by making this one additional assumption, it is possible to prove that the function $B(x)$ is differentiable everywhere.

We make one final assumption: that there is a unique value of $b > 0$ for which $B'(0) = 1$. We define e to be this unique value, as we did in Introduction to Functions and Graphs. Figure provides graphs of the functions $y = 2^x,\ y = 3^x,\ y = 2.7^x$, and $y = 2.8^x$. A visual estimate of the slopes of the tangent lines to these functions at 0 provides evidence that the value of e lies somewhere between 2.7 and 2.8. The function $E(x) = e^x$ is called the **natural exponential function**. Its inverse, $L(x) = \log_e x = \ln x$ is called

the **natural logarithmic function.**

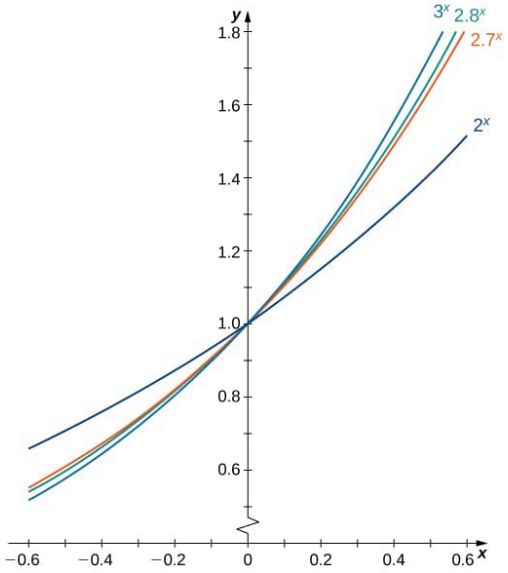


Figure 3.9.1: Four exponential functions are plotted, each with different bases: The function 2^x (dark blue curve) grows the slowest among the four curves. The function 2.7^x (orange curve) grows faster than 2^x but slower than the higher bases. The function 2.8^x (light blue curve) follows closely above 2.7^x. The function 3^x (cyan curve) grows the fastest, appearing above all other curves. All curves pass through the common point $(0, 1)$.

For a better estimate of e, we may construct a table of estimates of $B'(0)$ for functions of the form $B(x) = b^x$. Before doing this, recall that

$$B'(0) = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{b^x - b^0}{x - 0} = \lim_{x \to 0} \frac{b^x - 1}{x} \approx \frac{b^x - 1}{x}$$

for values of x very close to zero. For our estimates, we choose $x = 0.00001$ and $x = -0.00001$

to obtain the estimate

\[\frac{b^{−0.00001}−1}{−0.00001}

See the following table.

Table 3.9.2: Estimates of e

b	\(\frac{b^{−0.00001}−1}{−0.00001}	b	\(\frac{b^{−0.00001}−1}{−0.00001}
2	\(0.693145	2.718	\(1.000002
2.7	\(0.993247	2.719	\(1.000259
2.71	\(0.996944	2.72	\(1.000627
2.718	\(0.999891	2.8	\(1.029614
2.7182	\(0.999965	3	\(1.098606

The evidence from the table suggests that \(2.7182

The graph of $E(x) = e^x$ together with the line $y = x + 1$ are shown in Figure. This line is tangent to the graph of $E(x) = e^x$ at $x = 0$.

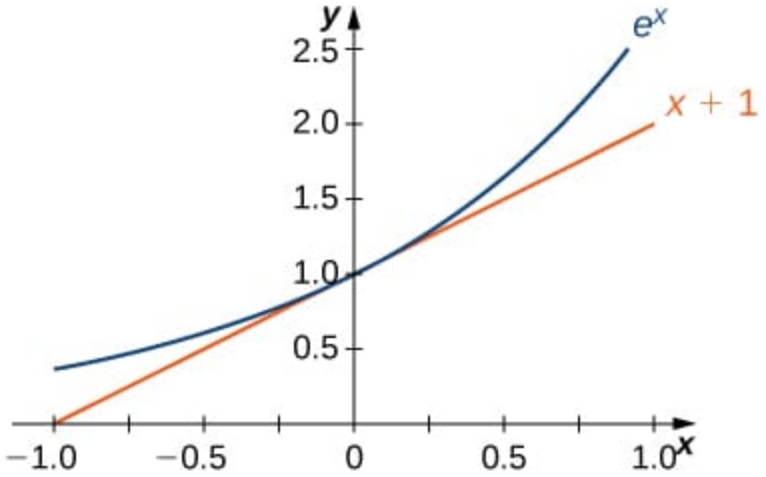


Figure 3.9.2: The exponential function and its tangent line at $(0, 1)$ are graphed: 1) The exponential function e^x (blue curve) is an expoential growth function, passing through the point $(0, 1)$, increasing at an increasing rate throughout, but especially rapidly for positive x; 2) The linear function $x + 1$ (orange line) is a straight line with a slope of 1 and a y-intercept at $(0, 1)$, growing at a constant rate.

Interactive Element

Approximating e Visually

The graph if $y = b^x$ is shown below along with its tangent line and the line $y = x + 1$. Use the slider to change b so that the tangent line is as close to $y = x + 1$ as you can make it. Approximately, what is this value of b? e is the letter used for the perfect fit value.

0

b = 2

Now that we have laid out our basic assumptions, we begin our investigation by exploring the derivative of $B(x) = b^x,\ b > 0$. Recall that we have assumed that $B'(0)$ exists. By applying the limit definition to the derivative we conclude that

$$B'(0) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{b^{0+h} - b^0}{h} = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{b^h - 1}{h}$$

Turning to $B'(x)$, we obtain the following.

Erroneous nesting of equation structures

We see that on the basis of the assumption that $B(x) = b^x$ is differentiable at $0, B(x)$ is not only differentiable everywhere, but its derivative is

$$B'(x) = b^x B'(0).$$

For $E(x) = e^x,\ E'(0) = 1$. Thus, we have $E'(x) = e^x$. (The value of $B'(0)$ for an arbitrary function of the form $B(x) = b^x,\ b > 0$, will be derived later.)

Theorem: Derivative of the Natural Exponential Function

Let $E(x) = e^x$ be the natural exponential function. Then

$$E'(x) = e^x. \tag{3.9.1}$$

In general,

$$\frac{d}{dx}(e^{g(x)}) = e^{g(x)}g'(x) \tag{3.9.2}$$

Example 3.9.1: Derivative of an Exponential Function

Find the derivative of $f(x) = e^{\tan(2x)}$.

Solution:

Using the derivative formula and the chain rule,

$$f'(x) = e^{\tan(2x)}\frac{d}{dx}(\tan(2x)) = e^{\tan(2x)}\sec^2(2x)\cdot 2$$

Example 3.9.2: Combining Differentiation Rules

Find the derivative of $y = \dfrac{e^{x^2}}{x}$.

Solution

Use the derivative of the natural exponential function, the quotient rule, and the chain rule.

$$\begin{aligned} y' &= \frac{(e^{x^2}\cdot 2)x\cdot x - 1\cdot e^{x^2}}{x^2} && \text{Apply the quotient rule.} \\ &= \frac{e^{x^2}(2x^2-1)}{x^2} && \text{Simplify.} \end{aligned}$$

Exercise 3.9.1

Find the derivative of $h(x) = xe^{2x}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 3.9.3: Applying the Natural Exponential Function

A colony of mosquitoes has an initial population of 1000. After t days, the population is given by $A(t) = 1000e^{0.3t}$. Show that the ratio of the rate of change of the population, $A'(t)$, to the population, $A(t)$ is constant.

Solution

First find $A'(t)$. By using the chain rule, we have $A'(t) = 300e^{0.3t}$. Thus, the ratio of the rate of change of the population to the population is given by

$$A'(t) = \frac{300e^{0.3t}}{1000e^{0.3t}} = 0.3.$$

The ratio of the rate of change of the population to the population is the constant 0.3.

Exercise 3.9.2

If $A(t) = 1000e^{0.3t}$ describes the mosquito population after t days, as in the preceding example, what is the rate of change of $A(t)$ after 4 days?

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Derivative of the Logarithmic Function

Now that we have the derivative of the natural exponential function, we can use implicit differentiation to find the derivative of its inverse, the natural logarithmic function.

Theorem: Derivative of the Natural Logarithm Function

If $x > 0$ and $y = \ln x$, then

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x}. \tag{3.9.3}$$

More generally, let $g(x)$ be a differentiable function. For all values of x for which $g\,'(x) > 0$, the derivative of $h(x) = \ln(g(x))$ is given by

$$h'(x) = \frac{1}{g(x)}g'(x). \tag{3.9.4}$$

Proof

If $x > 0$ and $y = \ln x$, then $e^y = x$. Differentiating both sides of this equation results in the equation

$$e^y \frac{dy}{dx} = 1. \tag{3.9.5}$$

Solving for $\frac{dy}{dx}$ yields

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{e^y}. \tag{3.9.6}$$

Finally, we substitute $x = e^y$ to obtain

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x}. \tag{3.9.7}$$

We may also derive this result by applying the inverse function theorem, as follows. Since $y = g(x) = \ln x$

is the inverse of $f(x) = e^x$, by applying the inverse function theorem we have

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{f'(g(x))} = \frac{1}{e^{\ln x}} = \frac{1}{x}. \tag{3.9.8}$$

Using this result and applying the chain rule to $h(x) = \ln(g(x))$ yields

$$h'(x) = \frac{1}{g(x)}g'(x). \tag{3.9.9}$$

□

The graph of $y = \ln x$ and its derivative $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = \dfrac{1}{x}$ are shown in Figure.

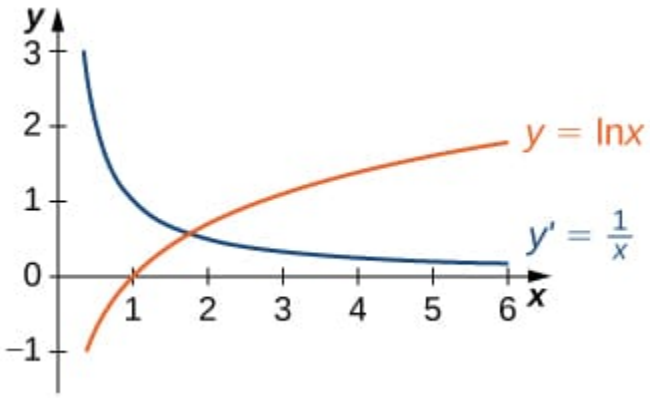


Figure 3.9.3: The natural log function and its derivative function are graphed: 1) The natural logarithm function $y = \ln x$ (orange curve) is an increasing function over $x > 0$. Starting low in the fourth quadrant near $x = 0$, the function increases slowly for as x increases; 2) The derivative of the logarithm function $y' = \frac{1}{x}$ (blue curve) is also graphed over the same domain, starting from positive infinity as near $x = 0$ and decreasing, approaching the x-axis as x increases.

Example 3.9.4: Taking a Derivative of a Natural Logarithm

Find the derivative of $f(x) = \ln(x^3 + 3x - 4)$.

Solution

Use Equation 3.9.9 directly.

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{x^3 + 3x - 4} \cdot (3x^2 + 3) \qquad \text{Use } g(x) = x^3 + 3x - 4 \text{ in } h'(x) = \frac{1}{g(x)} g'(x).$$

$$= \frac{3x^2 + 3}{x^3 + 3x - 4} \qquad \text{Rewrite.}$$

Example 3.9.5: Using Properties of Logarithms in a Derivative

Find the derivative of $f(x) = \ln\left(\dfrac{x^2 \sin x}{2x + 1}\right)$.

Solution

At first glance, taking this derivative appears rather complicated. However, by using the properties of logarithms prior to finding the derivative, we can make the problem much simpler.

$$f(x) = \ln\left(\frac{x^2 \sin x}{2x + 1}\right) = 2 \ln x + \ln(\sin x) - \ln(2x + 1) \qquad \text{Apply properties of logarithms.}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{2}{x} + \cot x - \frac{2}{2x + 1} \qquad \text{Apply sum rule and } h'(x) = \frac{1}{g(x)} g'(x).$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 1 minute 39 seconds

- **Context**: This video demonstrates taking a derivative for a function involving the natural log: Find the derivative of $f(x) = \ln \sqrt{1-x^2}$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 3.9.3

Differentiate: $f(x) = \ln (3x+2)^5$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Now that we can differentiate the natural logarithmic function, we can use this result to find the derivatives of $y = \log_b x$ and $y = b^x$ for $b > 0,\ b \neq 1$.

Theorem: Derivatives of General Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

Let $b > 0, b \neq 1$, and let $g(x)$ be a differentiable function.

i. If, $y = \log_b x$, then

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x \ln b}. \tag{3.9.10}$$

More generally, if $h(x) = \log_b(g(x))$, then for all values of x for which $g(x) > 0$,

$$h'(x) = \frac{g'(x)}{g(x) \ln b}. \tag{3.9.11}$$

ii. If $y = b^x$, then

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = b^x \ln b. \tag{3.9.12}$$

More generally, if $h(x) = b^{g(x)}$, then

$$h'(x) = b^{g(x)} g'(x) \ln b \tag{3.9.13}$$

Proof

If $y = \log_b x$, then $b^y = x$. It follows that $\ln(b^y) = \ln x$. Thus $y \ln b = \ln x$. Solving for y, we have $y = \dfrac{\ln x}{\ln b}$. Differentiating and keeping in mind that $\ln b$ is a constant, we see that

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x \ln b}. \tag{3.9.14}$$

The derivative in Equation 3.9.11 now follows from the chain rule.

If $y = b^x$. then $\ln y = x \ln b$. Using implicit differentiation, again keeping in mind that $\ln b$ is constant, it follows that $\frac{1}{y}\frac{dy}{dx} = \ln b$. Solving for $\frac{dy}{dx}$ and substituting $y = b^x$, we see that

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y \ln b = b^x \ln b. \tag{3.9.15}$$

The more general derivative (Equation 3.9.13) follows from the chain rule.

□

Example 3.9.6: Applying Derivative Formulas

Find the derivative of $h(x) = \dfrac{3^x}{3^x + 2}$.

Solution

Use the quotient rule and Note.

$$h'(x) = \frac{3^x \ln 3(3^x + 2) - 3^x \ln 3(3^x)}{(3^x + 2)^2} \qquad \text{Apply the quotient rule.}$$

$$= \frac{2 \cdot 3^x \ln 3}{(3x + 2)^2} \qquad \text{Simplify.}$$

Example 3.9.7: Finding the Slope of a Tangent Line

Find the slope of the line tangent to the graph of $y = \log_2(3x + 1)$ at $x = 1$.

Solution

To find the slope, we must evaluate $\frac{dy}{dx}$ at $x = 1$. Using Equation, we see that

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3}{(3x + 1)\ln 2}.$$

By evaluating the derivative at $x = 1$, we see that the tangent line has slope

$$\left.\frac{dy}{dx}\right|_{x=1} = \frac{3}{4 \ln 2} = \frac{3}{\ln 16}.$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 1 minute 43 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates taking a derivative of a function involving the logarithm function, base 10, and then finding the equation of the tangent line: Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of $y = logx$ at (10,1).

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Exercise 3.9.4

Find the slope for the line tangent to $y = 3^x$ at $x = 2$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Logarithmic Differentiation

At this point, we can take derivatives of functions of the form $y = (g(x))^n$ for certain values of n, as well as functions of the form $y = b^{g(x)}$, where $b > 0$ and $b \neq 1$. Unfortunately, we still do not know the derivatives of functions such as $y = x^x$ or $y = x^\pi$. These functions require a technique called **logarithmic differentiation**, which allows us to differentiate any function of the form $h(x) = g(x)^{f(x)}$. It can also be used to convert a very complex differentiation problem into a simpler one, such as finding the derivative of $y = \dfrac{x\sqrt{2x+1}}{e^x \sin^3 x}$. We outline this technique in the following problem-solving strategy.

Problem-Solving Strategy: Using Logarithmic Differentiation

1. To differentiate $y = h(x)$ using logarithmic differentiation, take the natural logarithm of both sides of the equation to obtain $\ln y = \ln(h(x))$.
2. Use properties of logarithms to expand $\ln(h(x))$ as much as possible.
3. Differentiate both sides of the equation. On the left we will have $\dfrac{1}{y}\dfrac{dy}{dx}$.
4. Multiply both sides of the equation by y to solve for $\dfrac{dy}{dx}$.
5. Replace y by $h(x)$.

Example 3.9.8: Using Logarithmic Differentiation

Find the derivative of $y = (2x^4 + 1)^{\tan x}$.

Solution

Use logarithmic differentiation to find this derivative.

$$\ln y = \ln (2x^4 + 1)^{\tan x}$$ Step 1. Take the natural logarithm of both sides.

$$\ln y = \tan x \ln(2x^4 + 1)$$ Step 2. Expand using properties of logarithms.

$$\frac{1}{y}\frac{dy}{dx} = \sec^2 x \ln(2x^4 + 1) + \frac{8x^3}{2x^4 + 1} \cdot \tan x$$ Step 3. Differentiate both sides. Use the product rule on the right.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y \cdot (\sec^2 x \ln(2x4 + 1) + \frac{8x^3}{2x^4 + 1} \cdot \tan x)$$ Step 4. Multiply by y on both sides.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = (2x^4 + 1)^{\tan x}(\sec^2 x \ln(2x^4 + 1) + \frac{8x^3}{2x^4 + 1} \cdot \tan x)$$ Step 5. Substitute $y = (2x^4 + 1)^{\tan x}$.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 4 minutes 2 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates using logarithmic differentiation to take a derivative: Find the derivative of $y = \sqrt{2x^3 \sin x}(1 - x)^4$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Example 3.9.9: Extending the Power Rule

Find the derivative of $y = \dfrac{x\sqrt{2x+1}}{e^x \sin^3 x}$.

Solution

This problem really makes use of the properties of logarithms and the differentiation rules given in this chapter.

Table 3.9.3: Guide to finding the derivative

$\ln y = \ln \dfrac{x\sqrt{2x+1}}{e^x \sin^3 x}$	**Step 1. Take the natural logarithm of both sides.**
$\ln y = \ln x + \frac{1}{2}\ln(2x+1) - x\ln e - 3\ln \sin x$	Step 2. Expand using properties of logarithms.
$\dfrac{1}{y}\dfrac{dy}{dx} = \dfrac{1}{x} + \dfrac{1}{2x+1} - 1 - 3\dfrac{\cos x}{\sin x}$	Step 3. Differentiate both sides.
$\dfrac{dy}{dx} = y\left(\dfrac{1}{x} + \dfrac{1}{2x+1} - 1 - 3\cot x\right)$	Step 4. Multiply by y on both sides.
$\dfrac{dy}{dx} = \dfrac{x\sqrt{2x+1}}{e^x \sin^3 x}\left(\dfrac{1}{x} + \dfrac{1}{2x+1} - 1 - 3\cot x\right)$	Step 5. Substitute $y = \dfrac{x\sqrt{2x+1}}{e^x \sin^3 x}$.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 2 minutes 51 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to find the derivative of an exponential function when both the base and exponent are functions of x: Find the derivative of $y = (cosx)^{2x}$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Exercise 3.9.5

Use logarithmic differentiation to find the derivative of $y = x^x$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Exercise 3.9.6

Find the derivative of $y = (\tan x)^{\pi}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- On the basis of the assumption that the exponential function $y = b^x,\ b > 0$ is continuous everywhere and differentiable at 0, this function is differentiable everywhere and there is a formula for its derivative.
- We can use a formula to find the derivative of $y = \ln x$, and the relationship $\log_b x = \dfrac{\ln x}{\ln b}$ allows us to extend our differentiation formulas to include logarithms with arbitrary bases.
- Logarithmic differentiation allows us to differentiate functions of the form $y = g(x)^{f(x)}$ or very complex functions by taking the natural logarithm of both sides and exploiting the properties of logarithms before differentiating.

Key Equations

- **Derivative of the natural exponential function**

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(e^{g(x)}\right) = e^{g(x)}g\,'(x)$$

- **Derivative of the natural logarithmic function**

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\ln g(x)\right) = \frac{1}{g(x)}g\,'(x)$$

- **Derivative of the general exponential function**

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(b^{g(x)}\right) = b^{g(x)}g\,'(x)\ln b$$

- **Derivative of the general logarithmic function**

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\log_b g(x)\right) = \frac{g'(x)}{g(x)\ln b}$$

Glossary

Logarithmic differentiation
is a technique that allows us to differentiate a function by first taking the natural logarithm of both sides of an equation, applying properties of logarithms to simplify the equation, and differentiating implicitly

Answers

Exercise 3.9.1
Don't forget to use the product rule.

Exercise 3.9.1
$h\,'(x) = e^{2x} + 2xe^{2x}$

Exercise 3.9.2
Find $A\,'(4)$.

Exercise 3.9.2
996

Exercise 3.9.3
Use a property of logarithms to simplify before taking the derivative.

Exercise 3.9.3
$f\,'(x) = \dfrac{15}{3x+2}$

Exercise 3.9.4

Evaluate the derivative at $x = 2$.

Exercise 3.9.4

$9 \ln(3)$

Exercise 3.9.5

Follow the problem solving strategy.

Exercise 3.9.5

Solution: $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^x(1 + \ln x)$

Exercise 3.9.6

Use the power rule (since the exponent π is a constant) and the chain rule.

Exercise 3.9.6

$y' = \pi(\tan x)^{\pi-1} \sec^2 x$

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3.9E: Exercises for Section 3.9

Exercises 1 - 15

Find $f'(x)$ for each function.

1. $f(x) = x^2 e^x$

   Answer

   $$f'(x) = 2xe^x + x^2 e^x$$

2. $f(x) = \dfrac{e^{-x}}{x}$
3. $f(x) = e^{x^3 \ln x}$

   Answer

   $$f'(x) = e^{x^3 \ln x}\left(3x^2 \ln x + x^2\right)$$

4. $f(x) = \sqrt{e^{2x} + 2x}$
5. $f(x) = \dfrac{e^x - e^{-x}}{e^x + e^{-x}}$

   Answer

   $$f'(x) = \frac{4}{(e^x + e^{-x})^2}$$

6. $f(x) = \dfrac{10^x}{\ln 10}$
7. $f(x) = 2^{4x} + 4x^2$

   Answer

   $$f'(x) = 2^{4x+2} \cdot \ln 2 + 8x$$

8. $f(x) = 3^{\sin 3x}$
9. $f(x) = x^\pi \cdot \pi^x$

   Answer

   $$f'(x) = \pi x^{\pi-1} \cdot \pi^x + x^\pi \cdot \pi^x \ln \pi$$

10. $f(x) = \ln(4x^3 + x)$
11. $f(x) = \ln \sqrt{5x - 7}$

    Answer

    $$f'(x) = \frac{5}{2(5x - 7)}$$

12. $f(x) = x^2 \ln 9x$
13. $f(x) = \log(\sec x)$

    Answer

    $$f'(x) = \frac{\tan x}{\ln 10}$$

14. $f(x) = \log_7 (6x^4 + 3)^5$
15. $f(x) = 2^x \cdot \log_3 7^{x^2 - 4}$

Answer

$$f'(x) = 2^x \cdot \ln 2 \cdot \log_3 7^{x^2-4} + 2^x \cdot \frac{2x \ln 7}{\ln 3}$$

Exercises 16 - 23

Use logarithmic differentiation to find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

16. $y = x^{\sqrt{x}}$
17. $y = (\sin 2x)^{4x}$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = (\sin 2x)^{4x}\left[4 \cdot \ln(\sin 2x) + 8x \cdot \cot 2x\right]$$

18. $y = (\ln x)^{\ln x}$
19. $y = x^{\log_2 x}$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x^{\log_2 x} \cdot \frac{2 \ln x}{x \ln 2}$$

20. $y = (x^2 - 1)^{\ln x}$
21. $y = x^{\cot x}$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x^{\cot x} \cdot \left[-\csc^2 x \cdot \ln x + \frac{\cot x}{x}\right]$$

22. $y = \dfrac{x + 11}{\sqrt[3]{x^2 - 4}}$
23. $y = x^{-1/2}(x^2 + 3)^{2/3}(3x - 4)^4$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x^{-1/2}(x^2 + 3)^{2/3}(3x - 4)^4 \cdot \left[\frac{-1}{2x} + \frac{4x}{3(x^2 + 3)} + \frac{12}{3x - 4}\right]$$

Exercises 24 - 32

24. [T] Find an equation of the tangent line to the graph of $f(x) = 4xe^{(x^2-1)}$ at the point where

$x = -1$. Graph both the function and the tangent line.

25. [T] Find the equation of the line that is normal to the graph of $f(x) = x \cdot 5^x$ at the point where $x = 1$. Graph both the function and the normal line.

Answer

$y = \frac{-1}{5+5\ln 5}x + \left(5 + \frac{1}{5+5\ln 5}\right)$

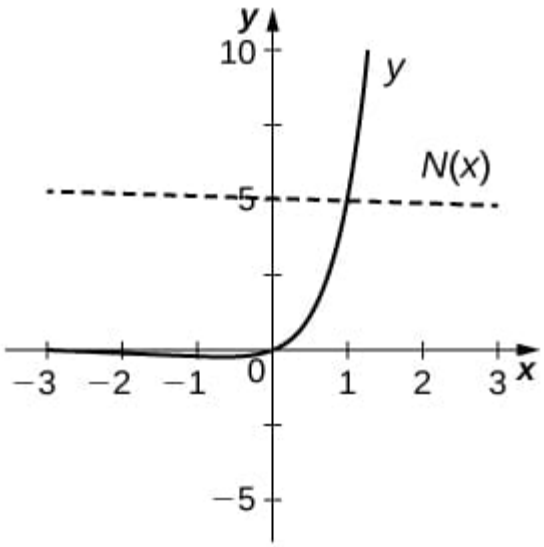


Figure $3.9E.1$: Graph of f is a smooth curve that passes through $(-3, 0), (0, 0), (1.5, 10)$. Graph of $N(x)$ is a horizontal line at $y = 5$.

26. [T] Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of $x^3 - x \ln y + y^3 = 2x + 5$ at the point where $x = 2$. (Hint: Use implicit differentiation to find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.) Graph both the curve and the tangent line.
27. Consider the function $y = x^{1/x}$ for $x > 0$.

    a. Determine the points on the graph where the tangent line is horizontal.
    b. Determine the points on the graph where $y' > 0$ and those where $y' < 0$.

    Answer

    a. $x = e \approx 2.718$
    b. $y' > 0$ for $(0, e)$ and $y' < 0$ for (e, ∞).

28. The formula $I(t) = \frac{\sin t}{e^t}$ is the formula for a decaying alternating current.

    a. Complete the following table with the appropriate values.

Table $3.9E.1$: input and output values of $I(t) = \frac{\sin t}{e^t}$

t	$\frac{\sin t}{e^t}$
0	(i)
$\pi/2$	(ii)
π	(iii)
$3\pi/2$	(vi)
2π	(v)
2π	(vi)
3π	(vii)

    b. Using only the values in the table, determine where the tangent line to the graph of $I(t)$ is horizontal.

29. [T] The population of Toledo, Ohio, in 2000 was approximately 500,000. Assume the population is increasing at a rate of 5% per year.

    a. Write the exponential function that relates the total population as a function of t.
    b. Use part a. to determine the rate at which the population is increasing in t years.

c. Use part b. to determine the rate at which the population is increasing in 10 years

Answer

a. $P = 500,000(1.05)^t$ individuals
b. $P'(t) = 24395 \cdot (1.05)^t$ individuals per year
c. $39,737$ individuals per year

30. [T] An isotope of the element erbium has a half-life of approximately 12 hours. Initially there are 9 grams of the isotope present.

a. Write the exponential function that relates the amount of substance remaining as a function of t, measured in hours.
b. Use a. to determine the rate at which the substance is decaying in t hours.
c. Use b. to determine the rate of decay at $t = 4$ hours.

31. [T] The number of cases of influenza in New York City from the beginning of 1960 to the beginning of 1964 is modeled by the function $N(t) = 5.3e^{0.093t^2 - 0.87t}, (0 \le t \le 4)$, where $N(t)$ gives the number of cases (in thousands) and t is measured in years, with $t = 0$ corresponding to the beginning of 1960.

a. Show work that evaluates $N(0)$ and $N(4)$. Briefly describe what these values indicate about the disease in New York City.
b. Show work that evaluates $N'(0)$ and $N'(3)$. Briefly describe what these values indicate about the disease in the United States.

Answer

a. At the beginning of 1960 there were 5.3 thousand cases of the disease in New York City. At the beginning of 1963 there were approximately 723 cases of the disease in the United States.
b. At the beginning of 1960 the number of cases of the disease was decreasing at rate of -4.611 thousand per year; at the beginning of 1963, the number of cases of the disease was decreasing at a rate of -0.2808 thousand per year.

32. [T] The relative rate of change of a differentiable function $y = f(x)$ is given by $\frac{100 \cdot f'(x)}{f(x)}$ One model for population growth is a Gompertz growth function, given by $P(x) = ae^{-b \cdot e^{-cx}}$ where a, b, and c are constants.

a. Find the relative rate of change formula for the generic Gompertz function.
b. Use part a. to find the relative rate of change of a population in $x = 20$ months when $a = 204,\ \ b = 0.0198$, and $c = 0.15$.
c. Briefly interpret what the result of part b. means.

Exercises 33 - 36

Use the population of New York City from 1790 to 1860, given in the following table.

Table $3.9E.2$: Population for given years since 1970

Year since 1790	Population
0	33,131
10	60,515
20	96,373
30	123,706
40	202,300
50	312,710
60	515,547
70	813,669

New York City Population Over TimeSource: Link to population in US [en.Wikipedia.org]

_by_population_by_decade

33. [T] Using a computer program or a calculator, fit a growth curve to the data of the form $p = ab^t$.

Answer

$p = 35741(1.045)^t$

34. [T] Using the exponential best fit for the data, write a table containing the derivatives evaluated at each year.
35. [T] Using the exponential best fit for the data, write a table containing the second derivatives evaluated at each year.

Answer

Table 3.9E.3: Input and output values of p''

Year since 1790	P''
0	69.25
10	107.5
20	167.0
30	259.4
40	402.8
50	625.5
60	971.4
70	1508.5

36. [T] Using the tables of first and second derivatives and the best fit, answer the following questions:

a. Will the model be accurate in predicting the future population of New York City? Why or why not?
b. Estimate the population in 2010. Was the prediction correct from part a.?

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3.10: Chapter 3 Review Exercises

Exercises 1 - 4

True or False? Justify the answer with a proof or a counterexample.

1. Every function has a derivative.

   Answer

   False

2. A continuous function has a continuous derivative.
3. A continuous function has a derivative.

   Answer

   False

4. If a function is differentiable, it is continuous.

Exercises 5 - 6

Use the limit definition of the derivative to exactly evaluate the derivative.

5. $f(x) = \sqrt{x+4}$

   Answer

   $$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x+4}}$$

6. $f(x) = \dfrac{3}{x}$

Exercises 7 - 14

Find the derivatives of the given functions.

7. $f(x) = 3x^3 - \dfrac{4}{x^2}$

   Answer

   $$f'(x) = 9x^2 + \tfrac{8}{x^3}$$

8. $f(x) = (4 - x^2)^3$
9. $f(x) = e^{\sin x}$

   Answer

   $$f'(x) = e^{\sin x}\cos x$$

10. $f(x) = \ln(x+2)$
11. $f(x) = x^2\cos x + x\tan x$

    Answer

    $$f'(x) = x\sec^2 x + 2x\cos x + \tan x - x^2\sin x$$

12. $f(x) = \sqrt{3x^2+2}$
13. $f(x) = \dfrac{x}{4}\sin^{-1}(x)$

Answer

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} + \sin^{-1} x\right)$$

14. $x^2y = (y+2) + xy\sin x$

Exercises 15 - 17

Find the indicated derivatives of various orders.

15. First derivative of $y = x(\ln x)\cos x$

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos x \cdot (\ln x + 1) - x(\ln x)\sin x$$

16. Third derivative of $y = (3x+2)^2$
17. Second derivative of $y = 4^x + x^2 \sin x$

Answer

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 4^x(\ln 4)^2 + 2\sin x + 4x\cos x - x^2\sin x$$

Exercises 18 - 19

Find the equation of the tangent line to the following equations at the specified point.

18. $y = \cos^{-1}(x) + x$ at $x = 0$
19. $y = x + e^x - \dfrac{1}{x}$ at $x = 1$

Answer

$$y = (2+e)x - 2$$

Exercises 20 - 21

Draw the derivative of the functions with the given graphs.

20.

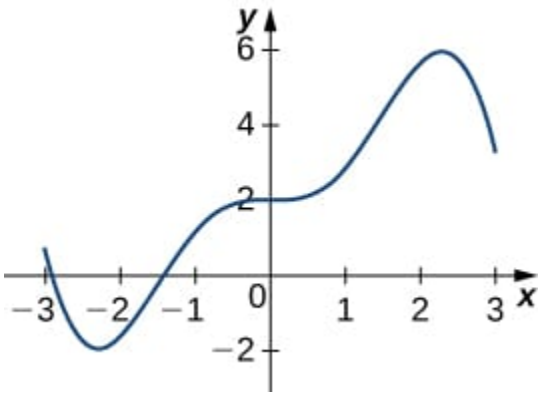


Figure 3.10.1: A smooth curve represents a function that oscillates, showing both local minimum and maximum points. The function starts at about $(-3, 0)$, then dips to a local minimum around x=−2, rises to a near flat graph at $x = 0$, and then continues to rise further before turning around to curve downward at about $x = 2.2$.

21.

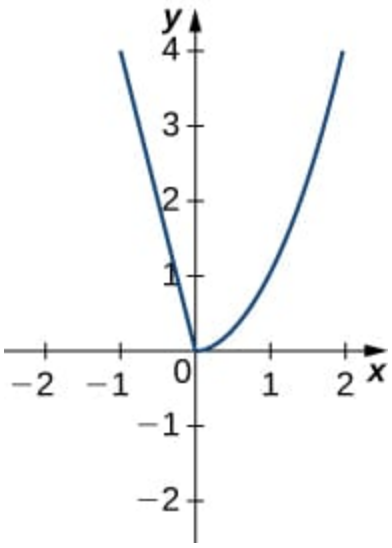


Figure 3.10.2: The given graph is continuous and has 2 section: For $x \leq 0$, the function is a line with slope of about -4. For $x \geq 0$, the graph is shaped like a standard parabola.

Answer

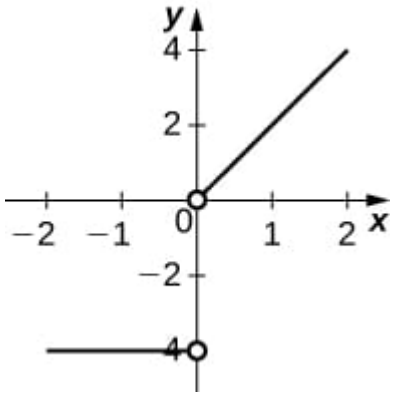


Figure 3.10.3: A piecewise function is plotted with two distinct segments: For negative x-values, the function is a horizontal line at $y = -4$, extending to the left. There is an open circle at $(0, -4)$. For positive x-values, the function is a diagonal line with a positive slope, starting from the origin (0,0), though there is an open hole there, and increasing as x increases.

Exercises 22 and 23

These exercises concern the water level in Ocean City, New Jersey, in January, which can be approximated by $w(t) = 1.9 + 2.9\cos(\frac{\pi}{6}t)$, where t is measured in hours after midnight, and the height is measured in feet.

22. Find and graph the derivative. What is the physical meaning?
23. Find $w\,'(3)$. What is the physical meaning of this value?

Answer

$w\,'(3) = -\frac{2.9\pi}{6}$. At 3 a.m. the tide is decreasing at a rate of 1.514 ft/hr.

Exercises 24 and 25

Consider the wind speeds of Hurricane Katrina, which affected New Orleans, Louisiana, in August 2005. The data are displayed in a table.

Table 3.10.1: Wind Speeds

Hours after Midnight, August 26	Wind Speed (mph)
1	45
5	75
11	100
29	115
49	145
58	175
73	155
81	125
85	95
107	35

Wind Speeds of Hurricane KatrinaSource: news.nationalgeographic.com/n..._timeline.html.

24. Using the table, estimate the derivative of the wind speed at hour 39. What is the physical meaning?
25. Estimate the derivative of the wind speed at hour 83. What is the physical meaning?

Answer

-7.5. The wind speed is decreasing at a rate of 7.5 mph/hr

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4: APPLICATIONS OF DERIVATIVES

A rocket launch involves two related quantities that change over time. Being able to solve this type of problem is just one application of derivatives introduced in this chapter. We also look at how derivatives are used to find maximum and minimum values of functions. As a result, we will be able to solve applied optimization problems, such as maximizing revenue and minimizing surface area. In addition, we examine how derivatives are used to evaluate complicated limits, to approximate roots of functions, and to provide accurate graphs of functions.

A rocket is being launched from the ground and cameras are recording the event. A video camera is located on the ground a certain distance from the launch pad. At what rate should the angle of inclination (the angle the camera makes with the ground) change to allow the camera to record the flight of the rocket as it heads upward?



Figure 4.1: As a rocket is being launched, at what rate should the angle of a video camera change to continue viewing the rocket? (CC BY 2.0, Steve Jurvetson via Wikimedia Commons)

4.1: Related Rates

4.1E: Exercises for Section 4.1

4.2: Linear Approximations and Differentials

4.2E: Exercises for Section 4.2

4.3: Maxima and Minima

4.3E: Exercises for Section 4.3

4.4: The Mean Value Theorem

4.4E: Exercises for Section 4.4

4.5: Derivatives and the Shape of a Graph

4.5E: Exercises for Section 4.5

4.6: Limits at Infinity and Asymptotes

4.6E: Exercises for Section 4.6

4.7: L'Hôpital's Rule

4.7E: Exercises for Section 4.7

4.8: Applied Optimization Problems

4.8E: Exercises for Section 4.8

4.9: Newton's Method

4.9E: Exercises for Section 4.9

4.10: Antiderivatives

4.10E: Exercises for Section 4.10

4.11: Chapter 4 Review Exercises

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4.1: Related Rates

Learning Objectives

- Express changing quantities in terms of derivatives.
- Find relationships among the derivatives in a given problem.
- Use the chain rule to find the rate of change of one quantity that depends on the rate of change of other quantities.

We have seen that for quantities that are changing over time, the rates at which these quantities change are given by derivatives. If two related quantities are changing over time, the rates at which the quantities change are related. For example, if a balloon is being filled with air, both the radius of the balloon and the volume of the balloon are increasing. In this section, we consider several problems in which two or more related quantities are changing and we study how to determine the relationship between the rates of change of these quantities.

Setting up Related-Rates Problems

In many real-world applications, related quantities are changing with respect to time. For example, if we consider the balloon example again, we can say that the rate of change in the volume, V, is related to the rate of change in the radius, r. In this case, we say that $\frac{dV}{dt}$ and $\frac{dr}{dt}$ are **related rates** because V is related to r. Here we study several examples of related quantities that are changing with respect to time and we look at how to calculate one rate of change given another rate of change.

Example 4.1.1: Inflating a Balloon

A spherical balloon is being filled with air at the constant rate of $2cm^3/sec$ (Figure). How fast is the radius increasing when the radius is $3cm$?

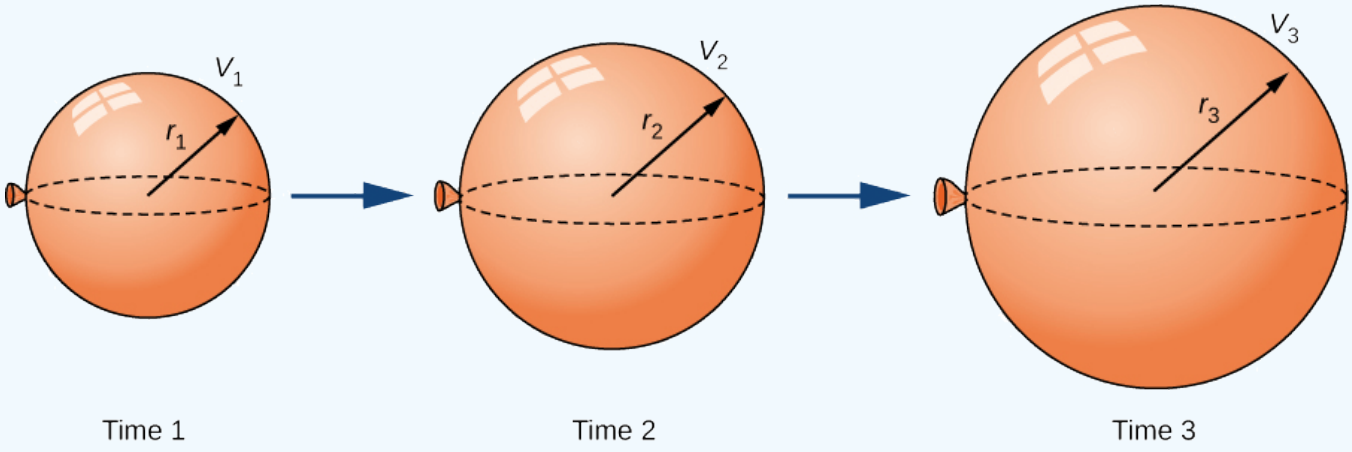


Figure 4.1.1: As the balloon is being filled with air, both the radius and the volume are increasing with respect to time.

Solution

The volume of a sphere of radius r centimeters is

$$V = \tfrac{4}{3}\pi r^3 \text{ cm}^3.$$

Since the balloon is being filled with air, both the volume and the radius are functions of time. Therefore, t seconds after beginning to fill the balloon with air, the volume of air in the balloon is

$$V(t) = \tfrac{4}{3}\pi \big[r(t)\big]^3 \text{cm}^3.$$

Differentiating both sides of this equation with respect to time and applying the chain rule, we see that the rate of change in the volume is related to the rate of change in the radius by the equation

$$V'(t) = 4\pi\big[r(t)\big]^2 r'(t).$$

The balloon is being filled with air at the constant rate of $2\ \text{cm}^3/\text{sec}$, so $V'(t) = 2\ \text{cm}^3/\text{sec}$. Therefore,

$$2\ \text{cm}^3/\text{sec} = \Big(4\pi\big[r(t)\big]^2\ \text{cm}^2\Big) \cdot \Big(r'(t)\ \ \text{cm/s}\Big),$$

which implies

$$r'(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi\big[r(t)\big]^2}\ \ \text{cm/sec}.$$

When the radius $r = 3$ cm,

$$r'(t) = \frac{1}{18\pi}\ \ \text{cm/sec}.$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video length**: 3 minutes 54 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates related rates using a balloon being inflated.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 4.1.1

What is the instantaneous rate of change of the radius when $r = 6$ cm?

Solution available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Before looking at other examples, let's outline the problem-solving strategy we will be using to solve related-rates problems.

Problem-Solving Strategy: Solving a Related-Rates Problem

1. Assign symbols to all variables involved in the problem. Draw a figure if applicable.
2. State, in terms of the variables, the information that is given and the rate to be determined.
3. Find an equation relating the variables introduced in step 1.
4. Using the chain rule, differentiate both sides of the equation found in step 3 with respect to the independent variable. This new equation will relate the derivatives.
5. Substitute all known values into the equation from step 4, then solve for the unknown rate of change

Note that when solving a related-rates problem, it is crucial not to substitute known values too soon. For example, if the value for a changing quantity is substituted into an equation before both sides of the equation are differentiated, then that quantity will behave as a constant and its derivative will not appear in the new equation found in step 4. We examine this potential error in the following example.

Examples of the Process

Let's now implement the strategy just described to solve several related-rates problems. The first example involves a plane flying overhead. The relationship we are studying is between the speed of the plane and the rate at which the distance between the plane and a person on the ground is changing.

Example 4.1.2: An Airplane Flying at a Constant Elevation

An airplane is flying overhead at a constant elevation of 4000 ft. A man is viewing the plane from a position 3000 ft from the base of a radio tower. The airplane is flying horizontally away from the man. If the plane is flying at the rate of 600 ft/sec, at what rate is the distance between the man and the plane increasing when the plane passes over the radio tower?

Solution

Step 1. Draw a picture, introducing variables to represent the different quantities involved.

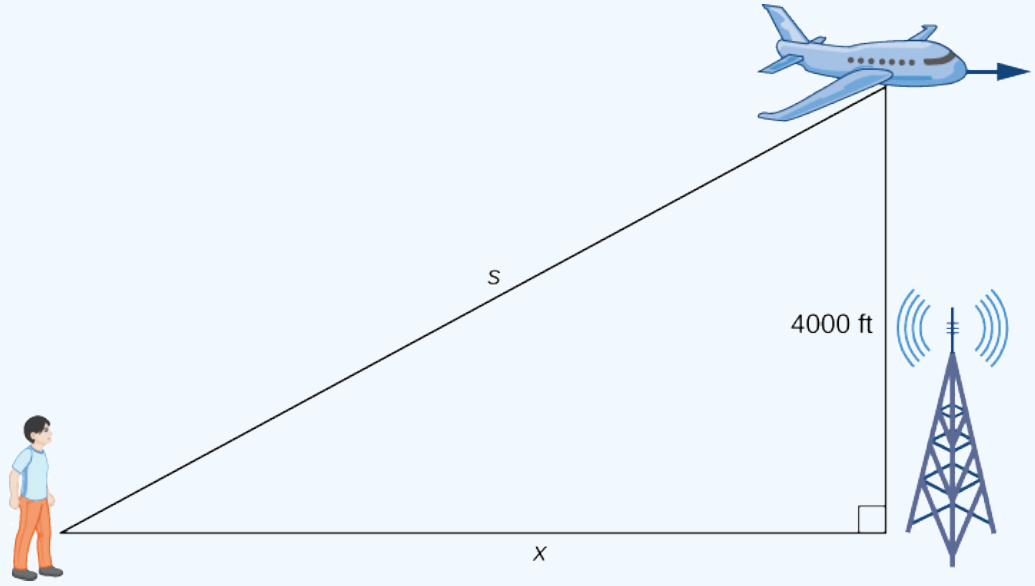


Figure 4.1.2: An airplane is flying at a constant height of 4000 ft. The distance between the person and the airplane and the person and the place on the ground directly below the airplane are changing. We denote those quantities with the variables s and x, respectively.

As shown, x denotes the distance between the man and the position on the ground directly below the airplane. The variable s denotes the distance between the man and the plane. Note that both x and s are functions of time. We do not introduce a variable for the height of the plane because it remains at a constant elevation of 4000 ft. Since an object's height above the ground is measured as the shortest distance between the object and the ground, the line segment of length 4000 ft is perpendicular to the line segment of length x feet, creating a right triangle.

Step 2. Since x denotes the horizontal distance between the man and the point on the ground below the plane, dx/dt represents the speed of the plane. We are told the speed of the plane is 600 ft/sec. Therefore, $\frac{dx}{dt} = 600$ ft/sec. Since we are asked to find the rate of change in the distance between the man and the plane when the plane is directly above the radio tower, we need to find ds/dt when $x = 3000$ ft.

Step 3. From the figure, we can use the **Pythagorean theorem** to write an equation relating x and s:

$$[x(t)]^2 + 4000^2 = [s(t)]^2.$$

Step 4. Differentiating this equation with respect to time and using the fact that the derivative of a constant is zero, we arrive at the equation

$$x\frac{dx}{dt} = s\frac{ds}{dt}.$$

Step 5. Find the rate at which the distance between the man and the plane is increasing when the plane is directly over the radio tower. That is, find $\frac{ds}{dt}$ when $x = 3000$ ft. Since the speed of the plane is 600 ft/sec, we know that $\frac{dx}{dt} = 600$ ft/sec. We are not given an explicit value for s; however, since we are trying to find $\frac{ds}{dt}$ when $x = 3000$ ft, we can use the Pythagorean theorem to determine the distance s when $x = 3000$ ft and the height is 4000 ft. Solving the equation

$$3000^2 + 4000^2 = s^2$$

for s, we have $s = 5000$ ft at the time of interest. Using these values, we conclude that ds/dt

is a solution of the equation

$$(3000)(600) = (5000) \cdot \frac{ds}{dt}.$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = \frac{3000 \cdot 600}{5000} = 360 \text{ ft/sec}.$$

Note: When solving related-rates problems, it is important not to substitute values for the variables too soon. For example, in step 3, we related the variable quantities $x(t)$ and $s(t)$ by the equation

$$[x(t)]^2 + 4000^2 = [s(t)]^2.$$

Since the plane remains at a constant height, it is not necessary to introduce a variable for the height, and we are allowed to use the constant 4000 to denote that quantity. However, the other two quantities are changing. If we mistakenly substituted $x(t) = 3000$ into the equation before differentiating, our equation would have been

$$3000^2 + 4000^2 = [s(t)]^2.$$

After differentiating, our equation would become

$$0 = s(t)\frac{ds}{dt}.$$

As a result, we would incorrectly conclude that $\frac{ds}{dt} = 0$.

Exercise 4.1.2

What is the speed of the plane if the distance between the person and the plane is increasing at the rate of 300 ft/sec?

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

We now return to the problem involving the rocket launch from the beginning of the chapter.

Example 4.1.3: Chapter Opener - A Rocket Launch

A rocket is launched so that it rises vertically. A camera is positioned 5000 ft from the launch pad. When the rocket is 1000 ft above the launch pad, its velocity is 600 ft/sec.



Figure 4.1.3: A rocket is being launched. (CC BY 2.0, Steve Jurvetson via Wikimedia Commons)

Find the necessary rate of change of the camera's angle as a function of time so that it stays focused on the rocket.

Solution

Step 1. Draw a picture introducing the variables.

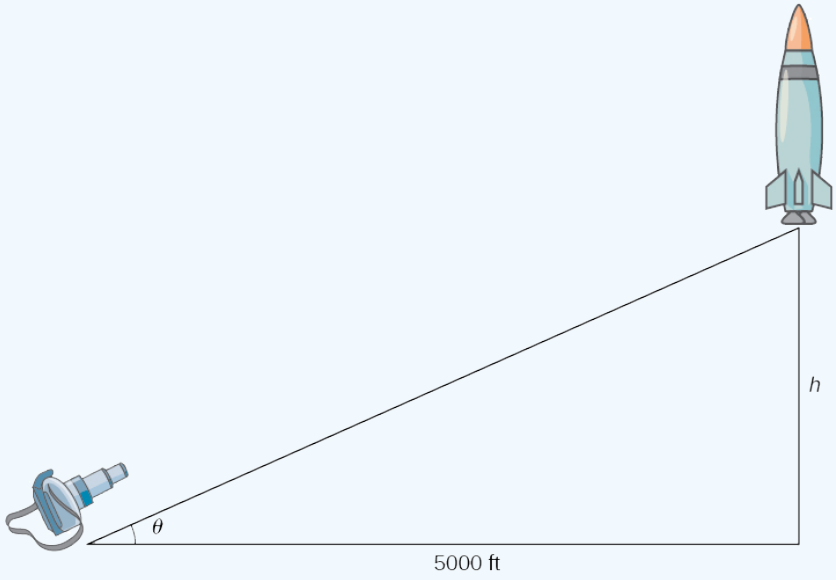


Figure 4.1.4: A camera is positioned 5000 ft from the launch pad of the rocket. The height of the rocket and the angle of the camera are changing with respect to time. We denote those quantities with the variables h and θ,respectively.

Let h denote the height of the rocket above the launch pad and θ be the angle between the camera lens and the ground.

Step 2. We are trying to find the rate of change in the angle of the camera with respect to time when the rocket is 1000 ft off the ground. That is, we need to find $\frac{d\theta}{dt}$ when $h = 1000$ ft. At that time, we know the velocity of the rocket is $\frac{dh}{dt} = 600$ ft/sec.

Step 3. Now we need to find an equation relating the two quantities that are changing with respect to time: h and θ. How can we create such an equation? Using the fact that we have drawn a right triangle, it is natural to think about trigonometric functions. Recall that $\tan\theta$ is the ratio of the length of the opposite side of the triangle to the length of the adjacent side. Thus, we have

$$\tan\theta = \frac{h}{5000}.$$

This gives us the equation

$$h = 5000\tan\theta.$$

Step 4. Differentiating this equation with respect to time t, we obtain

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = 5000\sec^2\theta\frac{d\theta}{dt}.$$

Step 5. We want to find $\frac{d\theta}{dt}$ when $h = 1000$ ft. At this time, we know that $\frac{dh}{dt} = 600$ ft/sec. We need to determine $\sec^2\theta$. Recall that $\sec\theta$ is the ratio of the length of the hypotenuse to the length of the adjacent side. We know the length of the adjacent side is 5000 ft. To determine the length of the hypotenuse, we use the Pythagorean theorem, where the length of one leg is 5000 ft, the length of the other leg is $h = 1000$ ft, and the length of the hypotenuse is c feet as shown in the following figure.

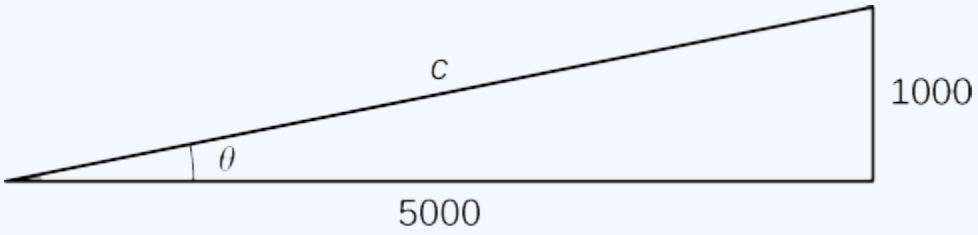


Figure 4.1.5: A right triangle has one angle with measure θ. The hypotenuse is c, the side length opposite the angle with measure θ is 1000, and the side adjacent to the angle with measure θ is 5000.

We see that

$$1000^2 + 5000^2 = c^2$$

and we conclude that the hypotenuse is

$$c = 1000\sqrt{26}\text{ ft}.$$

Therefore, when $h = 1000$, we have

$$\sec^2\theta = \left(\frac{1000\sqrt{26}}{5000}\right)^2 = \frac{26}{25}.$$

Recall from step 4 that the equation relating $\frac{d\theta}{dt}$ to our known values is

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = 5000\sec^2\theta\frac{d\theta}{dt}.$$

When $h = 1000$ ft, we know that $\frac{dh}{dt} = 600$ ft/sec and $\sec^2\theta = \frac{26}{25}$. Substituting these values into the previous equation, we arrive at the equation

$$600 = 5000\left(\tfrac{26}{25}\right)\frac{d\theta}{dt}.$$

Therefore, $\frac{d\theta}{dt} = \frac{3}{26}$ rad/sec.

Exercise 4.1.3

What rate of change is necessary for the elevation angle of the camera if the camera is placed on the ground at a distance of 4000 ft from the launch pad and the velocity of the rocket is 500 ft/sec when the rocket is 2000 ft off the ground?

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 4.1.4

A bird is flying horizontally 40 feet above the ground at a rate of 20 feet per second towards the camera. How fast will the camera angle need to change when the bird is a distance of 50 feet from the camera?

Solution

- **Video length**: 4 minutes 13 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates a related rates problem involving a changing angle as a bird flies overhead.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Example 4.1.5

Two airplanes are both heading towards Atlanta. The first is traveling at 600 miles per hour and is 400 miles north of Atlanta. The second is traveling 550 miles per hour and is 300 miles west of Atlanta. How fast is the distance between them decreasing?

Solution

- **Video length**: 4 minutes 7 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates a related rates problem involving airplanes approaching a city from different directions.

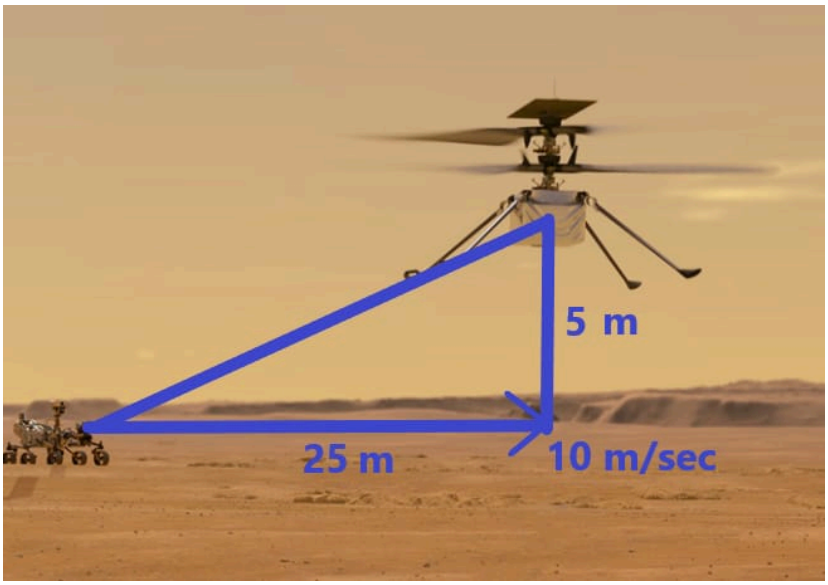
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Interactive Element

Related Rates and Filming the Mars Ingenuity Helicopter

NASA plans on using the Perseverance rover to film the Ingenuity mars helicopter as it flies away from it on its next flight. In particular, it will be flying at a rate of 10 meters per second at a constant 5 meters above the rover's camera and will be traveling directly away from the rover. Determine how fast must the rover's camera's angle be programmed to decrease when Ingenuity has a horizontal distance of 25 meters away from the Perseverance rover? Round your answer to three decimal places. Note that if NASA gets it wrong, then the flight will be a disaster, since Ingenuity will not be filmed. After you put in the angle, click on the "Fly" button and watch what happens.



rad/sec Fly



Pictures by NASA, JPL-Caltech

Example 4.1.6

A 6-foot man is walking away from a 20-foot high street light at 5 feet per second. How fast is the length of his shadow increasing when the man is 10 feet from the base of the light?

Solution

- **Video length**: 3 minutes 33 seconds
- **Context**: Related Rates: Length of a Shadow Moving.

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In the next example, we consider water draining from a cone-shaped funnel. We compare the rate at which the level of water in the cone is decreasing with the rate at which the volume of water is decreasing.

Example 4.1.7: Water Draining from a Funnel

Water is draining from the bottom of a cone-shaped funnel at the rate of $0.03\ \text{ft}^3/\text{sec}$. The height of the funnel is 2 ft and the radius at the top of the funnel is 1 ft. At what rate is the height of the water in the funnel changing when the height of the water is $\frac{1}{2}$ ft?

Solution

Step 1: Draw a picture introducing the variables.

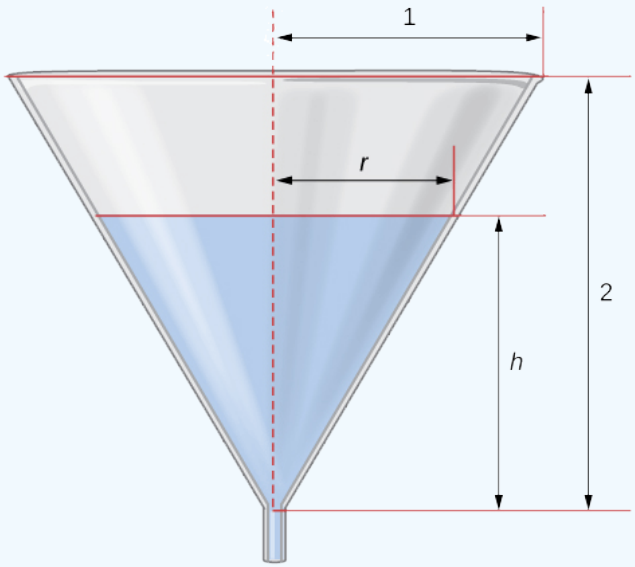


Figure 4.1.7: Water is draining from a funnel of height 2 ft and radius 1 ft. The height of the water and the radius of water are changing over time. We denote these quantities with the variables h and r, respectively.

Let h denote the height of the water in the funnel, r denote the radius of the water at its surface, and V denote the volume of the water.

Step 2: We need to determine $\frac{dh}{dt}$ when $h = \frac{1}{2}$ ft. We know that $\frac{dV}{dt} = -0.03$ ft/sec.

Step 3: The volume of water in the cone is

$$V = \tfrac{1}{3}\pi r^2 h.$$

From the figure, we see that we have similar triangles. Therefore, the ratio of the sides in the two triangles is the same. Therefore, $\frac{r}{h} = \frac{1}{2}$ or $r = \frac{h}{2}$. Using this fact, the equation for volume can be simplified to

$$V = \tfrac{1}{3}\pi\left(\tfrac{h}{2}\right)^2 h = \tfrac{\pi}{12}h^3.$$

Step 4: Applying the chain rule while differentiating both sides of this equation with respect to time t, we obtain

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{\pi}{4}h^2\frac{dh}{dt}.$$

Step 5: We want to find $\frac{dh}{dt}$ when $h = \frac{1}{2}$ ft. Since water is leaving at the rate of $0.03\ \text{ft}^3/\text{sec}$, we know that $\frac{dV}{dt} = -0.03\ \text{ft}^3/\text{sec}$. Therefore,

$$-0.03 = \frac{\pi}{4}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2\frac{dh}{dt},$$

which implies

$$-0.03 = \frac{\pi}{16}\frac{dh}{dt}.$$

It follows that

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = -\frac{0.48}{\pi} = -0.153\,\text{ft/sec}.$$

Exercise 4.1.4

At what rate is the height of the water changing when the height of the water is $\frac{1}{4}$ ft?

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- To solve a related rates problem, first draw a picture that illustrates the relationship between the two or more related quantities that are changing with respect to time.
- In terms of the quantities, state the information given and the rate to be found.
- Find an equation relating the quantities.
- Use differentiation, applying the chain rule as necessary, to find an equation that relates the rates.
- Be sure not to substitute a variable quantity for one of the variables until after finding an equation relating the rates.

Glossary

Related rates
Rates of change associated with two or more related quantities that are changing over time

Contributors and Attributions

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Answers

Exercise 4.1.1
$\frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{1}{2\pi r^2}$

Exercise 4.1.1
$\frac{1}{72\pi}$ cm/sec, or approximately 0.0044 cm/sec

Exercise 4.1.2
$\frac{ds}{dt} = 300$ ft/sec

Exercise 4.1.2
500 ft/sec

Exercise 4.1.3
Find $\frac{d\theta}{dt}$ when $h = 2000$ ft. At that time, $\frac{dh}{dt} = 500$ ft/sec.

Exercise 4.1.3
$\frac{1}{10}$ rad/sec

Exercise 4.1.4
We need to find $\frac{dh}{dt}$ when $h = \frac{1}{4}$.

Exercise 4.1.4
-0.61 ft/sec

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4.1E: Exercises for Section 4.1

Exercises 1 - 3

Find the quantities for the given equation.

1. Find $\frac{dy}{dt}$ at $x = 1$ and $y = x^2 + 3$ if $\frac{dx}{dt} = 4$.

   Answer

   $$\frac{dy}{dt} = 8$$

2. Find $\frac{dx}{dt}$ at $x = -2$ and $y = 2x^2 + 1$ if $\frac{dy}{dt} = -1$.
3. Find $\frac{dz}{dt}$ at $(x, y) = (1, 3)$ and $z^2 = x^2 + y^2$ if $\frac{dx}{dt} = 4$ and $\frac{dy}{dt} = 3$.

   Answer

   $$\frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{13}{\sqrt{10}}$$

Exercises 4 - 15

Sketch the situation if necessary and used related rates to solve for the quantities.

4. [T] If two electrical resistors are connected in parallel, the total resistance (measured in ohms, denoted by the Greek capital letter omega, Ω) is given by the equation $\frac{1}{R} = \frac{1}{R_1} + \frac{1}{R_2}$. If R_1 is increasing at a rate of $0.5\Omega/\text{min}$ and R_2 decreases at a rate of $1.1\Omega/\text{min}$, at what rate does the total resistance change when $R_1 = 20\Omega$ and $R_2 = 50\Omega/\text{min}$?
5. A 10-ft ladder is leaning against a wall. If the top of the ladder slides down the wall at a rate of 2 ft/sec, how fast is the bottom moving along the ground when the bottom of the ladder is 5 ft from the wall?

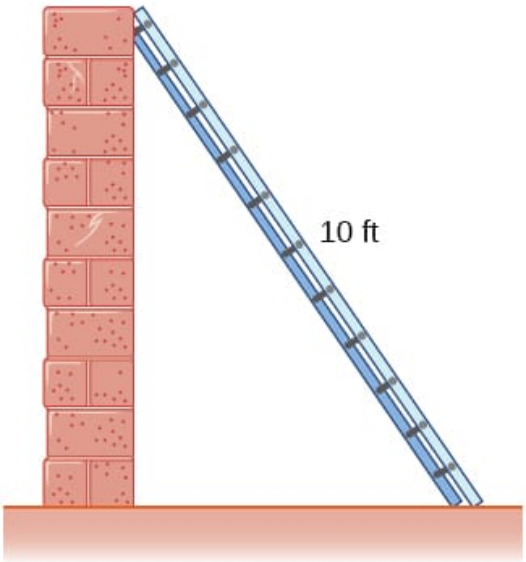


Figure $4.1E.1$: A right triangle is formed by a ladder leaning up against a brick wall. The ladder is 10 ft long.

Answer

$2\sqrt{3}$ ft/sec

6. A 25-ft ladder is leaning against a wall. If we push the ladder toward the wall at a rate of 1 ft/sec, and the bottom of the ladder is initially 20 ft away from the wall, how fast does the ladder move up the wall 5 sec after we start pushing?
7. Two airplanes are flying in the air at the same height: airplane A is flying east at 250 mi/h and airplane B is flying north at

300 mi/h. If they are both heading to the same airport, located 30 miles east of airplane A and 40 miles north of airplane B, at what rate is the distance between the airplanes changing?

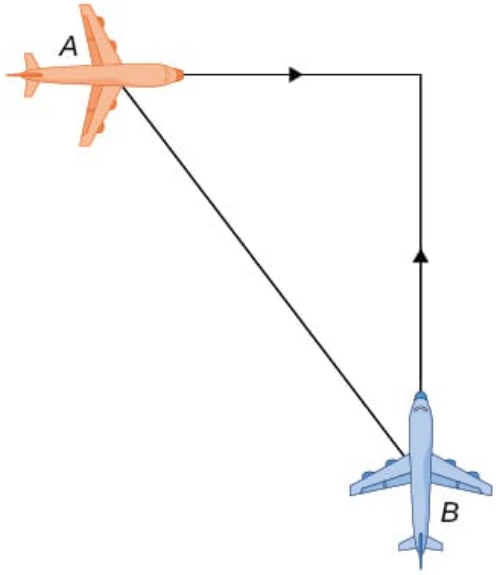


Figure $4.1E.2$: A right triangle is formed by two airplanes A and B moving perpendicularly towards each other. The hypotenuse is the distance between planes A and B. The other sides are extensions of each plane's path until they meet.

Answer

8. The distance is decreasing at 390 mi/h. You and a friend are riding your bikes to a restaurant that you think is east; your friend thinks the restaurant is north. You both leave from the same point, with you riding at 16 mph east and your friend riding 12 mph north. After you traveled 4 mi, at what rate is the distance between you changing?

9. Two buses are driving along parallel freeways that are 5 mi apart, one heading east and the other heading west. Assuming that each bus drives a constant 55 mph, find the rate at which the distance between the buses is changing when they are 13 mi apart (as the crow flies), heading toward each other.

Answer

The distance between them shrinks at a rate of $\frac{1320}{13} \approx 101.5$ mph.

10. A 6-ft-tall person walks away from a 10-ft lamppost at a constant rate of 3 ft/sec. What is the rate that the tip of the shadow moves away from the pole when the person is 10 ft away from the pole?

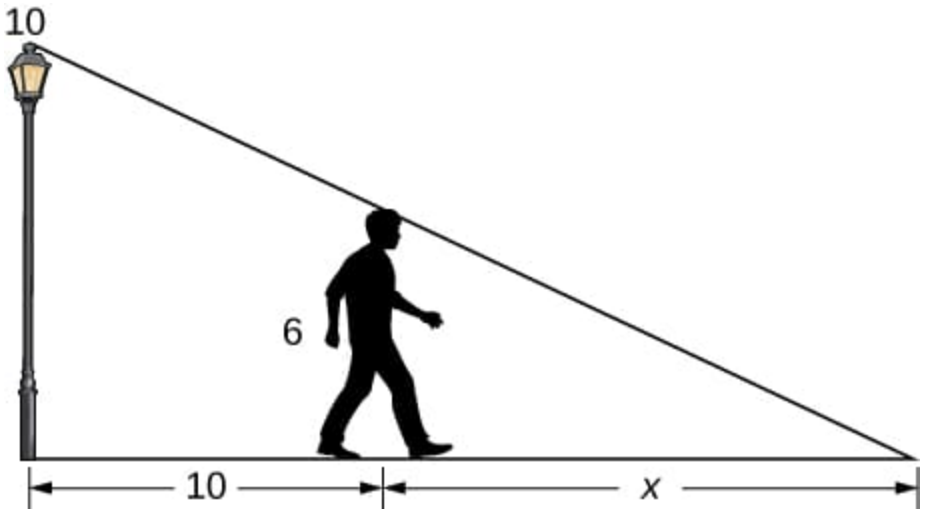


Figure $4.1E.3$: A lamppost is shown that is 10 ft high. To its right, there is a person who is 6 ft tall. There is a line from the top of the lamppost that touches the top of the person's head and then continues to the ground. The length from the end of this line to where the lamppost touches the ground is $10 + x$. The distance from the lamppost to the person on the ground is 10, and the distance from the person to the end of the line is x.

11. Using the previous problem, what is the rate at which the tip of the shadow moves away from the person when the person is 10 ft from the pole?

Answer

$\frac{9}{2}$ ft/sec

12. A 5-ft-tall person walks toward a wall at a rate of 2 ft/sec. A spotlight is located on the ground 40 ft from the wall. How fast does the height of the person's shadow on the wall change when the person is 10 ft from the wall?
13. Using the previous problem, what is the rate at which the shadow changes when the person is 10 ft from the wall, if the person is walking away from the wall at a rate of 2 ft/sec?

Answer

It grows at a rate $\frac{4}{9}$ ft/sec.

14. A helicopter starting on the ground is rising directly into the air at a rate of 25 ft/sec. You are running on the ground starting directly under the helicopter at a rate of 10 ft/sec. Find the rate of change of the distance between the helicopter and yourself after 5 sec.
15. Using the previous problem, assuming the helicopter is again rising at a rate of 25 ft/sec and you are running on the ground starting directly under the helicopter at a rate of 10 ft/sec, what is the rate at which the distance between you and the helicopter is changing when the helicopter has risen to a height of 60 ft in the air, assuming that, initially, it was 30 ft above you?

Answer

The distance is increasing at $\frac{135\sqrt{26}}{26}$ ft/sec

Exercises 16 - 24

Draw and label diagrams to help solve the related-rates problems.

16. The side of a cube increases at a rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ m/sec. Find the rate at which the volume of the cube increases when the side of the cube is 4 m.
17. The volume of a cube decreases at a rate of $10\ \text{m}^3$/sec. Find the rate at which the side of the cube changes when the side of the cube is 2 m.

Answer

$-\frac{5}{6}$ m/sec

18. The radius of a circle increases at a rate of 2 m/sec. Find the rate at which the area of the circle increases when the radius is 5 m.
19. The radius of a sphere decreases at a rate of 3 m/sec. Find the rate at which the surface area decreases when the radius is 10 m.

    Answer

    $240\pi \text{ m}^2/\text{sec}$

20. The radius of a sphere increases at a rate of 1 m/sec. Find the rate at which the volume increases when the radius is 20 m.
21. The radius of a sphere is increasing at a rate of 9 cm/sec. Find the radius of the sphere when the volume and the radius of the sphere are increasing at the same numerical rate.

    Answer

    $\frac{1}{2\sqrt{\pi}}$ cm

22. The base of a triangle is shrinking at a rate of 1 cm/min and the height of the triangle is increasing at a rate of 5 cm/min. Find the rate at which the area of the triangle changes when the height is 22 cm and the base is 10 cm.
23. A triangle has two constant sides of length 3 ft and 5 ft. The angle between these two sides is increasing at a rate of 0.1 rad/sec. Find the rate at which the area of the triangle is changing when the angle between the two sides is $\pi/6$.

    Answer

    The area is increasing at a rate $\frac{3\sqrt{3}}{8} \text{ ft}^2/\text{sec}$.

24. A triangle has a height that is increasing at a rate of 2 cm/sec and its area is increasing at a rate of $4 \text{ cm}^2/\text{sec}$. Find the rate at which the base of the triangle is changing when the height of the triangle is 4 cm and the area is 20 cm^2.

Exercises 25 - 27

Consider an inverted right cone that is leaking water. (Inverted means the cone's point is facing down, like a funnel.) The dimensions of the conical tank are a height of 16 ft and a radius of 5 ft.

25. How fast does the depth of the water change when the water is 10 ft high if the cone leaks water at a rate of $10 \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$?

    Answer

    The depth of the water decreases at $\frac{128}{125\pi}$ ft/min.

26. Find the rate at which the surface area of the water changes when the water is 10 ft high if the cone leaks water at a rate of $10 \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$.
27. If the water level is decreasing at a rate of 3 in/min when the depth of the water is 8 ft, determine the rate at which water is leaking out of the cone.

    Answer

    The volume is decreasing at a rate of $\frac{25\pi}{16} \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$.

28. A vertical cylinder is leaking water at a rate of $1 \text{ ft}^3/\text{sec}$. If the cylinder has a height of 10 ft and a radius of 1 ft, at what rate is the height of the water changing when the height is 6 ft?
29. A cylinder is leaking water but you are unable to determine at what rate. The cylinder has a height of 2 m and a radius of 2 m. Find the rate at which the water is leaking out of the cylinder if the rate at which the height is decreasing is 10 cm/min when the height is 1 m.

    Answer

    The water flows out at rate $\frac{2\pi}{5} \text{ m}^3/\text{min}$.

30. A trough has ends shaped like isosceles triangles, with width 3 m and height 4 m, and the trough is 10 m long. Water is being pumped into the trough at a rate of $5 \text{ m}^3/\text{min}$. At what rate does the height of the water change when the water is 1 m deep?

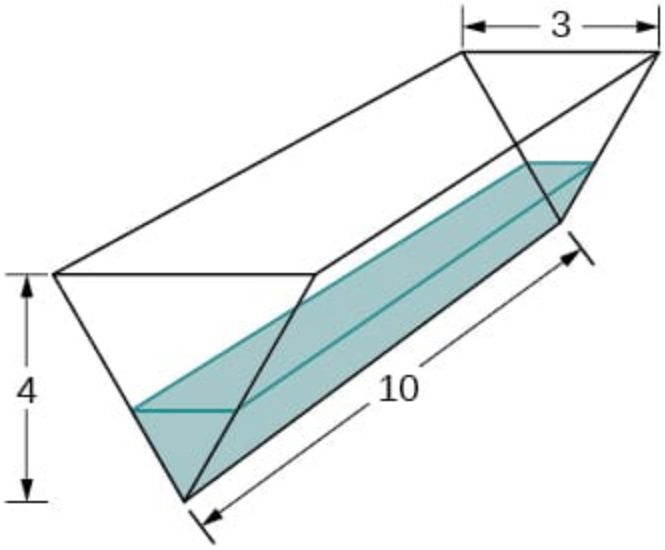


Figure $4.1E.4$: A trough is shown with ends shaped like isosceles triangles. These triangles have width 3 and height 4. The trough is made up of rectangles that are of length 10. There is some water in the trough.

31. A tank is shaped like an upside-down square pyramid, with base of 4 m by 4 m and a height of 12 m (see the following figure). How fast does the height increase when the water is 2 m deep if water is being pumped in at a rate of $\frac{2}{3}$ m^3/sec?

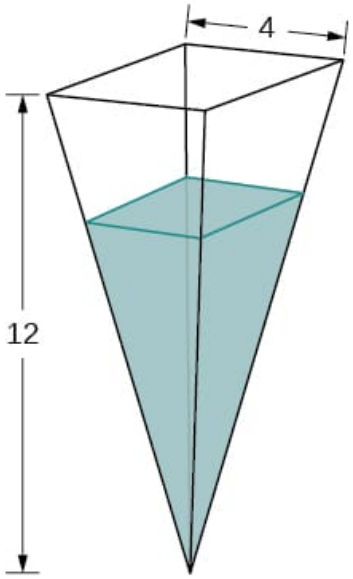


Figure $4.1E.5$: An upside-down square pyramid is shown with square side lengths 4 and height 12. There is an unspecified amount of water inside the shape.

Answer

$\frac{3}{2}$ m/sec

Exercises 32 - 34

Consider a pool shaped like the bottom half of a sphere, that is being filled at a rate of 25 ft^3/min. The radius of the pool is 10 ft.

32. Find the rate at which the depth of the water is changing when the water has a depth of 5 ft.
33. Find the rate at which the depth of the water is changing when the water has a depth of 1 ft.

Answer

$\frac{25}{19\pi}$ ft/min

34. If the height is increasing at a rate of 1 in/sec when the depth of the water is 2 ft, find the rate at which water is being pumped in.
35. Gravel is being unloaded from a truck and falls into a pile shaped like a cone at a rate of $10\ \text{ft}^3/\text{min}$. The radius of the cone base is three times the height of the cone. Find the rate at which the height of the gravel changes when the pile has a height of 5 ft.

Answer

$\frac{2}{45\pi}$ ft/min

36. Using a similar setup from the preceding problem, find the rate at which the gravel is being unloaded if the pile is 5 ft high and the height is increasing at a rate of 4 in/min.

Exercises 37 - 41

Draw the situations and solve the related-rate problems.

37. You are stationary on the ground and are watching a bird fly horizontally at a rate of 10 m/sec. The bird is located 40 m above your head. How fast does the angle of elevation change when the horizontal distance between you and the bird is 9 m?

Answer

The angle decreases at $\frac{400}{1681}$ rad/sec.

38. You stand 40 ft from a bottle rocket on the ground and watch as it takes off vertically into the air at a rate of 20 ft/sec. Find the rate at which the angle of elevation changes when the rocket is 30 ft in the air.
39. A lighthouse, L, is on an island 4 mi away from the closest point, P, on the beach (see the following image). If the lighthouse light rotates clockwise at a constant rate of 10 revolutions/min, how fast does the beam of light move across the beach 2 mi away from the closest point on the beach?

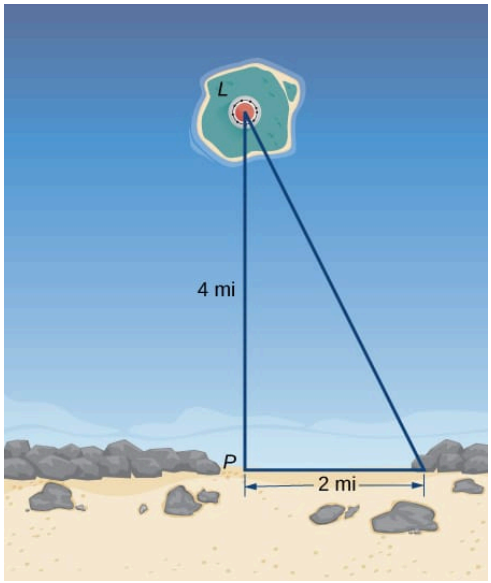


Figure $4.1E.6$: A right triangle is formed by a lighthouse L, a point P on the shore that is perpendicular to the line from the lighthouse to the shore, and a point 2 miles to the right of the point P. The distance from P to L is 4 miles.

Answer

100π mi/min

40. Using the same setup as the previous problem, determine at what rate the beam of light moves across the beach 1 mi away from the closest point on the beach.
41. You are walking to a bus stop at a right-angle corner. You move north at a rate of 2 m/sec and are 20 m south of the intersection. The bus travels west at a rate of 10 m/sec away from the intersection – you have missed the bus! What is the rate at which the angle between you and the bus is changing when you are 20 m south of the intersection and the bus is 10 m west of the intersection?

Answer

The angle is changing at a rate of $\frac{11}{25}$ rad/sec.

Exercises 42 - 45

Refer to the figure of baseball diamond which has sides of 90 ft.

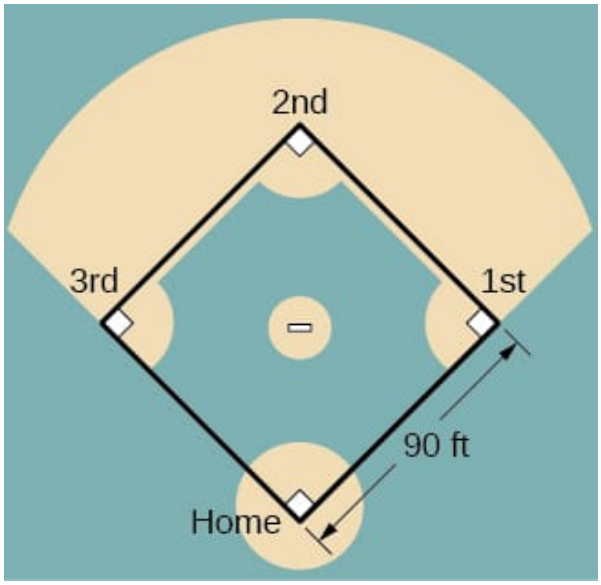


Figure $4.1E.7$: A baseball field is shown as a square with side lengths 90 ft. The corners are home base, 1st base, 2nd, base, and 3rd base in that order going counter clockwise.

42. [T] A batter hits a ball toward third base at 75 ft/sec and runs toward first base at a rate of 24 ft/sec. At what rate does the distance between the ball and the batter change when 2 sec have passed?
43. [T] A batter hits a ball toward second base at 80 ft/sec and runs toward first base at a rate of 30 ft/sec. At what rate does the distance between the ball and the batter change when the runner has covered one-third of the distance to first base? (Hint: Recall the law of cosines.)

Answer

The distance is increasing at a rate of 62.50 ft/sec.

44. [T] A batter hits the ball and runs toward first base at a speed of 22 ft/sec. At what rate does the distance between the runner and second base change when the runner has run 30 ft?
45. [T] Runners start at first and second base. When the baseball is hit, the runner at first base runs at a speed of 18 ft/sec toward second base and the runner at second base runs at a speed of 20 ft/sec toward third base. How fast is the distance between runners changing 1 sec after the ball is hit?

Answer

The distance is decreasing at a rate of 11.99 ft/sec.

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4.2: Linear Approximations and Differentials

Learning Objectives

- Describe the linear approximation to a function at a point.
- Write the linearization of a given function.
- Draw a graph that illustrates the use of differentials to approximate the change in a quantity.
- Calculate the relative error and percentage error in using a differential approximation.

We have just seen how derivatives allow us to compare related quantities that are changing over time. In this section, we examine another application of derivatives: the ability to approximate functions locally by linear functions. Linear functions are the easiest functions with which to work, so they provide a useful tool for approximating function values. In addition, the ideas presented in this section are generalized later in the text when we study how to approximate functions by higher-degree polynomials Introduction to Power Series and Functions.

Linear Approximation of a Function at a Point

Consider a function f that is differentiable at a point $x = a$. Recall that the tangent line to the graph of f at a is given by the equation

$$y = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a).$$

For example, consider the function $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ at $a = 2$. Since f is differentiable at $x = 2$ and $f'(x) = -\frac{1}{x^2}$, we see that $f'(2) = -\frac{1}{4}$. Therefore, the tangent line to the graph of f at $a = 2$ is given by the equation

$$y = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4}(x - 2).$$

Figure $4.2.1a$ shows a graph of $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ along with the tangent line to f at $x = 2$. Note that for x near 2, the graph of the tangent line is close to the graph of f. As a result, we can use the equation of the tangent line to approximate $f(x)$ for x near 2. For example, if $x = 2.1$, the y value of the corresponding point on the tangent line is

$$y = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4}(2.1 - 2) = 0.475.$$

The actual value of $f(2.1)$ is given by

$$f(2.1) = \frac{1}{2.1} \approx 0.47619.$$

Therefore, the tangent line gives us a fairly good approximation of $f(2.1)$ (Figure $4.2.1b$). However, note that for values of x far from 2, the equation of the tangent line does not give us a good approximation. For example, if $x = 10$, the y-value of the corresponding point on the tangent line is

$$y = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4}(10 - 2) = \frac{1}{2} - 2 = -1.5,$$

whereas the value of the function at $x = 10$ is $f(10) = 0.1$.

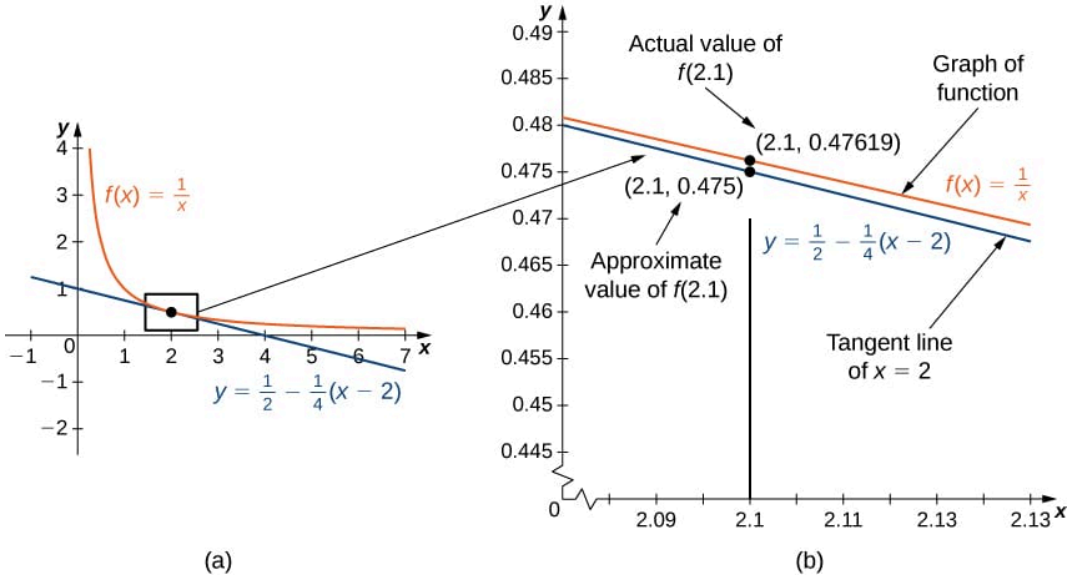


Figure 4.2.1: (a) The tangent line to $f(x) = 1/x$ at $x = 2$ provides a good approximation to f for x near 2. (b) At $x = 2.1$, the value of y on the tangent line to $f(x) = 1/x$ is 0.475. The actual value of $f(2.1)$ is $1/2.1$, which is approximately 0.47619. This figure has two parts a and b. In figure a, the line f(x) = 1/x is shown with its tangent line at x = 2. In figure (b), the area near the tangent point is blown up to show how good of an approximation the tangent is near x = 2.

In general, for a differentiable function f, the equation of the tangent line to f at $x = a$ can be used to approximate $f(x)$ for x near a. Therefore, we can write

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) \text{ for } x \text{ near } a.$$

We call the linear function

$$L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) \tag{4.2.1}$$

the **linear approximation,** or **tangent line approximation**, of f at $x = a$. This function L is also known as the **linearization** of f at $x = a$.

Interactive Element

Using Differentials to Approximate a Function at a Given Value of x

Use the slider to change h and see how $f(0.5) + f'(0.5)h$ approximates $f(0.5 + h)$. In this visualization $f(x) = x^3$.

40

h = 0.41

To show how useful the linear approximation can be, we look at how to find the linear approximation for $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ at $x = 9$.

Example 4.2.1: Linear Approximation of $\sqrt{x}$

Find the linear approximation of $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ at $x = 9$ and use the approximation to estimate $\sqrt{9.1}$.

Solution

Since we are looking for the linear approximation at $x = 9$, using Equation 4.2.1 we know the linear approximation is given by

$$L(x) = f(9) + f'(9)(x - 9).$$

We need to find $f(9)$ and $f'(9)$.

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x} \Rightarrow f(9) = \sqrt{9} = 3$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} \Rightarrow f'(9) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{9}} = \frac{1}{6}$$

Therefore, the linear approximation is given by Figure 4.2.2.

$$L(x) = 3 + \frac{1}{6}(x - 9)$$

Using the linear approximation, we can estimate $\sqrt{9.1}$ by writing

$$\sqrt{9.1} = f(9.1) \approx L(9.1) = 3 + \frac{1}{6}(9.1 - 9) \approx 3.0167.$$

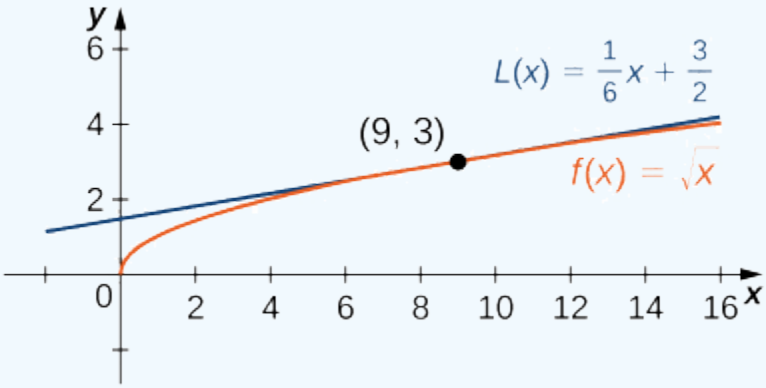


Figure 4.2.2: The function $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ is shown with its tangent at $(9, 3)$. The tangent appears to be a very good approximation near $x = 0$. The local linear approximation to $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ at $x = 9$ provides an approximation to f for x values near 9.

Analysis

Using a calculator, the value of $\sqrt{9.1}$ to four decimal places is 3.0166. The value given by the linear approximation, 3.0167, is very close to the value obtained with a calculator, so it appears that using this linear approximation is a good way to estimate $\sqrt{x}$, at least for x near 9. At the same time, it may seem odd to use a linear approximation when we can just push a few buttons on a calculator to evaluate $\sqrt{9.1}$. However, how does the calculator evaluate $\sqrt{9.1}$? The calculator uses an approximation! In fact, calculators and computers use approximations all the time to evaluate mathematical expressions; they just use higher-degree approximations.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video length**: 2 minutes 53 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates using differentials to approximate the $\sqrt{63.96}$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Example 4.2.2

Use differentials and the graph of $f(x)$ to approximate $f(2.1)$.

Solution

- **Video length**: 2 minutes 20 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to visualize differentials graphically.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 4.2.1

Find the local linear approximation to $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$ at $x = 8$. Use it to approximate $\sqrt[3]{8.1}$ to five decimal places.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 4.2.3: Linear Approximation of $\sin x$

Find the linear approximation of $f(x) = \sin x$ at $x = \frac{\pi}{3}$ and use it to approximate $\sin(62\,°)$.

Solution

First we note that since $\frac{\pi}{3}$ rad is equivalent to $60\,°$, using the linear approximation at $x = \pi/3$ seems reasonable. The linear approximation is given by

$$L(x) = f(\tfrac{\pi}{3}) + f'(\tfrac{\pi}{3})(x - \tfrac{\pi}{3}).$$

We see that

$$f(x) = \sin x \Rightarrow f(\tfrac{\pi}{3}) = \sin(\tfrac{\pi}{3}) = \tfrac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$f'(x) = \cos x \Rightarrow f'(\tfrac{\pi}{3}) = \cos(\tfrac{\pi}{3}) = \tfrac{1}{2}$$

Therefore, the linear approximation of f at $x = \pi/3$ is given by Figure 4.2.3.

$$L(x) = \tfrac{\sqrt{3}}{2} + \tfrac{1}{2}(x - \tfrac{\pi}{3})$$

To estimate $\sin(62\,°)$ using L, we must first convert $62\,°$ to radians. We have $62\,° = \frac{62\pi}{180}$ radians, so the estimate for $\sin(62\,°)$ is given by

$$\sin(62\,°) = f(\tfrac{62\pi}{180}) \approx L(\tfrac{62\pi}{180}) = \tfrac{\sqrt{3}}{2} + \tfrac{1}{2}(\tfrac{62\pi}{180} - \tfrac{\pi}{3}) = \tfrac{\sqrt{3}}{2} + \tfrac{1}{2}(\tfrac{2\pi}{180}) = \tfrac{\sqrt{3}}{2} + \tfrac{\pi}{180} \approx 0.88348.$$

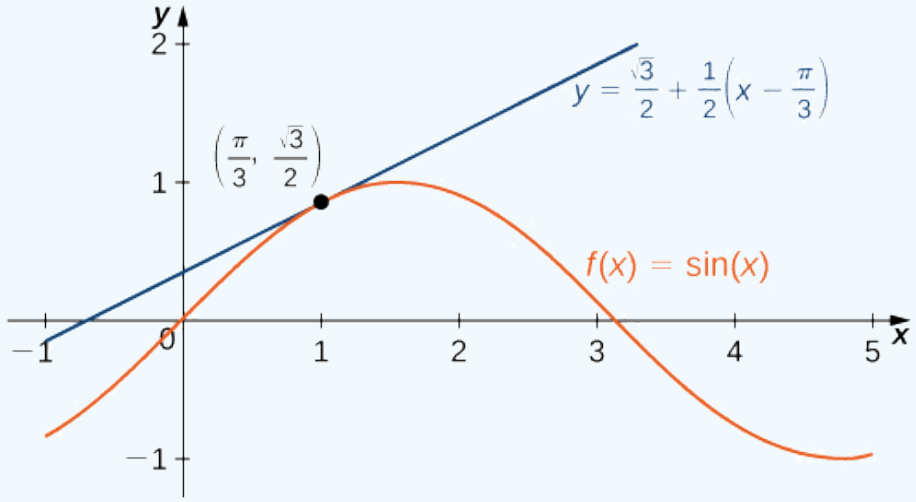


Figure 4.2.3: The function $f(x) = \sin(x)$ is shown with its tangent at $(\pi/3, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2})$. The linear approximation at $x = \pi/3$ provides an approximation to $\sin x$ for x near $\pi/3$.

Exercise 4.2.2

Find the linear approximation for $f(x) = \cos x$ at $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Linear approximations may be used in estimating roots and powers. In the next example, we find the linear approximation for $f(x) = (1 + x)^n$ at $x = 0$, which can be used to estimate roots and powers for real numbers near 1. The same idea can be extended to a function of the form $f(x) = (m + x)^n$ to estimate roots and powers near a different number m.

Example 4.2.4: Approximating Roots and Powers

Find the linear approximation of $f(x) = (1 + x)^n$ at $x = 0$. Use this approximation to estimate $(1.01)^3$.

Solution

The linear approximation at $x = 0$ is given by

$$L(x) = f(0) + f'(0)(x - 0).$$

Because

$$f(x) = (1 + x)^n \Rightarrow f(0) = 1$$

$$f'(x) = n(1 + x)^{n-1} \Rightarrow f'(0) = n,$$

the linear approximation is given by Figure 4.2.1a.

$$L(x) = 1 + n(x - 0) = 1 + nx$$

We can approximate $(1.01)^3$ by evaluating $L(0.01)$ when $n = 3$. We conclude that

$$(1.01)^3 = f(1.01) \approx L(1.01) = 1 + 3(0.01) = 1.03.$$

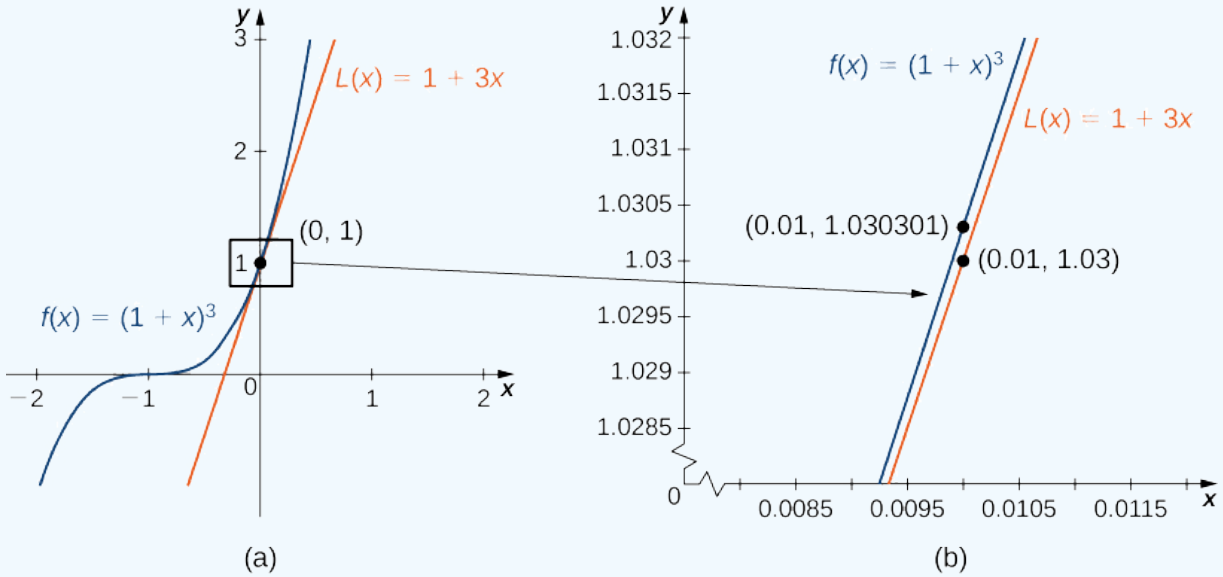


Figure 4.2.4: This figure has two parts. In part (a), the line $f(x) = (1 + x)^3$ is shown with its tangent line at $(0, 1)$. The linear approximation of $f(x)$ at $x = 0$ is $L(x)$. In part (b), the area near the tangent point is blown up to show how good of an approximation the tangent is near $(0, 1)$. The actual value of 1.01^3 is 1.030301. The linear approximation of $f(x)$ at $x = 0$ estimates 1.01^3 to be 1.03.

Exercise 4.2.3

Find the linear approximation of $f(x) = (1 + x)^4$ at $x = 0$ without using the result from the preceding example.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Differentials

We have seen that linear approximations can be used to estimate function values. They can also be used to estimate the amount a function value changes as a result of a small change in the input. To discuss this more formally, we define a related concept: **differentials**. Differentials provide us with a way of estimating the amount a function changes as a result of a small change in input values.

When we first looked at derivatives, we used the Leibniz notation dy/dx to represent the derivative of y with respect to x. Although we used the expressions dy and dx in this notation, they did not have meaning on their own. Here we see a meaning to the expressions dy and dx. Suppose $y = f(x)$ is a differentiable function. Let dx be an independent variable that can be assigned any nonzero real number, and define the dependent variable dy by

$$dy = f'(x)\,dx. \tag{4.2.2}$$

It is important to notice that dy is a function of both x and dx. The expressions dy and dx are called differentials. We can divide both sides of Equation 4.2.2 by dx, which yields

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f'(x). \tag{4.2.3}$$

This is the familiar expression we have used to denote a derivative. Equation 4.2.3 is known as the **differential form** of Equation 4.2.2.

Example 4.2.5: Computing Differentials

For each of the following functions, find dy and evaluate when $x = 3$ and $dx = 0.1$.

a. $y = x^2 + 2x$
b. $y = \cos x$

Solution

The key step is calculating the derivative. When we have that, we can obtain dy directly.

a. Since $f(x) = x^2 + 2x$, we know $f'(x) = 2x + 2$, and therefore

$$dy = (2x + 2)\ dx.$$

When $x = 3$ and $dx = 0.1$,

$$dy = (2 \cdot 3 + 2)(0.1) = 0.8.$$

b. Since $f(x) = \cos x, f'(x) = -\sin(x)$. This gives us

$$dy = -\sin x\ \ dx.$$

When $x = 3$ and $dx = 0.1$,

$$dy = -\sin(3)(0.1) = -0.1\sin(3).$$

Exercise 4.2.4

For $y = e^{x^2}$, find dy.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

We now connect differentials to linear approximations. Differentials can be used to estimate the change in the value of a function resulting from a small change in input values. Consider a function f that is differentiable at point a. Suppose the input x changes by a small amount. We are interested in how much the output y changes. If x changes from a to $a + dx$, then the change in x is dx (also denoted Δx), and the change in y is given by

$$\Delta y = f(a + dx) - f(a).$$

Instead of calculating the exact change in y, however, it is often easier to approximate the change in y by using a linear approximation. For x near $a, f(x)$ can be approximated by the linear approximation (Equation 4.2.1)

$$L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a).$$

Therefore, if dx is small,

$$f(a + dx) \approx L(a + dx) = f(a) + f'(a)(a + dx - a).$$

That is,

$$f(a + dx) - f(a) \approx L(a + dx) - f(a) = f'(a)\,dx.$$

In other words, the actual change in the function f if x increases from a to $a + dx$ is approximately the difference between $L(a + dx)$ and $f(a)$, where $L(x)$ is the linear approximation of f at a. By definition of $L(x)$, this difference is equal to $f'(a)\ dx$. In summary,

$$\Delta y = f(a+dx) - f(a) \approx L(a+dx) - f(a) = f'(a)\,dx = dy. \tag{4.2.4}$$

Therefore, we can use the differential $dy = f'(a)\ dx$ to approximate the change in y if x increases from $x = a$ to $x = a + dx$. We can see this in the following graph.

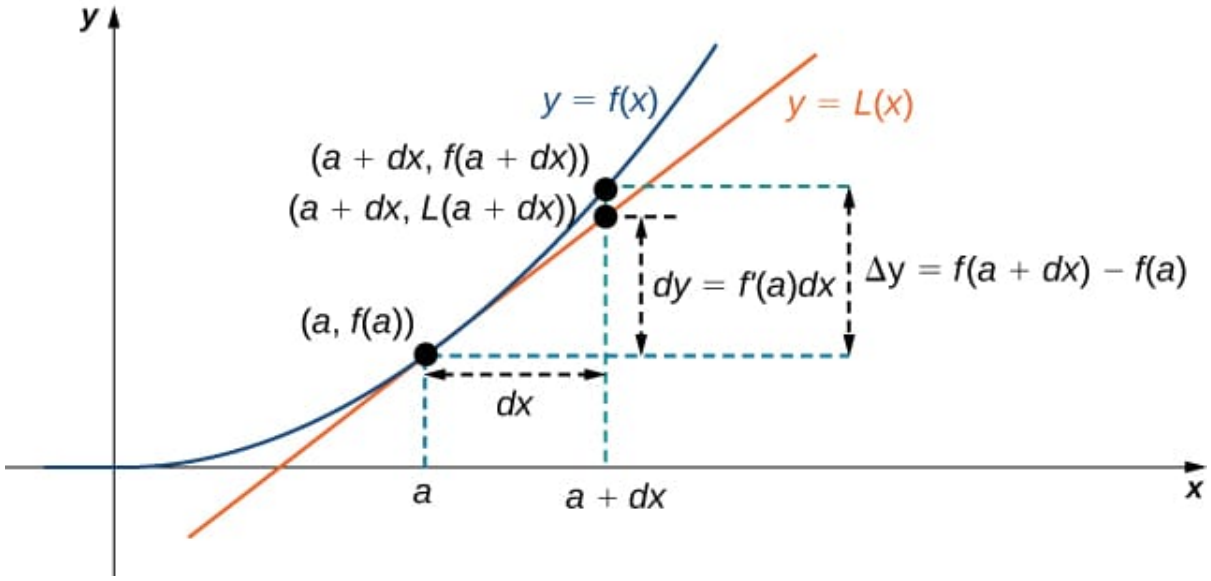


Figure 4.2.5:A function $y = f(x)$ is shown along with its tangent line at $(a, f(a))$. The tangent line is denoted $L(x)$. The x axis is marked with a and $a + dx$, with a dashed line showing the distance between a and $a + dx$ as dx. The points $(a + dx, f(a + dx))$ and $(a + dx, L(a + dx))$ are marked on the curves for $y = f(x)$ and $y = L(x)$, respectively. The distance between $f(a)$ and $L(a + dx)$ is marked as $dy = f'(a)dx$, and the distance between $f(a)$ and $f(a + dx)$ is marked as $\Delta y = f(a + dx)–f(a)$.

Interactive Element

Visualizing the Differential, the Relative Error, and the Absolute Error

Move the value of x to see how the differential, error, and absolute error change.

50

dx = 0.5

xx

We now take a look at how to use differentials to approximate the change in the value of the function that results from a small change in the value of the input. Note the calculation with differentials is much simpler than calculating actual values of functions and the result is very close to what we would obtain with the more exact calculation.

Example 4.2.6: Approximating Change with Differentials

Let $y = x^2 + 2x$. Compute Δy and dy at $x = 3$ if $dx = 0.1$.

Solution

The actual change in y if x changes from $x = 3$ to $x = 3.1$ is given by

$$\Delta y = f(3.1) - f(3) = [(3.1)^2 + 2(3.1)] - [3^2 + 2(3)] = 0.81.$$

The approximate change in y is given by $dy = f'(3)\ dx$. Since $f'(x) = 2x + 2$, we have

$$dy = f'(3)\ dx = (2(3) + 2)(0.1) = 0.8.$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video length**: 3 minutes 25 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates finding and comparing the differential, dy, with the actual change in the function, Δy: Evaluate Δy and dy for $y = x^3 - 2x^2 + 3$ at $x = 2$ with $\Delta x = dx = 0.01$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Exercise 4.2.5

For $y = x^2 + 2x$, find Δy and dy at $x = 3$ if $dx = 0.2$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Calculating the Amount of Error

Any type of measurement is prone to a certain amount of error. In many applications, certain quantities are calculated based on measurements. For example, the area of a circle is calculated by measuring the radius of the circle. An error in the measurement of the radius leads to an error in the computed value of the area. Here we examine this type of error and study how differentials can be used to estimate the error.

Consider a function f with an input that is a measured quantity. Suppose the exact value of the measured quantity is a, but the measured value is $a + dx$. We say the measurement error is dx (or Δx). As a result, an error occurs in the calculated quantity $f(x)$. This type of error is known as a **propagated error** and is given by

$$\Delta y = f(a + dx) - f(a). \tag{4.2.5}$$

Since all measurements are prone to some degree of error, we do not know the exact value of a measured quantity, so we cannot calculate the propagated error exactly. However, given an estimate of the accuracy of a measurement, we can use differentials to approximate the propagated error Δy. Specifically, if f is a differentiable function at a,the propagated error is

$$\Delta y \approx dy = f'(a)\, dx. \tag{4.2.6}$$

Unfortunately, we do not know the exact value a. However, we can use the measured value $a + dx$, and estimate

$$\Delta y \approx dy \approx f'(a + dx)\, dx. \tag{4.2.7}$$

In the next example, we look at how differentials can be used to estimate the error in calculating the volume of a box if we assume the measurement of the side length is made with a certain amount of accuracy.

Example 4.2.7: Volume of a Cube

Suppose the side length of a cube is measured to be 5 cm with an accuracy of 0.1 cm.

a. Use differentials to estimate the error in the computed volume of the cube.
b. Compute the volume of the cube if the side length is (i) 4.9 cm and (ii) 5.1 cm to compare the estimated error with the actual potential error.

Solution

a. The measurement of the side length is accurate to within ± 0.1 cm. Therefore,

$$-0.1 \leq dx \leq 0.1.$$

The volume of a cube is given by $V = x^3$, which leads to

$$dV = 3x^2 dx.$$

Using the measured side length of 5 cm, we can estimate that

$$-3(5)^2(0.1) \leq dV \leq 3(5)^2(0.1).$$

Therefore,

$$-7.5 \leq dV \leq 7.5.$$

b. If the side length is actually 4.9 cm, then the volume of the cube is

$$V(4.9) = (4.9)^3 = 117.649 cm^3.$$

If the side length is actually 5.1 cm, then the volume of the cube is

$$V(5.1) = (5.1)^3 = 132.651 cm^3.$$

Therefore, the actual volume of the cube is between 117.649 and 132.651. Since the side length is measured to be 5 cm, the computed volume is $V(5) = 5^3 = 125$. Therefore, the error in the computed volume is

$$117.649 - 125 \leq \Delta V \leq 132.651 - 125.$$

That is,

$$-7.351 \leq \Delta V \leq 7.651.$$

We see the estimated error dV is relatively close to the actual potential error in the computed volume.

Exercise 4.2.6

Estimate the error in the computed volume of a cube if the side length is measured to be 6 cm with an accuracy of 0.2 cm.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The measurement error $dx = \Delta x$) and the propagated error Δy are absolute errors. We are typically interested in the size of an error relative to the size of the quantity being measured or calculated. Given an absolute error Δq for a particular quantity, we define the **relative error** as $\frac{\Delta q}{q}$, where q is the actual value of the quantity. The **percentage error** is the relative error expressed as a percentage. For example, if we measure the height of a ladder to be 63 in. when the actual height is 62 in., the absolute error is 1 in. but the relative error is $\frac{1}{62} = 0.016$, or 1.6. By comparison, if we measure the width of a piece of cardboard to be 8.25 in. when the actual width is 8 in., our absolute error is $\frac{1}{4}$ in., whereas the relative error is $\frac{0.25}{8} = \frac{1}{32}$, or 3.1 Therefore, the percentage error in the measurement of the cardboard is larger, even though 0.25 in. is less than 1 in.

Example 4.2.8: Relative and Percentage Error

An astronaut using a camera measures the radius of Earth as 4000 mi with an error of ± 80 mi. Let's use differentials to estimate the relative and percentage error of using this radius measurement to calculate the volume of Earth, assuming the planet is a perfect sphere.

Solution: If the measurement of the radius is accurate to within ± 80, we have

$$-80 \leq dr \leq 80.$$

Since the volume of a sphere is given by $V = (\frac{4}{3})\pi r^3$, we have

$$dV = 4\pi r^2 dr.$$

Using the measured radius of 4000 mi, we can estimate

$$-4\pi(4000)^2(80) \leq dV \leq 4\pi(4000)^2(80).$$

To estimate the relative error, consider $\dfrac{dV}{V}$. Since we do not know the exact value of the volume V, use the measured radius $r = 4000$ mi to estimate V. We obtain $V \approx (\frac{4}{3})\pi(4000)^3$. Therefore the relative error satisfies

$$\frac{-4\pi(4000)^2(80)}{4\pi(4000)^3/3} \leq \frac{dV}{V} \leq \frac{4\pi(4000)^2(80)}{4\pi(4000)^3/3},$$

which simplifies to

$$-0.06 \leq \frac{dV}{V} \leq 0.06.$$

The relative error is 0.06 and the percentage error is 6.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video length**: 2 minutes 30 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates percent error as an application of differentials: A six sided die is measured ot have a side length of 2 cm, with a maximum possible error of ± 0.05 cm. Use differentials to approximate the maximum percent error in the measurement of the volume of the die.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Exercise 4.2.7

Determine the percentage error if the radius of Earth is measured to be 3950 mi with an error of ± 100 mi.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- A differentiable function $y = f(x)$ can be approximated at a by the linear function

$$L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a).$$

- For a function $y = f(x)$, if x changes from a to $a + dx$, then

$$dy = f'(x)\ dx$$

is an approximation for the change in y. The actual change in y is

$$\Delta y = f(a + dx) - f(a).$$

- A measurement error dx can lead to an error in a calculated quantity $f(x)$. The error in the calculated quantity is known as the propagated error. The propagated error can be estimated by

$$dy \approx f'(x)\ dx.$$

- To estimate the relative error of a particular quantity q, we estimate $\frac{\Delta q}{q}$.

Key Equations

- **Linear approximation**

$L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$

- **A differential**

$dy = f'(x)\ dx$

Glossary

Differential
The differential dx is an independent variable that can be assigned any nonzero real number; the differential dy is defined to be $dy = f'(x)\ dx$

Differential form
Given a differentiable function $y = f'(x)$, the equation $dy = f'(x)\ dx$ is the differential form of the derivative of y with respect to x

Linear approximation
The linear function $L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$ is the linear approximation of f at $x = a$

Percentage error
The relative error expressed as a percentage

Propagated error
The error that results in a calculated quantity $f(x)$ resulting from a measurement error dx

Relative error
Given an absolute error Δq for a particular quantity, $\frac{\Delta q}{q}$ is the relative error.

Tangent line approximation (linearization)
Since the linear approximation of f at $x = a$ is defined using the equation of the tangent line, the linear approximation of f at $x = a$ is also known as the tangent line approximation to f at $x = a$

Contributors and Attributions

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Answers

Exercise 4.2.1

$L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$

Exercise 4.2.1

$L(x) = 2 + \frac{1}{12}(x - 8)$; 2.00833

Exercise 4.2.2

$L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$

Exercise 4.2.2

$L(x) = -x + \frac{\pi}{2}$

Exercise 4.2.3

$f'(x) = 4(1 + x)^3$

Exercise 4.2.3

$L(x) = 1 + 4x$

Exercise 4.2.4

$dy = f'(x)\ dx$

Exercise 4.2.4

$dy = 2xe^{x^2}dx$

Exercise 4.2.5

$dy = f'(3)\ dx,\ \ \Delta y = f(3.2) - f(3)$

$dy = 1.6,\ \ \Delta y = 1.64$

Exercise 4.2.6

$dV = 3x^2dx$

Exercise 4.2.6

The volume measurement is accurate to within $21.6\ \text{cm}^3$.

Exercise 4.2.7

Use the fact that $dV = 4\pi r^2 dr$ to find dV/V.

Exercise 4.2.7

7.6

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4.2E: Exercises for Section 4.2

Exercises 1 - 3

1. Determine the necessary conditions such that the linear approximation function is constant. Use a graph to prove your result.

Answer

$f'(a) = 0$

2. Explain why the linear approximation becomes less accurate as you increase the distance between x and a. Use a graph to prove your argument.
3. When is the linear approximation exact?

Answer

The linear approximation exact when $y = f(x)$ is linear or constant.

Exercises 4 - 9

Find the linear approximation $L(x)$ to $y = f(x)$ near $x = a$ for the function.

4. [T] $f(x) = x + x^4, \quad a = 0$
5. [T] $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}, \quad a = 2$

Answer

$L(x) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4}(x - 2)$

6. [T] $f(x) = \tan x, \quad a = \frac{\pi}{4}$
7. [T] $f(x) = \sin x, \quad a = \frac{\pi}{2}$

Answer

$L(x) = 1$

8. [T] $f(x) = x \sin x, \quad a = 2\pi$
9. [T] $f(x) = \sin^2 x, \quad a = 0$

Answer

$L(x) = 0$

Exercises 10 - 15

Compute the values given within 0.01 by deciding on the appropriate $f(x)$ and a, and evaluating $L(x) = f(a) + f'(a)(x - a)$. Check your answer using a calculator.

10. [T] $(2.001)^6$
11. [T] $\sin(0.02)$

Answer

$\sin(0.02) \approx 0.02$

12. [T] $\cos(0.03)$
13. [T] $(15.99)^{1/4}$

Answer

$(15.99)1/4 \approx 1.9996875$

14. [T] $\frac{1}{0.98}$
15. [T] $\sin(3.14)$

Answer

$\sin(3.14) \approx 0.001593$

Exercises 16 - 21

Determine the appropriate $f(x)$ and a, and evaluate $L(x) = f(a) + f\,'(a)(x-a)$. Calculate the numerical error in the linear approximations that follow.

16. $(1.01)^3$
17. $\cos(0.01)$

Answer

$\cos(0.01) \approx L(0.01) = f(0) + f\,'(0)(0 - 0.01) = 1; \cos(0.01) \approx L(0.01) = f(0) + f\,'(0)(0 - 0.01) = 1;$ error, 0.00005

18. $(\sin(0.01))^2$

19. $(1.01)^{-3}$

Answer

$(1.01)^{-3} \approx L(1.01) = f(1) + f'(1)(1.01 - 1) = 0.97$; error, 0.0006

20. $\left(1 + \frac{1}{10}\right)^{10}$
21. $\sqrt{8.99}$

Answer

$\sqrt{8.99} \approx L(8.99) = f(9) + f'(9)(8.99 - 9) = 3 - \frac{1}{600}$; error, 4.632×10^{-7}

Exercises 22 - 25

Find the differential of the function.

22. $y = 3x^4 + x^2 - 2x + 1$
23. $y = x \cos x$

Answer

$dy = (\cos x - x \sin x)\ dx$

24. $y = \sqrt{1 + x}$
25. $y = \dfrac{x^2 + 2}{x - 1}$

Answer

$dy = (\dfrac{x^2 - 2x - 2}{(x-1)^2})dx$

Exercises 26 - 31

Find the differential and evaluate for the given x and dx.

26. $y = 3x^2 - x + 6, \quad x = 2, \quad dx = 0.1$
27. $y = \dfrac{1}{x + 1}, \quad x = 1, \quad dx = 0.25$

Answer

$$dy = -\frac{1}{(x+1)^2}dx, \quad dy = -\frac{1}{16}$$

28. $y = \tan x, \;\; x = 0, \;\; dx = \frac{\pi}{10}$
29. $y = \dfrac{3x^2+2}{\sqrt{x+1}}, \;\; x = 0, \;\; dx = 0.1$

Answer

$$dy = \frac{9x^2+12x-2}{2(x+1)^{3/2}}dx, \quad dy = -0.1$$

30. $y = \dfrac{\sin(2x)}{x}, \;\; x = \pi, \;\; dx = 0.25$
31. $y = x^3 + 2x + \dfrac{1}{x}, \;\; x = 1, \;\; dx = 0.05$

Answer

$$dy = \left(3x^2 + 2 - \frac{1}{x^2}\right)dx, \quad dy = 0.2$$

Exercises 32 - 37

Find the change in volume dV or in surface area dA.

32. dV if the sides of a cube change from 10 to 10.1.
33. dA if the sides of a cube change from x to $x + dx$.

Answer

$$dA = 12x \;\; dx$$

34. dA if the radius of a sphere changes from r by dr.
35. dV if the radius of a sphere changes from r by dr.

Answer

$$dV = 4\pi r^2 dr$$

36. dV if a circular cylinder with $r = 2$ changes height from 3 cm to $3.05cm$.
37. dV if a circular cylinder of height 3 changes from $r = 2$ to $r = 1.9$ cm.

Answer

$$dV = -1.2\pi \text{ cm}^3$$

Exercises 38 - 40

Use differentials to estimate the maximum and relative error when computing the surface area or volume.

38. A spherical golf ball is measured to have a radius of 5 mm, with a possible measurement error of 0.1 mm. What is the possible change in volume?
39. A pool has a rectangular base of 10 ft by 20 ft and a depth of 6 ft. What is the change in volume if you only fill it up to 5.5 ft?

Answer

$$-100 \text{ ft}^3$$

40. An ice cream cone has height 4 in. and radius 1 in. If the cone is 0.1 in. thick, what is the difference between the volume of the cone, including the shell, and the volume of the ice cream you can fit inside the shell?

Exercises 41 - 43

Confirm the approximations by using the linear approximation at $x = 0$.

41. $\sqrt{1-x} \approx 1 - \frac{1}{2}x$
42. $\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \approx 1$
43. $\sqrt{c^2 + x^2} \approx c$

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4.3: Maxima and Minima

Learning Objectives

- Define absolute extrema.
- Define local extrema.
- Explain how to find the critical points of a function over a closed interval.
- Describe how to use critical points to locate absolute extrema over a closed interval.

Given a particular function, we are often interested in determining the largest and smallest values of the function. This information is important in creating accurate graphs. Finding the maximum and minimum values of a function also has practical significance, because we can use this method to solve optimization problems, such as maximizing profit, minimizing the amount of material used in manufacturing an aluminum can, or finding the maximum height a rocket can reach. In this section, we look at how to use derivatives to find the largest and smallest values for a function.

Absolute Extrema

Consider the function $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ over the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$. As $x \to \pm\infty, f(x) \to \infty$. Therefore, the function does not have a largest value. However, since $x^2 + 1 \geq 1$ for all real numbers x and $x^2 + 1 = 1$ when $x = 0$, the function has a smallest value, 1, when $x = 0$. We say that 1 is the absolute minimum of $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ and it occurs at $x = 0$. We say that $f(x) = x^2 + 1$ does not have an absolute maximum (Figure $4.3.1$).

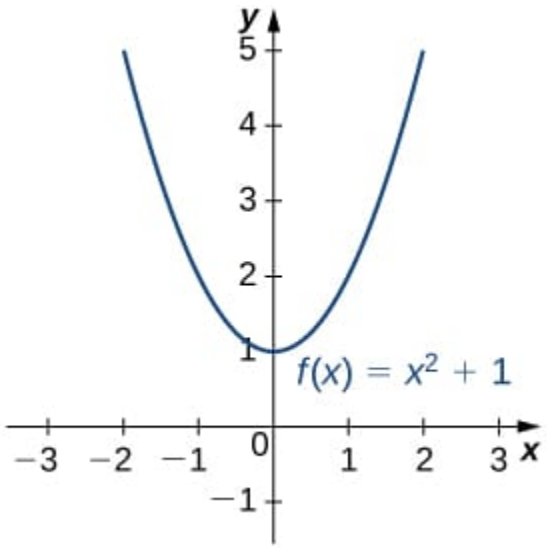


Figure $4.3.1$: The given function has an absolute minimum of 1 at $x = 0$. The function does not have an absolute maximum.

Definition: Absolute Extrema

Let f be a function defined over an interval I and let $c \in I$. We say f has an **absolute maximum** on I at c if $f(c) \geq f(x)$ for all $x \in I$. We say f has an **absolute minimum** on I at c if $f(c) \leq f(x)$ for all $x \in I$. If f has an absolute maximum on I at c or an absolute minimum on I at c, we say f has *an* **absolute extremum** on I at c.

Before proceeding, let's note two important issues regarding this definition. First, the term absolute here does not refer to absolute value. An absolute extremum may be positive, negative, or zero. Second, if a function f has an absolute extremum over an interval I at c, the absolute extremum is $f(c)$. The real number c is a point in the domain at which the absolute extremum occurs. For example, consider the function $f(x) = 1/(x^2 + 1)$ over the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$. Since

$$f(0) = 1 \geq \frac{1}{x^2+1} = f(x) \tag{4.3.1}$$

for all real numbers x, we say f has an absolute maximum over $(-\infty, \infty)$ at $x = 0$. The absolute maximum is $f(0) = 1$. It occurs at $x = 0$, as shown in Figure $4.3.2$(b).

A function may have both an absolute maximum and an absolute minimum, just one extremum, or neither. Figure $4.3.2$ shows several functions and some of the different possibilities regarding absolute extrema. However, the following theorem, called the **Extreme Value Theorem**, guarantees that a continuous function f over a closed, bounded interval $[a, b]$ has both an absolute maximum and an absolute minimum.

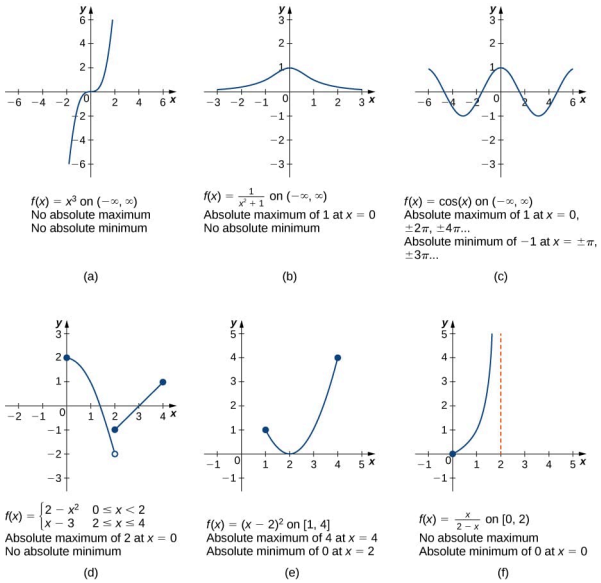


Figure $4.3.2$: Graphs (a), (b), and (c) show several possibilities for absolute extrema for functions with a domain of $(-\infty, \infty)$. Graphs (d), (e), and (f) show several possibilities for absolute extrema for functions with a domain that is a bounded interval. In particular, in figure a, the line $f(x) = x^3$ is shown, and it is noted that it has no absolute minimum and no absolute maximum. In figure b, the line $f(x) = 1/(x^2 + 1)$ is shown, which is near 0 for most of its length and rises to a bump at $(0, 1)$; it has no absolute minimum, but does have an absolute maximum of 1 at $x = 0$. In figure c, the line $f(x) = \cos x$ is shown, which has absolute minimums of -1 at $\pm\pi, \pm 3\pi, \ldots$ and absolute maximums of 1 at $0, \pm 2\pi, \pm 4\pi, \ldots$. In figure d, the piecewise function $f(x) = 2–x^2$ for $0 \leq x < 2$ and $x–3$ for $2 \leq x \leq 4$ is shown, with absolute maximum of 2 at $x = 0$ and no absolute minimum. In figure e, the function $f(x) = (x–2)^2$ is shown on $[1, 4]$, which has absolute maximum of 4 at $x = 4$ and absolute minimum of 0 at $x = 2$. In figure f, the function $f(x) = x/(2 - x)$ is shown on $[0, 2)$, with absolute minimum of 0 at $x = 0$ and no absolute maximum.

Theorem: Extreme Value Theorem

If f is a continuous function over the closed, bounded interval $[a, b]$, then there is a point in $[a, b]$ at which f has an absolute maximum over $[a, b]$ and there is a point in $[a, b]$ at which f has an absolute minimum over $[a, b]$.

The proof of the extreme value theorem is beyond the scope of this text. Typically, it is proved in a course on real analysis. There are a couple of key points to note about the statement of this theorem. For the extreme value theorem to apply, the function must be continuous over a closed, bounded interval. If the interval I is open or the function has even one point of discontinuity, the function may not have an absolute maximum or absolute minimum over I. For example, consider the functions shown in Figure $4.3.2$ (d), (e), and (f). All three of these functions are defined over bounded intervals. However, the function in graph (e) is the only one that has both an absolute maximum and an absolute minimum over its domain. The extreme value theorem cannot be applied to the functions in graphs (d) and (f) because neither of these functions is continuous over a closed, bounded interval. Although the function in graph (d) is defined over the closed interval $[0, 4]$, the function is discontinuous at $x = 2$. The function has an absolute maximum over $[0, 4]$ but does not have an absolute minimum. The function in graph (f) is continuous over the half-open interval $[0, 2)$, but is not defined at $x = 2$, and therefore is not continuous over a closed, bounded interval. The function has an absolute minimum over $[0, 2)$, but does not have an absolute maximum over $[0, 2)$. These two graphs illustrate why a function over a bounded interval may fail to have an absolute maximum and/or absolute minimum.

Before looking at how to find absolute extrema, let's examine the related concept of local extrema. This idea is useful in

determining where absolute extrema occur.

Local Extrema and Critical Points

Consider the function f shown in Figure $4.3.3$. The graph can be described as two mountains with a valley in the middle. The absolute maximum value of the function occurs at the higher peak, at $x = 2$. However, $x = 0$ is also a point of interest. Although $f(0)$ is not the largest value of f, the value $f(0)$ is larger than $f(x)$ for all x near 0. We say f has a local maximum at $x = 0$. Similarly, the function f does not have an absolute minimum, but it does have a local minimum at $x = 1$ because $f(1)$ is less than $f(x)$ for x near 1.

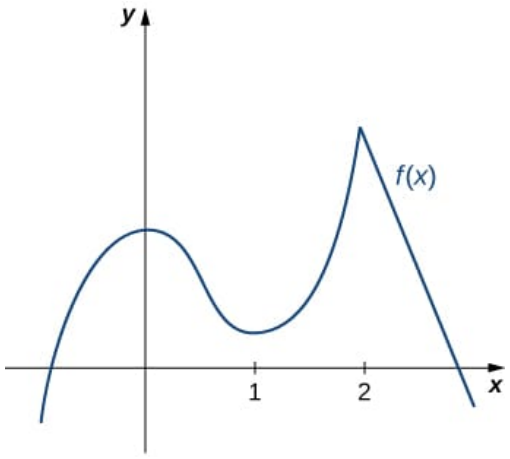


Figure $4.3.3$: The function $f(x)$ is shown, which curves upward from the third quadrant, slows down in second quadrant, achieves a local maximum on the y-axis, decreases to achieve a local minimum in the first quadrant at $x = 1$, increases to a local maximum at $x = 2$ that is greater than the other local maximum, and then decreases rapidly through fourth quadrant.

Definition: Local Extrema

A function f has a **local maximum** at c if there exists an open interval I containing c such that I is contained in the domain of f and $f(c) \geq f(x)$ for all $x \in I$. A function f has a **local minimum** at c if there exists an open interval I containing c such that I is contained in the domain of f and $f(c) \leq f(x)$ for all $x \in I$. A function f has a **local extremum** at c if f has a local maximum at c or f has a local minimum at c.

Note that if f has an absolute extremum at c and f is defined over an interval containing c, then $f(c)$ is also considered a local extremum. If an absolute extremum for a function f occurs at an endpoint, we do not consider that to be a local extremum, but instead refer to that as an endpoint extremum.

Given the graph of a function f, it is sometimes easy to see where a local maximum or local minimum occurs. However, it is not always easy to see, since the interesting features on the graph of a function may not be visible because they occur at a very small scale. Also, we may not have a graph of the function. In these cases, how can we use a formula for a function to determine where these extrema occur?

To answer this question, let's look at Figure $4.3.3$ again. The local extrema occur at $x = 0, x = 1,$ and $x = 2$. Notice that at $x = 0$ and $x = 1$, the derivative $f'(x) = 0$. At $x = 2$, the derivative $f'(x)$ does not exist, since the function f has a corner there. In fact, if f has a local extremum at a point $x = c$, the derivative $f'(c)$ must satisfy one of the following conditions: either $f'(c) = 0$ or $f'(c)$ is undefined. Such a value c is known as a critical point and it is important in finding extreme values for functions.

Definition: Critical Points

Let c be an interior point in the domain of f. We say that c is a **critical point** of f if $f'(c) = 0$ or $f'(c)$ is undefined.

As mentioned earlier, if f has a local extremum at a point $x = c$, then c must be a critical point of f. This fact is known as **Fermat's Theorem.**

Theorem: Fermat's Theorem

If f has a local extremum at c and f is differentiable at c, then $f'(c) = 0$.

Proof

Suppose f has a local extremum at c and f is differentiable at c. We need to show that $f'(c) = 0$. To do this, we will show that $f'(c) \geq 0$ and $f'(c) \leq 0$, and therefore $f'(c) = 0$. Since f has a local extremum at c, f has a local maximum or local minimum at c. Suppose f has a local maximum at c. The case in which f has a local minimum at c can be handled similarly. There then exists an open interval I such that $f(c) \geq f(x)$ for all $x \in I$. Since f is differentiable at c, from the definition of the derivative, we know that

$$f'(c) = \lim_{x \to c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}. \tag{4.3.2}$$

Since this limit exists, both one-sided limits also exist and equal $f'(c)$. Therefore,

$$f'(c) = \lim_{x \to c^+} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c,} \tag{4.3.3}$$

and

$$f'(c) = \lim_{x \to c^-} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}. \tag{4.3.4}$$

Since $f(c)$ is a local maximum, we see that $f(x) - f(c) \leq 0$ for x near c. Therefore, for x near c, but $x > c$, we have $\frac{f(x)-f(c)}{x-c} \leq 0$. From Equation we conclude that $f'(c) \leq 0$. Similarly, it can be shown that $f'(c) \geq 0$. Therefore, $f'(c) = 0$.

□

From Fermat's Theorem, we conclude that if f has a local extremum at c, then either $f'(c) = 0$ or $f'(c)$ is undefined. In other words, local extrema can only occur at critical points.

Note this theorem does not claim that a function f must have a local extremum at a critical point. Rather, it states that critical points are candidates for local extrema. For example, consider the function $f(x) = x^3$. We have $f'(x) = 3x^2 = 0$ when $x = 0$. Therefore, $x = 0$ is a critical point. However, $f(x) = x^3$ is increasing over $(-\infty, \infty)$, and thus f does not have a local extremum at $x = 0$. In Figure $4.3.4$, we see several different possibilities for critical points. In some of these cases, the functions have local extrema at critical points, whereas in other cases the functions do not. Note that these graphs do not show all possibilities for the behavior of a function at a critical point.

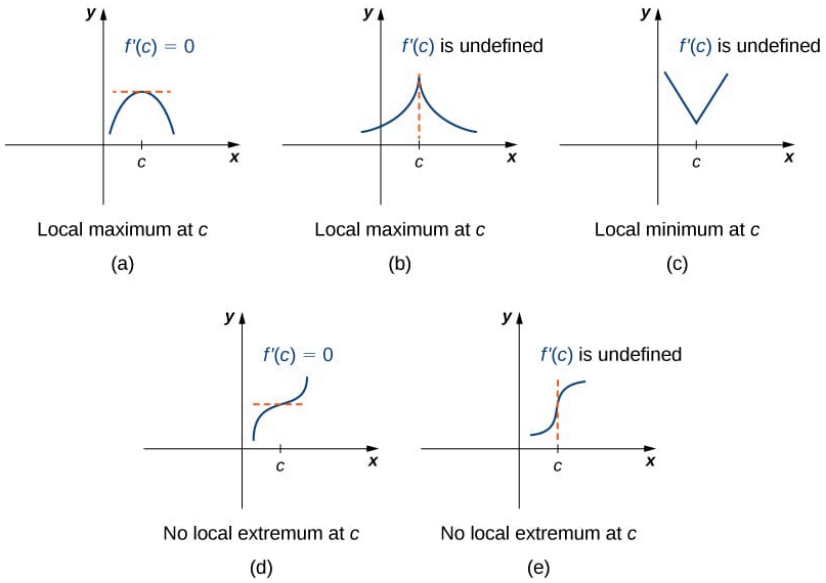


Figure 4.3.4: This figure has five parts a, b, c, d, and e. A function f has a critical point at c if $f'(c) = 0$ or $f'(c)$ is undefined. A function may or may not have a local extremum at a critical point. In figure a, a parabola is shown facing down in quadrant I; there is a horizontal tangent line at the local maximum marked $f'(c) = 0$. In figure b, there is a function drawn with an asymptote at c, meaning that the function increases toward infinity on both sides of c; it is noted that $f'(c)$ is undefined. In figure c, a version of the absolute value graph is shown that has been shifted so that its minimum is in quadrant I with $x = c$. It is noted that $f'(c)$ is undefined. In figure d, a version of the function $f(x) = x^3$ is shown that has been shifted so that its inflection point is in quadrant I with $x = c$. Its inflection point at $(c, f(c))$ has a horizontal line through it, and it is noted that $f'(c) = 0$. In figure e, a version of the function $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$ is shown that has been shifted so that its inflection point is in quadrant I with $x = c$. Its inflection point at $(c, f(c))$ has a vertical line through it, and it is noted that $f'(c)$ is undefined.

Later in this chapter we look at analytical methods for determining whether a function actually has a local extremum at a critical point. For now, let's turn our attention to finding critical points. We will use graphical observations to determine whether a critical point is associated with a local extremum.

Example 4.3.1: Locating Critical Points

For each of the following functions, find all critical points. Use a graphing utility to determine whether the function has a local extremum at each of the critical points.

a. $f(x) = \frac{1}{3}x^3 - \frac{5}{2}x^2 + 4x$
b. $f(x) = (x^2 - 1)^3$
c. $f(x) = \frac{4x}{1+x^2}$

Solution

a. The derivative $f'(x) = x^2 - 5x + 4$ is defined for all real numbers x. Therefore, we only need to find the values for x where $f'(x) = 0$. Since $f'(x) = x^2 - 5x + 4 = (x - 4)(x - 1)$, the critical points are $x = 1$ and $x = 4$. From the graph of f in Figure 4.3.5, we see that f has a local maximum at $x = 1$ and a local minimum at $x = 4$.

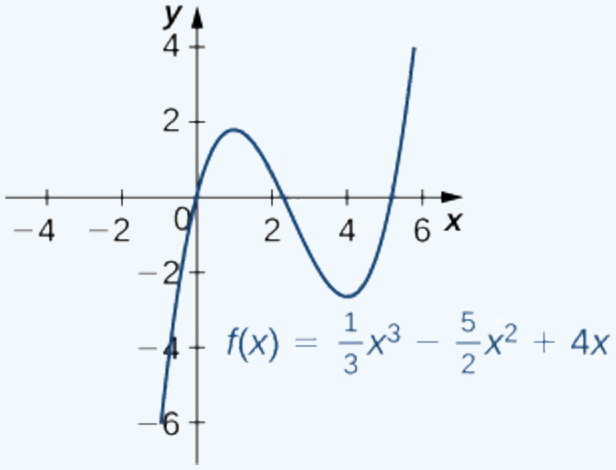


Figure 4.3.5: The function $f(x) = (1/3)x^3–(5/2)x^2 + 4x$ is graphed. The function has local maximum at $x = 1$ and local minimum at $x = 4$.

b. Using the chain rule, we see the derivative is

$$f'(x) = 3(x^2 - 1)^2(2x) = 6x(x^2 - 1)^2.$$

Therefore, f has critical points when $x = 0$ and when $x^2 - 1 = 0$. We conclude that the critical points are $x = 0, \pm 1$. From the graph of f in Figure 4.3.6, we see that f has a local (and absolute) minimum at $x = 0$, but does not have a local extremum at $x = 1$ or $x = -1$.

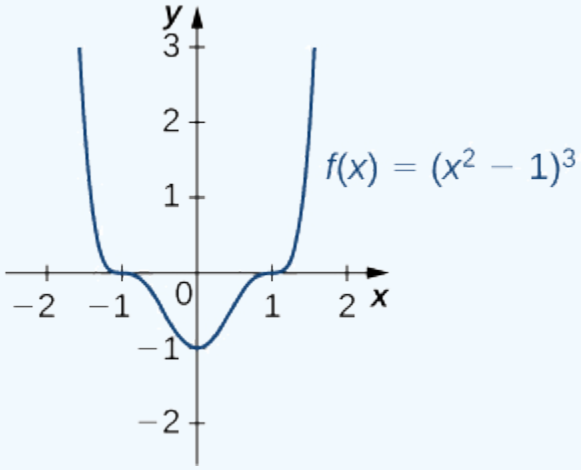


Figure 4.3.6: The function $f(x) = (x^2 - 1)^3$ is graphed. The function has local minimum at $x = 0$, and inflection points at $x = \pm 1$. This function has three critical points: $x = 0, x = 1$, and $x = -1$. The function has a local (and absolute) minimum at $x = 0$, but does not have extrema at the other two critical points.

c. By the chain rule, we see that the derivative is

$$f'(x) = \frac{(1+x^24)-4x(2x)}{(1+x^2)^2} = \frac{4-4x^2}{(1+x^2)^2}.$$

The derivative is defined everywhere. Therefore, we only need to find values for x where $f'(x) = 0$. Solving $f'(x) = 0$, we see that $4 - 4x^2 = 0$, which implies $x = \pm 1$. Therefore, the critical points are $x = \pm 1$. From the graph of f in Figure 4.3.7, we see that f has an absolute maximum at $x = 1$ and an absolute minimum at $x = -1$. Hence, f has a local maximum at $x = 1$ and a local minimum at $x = -1$. (Note that if f has an absolute extremum over an interval I at a point c that is not an endpoint of I, then f has a local extremum at c.)

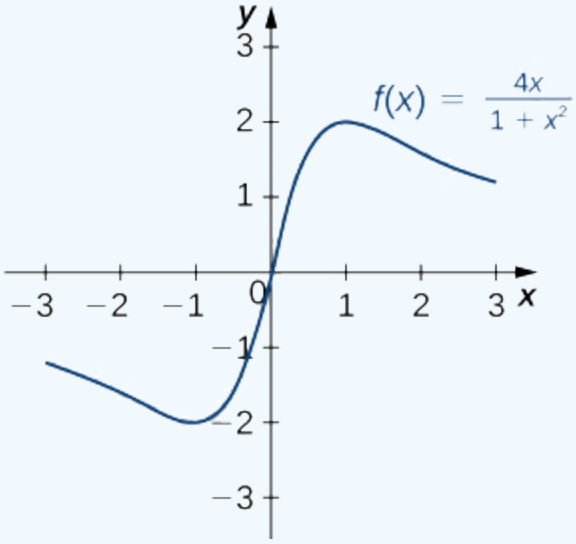


Figure 4.3.7: The function $f(x) = 4x/(1 + x^2)$ is graphed. The function has local/absolute maximum at $x = 1$ and local/absolute minimum at $x = -1$.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video length**: 2 minutes 5 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates finding critical points for $f(x) = 2x^3 - 3x^2 - 12x + 5$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 4.3.1

Find all critical points for $f(x) = x^3 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 2x + 1$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Locating Absolute Extrema

The extreme value theorem states that a continuous function over a closed, bounded interval has an absolute maximum and an absolute minimum. As shown in Figure 4.3.2, one or both of these absolute extrema could occur at an endpoint. If an absolute extremum does not occur at an endpoint, however, it must occur at an interior point, in which case the absolute extremum is a local extremum. Therefore, by Fermat's Theorem, the point c at which the local extremum occurs must be a critical point. We summarize this result in the following theorem.

Theorem: Location of Absolute Extrema

Let f be a continuous function over a closed, bounded interval I. The absolute maximum of f over I and the absolute minimum of f over I must occur at endpoints of I or at critical points of f in I.

With this idea in mind, let's examine a procedure for locating absolute extrema.

Problem-Solving Strategy: Locating Absolute Extrema over a Closed Interval

Consider a continuous function f defined over the closed interval $[a, b]$.

1. Evaluate f at the endpoints $x = a$ and $x = b$.
2. Find all critical points of f that lie over the interval (a, b) and evaluate f at those critical points.
3. Compare all values found in (1) and (2). From Note, the absolute extrema must occur at endpoints or critical points. Therefore, the largest of these values is the absolute maximum of f. The smallest of these values is the absolute minimum of f.

Now let's look at how to use this strategy to find the absolute maximum and absolute minimum values for continuous functions.

Example 4.3.2: Locating Absolute Extrema

For each of the following functions, find the absolute maximum and absolute minimum over the specified interval and state where those values occur.

a. $f(x) = -x^2 + 3x - 2$ over $[1, 3]$.
b. $f(x) = x^2 - 3x^{2/3}$ over $[0, 2]$.

Solution

a. Step 1. Evaluate f at the endpoints $x = 1$ and $x = 3$.

$$f(1) = 0 \text{ and } f(3) = -2$$

Step 2. Since $f'(x) = -2x + 3$, f' is defined for all real numbers x. Therefore, there are no critical points where the derivative is undefined. It remains to check where $f'(x) = 0$. Since $f'(x) = -2x + 3 = 0$at $x = \frac{3}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{2}$ is in the interval $[1, 3]$, $f(\frac{3}{2})$ is a candidate for an absolute extremum of f over $[1, 3]$. We evaluate $f(\frac{3}{2})$ and find

$$f\left(\tfrac{3}{2}\right) = \tfrac{1}{4}.$$

Step 3. We set up the following table to compare the values found in steps 1 and 2.

Table 4.3.1: Table summarizing absolute extrema of f

x	$f(x)$	Conclusion
0	0	
$\frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	Absolute maximum
3	-2	Absolute minimum

From the table, we find that the absolute maximum of f over the interval [1, 3] is $\frac{1}{4}$, and it occurs at $x = \frac{3}{2}$. The absolute minimum of f over the interval $[1, 3]$ is -2, and it occurs at $x = 3$ as shown in Figure 4.3.8.

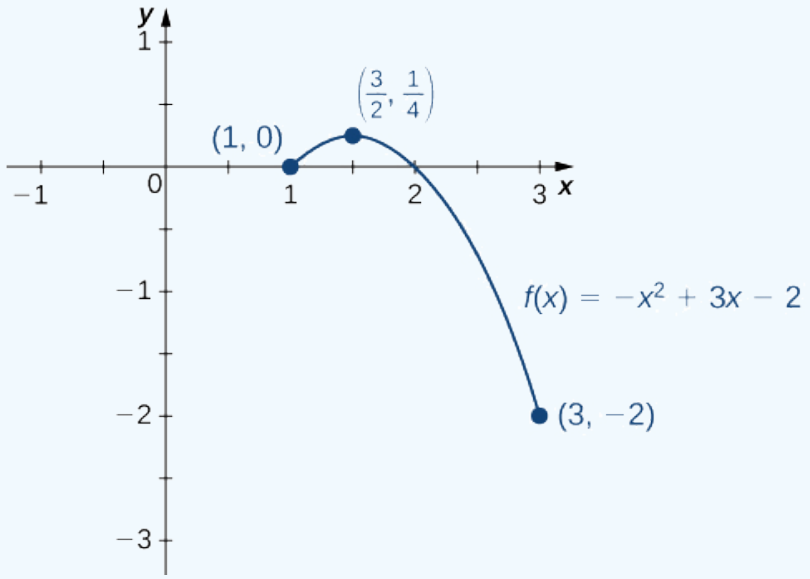


Figure 4.3.8: The function $f(x) = -x^2 + 3x - 2$ is graphed from $(1, 0)$ to $(3, -2)$, with its maximum marked at $(3/2, 1/4)$.

b. Step 1. Evaluate f at the endpoints $x = 0$ and $x = 2$.

$$f(0) = 0 \text{ and } f(2) = 4 - 3\,(2)^{2/3} \approx -0.762$$

Step 2. The derivative of f is given by

$$f'(x) = 2x - \tfrac{2}{x^{1/3}} = \frac{2x^{4/3} - 2}{x^{1/3}}$$

for $x \neq 0$. The derivative is zero when $2x^{4/3} - 2 = 0$, which implies $x = \pm 1$. The derivative is undefined at $x = 0$. Therefore, the critical points of f are $x = 0, 1, -1$. The point $x = 0$ is an endpoint, so we already evaluated $f(0)$ in step 1. The point $x = -1$ is not in the interval of interest, so we need only evaluate $f(1)$. We find that

$$f(1) = -2.$$

Step 3. We compare the values found in steps 1 and 2, in the following table.

Table 4.3.2: Table summarizing absolute extrema of f

x	$f(x)$	Conclusion
0	0	Absolute maximum
1	−2	Absolute minimum
2	−0.762	

We conclude that the absolute maximum of f over the interval [0, 2] is zero, and it occurs at $x = 0$. The absolute minimum is −2, and it occurs at $x = 1$ as shown in Figure 4.3.9.

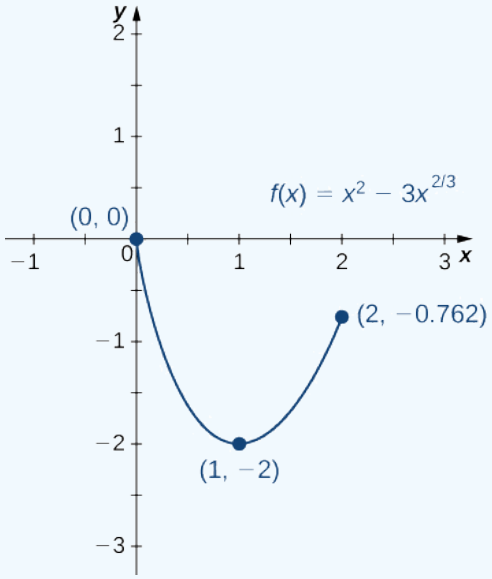


Figure 4.3.9: The function $f(x) = x^2–3x^(2/3)$ is graphed from $(0, 0)$ to $(2, -0.762)$, with its minimum marked at $(1, -2)$.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video length**: 3 minutes 6 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates finding absolute extrema for $f(x) = \frac{10x}{x^2+4}$ on the interval $[1, 3]$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 4.3.2

Find the absolute maximum and absolute minimum of $(x) = x^2 - 4x + 3$ over the interval $[1, 4]$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

At this point, we know how to locate absolute extrema for continuous functions over closed intervals. We have also defined local extrema and determined that if a function f has a local extremum at a point c, then c must be a critical point of f. However, c being a critical point is not a sufficient condition for f to have a local extremum at c. Later in this chapter, we show how to determine whether a function actually has a local extremum at a critical point. First, however, we need to introduce the Mean Value Theorem, which will help as we analyze the behavior of the graph of a function.

Key Concepts

- A function may have both an absolute maximum and an absolute minimum, have just one absolute extremum, or have no absolute maximum or absolute minimum.
- If a function has a local extremum, the point at which it occurs must be a critical point. However, a function need not have a local extremum at a critical point.
- A continuous function over a closed, bounded interval has an absolute maximum and an absolute minimum. Each extremum occurs at a critical point or an endpoint.

Glossary

Absolute extremum
If f has an absolute maximum or absolute minimum at c, we say f has an absolute extremum at c

Absolute maximum
If $f(c) \geq f(x)$ for all x in the domain of f, we say f has an absolute maximum at c

Absolute minimum
If $f(c) \leq f(x)$ for all x in the domain of f, we say f has an absolute minimum at c

Critical point
If $f'(c) = 0$ or $f'(c)$ is undefined, we say that c is a critical point of f

Extreme Value Theorem
If f is a continuous function over a finite, closed interval, then f has an absolute maximum and an absolute minimum

Fermat's Theorem
If f has a local extremum at c, then c is a critical point of f

Local extremum
If f has a local maximum or local minimum at c, we say f has a local extremum at c

Local maximum
If there exists an interval I such that $f(c) \geq f(x)$ for all $x \in I$, we say f has a local maximum at c

Local minimum
If there exists an interval I such that $f(c) \leq f(x)$ for all $x \in I$, we say f has a local minimum at c

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Answers

Exercise 4.3.1
Calculate $f'(x)$.

Exercise 4.3.1
$x = -23, x = 1$

Exercise 4.3.2
Look for critical points. Evaluate f at all critical points and at the endpoints.

Exercise 4.3.2
The absolute maximum is 3 and it occurs at $x = 4$. The absolute minimum is -1 and it occurs at $x = 2$.

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4.3E: Exercises for Section 4.3

Exercises 1 - 11

1. Explain the difference between an absolute minimum and a local minimum.

   Answer

   An absolute minimum is the lowest output value or height for whole domain of the function, while a local minimum is simply the lowest height for an interval of the domain.

2. In precalculus, you learned a formula for the position of the maximum or minimum of a quadratic equation $y = ax^2 + bx + c$, which was $m = -\frac{b}{2a}$. Prove this formula using calculus.
3. If you are finding an absolute minimum over an interval $[a, b]$, why do you need to check the endpoints? Draw a graph that supports your hypothesis.

   Answer

   On a closed interval, the endpoints often lie above or below any local (relative) extrema. Answers may vary for the graph.

4. If you are examining a function over an interval (a, b), for a and b finite, is it possible not to have an absolute maximum or absolute minimum?
5. When you are checking for critical points to locate the extrema of a function f, explain why you also need to determine points where $f'(x)$ is undefined. Draw a graph to support your explanation.

   Answer

   Points on the graph of f where there is a corner, a cusp, or a jump discontinuity or removable discontinuity can easily be absolute (or local) extrema of the function. Answers may vary for the graph.

6. Can you have a finite absolute maximum for $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ over $(-\infty, \infty)$? Explain why or why not using graphical arguments.
7. Can you have a finite absolute maximum for $y = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$ over $(-\infty, \infty)$ assuming a is non-zero? Explain why or why not using graphical arguments.

   Answer

   No; answers will vary

8. Let m be the number of local minima and M be the number of local maxima. Can you create a function where $M > m + 2$? Draw a graph to support your explanation.
9. Is it possible to have more than one absolute maximum? Use a graphical argument to prove your hypothesis.

   Answer

   Since the absolute maximum is the function (output) value rather than the x value, the answer is no; answers will vary.

10. Is it possible to have no absolute minimum or maximum for a function? If so, construct such a function. If not, explain why this is not possible.
11. [T] Graph the function $y = e^{ax}$. For which values of a, on any infinite domain, will you have an absolute minimum and absolute maximum?

    Answer

    When $a = 0$

Exercises 12 - 15

Determine where the local and absolute maxima and minima occur on the graph given. Assume domains are closed

intervals unless otherwise specified.

12.

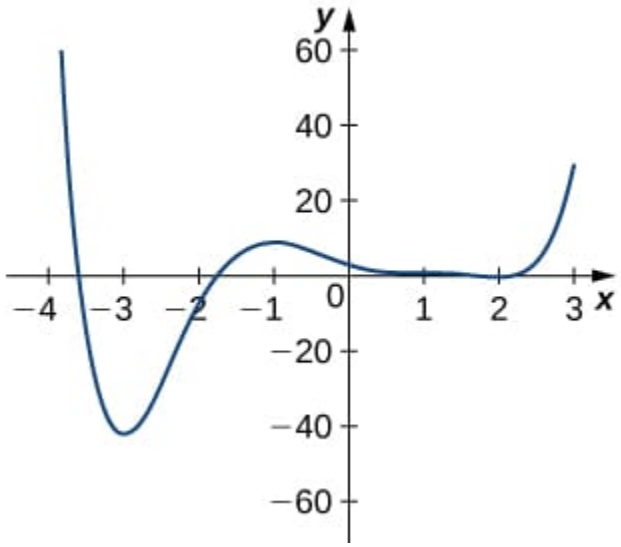


Figure $4.3E.1$: The function graphed starts at $(-4, 60)$, decreases rapidly to $(-3, -40)$, increases to $(-1, 10)$ before decreasing slowly to $(2, 0)$, at which point it increases rapidly to $(3, 30)$.

13.

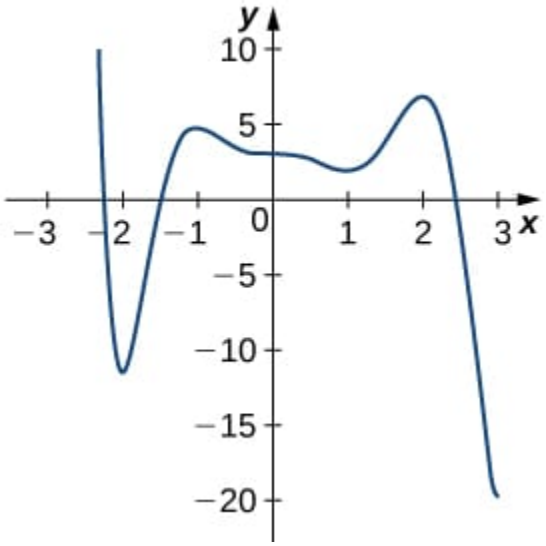


Figure $4.3E.2$: The function graphed starts at $(-2.2, 10)$, decreases rapidly to $(-2, -11)$, increases to $(-1, 5)$ before decreasing slowly to $(1, 3)$, at which point it increases to $(2, 7)$, and then decreases to $(3, -20)$.

Answer

Absolute minimum at 3; Absolute maximum at –2.2; local minima at –2, 1; local maxima at –1, 2

14.

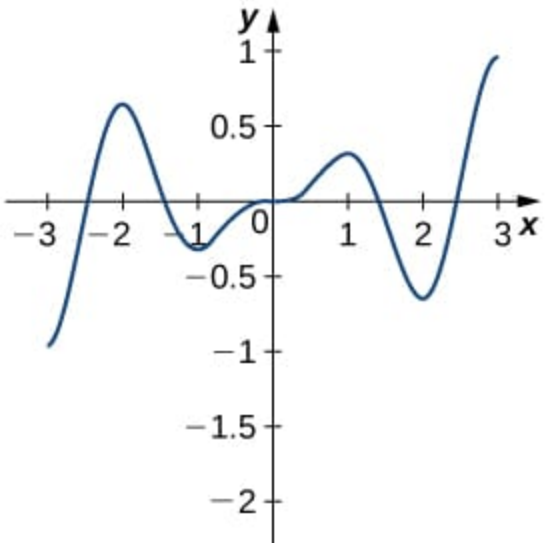


Figure $4.3E.3$: The function graphed starts at $(-3,-1)$, increases rapidly to $(-2,0.7)$, decreases to $(-1,-0.25)$ before decreasing slowly to $(1,0.25)$, at which point it decreases to $(2,0.7)$, and then increases to $(3,1)$.

15.

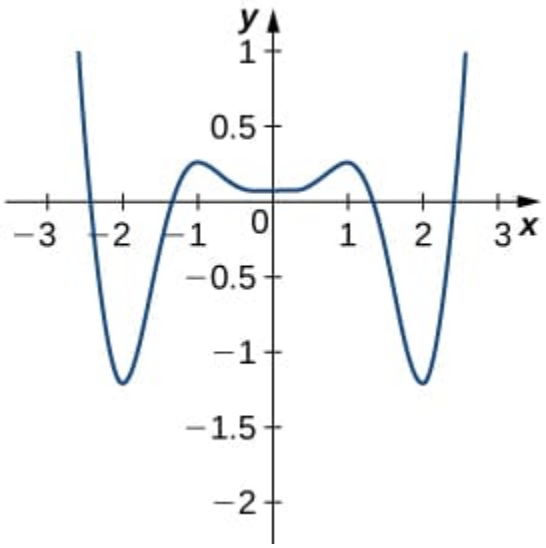


Figure $4.3E.4$: The function graphed starts at $(-2.5,1)$, decreases rapidly to $(-2,-1.25)$, increases to $(-1,0.25)$ before decreasing slowly to $(0,0.2)$, at which point it increases slowly to $(1,0.25)$, then decreases rapidly to $(2,-1.25)$, and finally increases to $(2.5,1)$.

Answer

Absolute minima at –2, 2; absolute maxima at –2.5, 2.5; local minimum at 0; local maxima at –1, 1

Exercises 16 - 19

Draw graphs of $f(x)$, which is continuous, over the interval $[-4,4]$ with the following properties:

16. Absolute maximum at $x=2$ and absolute minima at $x=\pm 3$
17. Absolute minimum at $x=1$ and absolute maximum at $x=2$

Answer

Answers may vary.

18. Absolute maximum at $x=4$, absolute minimum at $x=-1$, local maximum at $x=-2$, and a critical point that is not a maximum or minimum at $x=2$
19. Absolute maxima at $x=2$ and $x=-3$, local minimum at $x=1$, and absolute minimum at $x=4$

Answer

Answers may vary.

Exercises 20 - 29

Find the critical points in the domains of the given functions.

20. $y = 4x^3 - 3x$
21. $y = 4\sqrt{x} - x^2$

Answer

$x = 1$

22. $y = \dfrac{1}{x-1}$
23. $y = \ln(x-2)$

Answer

None

24. $y = \tan(x)$
25. $y = \sqrt{4-x^2}$

Answer

$x = 0$

26. $y = x^{3/2} - 3x^{5/2}$
27. $y = \dfrac{x^2-1}{x^2+2x-3}$

Answer

None

28. $y = \sin^2(x)$
29. $y = x + \dfrac{1}{x}$

Answer

$x = -1$ and $x = 1$

Exercises 30 - 40

Find the local and/or absolute maxima for the functions over the specified domain.

30. $f(x) = x^2 + 3$ over $[-1, 4]$
31. $y = x^2 + \dfrac{2}{x}$ over $[1, 4]$

Answer

Absolute maximum: $x = 4, y = \frac{33}{2}$; absolute minimum: $x = 1, y = 3$

32. $y = (x - x^2)^2$ over $[-1, 1]$
33. $y = \dfrac{1}{x-x^2}$ over $[0, 1]$

Answer

Absolute minimum: $x = \frac{1}{2}, y = 4$

34. $y = \sqrt{9-x}$ over $[1, 9]$
35. $y = x + \sin(x)$ over $[0, 2\pi]$

Answer

Absolute maximum: $x = 2\pi, y = 2\pi$; absolute minimum: $x = 0, y = 0$

36. $y = \dfrac{x}{1+x}$ over $[0, 100]$
37. $y = |x+1| + |x-1|$ over $[-3, 2]$

Answer

Absolute maximum: $x = -3, y = 6$; absolute minimum: $-1 \leq x \leq 1, y = 2$

38. $y = \sqrt{x} - \sqrt{x^3}$ over $[0, 4]$
39. $y = \sin x + \cos x$ over $[0, 2\pi]$

Answer

Absolute maximum: $x = \frac{\pi}{4}, y = \sqrt{2}$; absolute minimum: $x = \frac{5\pi}{4}, y = -\sqrt{2}$

40. $y = 4\sin - 3\cos\theta$ over $[0, 2\pi]$

Exercises 41 - 46

Find the local and absolute minima and maxima for the functions over $(-\infty, \infty)$.

41. $y = x^2 + 4x + 5$

Answer

Absolute minimum: $x = -2, y = 1$

42. $y = x^3 - 12x$
43. $y = 3x^4 + 8x^3 - 18x^2$

Answer

Absolute minimum: $x = -3, y = -135$; local maximum: $x = 0, y = 0$; local minimum: $x = 1, y = -7$

44. $y = x^3(1-x)^6$
45. $y = \dfrac{x^2 + x + 6}{x - 1}$

Answer

Local maximum: $x = 1 - 2\sqrt{2}, y = 3 - 4\sqrt{2}$; local minimum: $x = 1 + 2\sqrt{2}, y = 3 + 4\sqrt{2}$

46. $y = \dfrac{x^2 - 1}{x - 1}$

Exercises 47 - 51

Use a calculator to graph the function and to estimate the absolute and local maxima and minima. Then, solve for them explicitly.

47. [T] $y = 3x\sqrt{1 - x^2}$

Answer

Absolute maximum: $x = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, y = \frac{3}{2}$; absolute minimum: $x = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, y = -\frac{3}{2}$

48. [T] $y = x + \sin(x)$
49. [T] $y = 12x^5 + 45x^4 + 20x^3 - 90x^2 - 120x + 3$

Answer

Local maximum: $x = -2, y = 59$; local minimum: $x = 1, y = -130$

50. [T] $y = \dfrac{x^3 + 6x^2 - x - 30}{x - 2}$

51. [T] $y = \dfrac{\sqrt{4 - x^2}}{\sqrt{4 + x^2}}$

Answer

Absolute maximum: $x = 0, y = 1$; absolute minimum: $x = -2, 2, y = 0$

52. A company that produces cell phones has a cost function of $C = x^2 - 1200x + 36,400$, where C is cost in dollars and x is number of cell phones produced (in thousands). How many units of cell phone (in thousands) minimizes this cost function?

53. A ball is thrown into the air and its position is given by $h(t) = -4.9t^2 + 60t + 5m$. Find the height at which the ball stops ascending. How long after it is thrown does this happen?

Answer

$h = \frac{9245}{49}$ m, $t = \frac{300}{49}$ s

Exercises 54 - 55

Consider the production of gold during the California gold rush (1848–1888). The production of gold can be modeled by $G(t) = \dfrac{(25t)}{(t^2 + 16)}$, where t is the number of years since the rush began $(0 \le t \le 40)$ and G is ounces of gold produced (in millions). A summary of the data is shown in the following figure. (One troy ounce is equal to 31.10 grams.)

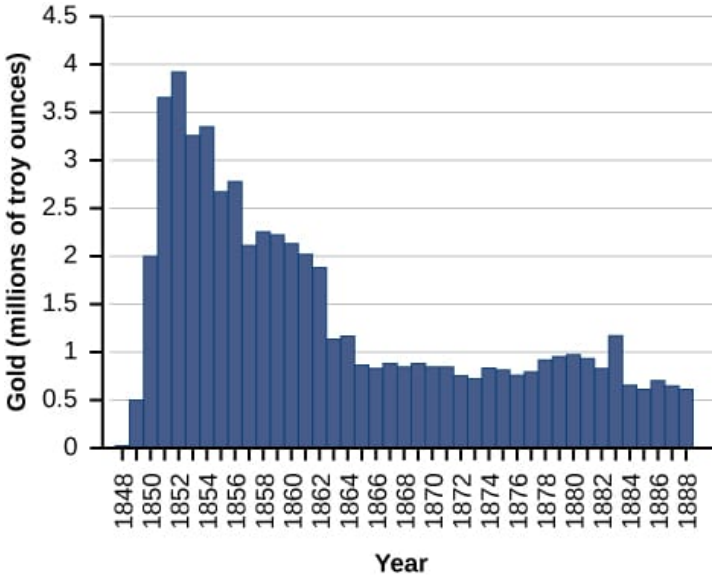


Figure $4.3E.5$: The bar graph shows gold (in millions of troy ounces) per year, starting in 1848 and ending in 1888. In 1848, the bar graph shows 0.05; in 1849, 0.5; in 1850, 2; in 1851, 3.6; in 1852, 3.9; in 1853, 3.3; in 1854, 3.4; in 1855, 2.6; in 1856, 2.75; in 1857, 2.1; in 1858, 2.2; in 1859, 2.15; in 1860, 2.1; in 1861, 2; in 1862, 1.8; in 1863, 1.1; in 1864, 1.15; in 1865, 0.9; in 1866, 0.85; in 1867, 0.9; in 1868, 0.85; in 1869, 0.9; in 1870, 0.85; in 1871, 0.85; in 1872, 0.75; in 1873, 0.7; in 1874, 0.8; in 1875, 0.75; in 1876, 0.7; in 1877, 0.73; in 1878, 0.9; in 1879, 0.95; in 1880, 1; in 1881, 0.95; in 1882, 0.85; in 1883, 1.1; in 1884, 0.6; in 1885, 0.55; in 1886, 0.65; in 1887, 0.6; and in 1888, 0.55.

54. Find when the maximum (local and global) gold production occurred, and the amount of gold produced during that maximum.

55. Find when the minimum (local and global) gold production occurred. What was the amount of gold produced during this minimum?

Answer

The global minimum was in 1848, when no gold was produced.

Exercises 56 - 57

Find the critical points, maxima, and minima for the given piecewise functions.

56. \(y= \begin{cases} x^2−4x, & \text{if }0≤x≤1\x^2−4, & \text{if }1
57. $y = \begin{cases} x^2 + 1, & \text{if } x \leq 1 \\ x^2 - 4x + 5, & \text{if } x > 1 \end{cases}$

Answer

Absolute minima: $x = 0, x = 2, y = 1$; local maximum at $x = 1, y = 2$

Exercises 58 - 59

Find the critical points of the following generic functions. Are they maxima, minima, or neither? State the necessary conditions.

58. $y = ax^2 + bx + c$, given that $a > 0$
59. $y = (x - 1)^a$, given that $a > 1$

Answer

No maxima/minima if a is odd, minimum at $x = 1$ if a is even

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- Paul Seeburger (Monroe Community College) added answers for exercises 2 and 4.

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4.4: The Mean Value Theorem

Learning Objectives

- Explain the meaning of Rolle's Theorem.
- Describe the significance of the Mean Value Theorem.
- State three important consequences of the Mean Value Theorem.

The *Mean Value Theorem* is one of the most important theorems in calculus. We look at some of its implications at the end of this section. First, let's start with a special case of the Mean Value Theorem, called Rolle's Theorem.

Rolle's Theorem

Informally, **Rolle's Theorem** states that if the outputs of a differentiable function f are equal at the endpoints of an interval, then there must be an interior point c where $f'(c) = 0$. Figure $4.4.1$ illustrates this theorem.

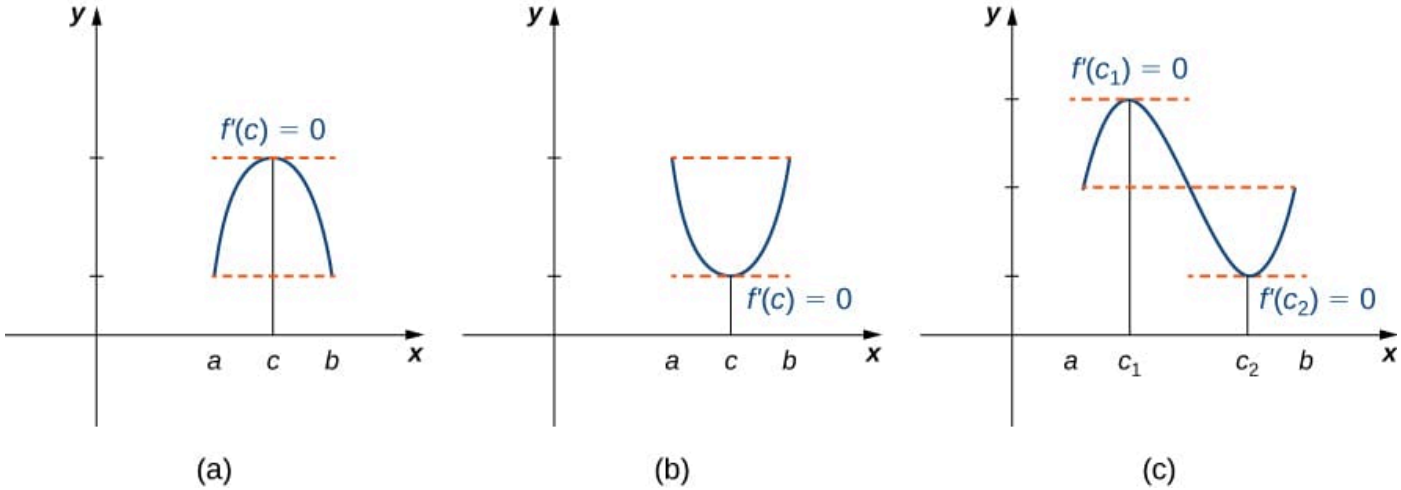


Figure $4.4.1$: The figure has three parts labeled a, b, and c. Figure a shows the first quadrant with values a, c, and b marked on the x-axis in that order. A downward-facing parabola is drawn such that its height at a and b is the same. The point c is the global maximum, and $f'(c) = 0$. Figure b shows the first quadrant with values a, c, and b marked on the x-axis in that order. An upward-facing parabola is drawn such that its height at a and b is the same. The point c is the global minimum, and $f'(c) = 0$. Figure c shows the first quadrant with points a, c_1, c_2 and b marked on the x-axis. One period of a sine wave is drawn such that its height at endpoints a and b is the same. The point c_1 is the global maximum, and $f'(c_1) = 0$. The point c_2 is the global minimum, and $f'(c_2) = 0$.

Theorem: Rolle's Theorem

Let f be a continuous function over the closed interval $[a, b]$ and differentiable over the open interval (a, b) such that $f(a) = f(b)$. There then exists at least one $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f'(c) = 0$.

Proof

Let $k = f(a) = f(b)$. We consider three cases:

1. $f(x) = k$ for all $x \in (a, b)$.
2. There exists $x \in (a, b)$ such that $f(x) > k$.
3. There exists $x \in (a, b)$ such that \(f(x)

Case 1: If $f(x) = 0$ for all $x \in (a, b)$, then $f'(x) = 0$ for all $x \in (a, b)$.

Case 2: Since f is a continuous function over the closed, bounded interval $[a, b]$, by the extreme value theorem, it has an absolute maximum. Also, since there is a point $x \in (a, b)$ such that $f(x) > k$, the absolute maximum is greater than k. Therefore, the absolute maximum does not occur at either endpoint. As a result, the absolute maximum must occur at an interior point $c \in (a, b)$. Because f has a maximum at an interior point c, and f is differentiable at c, by Fermat's theorem, $f'(c) = 0$.

Case 3: The case when there exists a point $x \in (a, b)$ such that \(f(x)

□

An important point about Rolle's Theorem is that the differentiability of the function f is critical. If f is not differentiable, even at a single point, the result may not hold. For example, the function $f(x) = |x| - 1$ is continuous over $[-1, 1]$ and $f(-1) = 0 = f(1)$, but $f'(c) \neq 0$ for any $c \in (-1, 1)$ as shown in the following figure.

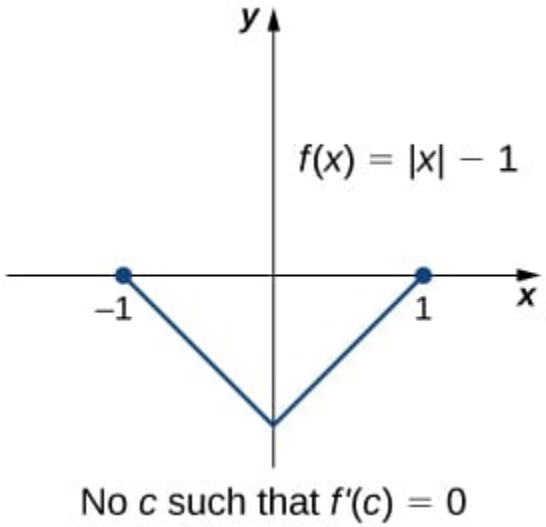


Figure 4.4.2: The function $f(x) = |x| - 1$ is graphed. It shows that $f(1) = f(-1)$, but it is noted that there is no c such that $f'(c) = 0$. Since $f(x) = |x| - 1$ is not differentiable at $x = 0$, the conditions of Rolle's theorem are not satisfied. In fact, the conclusion does not hold here; there is no $c \in (-1, 1)$ such that $f'(c) = 0$.

Let's now consider functions that satisfy the conditions of Rolle's Theorem and calculate explicitly the points c where $f'(c) = 0$.

Example 4.4.1: Using Rolle's Theorem

For each of the following functions, verify that the function satisfies the criteria stated in Rolle's Theorem and find all values c in the given interval where $f'(c) = 0$.

a. $f(x) = x^2 + 2x$ over $[-2, 0]$
b. $f(x) = x^3 - 4x$ over $[-2, 2]$

Solution

a. Since f is a polynomial, it is continuous and differentiable everywhere. In addition, $f(-2) = 0 = f(0)$. Therefore, f satisfies the criteria of Rolle's Theorem. We conclude that there exists at least one value $c \in (-2, 0)$ such that $f'(c) = 0$. Since $f'(x) = 2x + 2 = 2(x + 1)$, we see that $f'(c) = 2(c + 1) = 0$ implies $c = -1$ as shown in the following graph.

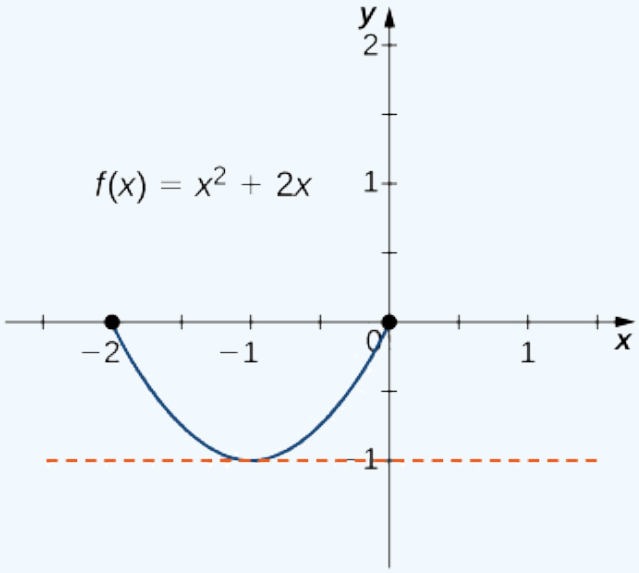


Figure 4.4.3: The function $f(x) = x^2 + 2x$ is graphed. It is shown that $f(0) = f(-2)$, and a dashed horizontal line is drawn at the absolute minimum at $(-1, -1)$. This function is continuous and differentiable over [–2,0], $f'(c) = 0$ when $c = -1$.

b. As in part a. f is a polynomial and therefore is continuous and differentiable everywhere. Also, $f(-2) = 0 = f(2)$. That said, f satisfies the criteria of Rolle's Theorem. Differentiating, we find that $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 4$. Therefore, $f'(c) = 0$ when $x = \pm\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}$. Both points are in the interval $[-2, 2]$, and, therefore, both points satisfy the conclusion of Rolle's theorem as shown in the following graph.

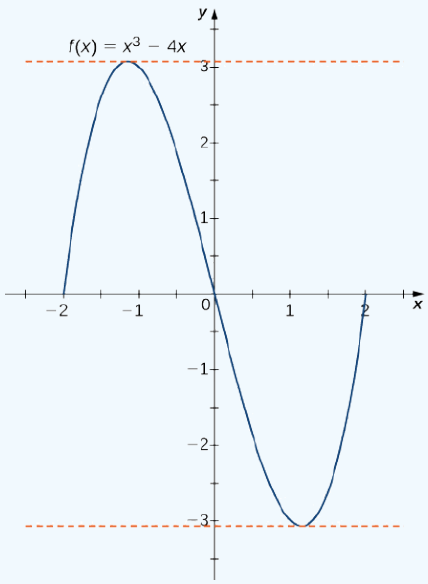


Figure 4.4.4: The function $f(x) = x^3$–$4x$ is graphed. $f(2) = f(-2) = f(0)$. Dashed horizontal lines are drawn at x = ±2/square root of 3, which are the local maximum and minimum.For this polynomial over $[-2, 2]$, $f'(c) = 0$ at $x = \pm 2/\sqrt{3}$.

Example 4.4.2

Two runners in a 10 kilometer race finish in a tie. Prove that at some time during the race, the two runners were running at the same velocity.

Solution

- **Video length**: 2 minutes 16 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates using Rolle's Theorem for two runners who finish at the same time.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Example 4.4.3: Determining whether Rolle's Theorem can be applied

Determine whether Rolle's Theorem can be applied for cases

A. $f(x) = \tan x, [0, 2\pi]$

B. $f(x) = x^3 - 2x + 1, [-1, 1]$

C. $f(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - x + 1, [-1, 1]$

Solution

- **Video length**: 3 minutes 38 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates determining whether Rolle's Theorem can be applied.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Exercise 4.4.1

Verify that the function $f(x) = 2x^2 - 8x + 6$ defined over the interval $[1, 3]$ satisfies the conditions of Rolle's theorem. Find all points c guaranteed by Rolle's theorem.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

The Mean Value Theorem and Its Meaning

Rolle's theorem is a special case of the Mean Value Theorem. In Rolle's theorem, we consider differentiable functions f that are zero at the endpoints. The Mean Value Theorem generalizes Rolle's theorem by considering functions that are not necessarily zero at the endpoints. Consequently, we can view the Mean Value Theorem as a slanted version of Rolle's theorem (Figure $4.4.5$). The Mean Value Theorem states that if f is continuous over the closed interval $[a, b]$ and differentiable over the open interval (a, b), then there exists a point $c \in (a, b)$ such that the tangent line to the graph of f at c is parallel to the secant line connecting $(a, f(a))$ and $(b, f(b))$.

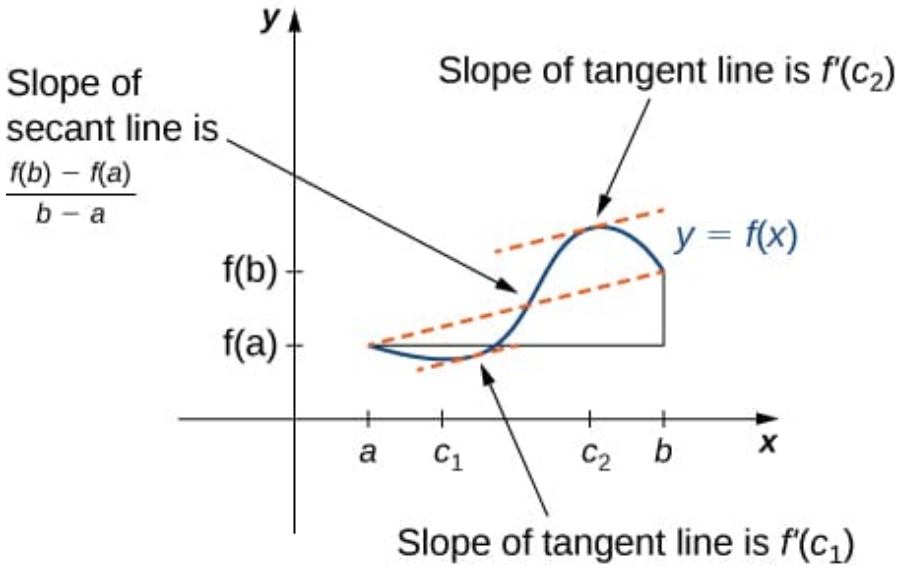


Figure 4.4.5: A vaguely sinusoidal function $y = f(x)$ is drawn. On the x-axis, a, c_1, c_2, and b are marked left to right. On the y-axis, $f(a)$ and $f(b)$ are marked. The function f(x) starts at $(a, f(a))$, decreases to c_1, increases to c_2, and then decreases to $(b, f(b))$. A secant line is drawn between $(a, f(a))$ and $(b, f(b))$, and it is noted that this line has slope $(f(b)–f(a))/(b - a)$. The tangent lines at c_1 and c_2 are drawn, and these lines are parallel to the secant line. It is noted that the slopes of these tangent lines are $f'(c_1)$ and $f'(c_2)$, respectively. The Mean Value Theorem says that for a function that meets its conditions, at some point the tangent line has the same slope as the secant line between the ends. For this function, there are two values c_1 and c_2 such that the tangent line to f at c_1 and c_2 has the same slope as the secant line.

Theorem: Mean Value Theorem

Let f be continuous over the closed interval $[a, b]$ and differentiable over the open interval (a, b). Then, there exists at least one point $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} \tag{4.4.1}$$

Proof

The proof follows from Rolle's theorem by introducing an appropriate function that satisfies the criteria of Rolle's theorem. Consider the line connecting $(a, f(a))$ and $(b, f(b))$. Since the slope of that line is

$$\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} \tag{4.4.2}$$

and the line passes through the point $(a, f(a))$, the equation of that line can be written as

$$y = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}(x - a) + f(a). \tag{4.4.3}$$

Let $g(x)$ denote the vertical difference between the point $(x, f(x))$ and the point (x, y) on that line. Therefore,

$$g(x) = f(x) - \left[\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}(x - a) + f(a)\right]. \tag{4.4.4}$$

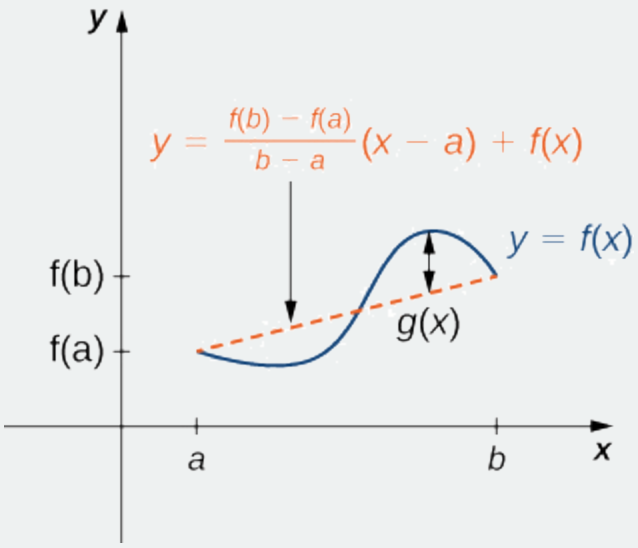


Figure 4.4.6: A vaguely sinusoidal function $y = f(x)$ is drawn. On the x-axis, a and b are marked. On the y-axis, $f(a)$ and $f(b)$ are marked. The function $f(x)$ starts at $(a, f(a))$, decreases, then increases, and then decreases to $(b, f(b))$. A secant line is drawn between $(a, f(a))$ and $(b, f(b))$, and this line has equation $y = (((f(b)–f(a))/(b - a))(x - a) + f(x)$. A line is drawn between the maximum of $f(x)$ and the secant line and it is marked $g(x)$. The value $g(x)$ is the vertical difference between the point $(x, f(x))$ and the point (x, y) on the secant line connecting $(a, f(a))$ and $(b, f(b))$.

Since the graph of f intersects the secant line when $x = a$ and $x = b$, we see that $g(a) = 0 = g(b)$. Since f is a differentiable function over (a, b), g is also a differentiable function over (a, b). Furthermore, since f is continuous over $[a, b]$, g is also continuous over $[a, b]$. Therefore, g satisfies the criteria of Rolle's theorem. Consequently, there exists a point $c \in (a, b)$ such that $g'(c) = 0$. Since

$$g'(x) = f'(x) - \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}, \tag{4.4.5}$$

we see that

$$g'(c) = f'(c) - \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}. \tag{4.4.6}$$

Since $g'(c) = 0$, we conclude that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}. \tag{4.4.7}$$

□

Interactive Element

Visualizing the Mean Value Theorem

Move a and b to see the secant line and a tangent line that has the same slope as the secant line. The Mean Value Theorem tells us that a point with such a tangent line always exists if $f(x)$ is differentiable.

50

a = -1

50

b = 1

In the next example, we show how the Mean Value Theorem can be applied to the function $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ over the interval $[0, 9]$. The method is the same for other functions, although sometimes with more interesting consequences.

Example 4.4.4: Verifying that the Mean Value Theorem Applies

For $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ over the interval $[0, 9]$, show that f satisfies the hypothesis of the Mean Value Theorem, and therefore there exists at least one value $c \in (0, 9)$ such that $f\,'(c)$ is equal to the slope of the line connecting $(0, f(0))$ and $(9, f(9))$. Find these values c guaranteed by the Mean Value Theorem.

Solution

We know that $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ is continuous over $[0, 9]$ and differentiable over $(0, 9)$. Therefore, f satisfies the hypotheses of the Mean Value Theorem, and there must exist at least one value $c \in (0, 9)$ such that $f\,'(c)$ is equal to the slope of the line connecting $(0, f(0))$ and $(9, f(9))$ (Figure). To determine which value(s) of c are guaranteed, first calculate the derivative of f. The derivative $f\,'(x) = \frac{1}{(2\sqrt{x})}$. The slope of the line connecting $(0, f(0))$ and $(9, f(9))$ is given by

$$\frac{f(9) - f(0)}{9 - 0} = \frac{\sqrt{9} - \sqrt{0}}{9 - 0} = \frac{3}{9} = \frac{1}{3}.$$

We want to find c such that $f\,'(c) = \frac{1}{3}$. That is, we want to find c such that

$$\frac{1}{2\sqrt{c}} = \frac{1}{3}.$$

Solving this equation for c, we obtain $c = \frac{9}{4}$. At this point, the slope of the tangent line equals the slope of the line joining the endpoints.

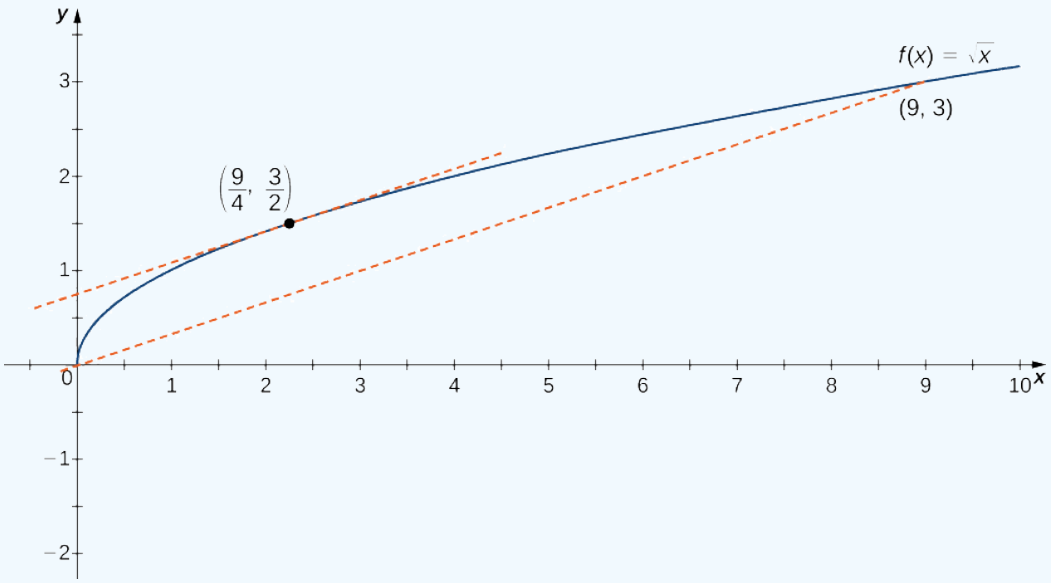


Figure 4.4.7: The function $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ is graphed from $(0, 0)$ to $(9, 3)$. There is a secant line drawn from $(0, 0)$ to $(9, 3)$. At point $(9/4, 3/2)$, there is a tangent line that is drawn, and this line is parallel to the secant line. The slope of the tangent line at $c = 9/4$ is the same as the slope of the line segment connecting $(0, 0)$ to $(9, 3)$.

One application that helps illustrate the Mean Value Theorem involves velocity. For example, suppose we drive a car for 1 h down a straight road with an average velocity of 45 mph. Let $s(t)$ and $v(t)$ denote the position and velocity of the car, respectively, for $0 \le t \le 1$ h. Assuming that the position function $s(t)$ is differentiable, we can apply the Mean Value Theorem to conclude that, at some time $c \in (0, 1)$, the speed of the car was exactly

$$v(c) = s'(c) = \frac{s(1) - s(0)}{1 - 0} = 45\,mph.$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video length**: 2 minutes 40 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates finding c that satisfies the Mean Value Theorem when $f(x) = x^3 + 2x$ for $[-1, 1]$.

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Example 4.4.5: Mean Value Theorem and Velocity

If a rock is dropped from a height of 100 ft, its position t seconds after it is dropped until it hits the ground is given by the function $s(t) = -16t^2 + 100$.

a. Determine how long it takes before the rock hits the ground.
b. Find the average velocity v_{avg} of the rock for when the rock is released and the rock hits the ground.
c. Find the time t guaranteed by the Mean Value Theorem when the instantaneous velocity of the rock is v_{avg}.

Solution

a. When the rock hits the ground, its position is $s(t) = 0$. Solving the equation $-16t^2 + 100 = 0$ for t, we find that $t = \pm\frac{5}{2} sec.$ Since we are only considering $t \geq 0$, the ball will hit the ground $\frac{5}{2}$ sec after it is dropped.

b. The average velocity is given by

$$v_{avg} = \frac{s(5/2) - s(0)}{5/2 - 0} = \frac{1 - 100}{5/2} = -40 \, \text{ft/sec}.$$

c. The instantaneous velocity is given by the derivative of the position function. Therefore, we need to find a time t such that $v(t) = s\,'(t) = v_{avg} = -40$ ft/sec. Since $s(t)$ is continuous over the interval $[0, 5/2]$ and differentiable over the interval $(0, 5/2)$, by the Mean Value Theorem, there is guaranteed to be a point $c \in (0, 5/2)$ such that

$$s'(c) = \frac{s(5/2) - s(0)}{5/2 - 0} = -40.$$

Taking the derivative of the position function $s(t)$, we find that $s\,'(t) = -32t$. Therefore, the equation reduces to $s\,'(c) = -32c = -40$. Solving this equation for c, we have $c = \frac{5}{4}$. Therefore, $\frac{5}{4}$ sec after the rock is dropped, the instantaneous velocity equals the average velocity of the rock during its free fall: -40 ft/sec.

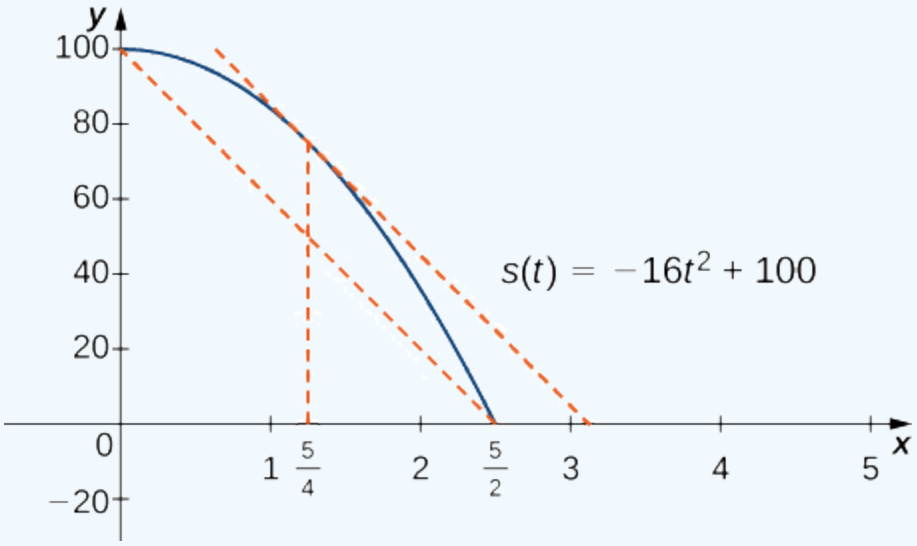


Figure 4.4.8: The function $s(t) = -16t^2 + 100$ is graphed from $(0, 100) to (5/2, 0)$. There is a secant line drawn from $(0, 100) to (5/2, 0)$. At the point corresponding to x = 5/4, there is a tangent line that is drawn, and this line is parallel to the secant line.
At time $t = 5/4$ sec, the velocity of the rock is equal to its average velocity from the time it is dropped until it hits the ground.

Exercise 4.4.2

Suppose a ball is dropped from a height of 200 ft. Its position at time t is $s(t) = -16t^2 + 200$. Find the time t when the instantaneous velocity of the ball equals its average velocity.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Corollaries of the Mean Value Theorem

Let's now look at three corollaries of the Mean Value Theorem. These results have important consequences, which we use in upcoming sections.

At this point, we know the derivative of any constant function is zero. The Mean Value Theorem allows us to conclude that the converse is also true. In particular, if $f'(x) = 0$ for all x in some interval I, then $f(x)$ is constant over that interval. This result may seem intuitively obvious, but it has important implications that are not obvious, and we discuss them shortly.

Corollary 1: Functions with a Derivative of Zero

Let f be differentiable over an interval I. If $f'(x) = 0$ for all $x \in I$, then $f(x) =$ constant for all $x \in I$.

Proof

Since f is differentiable over I, f must be continuous over I. Suppose $f(x)$ is not constant for all x in I. Then there exist $a, b \in I$, where $a \neq b$ and $f(a) \neq f(b)$. Choose the notation so that \(a

$$\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} \neq 0.$$

Since f s a differentiable function, by the Mean Value Theorem, there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}.$$

Therefore, there exists $c \in I$ such that $f\,'(c) \neq 0$, which contradicts the assumption that $f\,'(x) = 0$ for all $x \in I$.

□

From Note, it follows that if two functions have the same derivative, they differ by, at most, a constant.

Corollary 2: Constant Difference Theorem

If f and g are differentiable over an interval I and $f\,'(x) = g\,'(x)$ for all $x \in I$, then $f(x) = g(x) + C$ for some constant C.

Proof

Let $h(x) = f(x) - g(x)$. Then, $h\,'(x) = f\,'(x) - g\,'(x) = 0$ for all $x \in I$. By Corollary 1, there is a constant C such that $h(x) = C$ for all $x \in I$. Therefore, $f(x) = g(x) + C$ for all $x \in I$.

Example 4.4.6: Proof of the Fixed Point Theorem

Prove that if f is a differentiable function with $f'(x) > 1$ for all x, then there is at most one c with $f(c) = c$.

Solution

- **Video length**: 2 minutes 38 seconds
- **.Context**: This video demonstates proving the Fixed Point Theorem

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The third corollary of the Mean Value Theorem discusses when a function is increasing and when it is decreasing. Recall that a function f is increasing over I if \(f(x_1)f(x_2)\) whenever \(x_1

This fact is important because it means that for a given function f, if there exists a function F such that $F\,'(x) = f(x)$; then, the only other functions that have a derivative equal to f are $F(x) + C$ for some constant C. We discuss this result in more detail later in the chapter.

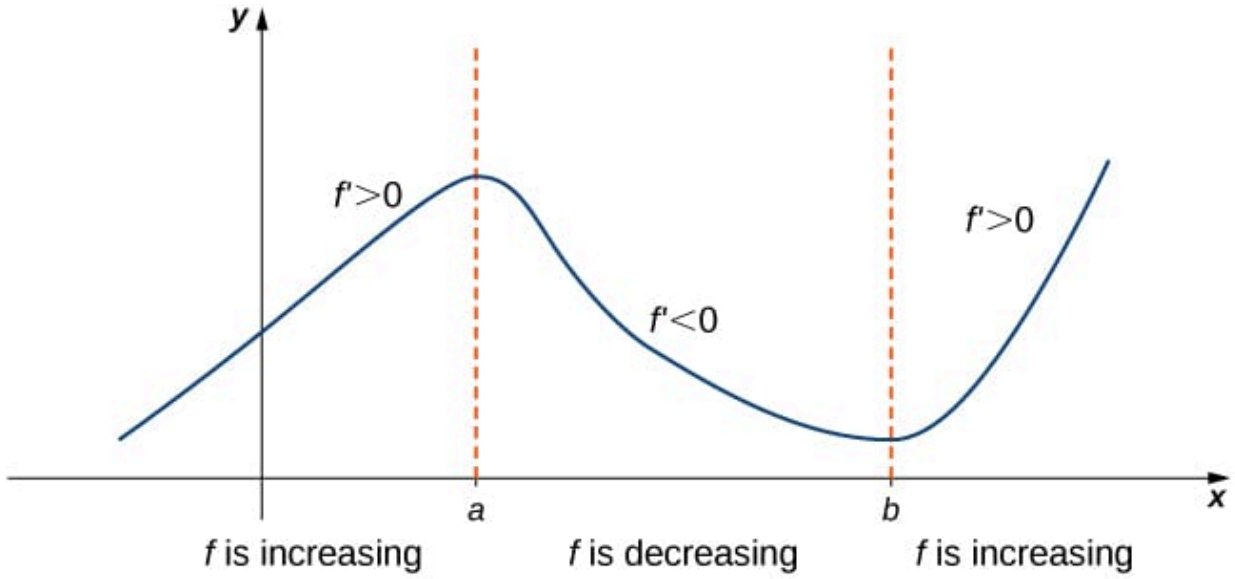


Figure 4.4.9: A vaguely sinusoidal function (x) is graphed. It increases from somewhere in the second quadrant to $(a, f(a))$. In this section it is noted that $f' > 0$. Then in decreases from $(a, f(a))$ to $(b, f(b))$. In this section it is noted that $f' < 0$. Finally, it increases to the right of $(b, f(b))$ and it is noted in this section that $f' > 0$. If a function has a positive derivative over some interval I, then the function increases over that interval I. If the derivative is negative over some interval I, then the function decreases over that interval I.

Corollary 3: Increasing and Decreasing Functions

Let f be continuous over the closed interval $[a, b]$ and differentiable over the open interval (a, b).

i. If $f'(x) > 0$ for all $x \in (a, b)$, then f is an increasing function over $[a, b]$.
ii. If $f'(x) < 0$ for all $x \in (a, b)$, then f is a decreasing function over $[a, b]$.

Proof

We will prove i.; the proof of ii. is similar. Suppose f is not an increasing function on I. Then there exist a and b in I such that \(a

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}.$$

Since $f(a) \geq f(b)$, we know that $f(b) - f(a) \leq 0$. Also, \(a0.\) We conclude that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a} \leq 0.$$

However, $f'(x) > 0$ for all $x \in I$. This is a contradiction, and therefore f must be an increasing function over I.

□

Key Concepts

- If f is continuous over $[a, b]$ and differentiable over (a, b) and $f(a) = 0 = f(b)$, then there exists a point $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f'(c) = 0$. This is Rolle's theorem.
- If f is continuous over $[a, b]$ and differentiable over (a, b), then there exists a point $c \in (a, b)$ such that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}.$$

This is the Mean Value Theorem.

- If $f'(x) = 0$ over an interval I, then f is constant over I.
- If two differentiable functions f and g satisfy $f'(x) = g'(x)$ over I, then $f(x) = g(x) + C$ for some constant C.
- If $f'(x) > 0$ over an interval I, then f is increasing over I. If $f'(x) < 0$ over I, then f is decreasing over I.

Glossary

Mean Value Theorem

If f is continuous over $[a, b]$ and differentiable over (a, b), then there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f'(c) = \frac{f(b)-f(a)}{b-a}$

Rolle's Theorem

If f is continuous over $[a, b]$ and differentiable over (a, b), and if $f(a) = f(b)$, then there exists $c \in (a, b)$ such that $f'(c) = 0$

Contributors and Attributions

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Answers

Exercise 4.4.1

Find all values c, where $f'(c) = 0$.

Exercise 4.4.1

$c = 2$

Exercise 4.4.2

First, determine how long it takes for the ball to hit the ground. Then, find the average velocity of the ball from the time it is dropped until it hits the ground.

Exercise 4.4.2

$\frac{5}{2\sqrt{2}}$ sec

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4.4E: Exercises for Section 4.4

Exercises 1 - 5

1. Why do you need a closed interval to apply the Mean Value Theorem? Construct a counterexample.

Answer

One example is $f(x) = x^2$,x is all real numbers.

1. Why do you need continuity to apply the Mean Value Theorem? Construct a counterexample.
2. Why do you need differentiability to apply the Mean Value Theorem? Find a counterexample.

Answer

One example is $f(x) = |x| + 3, -2 \leq x \leq 2$.

4. When are Rolle's theorem and the Mean Value Theorem equivalent?
5. If you have a function with a discontinuity, is it still possible to have $f\,'(c)(b-a) = f(b) - f(a)$? Draw such an example or prove why not.

Answer

Yes, but the Mean Value Theorem still does not apply.

Exercises 6 - 10

Determine over what intervals (if any) the Mean Value Theorem applies. Justify your answer.

6. $y = \sin(\pi x)$
7. $y = \dfrac{1}{x^3}$

Answer

$(-\infty, 0), (0, \infty)$

8. $y = \sqrt{4 - x^2}$
9. $y = \sqrt{x^2 - 4}$

Answer

$(-\infty, -2), (2, \infty)$

10. $y = \ln(3x - 5)$

Exercises 11 - 14

Graph the functions on a calculator and draw the secant line that connects the endpoints. Estimate the number of points c such that $f\,'(c)(b-a) = f(b) - f(a)$.

11. [T] $y = 3x^3 + 2x + 1$ over $[-1, 1]$

Answer

2 points

12. [T] $y = \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{4}x\right)$ over $\left[-\frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}\right]$
13. [T] $y = x^2 \cos(\pi x)$ over $[-2, 2]$

Answer

5 points

14. [T] $y = x^6 - \frac{3}{4}x^5 - \frac{9}{8}x^4 + \frac{15}{16}x^3 + \frac{3}{32}x^2 + \frac{3}{16}x + \frac{1}{32}$ over $[-1, 1]$

Exercises 15 - 20

Use the Mean Value Theorem and find all points \(0 such that $f(2) - f(0) = f\,'(c)(2 - 0)$**.**

15. $f(x) = x^3$

Answer

$c = \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3}$

16. $f(x) = \sin(\pi x)$
17. $f(x) = \cos(2\pi x)$

Answer

$c = \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}$

18. $f(x) = 1 + x + x^2$
19. $f(x) = (x - 1)^{10}$

Answer

$c = 1$

20. $f(x) = (x - 1)^9$

Exercises 21 - 24

Show there is no c **such that** $f(1) - f(-1) = f\,'(c)(2)$**. Explain why the Mean Value Theorem does not apply over the interval** $[-1, 1]$**.**

21. $f(x) = \left|x - \frac{1}{2}\right|$

Answer

Not differentiable

22. $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$
23. $f(x) = \sqrt{|x|}$

Answer

Not differentiable

24. $f(x) = \lfloor x \rfloor$ (Hint: This is called the floor function and it is defined so that $f(x)$ is the largest integer less than or equal to x.)

Exercises 25 - 35

Determine whether the Mean Value Theorem applies for the functions over the given interval $[a, b]$**. Justify your answer.**

25. $y = e^x$ over $[0, 1]$

Answer

Yes

26. $y = \ln(2x + 3)$ over $[-\frac{3}{2}, 0]$
27. $f(x) = \tan(2\pi x)$ over $[0, 2]$

Answer

The Mean Value Theorem does not apply since the function is discontinuous at $x = \frac{1}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{5}{4}, \frac{7}{4}$.

28. $y = \sqrt{9 - x^2}$ over $[-3, 3]$
29. $y = \dfrac{1}{|x + 1|}$ over $[0, 3]$

Answer

Yes

30. $y = x^3 + 2x + 1$ over $[0, 6]$
31. $y = \dfrac{x^2 + 3x + 2}{x}$ over $[-1, 1]$

Answer

The Mean Value Theorem does not apply; discontinuous at $x = 0$.

32. $y = \dfrac{x}{\sin(\pi x) + 1}$ over $[0, 1]$
33. $y = \ln(x + 1)$ over $[0, e - 1]$

Answer

Yes

34. $y = x \sin(\pi x)$ over $[0, 2]$
35. $y = 5 + |x|$ over $[-1, 1]$

Answer

The Mean Value Theorem does not apply; not differentiable at $x = 0$.

Exercises 36 - 38

Consider the roots of each equation.

36. Show that the equation $y = x^3 + 3x^2 + 16$ has exactly one real root. What is it?
37. Find the conditions for exactly one root (double root) for the equation $y = x^2 + bx + c$

Answer

$b = \pm 2\sqrt{c}$

38. Find the conditions for $y = e^x - b$ to have one root. Is it possible to have more than one root?

Exercises 39 - 43

Use a calculator to graph the function over the interval $[a, b]$ and graph the secant line from a to b. Use the calculator to estimate all values of c as guaranteed by the Mean Value Theorem. Then, find the exact value of c, if possible, or write the final equation and use a calculator to estimate to four digits.

39. [T] $y = \tan(\pi x)$ over $\left[-\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4}\right]$

Answer

$c \approx \pm 0.1533$
$c = \pm \frac{1}{\pi} \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}\right)$

40. [T] $y = \dfrac{1}{\sqrt{x + 1}}$ over $[0, 3]$
41. [T] $y = |x^2 + 2x - 4|$ over $[-4, 0]$

Answer

The Mean Value Theorem does not apply.

12. [T] $y = x + \dfrac{1}{x}$ over $\left[\frac{1}{2}, 4\right]$
13. [T] $y = \sqrt{x+1} + \dfrac{1}{x^2}$ over $[3, 8]$

Answer

$$\frac{1}{2\sqrt{c+1}} - \frac{2}{c^3} = \frac{521}{2880}$$
$$c \approx 3.133, 5.867$$

Exercises 44 - 47

14. At 10:17 a.m., you pass a police car at 55 mph that is stopped on the freeway. You pass a second police car at 55 mph at 10:53 a.m., which is located 39 mi from the first police car. If the speed limit is 60 mph, can the police cite you for speeding?
15. Two cars drive from one stoplight to the next, leaving at the same time and arriving at the same time. Is there ever a time when they are going the same speed? Prove or disprove.

Answer

Yes

16. Show that $y = \sec^2 x$ and $y = \tan^2 x$ have the same derivative. What can you say about $y = \sec^2 x - \tan^2 x$?

17. Show that $y = \csc^2 x$ and $y = \cot^2 x$ have the same derivative. What can you say about $y = \csc^2 x - \cot^2 x$?

Answer

It is constant.

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4.5: Derivatives and the Shape of a Graph

Learning Objectives

- Explain how the sign of the first derivative affects the shape of a function's graph.
- State the first derivative test for critical points.
- Use concavity and inflection points to explain how the sign of the second derivative affects the shape of a function's graph.
- Explain the concavity test for a function over an open interval.
- Explain the relationship between a function and its first and second derivatives.
- State the second derivative test for local extrema.

Earlier in this chapter we stated that if a function f has a local extremum at a point c, then c must be a critical point of f. However, a function is not guaranteed to have a local extremum at a critical point. For example, $f(x)=x^3$ has a critical point at $x=0$ since $f'(x)=3x^2$ is zero at $x=0$, but f does not have a local extremum at $x=0$. Using the results from the previous section, we are now able to determine whether a critical point of a function actually corresponds to a local extreme value. In this section, we also see how the second derivative provides information about the shape of a graph by describing whether the graph of a function curves upward or curves downward.

The First Derivative Test

Corollary 3 of the Mean Value Theorem showed that if the derivative of a function is positive over an interval I then the function is increasing over I. On the other hand, if the derivative of the function is negative over an interval I, then the function is decreasing over I as shown in the following figure.

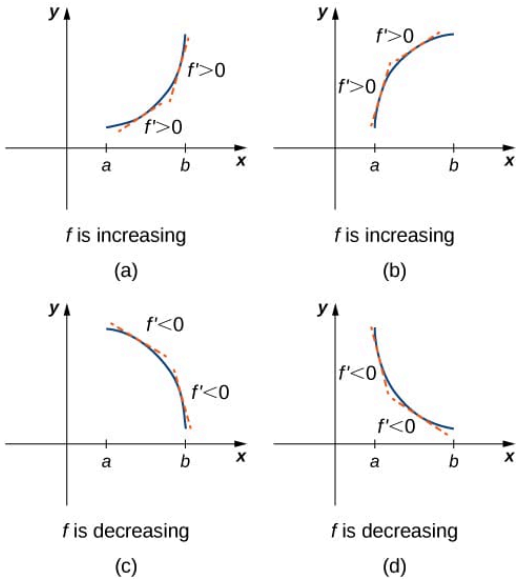


Figure \(\PageIndex{1}\): Figure (a) shows a function increasing convexly from $(a, f(a))$ to $(b, f(b))$. At two points the derivative is taken and it is noted that at both $f' > 0$. In other words, f is increasing. Figure (b) shows a function increasing concavely from $(a, f(a))$ to $(b, f(b))$. At two points the derivative is taken and it is noted that at both $f' > 0$. In other words, f is increasing. Figure (c) shows a function decreasing concavely from $(a, f(a))$ to $(b, f(b))$. At two points the derivative is taken and it is noted that at both $f' < 0$. In other words, f is decreasing. Figure (d) shows a function decreasing convexly from $(a, f(a))$ to $(b, f(b))$. At two points the derivative is taken and it is noted that at both $f' < 0$. In other words, f is decreasing.

A continuous function f has a local maximum at point c if and only if f switches from increasing to decreasing at point c. Similarly, f has a local minimum at c if and only if f switches from decreasing to increasing at c. If f is a continuous function over an interval I containing c and differentiable over I, except possibly at c, the only way f

can switch from increasing to decreasing (or vice versa) at point \(c\) is if \(f'\) changes sign as \(x\) increases through \(c\). If \(f\) is differentiable at \(c\), the only way that \(f'\). can change sign as \(x\) increases through \(c\) is if \(f'(c)=0\). Therefore, for a function \(f\) that is continuous over an interval \(I\) containing \(c\) and differentiable over \(I\), except possibly at \(c\), the only way \(f\) can switch from increasing to decreasing (or vice versa) is if \(f'(c)=0\) or \(f'(c)\) is undefined. Consequently, to locate local extrema for a function \(f\), we look for points \(c\) in the domain of \(f\) such that \(f'(c)=0\) or \(f'(c)\) is undefined. Recall that such points are called critical points of \(f\).

Note that \(f\) need not have a local extrema at a critical point. The critical points are candidates for local extrema only. In Figure \(\PageIndex{2}\), we show that if a continuous function \(f\) has a local extremum, it must occur at a critical point, but a function may not have a local extremum at a critical point. We show that if \(f\) has a local extremum at a critical point, then the sign of \(f'\) switches as \(x\) increases through that point.

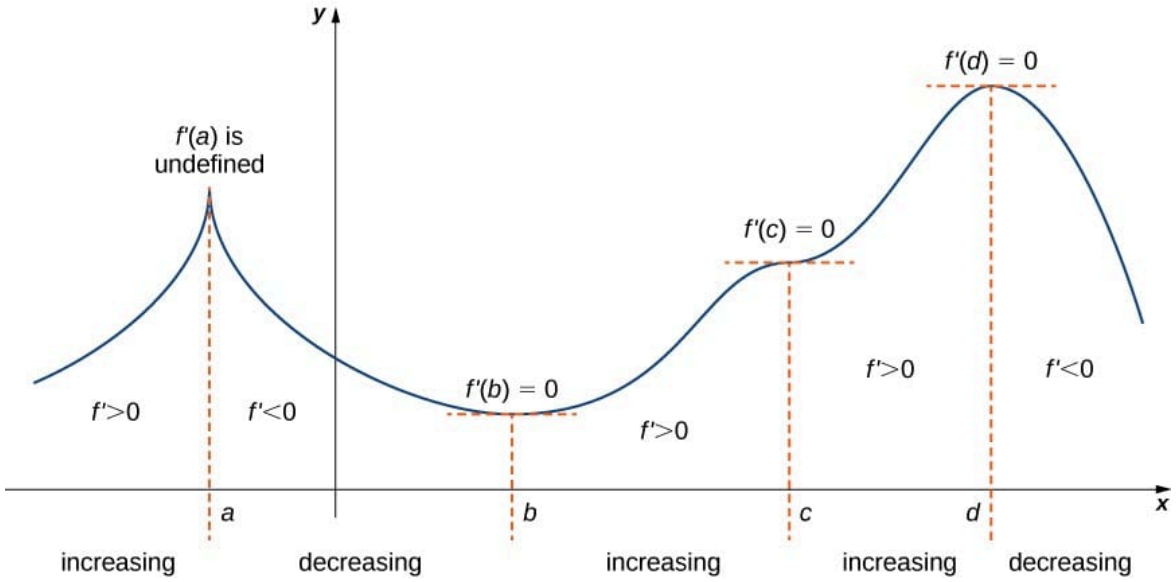


Figure \(\PageIndex{2}\): The function \(f(x)\) has four critical points: \(a,b,c\), and \(d\). The function \(f\) has local maxima at \(a\) and \(d\), and a local minimum at \(b\). The function \(f\) does not have a local extremum at \(c\). The sign of \(f'\) changes at all local extrema. In particular, \(f(x)\) starts in the second quadrant and increases to \(x = a\), which reaches a sharp peak; hence \(f'(a)\) is undefined. Until the peak \(f' > 0\). Then, \(f\) decreases from \(x = a\) to \(x = b\) (so \(f' < 0\) here), before increasing at the lowest point where \(x = b\). Here \(f'(b) = 0\). While increasing from \(x = b\) to \(x = c\), \(f' > 0\). The function is momentarily flat at the inflection point at \(c\), and \(f'(c) = 0\). The function increases some more to \(d\) (so f' > 0), which is the global maximum. There \(f'(d) = 0\). Then the function decreases and \(f' > 0\).

Using Figure \(\PageIndex{2}\), we summarize the main results regarding local extrema.

- If a continuous function \(f\) has a local extremum, it must occur at a critical point \(c\).
- The function has a local extremum at the critical point \(c\) if and only if the derivative \(f'\) switches sign as \(x\) increases through \(c\).
- Therefore, to test whether a function has a local extremum at a critical point \(c\), we must determine the sign of \(f'(x)\) to the left and right of \(c\).

This result is known as the **first derivative test.**

Theorem: First Derivative Test

Suppose that \(f\) is a continuous function over an interval \(I\) containing a critical point \(c\). If \(f\) is differentiable over \(I\), except possibly at point \(c\), then \(f(c)\) satisfies one of the following descriptions:

i. If \(f'\) changes sign from positive when \(xc\), then \(f(c)\) is a local maximum of \(f\).
ii. If \(f'\) changes sign from negative when \(xc\), then \(f(c)\) is a local minimum of \(f\).
iii. If \(f'\) has the same sign for \(xc\), then \(f(c)\) is neither a local maximum nor a local minimum of \(f\)

We can summarize the first derivative test as a strategy for locating local extrema.

Problem Solving Strategy: Using the First Derivative Test

Consider a function f that is continuous over an interval I.

1. Find all critical points of f and divide the interval I into smaller intervals using the critical points as endpoints.
2. Analyze the sign of f' in each of the subintervals. If f' is continuous over a given subinterval (which is typically the case), then the sign of f' in that subinterval does not change and, therefore, can be determined by choosing an arbitrary test point x in that subinterval and by evaluating the sign of f' at that test point. Use the sign analysis to determine whether f is increasing or decreasing over that interval.
   Note: If f' is not continuous throughout I, then include points of discontinuity along with critical points as endpoints when dividing I into subintervals.
3. Use First Derivative Test and the results of step 2 to determine whether f has a local maximum, a local minimum, or neither at each of the critical points.

Now let's look at how to use this strategy to locate all local extrema for particular functions.

Example \(\PageIndex{1}\): Using the First Derivative Test to Find Local Extrema

Use the first derivative test to find the location of all local extrema for $f(x)=x^3-3x^2-9x-1.$ Use a graphing utility to confirm your results.

Solution

Step 1. The derivative is $f'(x)=3x^2-6x-9.$ To find the critical points, we need to find where $f'(x)=0.$ Factoring the polynomial, we conclude that the critical points must satisfy

$$3(x^2-2x-3)=3(x-3)(x+1)=0. \nonumber$$

Therefore, the critical points are $x=3,-1.$ Now divide the interval $(-\infty,\infty)$ into the smaller intervals $(-\infty,-1),(-1,3)$ and $(3,\infty).$

Step 2. Since f' is a continuous function, to determine the sign of $f'(x)$ over each subinterval, it suffices to choose a point over each of the intervals $(-\infty,-1),(-1,3)$ and $(3,\infty)$ and determine the sign of f' at each of these points. For example, let's choose $x=-2$, $x=0$, and $x=4$ as test points.

Table: \(\PageIndex{1}\): First Derivative Test for $f(x)=x^3-3x^2-9x-1.$

Interval	Test Point	Sign of $f'(x)=3(x-3)(x+1)$ at Test Point	Conclusion
$(-\infty,-1)$	$x=-2$	$(+)(-)(-)=+$	f is increasing.
$(-1,3)$	$x=0$	$(+)(-)(+)=+$	f is increasing.
$(3,\infty)$	$x=4$	$(+)(+)(+)=+$	f is increasing.

Step 3. Since f' switches sign from positive to negative as x increases through 1, f has a local maximum at $x=-1$. Since f' switches sign from negative to positive as x increases through 3, f has a local minimum at $x=3$. These analytical results agree with the following graph.

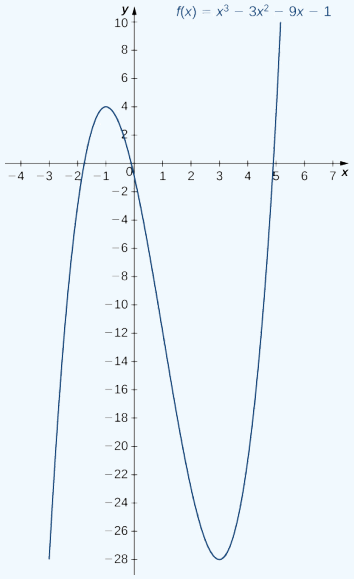


Figure \(\PageIndex{3}\): The function \(f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2-9x-1\) has a maximum at \(x = –1\) and a minimum at \(x = 3\). The function is increasing before \(x = –1\), decreasing until \(x = 3\), and then increasing after that.The function \(f\) has a maximum at \(x=–1\) and a minimum at \(x=3\)

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

Identify all relative extrema of \(f(x)=x^3-6x^2+9x-2\).

- **Video length**: 3 minutes 53 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates the First Derivative Test.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise \(\PageIndex{1}\)

Use the first derivative test to locate all local extrema for \(f(x)=–x^3+\frac{3}{2}x^2+18x.\)

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example \(\PageIndex{2}\): Using the First Derivative Test

Use the first derivative test to find the location of all local extrema for \(f(x)=5x^{1/3}–x^{5/3}.\) Use a graphing utility to confirm your results.

Solution

Step 1. The derivative is

$$f'(x)=\frac{5}{3}x^{-2/3}-\frac{5}{3}x^{2/3}=\frac{5}{3x^{2/3}}-\frac{5x^{2/3}}{3}=\frac{5-5x^{4/3}}{3x^{2/3}}=\frac{5(1-x^{4/3})}{3x^{2/3}}.$$

The derivative $f'(x)=0$ when $1-x^{4/3}=0.$ Therefore, $f'(x)=0$ at $x=\pm 1$. The derivative $f'(x)$ is undefined at $x=0.$ Therefore, we have three critical points: $x=0$, $x=1$, and $x=-1$. Consequently, divide the interval $(-\infty,\infty)$ into the smaller intervals $(-\infty,-1),\,(-1,0),\,(0,1)$, and $(1,\infty)$.

Step 2: Since f' is continuous over each subinterval, it suffices to choose a test point x in each of the intervals from step 1 and determine the sign of f' at each of these points. The points $x=-2,\,x=-\frac{1}{2},\,x=\frac{1}{2}$, and $x=2$ are test points for these intervals.

Table: $\PageIndex{2}$: First Derivative Test for $f(x)=5x^{1/3}-x^{5/3}.$

Interval	Test Point	Sign of $f'(x)=\frac{5(1-x^{4/3})}{3x^{2/3}}$ at Test Point	Conclusion
$(-\infty,-1)$	$x=-2$	$\frac{(+)(-)}{+}=-$	f is decreasing.
$(-1,0)$	$x=-\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{(+)(+)}{+}=+$	f is increasing.
$(0,1)$	$x=\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{(+)(+)}{+}=+$	f is increasing.
$(1,\infty)$	$x=2$	$\frac{(+)(-)}{+}=-$	f is decreasing.

Step 3: Since f is decreasing over the interval $(-\infty,-1)$ and increasing over the interval $(-1,0)$, f has a local minimum at $x=-1$. Since f is increasing over the interval $(-1,0)$ and the interval $(0,1)$, f does not have a local extremum at $x=0$. Since f is increasing over the interval $(0,1)$ and decreasing over the interval $(1,\infty)$, f has a local maximum at $x=1$. The analytical results agree with the following graph.

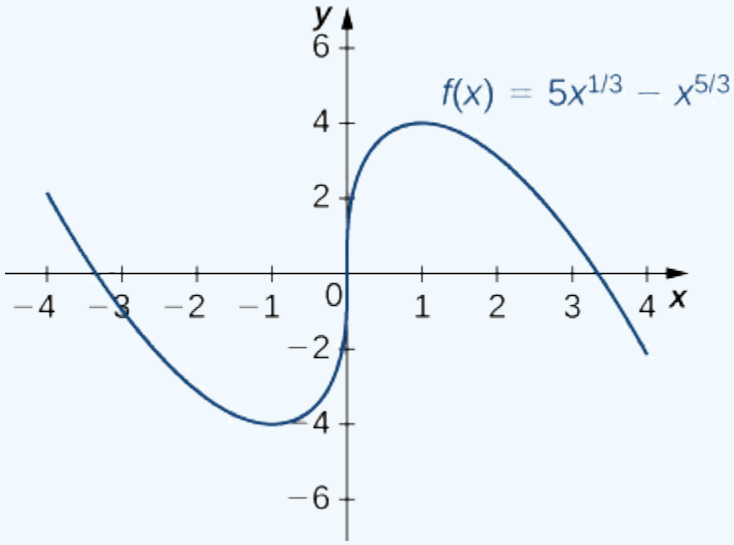


Figure $\PageIndex{4}$: The function $f(x)=5x^{1/3}-x^{5/3}$ decreases until $x=-1$, the increases until $x=1$ while going through the origin, then decreases.

Exercise $\PageIndex{2}$

Use the first derivative test to find all local extrema for $(x)=\dfrac{3}{x-1}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Concavity and Points of Inflection

We now know how to determine where a function is increasing or decreasing. However, there is another issue to consider regarding the shape of the graph of a function. If the graph curves, does it curve upward or curve downward? This notion is called the **concavity** of the function.

Figure \(\PageIndex{4a}\) shows a function \(f\) with a graph that curves upward. As \(x\) increases, the slope of the tangent line increases. Thus, since the derivative increases as \(x\) increases, \(f'\) is an increasing function. We say this function \(f\) is concave up. Figure \(\PageIndex{4b}\) shows a function \(f\) that curves downward. As \(x\) increases, the slope of the tangent line decreases. Since the derivative decreases as \(x\) increases, \(f'\) is a decreasing function. We say this function \(f\) is concave down.

Definition: Concavity

Let \(f\) be a function that is differentiable over an open interval \(I\). If \(f'\) is increasing over \(I\), we say \(f\) is **concave up** over \(I\). If \(f'\) is decreasing over \(I\), we say \(f\) is **concave down** over \(I\).

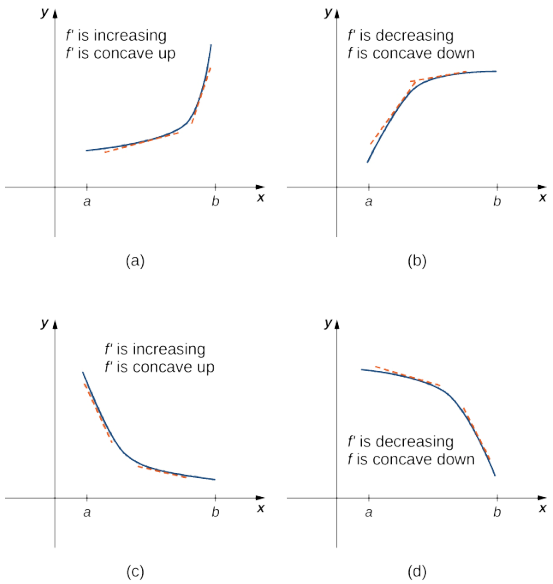


Figure \(\PageIndex{5}\): This figure is broken into four figures labeled (a), (b), (c), and (d). Graph (a) shows a function increasing convexly from \((a, f(a))\) to \((b, f(b))\). At two points the derivative is taken and both are increasing, but the one taken further to the right is increasing more. It is noted that \(f'\) is increasing and \(f\) is concave up. Graph (b) shows a function increasing concavely from \((a, f(a))\) to \((b, f(b))\). At two points the derivative is taken and both are increasing, but the one taken further to the right is increasing less. It is noted that \(f'\) is decreasing and \(f\) is concave down. Graph (c) shows a function decreasing concavely from \((a, f(a))\) to \((b, f(b))\). At two points the derivative is taken and both are decreasing, but the one taken further to the right is decreasing less. It is noted that f' is increasing and \(f\) is concave up. Graph (d) shows a function decreasing convexly from \((a, f(a))\) to \((b, f(b))\). At two points the derivative is taken and both are decreasing, but the one taken further to the right is decreasing more. It is noted that f' is decreasing and \(f\) is concave down. To summarize, in graphs (a) and (c), since \(f'\) is increasing over the interval \((a,b)\), we say \(f\) is concave up over \((a,b)\). In graphs (b) and (d) since \(f'\) is decreasing over the interval \((a,b)\), we say \(f\) is concave down over \((a,b).\)

In general, without having the graph of a function \(f\), how can we determine its concavity? By definition, a function \(f\) is concave up if \(f'\) is increasing. From Corollary \(3\), we know that if \(f'\) is a differentiable function, then \(f'\) is increasing if its derivative \(f''(x)>0\). Therefore, a function \(f\) that is twice differentiable is concave up when \(f''(x)>0\). Similarly, a function \(f\) is concave down if \(f'\) is decreasing. We know that a differentiable function \(f'\) is decreasing if its derivative \(f''(x)<0\). Therefore, a twice-differentiable function \(f\) is concave down when \(f''(x)<0\). Applying this logic is known as the **concavity test.**

Theorem: Test for Concavity

Let f be a function that is twice differentiable over an interval I.

i. If $f''(x)>0$ for all $x\in I$, then f is concave up over I
ii. If $f''(x)<0$ for all $x\in I,$ then f is concave down over I.

We conclude that we can determine the concavity of a function f by looking at the second derivative of f. In addition, we observe that a function f can switch concavity (Figure \PageIndex{6}). However, a continuous function can switch concavity only at a point x if $f''(x)=0$ or $f''(x)$ is undefined. Consequently, to determine the intervals where a function f is concave up and concave down, we look for those values of x where $f''(x)=0$ or $f''(x)$ is undefined. When we have determined these points, we divide the domain of f into smaller intervals and determine the sign of f'' over each of these smaller intervals. If f'' changes sign as we pass through a point x, then f changes concavity. It is important to remember that a function f may not change concavity at a point x even if $f''(x)=0$ or $f''(x)$ is undefined. If, however, f does change concavity at a point a and f is continuous at a, we say the point $(a,f(a))$ is an **inflection point** of f.

Definition: Inflection Point

If f is continuous at a and f changes concavity at a, the point $(a, \,f(a))$ is an **inflection point** of f.

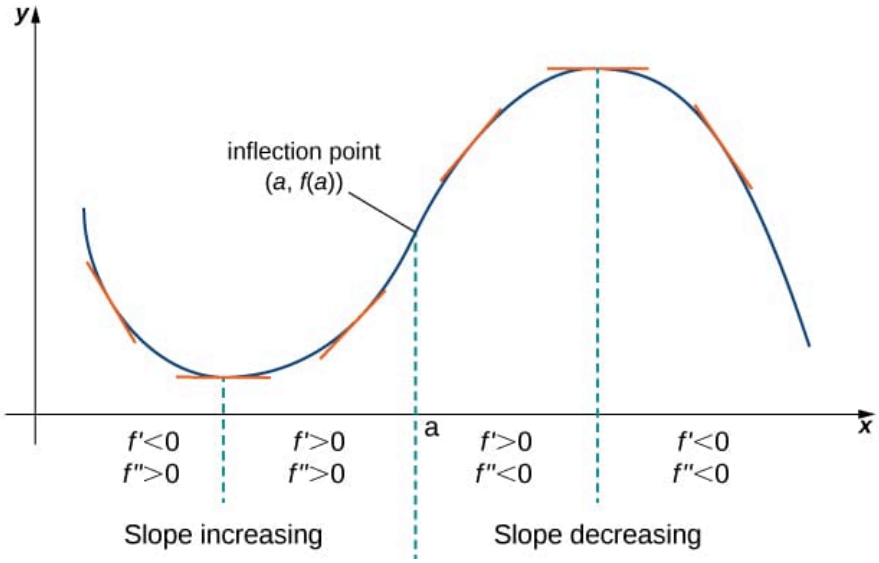


Figure \PageIndex{6}: A curved function is shown that has been shifted into the first quadrant. The function starts decreasing, so $f' < 0$ and $f'' > 0$. The function reaches the local minimum and starts increasing, so $f' > 0$ and $f'' > 0$. It is noted that the slope is increasing for these two intervals. The function then reaches an inflection point $(a, f(a))$ and from here the slope is decreasing even though the function continues to increase, so $f' > 0$ and $f'' < 0$. The function reaches the maximum and then starts decreasing, so $f' < 0$ and $f'' < 0$. Since $f''(x)>0$ for xa, the function f is concave down over the interval (a,∞). The point $(a,f(a))$ is an inflection point of f.

Example \PageIndex{3}: Testing for Concavity

For the function $f(x)=x^3−6x^2+9x+30,$ determine all intervals where f is concave up and all intervals where f is concave down. List all inflection points for f. Use a graphing utility to confirm your results.

Solution

To determine concavity, we need to find the second derivative $f''(x)$. The first derivative is $f'(x)=3x^2-12x+9$, so the second derivative is $f''(x)=6x-12$. If the function changes concavity, it occurs either when $f''(x)=0$ or $f''(x)$ is undefined. Since f'' is defined for all real numbers x, we need only find where $f''(x)=0$. Solving the equation $6x-12=0$, we see that $x=2$ is the only place where f could change concavity. We now test points over the intervals $(-\infty,2)$ and $(2,\infty)$ to determine the concavity of f. The points $x=0$ and $x=3$ are test points for these intervals.

Table: \(\PageIndex{3}\): Test for Concavity for $f(x)=x^3-6x^2+9x+30$.

Interval	Test Point	Sign of $f''(x)=6x-12$ at Test Point	Conclusion
$(-\infty,2)$	$x=0$	–	f is concave down
$(2,\infty)$	$x=3$	+	f is concave up

We conclude that f is concave down over the interval $(-\infty,2)$ and concave up over the interval $(2,\infty)$. Since f changes concavity at $x=2$, the point $(2,f(2))=(2,32)$ is an inflection point. Figure \(\PageIndex{7}\) confirms the analytical results.

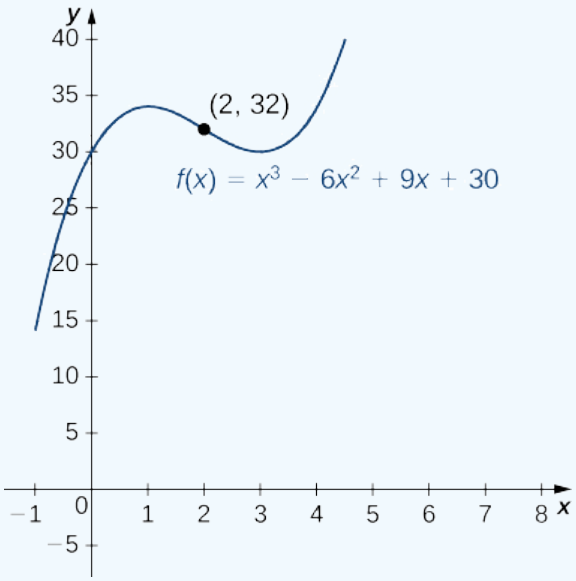


Figure \(\PageIndex{7}\): The function $f(x) = x^3 - 6x^2 + 9x + 30$ is graphed. The point of inflection occurs at $(2,32)$ where the graph changes concavity, halfway between the local maximum and the local minimum.

Example \(\PageIndex{4}\): Concavity and Inflection Points

Find the points of inflection and discuss the concavity of $f(x) = x^4-4x^3+3x+9$.

Solution

- **Video length**: 4 minutes 26 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates finding inflection points and intervals of oncavity.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise \(\PageIndex{3}\)

For \(f(x)=–x^3+\frac{3}{2}x^2+18x\), find all intervals where \(f\) is concave up and all intervals where \(f\) is concave down.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

We now summarize, in Table \(\PageIndex{4}\), the information that the first and second derivatives of a function \(f\) provide about the graph of \(f\), and illustrate this information in Figure \(\PageIndex{8}\).

Table: \(\PageIndex{4}\): What Derivatives Tell Us about Graphs

Sign of \(f'\)	Sign of \(f''\)	Is \(f\) increasing or decreasing?	Concavity
Positive	Positive	Increasing	Concave up
Positive	Negative	Increasing	Concave down
Negative	Positive	Decreasing	Concave up
Negative	Negative	Decreasing	Concave down

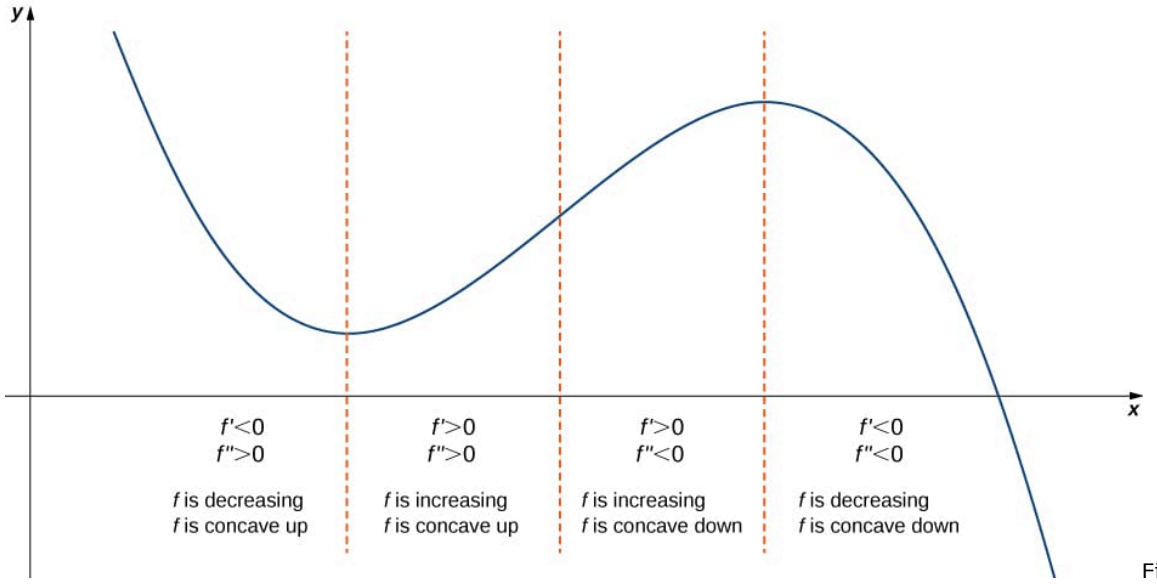


Figure \(\PageIndex{8}\): The function \(f(x)\) has four sections with the breaks occurring at the local minimum, the inflection point, and local maximum, respectively. The first section is decreasing and concave up; here, \(f' < 0\) and \(f'' > 0\). The second section is increasing and concave up; here, \(f' > 0\) and \(f'' > 0\). The third section is increasing and concave down; here, \(f' > 0\) and \(f'' < 0\). The fourth section is decreasing and concave down; here, \(f' < 0\) and \(f'' < 0\). Consider a twice-differentiable \(I\) over an open interval \(I\). If \(f'(x)>0\) for all \(x∈I\), the function is increasing over \(I\). If \(f'(x)<0\) for all \(x∈I\), the function is decreasing over \(I\). If \(f''(x)>0\) for all \(x∈I\), the function is concave up. If \(f''(x)<0\) for all \(x∈I\), the function is concave down on \(I\).

The Second Derivative Test

The first derivative test provides an analytical tool for finding local extrema, but the second derivative can also be used to locate extreme values. Using the second derivative can sometimes be a simpler method than using the first derivative.

We know that if a continuous function has a local extremum, it must occur at a critical point. However, a function need not have a local extremum at a critical point. Here we examine how the **second derivative test** can be used to determine whether a function has a local extremum at a critical point. Let \(f\) be a twice-differentiable function such that \(f'(a)=0\) and \(f''\) is continuous over an open interval \(I\) containing \(a\). Suppose \(f''(a)<0\). Since \(f''\) is continuous over \(I, f''(x)<0\) for all \(x∈I\) (Figure \(\PageIndex{9}\)). Then, by Corollary \(3\), \(f'\) is a decreasing function over \(I\). Since \(f'(a)=0\), we conclude that for all \(x∈I,

\,f′(x)>0\) if \(xa\). Therefore, by the first derivative test, \(f\) has a local maximum at \(x=a\).

On the other hand, suppose there exists a point \(b\) such that \(f′(b)=0\) but \(f″(b)>0\). Since \(f″\) is continuous over an open interval \(I\) containing \(b\), then \(f″(x)>0\) for all \(x∈I\) (Figure \(\PageIndex{9}\)). Then, by Corollary \(3\), \(f′\) is an increasing function over \(I\). Since \(f′(b)=0\), we conclude that for all \(x∈I\), \(f′(x)<0\) if \(x0\) if \(x>b\). Therefore, by the first derivative test, \(f\) has a local minimum at \(x=b.\)

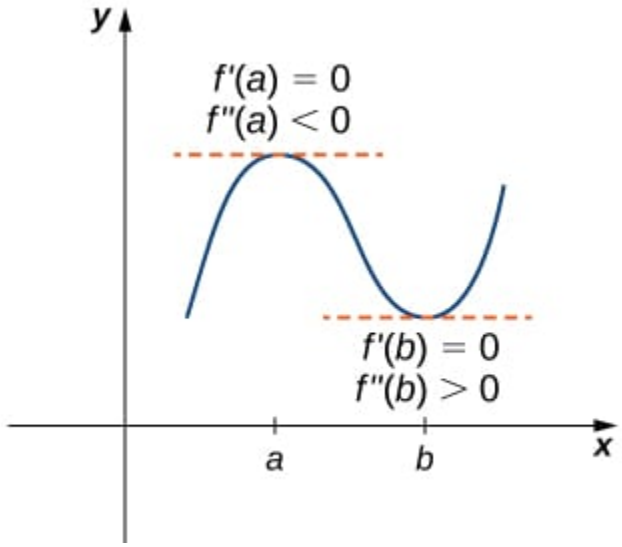


Figure \(\PageIndex{9}\): The function \(f(x)\) is graphed in the first quadrant with \(a\) and \(b\) marked on the \(x\)-axis. The function is vaguely sinusoidal, increasing first to \(x = a\), then decreasing to \(x = b\), and increasing again. At \((a, f(a))\), the tangent is marked, and it is noted that \(f′(a) = 0\) and \(f″(a) < 0\). At \((b, f(b))\), the tangent is marked, and it is noted \(f′(b) = 0\) and \(f″(b) > 0\). Since \(f′(a)=0\) and \(f″(a)<0\), there is an interval \(I\) containing \(a\) such that for all \(x\) in \(I\), \(f\) is increasing if \(xa\). As a result, \(f\) has a local maximum at \(x=a\). Since \(f′(b)=0\) and \(f″(b)>0\), there is an interval \(I\) containing \(b\) such that for all \(x\) in \(I\), \(f\) is decreasing if \(xb\). As a result, \(f\) has a local minimum at \(x=b\).

Theorem: Second Derivative Test

Suppose \(f′(c)=0\) and \(f″\) is continuous over an interval containing \(c\).

i. If \(f″(c)>0\), then \(f\) has a local minimum at \(c\).
ii. If \(f″(c)<0\), then \(f\) has a local maximum at \(c\).
iii. If \(f″(c)=0,\) then the test is inconclusive.

Note that for case iii. when \(f″(c)=0\), then \(f\) may have a local maximum, local minimum, or neither at \(c\). For example, the functions \(f(x)=x^3, \; f(x)=x^4,\) and \(f(x)=–x^4\) all have critical points at \(x=0\). In each case, the second derivative is zero at \(x=0\). However, the function \(f(x)=x^4\) has a local minimum at \(x=0\) whereas the function \(f(x)=–x^4\) has a local maximum at \(x\), and the function \(f(x)=x^3\) does not have a local extremum at \(x=0\).

Let's now look at how to use the second derivative test to determine whether \(f\) has a local maximum or local minimum at a critical point \(c\) where \(f′(c)=0.\)

Example \(\PageIndex{5}\): Using the Second Derivative Test

Use the second derivative to find the location of all local extrema for \(f(x)=x^5–5x^3.\)

Solution

To apply the second derivative test, we first need to find critical points \(c\) where \(f′(c)=0\). The derivative is \(f′(x)=5x^4–15x^2\). Therefore, \(f′(x)=5x^4–15x^2=5x^2(x^2–3)=0\) when \(x=0,\,±\sqrt{3}\).

To determine whether \(f\) has a local extremum at any of these points, we need to evaluate the sign of \(f"\) at these points. The second derivative is

$$f''(x)=20x^3-30x=10x(2x^2-3).$$

In the following table, we evaluate the second derivative at each of the critical points and use the second derivative test to determine whether \(f\) has a local maximum or local minimum at any of these points.

Table: \(\PageIndex{5}\): Second Derivative Test for \(f(x)=x^5-5x^3.\)

\(x\)	\(f''(x)\)	Conclusion
\(-\sqrt{3}\)	\(-30\sqrt{3}\)	Local maximum
\(0\)	\(0\)	Second derivative test is inconclusive
\(\sqrt{3}\)	\(30\sqrt{3}\)	Local minimum

By the second derivative test, we conclude that \(f\) has a local maximum at \(x=-\sqrt{3}\) and \(f\) has a local minimum at \(x=\sqrt{3}\). The second derivative test is inconclusive at \(x=0\). To determine whether \(f\) has a local extrema at \(x=0,\) we apply the first derivative test. To evaluate the sign of \(f'(x)=5x^2(x^2-3)\) for \(x\in(-\sqrt{3},0)\) and \(x\in(0,\sqrt{3})\), let \(x=-1\) and \(x=1\) be the two test points. Since \(f'(-1)<0\) and \(f'(1)<0\), we conclude that \(f\) is decreasing on both intervals and, therefore, \(f\) does not have a local extrema at \(x=0\) as shown in the following graph (Figure \(\PageIndex{10}\)).

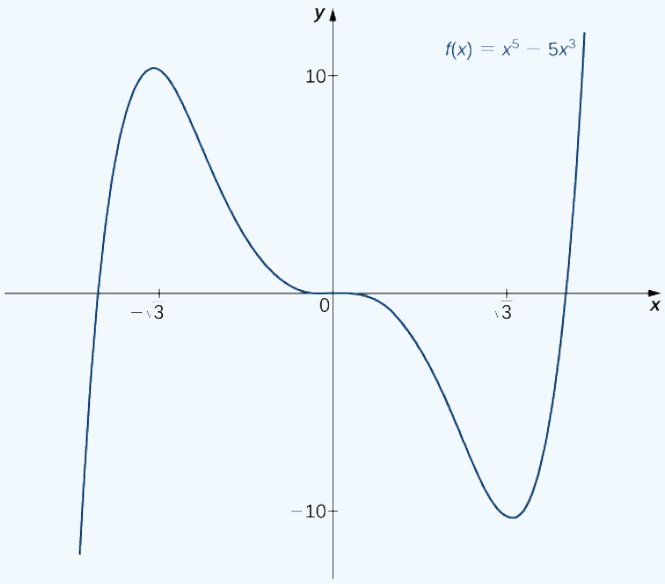


Figure \(\PageIndex{10}\): The function \(f(x)=x^5-5x^3\) increases to \((-\sqrt{3},10) \), then decreases to an inflection point at \((0,0)\), continues decreasing to \((\sqrt{3},-10)\), and then increases. A local maximum occurs at \(x=-\sqrt{3}\) and a local minimum occurs at \(x=\sqrt{3}\).

Example \(\PageIndex{6}\): Applying the Second Derivative Test

Find all relative extrema. Use the Second Derivative Test where applicable for \(f(x) = x^4-4x^3+20\).

Solution

- **Video length**: 3 minutes 27 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates applying the Second Derivative Test.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise \(\PageIndex{4}\)

Consider the function \(f(x)=x^3−(\frac{3}{2})x^2−18x\). The points \(c=3,\,−2\) satisfy \(f'(c)=0\). Use the second derivative test to determine whether \(f\) has a local maximum or local minimum at those points.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example \(\PageIndex{7}\)

The graph of \(f(x)\) is shown below. Sketch the graph of \(f'(x)\).

Solution

- **Video length**: 2 minutes 23 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates graphing the derivative given the graph of the function

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Interactive Element

Graphing the Second Derivative Given the Graph of the Original Function

You are shown the graph of \(y = f(x)\). Use your mouse from the very far left to the far right in the xy-plane, not too fast, to sketch the graph of \(y = f''(x)\). Behind your sketch, the correct graph of the second derivative function will be sketched.

New Function | Try Again

We have now developed the tools we need to determine where a function is increasing and decreasing, as well as acquired an understanding of the basic shape of the graph. In the next section we discuss what happens to a function as \(x→±∞.\) At that point, we have enough tools to provide accurate graphs of a large variety of functions.

Key Concepts

- If \(c\) is a critical point of \(f\) and \(f'(x)>0\) for \(xc\), then \(f\) has a local maximum at \(c\).
- If \(c\) is a critical point of \(f\) and \(f'(x)<0\) for \(x0\) for \(x>c,\) then \(f\) has a local minimum at \(c\).
- If \(f''(x)>0\) over an interval \(I\), then \(f\) is concave up over \(I\).
- If \(f''(x)<0\) over an interval \(I\), then \(f\) is concave down over \(I\).

- If $f'(c)=0$ and $f''(c)>0$, then f has a local minimum at c.
- If $f'(c)=0$ and $f''(c)<0$, then f has a local maximum at c.
- If $f'(c)=0$ and $f''(c)=0$, then evaluate $f'(x)$ at a test point x to the left of c and a test point x to the right of c, to determine whether f has a local extremum at c.

Glossary

Concave down
: If f is differentiable over an interval I and f' is decreasing over I, then f is concave down over I

Concave up
: If f is differentiable over an interval I and f' is increasing over I, then f is concave up over I

Concavity
: The upward or downward curve of the graph of a function

Concavity test
: Suppose f is twice differentiable over an interval I; if $f''>0$ over I, then f is concave up over I; if $f''<$ over I, then f is concave down over I

First derivative test
: Let f be a continuous function over an interval I containing a critical point c such that f is differentiable over I except possibly at c; if f' changes sign from positive to negative as x increases through c, then f has a local maximum at c; if f' changes sign from negative to positive as x increases through c, then f has a local minimum at c; if f' does not change sign as x increases through c, then f does not have a local extremum at c

Inflection point
: If f is continuous at c and f changes concavity at c, the point $(c,f(c))$ is an inflection point of f

Second derivative test
: Suppose $f'(c)=0$ and f'' is continuous over an interval containing c; if $f''(c)>0$, then f has a local minimum at c; if $f''(c)<0$, then f has a local maximum at c; if $f''(c)=0$, then the test is inconclusive

Answers

Exercise $\PageIndex{1}$
Find all critical points of f and determine the signs of $f'(x)$ over particular intervals determined by the critical points.

Exercise $\PageIndex{1}$
f has a local minimum at -2 and a local maximum at 3.

Exercise $\PageIndex{2}$
The only critical point of f is $x=1.$

Exercise $\PageIndex{2}$
f has no local extrema because f' does not change sign at $x=1$.

Exercise $\PageIndex{3}$
Find where $f''(x)=0$

Exercise $\PageIndex{3}$
f is concave up over the interval $(-\infty,\frac{1}{2})$ and concave down over the interval $(\frac{1}{2},\infty)$

Exercise $\PageIndex{4}$
$f''(x)=6x-3$

Exercise $\PageIndex{4}$
f has a local maximum at -2 and a local minimum at 3.

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4.5E: Exercises for Section 4.5

Exercises 1 - 12

1. What is the difference between a critical point and an inflection point?

   Answer

   An inflection point is a point $(x, f(x))$ on the graph of a function $y = f(x)$ where the concavity of the graph changes, while a critical point is an x-value where $f'(x) = 0$ or $f'(x)$ is undefined. At a critical point, it's possible that an inflection point occurs, or an extremum where no change in concavity occurs.

2. If c is a critical point of $f(x)$, when is there no local maximum or minimum at c? Explain.
3. For the function $y = x^3$, is $x = 0$ both an inflection point and a local maximum/minimum?

   Answer

   It is not a local maximum/minimum because f' does not change sign

4. For the function $y = x^3$, is $x = 0$ an inflection point?
5. Is it possible for a point c to be both an inflection point and a local extremum of a twice differentiable function?

   Answer

   No

6. Why do you need continuity for the first derivative test? Come up with an example.
7. Explain whether a concave-down function has to cross $y = 0$ for some value of x.

   Answer

   False; for example, $y = \sqrt{x}$.

8. Explain whether a polynomial of degree 2 can have an inflection point.

Exercises 9 - 13

Analyze the graphs of f', then list all intervals where f is increasing or decreasing.

9.

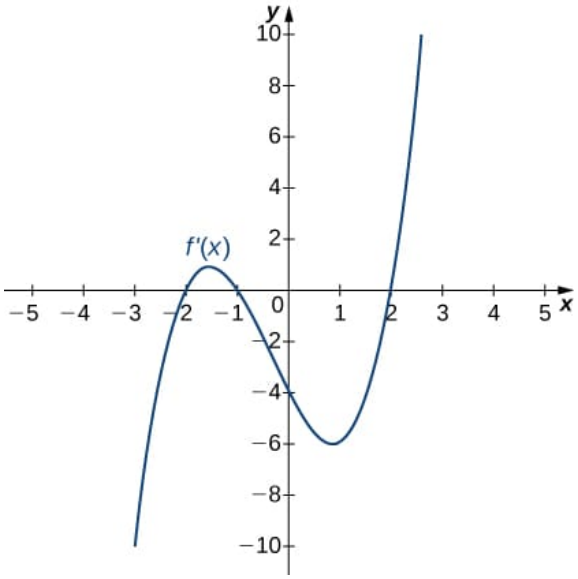


Figure $4.5E.1$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. The function starts negative and crosses the x axis at $(-2, 0)$. Then it continues increasing a little before decreasing and crossing the x axis at $(-1, 0)$. It achieves a local minimum at $(1, -6)$ before increasing and crossing the x axis at $(2, 0)$.

Answer

Increasing for \(–22\);
Decreasing for $x < -2$ and \(–1

10.

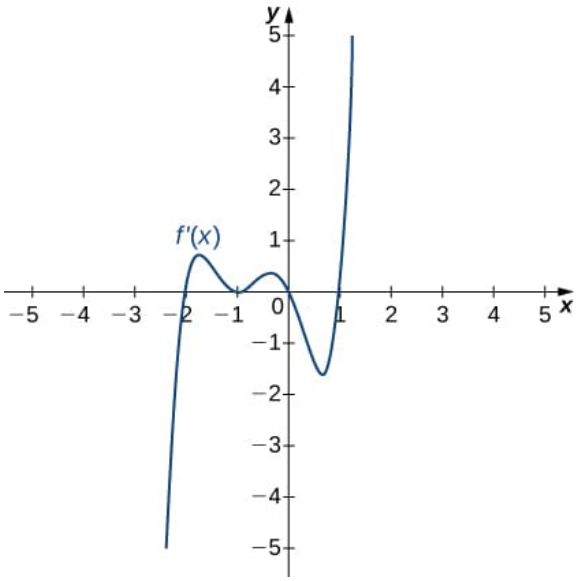


Figure $4.5E.2$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. The function starts negative and crosses the x-axis at $(-2, 0)$. Then it continues increasing a little before decreasing and touching the x-axis at $(-1, 0)$. It then increases a little before decreasing and crossing the x-axis at the origin. The function then decreases to a local minimum before increasing, crossing the x-axis at $(1, 0)$, and continuing to increase.

11.

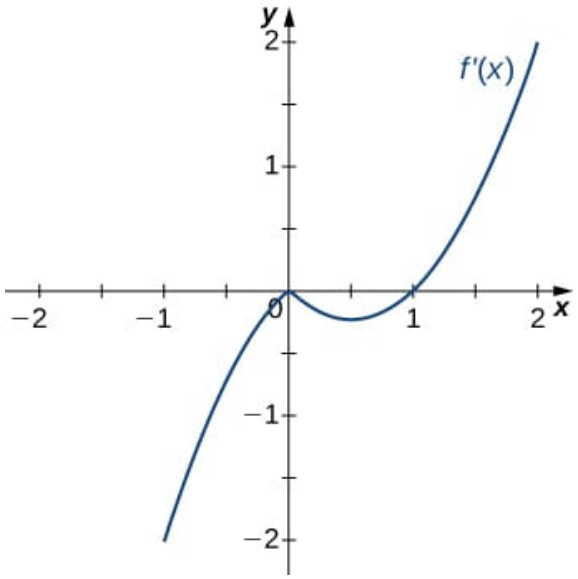


Figure $4.5E.3$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. The function starts negative and touches the x-axis at the origin. Then it decreases a little before increasing to cross the x-axis at $(1, 0)$ and continuing to increase.

Answer

Decreasing for $x < 1$,
Increasing for $x > 1$

12.

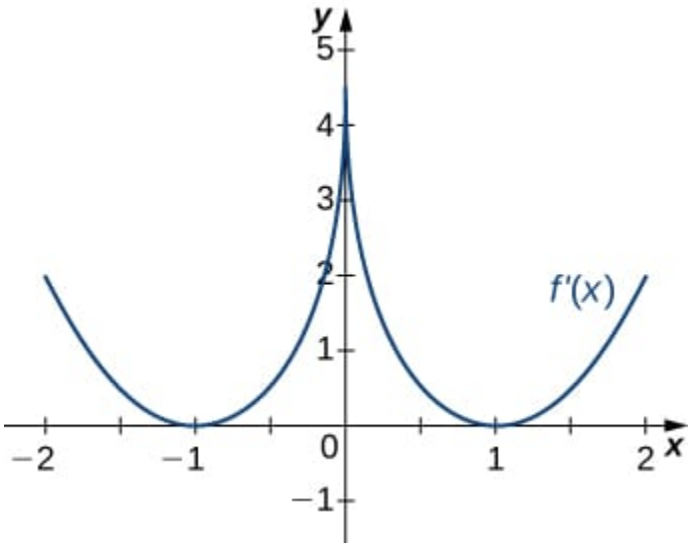


Figure $4.5E.4$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. The function starts positive and decreases to touch the x-axis at $(-1, 0)$. Then it increases to $(0, 4.5)$ before decreasing to touch the x-axis at $(1, 0)$. Then the function increases.

13.

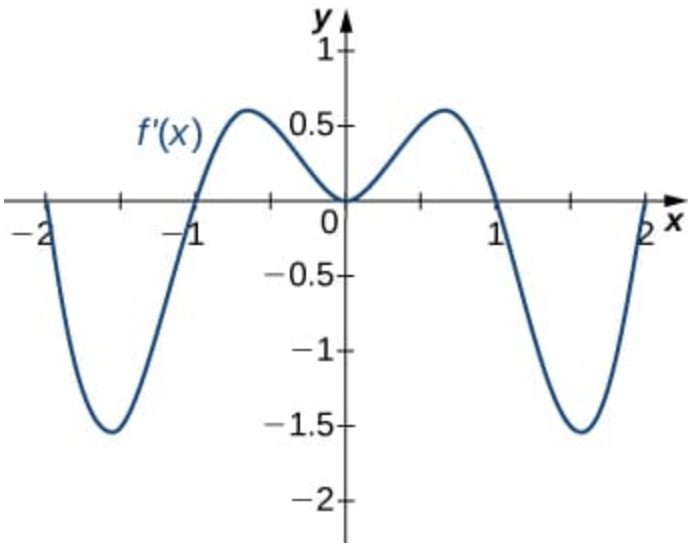


Figure $4.5E.5$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. The function starts at $(-2, 0)$, decreases to $(-1.5, -1.5)$, increases to $(-1, 0)$, and continues increasing before decreasing to the origin. Then the other side is symmetric: that is, the function increases and then decreases to pass through $(1, 0)$. It continues decreasing to $(1.5, -1.5)$, and then increase to $(2, 0)$.

Answer

Decreasing for \(–2 Increasing for \(–12\)

Exercises 14 - 18

Analyze the graphs of f', then list all intervals where:

a. **f is increasing and decreasing.**
b. **The minima and maxima are located.**

14.

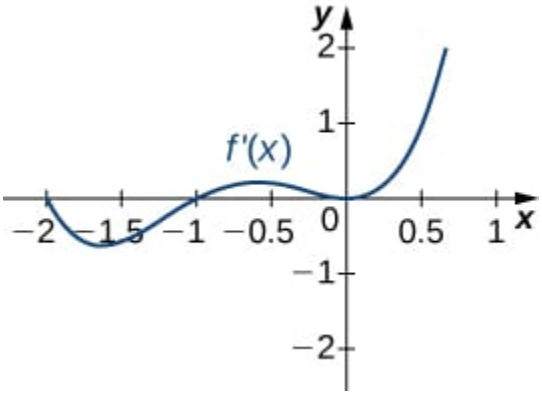


Figure $4.5E.6$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. The function starts at $(-2, 0)$, decreases for a little and then increases to $(-1, 0)$, continues increasing before decreasing to the origin, at which point it increases.

15.

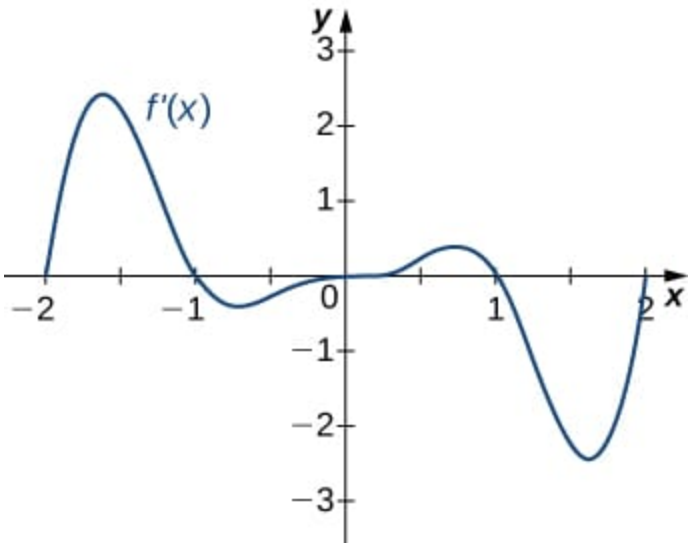


Figure $4.5E.7$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. The function starts at $(-2, 0)$, increases and then decreases to $(-1, 0)$, decreases and then increases to an inflection point at the origin. Then the function increases and decreases to cross $(1, 0)$. It continues decreasing and then increases to $(2, 0)$.

Answer

a. Increasing over \(−22\), Decreasing over \(x<−2, \;−1

b. Maxima at $x = -1$ and $x = 1$, Minima at $x = -2$ and $x = 0$ and $x = 2$

16.

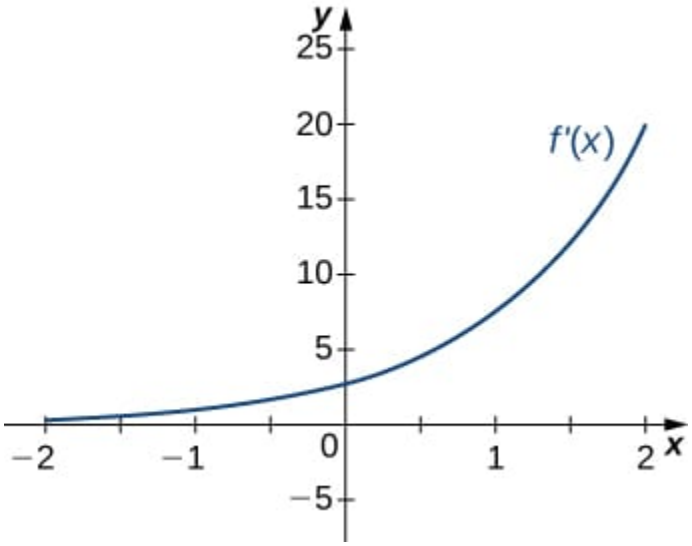


Figure $4.5E.8$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed from $x = -2$ to $x = 2$. It starts near zero at $x = -2$, but then increases rapidly and remains positive for the entire length of the graph.

17.

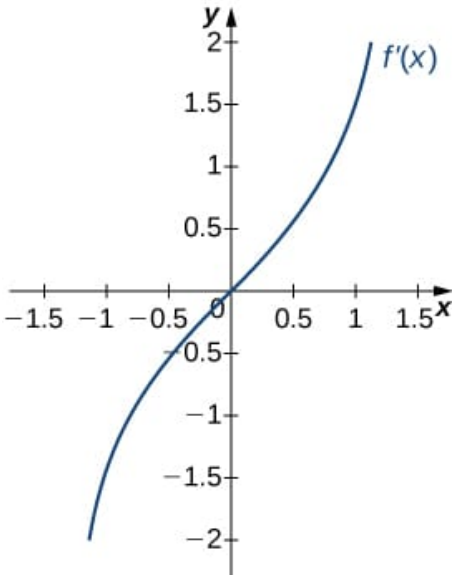


Figure $4.5E.9$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. The function starts negative and crosses the x-axis at the origin, which is an inflection point. Then it continues increasing.

Answer

a. Increasing over $x > 0$, Decreasing over $x < 0$;
b. Minimum at $x = 0$

18.

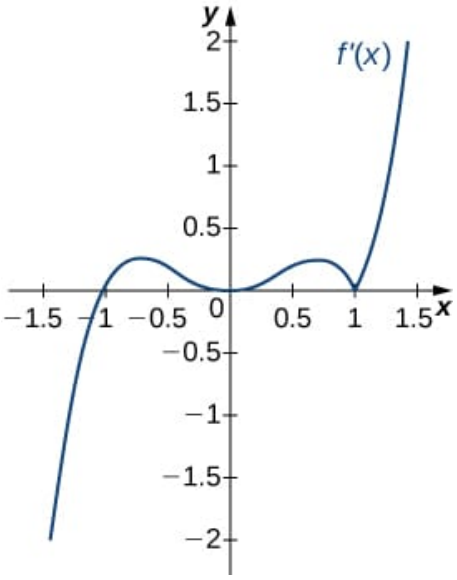


Figure $4.5E.10$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. The function starts negative and crosses the x-axis at $(-1, 0)$. Then it continues increasing a little before decreasing and touching the x-axis at the origin. It increases again and then decreases to $(1, 0)$. Then it increases.

Exercises 19 - 23

Analyze the graphs of f', then list all inflection points and intervals f that are concave up and concave down.

19.

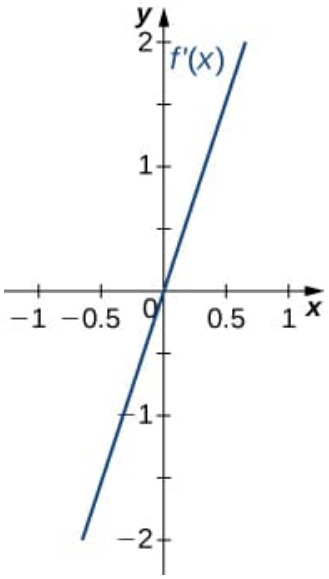


Figure $4.5E.11$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. The function is linear and starts negative. It crosses the x-axis at the origin.

Answer

Concave up for all x,
No inflection points

20.

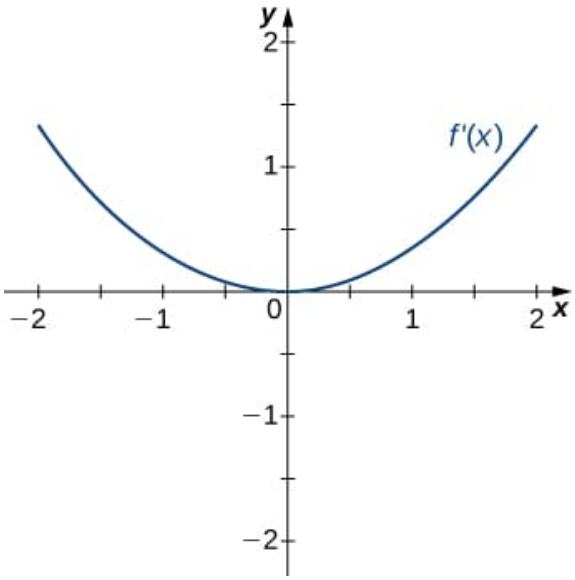


Figure $4.5E.12$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. It is an upward-facing parabola with the local minimum occurring at $x = 0$.

21.

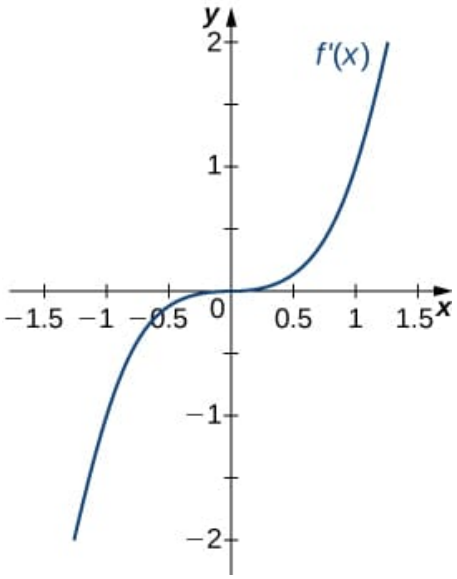


Figure $4.5E.13$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. The function resembles the graph of x^3: that is, it starts negative and crosses the x-axis at the origin. Then it continues increasing.

Answer

Concave up for all x,
No inflection points

22.

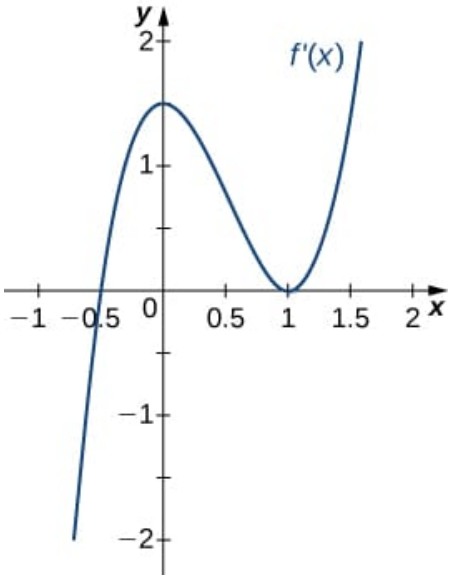


Figure $4.5E.14$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. The function starts negative and crosses the x-axis at $(-0.5, 0)$. Then it continues increasing to $(0, 1.5)$ before decreasing and touching the x-axis at $(1, 0)$. It then increases.

23.

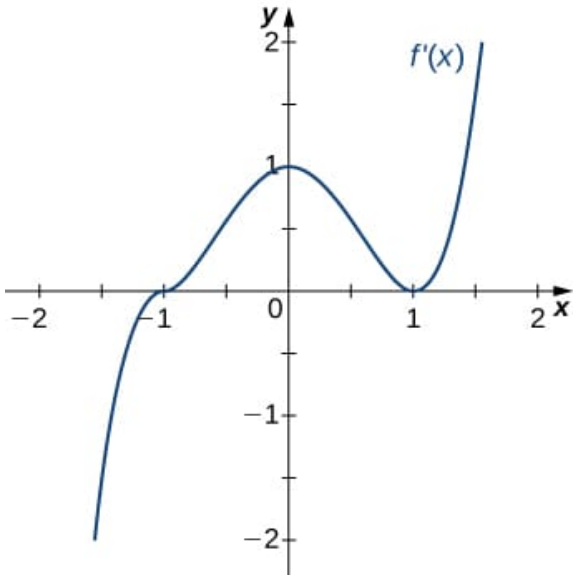


Figure $4.5E.15$: The function $f'(x)$ is graphed. The function starts negative and crosses the x-axis at $(-1, 0)$. Then it continues increasing to a local maximum at $(0, 1)$, at which point it decreases and touches the x-axis at $(1, 0)$. It then increases.

Answer

Concave up for $x < 0$ and $x > 1$,
Concave down for \(0 Inflection points at $x = 0$ and $x = 1$

Exercises 24 - 28

Draw a graph that satisfies the given specifications for the domain $x = [-3, 3]$. The function does not have to be continuous or differentiable.

0. $f(x) > 0,\ \ f'(x) > 0$ over $x > 1,\ \ -3 < x < 0,\ \ f'(x) = 0$ over="" $0 < x < 1$<="" li=""> </x<0,\;f'(x)=0\)>
1. $f'(x) > 0$ over $x > 2,\ \ -3 < x < -1,\ \ f'(x) < 0$ over="" $-1 < x < 2,\ \ f''(x) < 0$="" for="" all="" x<="" li=""> </x<−1,\;f'(x)<0\)>

Answer

Answers will vary

26. $f''(x) < 0$ over \(−1<x<1,\;f"(x)>0,\;−3 </x<1,\;f"(x)>

27. There is a local maximum at $x = 2$, local minimum at $x = 1$, and the graph is neither concave up nor concave down.

Answer

Answers will vary

28. There are local maxima at $x = \pm 1$, the function is concave up for all x, and the function remains positive for all x.

Exercises 29-31

Determine the intervals where f is increasing or decreasing, and find the location of the local minima and maxima of f.

29. $f(x) = \sin x + \sin^3 x$ over \(−π

Answer

a. Increasing over \(−\frac{π}{2}\frac{π}{2}\)

b. Local maximum at $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$; local minimum at $x = -\frac{\pi}{2}$

30. $f(x) = x^2 + \cos x$

31. $f(x) = x^3 - 4x^2 + x + 2$. Determine

    a. Intervals where f is concave up or concave down.

    b. The inflection points of f.

    Answer

    a. Concave up for $x > \frac{4}{3}$, concave down for $x < \frac{4}{3}$

    b. Inflection point at $x = \frac{4}{3}$

Exercises 32 - 38

Determine

a. **Intervals where f is increasing or decreasing.**
b. **Local minima and maxima of f.**
c. **Intervals where f is concave up and concave down.**
d. **The inflection points of f.**

32. $f(x) = x^2 - 6x$
33. $f(x) = x^3 - 6x^2$

Answer

a. Increasing over $x < 0$ and $x > 4$, decreasing over \(0
b. Maximum at $x = 0$, minimum at $x = 4$
c. Concave up for $x > 2$, concave down for $x < 2$
d. Inflection point at $x = 2$

34. $f(x) = x^4 - 6x^3$
35. $f(x) = x^{11} - 6x^{10}$

Answer

a. Increasing over $x < 0$ and $x > \frac{60}{11}$, decreasing over \(0
b. Maximum at $x = 0$, minimum at $x = \frac{60}{11}$
c. Concave down for $x < \frac{54}{11}$, concave up for $x > \frac{54}{11}$
d. Inflection point at $x = \frac{54}{11}$

36. $f(x) = x + x^2 - x^3$
37. $f(x) = x^2 + x + 1$

Answer

a. Increasing over $x > -\frac{1}{2}$, decreasing over $x < -\frac{1}{2}$
b. Minimum at $x = -\frac{1}{2}$
c. Concave up for all x
d. No inflection points

38. $f(x) = x^3 + x^4$

Exercises 39 - 48

Determine

a. **Intervals where f is increasing or decreasing.**
b. **Local minima and maxima of f.**
c. **Intervals where f is concave up and concave down.**
d. **The inflection points of f. Sketch the curve, then use a calculator to compare your answer. If you cannot**

determine the exact answer analytically, use a calculator.

39. [T] $f(x) = \sin(\pi x) - \cos(\pi x)$ over $x = [-1, 1]$

Answer

a. Increases over \(–\frac{1}{4}\frac{3}{4}\) and $x < -\frac{1}{4}$
b. Minimum at $x = -\frac{1}{4}$, maximum at $x = \frac{3}{4}$
c. Concave up for \(–\frac{3}{4}\frac{1}{4}\)
d. Inflection points at $x = -\frac{3}{4}, \quad x = \frac{1}{4}$

40. [T] $f(x) = x + \sin(2x)$ over $x = [-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}]$
41. [T] $f(x) = \sin x + \tan x$ over $(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$

Answer

a. Increasing for all x
b. No local minimum or maximum
c. Concave up for $x > 0$, concave down for $x < 0$
d. Inflection point at $x = 0$

42. [T] $f(x) = (x-2)^2(x-4)^2$
43. [T] $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{1-x}, \quad x \neq 1$

Answer

a. Increasing for all x where defined
b. No local minima or maxima
c. Concave up for $x < 1$; concave down for $x > 1$
d. No inflection points in domain

44. [T] $f(x) = \dfrac{\sin x}{x}$ over $x = [-2\pi, 0) \cup (0, 2\pi]$
45. $f(x) = \sin(x)e^x$ over $x = [-\pi, \pi]$

Answer

a. Increasing over \(–\frac{π}{4}\frac{3π}{4},\;x<–\frac{π}{4}\)
b. Minimum at $x = -\frac{\pi}{4}$, maximum at $x = \frac{3\pi}{4}$
c. Concave up for \(–\frac{π}{2}\frac{π}{2}\)
d. Inflection points at $x = \pm\frac{\pi}{2}$

46. $f(x) = \ln x\sqrt{x}, \quad x > 0$
47. $f(x) = \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{x} + \frac{1}{x}, \quad x > 0$

Answer

a. Increasing over $x > 4$, decreasing over \(0
b. Minimum at $x = 4$
c. Concave up for \(08\sqrt[3]{2}\)
d. Inflection point at $x = 8\sqrt[3]{2}$

48. $f(x) = \dfrac{e^x}{x}, \quad x \neq 0$

Exercises 49 - 53

Interpret the sentences in terms of f, f', and f''.

49. The population is growing more slowly. Here f is the population.

Answer

$f > 0, \quad f' > 0, \quad f'' < 0$

50. A bike accelerates faster, but a car goes faster. Here $f =$ Bike's position minus Car's position.
51. The airplane lands smoothly. Here f is the plane's altitude.

Answer

$$f > 0, \quad f' < 0, \quad f'' > 0$$

52. Stock prices are at their peak. Here $f$is the stock price.
53. The economy is picking up speed. Here f is a measure of the economy, such as GDP.

Answer

$$f > 0, \quad f' > 0, \quad f'' > 0$$

Exercises 54 - 58

Consider a third-degree polynomial $f(x)$, which has the properties $f'(1) = 0$ and $f'(3) = 0$. Determine whether the following statements are true or false. Justify your answer.

54. $f(x) = 0$ for some $1 \leq x \leq 3$.
55. $f''(x) = 0$ for some $1 \leq x \leq 3$.

Answer

True, by the Mean Value Theorem

56. There is no absolute maximum at $x = 3$.
57. If $f(x)$ has three roots, then it has 1 inflection point.

Answer

True, examine derivative

58. If $f(x)$ has one inflection point, then it has three real roots.

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4.6: Limits at Infinity and Asymptotes

Learning Objectives

- Calculate the limit of a function as x increases or decreases without bound.
- Recognize a horizontal asymptote on the graph of a function.
- Estimate the end behavior of a function as x increases or decreases without bound.
- Recognize an oblique asymptote on the graph of a function.
- Analyze a function and its derivatives to draw its graph.

We have shown how to use the first and second derivatives of a function to describe the shape of a graph. To graph a function f defined on an unbounded domain, we also need to know the behavior of f as $x \to \pm\infty$. In this section, we define limits at infinity and show how these limits affect the graph of a function. At the end of this section, we outline a strategy for graphing an arbitrary function f.

We begin by examining what it means for a function to have a finite limit at infinity. Then we study the idea of a function with an infinite limit at infinity. Back in Introduction to Functions and Graphs, we looked at vertical asymptotes; in this section we deal with horizontal and oblique asymptotes.

Limits at Infinity and Horizontal Asymptotes

Recall that $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = L$ means $f(x)$ becomes arbitrarily close to L as long as x is sufficiently close to a. We can extend this idea to limits at infinity. For example, consider the function $f(x) = 2 + \frac{1}{x}$. As can be seen graphically in Figure $4.6.1$ and numerically in Table $4.6.1$, as the values of x get larger, the values of $f(x)$ approach 2. We say the limit as x approaches ∞ of $f(x)$ is 2 and write $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = 2$. Similarly, for $x < 0$, as the values $|x|$ get larger, the values of $f(x)$ approaches 2. We say the limit as x approaches $-\infty$ of $f(x)$ is 2 and write $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x) = 2$.

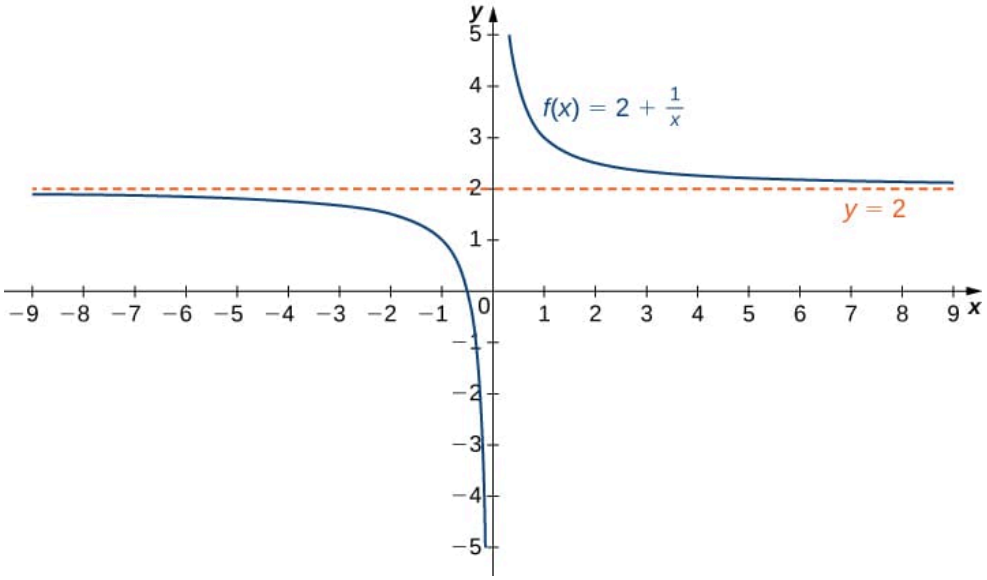


Figure $4.6.1$: The graph of function $f(x) = 2 + 1/x$ is decreasing from the left more and more steeply; it goes to $-\infty$ as it approaches the vertical asymptote $x = 0$. The function then decreases from ∞ to the right of $x = 0$ and gets nearer to the horizontal asymptote $y = 2$ as x increases.

Table $4.6.1$*: Values of a function* f *as* $x \to \pm\infty$

x	10	100	1,000	10,000

$2+\frac{1}{x}$	2.1	2.01	2.001	2.0001
x	−10	−100	−1000	−10,000
$2+\frac{1}{x}$	1.9	1.99	1.999	1.9999

More generally, for any function f, we say the limit as $x \to \infty$ of $f(x)$ is L if $f(x)$ becomes arbitrarily close to L as long as x is sufficiently large. In that case, we write $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = L$. Similarly, we say the limit as $x \to -\infty$ of $f(x)$ is L if $f(x)$ becomes arbitrarily close to L as long as $x < 0$ and $|x|$ is sufficiently large. In that case, we write $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x) = L$. We now look at the definition of a function having a limit at infinity.

Definition: Limit at Infinity (Informal)

If the values of $f(x)$ become arbitrarily close to L as x becomes sufficiently large, we say the function f has a **limit at infinity** and write

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = L. \tag{4.6.1}$$

If the values of $f(x)$ becomes arbitrarily close to L for $x < 0$ as $|x|$ becomes sufficiently large, we say that the function f has a **limit at negative infinity** and write

$$\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x) = L. \tag{4.6.2}$$

If the values $f(x)$ are getting arbitrarily close to some finite value L as $x \to \infty$ or $x \to -\infty$, the graph of f approaches the line $y = L$. In that case, the line $y = L$ is a horizontal asymptote of f (Figure 4.6.2). For example, for the function $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$, since $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = 0$, the line $y = 0$ is a horizontal asymptote of $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$.

Definition: Horizontal Asymptote

If $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = L$ or $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x) = L$, we say the line $y = L$ is a **horizontal asymptote** of f.

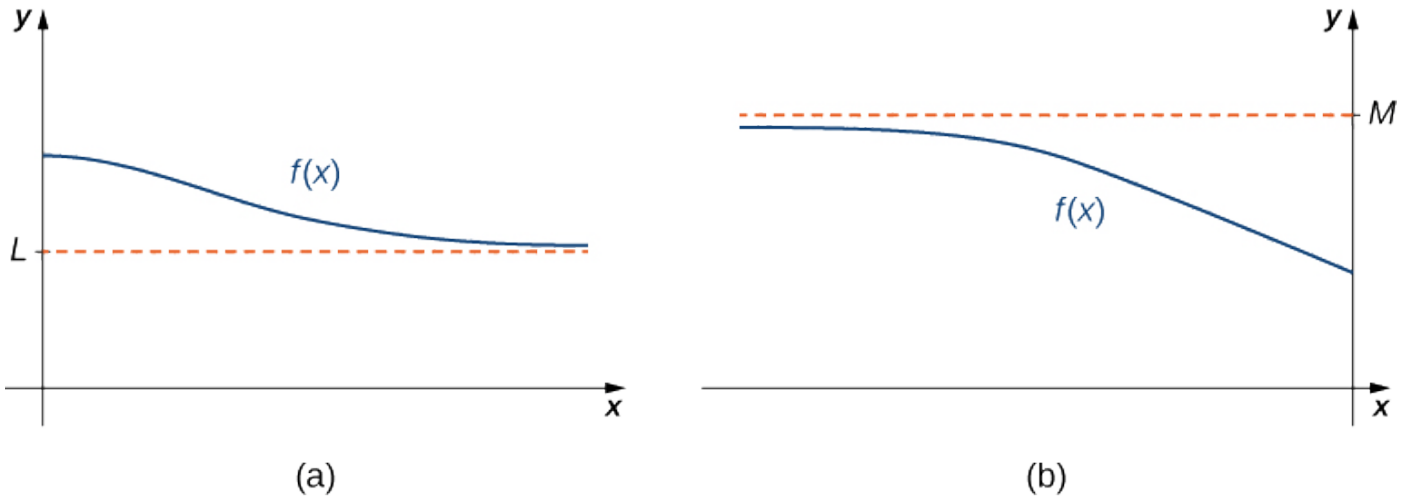


Figure 4.6.2: The figure is broken up into two figures labeled (a) and (b). Figure (a) shows a function $f(x)$ approaching but never touching the line which is the horizontal asymptote $y = L$ from above. Figure (b) shows a function $f(x)$ approaching but never touching the line which is horizontal asymptote $y = M$ from below.

A function cannot cross a vertical asymptote because the graph must approach infinity (or $-\infty$) from at least one direction as x approaches the vertical asymptote. However, a function may cross a horizontal asymptote. In fact, a function may cross a

horizontal asymptote an unlimited number of times. For example, the function $f(x) = \frac{\cos x}{x} + 1$ shown in Figure $4.6.3$ intersects the horizontal asymptote $y = 1$ an infinite number of times as it oscillates around the asymptote with ever-decreasing amplitude.

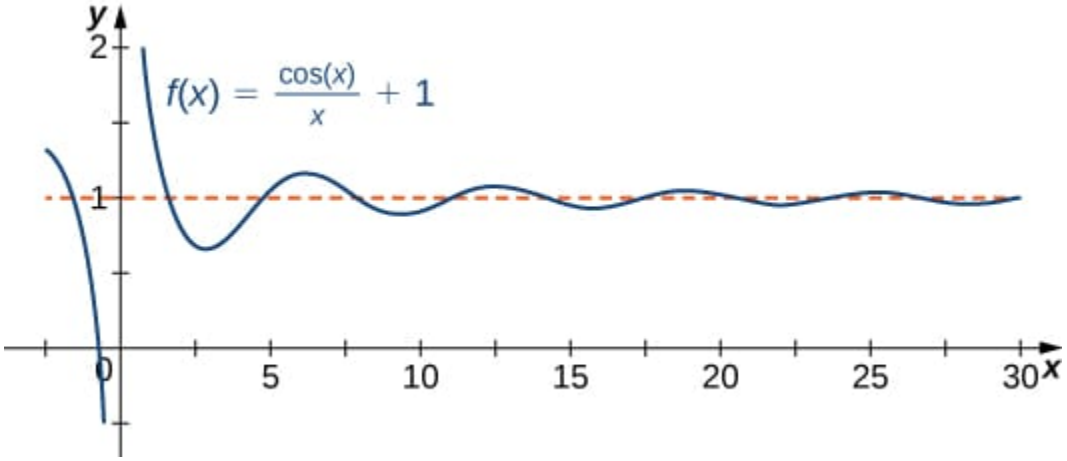


Figure $4.6.3$: The graph of $f(x) = (\cos x)/x + 1$ decreases from $(0, \infty)$ and then proceeds to oscillate around $y = 1$ with decreasing amplitude. $f(x)$ crosses the horizontal asymptote $y = 1$ an infinite number of times, but never settles on it.

The algebraic limit laws and squeeze theorem we introduced in Introduction to Limits also apply to limits at infinity. We illustrate how to use these laws to compute several limits at infinity.

Example $4.6.1$: Computing Limits at Infinity

For each of the following functions f, evaluate $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x)$. Determine the horizontal asymptote(s) for f.

a. $f(x) = 5 - \frac{2}{x^2}$
b. $f(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x}$
c. $f(x) = \tan^{-1}(x)$

Solution

a. Using the algebraic limit laws, we have

$$\lim_{x\to\infty}\left(5 - \frac{2}{x^2}\right) = \lim_{x\to\infty} 5 - 2\left(\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{1}{x}\right)\cdot\left(\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{1}{x}\right) = 5 - 2\cdot 0 = 5.$$

Similarly, $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x) = 5$. Therefore, $f(x) = 5 - \frac{2}{x^2}$ has a horizontal asymptote of $y = 5$ and f approaches this horizontal asymptote as $x \to \pm\infty$ as shown in the following graph.

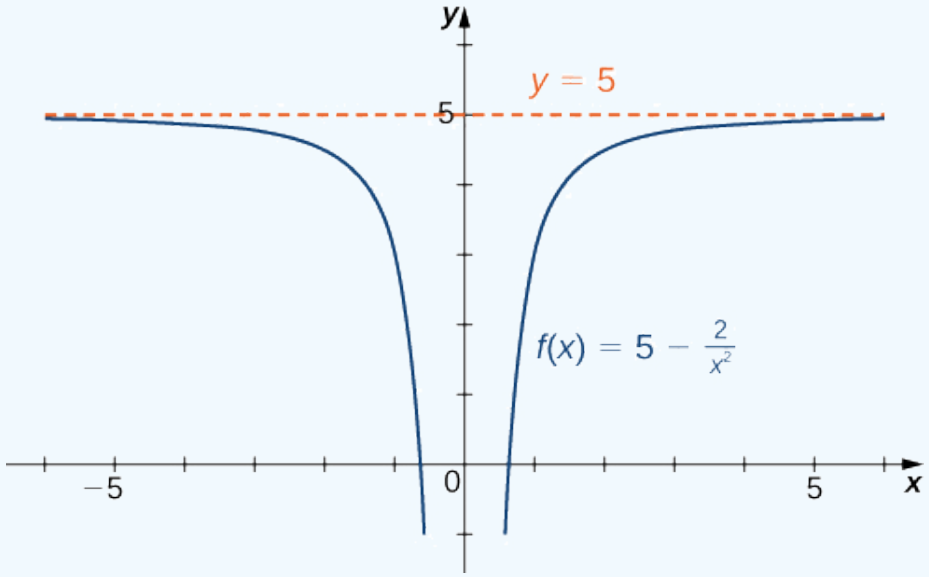


Figure 4.6.4: The function $f(x) = 5 - \frac{2}{x^2}$ has a vertical asymptote at $x = 0$, with $f(x)$ approaching $-\infty$ as x approaches 0. The graph approaches the horizontal asymptote $y = 5$ as $x \to \pm\infty$. The graph is symmetric about the y-axis and flowers up and out in both directions.

b. Since $1 \leq \sin x \leq 1$ for all x, we have

$$\frac{-1}{x} \leq \frac{\sin x}{x} \leq \frac{1}{x}$$

for all $x \neq 0$. Also, since

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{-1}{x} = 0 = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{1}{x},$$

we can apply the squeeze theorem to conclude that

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 0.$$

Similarly,

$$\lim_{x\to-\infty} \frac{\sin x}{x} = 0.$$

Thus, $f(x) = \frac{\sin x}{x}$ has a horizontal asymptote of $y = 0$ and $f(x)$ approaches this horizontal asymptote as $x \to \pm\infty$ as shown in the following graph.

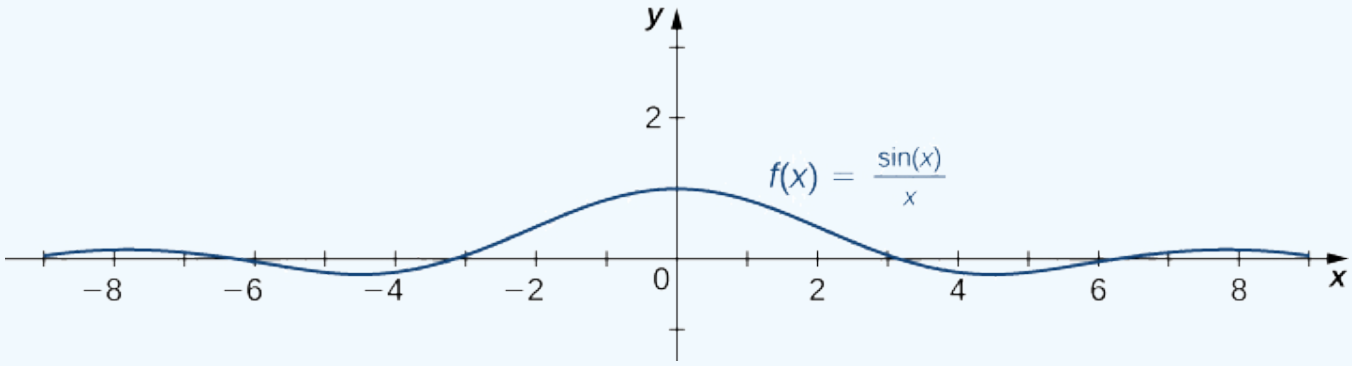


Figure 4.6.5: The function $f(x) = (\sin x)/x$ has an absolute maximum at $(0, 1)$. The graph is symmetric about the y-axis and proceeds to oscillate above and below the x-axis with decreasing amplitude. It crosses its horizontal asymptote $y = 0$ multiple times.

c. To evaluate $\lim_{x\to\infty} \tan^{-1}(x)$ and $\lim_{x\to-\infty} \tan^{-1}(x)$, we first consider the graph of $y = \tan(x)$ over the interval $(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$ as shown in the following graph.

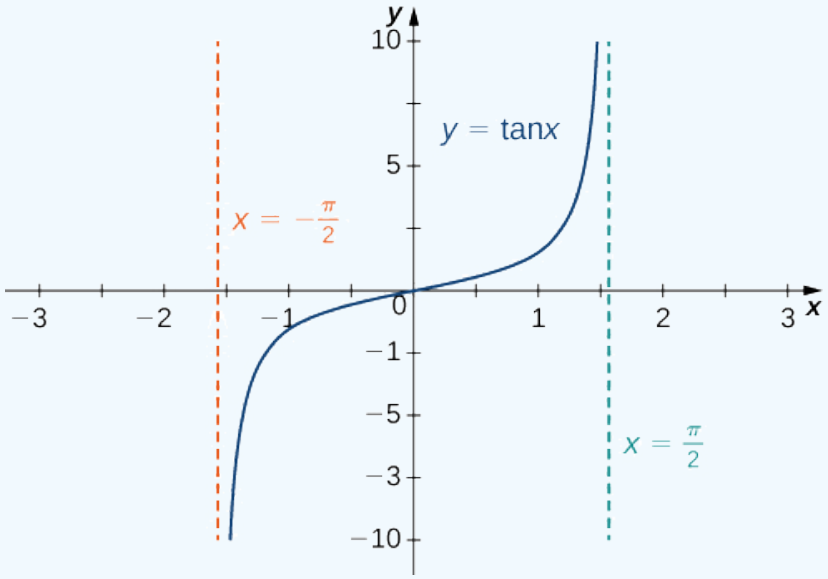


Figure 4.6.6: The graph of one period of $y = \tan x$ has vertical asymptotes at $x = \pm\frac{\pi}{2}$. Over the interval $(-\pi/2, \pi/2)$, y increases, passing through the origin, and then increases indefinitely. There are vertical dashed lines marking $x = \pm\pi/2$.

Since

$$\lim_{x\to\frac{\pi}{2}^-} \tan x = \infty,$$

it follows that

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \tan^{-1}(x) = \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

Similarly, since

$$\lim_{x\to-\frac{\pi}{2}^+} \tan x = -\infty,$$

it follows that

$$\lim_{x\to-\infty} \tan^{-1}(x) = -\frac{\pi}{2}.$$

As a result, $y = \frac{\pi}{2}$ and $y = -\frac{\pi}{2}$ are horizontal asymptotes of $f(x) = \tan^{-1}(x)$ as shown in the following graph.

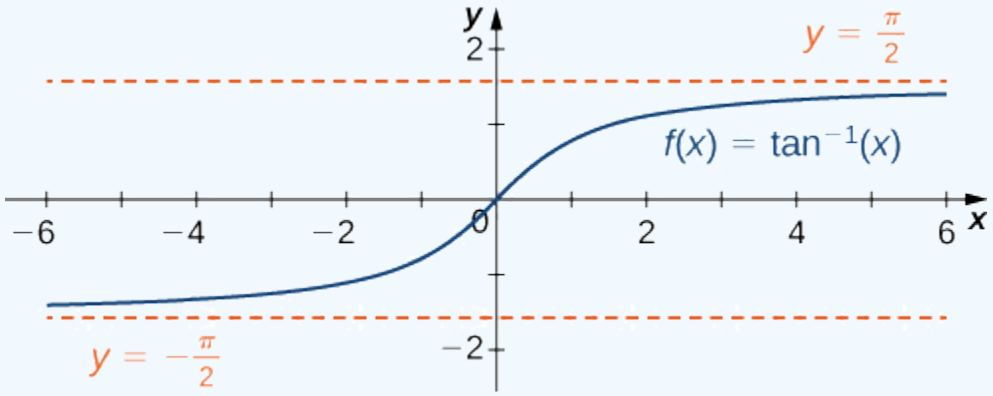


Figure 4.6.7: The function $f(x) = \tan^{-1}(x)$ is always increasing and bounded by dotted horizontal asymptotes at $y = \pm\pi/2$. It's an odd function, so the graph passes through the origin.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video length**: 1 minute 58 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates finding the limit as x tends to infinity: Find $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{1-x^{4/3}}{1-x^2}$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Example 4.6.2

Find $\lim_{x\to-\infty} \frac{3-2x}{\sqrt{x^2-1}}$

Solution

- **Video length**: 2 minutes 19 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates finding the limit when x approaches $-\infty$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Exercise 4.6.1

Evaluate $\lim_{x\to-\infty}\left(3+\frac{4}{x}\right)$ and $\lim_{x\to\infty}\left(3+\frac{4}{x}\right)$. Determine the horizontal asymptotes of $f(x) = 3 + \frac{4}{x}$, if any.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Infinite Limits at Infinity

Sometimes the values of a function f become arbitrarily large as $x \to \infty$(or as $x \to -\infty$). In this case, we write $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = \infty$ (or $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x) = \infty$). On the other hand, if the values of f are negative but become arbitrarily large in magnitude as $x \to \infty$ (or as $x \to -\infty$), we write $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = -\infty$ (or $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x) = -\infty$).

For example, consider the function $f(x) = x^3$. As seen in Table $4.6.2$ and Figure $4.6.8$, as $x \to \infty$ the values $f(x)$ become arbitrarily large. Therefore, $\lim_{x\to\infty} x^3 = \infty$. On the other hand, as $x \to -\infty$, the values of $f(x) = x^3$ are negative but become arbitrarily large in magnitude. Consequently, $\lim_{x\to-\infty} x^3 = -\infty$.

Table $4.6.2$*: Values of a function* x^3 *as* $x \to \pm\infty$

x	10	20	50	100	1000
x^3	1000	8000	125,000	1,000,000	1,000,000,000
x	−10	−20	−50	−100	−1000
x^3	−1000	−8000	−125,000	−1,000,000	−1,000,000,000

Values of a power function as $x \to \pm\infty$

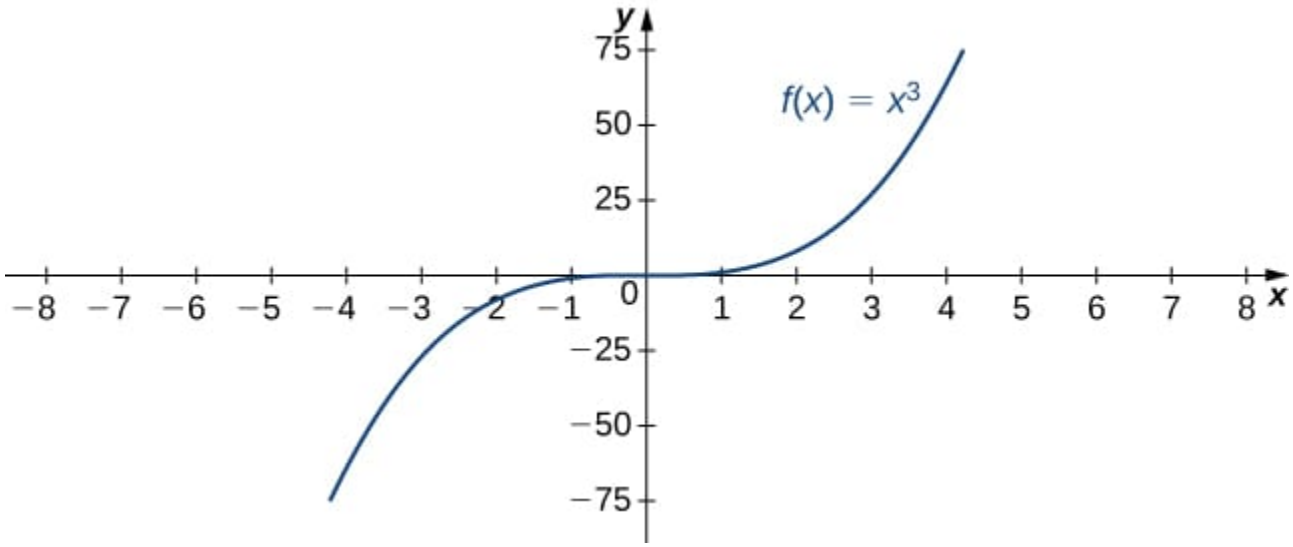


Figure $4.6.8$: The graph of an odd function $f(x) = x^3$ approaches $\pm$infinity as $x \to \pm\infty$.

Definition: Infinite Limit at Infinity (Informal)

We say a function f has an **infinite limit at infinity** and write

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = \infty. \tag{4.6.3}$$

if $f(x)$ becomes arbitrarily large for x sufficiently large. We say a function has a **negative infinite limit at infinity** and write

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = -\infty. \tag{4.6.4}$$

if $f(x) < 0$ and $|f(x)|$ becomes arbitrarily large for x sufficiently large. Similarly, we can define infinite limits as $x \to -\infty$.

Formal Definitions

Earlier, we used the terms arbitrarily close, arbitrarily large, and sufficiently large to define limits at infinity informally. Although these terms provide accurate descriptions of limits at infinity, they are not precise mathematically. Here are more formal definitions of limits at infinity. We then look at how to use these definitions to prove results involving limits at infinity.

Definition: Limit at Infinity (Formal)

We say a function f has a **limit at infinity**, if there exists a real number L such that for all $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $N > 0$ such that

$$|f(x) - L| < \varepsilon \tag{4.6.5}$$

for all $x > N$. in that case, we write

$$\lim_{x \to \infty} f(x) = L \tag{4.6.6}$$

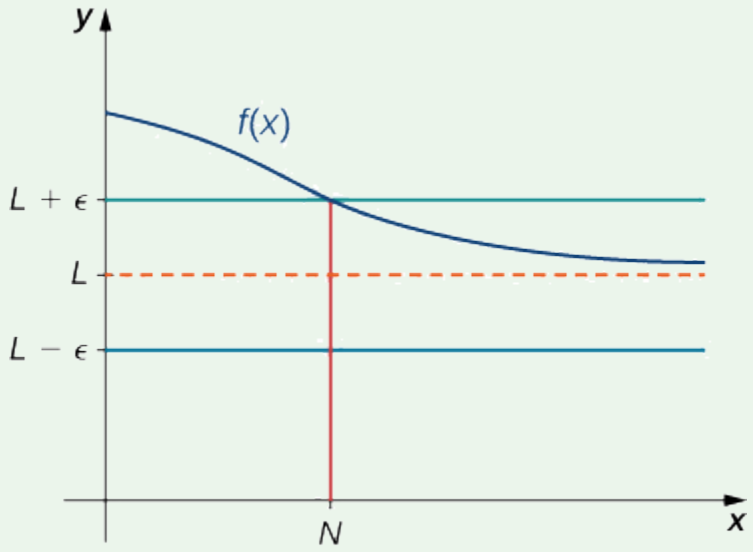


Figure 4.6.9: The function $f(x)$ has a horizontal asymptote at $y = L$. L is marked on the y-axis, as are the horizontal lines at $y = L + \varepsilon$ and $y = L–\varepsilon$. On the x-axis, N is marked as the value of x such that $f(x) = L + \varepsilon$. In other words, $f(x)$ has a limit at infinity, if for all $x > N, |f(x) - L| < \varepsilon$.

Earlier in this section, we used graphical evidence in Figure 4.6.1 and numerical evidence in Table 4.6.1 to conclude that $\lim_{x \to \infty} \left(2 + \frac{1}{x}\right) = 2$. Here we use the formal definition of limit at infinity to prove this result rigorously.

Example 4.6.3:

Use the formal definition of limit at infinity to prove that $\lim_{x \to \infty} \left(\frac{2+1}{x}\right) = 2$.

Solution

Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Let $N = \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$. Therefore, for all $x > N$, we have

$$\left|2 + \frac{1}{x} - 2\right| = \left|\frac{1}{x}\right| = \frac{1}{x} < \frac{1}{N} = \varepsilon$$

Example 4.6.4: Using the Definition of the Limit

Use the formal definition of the limit to prove $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{1}{x^2} = 0$

Solution

- **Video length**: 3 minutes 40 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates using the formal definition of a limit to prove a limit at infinity.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 4.6.2

Use the formal definition of limit at infinity to prove that $\lim_{x\to\infty} \left(\frac{3-1}{x^2}\right) = 3$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

We now turn our attention to a more precise definition for an infinite limit at infinity.

Definition: Infinite Limit at Infinity (Formal)

We say a function f has an **infinite limit at infinity** and write

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = \infty$$

if for all $M > 0$, there exists an $N > 0$ such that

$$f(x) > M$$

for all $x > N$ (see Figure 4.6.10).

We say a function has a **negative infinite limit at infinity** and write

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = -\infty$$

if for all $M < 0$, there exists an $N > 0$ such that

\(f(x)

for all $x > N$.

Similarly we can define limits as $x \to -\infty$.

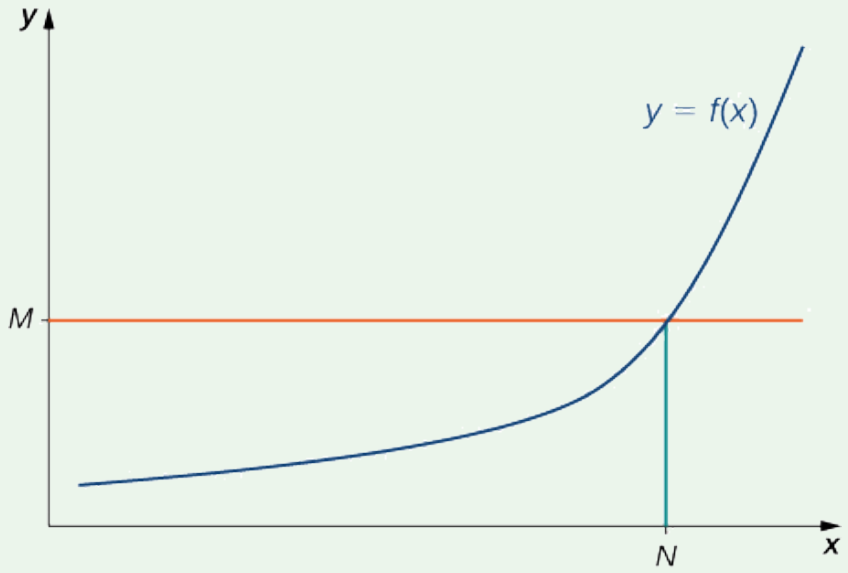


Figure 4.6.10: The function $f(x)$ continues to increase rapidly after $x = N$, and $f(N) = M$ with an infinite limit at infinity; for all $x > N$, $f(x) > M$.

Earlier, we used graphical evidence (Figure 4.6.8) and numerical evidence (Table 4.6.2) to conclude that $\lim_{x\to\infty} x^3 = \infty$. Here we use the formal definition of infinite limit at infinity to prove that result.

Example 4.6.5

Use the formal definition of infinite limit at infinity to prove that $\lim_{x\to\infty} x^3 = \infty$.

Solution

Let $M > 0$. Let $N = \sqrt[3]{M}$. Then, for all $x > N$, we have

$$x^3 > N^3 = (\sqrt[3]{M})^3 = M.$$

Therefore, $\lim_{x\to\infty} x^3 = \infty$.

Exercise 4.6.3

Use the formal definition of infinite limit at infinity to prove that $\lim_{x\to\infty} 3x^2 = \infty$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

End Behavior

The behavior of a function as $x \to \pm\infty$ is called the function's **end behavior**. At each of the function's ends, the function could exhibit one of the following types of behavior:

1. The function $f(x)$ approaches a horizontal asymptote $y = L$.
2. The function $f(x) \to \infty$ or $f(x) \to -\infty$.
3. The function does not approach a finite limit, nor does it approach ∞ or $-\infty$. In this case, the function may have some oscillatory behavior.

Let's consider several classes of functions here and look at the different types of end behaviors for these functions.

End Behavior for Polynomial Functions

Consider the power function $f(x) = x^n$ where n is a positive integer. From Figure 4.6.11 and Figure 4.6.12, we see that

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} x^n = \infty;\ n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots \tag{4.6.7}$$

and

$$\lim_{x\to-\infty} x^n = \begin{cases} \infty, & n = 2, 4, 6, \ldots \\ -\infty, & n = 1, 3, 5, \ldots . \end{cases} \tag{4.6.8}$$

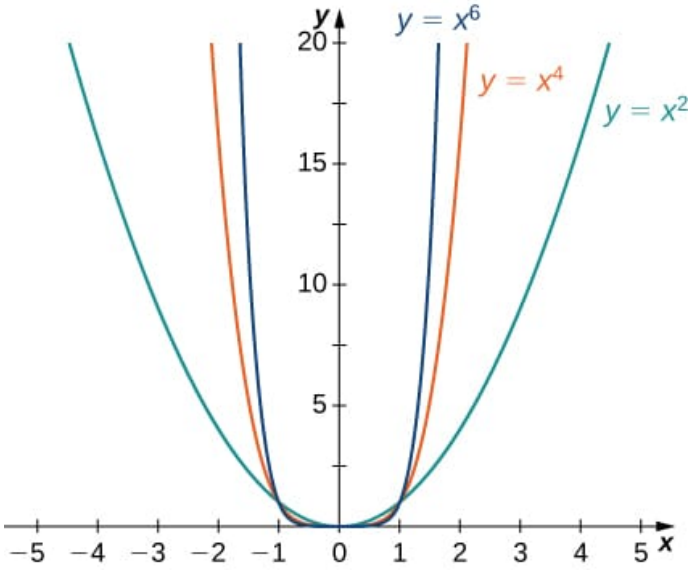


Figure 4.6.11: Graphed are $y = x^2$, $y = x^4$, and $y = x^6$. For power functions with an even power n, $\lim_{x\to\infty} x^n = \infty = \lim_{x\to-\infty} x^n$. The larger the exponent, the faster the function increases.

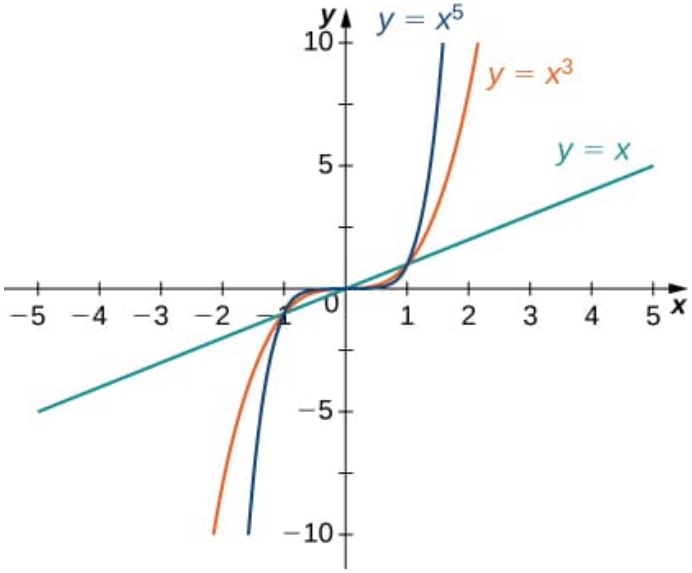


Figure 4.6.12: Graphed are $y = x$, $y = x^3$, and $y = x^5$. For power functions with an odd power n, $\lim_{x\to\infty} x^n = \infty$ and $\lim_{x\to-\infty} x^n = -\infty$. Again, As the exponent grows, the function increases more quickly as $x \to \infty$, and decreases more quickly as $x \to -\infty$.

Using these facts, it is not difficult to evaluate $\lim_{x\to\infty} cx^n$ and $\lim_{x\to-\infty} cx^n$, where c is any constant and n is a positive integer. If $c > 0$,

the graph of $y = cx^n$ is a vertical stretch or compression of $y = x^n$, and therefore

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} cx^n = \lim_{x\to\infty} x^n \text{ and } \lim_{x\to-\infty} cx^n = \lim_{x\to-\infty} x^n \text{ if } c > 0.$$

If $c < 0$, the graph of $y = cx^n$ is a vertical stretch or compression combined with a reflection about the x-axis, and therefore

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} cx^n = -\lim_{x\to\infty} x^n \text{ and } \lim_{x\to-\infty} cx^n = -\lim_{x\to-\infty} x^n \text{ if } c < 0.$$

If $c = 0, y = cx^n = 0$, in which case $\lim_{x\to\infty} cx^n = 0 = \lim_{x\to-\infty} cx^n$.

Example 4.6.6: Limits at Infinity for Power Functions

For each function f, evaluate $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x)$.

a. $f(x) = -5x^3$
b. $f(x) = 2x^4$

Solution

a. Since the coefficient of x^3 is -5, the graph of $f(x) = -5x^3$ involves a vertical stretch and reflection of the graph of $y = x^3$ about the x-axis. Therefore, $\lim_{x\to\infty}(-5x^3) = -\infty$ and $\lim_{x\to-\infty}(-5x^3) = \infty$.
b. Since the coefficient of x^4 is 2, the graph of $f(x) = 2x^4$ is a vertical stretch of the graph of $y = x^4$. Therefore, $\lim_{x\to\infty} 2x^4 = \infty$ and $\lim_{x\to-\infty} 2x^4 = \infty$.

Exercise 4.6.4

Let $f(x) = -3x^4$. Find $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

We now look at how the limits at infinity for power functions can be used to determine $\lim_{x\to\pm\infty} f(x)$ for any polynomial function f. Consider a polynomial function

$$f(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \ldots + a^1 x + a^0 \tag{4.6.9}$$

of degree $n \geq 1$ so that $a_n \neq 0$.

Factoring, we see that

$$f(x) = a_n x^n \left(1 + \frac{a_{n-1}}{a_n}\frac{1}{x} + \ldots + \frac{a_1}{a_n}\frac{1}{x^{n-1}} + \frac{a_0}{a_n}\frac{1}{x^n}\right). \tag{4.6.10}$$

As $x \to \pm\infty$, all the terms inside the parentheses approach zero except the first term. We conclude that

$$\lim_{x\to\pm\infty} f(x) = \lim_{x\to\pm\infty} a_n x^n. \tag{4.6.11}$$

For example, the function $f(x) = 5x^3 - 3x^2 + 4$ behaves like $g(x) = 5x^3$ as $x \to \pm\infty$ as shown in Figure 4.6.13 and Table 4.6.3.

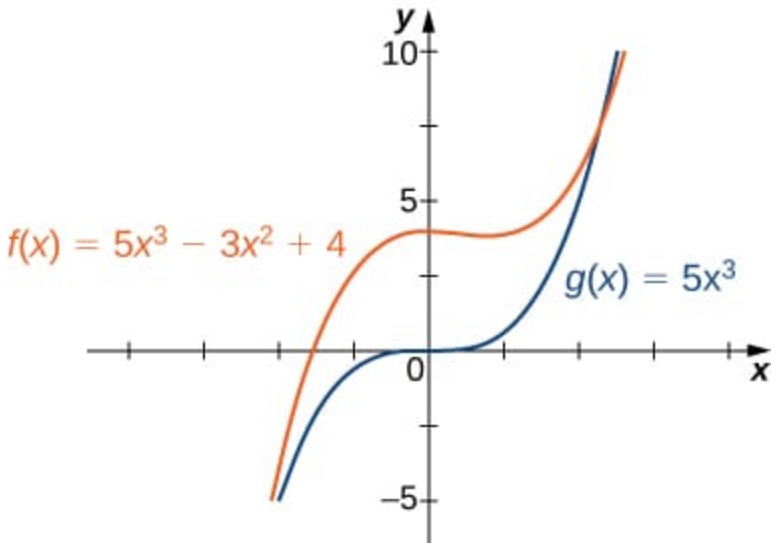


Figure 4.6.13: Two cubic polynomials are graphed: $f(x) = 5x^3 - 3x^2 + 4$ and $f(x) = 5x^3$. As $x \to \pm\infty$, the graphs are similar, demonstrating that the end behavior of a polynomial is determined by the behavior of the term with the largest exponent.

Table 4.6.3: A polynomial's end behavior is determined by the term with the largest exponent

x	10	100	1000
$f(x) = 5x^3 - 3x^2 + 4$	4704	4,970,004	4,997,000,004
$g(x) = 5x^3$	5000	5,000,000	5,000,000,000
x	−10	−100	−000
$f(x) = 5x^3 - 3x^2 + 4$	−5296	−5,029,996	−5,002,999,996
$g(x) = 5x^3$	−5000	−5,000,000	−5,000,000,000

End Behavior for Algebraic Functions

The end behavior for rational functions and functions involving radicals is a little more complicated than for polynomials. In Example, we show that the limits at infinity of a rational function $f(x) = \dfrac{p(x)}{q(x)}$ depend on the relationship between the degree of the numerator and the degree of the denominator. To evaluate the limits at infinity for a rational function, we divide the numerator and denominator by the highest power of x appearing in the denominator. This determines which term in the overall expression dominates the behavior of the function at large values of x.

Example 4.6.7: Determining End Behavior for Rational Functions

For each of the following functions, determine the limits as $x \to \infty$ and $x \to -\infty$. Then, use this information to describe the end behavior of the function.

a. $f(x) = \dfrac{3x - 1}{2x + 5}$ (Note: The degree of the numerator and the denominator are the same.)

b. $f(x) = \dfrac{3x^2 + 2x}{4x^3 - 5x + 7}$ (Note: The degree of numerator is less than the degree of the denominator.)

c. $f(x) = \dfrac{3x^2 + 4x}{x + 2}$ (Note: The degree of the numerator is greater than the degree of the denominator.)

Solution

a. The highest power of x in the denominator is x. Therefore, dividing the numerator and denominator by x and applying the algebraic limit laws, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x\to\pm\infty}\frac{3x-1}{2x+5} &= \lim_{x\to\pm\infty}\frac{3-1/x}{2+5/x}\\ &= \frac{\lim_{x\to\pm\infty}(3-1/x)}{\lim_{x\to\pm\infty}(2+5/x)}\\ &= \frac{\lim_{x\to\pm\infty}3-\lim_{x\to\pm\infty}1/x}{\lim_{x\to\pm\infty}2+\lim_{x\to\pm\infty}5/x}\\ &= \frac{3-0}{2+0}=\frac{3}{2}.\end{aligned}$$

Since $\lim_{x\to\pm\infty} f(x)=\frac{3}{2}$, we know that $y=\frac{3}{2}$ is a horizontal asymptote for this function as shown in the following graph.

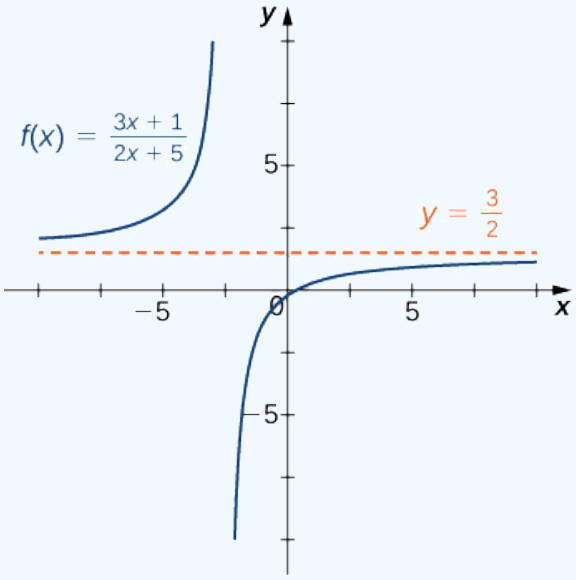


Figure 4.6.14: The graph of $f(x)=\frac{3x+1}{2x+5}$ is plotted as is its horizontal asymptote at $y=\frac{3}{2}$. approaches a horizontal asymptote as $x\to\pm\infty$. Other features of the graph include that the function increases throughout and that the function has a vertical asympote at $x=-\frac{5}{2}$.

b. Since the largest power of x appearing in the denominator is x^3, divide the numerator and denominator by x^3. After doing so and applying algebraic limit laws, we obtain

$$\lim_{x\to\pm\infty}\frac{3x^2+2x}{4x^3-5x+7}=\lim_{x\to\pm\infty}\frac{3/x+2/x^2}{4-5/x^2+7/x^3}=\frac{3\cdot 0+2\cdot 0}{4-5\cdot 0+7\cdot 0}=\frac{0}{4}=0.$$

Therefore f has a horizontal asymptote of $y=0$ as shown in the following graph.

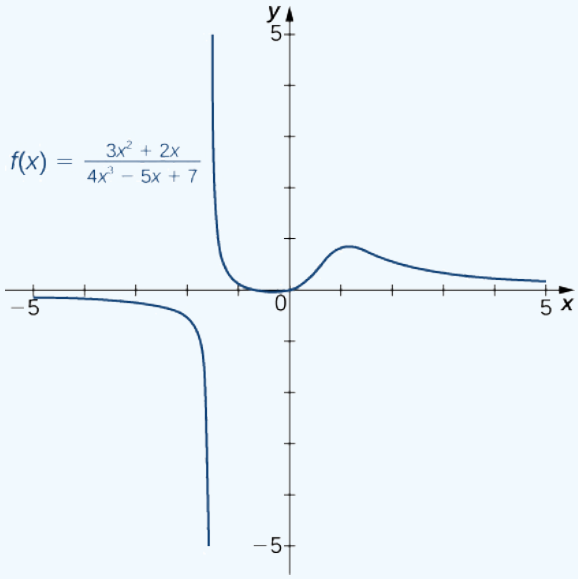


Figure 4.6.15: The graph of $f(x) = \dfrac{3x^2 + 2x}{4x^2 – 5x + 7}$ is sketched over $-5 \le x \le 5$. There is a vertical asymptote somewhere between $x = -1$ and $x = -2$, and a horizontal asymptote at $y = 0$. The curve crosses the x-axis at $x = -2/3$ and at $x = 0$, dips to a local minimum near the point $(-0.3,\ 0)$, then rises to a local maximum near the point $(1.1,\ 0.9)$. y approaches $-\infty$ as x approaches the vertical asymptote from the left and the graph approaches $y = 0$ from below as $x \to -\infty$. To the right of the vertical asymptote, the graph approaches $y = 0$ from above as $x \to \infty$.

c. Dividing the numerator and denominator by x, we have

$$\lim_{x \to \pm\infty} \frac{3x^2 + 4x}{x + 2} = \lim_{x \to \pm\infty} \frac{3x + 4}{1 + 2/x}.$$

As $x \to \pm\infty$, the denominator approaches 1. As $x \to \infty$, the numerator approaches $+\infty$. As $x \to -\infty$, the numerator approaches $-\infty$. Therefore $\lim\limits_{x \to \infty} f(x) = \infty$, whereas $\lim\limits_{x \to -\infty} f(x) = -\infty$ as shown in the following figure.

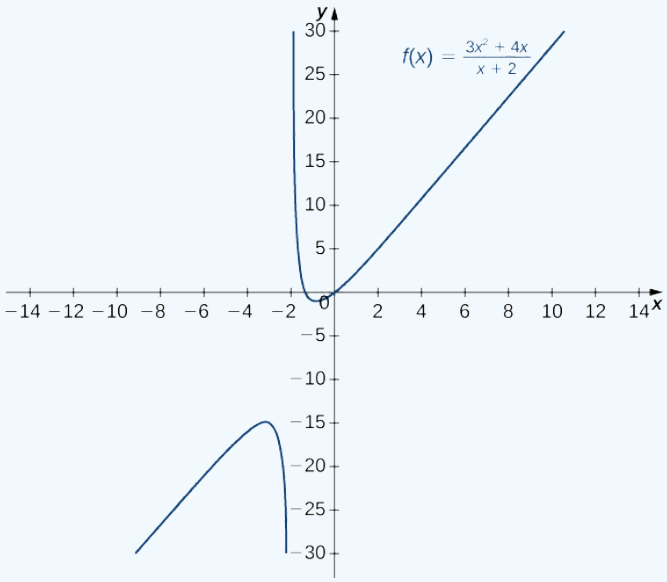


Figure 4.6.16: The graph of $f(x) = \dfrac{3x^2 + 4x}{x + 2}$ has both a oblique asymptote and a vertical asymptote. As $x \to \infty$, the values $f(x) \to \infty$. As $x \to -\infty$, the values $f(x) \to -\infty$. Other notable features of the graph include a vertical asymptote at $x = -2$, a local maximum near the point $(-3, -15)$ and a local minimum near the point $(-1, -1)$.

Exercise 4.6.5

Evaluate $\lim_{x\to\pm\infty}\dfrac{3x^2+2x-1}{5x^2-4x+7}$ and use these limits to determine the end behavior of $f(x)=\dfrac{3x^2+2x-2}{5x^2-4x+7}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Before proceeding, consider the graph of $f(x)=\dfrac{3x^2+4x}{x+2}$ shown in Figure 4.6.16. As $x\to\infty$ and $x\to-\infty$, the graph of f appears almost linear. Although f is certainly not a linear function, we now investigate why the graph of f seems to be approaching a linear function. First, using long division of polynomials, we can write

$$f(x)=\frac{3x^2+4x}{x+2}=3x-2+\frac{4}{x+2}.$$

Since $\dfrac{4}{x+2}\to 0$ as $x\to\pm\infty$, we conclude that

$$\lim_{x\to\pm\infty}(f(x)-(3x-2))=\lim_{x\to\pm\infty}\frac{4}{x+2}=0.$$

Therefore, the graph of f approaches the line $y=3x-2$ as $x\to\pm\infty$. This line is known as an **oblique asymptote** for f (Figure 4.6.17).

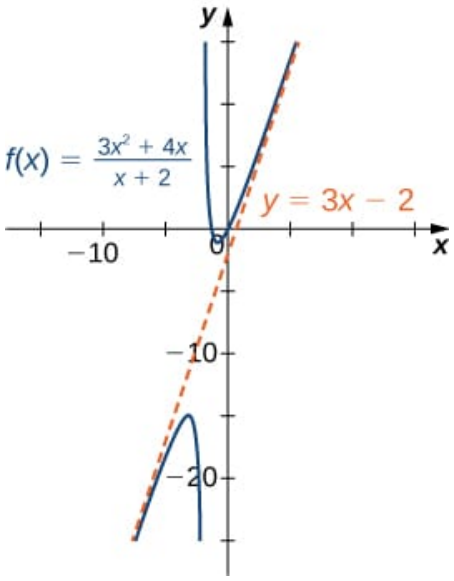


Figure 4.6.17: The graph of the rational function $f(x)=\dfrac{3x^2+4x}{x+2}$ approaches the diagonal asymptote $y=3x-2$ as $x\to\pm\infty$.

We can summarize the results of Example to make the following conclusion regarding end behavior for rational functions. Consider a rational function

$$f(x)=\frac{p(x)}{q(x)}=\frac{a_nx^n+a_{n-1}x^{n-1}+\ldots+a_1x+a_0}{b_mx^m+b_{m-1}x^{m-1}+\ldots+b_1x+b_0},$$

where $a_n\neq 0$ and $b_m\neq 0$.

1. If the degree of the numerator is the same as the degree of the denominator $(n=m)$, then f has a horizontal asymptote of $y=a_n/b_m$ as $x\to\pm\infty$.
2. If the degree of the numerator is less than the degree of the denominator \((n
3. If the degree of the numerator is greater than the degree of the denominator $(n>m)$, then f does not have a horizontal

asymptote. The limits at infinity are either positive or negative infinity, depending on the signs of the leading terms. In addition, using long division, the function can be rewritten as

$$f(x) = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} = g(x) + \frac{r(x)}{q(x)}, \tag{4.6.12}$$

where the degree of $r(x)$ is less than the degree of $q(x)$. As a result, $\lim_{x \to \pm\infty} r(x)/q(x) = 0$. Therefore, the values of $[f(x) - g(x)]$ approach zero as $x \to \pm\infty$. If the degree of $p(x)$ is exactly one more than the degree of $q(x)$ (i.e., $n = m + 1$), the function $g(x)$ is a linear function. In this case, we call $g(x)$ an oblique asymptote.

Example 4.6.8

Sketch the graph of $y = \frac{2x}{x-1}$.

Solution

- **Video length**: 2 minutes 53 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates sketching a graph that has both a horizontal and a vertical asymptote.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Now let's consider the end behavior for functions involving a radical.

Example 4.6.9: Determining End Behavior for a Function Involving a Radical

Find the limits as $x \to \infty$ and $x \to -\infty$ for $f(x) = \dfrac{3x-2}{\sqrt{4x^2+5}}$ and describe the end behavior of f.

Solution

Let's use the same strategy as we did for rational functions: divide the numerator and denominator by a power of x. To determine the appropriate power of x, consider the expression $\sqrt{4x^2+5}$ in the denominator. Since

$$\sqrt{4x^2+5} \approx \sqrt{4x^2} = 2|x|$$

for large values of x in effect x appears just to the first power in the denominator. Therefore, we divide the numerator and denominator by $|x|$. Then, using the fact that $|x| = x$ for $x > 0$, $|x| = -x$ for $x < 0$, and $|x| = \sqrt{x^2}$ for all x, we calculate the limits as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3x-2}{\sqrt{4x^2+5}} &= \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{(1/|x|)(3x-2)}{(1/|x|)\sqrt{4x^2+5}} \\
&= \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{(1/x)(3x-2)}{\sqrt{(1/x^2)(4x^2+5)}} \\
&= \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3-2/x}{\sqrt{4+5/x^2}} = \frac{3}{\sqrt{4}} = \frac{3}{2}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\lim_{x\to-\infty}\frac{3x-2}{\sqrt{4x^2+5}}=\lim_{x\to-\infty}\frac{(1/|x|)(3x-2)}{(1/|x|)\sqrt{4x^2+5}}$$
$$=\lim_{x\to-\infty}\frac{(-1/x)(3x-2)}{\sqrt{(1/x^2)(4x^2+5)}}$$
$$=\lim_{x\to-\infty}\frac{-3+2/x}{\sqrt{4+5/x^2}}=\frac{-3}{\sqrt{4}}=\frac{-3}{2}.$$

Therefore, $f(x)$ approaches the horizontal asymptote $y=\frac{3}{2}$ as $x\to\infty$ and the horizontal asymptote $y=-\frac{3}{2}$ as $x\to-\infty$ as shown in the following graph.

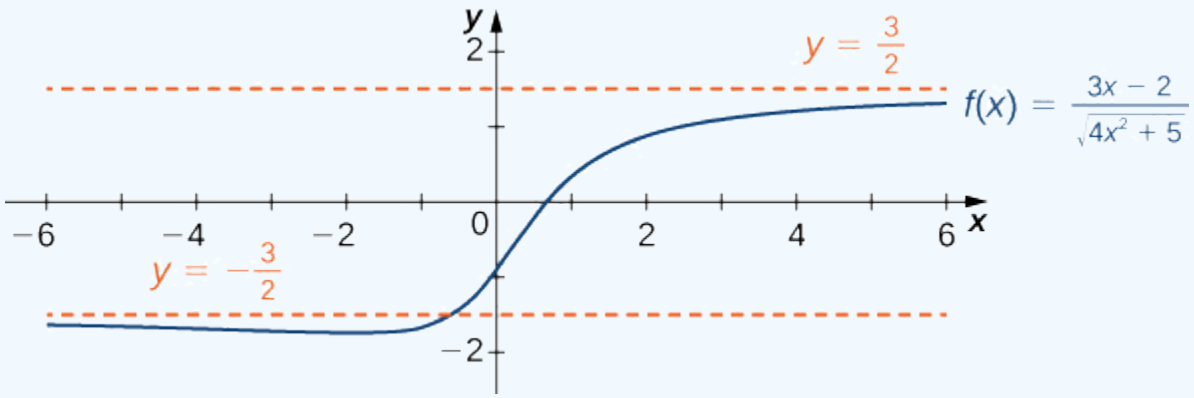


Figure 4.6.18: The function $f(x)=\frac{3x-2}{\sqrt{4x^2+5}}$ has two horizontal asymptotes at $y=\pm\frac{3}{2}$ and it crosses the lower one which is $y=-\frac{3}{2}$ once. The graph remains below the upper asymptote at $y=3/2$, but it crosses the lower asymptote at $y=-3/2$ once. The graph has one local minimum near the point $(-2,-2)$.

Exercise 4.6.6

Evaluate $\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{\sqrt{3x^2+4}}{x+6}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Determining End Behavior for Transcendental Functions

The six basic trigonometric functions are periodic and do not approach a finite limit as $x\to\pm\infty$. For example, $\sin x$ oscillates between 1 and –1 (Figure 4.6.19). The tangent function x has an infinite number of vertical asymptotes as $x\to\pm\infty$; therefore, it does not approach a finite limit nor does it approach $\pm\infty$ as $x\to\pm\infty$ as shown in Figure 4.6.20.

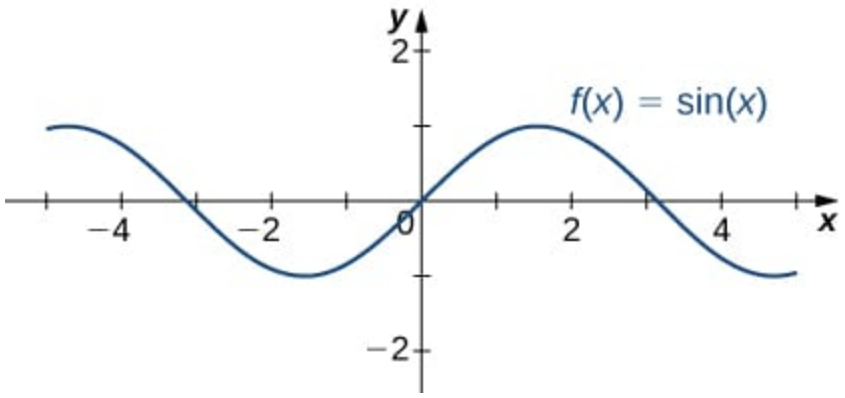


Figure 4.6.19: The function $f(x) = \sin x$ oscillates between $y = 1$ and $y = -1$ as $x \to \pm\infty$

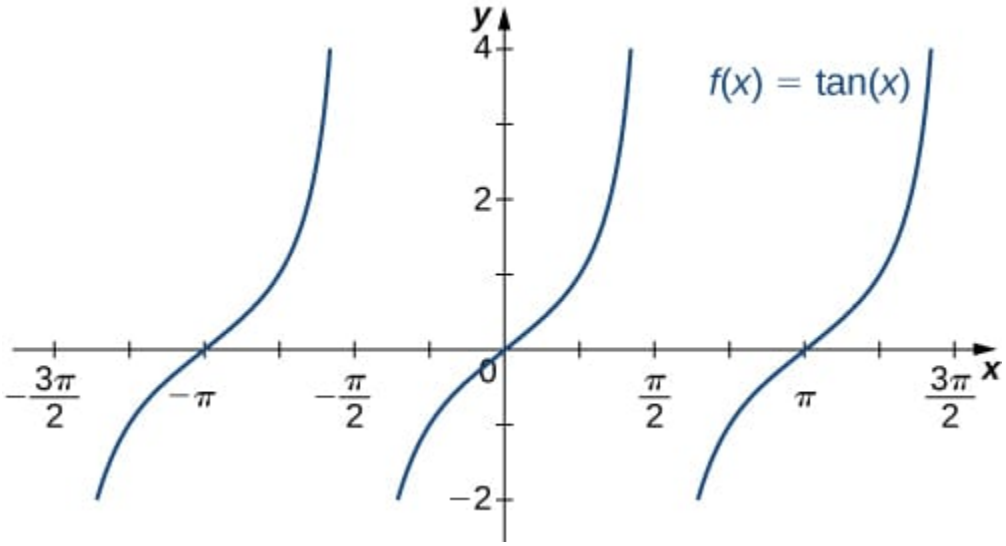


Figure 4.6.20: The function $f(x) = \tan x$ does not approach a limit nor does it approach $\pm\infty$ as $x \to \pm\infty$

Recall that for any base $b > 0, \quad b \neq 1$, the function $y = b^x$ is an exponential function with domain $(-\infty, \infty)$ and range $(0, \infty)$. If $b > 1, \quad y = b^x$ is increasing over $(-\infty, \infty)$. If \(01\). Therefore, $f(x) = e^x$ is increasing on `$(-\infty, \infty)$ and the range is `$(0, \infty)$. The exponential function $f(x) = e^x$ approaches ∞ as $x \to \infty$ and approaches 0 as $x \to -\infty$ as shown in Table 4.6.4 and Figure 4.6.21.

Table 4.6.4: End behavior of the natural exponential function

x	–5	–2	0	2	5
e^x	0.00674	0.135	1	7.389	148.413

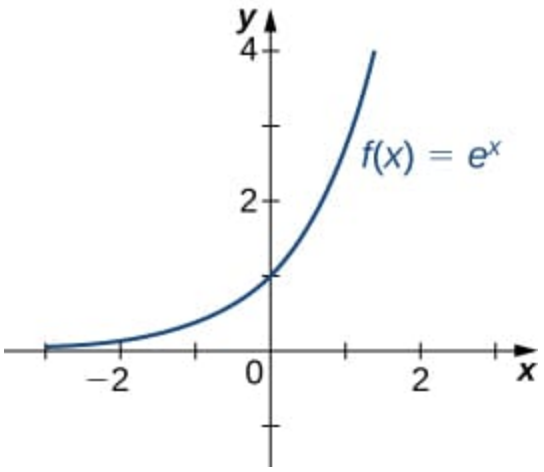


Figure 4.6.21: The exponential function $y = e^x$ approaches 0 as $x \to -\infty$ and approaches ∞ as $x \to \infty$.

Recall that the natural logarithm function $f(x) = \ln(x)$ is the inverse of the natural exponential function $y = e^x$. Therefore, the domain of $f(x) = \ln(x)$ is $(0, \infty)$ and the range is $(-\infty, \infty)$. The graph of $f(x) = \ln(x)$ is the reflection of the graph of $y = e^x$ about the line $y = x$. Therefore, $\ln(x) \to -\infty$ as $x \to 0^+$ and $\ln(x) \to \infty$ as $x \to \infty$ as shown in Figure 4.6.22 and Table 4.6.5.

Table 4.6.5: End behavior of the natural logarithm function

x	0.01	0.1	1	10	100
$\ln(x)$	−4.605	−2.303	0	2.303	4.605

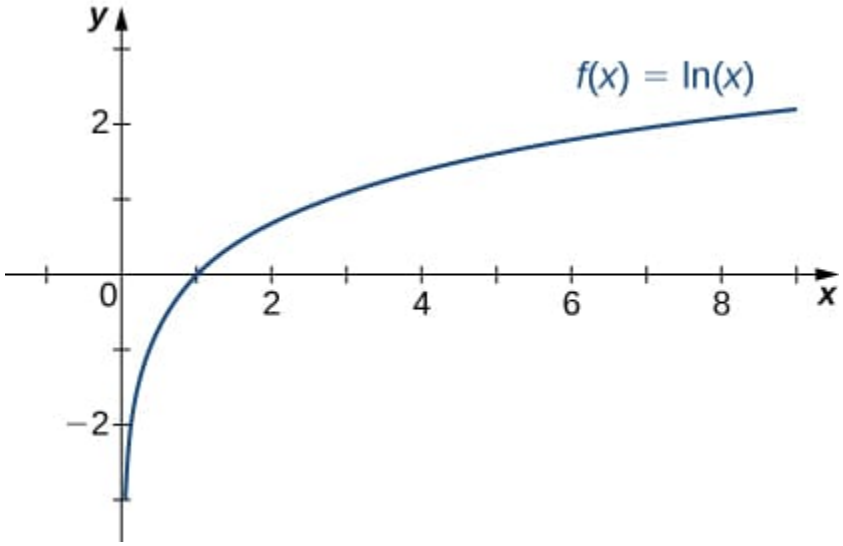


Figure 4.6.22: The natural logarithm function, $f(x) = \ln(x)$, approaches, $y \to \infty$ as $x \to \infty$.. Additionally, $ln(x)$ approaches $-\infty$ as $x - > 0^+$.

Example 4.6.10: Determining End Behavior for a Transcendental Function

Find the limits as $x \to \infty$ and $x \to -\infty$ for $f(x) = \dfrac{2 + 3e^x}{7 - 5e^x}$ and describe the end behavior of f.

Solution

To find the limit as $x \to \infty$, divide the numerator and denominator by e^x:

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{2+3e^x}{7-5e^x}$$
$$= \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{(2/e^x)+3}{(7/e^x)-5.}$$

As shown in Figure $4.6.21$, $e^x \to \infty$ as $x \to \infty$. Therefore,

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{2}{e^x} = 0 = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{7}{e^x}.$$

We conclude that $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = -\frac{3}{5}$, and the graph of f approaches the horizontal asymptote $y = -\frac{3}{5}$ as $x \to \infty$. To find the limit as $x \to -\infty$, use the fact that $e^x \to 0$ as $x \to -\infty$ to conclude that $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = \frac{2}{7}$, and therefore the graph of approaches the horizontal asymptote $y = \frac{2}{7}$ as $x \to -\infty$.

Exercise 4.6.7

Find the limits as $x \to \infty$ and $x \to -\infty$ for $f(x) = \frac{3e^x - 4}{5e^x + 2}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Interactive Element

Finding the Pot of Gold at the End of the Rainbow, aka Finding the Limit as x Goes to ∞ or $-\infty$

You goal is to find the pot of gold at the end of the creatively shaped rainbow. A function will be provided to let you know of the shape of the rainbow and the pot of gold will either be at the left or right "end" of the rainbow. To accurately find the pot of gold you must choose the end behavior, that is find $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x)$ or $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x)$. If the limit exists and is finite, select the correct choice and the value of the constant, using a decimal rather than a fraction if necessary, to find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

$f(x) = \frac{2x-3}{5x+1}$, $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x)$

$f(x) = \frac{4-x^2}{4+x}$, $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x)$

$f(x) = \frac{3}{x} + \sin(x)$, $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x)$

$f(x) = \frac{x^2-2x+3}{x^3+x^2-1}$, $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x)$

$f(x) = \frac{6x-1}{\sqrt{9x^2+2}}$, $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x)$

$f(x) = \frac{3e^x+e^{-x}}{2e^x-e^{-x}}$, $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x)$

$f(x) = \frac{e^x+e^{-2x}}{5e^x-6e^{-x}}$, $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x)$

- ○ lim = [ ]
- ○ ∞
- ○ $-\infty$
- ○ Doesn't Exist and Not Infinite

Draw



Guidelines for Drawing the Graph of a Function

We now have enough analytical tools to draw graphs of a wide variety of algebraic and transcendental functions. Before showing how to graph specific functions, let's look at a general strategy to use when graphing any function.

Problem-Solving Strategy: Drawing the Graph of a Function

Given a function f, use the following steps to sketch a graph of f:

1. Determine the domain of the function.
2. Locate the x- and y-intercepts.
3. Evaluate $\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x)$ to determine the end behavior. If either of these limits is a finite number L, then $y = L$ is a horizontal asymptote. If either of these limits is ∞ or $-\infty$, determine whether f has an oblique asymptote. If f is a rational function such that $f(x) = \dfrac{p(x)}{q(x)}$, where the degree of the numerator is greater than the degree of the denominator, then f can be written as
$$f(x) = \frac{p(x)}{q(x)} = g(x) + \frac{r(x)}{q(x),} \tag{4.6.13}$$
where the degree of $r(x)$ is less than the degree of $q(x)$. The values of $f(x)$ approach the values of $g(x)$ as $x \to \pm\infty$. If $g(x)$ is a linear function, it is known as an oblique asymptote.
4. Determine whether f has any vertical asymptotes.
5. Calculate $f\,'$. Find all critical points and determine the intervals where f is increasing and where f is decreasing. Determine whether f has any local extrema.
6. Calculate f''. Determine the intervals where f is concave up and where f is concave down. Use this information to determine whether f has any inflection points. The second derivative can also be used as an alternate means to determine or verify that f has a local extremum at a critical point.

Now let's use this strategy to graph several different functions. We start by graphing a polynomial function.

Example 4.6.11: Sketching a Graph of a Polynomial

Sketch a graph of $f(x) = (x-1)^2(x+2)$.

Solution

Step 1: Since f is a polynomial, the domain is the set of all real numbers.

Step 2: When $x = 0, \quad f(x) = 2$. Therefore, the y-intercept is $(0, 2)$. To find the x-intercepts, we need to solve the equation $(x-1)^2(x+2) = 0$, gives us the x-intercepts $(1, 0)$ and $(-2, 0)$

Step 3: We need to evaluate the end behavior of f. As $x \to \infty, \quad (x-1)^2 \to \infty$ and $(x+2) \to \infty$. Therefore, $\lim\limits_{x\to\infty} f(x) = \infty$.

As $x \to -\infty, \quad (x-1)^2 \to \infty$ and $(x+2) \to -\infty$. Therefore, $\lim\limits_{x\to\infty} f(x) = -\infty$.

To get even more information about the end behavior of f, we can multiply the factors of f. When doing so, we see that

$$f(x) = (x-1)^2(x+2) = x^3 - 3x + 2.$$

Since the leading term of f is x^3, we conclude that f behaves like $y = x^3$ as $x \to \pm\infty$.

Step 4: Since f is a polynomial function, it does not have any vertical asymptotes.

Step 5: The first derivative of f is

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 - 3.$$

Therefore, f has two critical points: $x = 1, -1$. Divide the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$ into the three smaller intervals: $(-\infty, -1), \quad (-1, 1)$, and $(1, \infty)$. Then, choose test points $x = -2, x = 0$, and $x = 2$ from these intervals and evaluate the sign of $f\,'(x)$ at each of these test points, as shown in the following table.

Table 4.6.6*: Using signs to determine intervals of increase and decrease*

Interval	Test point	Sign of Derivative $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 3 = 3(x-1)(x+1)$	Conclusion
$(-\infty, -1)$	$x = -2$	$(+)(-)(-) = +$	f is increasing
$(-1, 1)$	$x = 0$	$(+)(-)(+) = -$	f decreasing
$(1, \infty)$	$x = 2$	$(+)(+)(+) = +$	f is increasing

From the table, we see that f has a local maximum at $x = -1$ and a local minimum at $x = 1$. Evaluating $f(x)$ at those two points, we find that the local maximum value is $f(-1) = 4$ and the local minimum value is $f(1) = 0$.

Step 6: The second derivative of f is

$$f''(x) = 6x.$$

The second derivative is zero at $x = 0$. Therefore, to determine the concavity of f, divide the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$ into the smaller intervals $(-\infty, 0)$ and $(0, \infty)$, and choose test points $x = -1$ and $x = 1$ to determine the concavity of f on each of these smaller intervals as shown in the following table.

Table 4.6.7*: Using signs to determine intervals of concavity*

Interval	Test Point	Sign of Second Derivative $f''(x) = 6x$	Conclusion
$(-\infty, 0)$	$x = -1$	$-$	f is concave down..
$(0, \infty)$	$x = 1$	$+$	f is concave up.

We note that the information in the preceding table confirms the fact, found in step 5, that f has a local maximum at $x = -1$ and a local minimum at $x = 1$. In addition, the information found in step 5—namely, f has a local maximum at $x = -1$ and a local minimum at $x = 1$, and $f\,'(x) = 0$ at those points—combined with the fact that f'' changes sign only at $x = 0$ confirms the results found in step 6 on the concavity of f.

Combining this information, we arrive at the graph of $f(x) = (x-1)^2(x+2)$ shown in the following graph.

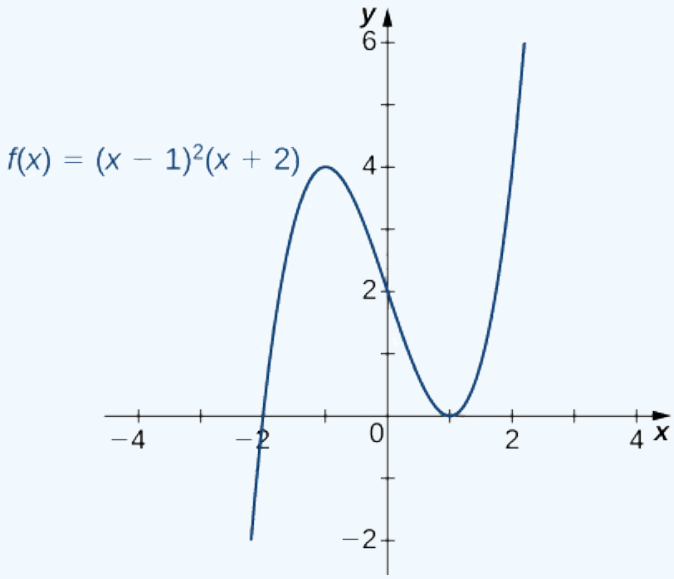


Figure 4.6.23: The function $f(x) = (x-1)^2(x+2)$ crosses the y-axis at $(0,2)$ and has x-intercept at $(1,0)$. The graph shows the curve increases as $x -> -1$ from the left, crossing the x-axis at $(-2,0)$ and rising to a local maximum at the point $-1,4$. It then falls back to touch the x-axis at $(1,0)$, which is a local minimum. Then the graph turns upward and increases steeply for $x > 1$.

Exercise 4.6.8

Sketch a graph of $f(x) = (x-1)^3(x+2)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Example 4.6.12: Sketching a Rational Function

Sketch the graph of $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2}{1-x^2}$.

Solution

Step 1: The function f is defined as long as the denominator is not zero. Therefore, the domain is the set of all real numbers x except $x = \pm 1$.

Step 2: Find the intercepts. If $x = 0$, then $f(x) = 0$, so 0 is an intercept. If $y = 0$, then $\dfrac{x^2}{1-x^2} = 0$, which implies $x = 0$. Therefore, $(0,0)$ is the only intercept.

Step 3: Evaluate the limits at infinity. Since $f$is a rational function, divide the numerator and denominator by the highest power in the denominator: x^2.We obtain

$$\lim_{x\to\pm\infty} \frac{x^2}{1-x^2} = \lim_{x\to\pm\infty} \frac{1}{\frac{1}{x^2}-1} = -1.$$

Therefore, f has a horizontal asymptote of $y = -1$ as $x \to \infty$ and $x \to -\infty$.

Step 4: To determine whether f has any vertical asymptotes, first check to see whether the denominator has any zeroes. We find the denominator is zero when $x = \pm 1$. To determine whether the lines $x = 1$ or $x = -1$ are vertical asymptotes of f, evaluate $\lim\limits_{x\to 1} f(x)$ and $\lim\limits_{x\to -1} f(x)$. By looking at each one-sided limit as $x \to 1$, we see that

$$\lim_{x\to 1^+} \frac{x^2}{1-x^2} = -\infty \text{ and } \lim_{x\to 1^-} \frac{x^2}{1-x^2} = \infty.$$

In addition, by looking at each one-sided limit as $x \to -1$, we find that

$$\lim_{x \to -1^+} \frac{x^2}{1-x^2} = \infty \text{ and } \lim_{x \to -1^-} \frac{x^2}{1-x^2} = -\infty.$$

Step 5: Calculate the first derivative:

$$f\,'(x) = \frac{(1-x^2)(2x) - x^2(-2x)}{\left(1-x^2\right)^2} = \frac{2x}{\left(1-x^2\right)^2}.$$

Critical points occur at points x where $f\,'(x) = 0$ or $f\,'(x)$ is undefined. We see that $f\,'(x) = 0$ when $x = 0$. The derivative $f\,'$ is not undefined at any point in the domain of f. However, $x = \pm 1$ are not in the domain of f. Therefore, to determine where f is increasing and where f is decreasing, divide the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$ into four smaller intervals: $(-\infty, -1), (-1, 0), (0, 1)$, and $(1, \infty)$, and choose a test point in each interval to determine the sign of $f\,'(x)$ in each of these intervals. The values $x = -2$, $x = -\frac{1}{2}$, $x = \frac{1}{2}$, and $x = 2$ are good choices for test points as shown in the following table.

Table 4.6.8: Using signs to determine intervals of increase and decrease

Interval	Test point	Sign of $f\,'(x) = \frac{2x}{(1-x^2)^2}$	Conclusion
$(-\infty, -1)$	$x = -2$	$-/+ = -$	f is decreasing.
$(-1, 0)$	$x = -/2$	$-/+ = -$	f is decreasing.
$(0, 1)$	$x = 1/2$	$+/+ = +$	f is increasing.
$(1, \infty)$	$x = 2$	$+/+ = +$	f is increasing.

From this analysis, we conclude that f has a local minimum at $x = 0$ but no local maximum.

Step 6: Calculate the second derivative:

$$\begin{aligned} f''(x) &= \frac{(1-x^2)^2(2) - 2x(2(1-x^2)(-2x))}{(1-x^2)^4} \\ &= \frac{(1-x^2)[2(1-x^2) + 8x^2]}{\left(1-x^2\right)^4} \\ &= \frac{2(1-x^2) + 8x^2}{\left(1-x^2\right)^3} \\ &= \frac{6x^2 + 2}{\left(1-x^2\right)^3}. \end{aligned}$$

To determine the intervals where f is concave up and where f is concave down, we first need to find all points x where $f''(x) = 0$ or $f''(x)$ is undefined. Since the numerator $6x^2 + 2 \neq 0$ for any $x, f''(x)$ is never zero. Furthermore, f'' is not undefined for any x in the domain of f. However, as discussed earlier, $x = \pm 1$ are not in the domain of f. Therefore, to determine the concavity of f, we divide the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$ into the three smaller intervals $(-\infty, -1)$, $(-1, -1)$, and $(1, \infty)$, and choose a test point in each of these intervals to evaluate the sign of $f''(x)$. in each of these intervals. The values $x = -2$, $x = 0$, and $x = 2$ are possible test points as shown in the following table.

Table 4.6.9: Using signs to determine intervals of concavity

Interval	Test Point	Sign of $f''(x) = \frac{6x^2+2}{(1-x^2)^3}$	Conclusion
$(-\infty, -1)$	$x = -2$	$+/- = -$	f is concave down.
$(-1, -1)$	$x = 0$	$+/+ = +$	f is concave up
$(1, \infty)$	$x = 2$	$+/- = -$	f is concave down.

Combining all this information, we arrive at the graph of f shown below. Note that, although f changes concavity at $x = -1$ and $x = 1$, there are no inflection points at either of these places because f is not continuous at $x = -1$ or $x = 1$.

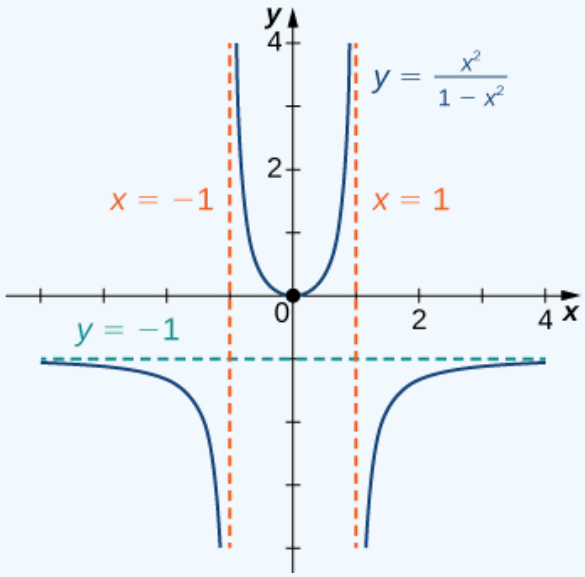


Figure 4.6.25: The graph of $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2}{1-x^2}$ has two vertical asymptotes at $x = \pm 1$ and a horizontal asymptote at $y = -1$. The function has a local minimum at $(0, 0)$ and no local maxima. A central upward-opening branch that touches the origin over \(-11\).

Exercise 4.6.9

Sketch a graph of $f(x) = \dfrac{3x+5}{8+4x}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 4.6.13: Sketching a Rational Function with an Oblique Asymptote

Sketch the graph of $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2}{x-1}$

Solution

Step 1: The domain of f is the set of all real numbers x except $x = 1$.

Step 2: Find the intercepts. We can see that when $x = 0,\ \ f(x) = 0$, so $(0, 0)$ is the only intercept.

Step 3: Evaluate the limits at infinity. Since the degree of the numerator is one more than the degree of the denominator, f must have an oblique asymptote. To find the oblique asymptote, use long division of polynomials to write

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2}{x-1} = x + 1 + \frac{1}{x-1}.$$

Since $\dfrac{1}{x-1} \to 0$ as $x \to \pm\infty$, $f(x)$ approaches the line $y = x + 1$ as $x \to \pm\infty$. The line $y = x + 1$ is an oblique asymptote for f.

Step 4: To check for vertical asymptotes, look at where the denominator is zero. Here the denominator is zero at $x = 1$. Looking at both one-sided limits as $x \to 1$, we find

$$\lim_{x\to 1^+}\frac{x^2}{x-1}=\infty \text{ and } \lim_{x\to 1^-}\frac{x^2}{x-1}=-\infty.$$

Therefore, $x=1$ is a vertical asymptote, and we have determined the behavior of f as x approaches 1 from the right and the left.

Step 5: Calculate the first derivative:

$$f\,'(x)=\frac{(x-1)(2x)-x^2(1)}{(x-1)^2}=\frac{x^2-2x}{(x-1)^2}.$$

We have $f\,'(x)=0$ when $x^2-2x=x(x-2)=0$. Therefore, $x=0$ and $x=2$ are critical points. Since f is undefined at $x=1$, we need to divide the interval $(-\infty,\infty)$ into the smaller intervals $(-\infty,0),(0,1),(1,2)$, and $(2,\infty)$, and choose a test point from each interval to evaluate the sign of $f\,'(x)$ in each of these smaller intervals. For example, let $x=-1, x=\frac{1}{2}, x=\frac{3}{2}$, and $x=3$ be the test points as shown in the following table.

Table 4.6.10*: Using signs to determine intervals of increase and decrease*

Interval	Test Point	Sign of $f'(x)=\frac{x^2-2x}{(x-1)^2}$	Conclusion
$(-\infty,0)$	$x=-1$	(−)(−)/+=+	f is increasing.
$(0,1)$	$x=1/2$	(+)(−)/+=−	f is decreasing.
$(1,2)$	$x=3/2$	(+)(−)/+=−	f is decreasing.
$(2,\infty)$	$x=3$	(+)(+)/+=+	f is increasing.

From this table, we see that f has a local maximum at $x=0$ and a local minimum at $x=2$. The value of f at the local maximum is $f(0)=0$ and the value of f at the local minimum is $f(2)=4$. Therefore, $(0,0)$ and $(2,4)$ are important points on the graph.

Step 6. Calculate the second derivative:

$$\begin{aligned} f''(x) &= \frac{(x-1)^2(2x-2)-2(x-1)(x^2-2x)}{(x-1)^4} \\ &= \frac{2(x-1)[(x-1)^2-(x^2-2x)]}{(x-1)^4} \\ &= \frac{2[x^2-2x+1-x^2+2x]}{(x-1)^3} \\ &= \frac{2}{(x-1)^3}. \end{aligned}$$

We see that $f''(x)$ is never zero or undefined for x in the domain of f. Since f is undefined at $x=1$, to check concavity we just divide the interval $(-\infty,\infty)$ into the two smaller intervals $(-\infty,1)$ and $(1,\infty)$, and choose a test point from each interval to evaluate the sign of $f''(x)$ in each of these intervals. The values $x=0$ and $x=2$ are possible test points as shown in the following table.

Table 4.6.11*: Using signs to determine intervals of concavity*

Interval	Test Point	Sign of $f''(x)=\frac{2}{(x-1)^3}$	Conclusion
$(-\infty,1)$	$x=0$	$+/-=-$	f is concave down.
$(1,\infty)$	$x=2$	$+/+=+$	f is concave up

From the information gathered, we arrive at the following graph for f.

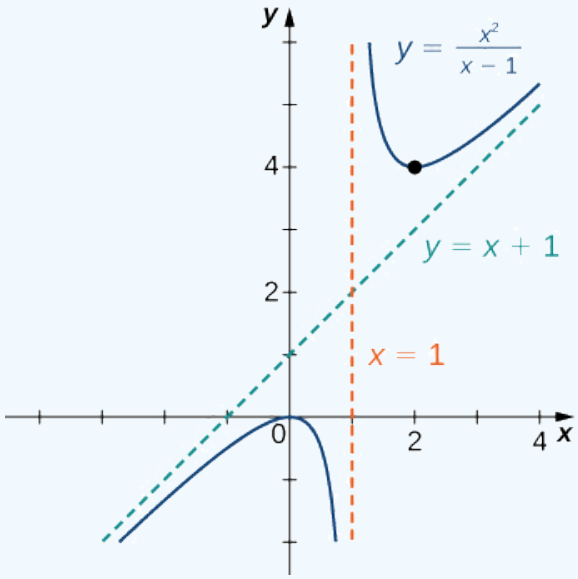


Figure 4.6.27: $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2}{x-1}$ has a vertical asymptote at $x = 1$ and an oblique asymptote at $y = x + 1$.The function increases over $x < 0$ and decreases over \(02\) with a local minimum at the point $(2, 4)$. There are no inflection points.

Exercise 4.6.10

Find the oblique asymptote for $f(x) = \dfrac{3x^3 - 2x + 1}{2x^2 - 4}$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 4.6.14: Sketching the Graph of a Function with a Cusp

Sketch a graph of $f(x) = (x-1)^{2/3}$

Solution

Step 1: Since the cube-root function is defined for all real numbers x and $(x-1)^{2/3} = (\sqrt[3]{x-1})^2$, the domain of f is all real numbers.

Step 2: To find the y-intercept, evaluate $f(0)$. Since $f(0) = 1$, the y-intercept is $(0, 1)$. To find the x-intercept, solve $(x-1)^{2/3} = 0$. The solution of this equation is $x = 1$, so the x-intercept is $(1, 0)$.

Step 3: Since $\lim\limits_{x \to \pm\infty} (x-1)^{2/3} = \infty$, the function continues to grow without bound as $x \to \infty$ and $x \to -\infty$.

Step 4: The function has no vertical asymptotes.

Step 5: To determine where f is increasing or decreasing, calculate $f\,'$. We find

$$f'(x) = \frac{2}{3}(x-1)^{-1/3} = \frac{2}{3(x-1)^{1/3}} \tag{4.6.14}$$

This function is not zero anywhere, but it is undefined when $x = 1$. Therefore, the only critical point is $x = 1$. Divide the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$ into the smaller intervals $(-\infty, 1)$ and $(1, \infty)$, and choose test points in each of these intervals to determine the sign of $f\,'(x)$ in each of these smaller intervals. Let $x = 0$ and $x = 2$ be the test points as shown in the following table.

Table 4.6.12: Using signs to determine intervals of increase and decrease

Interval	Test Point	Sign of $f'(x) = \frac{2}{3(x-1)^{1/3}}$	Conclusion
$(-\infty, 1)$	$x = 0$	$+/-=-$	f is decreasing
$(1, \infty)$	$x = 2$	$+/+=+$	f is increasing

We conclude that f has a local minimum at $x = 1$. Evaluating f at $x = 1$, we find that the value of f at the local minimum is zero. Note that $f'(1)$ is undefined, so to determine the behavior of the function at this critical point, we need to examine $\lim_{x\to 1} f'(x)$. Looking at the one-sided limits, we have

$$\lim_{x\to 1^+} \frac{2}{3(x-1)^{1/3}} = \infty \text{ and } \lim_{x\to 1^-} \frac{2}{3(x-1)^{1/3}} = -\infty.$$

Therefore, f has a cusp at $x = 1$.

Step 6: To determine concavity, we calculate the second derivative of f:

$$f''(x) = -\frac{2}{9}(x-1)^{-4/3} = \frac{-2}{9(x-1)^{4/3}}. \tag{4.6.15}$$

We find that $f''(x)$ is defined for all x, but is undefined when $x = 1$. Therefore, divide the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$ into the smaller intervals $(-\infty, 1)$ and $(1, \infty)$, and choose test points to evaluate the sign of $f''(x)$ in each of these intervals. As we did earlier, let $x = 0$ and $x = 2$ be test points as shown in the following table.

Table 4.6.13: Using signs to determine intervals of concavity

Interval	Test Point	Sign of $f''(x) = \frac{-2}{9(x-1)^{4/3}}$	Conclusion
$(-\infty, 1)$	$x = 0$	$-/+=-$	f is concave down
$(1, \infty)$	$x = 2$	$-/+=-$	f is concave down

From this table, we conclude that f is concave down everywhere. Combining all of this information, we arrive at the following graph for f.

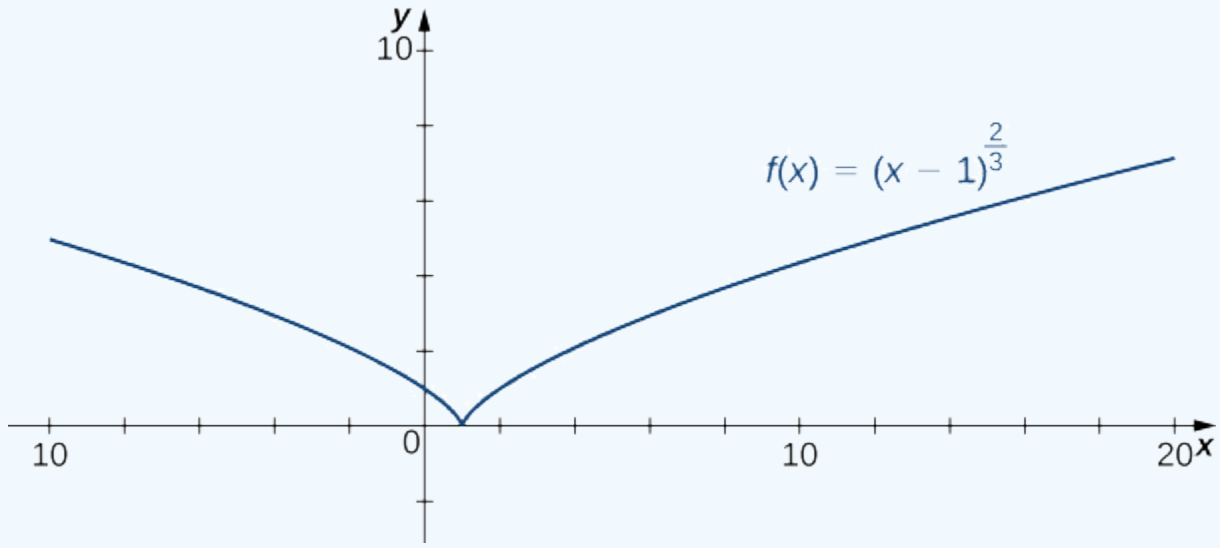


Figure 4.6.28: The graph of $f(x) = (x-1)^(2/3)$ touches the x-axis at $x = 1$, where it comes to a sharp corner and then flairs out on either side in a symmetric way. The function is decreasing and concave down over $x < 1$, and is increasing and concave down over $x > 1$.

Exercise 4.6.11

Consider the function $f(x) = 5 - x^{2/3}$. Determine the point on the graph where a cusp is located. Determine the end behavior of f.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- The limit of $f(x)$ is L as $x \to \infty$ (or as $x \to -\infty$) if the values $f(x)$ become arbitrarily close to L as x becomes sufficiently large.
- The limit of $f(x)$ is ∞ as $x \to \infty$ if $f(x)$ becomes arbitrarily large as x becomes sufficiently large. The limit of $f(x)$ is $-\infty$ as $x \to \infty$ if $f(x) < 0$ and $|f(x)|$ becomes arbitrarily large as x becomes sufficiently large. We can define the limit of $f(x)$ as x approaches $-\infty$ similarly.
- For a polynomial function $p(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + ... + a_1 x + a_0$, where $a_n \neq 0$, the end behavior is determined by the leading term $a_n x^n$. If $n \neq 0, p(x)$ approaches ∞ or $-\infty$at each end.
- For a rational function $f(x) = \dfrac{p(x)}{q(x),}$ the end behavior is determined by the relationship between the degree of p and the degree of q. If the degree of p is less than the degree of q, the line $y = 0$ is a horizontal asymptote for f. If the degree of p is equal to the degree of q, then the line $y = \dfrac{a_n}{b_n}$ is a horizontal asymptote, where a_n and b_n are the leading coefficients of p and q, respectively. If the degree of p is greater than the degree of q, then f approaches ∞ or $-\infty$ at each end.

Glossary

End behavior
The behavior of a function as $x \to \infty$ and $x \to -\infty$

Horizontal asymptote
If $\lim\limits_{x\to\infty} f(x) = L$ or $\lim\limits_{x\to-\infty} f(x) = L$, then $y = L$ is a horizontal asymptote of f

Infinite limit at infinity
A function that becomes arbitrarily large as x becomes large

Limit at infinity
A function that approaches a limit value L as x becomes large

Oblique asymptote
The line $y = mx + b$ if $f(x)$ approaches it as $x \to \infty$ or$x \to -\infty$

Contributors and Attributions

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Answers

Exercise 4.6.1

$\lim\limits_{x\to\pm\infty} \dfrac{1}{x} = 0$

Exercise 4.6.1

Both limits are 3. The line $y = 3$ is a horizontal asymptote.

Exercise 4.6.2

Let $N = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}$.

Exercise 4.6.2

Let $\varepsilon > 0$. Let $N = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}$. Therefore, for all $x > N$, we have

$$\left|3 - \frac{1}{x^2} - 3\right| = \frac{1}{x^2} < \frac{1}{N^2} = \varepsilon$$

Therefore, $\lim_{x\to\infty}(3 - 1/x^2) = 3$.

Exercise 4.6.3

Let $N = \sqrt{\frac{M}{3}}$.

Exercise 4.6.3

Let $M > 0$. Let $N = \sqrt{\frac{M}{3}}$. Then, for all $x > N$, we have

$3x^2 > 3N^2 = 3\left(\sqrt{\frac{M}{3}}\right)^2 = \frac{3M}{3} = M$

Exercise 4.6.4

The coefficient -3 is negative.

Exercise 4.6.4

$-\infty$

Exercise 4.6.5

Divide the numerator and denominator by x^2.

Exercise 4.6.5

$\frac{3}{5}$

Exercise 4.6.6

Divide the numerator and denominator by x.

Exercise 4.6.6

$\sqrt{3}$

Exercise 4.6.7

$\lim_{x\to\infty} e^x = \infty$ and $\lim_{x\to\infty} e^x = 0$.

Exercise 4.6.7

$\lim_{x\to\infty} f(x) = \frac{3}{5}, \quad \lim_{x\to-\infty} f(x) = -2$

Exercise 4.6.8

f is a fourth-degree polynomial.

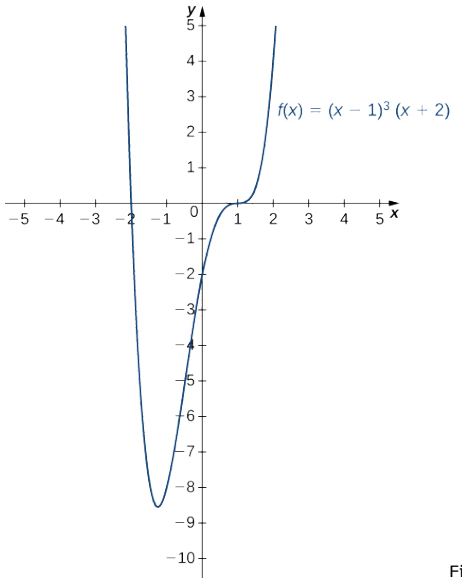


Figure 4.6.24: The graph of $f(x) = (x-1)^3(x+2)$. The function decreases over $x < -5/4$, increases over \(-5/41\). The graph is concave up over the intervals $(-\infty, -1/2) \cup (1, \infty)$, and concave down over the interval $(-1/2, 1)$.

Exercise 4.6.9

A line $y = L$ is a horizontal asymptote of f if the limit as $x \to \infty$ or the limit as $x \to -\infty$ of $f(x)$ is L. A line $x = a$ is a vertical asymptote if at least one of the one-sided limits of f as $x \to a$ is ∞ or $-\infty$.

Exercise 4.6.9

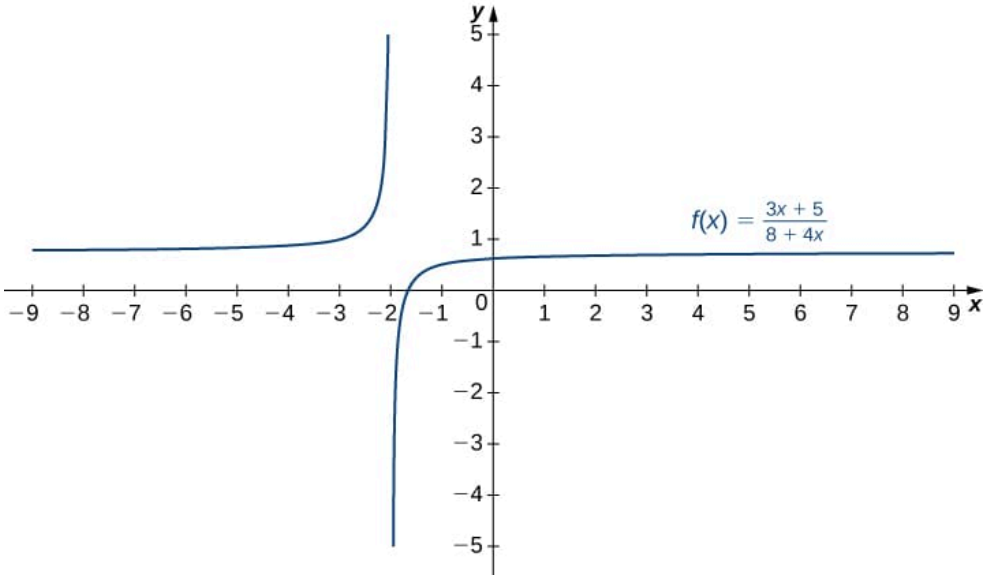


Figure 4.6.26: The graph of this function increases over the intervals $(-\infty, -2) \cup (-2, \infty)$. It is concave up over the interval (-\infty, -2), and concave down over the interval (-2,\infty)\). It has no local extrema and no inflection points. It has a horizontal asymptote at $y = 3/4$ and a vertical asymptote at $x = -2$.

Exercise 4.6.10

Use long division of polynomials.

Exercise 4.6.10

$y = \frac{3}{2}x$

Exercise 4.6.11

A function f has a cusp at a point a if $f(a)$ exists, $f'(a)$ is undefined, one of the one-sided limits as $x \to a$ of $f'(x)$ is $+\infty$, and the other one-sided limit is $-\infty$.

Exercise 4.6.11

The function f has a cusp at $(0, 5)$, since $\lim_{x \to 0^-} f\,'(x) = \infty$ and $\lim_{x \to 0^+} f\,'(x) = -\infty$. For end behavior, $\lim_{x \to \pm\infty} f(x) = -\infty$.

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4.6E: Exercises for Section 4.6

Exercises 1 - 5

Examine the graphs. Identify where the vertical asymptotes are located.

1.

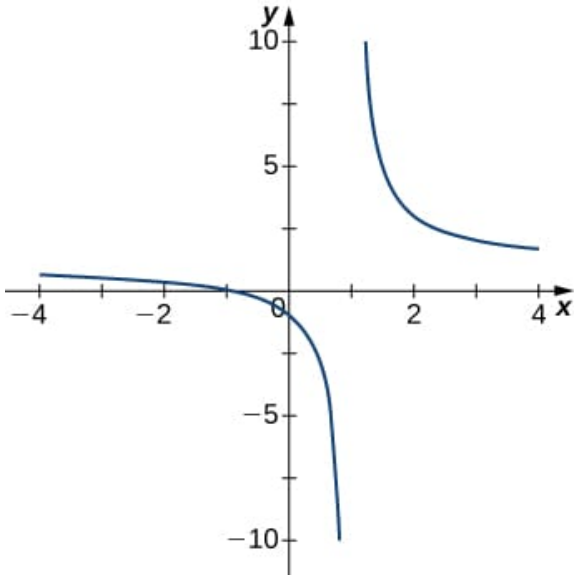


Figure $4.6E.1$: The function graphed decreases very rapidly as it approaches $x = 1$ from the left, and on the other side of $x = 1$, it seems to start near infinity and then decrease rapidly.

Answer

$x = 1$

2.

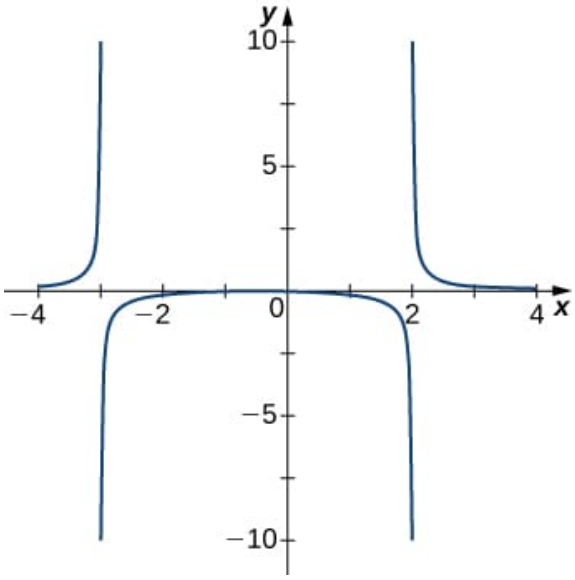


Figure $4.6E.2$: The function graphed increases very rapidly as it approaches $x = -3$ from the left, and on the other side of $x = -3$, it seems to start near negative infinity and then increase rapidly to form a sort of U shape that is pointing down, with the other side of the U being at $x = 2$. On the other side of $x = 2$, the graph seems to start near infinity and then decrease rapidly.

3.

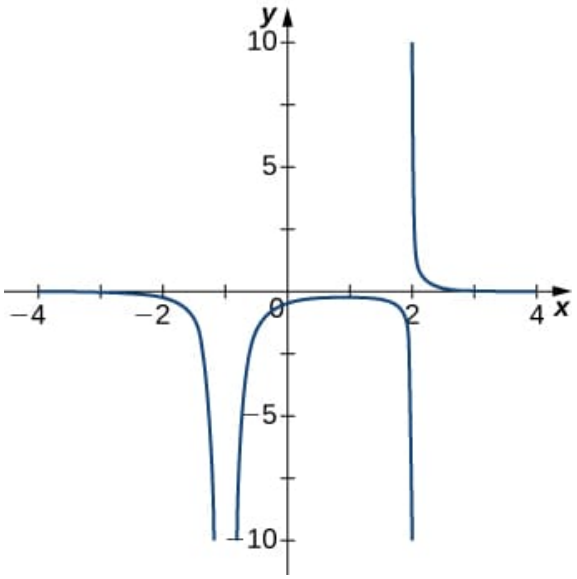


Figure $4.6E.3$: The function graphed decreases very rapidly as it approaches $x = -1$ from the left, and on the other side of $x = -1$, it seems to start near negative infinity and then increase rapidly to form a sort of U shape that is pointing down, with the other side of the U being at $x = 2$. On the other side of $x = 2$, the graph seems to start near infinity and then decrease rapidly.

Answer

$$x = -1, \quad x = 2$$

4.

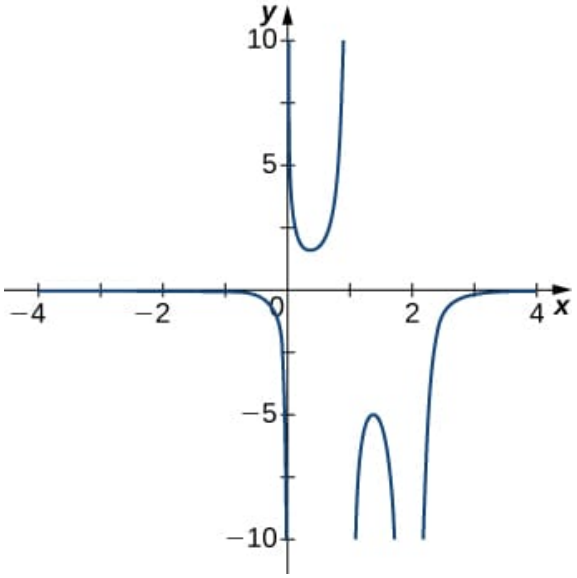


Figure $4.6E.4$: The function graphed decreases very rapidly as it approaches $x = 0$ from the left, and on the other side of $x = 0$, it seems to start near infinity and then decrease rapidly to form a sort of U shape that is pointing up, with the other side of the U being at $x = 1$. On the other side of $x = 1$, there is another U shape pointing down, with its other side being at $x = 2$. On the other side of $x = 2$, the graph seems to start near negative infinity and then increase rapidly.

5.

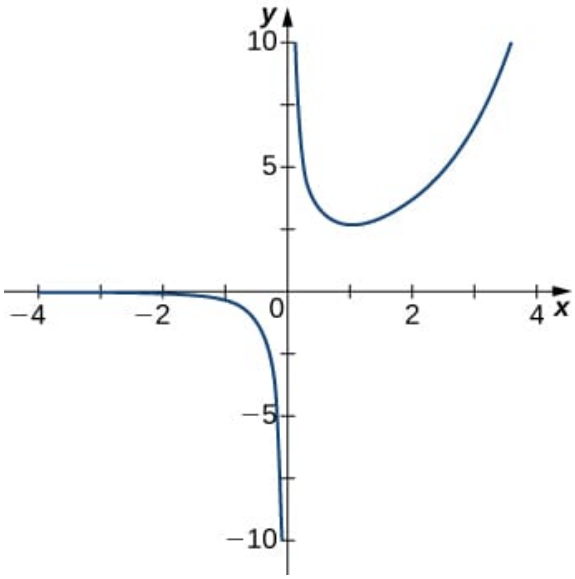


Figure $4.6E.5$: The function graphed decreases very rapidly as it approaches $x = 0$ from the left, and on the other side of $x = 0$, it seems to start near infinity and then decrease rapidly to form a sort of U shape that is pointing up, with the other side being a normal function that appears as if it will take the entirety of the values of the x-axis.

Answer

$x = 0$

Exercises 6 - 10

For each function $f(x)$, determine whether there is an asymptote at $x = a$. Justify your answer without graphing on a calculator.

6. $f(x) = \dfrac{x+1}{x^2+5x+4}, \quad a = -1$
7. $f(x) = \dfrac{x}{x-2}, \quad a = 2$

Answer

Yes, there is a vertical asymptote at $x = 2$.

8. $f(x) = (x+2)^{3/2}, \quad a = -2$
9. $f(x) = (x-1)^{-1/3}, \quad a = 1$

Answer

Yes, there is vertical asymptote at $x = 1$.

10. $f(x) = 1 + x^{-2/5}, \quad a = 1$

Exercises 11 - 20

Evaluate the limit.

11. $\lim\limits_{x\to\infty} \dfrac{1}{3x+6}$

Answer

$\lim\limits_{x\to\infty} \dfrac{1}{3x+6} = 0$

12. $\lim\limits_{x\to\infty} \dfrac{2x-5}{4x}$

13. $\lim_{x\to\infty} \dfrac{x^2-2x+5}{x+2}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{x^2-2x+5}{x+2} = \infty$$

14. $\lim_{x\to-\infty} \dfrac{3x^3-2x}{x^2+2x+8}$
15. $\lim_{x\to-\infty} \dfrac{x^4-4x^3+1}{2-2x^2-7x^4}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to-\infty} \frac{x^4-4x^3+1}{2-2x^2-7x^4} = -\frac{1}{7}$$

16. $\lim_{x\to\infty} \dfrac{3x}{\sqrt{x^2+1}}$
17. $\lim_{x\to-\infty} \dfrac{\sqrt{4x^2-1}}{x+2}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to-\infty} \frac{\sqrt{4x^2-1}}{x+2} = -2$$

18. $\lim_{x\to\infty} \dfrac{4x}{\sqrt{x^2-1}}$
19. $\lim_{x\to-\infty} \dfrac{4x}{\sqrt{x^2-1}}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to-\infty} \frac{4x}{\sqrt{x^2-1}} = -4$$

20. $\lim_{x\to\infty} \dfrac{2\sqrt{x}}{x-\sqrt{x}+1}$

Exercises 21 - 34

Find the horizontal and vertical asymptotes.

21. $f(x) = x - \dfrac{9}{x}$

Answer

Horizontal: none,
Vertical: $x = 0$

22. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{1-x^2}$
23. $f(x) = \dfrac{x^3}{4-x^2}$

Answer

Horizontal: none,
Vertical: $x = \pm 2$

24. $f(x) = \dfrac{x^2+3}{x^2+1}$
25. $f(x) = \sin(x)\sin(2x)$

Answer

Horizontal: none,
Vertical: none

26. $f(x) = \cos x + \cos(3x) + \cos(5x)$
27. $f(x) = \dfrac{x \sin(x)}{x^2 - 1}$

Answer

Horizontal: $y = 0$,
Vertical: $x = \pm 1$

28. $f(x) = \dfrac{x}{\sin(x)}$
29. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{x^3 + x^2}$

Answer

Horizontal: $y = 0$,
Vertical: $x = 0$ and $x = -1$

30. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{x - 1} - 2x$
31. $f(x) = \dfrac{x^3 + 1}{x^3 - 1}$

Answer

Horizontal: $y = 1$,
Vertical: $x = 1$

32. $f(x) = \dfrac{\sin x + \cos x}{\sin x - \cos x}$
33. $f(x) = x - \sin x$

Answer

Horizontal: none,
Vertical: none

34. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{x} - \sqrt{x}$

Exercises 35 - 38

Construct a function $f(x)$ that has the given asymptotes.

35. $x = 1$ and $y = 2$

Answer

Answers will vary, for example: $y = \dfrac{2x}{x - 1}$

36. $x = 1$ and $y = 0$
37. $y = 4, \quad x = -1$

Answer

Answers will vary, for example: $y = \dfrac{4x}{x + 1}$

38. $x = 0$

Exercises 39 - 43

Graph the function on a graphing calculator on the window $x = [-5, 5]$ and estimate the horizontal asymptote or limit. Then, calculate the actual horizontal asymptote or limit.

39. [T] $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{x + 10}$

Answer

$\lim\limits_{x \to \infty} \dfrac{1}{x + 10} = 0$ so f has a horizontal asymptote of $y = 0$.

40. [T] $f(x) = \dfrac{x + 1}{x^2 + 7x + 6}$

41. [T] $\lim\limits_{x \to -\infty} x^2 + 10x + 25$

Answer

$\lim\limits_{x \to -\infty} x^2 + 10x + 25 = \infty$

42. [T] $\lim\limits_{x \to -\infty} \dfrac{x + 2}{x^2 + 7x + 6}$

43. [T] $\lim\limits_{x \to \infty} \dfrac{3x + 2}{x + 5}$

Answer

$\lim\limits_{x \to \infty} \dfrac{3x + 2}{x + 5} = 3$ so this function has a horizontal asymptote of $y = 3$.

Exercises 44 - 55

Draw a graph of the functions without using a calculator. Be sure to notice all important features of the graph: local maxima and minima, inflection points, and asymptotic behavior.

44. $y = 3x^2 + 2x + 4$

45. $y = x^3 - 3x^2 + 4$

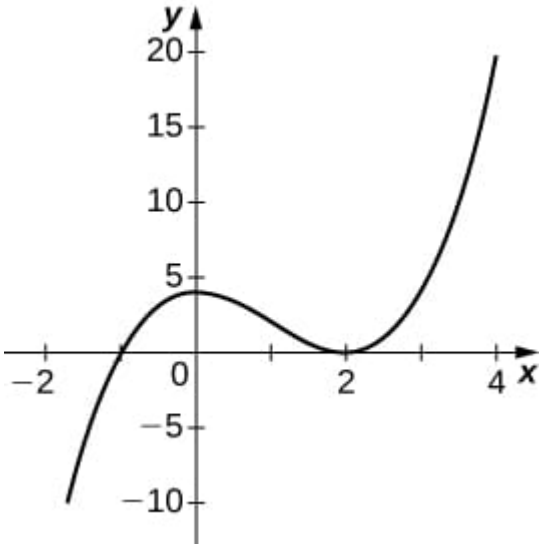


Figure $4.6E.6$: The function starts in the third quadrant, increases to pass through $(-1, 0)$, increases to a maximum and y intercept at 4, decreases to touch $(2, 0)$, and then increases to $(4, 20)$.

Answer

16. $y = \dfrac{2x+1}{x^2+6x+5}$
17. $y = \dfrac{x^3+4x^2+3x}{3x+9}$

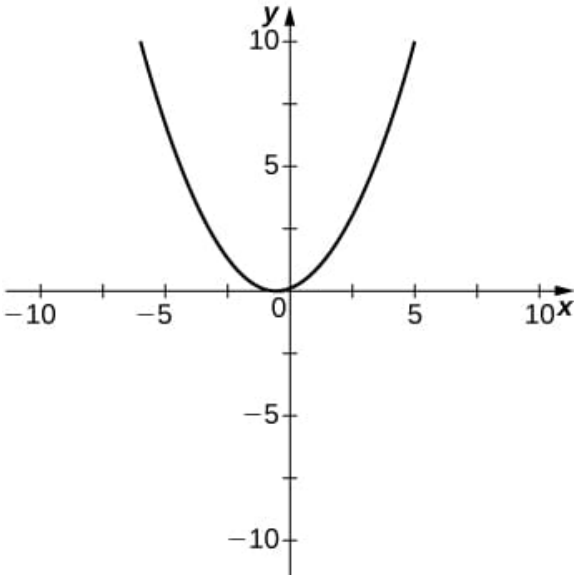


Figure $4.6E.7$: An upward-facing parabola with minimum between $x = 0$ and $x = -1$ with y-intercept between 0 and 1.

Answer

18. $y = \dfrac{x^2+x-2}{x^2-3x-4}$
19. $y = \sqrt{x^2-5x+4}$

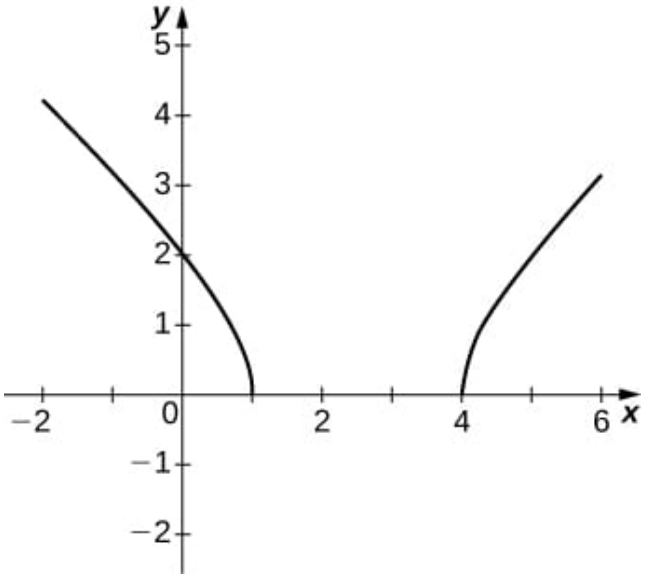


Figure $4.6E.8$: This graph starts at $(-2, 4)$ and decreases in a convex way to $(1, 0)$. Then the graph starts again at $(4, 0)$ and increases in a convex way to $(6, 3)$.

Answer

50. $y = 2x\sqrt{16-x^2}$
51. $y = \dfrac{\cos x}{x}$, on $x = [-2\pi, 2\pi]$

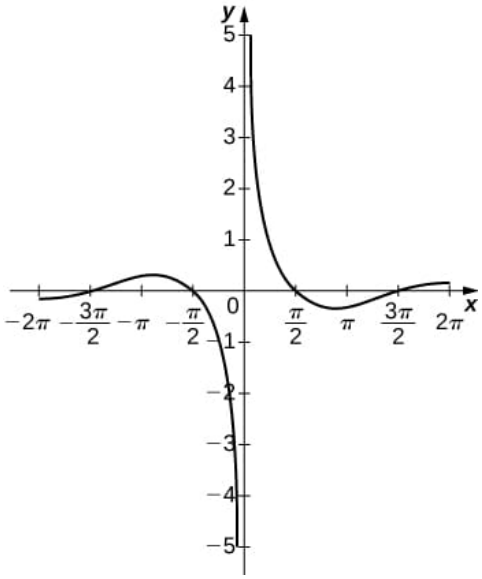


Figure $4.6E.9$: This graph has vertical asymptote at $x = 0$. The first part of the function occurs in the second and third quadrants and starts in the third quadrant just below $(-2\pi, 0)$, increases and passes through the x-axis at $-3\pi/2$, reaches a maximum and then decreases through the x-axis at $-\pi/2$ before approaching the asymptote. On the other side of the asymptote, the function starts in the first quadrant, decreases quickly to pass through $\pi/2$, decreases to a local minimum and then increases through $(3\pi/2, 0)$ before staying just above $(2\pi, 0)$.

Answer

52. $y = e^x - x^3$
53. $y = x \tan x, \quad x = [-\pi, \pi]$

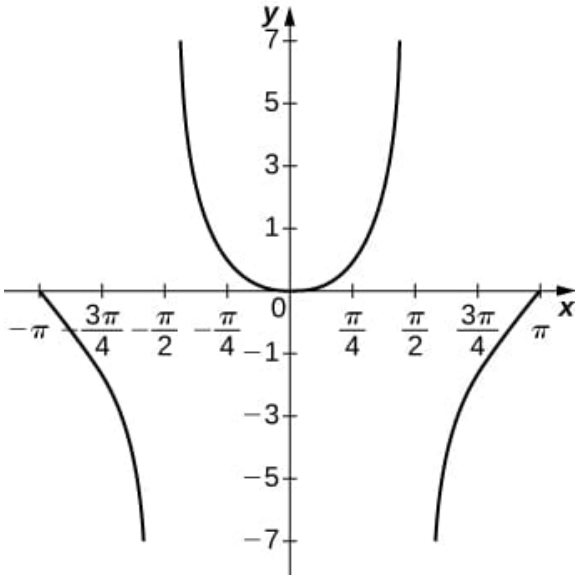


Figure $4.6E.10$: This graph has vertical asymptotes at $x = \pm\pi/2$. The graph is symmetric about the y-axis, so describing the left hand side will be sufficient. The function starts at $(-\pi, 0)$ and decreases quickly to the asymptote. Then it starts on the other side of the asymptote in the second quadrant and decreases to the the origin.

Answer

54. $y = x \ln(x), \quad x > 0$
55. $y = x^2 \sin(x), \quad x = [-2\pi, 2\pi]$

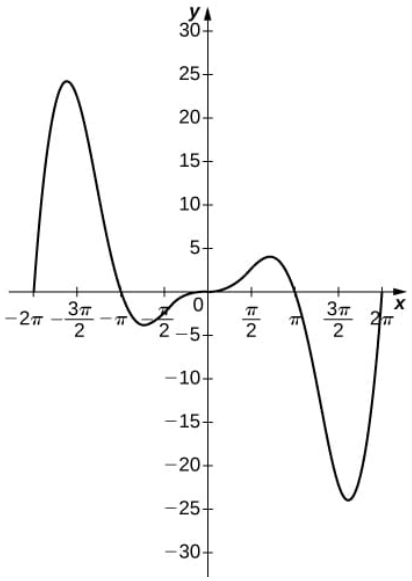


Figure $4.6E.11$: This function starts at $(-2\pi, 0)$, increases to near $(-3\pi/2, 25)$, decreases through $(-\pi, 0)$, achieves a local minimum and then increases through the origin. On the other side of the origin, the graph is the same but flipped, that is, it is congruent to the other half by a rotation of 180 degrees.

Answer

Exercises 56 - 60

56. For $f(x) = \dfrac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$ to have an asymptote at $y = 2$ then the polynomials $P(x)$ and $Q(x)$ must have what relation?
57. For $f(x) = \dfrac{P(x)}{Q(x)}$ to have an asymptote at $x = 0$, then the polynomials $P(x)$ and $Q(x)$. must have what relation?

Answer

$Q(x)$. must have have x^{k+1} as a factor, where $P(x)$ has x^k as a factor.

58. If $f\,'(x)$ has asymptotes at $y = 3$ and $x = 1$, then $f(x)$ has what asymptotes?
59. Both $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{x-1}$ and $g(x) = \dfrac{1}{(x-1)^2}$ have asymptotes at $x = 1$ and $y = 0$. What is the most obvious difference between these two functions?

Answer

$$\lim_{x \to 1^-} f(x) = -\infty \text{ and } \lim_{x \to 1^-} g(x) = \infty$$

60. True or false: Every ratio of polynomials has vertical asymptotes.

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4.7: L'Hôpital's Rule

Learning Objectives

- Recognize when to apply L'Hôpital's Rule.
- Identify indeterminate forms produced by quotients, products, subtractions, and powers, and apply L'Hôpital's Rule in each case.
- Describe the relative growth rates of functions.

In this section, we examine a powerful tool for evaluating limits. This tool, known as **L'Hôpital's Rule,** uses derivatives to calculate limits. With this rule, we will be able to evaluate many limits we have not yet been able to determine. Instead of relying on numerical evidence to conjecture that a limit exists, we will be able to show definitively that a limit exists and to determine its exact value.

Applying L'Hôpital's Rule

L'Hôpital's Rule can be used to evaluate limits involving the quotient of two functions. Consider

$$\lim_{x\to a}\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}. \tag{4.7.1}$$

If $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = L_1$ and $\lim_{x\to a} g(x) = L_2 \neq 0$, then

$$\lim_{x\to a}\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{L_1}{L_2}. \tag{4.7.2}$$

However, what happens if $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = 0$ and $\lim_{x\to a} g(x) = 0$? We call this one of the **indeterminate forms,** of type $\frac{0}{0}$. This is considered an indeterminate form because we cannot determine the exact behavior of $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ as $x \to a$ without further analysis. We have seen examples of this earlier in the text. For example, consider

$$\lim_{x\to 2}\frac{x^2-4}{x-2}$$

and

$$\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{\sin x}{x}.$$

For the first of these examples, we can evaluate the limit by factoring the numerator and writing

$$\lim_{x\to 2}\frac{x^2-4}{x-2} = \lim_{x\to 2}\frac{(x+2)(x-2)}{x-2} = \lim_{x\to 2}(x+2) = 2+2 = 4.$$

For $\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{\sin x}{x}$ we were able to show, using a geometric argument, that

$$\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{\sin x}{x} = 1.$$

Here we use a different technique for evaluating limits such as these. Not only does this technique provide an easier way to evaluate these limits, but also, and more importantly, it provides us with a way to evaluate many other limits that we could not calculate previously.

The idea behind L'Hôpital's Rule can be explained using local linear approximations. Consider two differentiable functions f and

g such that $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = 0 = \lim_{x\to a} g(x)$ and such that $g\,'(a) \neq 0$ For x near a,we can write

$$f(x) \approx f(a) + f'(a)(x-a) \tag{4.7.3}$$

and

$$g(x) \approx g(a) + g'(a)(x-a). \tag{4.7.4}$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \approx \frac{f(a) + f'(a)(x-a)}{g(a) + g'(a)(x-a)}. \tag{4.7.5}$$

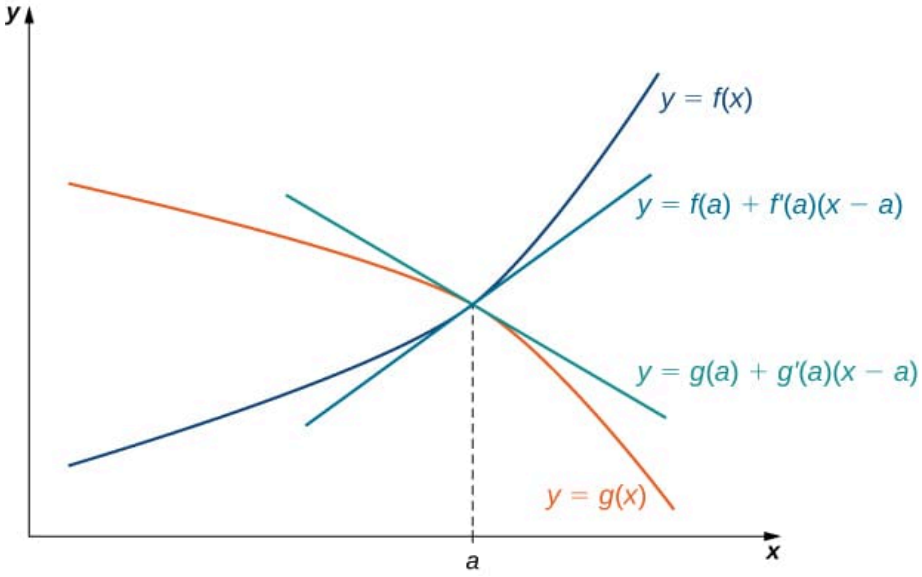


Figure 4.7.1: Two functions $y = f(x)$ and $y = g(x)$ are drawn such that they cross at a point above $x = a$. The linear approximations of these two functions $y = f(a) + f'(a)(x–a)$ and $y = g(a) + g'(a)(x–a)$ are also drawn. If $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = \lim_{x\to a} g(x)$, then the ratio $f(x)/g(x)$ is approximately equal to the ratio of their linear approximations near a.

Since f is differentiable at a, then f is continuous at a, and therefore $f(a) = \lim_{x\to a} f(x) = 0$. Similarly, $g(a) = \lim_{x\to a} g(x) = 0$. If we also assume that $f\,'$ and $g\,'$ are continuous at $x = a$, then $f\,'(a) = \lim_{x\to a} f\,'(x)$ and $g\,'(a) = \lim_{x\to a} g\,'(x)$. Using these ideas, we conclude that

$$\lim_{x\to a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x\to a} \frac{f'(x)(x-a)}{g'(x)(x-a)} = \lim_{x\to a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}. \tag{4.7.6}$$

Note that the assumption that $f\,'$ and $g\,'$ are continuous at a and $g\,'(a) \neq 0$ can be loosened. We state L'Hôpital's Rule formally for the indeterminate form $\frac{0}{0}$. Also note that the notation $\frac{0}{0}$ does not mean we are actually dividing zero by zero. Rather, we are using the notation $\frac{0}{0}$ to represent a quotient of limits, each of which is zero.

Theorem: L'Hôpital's Rule (0/0 Case)

Suppose f and g are differentiable functions over an open interval containing a, except possibly at a. If $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = 0$ and $\lim_{x\to a} g(x) = 0$, then

$$\lim_{x\to a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x\to a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}, \tag{4.7.7}$$

assuming the limit on the right exists or is ∞ or $-\infty$. This result also holds if we are considering one-sided limits, or if $a = \infty$ or $a = -\infty$.

Proof

We provide a proof of this theorem in the special case when f, g, f', and g' are all continuous over an open interval containing a. In that case, since $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = 0 = \lim_{x\to a} g(x)$ and f and g are continuous at a, it follows that $f(a) = 0 = g(a)$. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
\lim_{x\to a}\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} &= \lim_{x\to a}\frac{f(x)-f(a)}{g(x)-g(a)} && \text{Since } f(a)=0=g(a)\\
&= \lim_{x\to a}\frac{\dfrac{f(x)-f(a)}{x-a}}{\dfrac{g(x)-g(a)}{x-a}} && \text{Multiply numerator and denominator by } \frac{1}{x-a}\\
&= \frac{\lim\limits_{x\to a}\dfrac{f(x)-f(a)}{x-a}}{\lim\limits_{x\to a}\dfrac{g(x)-g(a)}{x-a}} && \text{The limit of a quotient is the quotient of the limits.}\\
&= \frac{f'(a)}{g'(a)} && \text{By the definition of the derivative}\\
&= \frac{\lim\limits_{x\to a} f'(x)}{\lim\limits_{x\to a} g'(x)} && \text{By the continuity of } f' \text{ and } g'\\
&= \lim_{x\to a}\frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}. && \text{The limit of a quotient}
\end{aligned}$$

Note that L'Hôpital's Rule states we can calculate the limit of a quotient $\frac{f}{g}$ by considering the limit of the quotient of the derivatives $\frac{f'}{g'}$. It is important to realize that we are not calculating the derivative of the quotient $\frac{f}{g}$.

□

Example 4.7.1: Applying L'Hôpital's Rule (0/0 Case)

Evaluate each of the following limits by applying L'Hôpital's Rule.

a. $\lim\limits_{x\to 0}\dfrac{1-\cos x}{x}$
b. $\lim\limits_{x\to 1}\dfrac{\sin(\pi x)}{\ln x}$
c. $\lim\limits_{x\to\infty}\dfrac{e^{1/x}-1}{1/x}$
d. $\lim\limits_{x\to 0}\dfrac{\sin x - x}{x^2}$

Solution

a.. Since the numerator $1-\cos x \to 0$ and the denominator $x \to 0$, we can apply L'Hôpital's Rule to evaluate this limit. We have

$$\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{1-\cos x}{x} = \lim_{x\to 0}\frac{\frac{d}{dx}\left(1-\cos x\right)}{\frac{d}{dx}\left(x\right)} = \lim_{x\to 0}\frac{\sin x}{1} = \frac{\lim\limits_{x\to 0}\sin x}{\lim\limits_{x\to 0} 1} = \frac{0}{1} = 0.$$

b. As $x \to 1$, the numerator $\sin(\pi x) \to 0$ and the denominator $\ln(x) \to 0$. Therefore, we can apply L'Hôpital's Rule. We obtain

$$\lim_{x\to 1}\frac{\sin(\pi x)}{\ln x}=\lim_{x\to 1}\frac{\pi\cos(\pi x)}{1/x}$$
$$=\lim_{x\to 1}(\pi x)\cos(\pi x)$$
$$=(\pi\cdot 1)(-1)=-\pi.$$

c. As $x\to\infty$, the numerator $e^{1/x}-1\to 0$ and the denominator $\frac{1}{x}\to 0$. Therefore, we can apply L'Hôpital's Rule. We obtain

$$\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{e^{1/x}-1}{\frac{1}{x}}=\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{e^{1/x}\left(\frac{-1}{x^2}\right)}{\left(\frac{-1}{x^2}\right)}=\lim_{x\to\infty}e^{1/x}=e^0=1.$$

d. As $x\to 0$, both the numerator and denominator approach zero. Therefore, we can apply L'Hôpital's Rule. We obtain

$$\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{\sin x-x}{x^2}=\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{\cos x-1}{2x}.$$

Since the numerator and denominator of this new quotient both approach zero as $x\to 0$, we apply L'Hôpital's Rule again. In doing so, we see that

$$\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{\cos x-1}{2x}=\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{-\sin x}{2}=0.$$

Therefore, we conclude that

$$\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{\sin x-x}{x^2}=0.$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video length**: 1 minute 38 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates an example in which we use L'Hôpital's rule twice to evaluate a limit: $\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{x^2}{\cos x-1}$

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 4.7.1

Evaluate

$$\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{x}{\tan x}.$$

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

We can also use L'Hôpital's Rule to evaluate limits of quotients $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ in which $f(x)\to\pm\infty$ and $g(x)\to\pm\infty$. Limits of this form are classified as indeterminate forms of type ∞/∞. Again, note that we are not actually dividing ∞ by ∞. Since ∞ is not a real number, that is impossible; rather, ∞/∞. is used to represent a quotient of limits, each of which is ∞ or $-\infty$.

Theorem: L'Hôpital's Rule (∞/∞ Case)

Suppose f and g are differentiable functions over an open interval containing a, except possibly at a. Suppose $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = \infty$ (or $-\infty$) and $\lim_{x\to a} g(x) = \infty$ (or $-\infty$). Then,

$$\lim_{x\to a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x\to a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)} \tag{4.7.8}$$

assuming the limit on the right exists or is ∞ or $-\infty$. This result also holds if the limit is infinite, if $a = \infty$ or $-\infty$, or the limit is one-sided.

Example 4.7.2: Applying L'Hôpital's Rule (∞/∞) Case

Evaluate each of the following limits by applying L'Hôpital's Rule.

a. $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3x+5}{2x+1}$

b. $\lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{\cot x}$

Solution

a. Since $3x+5$ and $2x+1$ are first-degree polynomials with positive leading coefficients, $\lim_{x\to\infty}(3x+5) = \infty$ and $\lim_{x\to\infty}(2x+1) = \infty$. Therefore, we apply L'Hôpital's Rule and obtain

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3x+5}{2x+1} = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3+5/x}{2x+1} = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3}{2} = \frac{3}{2}.$$

Note that this limit can also be calculated without invoking L'Hôpital's Rule. Earlier in the chapter we showed how to evaluate such a limit by dividing the numerator and denominator by the highest power of x in the denominator. In doing so, we saw that

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3x+5}{2x+1} = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{3+5/x}{2x+1} = \frac{3}{2}.$$

L'Hôpital's Rule provides us with an alternative means of evaluating this type of limit.

b. Here, $\lim_{x\to 0^+} \ln x = -\infty$ and $\lim_{x\to 0^+} \cot x = \infty$. Therefore, we can apply L'Hôpital's Rule and obtain

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{\cot x} = \lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{1/x}{-\csc^2 x} = \lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{1}{-x\csc^2 x}.$$

Now as $x \to 0^+, \csc^2 x \to \infty$. Therefore, the first term in the denominator is approaching zero and the second term is getting really large. In such a case, anything can happen with the product. Therefore, we cannot make any conclusion yet. To evaluate the limit, we use the definition of $\csc x$ to write

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{1}{-x\csc^2 x} = \lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{\sin^2 x}{-x}.$$

Now $\lim_{x\to 0^+} \sin^2 x = 0$ and $\lim_{x\to 0^+} x = 0$, so we apply L'Hôpital's Rule again. We find

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{\sin^2 x}{-x} = \lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{2\sin x\cos x}{-1} = \frac{0}{-1} = 0.$$

We conclude that

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{\cot x} = 0.$$

Exercise 4.7.2

Evaluate

$$\lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{\ln x}{5x}.$$

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

As mentioned, L'Hôpital's Rule is an extremely useful tool for evaluating limits. It is important to remember, however, that to apply L'Hôpital's Rule to a quotient f(x)g(x), it is essential that the limit of $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ be of the form $\frac{0}{0}$ or ∞/∞. Consider the following example.

Example 4.7.3: When L'Hôpital's Rule Does Not Apply

Consider $\lim_{x\to 1}\frac{x^2+5}{3x+4}$.

Show that the limit cannot be evaluated by applying L'Hôpital's Rule.

Solution

Because the limits of the numerator and denominator are not both zero and are not both infinite, we cannot apply L'Hôpital's Rule. If we try to do so, we get

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^2+5)=2x$$

and

$$\frac{d}{dx}(3x+4)=3.$$

At which point we would conclude erroneously that

$$\lim_{x\to 1}\frac{x^2+5}{3x+4}=\lim_{x\to 1}\frac{2x}{3}=\frac{2}{3}.$$

However, since $\lim_{x\to 1}(x^2+5)=6$ and $\lim_{x\to 1}(3x+4)=7$, we actually have

$$\lim_{x\to 1}\frac{x^2+5}{3x+4}=\frac{6}{7}.$$

We can conclude that

$$\lim_{x\to 1}\frac{x^2+5}{3x+4}\neq\lim_{x\to 1}\frac{\frac{d}{dx}(x^2+5)}{\frac{d}{dx}(3x+4)}.$$

Exercise 4.7.3

Explain why we cannot apply L'Hôpital's Rule to evaluate $\lim_{x\to 0^+}\frac{\cos x}{x}$. Evaluate $\lim_{x\to 0^+}\frac{\cos x}{x}$ by other means.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Other Indeterminate Forms

L'Hôpital's Rule is very useful for evaluating limits involving the indeterminate forms $\frac{0}{0}$ and ∞/∞. However, we can also use L'Hôpital's Rule to help evaluate limits involving other indeterminate forms that arise when evaluating limits. The expressions $0 \cdot \infty, \infty - \infty, 1^{\infty}, \infty^0$, and 0^0 are all considered indeterminate forms. These expressions are not real numbers. Rather, they represent forms that arise when trying to evaluate certain limits. Next we realize why these are indeterminate forms and then understand how to use L'Hôpital's Rule in these cases. The key idea is that we must rewrite the indeterminate forms in such a way that we arrive at the indeterminate form $\frac{0}{0}$ or ∞/∞.

Indeterminate Form of Type $0 \cdot \infty$

Suppose we want to evaluate $\lim_{x \to a}(f(x) \cdot g(x))$, where $f(x) \to 0$ and $g(x) \to \infty$ (or $-\infty$) as $x \to a$. Since one term in the product is approaching zero but the other term is becoming arbitrarily large (in magnitude), anything can happen to the product. We use the notation $0 \cdot \infty$ to denote the form that arises in this situation. The expression $0 \cdot \infty$ is considered indeterminate because we cannot determine without further analysis the exact behavior of the product $f(x)g(x)$ as $x \to \infty$. For example, let n be a positive integer and consider

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{(x^n + 1)} \text{ and } g(x) = 3x^2.$$

As $x \to \infty, f(x) \to 0$ and $g(x) \to \infty$. However, the limit as $x \to \infty$ of $f(x)g(x) = \frac{3x^2}{(x^n + 1)}$ varies, depending on n. If $n = 2$, then $\lim_{x \to \infty} f(x)g(x) = 3$. If $n = 1$, then $\lim_{x \to \infty} f(x)g(x) = \infty$. If $n = 3$, then $\lim_{x \to \infty} f(x)g(x) = 0$. Here we consider another limit involving the indeterminate form $0 \cdot \infty$ and show how to rewrite the function as a quotient to use L'Hôpital's Rule.

Example 4.7.4: Indeterminate Form of Type $0 \cdot \infty$

Evaluate $\lim_{x \to 0^+} x \ln x$.

Solution

First, rewrite the function $x \ln x$ as a quotient to apply L'Hôpital's Rule. If we write

$$x \ln x = \frac{\ln x}{1/x}$$

we see that $\ln x \to -\infty$ as $x \to 0^+$ and $\frac{1}{x} \to \infty$ as $x \to 0^+$. Therefore, we can apply L'Hôpital's Rule and obtain

$$\lim_{x \to 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{1/x} = \lim_{x \to 0^+} \frac{\frac{d}{dx}\left(\ln x\right)}{\frac{d}{dx}\left(1/x\right)} = \lim_{x \to 0^+} \frac{1/x^2}{-1/x} = \lim_{x \to 0^+} (-x) = 0.$$

We conclude that

$$\lim_{x \to 0^+} x \ln x = 0.$$

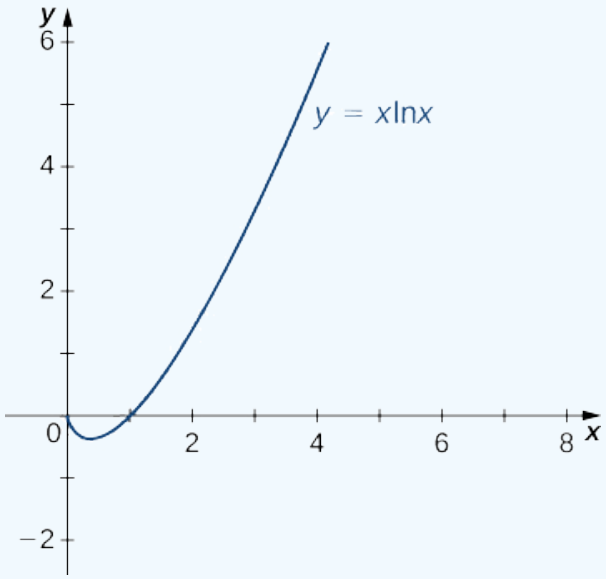


Figure 4.7.2: The function $f(x) = x \ln x$. is garphed on its domain of $x > 0$. Though undefined at $x = 0$, the function starts near the origin, moves down into the fourth quadrant and turns around and crosses the x-axis at $(1, 0)$, after which it increases steadily.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video length:** 2 minutes
- **Context:** This video demonstrates using L'Hôpital's Rule for for the indeterminate form '$0 \cdot \infty$': $\lim_{x \to 0^+} x^2 \ln x$

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 4.7.4

Evaluate

$$\lim_{x \to 0} x \cot x.$$

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Indeterminate Form of Type $\infty - \infty$

Another type of indeterminate form is $\infty - \infty$. Consider the following example. Let n be a positive integer and let $f(x) = 3x^n$ and $g(x) = 3x^2 + 5$. As $x \to \infty, f(x) \to \infty$ and $g(x) \to \infty$. We are interested in $\lim_{x \to \infty} (f(x) - g(x))$. Depending on whether $f(x)$ grows faster, $g(x)$ grows faster, or they grow at the same rate, as we see next, anything can happen in this limit. Since $f(x) \to \infty$ and $g(x) \to \infty$, we write $\infty - \infty$ to denote the form of this limit. As with our other indeterminate forms, $\infty - \infty$ has no meaning on its own and we must do more analysis to determine the value of the limit. For example, suppose the exponent n in the function $f(x) = 3x^n$ is $n = 3$, then

$$\lim_{x \to \infty} (f(x) - g(x)) = \lim_{x \to \infty} (3x^3 - 3x^2 - 5) = \infty.$$

On the other hand, if $n = 2$, then

$$\lim_{x\to\infty}(f(x) - g(x)) = \lim_{x\to\infty}(3x^2 - 3x^2 - 5) = -5.$$

However, if $n = 1$, then

$$\lim_{x\to\infty}(f(x) - g(x)) = \lim_{x\to\infty}(3x - 3x^2 - 5) = -\infty.$$

Therefore, the limit cannot be determined by considering only $\infty - \infty$. Next we see how to rewrite an expression involving the indeterminate form $\infty - \infty$ as a fraction to apply L'Hôpital's Rule.

Example 4.7.5: Indeterminate Form of Type $\infty - \infty$

Evaluate

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+}\left(\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{\tan x}\right).$$

Solution

By combining the fractions, we can write the function as a quotient. Since the least common denominator is $x^2 \tan x$, we have

$$\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{\tan x} = \frac{(\tan x) - x^2}{x^2 \tan x}.$$

As $x \to 0^+$, the numerator $\tan x - x^2 \to 0$ and the denominator $x^2 \tan x \to 0$. Therefore, we can apply L'Hôpital's Rule. Taking the derivatives of the numerator and the denominator, we have

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+}\frac{(\tan x) - x^2}{x^2 \tan x} = \lim_{x\to 0^+}\frac{(\sec^2 x) - 2x}{x^2 \sec^2 x + 2x \tan x}.$$

As $x \to 0^+$, $(sec^2 x) - 2x \to 1$ and $x^2 sec^2 x + 2x \tan x \to 0$. Since the denominator is positive as x approaches zero from the right, we conclude that

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+}\frac{(\sec^2 x) - 2x}{x^2 \sec^2 x + 2x \tan x} = \infty.$$

Therefore,

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+}\left(\frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{\tan x}\right) = \infty.$$

Exercise 4.7.5

Evaluate $\lim_{x\to 0^+}\left(\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{\sin x}\right)$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Another type of indeterminate form that arises when evaluating limits involves exponents. The expressions $0^0, \infty^0$, and 1^∞ are all indeterminate forms. On their own, these expressions are meaningless because we cannot actually evaluate these expressions as we would evaluate an expression involving real numbers. Rather, these expressions represent forms that arise when finding limits. Now we examine how L'Hôpital's Rule can be used to evaluate limits involving these indeterminate forms.

Since L'Hôpital's Rule applies to quotients, we use the natural logarithm function and its properties to reduce a problem evaluating a limit involving exponents to a related problem involving a limit of a quotient. For example, suppose we want to

evaluate $\lim_{x\to a} f(x)^{g(x)}$ and we arrive at the indeterminate form ∞^0. (The indeterminate forms 0^0 and 1^∞ can be handled similarly.) We proceed as follows. Let

$$y = f(x)^{g(x)}. \tag{4.7.9}$$

Then,

$$\ln y = \ln(f(x)^{g(x)}) = g(x)\ln(f(x)). \tag{4.7.10}$$

Therefore,

$$\lim_{x\to a}[\ln(y)] = \lim_{x\to a}[g(x)\ln(f(x))]. \tag{4.7.11}$$

Since $\lim_{x\to a} f(x) = \infty$, we know that $\lim_{x\to a}\ln(f(x)) = \infty$. Therefore, $\lim_{x\to a} g(x)\ln(f(x))$ is of the indeterminate form $0\cdot\infty$, and we can use the techniques discussed earlier to rewrite the expression $g(x)\ln(f(x))$ in a form so that we can apply L'Hôpital's Rule. Suppose $\lim_{x\to a} g(x)\ln(f(x)) = L$, where L may be ∞ or $-\infty$. Then

$$\lim_{x\to a}[\ln(y)] = L. \tag{4.7.12}$$

Since the natural logarithm function is continuous, we conclude that

$$\ln\left(\lim_{x\to a} y\right) = L, \tag{4.7.13}$$

which gives us

$$\lim_{x\to a} y = \lim_{x\to a} f(x)^{g(x)} = e^L. \tag{4.7.14}$$

Example 4.7.6: Indeterminate Form of Type ∞^0

Evaluate

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} x^{1/x}.$$

Solution

Let $y = x^{1/x}$.Then,

$$\ln(x^{1/x}) = \frac{1}{x}\ln x = \frac{\ln x}{x}.$$

We need to evaluate $\lim_{x\to\infty}\dfrac{\ln x}{x}$. Applying L'Hôpital's Rule, we obtain

$$\lim_{x\to\infty}\ln y = \lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{\ln x}{x} = \lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{1/x}{1} = 0.$$

Therefore, $\lim_{x\to\infty}\ln y = 0$. Since the natural logarithm function is continuous, we conclude that

$$\ln\left(\lim_{x\to\infty} y\right) = 0,$$

which leads to

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} y = \lim_{x\to\infty}\frac{\ln x}{x} = e^0 = 1.$$

Hence,

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} x^{1/x} = 1.$$

Exercise 4.7.6

Evaluate

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} x^{1/\ln(x)}.$$

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 4.7.7: Indeterminate Form of Type 0^0

Evaluate

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} x^{\sin x}.$$

Solution

Let

$$y = x^{\sin x}.$$

Therefore,

$$\ln y = \ln(x^{\sin x}) = \sin x \ln x.$$

We now evaluate $\lim_{x\to 0^+} \sin x \ln x$. Since $\lim_{x\to 0^+} \sin x = 0$ and $\lim_{x\to 0^+} \ln x = -\infty$, we have the indeterminate form $0\cdot\infty$. To apply L'Hôpital's Rule, we need to rewrite $\sin x \ln x$ as a fraction. We could write

$$\sin x \ln x = \frac{\sin x}{1/\ln x}$$

or

$$\sin x \ln x = \frac{\ln x}{1/\sin x} = \frac{\ln x}{\csc x}.$$

Let's consider the first option. In this case, applying L'Hôpital's Rule, we would obtain

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} \sin x \ln x = \lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{\sin x}{1/\ln x} = \lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{\cos x}{-1/(x(\ln x)^2)} = \lim_{x\to 0^+} (-x(\ln x)^2 \cos x).$$

Unfortunately, we not only have another expression involving the indeterminate form $0\cdot\infty$, but the new limit is even more complicated to evaluate than the one with which we started. Instead, we try the second option. By writing

$$\sin x \ln x = \frac{\ln x}{1/\sin x} = \frac{\ln x}{\csc x,}$$

and applying L'Hôpital's Rule, we obtain

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} \sin x \ln x = \lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{\csc x} = \lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{1/x}{-\csc x \cot x} = \lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{-1}{x \csc x \cot x}.$$

Using the fact that $\csc x = \dfrac{1}{\sin x}$ and $\cot x = \dfrac{\cos x}{\sin x}$, we can rewrite the expression on the right-hand side as

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{-\sin^2 x}{x\cos x} = \lim_{x\to 0^+} \left[\frac{\sin x}{x}\cdot(-\tan x)\right] = \left(\lim_{x\to 0^+} \frac{\sin x}{x}\right)\cdot\left(\lim_{x\to 0^+}(-\tan x)\right) = 1\cdot 0 = 0.$$

We conclude that $\lim_{x\to 0^+} \ln y = 0$. Therefore, $\ln\left(\lim_{x\to 0^+} y\right) = 0$ and we have

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} y = \lim_{x\to 0^+} x^{\sin x} = e^0 = 1.$$

Hence,

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} x^{\sin x} = 1.$$

Exercise 4.7.7

Evaluate $\lim_{x\to 0^+} x^x$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Growth Rates of Functions

Suppose the functions f and g both approach infinity as $x \to \infty$. Although the values of both functions become arbitrarily large as the values of x become sufficiently large, sometimes one function is growing more quickly than the other. For example, $f(x) = x^2$ and $g(x) = x^3$ both approach infinity as $x \to \infty$. However, as Table 4.7.1 shows, the values of x^3 are growing much faster than the values of x^2.

Table 4.7.1: Comparing the Growth Rates of x^2 and x^3

x	10	100	1000	10,000
$f(x) = x^2$	100	10,000	1,000,000	100,000,000
$g(x) = x^3$	1000	1,000,000	1,000,000,000	1,000,000,000,000

In fact,

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{x^3}{x^2} = \lim_{x\to\infty} x = \infty.$$

or, equivalently

$$\lim_{x\to\infty x} \frac{x^2}{x^3} = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0.$$

As a result, we say x^3 is growing more rapidly than x^2 as $x \to \infty$. On the other hand, for $f(x) = x^2$ and $g(x) = 3x^2 + 4x + 1$, although the values of $g(x)$ are always greater than the values of $f(x)$ for $x > 0$, each value of $g(x)$ is roughly three times the corresponding value of $f(x)$ as $x \to \infty$, as shown in Table 4.7.2. In fact,

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{x^2}{3x^2 + 4x + 1} = \frac{1}{3}.$$

Table 4.7.2: Comparing the Growth Rates of x^2 and $3x^2 + 4x + 1$

x	10	100	1000	10,000
$f(x) = x^2$	100	10,000	1,000,000	100,000,000
$g(x) = 3x^2 + 4x + 1$	341	30,401	3,004,001	300,040,001

In this case, we say that x^2 and $3x^2 + 4x + 1$ are growing at the same rate as $x \to \infty$.

More generally, suppose f and g are two functions that approach infinity as $x \to \infty$. We say g grows more rapidly than f as $x \to \infty$ if

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{g(x)}{f(x)} = \infty \quad \text{or, equivalently,} \quad \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = 0. \tag{4.7.15}$$

On the other hand, if there exists a constant $M \neq 0$ such that

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = M, \tag{4.7.16}$$

we say f and g grow at the same rate as $x \to \infty$.

Next we see how to use L'Hôpital's Rule to compare the growth rates of power, exponential, and logarithmic functions.

Example 4.7.8: Comparing the Growth Rates of $\ln(x)$, x^2, and e^x

For each of the following pairs of functions, use L'Hôpital's Rule to evaluate

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}.$$

a. $f(x) = x^2$ and $g(x) = e^x$
b. $f(x) = \ln(x)$ and $g(x) = x^2$

Solution

a. Since $\lim_{x\to\infty} x^2 = \infty$ and $\lim_{x\to\infty} e^x$, we can use L'Hôpital's Rule to evaluate $\lim_{x\to\infty} \left[\frac{x^2}{e^x}\right]$. We obtain

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{x^2}{e^x} = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{2x}{e^x}.$$

Since $\lim_{x\to\infty} 2x = \infty$ and $\lim_{x\to\infty} e^x = \infty$, we can apply L'Hôpital's Rule again. Since

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{2x}{e^x} = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{2}{e^x} = 0,$$

we conclude that

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{x^2}{e^x} = 0.$$

Therefore, e^x grows more rapidly than x^2 as $x \to \infty$ (See Figure 4.7.3 and Table 4.7.3)

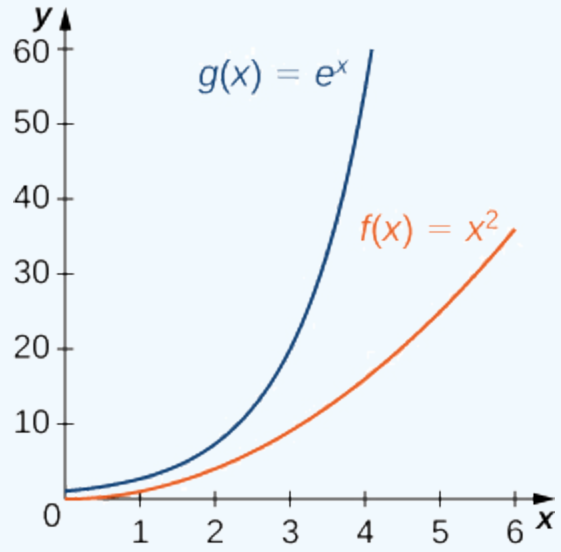


Figure 4.7.3: An exponential function grows at a faster rate than a power function. Here $g(x) = e^x$ grows faster than $f(x) = x^2$.

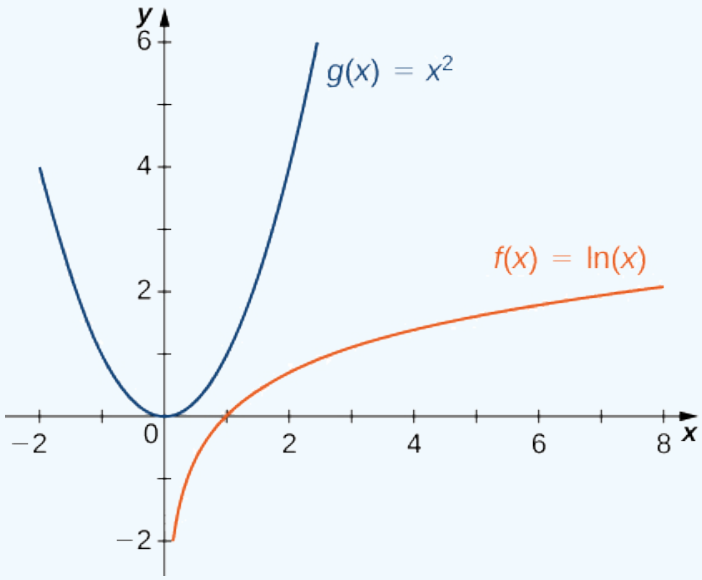
Table 4.7.3: Growth rates of a power function and an exponential function.

x	5	10	15	20
x^2	25	100	225	400
e^x	148	22,026	3,269,017	485,165,195

b. Since $\lim_{x\to\infty} \ln x = \infty$ and $\lim_{x\to\infty} x^2 = \infty$, we can use L'Hôpital's Rule to evaluate $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{\ln x}{x^2}$. We obtain

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{\ln x}{x^2} = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{1/x}{2x} = \lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{1}{2x^2} = 0.$$

Thus, x^2 grows more rapidly than $\ln x$ as $x \to \infty$ (see Figure 4.7.4 and Table 4.7.4).



\).Figure 4.7.4: A power function grows at a faster rate than a logarithmic function. Here $g(x) = x^2$ grows much faster than $f(x) = \ln(x)$.

Table 4.7.4: Growth rates of a power function and a logarithmic function

x	10	100	1000	10,000

$\ln(x)$	2.303	4.605	6.908	9.10
x^2	100	10,000	1,000,000	100,000,000

Example 4.7.9: Comparing the Growth Rates of x^{100} and 2^x

Compare the growth rates of x^{100} and 2^x.

Hint: Apply L'Hôpital's Rule to $x^{100}/2^x$

Solution

The function 2^x grows faster than x^{100}.

Using the same ideas as in Example a. it is not difficult to show that e^x grows more rapidly than x^p for any $p > 0$. In Figure 4.7.5 and Table 4.7.5, we compare e^x with x^3 and x^4 as $x \to \infty$.

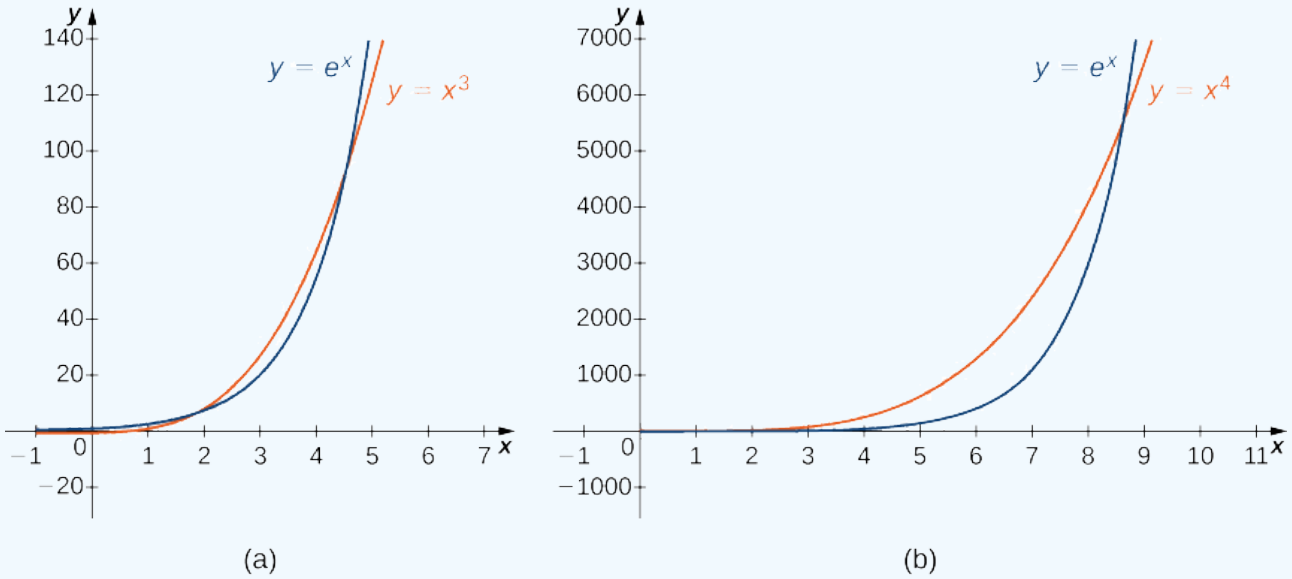


Figure 4.7.5: The exponential function e^x grows faster than x^p for any $p > 0$. (a) A comparison of e^x with x^3. (b) A comparison of e^x with x^4.

Table 4.7.5: An exponential function grows at a faster rate than any power function

x	5	10	15	20
x^3	125	1000	3375	8000
x^4	625	10,000	50,625	160,000
e^x	148	22,026	3,326,017	485,165,195

Similarly, it is not difficult to show that x^p grows more rapidly than $\ln x$ for any $p > 0$. In Figure 4.7.6 and Table, we compare $\ln x$ with $\sqrt[3]{x}$ and $\sqrt{x}$.

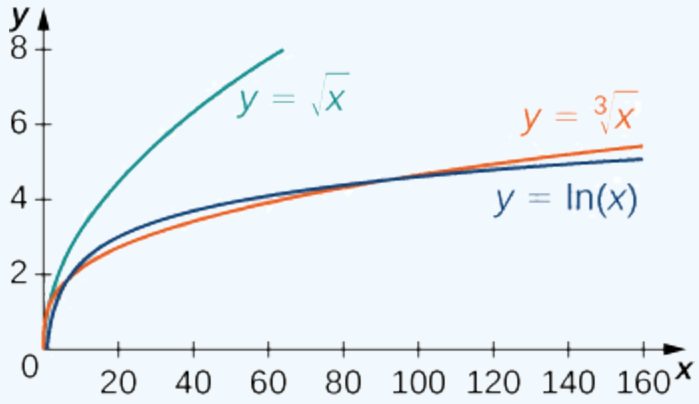


Figure 4.7.6: The function $y = \ln(x)$ grows more slowly than x^p for any \(0

Table 4.7.6: A logarithmic function grows at a slower rate than any root function

x	10	100	1000	10,000
$\ln(x)$	2.303	4.605	6.908	9.210
$\sqrt[3]{x}$	2.154	4.642	10	21.544
$\sqrt{x}$	3.162	10	31.623	100

Key Concepts

- L'Hôpital's Rule can be used to evaluate the limit of a quotient when the indeterminate form $\frac{0}{0}$ or ∞/∞ arises.
- L'Hôpital's Rule can also be applied to other indeterminate forms if they can be rewritten in terms of a limit involving a quotient that has the indeterminate form $\frac{0}{0}$ or ∞/∞.
- The exponential function e^x grows faster than any power function $x^p, p > 0$.
- The logarithmic function $\ln x$ grows more slowly than any power function $x^p, p > 0$.

Glossary

Indeterminate forms

When evaluating a limit, the forms $\frac{0}{0}$,$\infty/\infty, 0 \cdot \infty, \infty - \infty, 0^0, \infty^0$, and 1^∞ are considered indeterminate because further analysis is required to determine whether the limit exists and, if so, what its value is.

L'Hôpital's Rule

If f and g are differentiable functions over an interval a, except possibly at a, and $\lim_{x \to a} f(x) = 0 = \lim_{x \to a} g(x)$ or $\lim_{x \to a} f(x)$ and $\lim_{x \to a} g(x)$ are infinite, then $\lim_{x \to a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \to a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$, assuming the limit on the right exists or is ∞ or $-\infty$.

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Answers

Exercise 4.7.1

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

Exercise 4.7.1

1

Exercise $4.7.2$

$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\ln x\right) = \frac{1}{x}$

Exercise $4.7.2$

0

Exercise $4.7.3$

Determine the limits of the numerator and denominator separately.

Exercise $4.7.3$

$\lim_{x \to 0^+} \cos x = 1$. Therefore, we cannot apply L'Hôpital's Rule. The limit of the quotient is ∞.

Exercise $4.7.4$

Write $x \cot x = \frac{x \cos x}{\sin x}$

Exercise $4.7.4$

1

Exercise $4.7.5$

Rewrite the difference of fractions as a single fraction.

Exercise $4.7.5$

0

Exercise $4.7.6$

Let $y = x^{1/\ln(x)}$ and apply the natural logarithm to both sides of the equation.

Exercise $4.7.6$

e

Exercise $4.7.7$

Let $y = x^x$ and take the natural logarithm of both sides of the equation.

Exercise $4.7.7$

1

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4.7E: Exercises for Section 4.7

Exercises 1 - 7

Evaluate the limit, if possible.

1. Evaluate the limit $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{e^x}{x}$.

   Answer

   $$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{e^x}{x} = \infty$$

2. Evaluate the limit $\lim_{x\to-\infty} \frac{e^x}{x}$.
3. Evaluate the limit $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{e^x}{x^k}$.

   Answer

   $$\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{e^x}{x^k} = \infty$$

4. Evaluate the limit $\lim_{x\to\infty} \frac{\ln x}{x^k}$.
5. Evaluate the limit $\lim_{x\to a} \frac{x-a}{x^2-a^2}$.

   Answer

   $$\lim_{x\to a} \frac{x-a}{x^2-a^2} = \frac{1}{2a}$$

6. Evaluate the limit $\lim_{x\to a} \frac{x-a}{x^3-a^3}$.
7. Evaluate the limit $\lim_{x\to a} \frac{x-a}{x^n-a^n}$.

   Answer

   $$\lim_{x\to a} \frac{x-a}{x^n-a^n} = \frac{1}{na^{n-1}}$$

Exercises 8 - 12

Determine whether you can apply L'Hôpital's Rule directly. Explain why or why not. Then, indicate if there is some way you can alter the limit so you can apply L'Hôpital's Rule.

8. $\lim_{x\to0^+} x^2 \ln x$
9. $\lim_{x\to\infty} x^{1/x}$

   Answer

   Cannot apply directly; use logarithms

10. $\lim_{x\to0} x^{2/x}$
11. $\lim_{x\to0} \frac{x^2}{1/x}$

    Answer

    Cannot apply directly; rewrite as $\lim_{x\to0} x^3$

12. $\lim_{x\to\infty} \dfrac{e^x}{x}$

Exercises 13 - 41

Evaluate the limits with either L'Hôpital's Rule or previously learned methods.

13. $\lim_{x\to 3} \dfrac{x^2-9}{x-3}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 3} \frac{x^2-9}{x-3} \quad = \quad 6$$

14. $\lim_{x\to 3} \dfrac{x^2-9}{x+3}$
15. $\lim_{x\to 0} \dfrac{(1+x)^{-2}-1}{x}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 0} \frac{(1+x)^{-2}-1}{x} \quad = \quad -2$$

16. $\lim_{x\to \pi/2} \dfrac{\cos x}{\frac{\pi}{2}-x}$
17. $\lim_{x\to \pi} \dfrac{x-\pi}{\sin x}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to \pi} \frac{x-\pi}{\sin x} \quad = \quad -1$$

18. $\lim_{x\to 1} \dfrac{x-1}{\sin x}$
19. $\lim_{x\to 0} \dfrac{(1+x)^n-1}{x}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 0} \frac{(1+x)^n-1}{x} \quad = \quad n$$

20. $\lim_{x\to 0} \dfrac{(1+x)^n-1-nx}{x^2}$
21. $\lim_{x\to 0} \dfrac{\sin x-\tan x}{x^3}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 0} \frac{\sin x-\tan x}{x^3} \quad = \quad -\frac{1}{2}$$

22. $\lim_{x\to 0} \dfrac{\sqrt{1+x}-\sqrt{1-x}}{x}$
23. $\lim_{x\to 0} \dfrac{e^x-x-1}{x^2}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 0} \frac{e^x-x-1}{x^2} \quad = \quad \frac{1}{2}$$

24. $\lim_{x\to 0} \dfrac{\tan x}{\sqrt{x}}$
25. $\lim_{x\to 1} \dfrac{x-1}{\ln x}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 1}\frac{x-1}{\ln x} \quad = \quad 1$$

26. $\lim_{x\to 0}\ (x+1)^{1/x}$

27. $\lim_{x\to 1}\frac{\sqrt{x}-\sqrt[3]{x}}{x-1}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 1}\frac{\sqrt{x}-\sqrt[3]{x}}{x-1} \quad = \quad \frac{1}{6}$$

28. $\lim_{x\to 0^+} x^{2x}$

29. $\lim_{x\to\infty} x\sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} x\sin\left(\tfrac{1}{x}\right) \quad = \quad 1$$

30. $\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{\sin x - x}{x^2}$

31. $\lim_{x\to 0^+} x\ln\left(x^4\right)$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} x\ln\left(x^4\right) \quad = \quad 0$$

32. $\lim_{x\to\infty}\left(x-e^x\right)$

33. $\lim_{x\to\infty} x^2e^{-x}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} x^2e^{-x} \quad = \quad 0$$

34. $\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{3^x-2^x}{x}$

35. $\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{1+1/x}{1-1/x}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{1+1/x}{1-1/x} \quad = \quad -1$$

36. $\lim_{x\to\pi/4}(1-\tan x)\cot x$

37. $\lim_{x\to\infty} xe^{1/x}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to\infty} xe^{1/x} \quad = \quad \infty$$

38. $\lim_{x\to 0} x^{1/\cos x}$

39. $\lim_{x\to 0^+} x^{1/x}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+} x^{1/x} \quad = \quad 0$$

40. $\lim_{x\to 0}\left(1-\frac{1}{x}\right)^x$

41. $\lim_{x\to\infty}\left(1-\frac{1}{x}\right)^x$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to\infty}\left(1-\frac{1}{x}\right)^{x} \quad = \quad \frac{1}{e}$$

Exercises 42 - 51

Use a calculator to graph the function and estimate the value of the limit, then use L'Hôpital's Rule to find the limit directly.

42. [T] $\lim_{x\to 0}\dfrac{e^x-1}{x}$
43. [T] $\lim_{x\to 0} x\sin\left(\frac{1}{x}\right)$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 0} x\sin\left(\tfrac{1}{x}\right) \quad = \quad 0$$

44. [T] $\lim_{x\to 1}\dfrac{x-1}{1-\cos(\pi x)}$
45. [T] $\lim_{x\to 1}\dfrac{e^{x-1}-1}{x-1}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 1}\frac{e^{x-1}-1}{x-1} \quad = \quad 1$$

46. [T] $\lim_{x\to 1}\dfrac{(x-1)^2}{\ln x}$
47. [T] $\lim_{x\to \pi}\dfrac{1+\cos x}{\sin x}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to \pi}\frac{1+\cos x}{\sin x} \quad = \quad 0$$

48. [T] $\lim_{x\to 0}\left(\csc x-\dfrac{1}{x}\right)$
49. [T] $\lim_{x\to 0^+}\tan\left(x^x\right)$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 0^+}\tan\left(x^x\right) \quad = \quad \tan 1$$

50. [T] $\lim_{x\to 0^+}\dfrac{\ln x}{\sin x}$
51. [T] $\lim_{x\to 0}\dfrac{e^x-e^{-x}}{x}$

Answer

$$\lim_{x\to 0}\frac{e^x-e^{-x}}{x} \quad = \quad 2$$

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4.8: Applied Optimization Problems

Learning Objectives

- Set up and solve optimization problems in several applied fields.

One common application of calculus is calculating the minimum or maximum value of a function. For example, companies often want to minimize production costs or maximize revenue. In manufacturing, it is often desirable to minimize the amount of material used to package a product with a certain volume. In this section, we show how to set up these types of minimization and maximization problems and solve them by using the tools developed in this chapter.

Solving Optimization Problems over a Closed, Bounded Interval

The basic idea of the optimization problems that follow is the same. We have a particular quantity that we are interested in maximizing or minimizing. However, we also have some auxiliary condition that needs to be satisfied. For example, in Example $4.8.1$, we are interested in maximizing the area of a rectangular garden. Certainly, if we keep making the side lengths of the garden larger, the area will continue to become larger. However, what if we have some restriction on how much fencing we can use for the perimeter? In this case, we cannot make the garden as large as we like. Let's look at how we can maximize the area of a rectangle subject to some constraint on the perimeter.

Example $4.8.1$: Maximizing the Area of a Garden

A rectangular garden is to be constructed using a rock wall as one side of the garden and wire fencing for the other three sides (Figure $4.8.1$). Given 100 ft of wire fencing, determine the dimensions that would create a garden of maximum area. What is the maximum area?

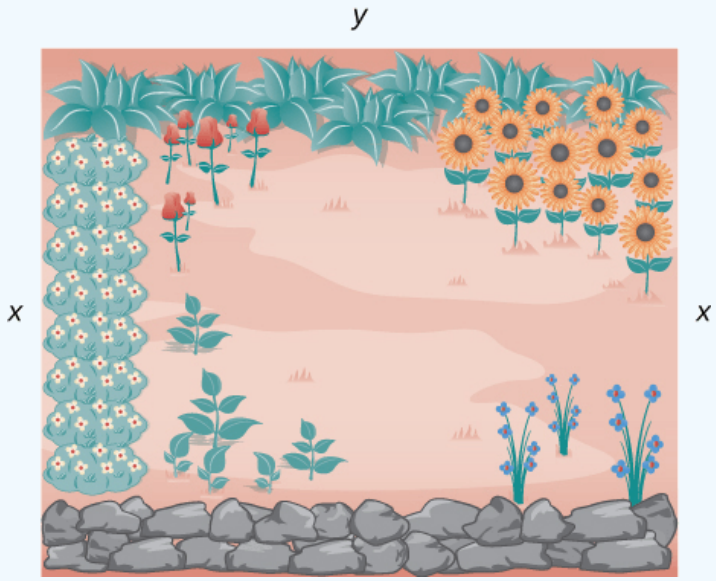


Figure $4.8.1$: A rectangular garden with a rock wall on the bottom side. The garden has dimensions x ft by y ft.

Solution

Let x denote the length of the side of the garden perpendicular to the rock wall and y denote the length of the side parallel to the rock wall. Then the area of the garden is

$$A = x \cdot y.$$

We want to find the maximum possible area subject to the constraint that the total fencing is 100 ft. From Figure $4.8.1$, the total amount of fencing used will be $2x + y$. Therefore, the constraint equation is

$$2x + y = 100.$$

Solving this equation for y, we have $y = 100 - 2x$. Thus, we can write the area as

$$A(x) = x \cdot (100 - 2x) = 100x - 2x^2.$$

Before trying to maximize the area function $A(x) = 100x - 2x^2$, we need to determine the domain under consideration. To construct a rectangular garden, we certainly need the lengths of both sides to be positive. Therefore, we need $x > 0$ and $y > 0$. Since $y = 100 - 2x$, if $y > 0$, then $x < 50$. Therefore, we are trying to determine the maximum value of $A(x)$ for x over the open interval $(0, 50)$. We do not know that a function necessarily has a maximum value over an open interval. However, we do know that a continuous function has an absolute maximum (and absolute minimum) over a closed interval. Therefore, let's consider the function $A(x) = 100x - 2x^2$ over the closed interval $[0, 50]$. If the maximum value occurs at an interior point, then we have found the value x in the open interval $(0, 50)$ that maximizes the area of the garden.

Therefore, we consider the following problem:

Maximize $A(x) = 100x - 2x^2$ over the interval $[0, 50]$.

As mentioned earlier, since A is a continuous function on a closed, bounded interval, by the extreme value theorem, it has a maximum and a minimum. These extreme values occur either at endpoints or critical points. At the endpoints, $A(x) = 0$. Since the area is positive for all x in the open interval $(0, 50)$, the maximum must occur at a critical point. Differentiating the function $A(x)$, we obtain

$$A'(x) = 100 - 4x.$$

Therefore, the only critical point is $x = 25$ (Figure $4.8.2$). We conclude that the maximum area must occur when $x = 25$.

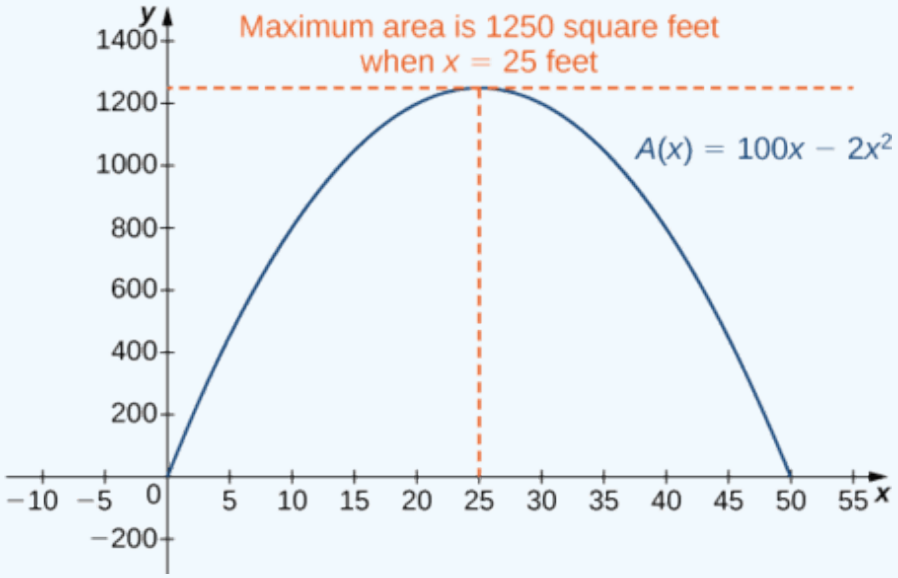


Figure $4.8.2$: The function $A(x) = 100x - 2x^2$ is graphed. It is a downward opening parabola with vertex at $(25, 1250)$. The maximum area 1250 ft^2 occurs when $x = 25$ ft.

Then we have $y = 100 - 2x = 100 - 2(25) = 50$. To maximize the area of the garden, let $x = 25$ ft and $y = 50$ ft. The area of this garden is 1250 ft^2.

Exercise 4.8.1

Determine the maximum area if we want to make the same rectangular garden as in Figure 4.8.2, but we have 200 ft of fencing.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 4.8.2

A rectangle is bounded by the x-axis and the curve $y = 12 - x^2$. What is the largest area that such a rectangle can have?

Solution

- **Video length:** 2 minutes 28 seconds
- **Context:** This video demonstrates maximizing the area of a rectangle inscribed between the graph of a parabola and the x-axis.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Now let's look at a general strategy for solving optimization problems similar to Example 4.7.1.

Problem-Solving Strategy: Solving Optimization Problems

1. Introduce all variables. If applicable, draw a figure and label all variables.
2. Determine which quantity is to be maximized or minimized, and for what range of values of the other variables (if this can be determined at this time).
3. Write a formula for the quantity to be maximized or minimized in terms of the variables. This formula may involve more than one variable.
4. Write any equations relating the independent variables in the formula from step 3. Use these equations to write the quantity to be maximized or minimized as a function of one variable. This is called the **objective** function.
5. Identify the domain of consideration for the function in step 4 based on the physical problem to be solved.
6. Locate the maximum or minimum value of the function from step 4. This step typically involves looking for critical points and evaluating a function at endpoints.

Now let's apply this strategy to maximize the volume of an open-top box given a constraint on the amount of material to be used.

Example 4.8.3: Maximizing the Volume of a Box

An open-top box is to be made from a 24 in. by 36 in. piece of cardboard by removing a square from each corner of the box and folding up the flaps on each side. What size square should be cut out of each corner to get a box with the maximum volume?

Solution

Step 1: Let x be the side length of the square to be removed from each corner (Figure $4.8.3$). Then, the remaining four flaps can be folded up to form an open-top box. Let V be the volume of the resulting box.

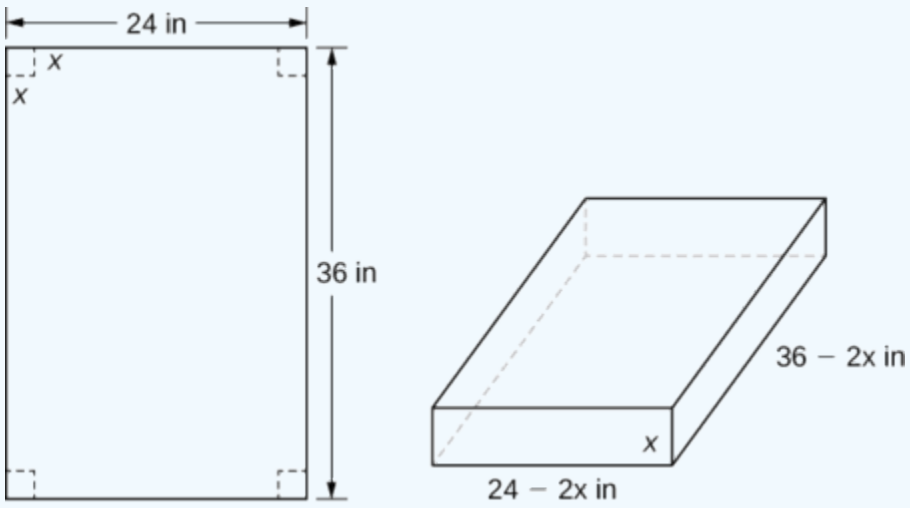


Figure $4.8.3$: A square with side length x inches is removed from each corner of the piece of cardboard. The remaining flaps are folded to form an open-top box. The first box has dimensions 24 in by 36 in. The second box has dimensions $24-2x$ in by $36-2x$ in.

Step 2: We are trying to maximize the volume of a box. Therefore, the problem is to maximize V.

Step 3: As mentioned in step 2, are trying to maximize the volume of a box. The volume of a box is

$$V = L \cdot W \cdot H,$$

where $L,\ W$,and H are the length, width, and height, respectively.

Step 4: From Figure $4.8.3$, we see that the height of the box is x inches, the length is $36-2x$ inches, and the width is $24-2x$ inches. Therefore, the volume of the box is

$$\begin{aligned} V(x) &= (36-2x)(24-2x)x \\ &= 4x^3 - 120x^2 + 864x \end{aligned}.$$

Step 5: To determine the domain of consideration, let's examine Figure $4.8.3$. Certainly, we need $x > 0$. Furthermore, the side length of the square cannot be greater than or equal to half the length of the shorter side, 24 in.; otherwise, one of the flaps would be completely cut off. Therefore, we are trying to determine whether there is a maximum volume of the box for x over the open interval $(0, 12)$. Since V is a continuous function over the closed interval $[0, 12]$, we know V will have an absolute maximum over the closed interval. Therefore, we consider V over the closed interval $[0, 12]$ and check whether the absolute maximum occurs at an interior point.

Step 6: Since $V(x)$ is a continuous function over the closed, bounded interval $[0, 12]$, V must have an absolute maximum (and an absolute minimum). Since $V(x) = 0$ at the endpoints and $V(x) > 0$ for \(0

$$V\,'(x) = 12x^2 - 240x + 864.$$

To find the critical points, we need to solve the equation

$$12x^2 - 240x + 864 = 0.$$

Dividing both sides of this equation by 12, the problem simplifies to solving the equation

$$x^2 - 20x + 72 = 0.$$

Using the quadratic formula, we find that the critical points are

$$
\begin{aligned}
x &= \frac{20 \pm \sqrt{(-20)^2 - 4(1)(72)}}{2} \\
&= \frac{20 \pm \sqrt{112}}{2} \\
&= \frac{20 \pm 4\sqrt{7}}{2} \\
&= 10 \pm 2\sqrt{7}
\end{aligned}
.
$$

Since $10 + 2\sqrt{7}$ is not in the domain of consideration, the only critical point we need to consider is $10 - 2\sqrt{7}$. Therefore, the volume is maximized if we let $x = 10 - 2\sqrt{7}$ in. The maximum volume is

$$V(10 - 2\sqrt{7}) = 640 + 448\sqrt{7} \approx 1825 \,\text{in}^3.$$

as shown in the following graph.

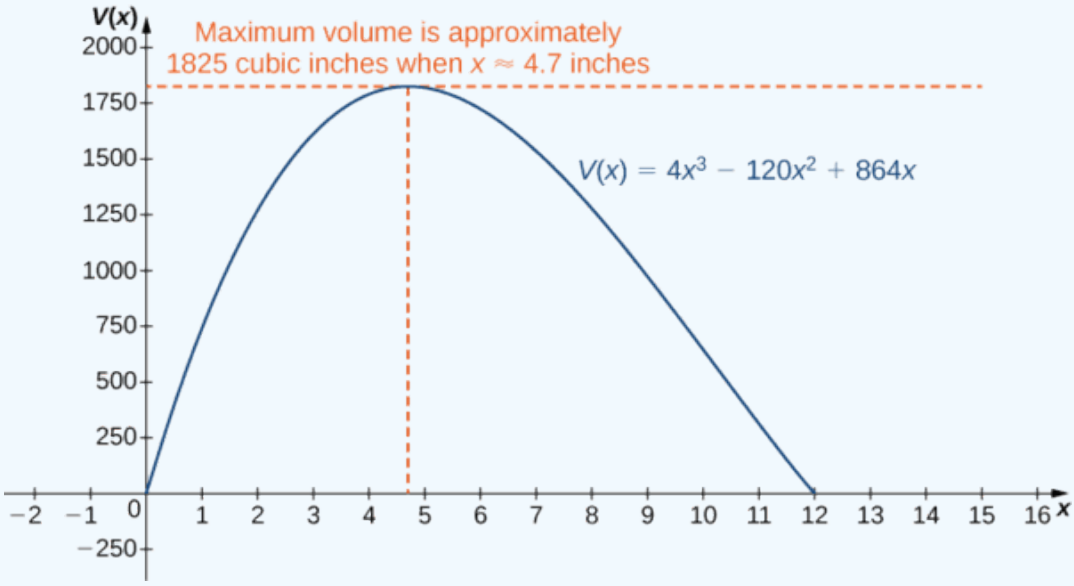


Figure 4.8.4: The cubic function $V(x) = 4x^3 - 120x^2 + 864x$ is graphed over $0 <\leq x \leq 12$. A local maximum occurs at roughly $(4.7, 1825)$. The maximum volume of approximately 1825 cubic inches is achieved when $x \approx 4.7$ inches.

Exercise 4.8.2

Suppose the dimensions of the cardboard in Example 4.8.2 are 20 in. by 30 in. Let x be the side length of each square and write the volume of the open-top box as a function of x. Determine the domain of consideration for x.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 4.8.4: Minimizing Travel Time

An island is 2 miles due north of its closest point along a straight shoreline. A visitor is staying at a cabin on the shore that is 6 miles west of that point. The visitor is planning to go from the cabin to the island. Suppose the visitor runs at a rate of 8 mph and swims at a rate of 3 mph. How far should the visitor run before swimming to minimize the time it takes to reach the island?

Solution

Step 1: Let x be the distance running and let y be the distance swimming (Figure $4.8.5$). Let T be the time it takes to get from the cabin to the island.

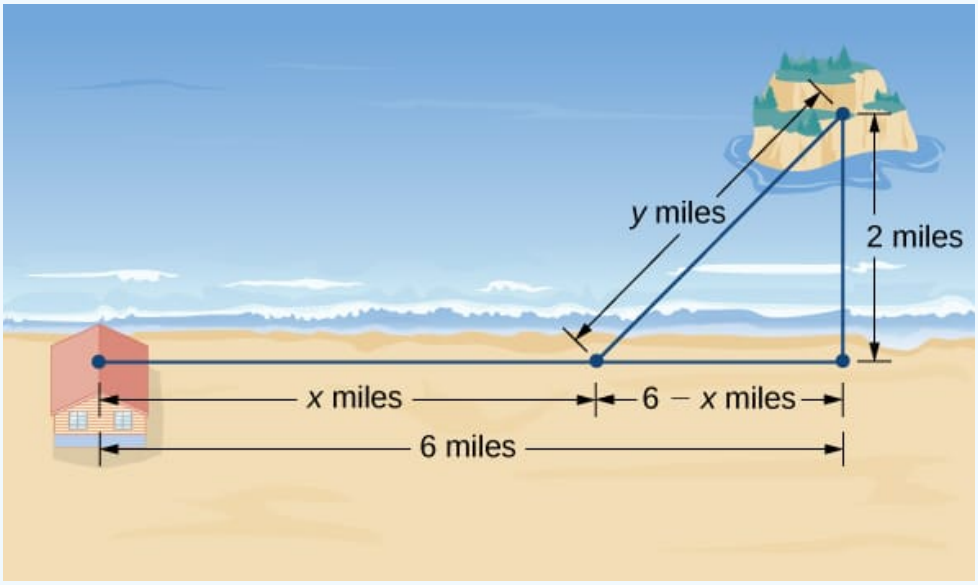


Figure $4.8.5$: An aerial view of the setting for Example $4.8.4$. A cabin at the bottom left of the picture along the shore (shown as a horizontal line across the picture), and an island at the top right of the picture are shown. A horizontal line segment labeled '6 miles' is drawn from the cabin to the point on the shore closest to the island. A vertical line segment labeled '2 miles' is drawn from that point to the island. An arbitrary unlabeled point is marked along the line segment labeled '6 miles'. From that point, the distance to the cabin is marked 'x miles', and the distance to the island is marked 'y miles'.

Step 2: The problem is to minimize T.

Step 3: To find the time spent traveling from the cabin to the island, add the time spent running and the time spent swimming. Since Distance = Rate × Time $(D = R \times T)$, the time spent running is

$$T_{running} = \frac{D_{running}}{R_{running}} = \frac{x}{8},$$

and the time spent swimming is

$$T_{swimming} = \frac{D_{swimming}}{R_{swimming}} = \frac{y}{3}.$$

Therefore, the total time spent traveling is

$$T = \frac{x}{8} + \frac{y}{3}.$$

Step 4: From Figure $4.8.5$, the line segment of y miles forms the hypotenuse of a right triangle with legs of length 2 mi and $6 - x$ mi. Therefore, by the Pythagorean theorem, $2^2 + (6 - x)^2 = y^2$, and we obtain $y = \sqrt{(6 - x)^2 + 4}$. Thus, the total time spent traveling is given by the function

$$T(x) = \frac{x}{8} + \frac{\sqrt{(6 - x)^2 + 4}}{3}.$$

Step 5: From Figure $4.8.5$, we see that $0 \leq x \leq 6$. Therefore, $[0, 6]$ is the domain of consideration.

Step 6: Since $T(x)$ is a continuous function over a closed, bounded interval, it has a maximum and a minimum. Let's begin by looking for any critical points of T over the interval $[0, 6]$. The derivative is

$$T'(x) = \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{2}\frac{[(6-x)^2+4]^{-1/2}}{3} \cdot 2(6-x)$$
$$= \frac{1}{8} - \frac{(6-x)}{3\sqrt{(6-x)^2+4}}$$

If $T'(x) = 0$,, then

$$\frac{1}{8} = \frac{6-x}{3\sqrt{(6-x)^2+4}} \tag{4.8.1}$$

Therefore,

$$3\sqrt{(6-x)^2+4} = 8(6-x). \tag{4.8.2}$$

Squaring both sides of this equation, we see that if x satisfies this equation, then x must satisfy

$$9[(6-x)^2+4] = 64(6-x)^2,$$

which implies

$$55(6-x)^2 = 36.$$

We conclude that if x is a critical point, then x satisfies

$$(x-6)^2 = \frac{36}{55}.$$

Therefore, the possibilities for critical points are

$$x = 6 \pm \frac{6}{\sqrt{55}}.$$

Since $x = 6 + 6/\sqrt{55}$ is not in the domain, it is not a possibility for a critical point. On the other hand, $x = 6 - 6/\sqrt{55}$ is in the domain. Since we squared both sides of Equation 4.8.2 to arrive at the possible critical points, it remains to verify that $x = 6 - 6/\sqrt{55}$ satisfies Equation 4.8.1. Since $x = 6 - 6/\sqrt{55}$ does satisfy that equation, we conclude that $x = 6 - 6/\sqrt{55}$ is a critical point, and it is the only one. To justify that the time is minimized for this value of x, we just need to check the values of $T(x)$ at the endpoints $x = 0$ and $x = 6$, and compare them with the value of $T(x)$ at the critical point $x = 6 - 6/\sqrt{55}$. We find that $T(0) \approx 2.108$ h and $T(6) \approx 1.417$ h, whereas

$$T(6 - 6/\sqrt{55}) \approx 1.368\,\text{h}.$$

Therefore, we conclude that T has a local minimum at $x \approx 5.19$ mi.

Exercise 4.8.3

Suppose the island is 1 mi from shore, and the distance from the cabin to the point on the shore closest to the island is 15 mi. Suppose a visitor swims at the rate of 2.5 mph and runs at a rate of 6 mph. Let x denote the distance the visitor will run before swimming, and find a function for the time it takes the visitor to get from the cabin to the island.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 4.8.5

A lifeguard spots a drowning child in the water who is 200 feet along the shore and 100 feet from the coast. If the lifeguard can run 10 feet per second and can swim 4 feet per second, how far should the lifeguard run along the shore before jumping into the water?

Solution

- **Video length:** 4 minutes 29 seconds
- **Context:** This video demonstrates finding the minimum time for a lifeguard to save a child.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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In business, companies are interested in **maximizing revenue.** In the following example, we consider a scenario in which a company has collected data on how many cars it is able to lease, depending on the price it charges its customers to rent a car. Let's use these data to determine the price the company should charge to maximize the amount of money it brings in.

Example 4.8.6: Maximizing Revenue

Owners of a car rental company have determined that if they charge customers p dollars per day to rent a car, where $50 \leq p \leq 200$, the number of cars n they rent per day can be modeled by the linear function $n(p) = 1000 - 5p$. If they charge $\$50$ per day or less, they will rent all their cars. If they charge $\$200$ per day or more, they will not rent any cars. Assuming the owners plan to charge customers between $\$50$ per day and $\$200$ per day to rent a car, how much should they charge to maximize their revenue?

Solution

Step 1: Let p be the price charged per car per day and let n be the number of cars rented per day. Let R be the revenue per day.

Step 2: The problem is to maximize R.

Step 3: The revenue (per day) is equal to the number of cars rented per day times the price charged per car per day—that is, $R = n \times p$.

Step 4: Since the number of cars rented per day is modeled by the linear function $n(p) = 1000 - 5p$, the revenue R can be represented by the function

$$\begin{aligned} R(p) &= n \times p \\ &= (1000 - 5p)p \\ &= -5p^2 + 1000p. \end{aligned}$$

Step 5: Since the owners plan to charge between $\$50$ per car per day and $\$200$ per car per day, the problem is to find the maximum revenue $R(p)$ for p in the closed interval $[50, 200]$.

Step 6: Since R is a continuous function over the closed, bounded interval $[50, 200]$, it has an absolute maximum (and an absolute minimum) in that interval. To find the maximum value, look for critical points. The derivative is $R'(p) = -10p + 1000$. Therefore, the critical point is $p = 100$ When $p = 100, R(100) = \$50,000$. When $p = 50, R(p) = \$37,500$. When $p = 200, R(p) = \$0$.

Therefore, the absolute maximum occurs at $p = \$100$. The car rental company should charge $\$100$ per day per car to maximize revenue as shown in the following figure.

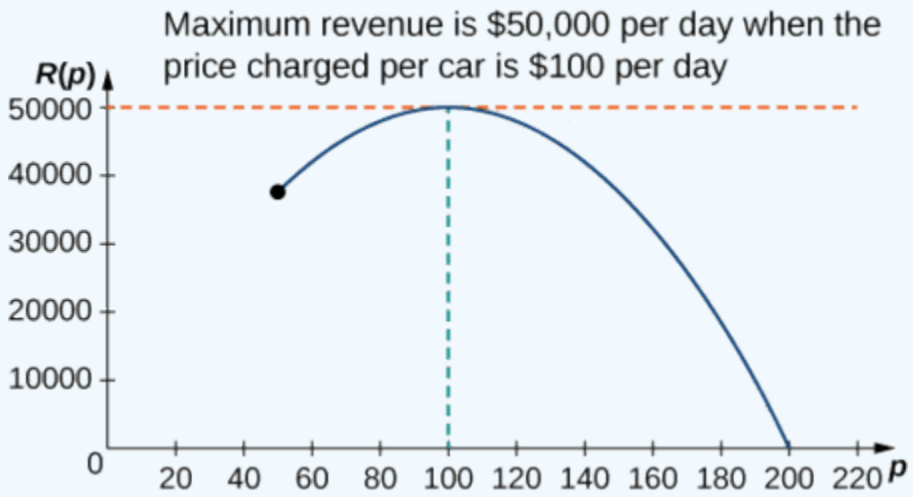


Figure 4.8.6: The function $R(p)$ is graphed over $50 \leq p \leq 200$. It has its maximum at $(100, 50000)$. Therefore, the maximum revenue is $50,000 per day when the price charged per car is $100 per day.

Exercise 4.8.4

A car rental company charges its customers p dollars per day, where $60 \leq p \leq 150$. It has found that the number of cars rented per day can be modeled by the linear function $n(p) = 750 - 5p$. How much should the company charge each customer to maximize revenue?

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 4.8.7: Maximizing the Area of an Inscribed Rectangle

A rectangle is to be inscribed in the ellipse

$$\frac{x^2}{4} + y^2 = 1.$$

What should the dimensions of the rectangle be to maximize its area? What is the maximum area?

Solution

Step 1: For a rectangle to be inscribed in the ellipse, the sides of the rectangle must be parallel to the axes. Let L be the length of the rectangle and W be its width. Let A be the area of the rectangle.

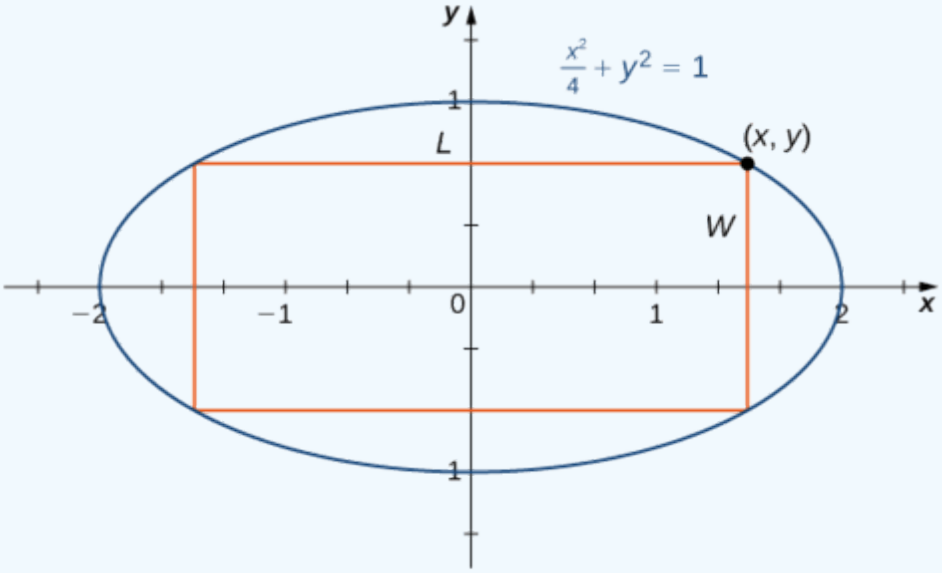


Figure 4.8.7: The ellipse $\frac{x^2}{4} + y^2 = 1$ has x-intercepts at ± 2 and y-intercepts at ± 1. There is a rectangle inscribed inside the ellipse with length of $2x$ and width of $2y$.

Step 2: The problem is to maximize A.

Step 3: The area of the rectangle is $A = LW$.

Step 4: Let (x, y) be the corner of the rectangle that lies in the first quadrant, as shown in Figure 4.8.7. We can write length $L = 2x$ and width $W = 2y$. Since $\frac{x^2}{4 + y^2 = 1}$ and $y > 0$, we have $y = \sqrt{\frac{1 - x^2}{4}}$. Therefore, the area is

$$A = LW = (2x)(2y) = 4x\sqrt{\frac{1 - x^2}{4}} = 2x\sqrt{4 - x^2}$$

Step 5: From Figure 4.8.7, we see that to inscribe a rectangle in the ellipse, the x-coordinate of the corner in the first quadrant must satisfy \(0

Step 6: As mentioned earlier, $A(x)$ is a continuous function over the closed, bounded interval $[0, 2]$. Therefore, it has an absolute maximum (and absolute minimum). At the endpoints $x = 0$ and $x = 2$, $A(x) = 0$. For \(00\).

Therefore, the maximum must occur at a critical point. Taking the derivative of $A(x)$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} A'(x) &= 2\sqrt{4 - x^2} + 2x \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{4 - x^2}}(-2x) \\ &= 2\sqrt{4 - x^2} - \frac{2x^2}{\sqrt{4 - x^2}} \\ &= \frac{8 - 4x^2}{\sqrt{4 - x^2}}. \end{aligned}$$

To find critical points, we need to find where $A'(x) = 0$. We can see that if x is a solution of

$$\frac{8 - 4x^2}{\sqrt{4 - x^2}} = 0, \tag{4.8.3}$$

then x must satisfy

$$8 - 4x^2 = 0.$$

Therefore, $x^2 = 2$. Thus, $x = \pm\sqrt{2}$ are the possible solutions of Equation 4.8.3. Since we are considering x over the interval $[0, 2]$, $x = \sqrt{2}$ is a possibility for a critical point, but $x = -\sqrt{2}$ is not. Therefore, we check whether $\sqrt{2}$ is a solution of Equation 4.8.3. Since $x = \sqrt{2}$ is a solution of Equation 4.8.3, we conclude that $\sqrt{2}$ is the only critical point of $A(x)$ in the interval $[0, 2]$.

Therefore, $A(x)$ must have an absolute maximum at the critical point $x = \sqrt{2}$. To determine the dimensions of the rectangle, we need to find the length L and the width W. If $x = \sqrt{2}$ then

$$y = \sqrt{1 - \frac{(\sqrt{2})^2}{4}} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}.$$

Therefore, the dimensions of the rectangle are $L = 2x = 2\sqrt{2}$ and $W = 2y = \dfrac{2}{\sqrt{2}} = \sqrt{2}$. The area of this rectangle is$A = LW = (2\sqrt{2})(\sqrt{2}) = 4$.

Exercise 4.8.5

Modify the area function A if the rectangle is to be inscribed in the unit circle $x^2 + y^2 = 1$. What is the domain of consideration?

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Solving Optimization Problems when the Interval Is Not Closed or Is Unbounded

In the previous examples, we considered functions on closed, bounded domains. Consequently, by the extreme value theorem, we were guaranteed that the functions had absolute extrema. Let's now consider functions for which the domain is neither closed nor bounded.

Many functions still have at least one absolute extrema, even if the domain is not closed or the domain is unbounded. For example, the function $f(x) = x^2 + 4$ over $(-\infty, \infty)$ has an absolute minimum of 4 at $x = 0$. Therefore, we can still consider functions over unbounded domains or open intervals and determine whether they have any absolute extrema. In the next example, we try to minimize a function over an unbounded domain. We will see that, although the domain of consideration is $(0, \infty)$, the function has an absolute minimum.

In the following example, we look at constructing a box of least surface area with a prescribed volume. It is not difficult to show that for a closed-top box, by symmetry, among all boxes with a specified volume, a cube will have the smallest surface area. Consequently, we consider the modified problem of determining which open-topped box with a specified volume has the smallest surface area.

Example 4.8.8: Minimizing Surface Area

A rectangular box with a square base, an open top, and a volume of $216\ \text{in}^3$ is to be constructed. What should the dimensions of the box be to minimize the surface area of the box? What is the minimum surface area?

Solution

Step 1: Draw a rectangular box and introduce the variable x to represent the length of each side of the square base; let y represent the height of the box. Let S denote the surface area of the open-top box.

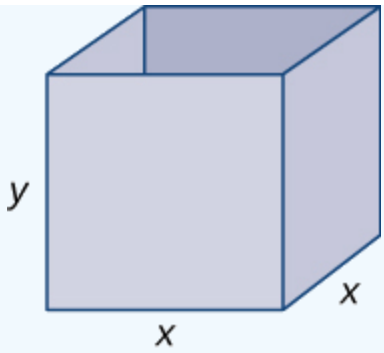


Figure 4.8.8: A square-based box with base x by x, and height y.

Step 2: We need to minimize the surface area. Therefore, we need to minimize S.

Step 3: Since the box has an open top, we need only determine the area of the four vertical sides and the base. The area of each of the four vertical sides is $x \cdot y$. The area of the base is x^2. Therefore, the surface area of the box is

$$S = 4xy + x^2.$$

Step 4: Since the volume of this box is x^2y and the volume is given as $216\ \text{in}^3$, the constraint equation is

$$x^2y = 216.$$

Solving the constraint equation for y, we have $y = \dfrac{216}{x^2}$. Therefore, we can write the surface area as a function of x only:

$$S(x) = 4x\left(\frac{216}{x^2}\right) + x^2.$$

Therefore, $S(x) = \dfrac{864}{x} + x^2$.

Step 5: Since we are requiring that $x^2y = 216$, we cannot have $x = 0$. Therefore, we need $x > 0$. On the other hand, x is allowed to have any positive value. Note that as x becomes large, the height of the box y becomes correspondingly small so that $x^2y = 216$. Similarly, as x becomes small, the height of the box becomes correspondingly large. We conclude that the domain is the open, unbounded interval $(0, \infty)$. Note that, unlike the previous examples, we cannot reduce our problem to looking for an absolute maximum or absolute minimum over a closed, bounded interval. However, in the next step, we discover why this function must have an absolute minimum over the interval $(0, \infty)$.

Step 6: Note that as $x \to 0^+,\ S(x) \to \infty$. Also, as $x \to \infty,\ S(x) \to \infty$. Since S is a continuous function that approaches infinity at the ends, it must have an absolute minimum at some $x \in (0, \infty)$. This minimum must occur at a critical point of S. The derivative is

$$S'(x) = -\frac{864}{x^2} + 2x.$$

Therefore, $S'(x) = 0$ when $2x = \dfrac{864}{x^2}$. Solving this equation for x, we obtain $x^3 = 432$, so $x = \sqrt[3]{432} = 6\sqrt[3]{2}$. Since this is the only critical point of S, the absolute minimum must occur at $x = 6\sqrt[3]{2}$ (see Figure 4.8.9).

When $x = 6\sqrt[3]{2}$, $y = \dfrac{216}{(6\sqrt[3]{2})^2} = 3\sqrt[3]{2}$ in. Therefore, the dimensions of the box should be $x = 6\sqrt[3]{2}$ in. and $y = 3\sqrt[3]{2}$ in. With these dimensions, the surface area is

$$S(6\sqrt[3]{2}) = \frac{864}{6\sqrt[3]{2}} + (6\sqrt[3]{2})^2 = 108\sqrt[3]{4}\,\text{in}^2$$

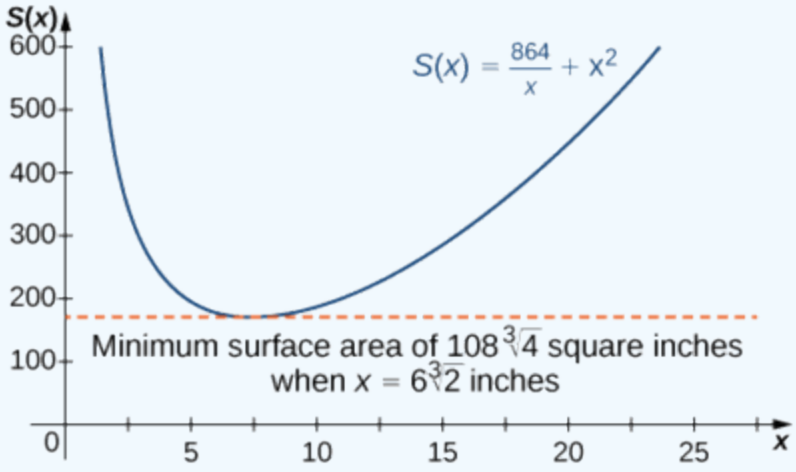


Figure 4.8.9: The function $S(x) = \frac{864}{x} + x^2$ is graphed. Its local minimum is at $(6, 6\sqrt[3]{4})$. Therefore, the minimum surface area is $108\sqrt[3]{4}$ square inches when $x = 6\sqrt[3]{4}$.

Example 4.8.9

A 200 cubic meter cylindrical barrel is constructed to minimize its surface area. Find the dimensions of the barrel.

Solution

- **Video length:** 3 minutes 29 seconds
- **Context:** This video demonstrates minimizing the surface area of a cylinder.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 4.8.6

Consider the same open-top box, which is to have volume $216\ \text{in}^3$. Suppose the cost of the material for the base is $20¢/\text{in}^2$ and the cost of the material for the sides is $30¢/\text{in}^2$ and we are trying to minimize the cost of this box. Write the cost as a function of the side lengths of the base. (Let x be the side length of the base and y be the height of the box.)

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- To solve an optimization problem, begin by drawing a picture and introducing variables.
- Find an equation relating the variables.
- Find a function of one variable to describe the quantity that is to be minimized or maximized.
- Look for critical points to locate local extrema.

Glossary

Optimization problems
: Problems that are solved by finding the maximum or minimum value of a function

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Answers

Exercise 4.8.1

We need to maximize the function $A(x) = 200x - 2x^2$ over the interval $[0, 100]$.

Exercise 4.8.1

The maximum area is $5000\ \text{ft}^2$.

Exercise 4.8.2

The volume of the box is $L \cdot W \cdot H$.

Exercise 4.8.2

$V(x) = x(20 - 2x)(30 - 2x)$. The domain is $[0, 10]$.

Exercise 4.8.3

The time $T = T_{running} + T_{swimming}$.

Exercise 4.8.3

$$T(x) = \frac{x}{6} + \frac{\sqrt{(15 - x)^2 + 1}}{2.5}$$

Exercise 4.8.4

$R(p) = n \times p$, where n is the number of cars rented and p is the price charged per car.

Exercise 4.8.4

The company should charge $\$75$ per car per day.

Exercise 4.8.5

If (x, y) is the vertex of the square that lies in the first quadrant, then the area of the square is $A = (2x)(2y) = 4xy$.

Exercise 4.8.5

$A(x) = 4x\sqrt{1 - x^2}$. The domain of consideration is $[0, 1]$.

Exercise 4.8.6

If the cost of one of the sides is $30\text{¢}/\text{in}^2$, the cost of that side is $0.30xy$ dollars.

Exercise 4.8.6

$$c(x) = \frac{259.2}{x} + 0.2x^2 \text{ dollars}$$

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4.8E: Exercises for Section 4.8

Exercises 1 - 4

Answer by proof, counterexample, or explanation.

1. When you find the maximum for an optimization problem, why do you need to check the sign of the derivative around the critical points?

   Answer

   The critical points can be the minima, maxima, or neither.

2. Why do you need to check the endpoints for optimization problems?
3. True or False. For every continuous nonlinear function, you can find the value x that maximizes the function.

   Answer

   False; $y = -x^2$ has a minimum only

4. True or False. For every continuous non-constant function on a closed, finite domain, there exists at least one x that minimizes or maximizes the function.

Exercises 5 - 8

Set up and evaluate each optimization problem.

5. To carry a suitcase on an airplane, the $\text{length} + \text{width} + \text{height}$ of the box must be less than or equal to 62 in. Assuming the height is fixed, show that the maximum volume is $V = h\left(31 - \frac{1}{2}h\right)^2$. What height allows you to have the largest volume?

   Answer

   $h = \frac{62}{3}$ in.

6. You are constructing a cardboard box with the dimensions 2 m by 4 m. You then cut equal-size squares from each corner so you may fold the edges. What are the dimensions of the box with the largest volume?

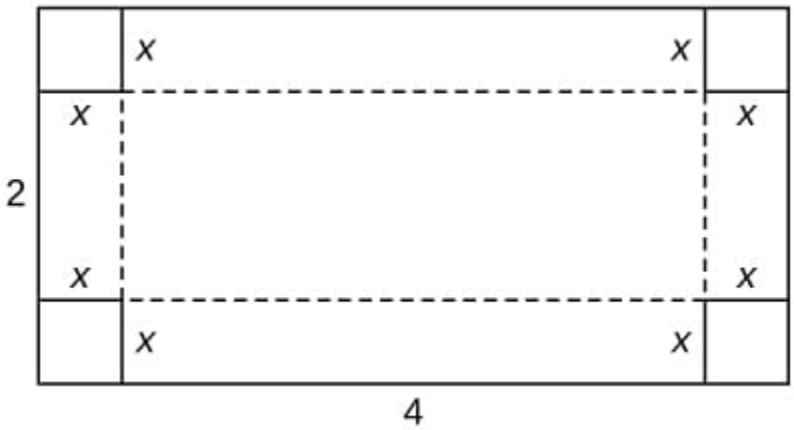


Figure $4.8E.1$: A 2 by 4 rectangle with x by x squares to be cut out from the four corners.

7. Find the positive integer that minimizes the sum of the number and its reciprocal.

   Answer

   1

8. Find two positive integers such that their sum is 10, and minimize and maximize the sum of their squares.

In exercises 9 - 11, consider the construction of a pen to enclose an area.

9. You have $400\ \text{ft}$ of fencing to construct a rectangular pen for cattle. What are the dimensions of the pen that maximize the area?

    Answer

    $100\ \text{ft}$ by $100\ \text{ft}$

10. You have $800\ \text{ft}$ of fencing to make a pen for hogs. If you have a river on one side of your property, what is the dimension of the rectangular pen that maximizes the area?
11. You need to construct a fence around an area of $1600\ \text{ft}^2$. What are the dimensions of the rectangular pen to minimize the amount of material needed?

    Answer

    $40\ \text{ft}$ by $40\ \text{ft}$

12. Two poles are connected by a wire that is also connected to the ground. The first pole is $20\ \text{ft}$ tall and the second pole is $10\ \text{ft}$ tall. There is a distance of $30\ \text{ft}$ between the two poles. Where should the wire be anchored to the ground to minimize the amount of wire needed?

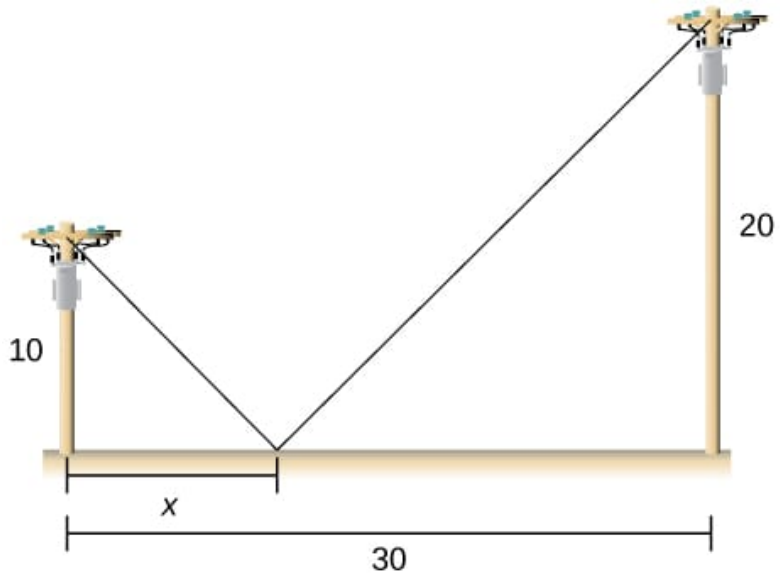


Figure $4.8E.2$: Two poles are shown, one that is 10 ft tall and the other is 20 ft tall. A right triangle is made with the shorter pole with other side length x. The distance between the two poles is 30 ft.

13. [T] You are moving into a new apartment and notice there is a corner where the hallway narrows from $8\ \text{ft}$ to $6\ \text{ft}$. What is the length of the longest item that can be carried horizontally around the corner?

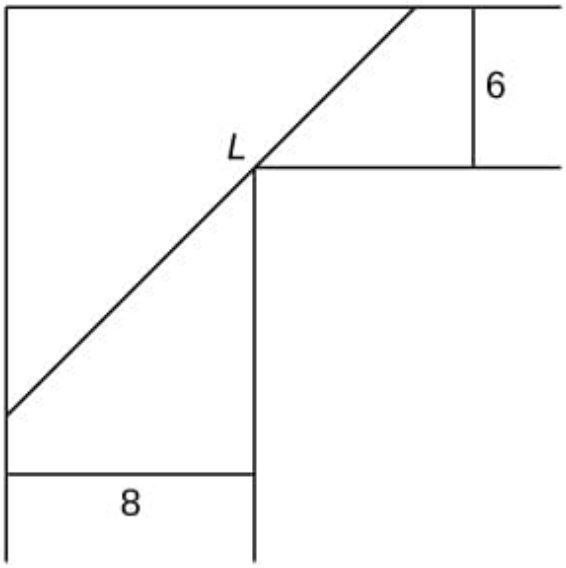


Figure $4.8E.3$: An upside L-shaped figure representing a top view of a hallway is drawn with the horizontal part being 6 ft wide and the vertical part being 8 ft wide. There is a line drawn from the horizontal part to the vertical part that touches the near corner of the shape to form a hypotenuse for a right triangle. This line is marked L.

Answer

19.73 ft

14. A patient's pulse measures 70 bpm, 80 bpm, then 120 bpm. To determine an accurate measurement of pulse, the doctor wants to know what value minimizes the expression $(x-70)^2+(x-80)^2+(x-120)^2$? What value minimizes it?
15. In the previous problem, assume the patient was nervous during the third measurement, so we only weight that value half as much as the others. What is the value that minimizes $(x-70)^2+(x-80)^2+\frac{1}{2}(x-120)^2$?

Answer

84 bpm

16. You are on the shore of the ocean and wish to travel to an island that is 4 miles west and 1 mile north of you. You can run at a speed of 6 mph and swim at a speed of 3 mph. How far should you run west to minimize the time needed to reach the island?

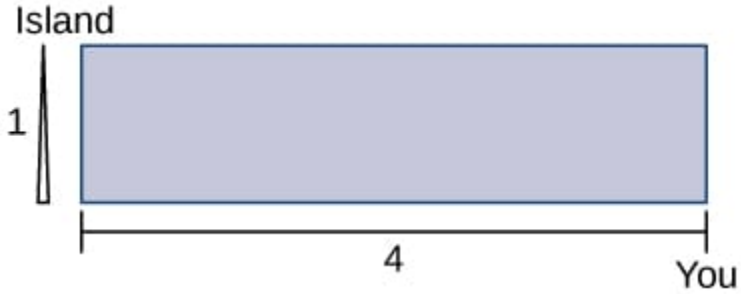


Figure $4.8E.4$: A rectangle is drawn that has height 1 mile and length 4 miles. In the lower right corner, it is marked "You". In the upper left corner it is marked "Island".

Exercises 17 - 19

Consider a lifeguard at a circular pool with diameter 40 m. He must reach someone who is drowning on the exact opposite side of the pool, at position C. The lifeguard swims with a speed v and runs around the pool at speed $w=3v$.

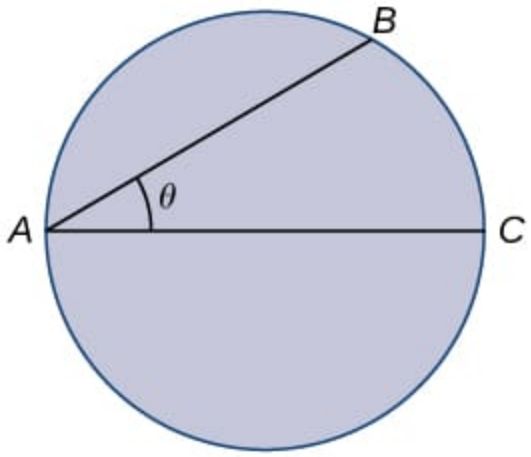


Figure $4.8E.5$: A circle is drawn with points A and C on the on the boundary, with a line segment between A and C marking a diameter of the circle. There is a point B drawn on the circle such that angle $\angle BAC$ forms an acute angle θ.

17. Find a function that measures the total amount of time it takes to reach the drowning person as a function of the swim angle, θ.

Answer

$$T(\theta) = \frac{40\theta}{3v} + \frac{40\cos\theta}{v}$$

18. Find at what angle θ the lifeguard should swim to reach the drowning person in the least amount of time.
19. A truck uses gas as $g(v) = av + \dfrac{b}{v}$, where v represents the speed of the truck and g represents the gallons of fuel per mile. At what speed is fuel consumption minimized?

Answer

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{b}{a}}$$

Exercises 20 - 21

Consider a limousine that gets $m(v) = \frac{120-2v}{5}$ mi/gal at speed v, the chauffeur costs $\$15/\text{h}$, and gas is $\$3.50/\text{gal}$.

20. Find the cost per mile at speed v.
21. Find the cheapest driving speed.

Answer

approximately 34.02 mph

Exercises 22 - 24

Consider a pizzeria that sell pizzas for a revenue of $R(x) = ax$ and costs $C(x) = b + cx + dx^2$, where x represents the number of pizzas.

22. Find the profit function for the number of pizzas. How many pizzas gives the largest profit per pizza?
23. Assume that $R(x) = 10x$ and $C(x) = 2x + x^2$. How many pizzas sold maximizes the profit?

Answer

Selling 4 pizzas will maximize the profit.

24. Assume that $R(x) = 15x$, and $C(x) = 60 + 3x + \frac{1}{2}x^2$. How many pizzas sold maximizes the profit?

Exercises 25 - 26

Consider a wire 4 ft long cut into two pieces. One piece forms a circle with radius r and the other forms a square of side x.

25. Choose x to maximize the sum of their areas.

Answer

$x = 0$

26. Choose x to minimize the sum of their areas.

Exercises 27 - 30

Consider two nonnegative numbers x and y such that $x + y = 10$. Maximize and minimize the quantities.

27. xy

Answer

Maximal: $x = 5,\ y = 5$;
Minimal: $x = 0,\ y = 10$ and $y = 0,\ x = 10$

28. x^2y^2
29. $y - \dfrac{1}{x}$

Answer

Maximal: $x = 1,\ y = 9$;
Minimal: none

30. $x^2 - y$

Exercises 31 - 36

Draw the given optimization problem and solve.

31. Find the volume of the largest right circular cylinder that fits in a sphere of radius 1.

Answer

$V = \frac{4\pi}{3\sqrt{3}}$

32. Find the volume of the largest right cone that fits in a sphere of radius 1.
33. Find the area of the largest rectangle that fits into the triangle with sides $x = 0,\ y = 0$ and $\dfrac{x}{4} + \dfrac{y}{6} = 1$.

Answer

$A = 6$

34. Find the largest volume of a cylinder that fits into a cone that has base radius R and height h.
35. Find the dimensions of the closed cylinder volume $V = 16\pi$ that has the least amount of surface area.

Answer

$r = 2,\ h = 4$

36. Find the dimensions of a right cone with surface area $S = 4\pi$ that has the largest volume.

Exercises 37 - 41

Consider the points on the graphs of the given equations. Use a calculator to graph the functions.

37. [T] Where is the line $y = 5 - 2x$ closest to the origin?

Answer

$(2, 1)$

38. [T] Where is the line $y = 5 - 2x$ closest to point $(1, 1)$?
39. [T] Where is the parabola $y = x^2$ closest to point $(2, 0)$?

Answer

$(0.8351, 0.6974)$

40. [T] Where is the parabola $y = x^2$ closest to point $(0, 3)$?
41. [T] Where is the function $y = \sqrt{2x + 7}$ closest to point $(6, 0)$?

Answer

$(5, 4.1231)$

Exercises 42 - 46

Set up, but do not evaluate, each optimization problem.

42. You have a garden row of 20 watermelon plants that produce an average of 30 watermelons apiece. For any additional watermelon plants planted, the output per watermelon plant drops by one watermelon. How many extra watermelon plants should you plant?
43. A window is composed of a semicircle placed on top of a rectangle. If you have $20\ \text{ft}$ of window-framing materials for the outer frame, what is the maximum size of the window you can create? Use r to represent the radius of the semicircle.



Figure $4.8E.6$: Window is composed of a half circle on top of a rectangle that is long in the vertical direction. The radius of the half circle is marked 'r'.

Answer

$A = 20r - 2r^2 - \frac{1}{2}\pi r^2$

44. You are building five identical pens adjacent to each other with a total area of $1000\ \text{m}^2$, as shown in the following figure. What dimensions should you use to minimize the amount of fencing?

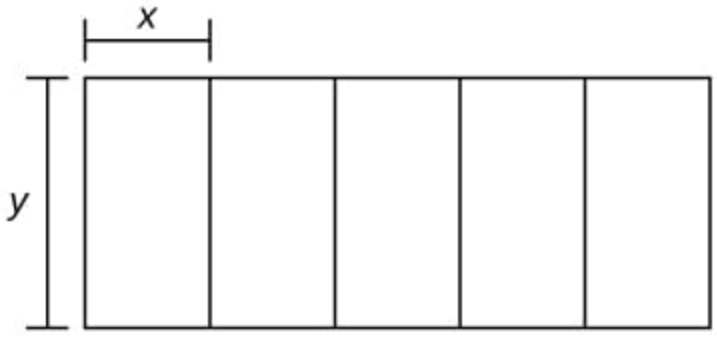


Figure $4.8E.7$

15. You are constructing a box for your cat to sleep in. The plush material for the square bottom of the box costs $\$5/\text{ft}^2$ and the material for the sides costs $\$2/\text{ft}^2$. You need a box with volume $4\ \text{ft}^3$. Find the dimensions of the box that minimize cost. Use x to represent the length of the side of the box.

Answer

$$C(x) = 5x^2 + \frac{32}{x}$$

16. A microwaveable cup-of-soup package needs to be constructed in the shape of cylinder to hold 350 cubic centimeters of soup. The sides and bottom of the container will be made of styrofoam costing 0.02 cents per square centimeter. The top will be made of glued paper, costing 0.05 cents per square centimeter. Find the dimensions for the package that will minimize production cost.

17. You are the manager of an apartment complex with 50 units. When you set rent at $\$800/\text{month}$, all apartments are rented. As you increase rent by $\$25/\text{month}$, one fewer apartment is rented. Maintenance costs run $\$50/\text{month}$ for each occupied unit. What is the rent that maximizes the total amount of profit?

Answer

$$P(x) = (50 - x)(800 + 25x - 50)$$

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4.9: Newton's Method

Learning Objectives

- Describe the steps of Newton's method.
- Explain what an iterative process means.
- Recognize when Newton's method does not work.
- Apply iterative processes to various situations.

In many areas of pure and applied mathematics, we are interested in finding solutions to an equation of the form $f(x) = 0$. For most functions, however, it is difficult—if not impossible—to calculate their zeroes explicitly. In this section, we take a look at a technique that provides a very efficient way of approximating the **zeroes of functions**. This technique makes use of tangent line approximations and is behind the method used often by calculators and computers to find zeroes.

Describing Newton's Method

Consider the task of finding the solutions of $f(x) = 0$. If f is the first-degree polynomial $f(x) = ax + b$, then the solution of $f(x) = 0$ is given by the formula $x = -\frac{b}{a}$. If f is the second-degree polynomial $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$, the solutions of $f(x) = 0$ can be found by using the quadratic formula. However, for polynomials of degree **3** or more, finding roots of f becomes more complicated. Although formulas exist for third- and fourth-degree polynomials, they are quite complicated. Also, if f is a polynomial of degree **5** or greater, it is known that no such formulas exist. For example, consider the function

$$f(x) = x^5 + 8x^4 + 4x^3 - 2x - 7.$$

No formula exists that allows us to find the solutions of $f(x) = 0$. Similar difficulties exist for nonpolynomial functions. For example, consider the task of finding solutions of $tan(x) - x = 0$.No simple formula exists for the solutions of this equation. In cases such as these, we can use Newton's method to approximate the roots.

Newton's method makes use of the following idea to approximate the solutions of $f(x) = 0$. By sketching a graph of f, we can estimate a root of $f(x) = 0$. Let's call this estimate x_0. We then draw the tangent line to f at x_0. If $f\,'(x_0) \neq 0$, this tangent line intersects the x-axis at some point $(x_1, 0)$. Now let x_1 be the next approximation to the actual root. Typically, x_1 is closer than x_0 to an actual root. Next we draw the tangent line to f at x_1. If $f\,'(x_1) \neq 0$, this tangent line also intersects the x-axis, producing another approximation, x_2. We continue in this way, deriving a list of approximations: $x_0,\ x_1,\ x_2,\ \ldots$. Typically, the numbers $x_0,\ x_1,\ x_2,\ \ldots$ quickly approach an actual root $x*$, as shown in the following figure.

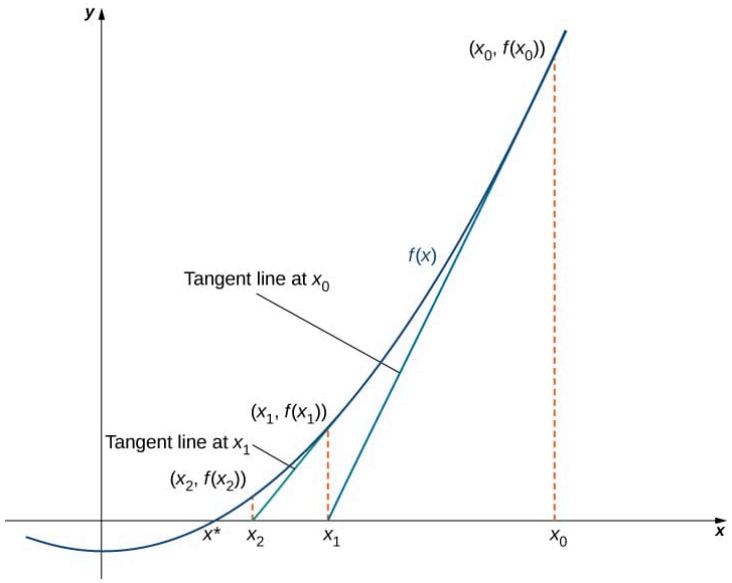


Figure 4.9.1:The approximations $x_0,\ x_1,\ x_2,\ \ldots$ approach the actual root x^*. The approximations are derived by looking at tangent lines to the graph of f. The two tangent lines start at x_1 and x_2 with x_2 closest to x^*. From $(x_0, f(x_0))$, the first tangent line is drawn, and it strikes the x axis at x_1. From $(x_1, f(x_1))$, a tangent line is drawn, and it strikes the x axis at x_2. If a tangent line were drawn from $(x_2, f(x_2))$, it appears that it would come very close to x^*, which is the actual root. Each tangent line drawn in this order appears to get closer and closer to x^*.

Interactive Element

Visualizing Newton's Method

This is a Newton's Method visualization. You are given the equation and you then put in the first guess for the x-value where the function is equal to 0. Then click on the Submit button to watch Newton's Method in action. You can adjust the bounds by clicking in the appropriate button at the bottom or by entering in the bounds. If you click on zBox, click on where you want the top left corner bound to be and then drag your mouse to where you want the bottom right corner to be and then release your mouse. When the computer finishes the Newton's Method animation, you can go to the next question by clicking on "New Problem" or you can change your guess and the x and y bounds that are shown by clicking on the "Redo" button.

$f(x) = \cos(x) - x$, $f(x) = x^2 - 2$, $f(x) = 1 - \ln(x)$, $f(x) = x^3 - x^2 - 2x + 1$, $f(x) = \sin(x) - \cos(2x)$, Guess:

Submit | New Function | Redo

xMin: xMax: yMin: yMax:

zIn | zOut | zBox | zStd | Trace

Now let's look at how to calculate the approximations $x_0,\ x_1,\ x_2,\ \ldots$. If x_0 is our first approximation, the approximation x_1 is defined by letting $(x_1, 0)$ be the x-intercept of the tangent line to f at x_0. The equation of this tangent line is given by

$$y = f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x - x_0).$$

Therefore, x_1 must satisfy

$$f(x_0) + f'(x_0)(x_1 - x_0) = 0.$$

Solving this equation for x_1, we conclude that

$$x_1 = x_0 - \frac{f(x_0)}{f'(x_0)}.$$

Similarly, the point $(x_2, 0)$ is the x-intercept of the tangent line to f at x_1. Therefore, x_2 satisfies the equation

$$x_2 = x_1 - \frac{f(x_1)}{f'(x_1)}.$$

In general, for $n > 0, x_n$ satisfies

$$x_n = x_{n-1} - \frac{f(x_{n-1})}{f'(x_{n-1})}. \tag{4.9.1}$$

Next we see how to make use of this technique to approximate the root of the polynomial $f(x) = x^3 - 3x + 1$.

Example 4.9.1: Finding a Root of a Polynomial

Use Newton's method to approximate a root of $f(x) = x^3 - 3x + 1$ in the interval $[1, 2]$. Let $x_0 = 2$ and find $x_1,\ x_2,\ x_3,\ x_4$, and x_5.

Solution

From Figure 4.9.2, we see that f has one root over the interval $(1, 2)$. Therefore $x_0 = 2$ seems like a reasonable first approximation. To find the next approximation, we use Equation 4.9.1. Since $f(x) = x^3 - 3x + 1$, the derivative is $f\,'(x) = 3x^2 - 3$. Using Equation 4.9.1 with $n = 1$ (and a calculator that displays 10 digits), we obtain

$$x_1 = x_0 - \frac{f(x_0)}{f'(x_0)} = 2 - \frac{f(2)}{f'(2)} = 2 - \frac{3}{9} \approx 1.666666667.$$

To find the next approximation, x_2, we use Equation with $n = 2$ and the value of x_1 stored on the calculator. We find that

$$x_2 = x_1 - \frac{f(x_1)}{f'(x_1)} \approx 1.548611111.$$

Continuing in this way, we obtain the following results:

- $x_1 \approx 1.666666667$
- $x_2 \approx 1.548611111$
- $x_3 \approx 1.532390162$
- $x_4 \approx 1.532088989$
- $x_5 \approx 1.532088886$
- $x_6 \approx 1.532088886.$

We note that we obtained the same value for x_5 and x_6. Therefore, any subsequent application of Newton's method will most likely give the same value for x_n.

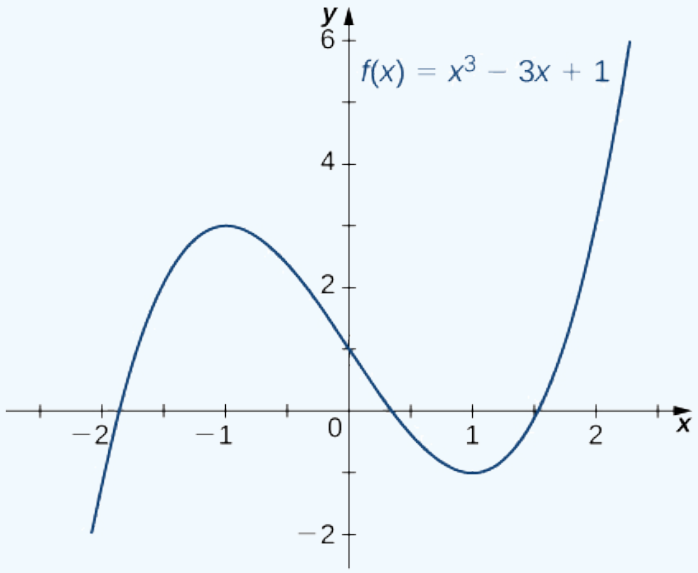


Figure 4.9.2: The function $f(x) = x^3 - 3x + 1$ has one root over the interval $[1, 2]$.

Exercise 4.9.1

Letting $x_0 = 0$, let's use Newton's method to approximate the root of $f(x) = x^3 - 3x + 1$ over the interval $[0, 1]$ by calculating x_1 and x_2.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 4.9.2

Use Newton's Method to approximate (to three decimal places) the x-value of the intersection of the curves $y = cos(x)$ and $y = 2x - 1$.

Solution

- **Video length:** 3 minutes 54 seconds
- **Context:** This video demonstrates using Newton's Method to find the intersection of curves.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Newton's method can also be used to approximate square roots. Here we show how to approximate $\sqrt{2}$. This method can be modified to approximate the square root of any positive number.

Example 4.9.3: Finding a Square Root

Use Newton's method to approximate $\sqrt{2}$ (Figure 4.9.3). Let $f(x) = x^2 - 2$, let $x_0 = 2$, and calculate $x_1,\ x_2,\ x_3,\ x_4,\ x_5$. (We note that since $f(x) = x^2 - 2$ has a zero at $\sqrt{2}$, the initial value $x_0 = 2$ is a reasonable choice to approximate $\sqrt{2}$).

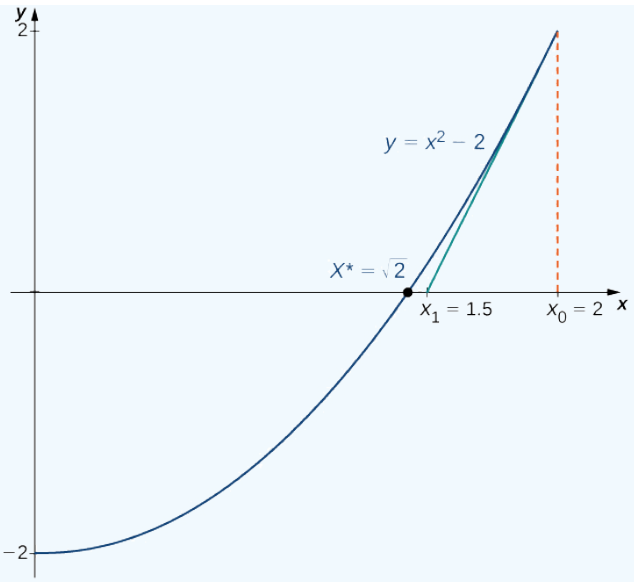


Figure 4.9.3: We can use Newton's method to find $\sqrt{2}$. The tangent line starts at $(2, 2)$ and hits the x-axis at 1.5. One can imagine the next tangent line starting above $x = 1.5$ on the curve and creating a second tangent line that hits the x-axis even closer to $\sqrt{2}$.

Solution

For $f(x) = x^2 - 2, \quad f\,'(x) = 2x$. From 4.9.1, we know that

$$\begin{aligned} x_n &= x_{n-1} - \frac{f(x_{n-1})}{f'(x_{n-1})} \\ &= x_{n-1} - \frac{x_{n-1}^2 - 2}{2x_{n-1}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}x_{n-1} + \frac{1}{x_{n-1}} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\left(x_{n-1} + \frac{2}{x_{n-1}}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$x_1 = \tfrac{1}{2}\left(x_0 + \tfrac{2}{x_0}\right) = \tfrac{1}{2}\left(2 + \tfrac{2}{2}\right) = 1.5$$

$$x_2 = \tfrac{1}{2}\left(x_1 + \tfrac{2}{x_1}\right) = \tfrac{1}{2}\left(1.5 + \tfrac{2}{1.5}\right) \approx 1.416666667.$$

Continuing in this way, we find that

$$x_1 = 1.5$$

$$x_2 \approx 1.416666667$$

$$x_3 \approx 1.414215686$$

$$x_4 \approx 1.414213562$$

$$x_5 \approx 1.414213562.$$

Since we obtained the same value for x_4 and x_5, it is unlikely that the value x_n will change on any subsequent application of Newton's method. We conclude that $\sqrt{2} \approx 1.414213562$.

Exercise 4.9.2

Use Newton's method to approximate $\sqrt{3}$ by letting $f(x) = x^2 - 3$ and $x_0 = 3$. Find x_1 and x_2.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

When using Newton's method, each approximation after the initial guess is defined in terms of the previous approximation by using the same formula. In particular, by defining the function $F(x) = x - \left[\frac{f(x)}{f'(x)}\right]$, we can rewrite Equation 4.9.1 as $x_n = F(x_{n-1})$. This type of process, where each x_n is defined in terms of x_{n-1} by repeating the same function, is an example of an iterative process. Shortly, we examine other iterative processes. First, let's look at the reasons why Newton's method could fail to find a root.

Failures of Newton's Method

Typically, Newton's method is used to find roots fairly quickly. However, things can go wrong. Some reasons why Newton's method might fail include the following:

1. At one of the approximations x_n, the derivative f' is zero at x_n, but $f(x_n) \neq 0$. As a result, the tangent line of f at x_n does not intersect the x-axis. Therefore, we cannot continue the iterative process.
2. The approximations $x_0,\ x_1,\ x_2,\ \ldots$ may approach a different root. If the function f has more than one root, it is possible that our approximations do not approach the one for which we are looking, but approach a different root (see Figure 4.9.4). This event most often occurs when we do not choose the approximation x_0 close enough to the desired root.
3. The approximations may fail to approach a root entirely. In Example 4.9.3, we provide an example of a function and an initial guess x_0 such that the successive approximations never approach a root because the successive approximations continue to alternate back and forth between two values.

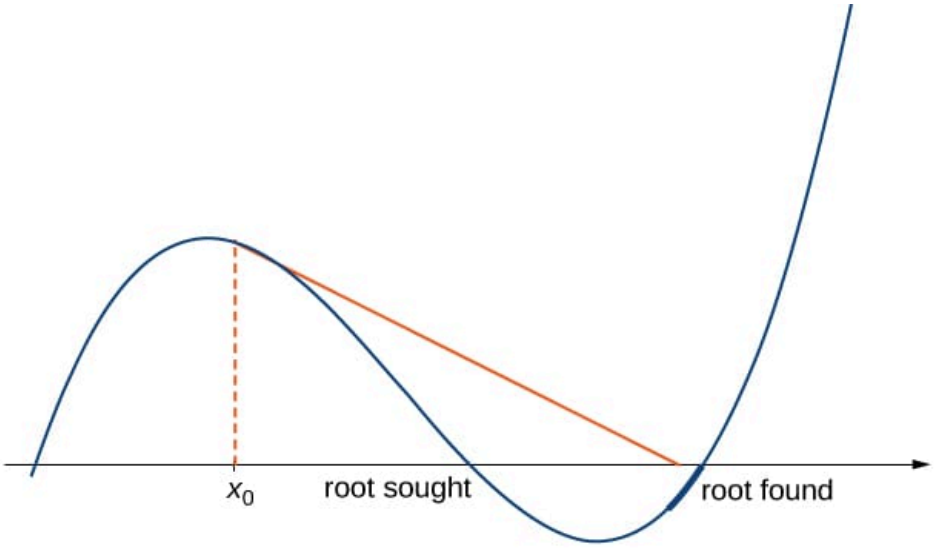


Figure 4.9.4: If the initial guess x_0 is too far from the root sought, it may lead to approximations that approach a different root. Here, the tangent from x_0 is drawn, and even though it is nearer to the root sought, the tangent points to the root found which is to the right of the root sought. The remedy is to pick x_0 closer to the root sought.

Example 4.9.4: When Newton's Method Fails

Consider the function $f(x) = x^3 - 2x + 2$. Let $x_0 = 0$. Show that the sequence $x_1,\ x_2,\ \ldots$ fails to approach a root of f.

Solution

For $f(x) = x^3 - 2x + 2$, the derivative is $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 2$.Therefore,

$$x_1 = x_0 - \frac{f(x_0)}{f'(x_0)} = 0 - \frac{f(0)}{f'(0)} = -\frac{2}{-2} = 1.$$

In the next step,

$$x_2 = x_1 - \frac{f(x_1)}{f'(x_1)} = 1 - \frac{f(1)}{f'(1)} = 1 - \frac{1}{1} = 0.$$

Consequently, the numbers $x_0,\ x_1,\ x_2,\ \ldots$ continue to bounce back and forth between 0 and 1 and never get closer to the root of f which is over the interval $[-2, -1]$ (Figure $4.9.5$). Fortunately, if we choose an initial approximation x_0 closer to the actual root, we can avoid this situation.

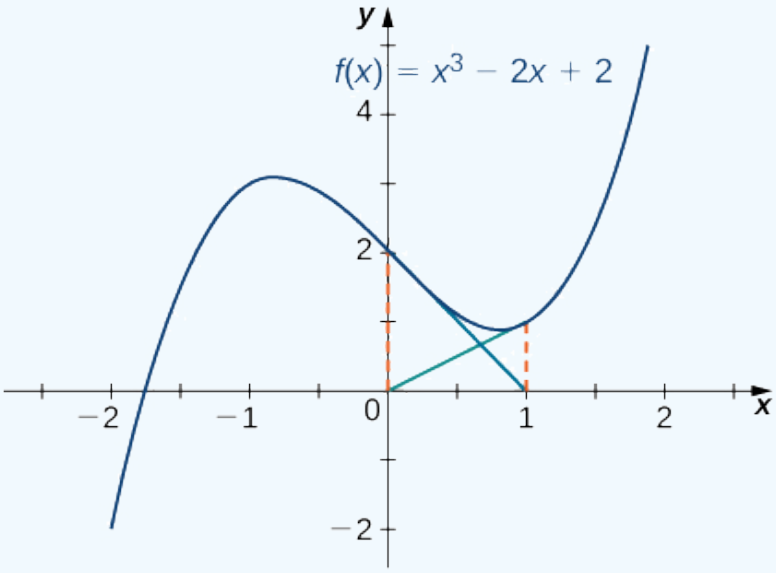


Figure $4.9.5$: Here Newton's Method fails. The function $f(x) = x^3$–$2x + 2$ has one root between –2 and –1, but the approximations continue to alternate between 0 and 1 and never approach the root of f at roughly -1.7.

Example $4.9.5$: Newton's Method Failing

Explain why Newton's Method fails to find the zero with initial guess $x = 2$ for $x^3 - 3x - 1 = 0$.

Solution

- **Video length:** 2 minutes 38 seconds
- **Context:** This video demonstrates how Newton's Method can fail.

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Exercise $4.9.3$

For $f(x) = x^3 - 2x + 2$, let $x_0 = -1.5$ and find x_1 and x_2.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

From Example 4.9.3, we see that Newton's method does not always work. However, when it does work, the sequence of approximations approaches the root very quickly. Discussions of how quickly the sequence of approximations approach a root found using Newton's method are included in texts on numerical analysis.

Other Iterative Processes

As mentioned earlier, Newton's method is a type of iterative process. We now look at an example of a different type of iterative process.

Consider a function F and an initial number x_0. Define the subsequent numbers x_n by the formula $x_n = F(x_{n-1})$. This process is an iterative process that creates a list of numbers $x_0,\ x_1,\ x_2,\ \ldots,\ x_n,\ \ldots$. This list of numbers may approach a finite number x^* as n gets larger, or it may not. In Example 4.9.4, we see an example of a function F and an initial guess x_0 such that the resulting list of numbers approaches a finite value.

Example 4.9.6: Finding a Limit for an Iterative Process

Let $F(x) = \frac{1}{2}x + 4$ and let $x_0 = 0$. For all $n \geq 1$, let $x_n = F(x_{n-1})$. Find the values $x_1,\ x_2,\ x_3,\ x_4,\ x_5$. Make a conjecture about what happens to this list of numbers $x_1,\ x_2,\ x_3,\ \ldots,\ x_n,\ \ldots$ as $n \to \infty$. If the list of numbers $x_1,\ x_2,\ x_3,\ \ldots$ approaches a finite number x^*, then x^* satisfies $x^* = F(x^*)$, and x^* is called a fixed point of F.

Solution

If $x_0 = 0$, then

- $x_1 = \frac{1}{2}(0) + 4 = 4$
- $x_2 = \frac{1}{2}(4) + 4 = 6$
- $x_3 = \frac{1}{2}(6) + 4 = 7$
- $x_4 = \frac{1}{2}(7) + 4 = 7.5$
- $x_5 = \frac{1}{2}(7.5) + 4 = 7.75$
- $x_6 = \frac{1}{2}(7.75) + 4 = 7.875$
- $x_7 = \frac{1}{2}(7.875) + 4 = 7.9375$
- $x_8 = \frac{1}{2}(7.9375) + 4 = 7.96875$
- $x_9 = \frac{1}{2}(7.96875) + 4 = 7.984375.$

From this list, we conjecture that the values x_n approach 8.

Figure 4.9.6 provides a graphical argument that the values approach 8 as $n \to \infty$. Starting at the point (x_0, x_0), we draw a vertical line to the point $(x_0, F(x_0))$. The next number in our list is $x_1 = F(x_0)$. We use x_1 to calculate x_2. Therefore, we draw a horizontal line connecting (x_0, x_1) to the point (x_1, x_1) on the line $y = x$, and then draw a vertical line connecting (x_1, x_1) to the point $(x_1, F(x_1))$. The output $F(x_1)$ becomes x_2. Continuing in this way, we could create an infinite number of line segments. These line segments are trapped between the lines $F(x) = \frac{x}{2} + 4$ and $y = x$. The line segments get closer to the intersection point of these two lines, which occurs when $x = F(x)$. Solving the equation $x = \frac{x}{2} + 4$, we conclude they intersect at $x = 8$. Therefore, our graphical evidence agrees with our numerical evidence that the list of numbers $x_0,\ x_1,\ x_2,\ \ldots$ approaches $x* = 8$ as $n \to \infty$.

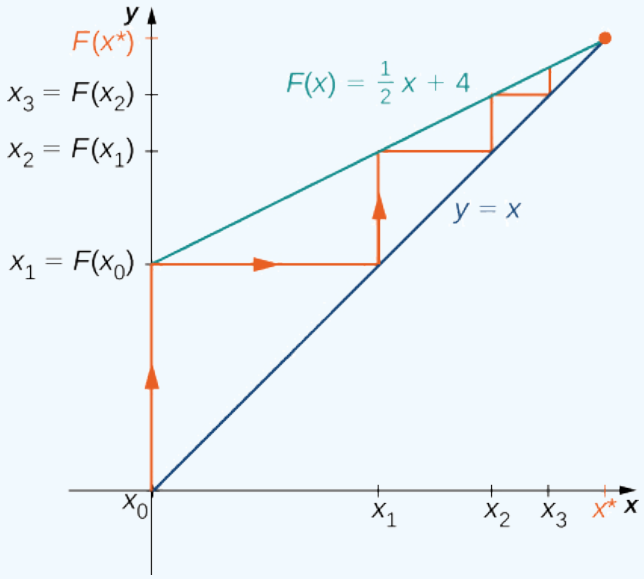


Figure 4.9.6: The function $F(x) = \frac{1}{2}x + 4$ is graphed along with $y = x$. From x_0 at the origin, a line is drawn to the function $F(x)$ at $x_1 = F(x_0)$. Then a line is drawn to the right from here to the line $y = x$, at which point a line is drawn up to $x_2 = F(x_1)$. Then a line is drawn to the right from here to the line $y = x$, at which point a line is drawn up to $x_3 = F(x_2)$. Continuing this process would converge on the two lines' intersection point at $x^* = 8$.

Exercise 4.9.4

Consider the function $F(x) = \frac{1}{3}x + 6$. Let $x_0 = 0$ and let $x_n = F(x_{n-1})$ for $n \geq 2$. Find $x_1,\ x_2,\ x_3,\ x_4,\ x_5$. Make a conjecture about what happens to the list of numbers $x_1,\ x_2,\ x_3,\ \ldots\ x_n,\ \ldots$ as $n \to \infty$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Iterative Processes and Chaos

Iterative processes can yield some very interesting behavior. In this section, we have seen several examples of iterative processes that converge to a fixed point. We also saw in Example 4.9.4 that the iterative process bounced back and forth between two values. We call this kind of behavior a 2-cycle. Iterative processes can converge to cycles with various periodicities, such as 2–cycles, 4–cycles (where the iterative process repeats a sequence of four values), 8-cycles, and so on.

Some iterative processes yield what mathematicians call chaos. In this case, the iterative process jumps from value to value in a seemingly random fashion and never converges or settles into a cycle. Although a complete exploration of **chaos** is beyond the scope of this text, in this project we look at one of the key properties of a chaotic iterative process: sensitive dependence on initial conditions. This property refers to the concept that small changes in initial conditions can generate drastically different behavior in the iterative process.

Probably the best-known example of chaos is the **Mandelbrot set** (see Figure), named after Benoit Mandelbrot (1924–2010), who investigated its properties and helped popularize the field of chaos theory. The Mandelbrot set is usually generated by computer and shows fascinating details on enlargement, including self-replication of the set. Several colorized versions of the set have been shown in museums and can be found online and in popular books on the subject.

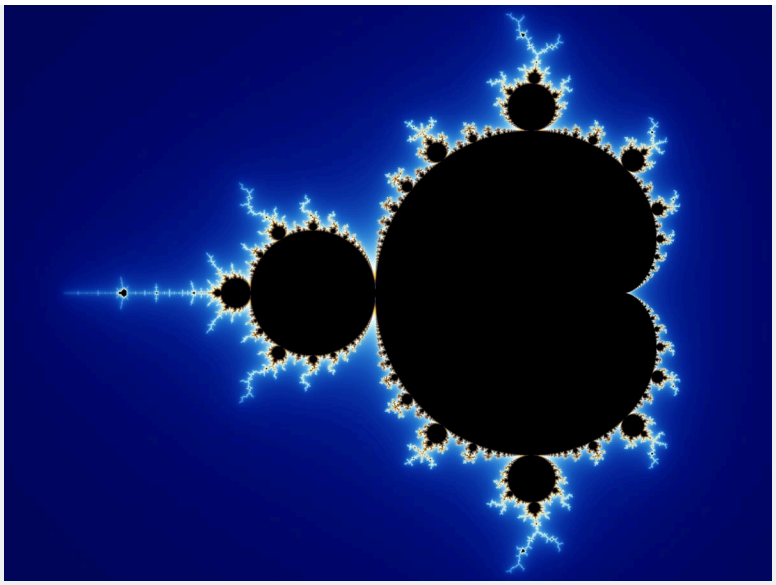


Figure 4.9.7: The Mandelbrot set is a well-known example of a set of points generated by the iterative chaotic behavior of a relatively simple function. This is A vivid fractal image of the Mandelbrot set displayed against a deep blue background. The central shape is a large black figure resembling a heart or beetle, with a large circular bulb on the right connected to smaller circular bulbs on the left and around its edges. Surrounding the black shape are intricate, lightning-like patterns in bright white and electric blue, creating a glowing effect that contrasts sharply with the dark center. The fractal edges exhibit self-similar, branching structures, characteristic of infinite detail. (CC BY-SA 3.0, Created by Wolfgang Beyer with the program Ultra Fractal 3. via Wikimedia Commons)

In this project we use the logistic map

$$f(x) = rx(1-x) \tag{4.9.2}$$

where $x \in [0,1]$ and $r > 0$

as the function in our iterative process. The logistic map is a deceptively simple function; but, depending on the value of r, the resulting iterative process displays some very interesting behavior. It can lead to fixed points, cycles, and even chaos.

To visualize the long-term behavior of the iterative process associated with the logistic map, we will use a tool called a cobweb diagram. As we did with the iterative process we examined earlier in this section, we first draw a vertical line from the point $(x_0, 0)$ to the point $(x_0, f(x_0)) = (x_0, x_1)$. We then draw a horizontal line from that point to the point (x_1, x_1), then draw a vertical line to $(x_1, f(x_1)) = (x_1, x_2)$, and continue the process until the long-term behavior of the system becomes apparent. Figure shows the long-term behavior of the logistic map when $r = 3.55$ and $x_0 = 0.2$. (The first 100 iterations are not plotted.) The long-term behavior of this iterative process is an 8-cycle.

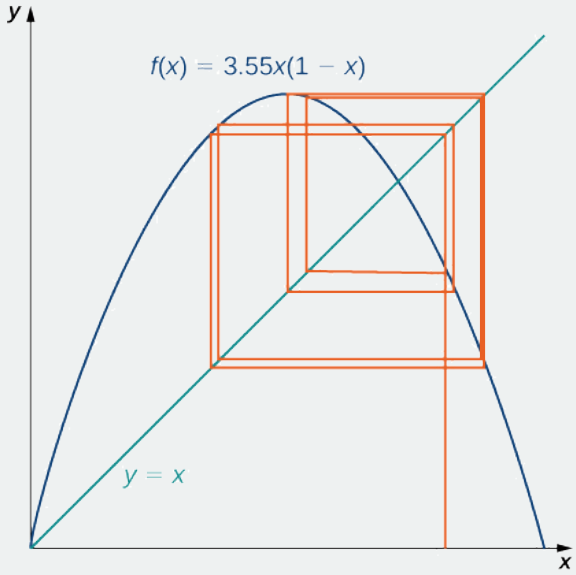


Figure 4.9.8: A cobweb diagram for $f(x) = 3.55x(1 - x)$ is presented here. The sequence of values results in an 8-cycle. In the first quadrant, $f(x) = 3.55x(1–x)$ is graphed as is $y = x$. From some point on the x axis, a line is drawn up to the line $y = x$, at which point it turns to be horizontal and continues until it touches the outside edge of $f(x)$, at which point it turns again to be vertical until it each the line $y = x$. This process continues a number of times and creates an interesting series of boxes.

1. Let $r = 0.5$ and choose $x_0 = 0.2$. Either by hand or by using a computer, calculate the first 10 values in the sequence. Does the sequence appear to converge? If so, to what value? Does it result in a cycle? If so, what kind of cycle (for example, 2 –cycle, 4–cycle.)?
2. What happens when $r = 2$?
3. For $r = 3.2$ and $r = 3.5$, calculate the first 100 sequence values. Generate a cobweb diagram for each iterative process. (Several free applets are available online that generate cobweb diagrams for the logistic map.) What is the long-term behavior in each of these cases?
4. Now let $r = 4$. Calculate the first 100 sequence values and generate a cobweb diagram. What is the long-term behavior in this case?
5. Repeat the process for $r = 4$, but let $x_0 = 0.201$. How does this behavior compare with the behavior for $x_0 = 0.2$?

Key Concepts

- Newton's method approximates roots of $f(x) = 0$ by starting with an initial approximation x_0, then uses tangent lines to the graph of f to create a sequence of approximations $x_1,\ x_2,\ x_3,\ \ldots$.
- Typically, Newton's method is an efficient method for finding a particular root. In certain cases, Newton's method fails to work because the list of numbers $x_0,\ x_1,\ x_2,\ \ldots$ does not approach a finite value or it approaches a value other than the root sought.
- Any process in which a list of numbers $x_0,\ x_1,\ x_2,\ \ldots$ is generated by defining an initial number x_0 and defining the subsequent numbers by the equation $x_n = F(x_{n-1})$ for some function F is an iterative process. Newton's method is an example of an iterative process, where the function $F(x) = x - \left[\frac{f(x)}{f'(x)}\right]$ for a given function f.

Glossary

Iterative process
process in which a list of numbers $x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3 \ldots$ is generated by starting with a number x_0 and defining $x_n = F(x_{n-1})$ for $n \geq 1$

Newton's method
method for approximating roots of $f(x) = 0$; using an initial guess x_0; each subsequent approximation is defined by the equation $x_n = x_{n-1} - \frac{f(x_{n-1})}{f'(x_{n-1})}$

Contributors and Attributions

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Answers

Exercise 4.9.1

Use Equation 4.9.1.

Exercise 4.9.1

$x_1 \approx 0.33333333$
$x_2 \approx 0.347222222$

Exercise 4.9.2

For $f(x) = x^2 - 3$, Equation 4.9.1 reduces to $x_n = \frac{x_{n-1}}{2} + \frac{3}{2x_{n-1}}$.

Exercise 4.9.2

$x_1 = 2$
$x_2 = 1.75$

Exercise 4.9.3

Use Equation 4.9.1.

Exercise 4.9.3

$x_1 \approx -1.842105263$
$x_2 \approx -1.772826920$

Exercise 4.9.4

Consider the point where the lines $y = x$ and $y = F(x)$ intersect.

Exercise 4.9.4

$x_1 = 6,\ \ x_2 = 8,\ \ x_3 = \frac{26}{3},\ \ x_4 = \frac{80}{9},\ \ x_5 = \frac{242}{27};\ \ x^* = 9$

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4.9E: Exercises for Section 4.9

Exercises 1 - 6

Write Newton's formula as $x_{n+1} = F(x_n)$ for solving.

1. $f(x) = x^2$

   Answer

   $$F(x_n) = x_n - \frac{x_n^2}{2x_n}$$

2. $f(x) = x^2 + 1$
3. $f(x) = x^3 + 2x + 1$

   Answer

   $$F(x_n) = x_n - \frac{x_n^3 + 2x_n + 1}{3x_n^2 + 2}$$

4. $f(x) = \sin x$
5. $f(x) = e^x$

   Answer

   $$F(x_n) = x_n - \frac{e^{x_n}}{e^{x_n}}$$

6. $f(x) = x^3 + 3xe^x$

Exercises 7 - 9

Solve $f(x) = 0$ using the iteration $x_{n+1} = x_{n-c}f(x_n)$, which differs slightly from Newton's method. Find a c that works and a c that fails to converge, with the exception of $c = 0$.

7. $f(x) = x^2 - 4$, with $x_0 = 0$

   Answer

   $|c| > 0.5$ fails, $|c| \leq 0.5$ works

8. $f(x) = x^2 - 4x + 3$, with $x_0 = 2$
9. What is the value of "c" for Newton's method?

   Answer

   $$c = \frac{1}{f'(x_n)}$$

Exercises 10 - 17

Compute x_1 and x_2 using the specified iterative method. Start at

a. $x_0 = 0.6$ **and**

b. $x_0 = 2$.

10. $x_{n+1} = x_n^2 - \frac{1}{2}$
11. $x_{n+1} = 2x_n(1 - x_n)$

Answer

a. $x_1 = \frac{12}{25}, \quad x_2 = \frac{312}{625}$;
b. $x_1 = -4, \quad x_2 = -40$

12. $x_{n+1} = \sqrt{x_n}$
13. $x_{n+1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x_n}}$

Answer

a. $x_1 = 1.291, \quad x_2 = 0.8801$;
b. $x_1 = 0.7071, \quad x_2 = 1.189$

14. $x_{n+1} = 3x_n(1 - x_n)$
15. $x_{n+1} = x_n^2 + x_{n-2}$

Answer

a. $x_1 = -\frac{26}{25}, \quad x_2 = -\frac{1224}{625}$;
b. $x_1 = 4, \quad x_2 = 18$

16. $x_{n+1} = \frac{1}{2}x_n - 1$
17. $x_{n+1} = |x_n|$

Answer

a. $x_1 = \frac{6}{10}, \quad x_2 = \frac{6}{10}$;
b. $x_1 = 2, \quad x_2 = 2$

Exercises 18 - 27

Solve to four decimal places using Newton's method and a computer or calculator. Choose any initial guess x_0 that is not the exact root.

18. $x^2 - 10 = 0$
19. $x^4 - 100 = 0$

Answer

3.1623 or -3.1623

20. $x^2 - x = 0$
21. $x^3 - x = 0$

Answer

0, -1 or 1

22. $x + 5\cos x = 0$
23. $x + \tan x = 0$, choose $x_0 \in (-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$

Answer

0

24. $\dfrac{1}{1-x} = 2$
25. $1 + x + x^2 + x^3 + x^4 = 2$

Answer

0.5188 or -1.2906

26. $x^3 + (x+1)^3 = 10^3$
27. $x = \sin^2(x)$

Answer

0

Exercises 28 - 31

Use Newton's method to find the fixed points of the function where $f(x) = x$; round to three decimals.

28. $\sin x$
29. $\tan x$ on $x = \left(\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}\right)$

Answer

4.493

30. $e^x - 2$
31. $\ln(x) + 2$

Answer

$0.159, \quad 3.146$

Exercises 32 - 33

Newton's method can be used to find maxima and minima of functions in addition to the roots. In this case apply Newton's method to the derivative $f'(x)$ to find its roots, instead of the original function. Consider the formulation of the method.

32. To find candidates for maxima and minima, we need to find the critical points $f'(x) = 0$. Show that to solve for the critical points of a function $f(x)$, Newton's method is given by $x_{n+1} = x_n - \dfrac{f'(x_n)}{f''(x_n)}$.
33. What additional restrictions are necessary on the function f?

Answer

We need f to be twice continuously differentiable.

Exercises 34 - 41

Use Newton's method to find the location of the local minima and/or maxima of the following functions; round to three decimals.

34. Minimum of $f(x) = x^2 + 2x + 4$
35. Minimum of $f(x) = 3x^3 + 2x^2 - 16$

Answer

$x = 0$

36. Minimum of $f(x) = x^2 e^x$
37. Maximum of $f(x) = x + \dfrac{1}{x}$

Answer

$x = -1$

38. Maximum of $f(x) = x^3 + 10x^2 + 15x - 2$
39. Maximum of $f(x) = \dfrac{\sqrt{x} - \sqrt[3]{x}}{x}$

Answer

$x = 5.619$

40. Minimum of $f(x) = x^2 \sin x$, closest non-zero minimum to $x = 0$
41. Minimum of $f(x) = x^4 + x^3 + 3x^2 + 12x + 6$

Answer

$x = -1.326$

Exercises 42 - 45

Use the specified method to solve the equation. If it does not work, explain why it does not work.

42. Newton's method, $x^2 + 2 = 0$
43. Newton's method, $0 = e^x$

Answer

There is no solution to the equation.

44. Newton's method, $0 = 1 + x^2$ starting at $x_0 = 0$
45. Solving $x_{n+1} = -x_n^3$ starting at $x_0 = -1$

Answer

It enters a cycle.

Exercises 46 - 50

Use the *secant method*, an alternative iterative method to Newton's method. The formula is given by

$$x_n = x_{n-1} - f(x_{n-1}) \frac{x_{n-1} - x_{n-2}}{f(x_{n-1}) - f(x_{n-2})}.$$

46. a root to $0 = x^2 - x - 3$ accurate to three decimal places.
47. Find a root to $0 = \sin x + 3x$ accurate to four decimal places.

Answer

0

48. Find a root to $0 = e^x - 2$ accurate to four decimal places.
49. Find a root to $\ln(x + 2) = \frac{1}{2}$ accurate to four decimal places.

Answer

-0.3513

50. Why would you use the secant method over Newton's method? What are the necessary restrictions on f?

Exercises 51 - 55

Use both Newton's method and the secant method to calculate a root for the following equations. Use a calculator or computer to calculate how many iterations of each are needed to reach within three decimal places of the exact answer. For the secant method, use the first guess from Newton's method.

51. $f(x) = x^2 + 2x + 1, \quad x_0 = 1$

Answer

Newton: 11 iterations, secant: 16 iterations

52. $f(x) = x^2, \quad x_0 = 1$
53. $f(x) = \sin x, \quad x_0 = 1$

Answer

Newton: three iterations, secant: six iterations

54. $f(x) = e^x - 1, \quad x_0 = 2$
55. $f(x) = x^3 + 2x + 4, \quad x_0 = 0$

Answer

Newton: five iterations, secant: eight iterations

Exercises 56 - 57

Consider Kepler's equation regarding planetary orbits, $M = E - \varepsilon \sin(E)$, where M is the mean anomaly, E is eccentric anomaly, and ε measures eccentricity.

56. Use Newton's method to solve for the eccentric anomaly E when the mean anomaly $M = \frac{\pi}{3}$ and the eccentricity of the orbit $\varepsilon = 0.25$; round to three decimals.
57. Use Newton's method to solve for the eccentric anomaly E when the mean anomaly $M = \frac{3\pi}{2}$ and the eccentricity of the orbit $\varepsilon = 0.8$; round to three decimals.

Answer

$E = 4.071$

Exercises 58 - 59

Consider a bank investment. The initial investment is $\$10,000$. After 25 years, the investment has tripled to $\$30,000$.

58. Use Newton's method to determine the interest rate if the interest was compounded annually.
59. Use Newton's method to determine the interest rate if the interest was compounded continuously.

Answer

4.394

60. The cost for printing a book can be given by the equation $C(x) = 1000 + 12x + \frac{1}{2}x^{2/3}$. Use Newton's method to find the break-even point if the printer sells each book for $\$20$.

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4.10: Antiderivatives

Learning Objectives

- Find the general antiderivative of a given function.
- Explain the terms and notation used for an indefinite integral.
- State the power rule for integrals.
- Use antidifferentiation to solve simple initial-value problems.

At this point, we have seen how to calculate derivatives of many functions and have been introduced to a variety of their applications. We now ask a question that turns this process around: Given a function f, how do we find a function with the derivative f and why would we be interested in such a function?

We answer the first part of this question by defining antiderivatives. The antiderivative of a function f is a function with a derivative f. Why are we interested in antiderivatives? The need for antiderivatives arises in many situations, and we look at various examples throughout the remainder of the text. Here we examine one specific example that involves rectilinear motion. In our examination in Derivatives of rectilinear motion, we showed that given a position function $s(t)$ of an object, then its velocity function $v(t)$ is the derivative of $s(t)$—that is, $v(t) = s\,'(t)$. Furthermore, the acceleration $a(t)$ is the derivative of the velocity $v(t)$ —that is, $a(t) = v\,'(t) = s''(t)$. Now suppose we are given an acceleration function a, but not the velocity function v or the position function s. Since $a(t) = v\,'(t)$, determining the velocity function requires us to find an antiderivative of the acceleration function. Then, since $v(t) = s\,'(t)$, determining the position function requires us to find an antiderivative of the velocity function. Rectilinear motion is just one case in which the need for antiderivatives arises. We will see many more examples throughout the remainder of the text. For now, let's look at the terminology and notation for antiderivatives, and determine the antiderivatives for several types of functions. We examine various techniques for finding antiderivatives of more complicated functions later in the text (Introduction to Techniques of Integration).

The Reverse of Differentiation

At this point, we know how to find derivatives of various functions. We now ask the opposite question. Given a function f, how can we find a function with derivative f? If we can find a function F derivative f, we call F an antiderivative of f.

Definition: Antiderivative

A function F is an **antiderivative** of the function f if

$$F'(x) = f(x)$$

for all x in the domain of f.

Consider the function $f(x) = 2x$. Knowing the power rule of differentiation, we conclude that $F(x) = x^2$ is an antiderivative of f since $F\,'(x) = 2x$.

Are there any other antiderivatives of f?

Yes; since the derivative of any constant C is zero, $x^2 + C$ is also an antiderivative of $2x$. Therefore, $x^2 + 5$ and $x^2 - \sqrt{2}$ are also antiderivatives.

Are there any others that are not of the form $x^2 + C$ for some constant C?

The answer is no. From Corollary 2 of the Mean Value Theorem, we know that if F and G are differentiable functions such that $F\,'(x) = G\,'(x)$, then $F(x) - G(x) = C$ for some constant C. This fact leads to the following important theorem.

Theorem: General Form of an Antiderivative

Let F be an antiderivative of f over an interval I. Then,

I. for each constant C, the function $F(x)+C$ is also an antiderivative of f over I;
II. if G is an antiderivative of f over I, there is a constant C for which $G(x)=F(x)+C$ over I.

In other words, the most general form of the antiderivative of f over I is $F(x)+C$.

We use this fact and our knowledge of derivatives to find all the antiderivatives for several functions.

Example 4.10.1: Finding Antiderivatives

For each of the following functions, find all antiderivatives.

a. $f(x)=3x^2$
b. $f(x)=\dfrac{1}{x}$
c. $f(x)=\cos x$
d. $f(x)=e^x$

Solution:

a. Because

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^3\right)=3x^2$$

then $F(x)=x^3$ is an antiderivative of $3x^2$. Therefore, every antiderivative of $3x^2$ is of the form x^3+C for some constant C, and every function of the form x^3+C is an antiderivative of $3x^2$.

b. Let $f(x)=\ln|x|$. For $x>0, f(x)=\ln(x)$ and

$$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\ln x\Big)=\frac{1}{x}.$$

For$x<0, f(x)=\ln(-x)$ and

$$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\ln(-x)\Big)=-\frac{1}{-x}=\frac{1}{x}.$$

Therefore,

$$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(\ln|x|\Big)=\frac{1}{x}.$$

Thus, $F(x)=\ln|x|$ is an antiderivative of $\dfrac{1}{x}$. Therefore, every antiderivative of $\dfrac{1}{x}$ is of the form $\ln|x|+C$ for some constant C and every function of the form $\ln|x|+C$ is an antiderivative of $\dfrac{1}{x}$.

c. We have

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

so $F(x)=\sin x$ is an antiderivative of $\cos x$. Therefore, every antiderivative of $\cos x$ is of the form $\sin x+C$ for some constant C and every function of the form $\sin x+C$ is an antiderivative of $\cos x$.

d. Since

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(e^x\right) = e^x,$$

then $F(x) = e^x$ is an antiderivative of e^x. Therefore, every antiderivative of e^x is of the form $e^x + C$ for some constant C and every function of the form $e^x + C$ is an antiderivative of e^x.

Exercise 4.10.1

Find all antiderivatives of $f(x) = \sin x$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Indefinite Integrals

We now look at the formal notation used to represent antiderivatives and examine some of their properties. These properties allow us to find antiderivatives of more complicated functions. Given a function f, we use the notation $f\,'(x)$ or $\frac{df}{dx}$ to denote the derivative of f. Here we introduce notation for antiderivatives. If F is an antiderivative of f, we say that $F(x) + C$ is the most general antiderivative of f and write

$$\int f(x)\,dx = F(x) + C.$$

The symbol $\int$ is called an integral sign, and $\int f(x)\ dx$ is called the indefinite integral of f.

Definition: Indefinite Integrals

Given a function f, the **indefinite integral** of f, denoted

$$\int f(x)\,dx, \tag{4.10.1}$$

is the most general antiderivative of f. If F is an antiderivative of f, then

$$\int f(x)\,dx = F(x) + C. \tag{4.10.2}$$

The expression $f(x)$ is called the integrand and the variable x is the variable of integration.

Given the terminology introduced in this definition, the act of finding the antiderivatives of a function f is usually referred to as integrating f.

For a function f and an antiderivative F, the functions $F(x) + C$, where C is any real number, is often referred to as the family of antiderivatives of f. For example, since x^2 is an antiderivative of $2x$ and any antiderivative of $2x$ is of the form $x^2 + C$, we write

$$\int 2x\,dx = x^2 + C.$$

The collection of all functions of the form $x^2 + C$, where C is any real number, is known as the family of antiderivatives of $2x$. Figure $4.10.1$ shows a graph of this family of antiderivatives.

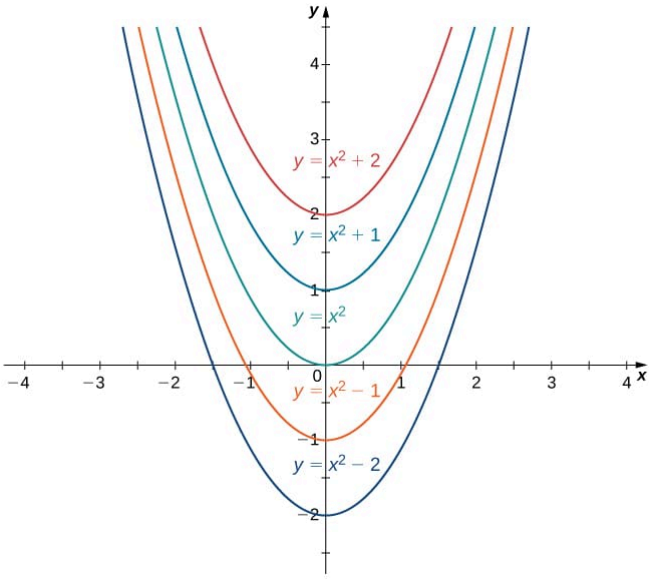


Figure 4.10.1: The family of antiderivatives of $2x$ consists of all functions of the form $x^2 + C$, where C is any real number. The following are graphed - each an upward opening parabola - from bottom to top: $y = x^2 - 2, y = x^2 - 1, y = x^2, y = x^2 + 1, y = x^2 + 2$.

For some functions, evaluating indefinite integrals follows directly from properties of derivatives. For example, for $n \neq -1$,

$$\int x^n \, dx = \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} + C,$$

which comes directly from

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1}\right) = (n+1)\frac{x^n}{n+1} = x^n.$$

This fact is known as the power rule for integrals.

Theorem: Power Rule for Integrals

For $n \neq -1$,

$$\int x^n \, dx = \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} + C. \tag{4.10.3}$$

Evaluating indefinite integrals for some other functions is also a straightforward calculation. The following table lists the indefinite integrals for several common functions. A more complete list appears in Appendix B.

Table 4.10.1: *Integration Formulas*

Differentiation Formula	Indefinite Integral
$\frac{d}{dx}\left(k\right) = 0$	$\int k \, dx = \int kx^0 \, dx = kx + C$
$\frac{d}{dx}\left(x^n\right) = nx^{n-1}$	$\int x^n \, dx = \frac{x^{n+1}}{n+1} + C$ for $n \neq -1$
$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\ln\lvert x\rvert\right) = \frac{1}{x}$	$\int \frac{1}{x} \, dx = \ln\lvert x\rvert + C$
$\frac{d}{dx}\left(e^x\right) = e^x$	$\int e^x \, dx = e^x + C$
$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\sin x\right) = \cos x$	$\int \cos x \, dx = \sin x + C$

Differentiation Formula	Indefinite Integral
$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\cos x\right) = -\sin x$	$\int \sin x \; dx = -\cos x + C$
$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\tan x\right) = \sec^2 x$	$\int \sec^2 x \; dx = \tan x + C$
$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\csc x\right) = -\csc x \cot x$	$\int \csc x \cot x \; dx = -\csc x + C$
$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\sec x\right) = \sec x \tan x$	$\int \sec x \tan x \; dx = \sec x + C$
$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\cot x\right) = -\csc^2 x$	$\int \csc^2 x \; dx = -\cot x + C$
$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\sin^{-1} x\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$	$\int \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}} \; dx = \sin^{-1} x + C$
$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\tan^{-1} x\right) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$	$\int \frac{1}{1+x^2} \; dx = \tan^{-1} x + C$
$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\sec^{-1} \lvert x\rvert\right) = \frac{1}{x\sqrt{x^2-1}}$	$\int \frac{1}{x\sqrt{x^2-1}} \; dx = \sec^{-1} \lvert x\rvert + C$

From the definition of indefinite integral of f, we know

$$\int f(x)\,dx = F(x) + C$$

if and only if F is an antiderivative of f.

Therefore, when claiming that

$$\int f(x)\,dx = F(x) + C$$

it is important to check whether this statement is correct by verifying that $F\,'(x) = f(x)$.

Example 4.10.2: Verifying an Indefinite Integral

Each of the following statements is of the form $\int f(x) \; dx = F(x) + C$. Verify that each statement is correct by showing that $F\,'(x) = f(x)$.

a. $\int \left(x + e^x\right) \; dx = \frac{x^2}{2} + e^x + C$

b. $\int xe^x \; dx = xe^x - e^x + C$

Solution:

a. Since

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{x^2}{2} + e^x + C\right) = x + e^x,$$

the statement

$$\int \left(x + e^x\right) dx = \frac{x^2}{2} + e^x + C$$

is correct.

Note that we are verifying an indefinite integral for a sum. Furthermore, $\frac{x^2}{2}$ and e^x are antiderivatives of x and e^x, respectively, and the sum of the antiderivatives is an antiderivative of the sum. We discuss this fact again later in this section.

b. Using the product rule, we see that

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(xe^x - e^x + C\right) = e^x + xe^x - e^x = xe^x.$$

Therefore, the statement

$$\int xe^x\,dx = xe^x - e^x + C$$

is correct.

Note that we are verifying an indefinite integral for a product. The antiderivative $xe^x - e^x$ is not a product of the antiderivatives. Furthermore, the product of antiderivatives, $x^2e^x/2$ is not an antiderivative of xe^x since

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{x^2e^x}{2}\right) = xe^x + \frac{x^2e^x}{2} \neq xe^x.$$

In general, the product of antiderivatives is not an antiderivative of a product.

Exercise 4.10.2

Verify that $\int x\cos x\quad dx = x\sin x + \cos x + C.$

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

In Table 4.10.1, we listed the indefinite integrals for many elementary functions. Let's now turn our attention to evaluating indefinite integrals for more complicated functions. For example, consider finding an antiderivative of a sum $f + g$. In Example 4.10.2a we showed that an antiderivative of the sum $x + e^x$ is given by the sum $\frac{x^2}{2} + e^x$—that is, an antiderivative of a sum is given by a sum of antiderivatives. This result was not specific to this example. In general, if F and G are antiderivatives of any functions f and g, respectively, then

$$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(F(x) + G(x)\Big) = F\,'(x) + G\,'(x) = f(x) + g(x).$$

Therefore, $F(x) + G(x)$ is an antiderivative of $f(x) + g(x)$ and we have

$$\int \Big(f(x) + g(x)\Big)\,dx = F(x) + G(x) + C.$$

Similarly,

$$\int \Big(f(x) - g(x)\Big)\,dx = F(x) - G(x) + C.$$

In addition, consider the task of finding an antiderivative of $kf(x)$, where k is any real number. Since

$$\frac{d}{dx}\Big(kf(x)\Big) = k\frac{d}{dx}\Big(F(x)\Big) = kF'(x)$$

for any real number k, we conclude that

$$\int kf(x)\,dx = kF(x) + C.$$

These properties are summarized next.

Theorem: Properties of Indefinite Integrals

Let F and G be antiderivatives of f and g, respectively, and let k be any real number.

Sums and Differences

$$\int \big(f(x) \pm g(x)\big)\,dx = F(x) \pm G(x) + C \tag{4.10.4}$$

Constant Multiples

$$\int kf(x)\,dx = kF(x) + C \tag{4.10.5}$$

From this theorem, we can evaluate any integral involving a sum, difference, or constant multiple of functions with antiderivatives that are known. Evaluating integrals involving products, quotients, or compositions is more complicated. (See Example $4.10.2b$ for an example involving an antiderivative of a product.) We look at and address integrals involving these more complicated functions in Introduction to Integration. In the next example, we examine how to use this theorem to calculate the indefinite integrals of several functions.

Example $4.10.3$: Evaluating Indefinite Integrals

Evaluate each of the following indefinite integrals:

a. $\displaystyle\int \left(5x^3 - 7x^2 + 3x + 4\right)\,dx$

b. $\displaystyle\int \frac{x^2 + 4\sqrt[3]{x}}{x}\,dx$

c. $\displaystyle\int \frac{4}{1+x^2}\,dx$

d. $\displaystyle\int \tan x \cos x\,dx$

Solution:

a. Using Note, we can integrate each of the four terms in the integrand separately. We obtain

$$\int \left(5x^3 - 7x^2 + 3x + 4\right)\,dx = \int 5x^3\,dx - \int 7x^2\,dx + \int 3x\,dx + \int 4\,dx.$$

From the second part of Note, each coefficient can be written in front of the integral sign, which gives

$$\int 5x^3\,dx - \int 7x^2\,dx + \int 3x\,dx + \int 4\,dx = 5\int x^3\,dx - 7\int x^2\,dx + 3\int x\,dx + 4\int 1\,dx.$$

Using the power rule for integrals, we conclude that

$$\int \left(5x^3 - 7x^2 + 3x + 4\right)\,dx = \frac{5}{4}x^4 - \frac{7}{3}x^3 + \frac{3}{2}x^2 + 4x + C.$$

b. Rewrite the integrand as

$$\frac{x^2 + 4\sqrt[3]{x}}{x} = \frac{x^2}{x} + \frac{4\sqrt[3]{x}}{x} = 0.$$

Then, to evaluate the integral, integrate each of these terms separately. Using the power rule, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\int \left(x + \frac{4}{x^{2/3}}\right)\, dx &= \int x\, dx + 4\int x^{-2/3}\, dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2}x^2 + 4\frac{1}{\left(\frac{-2}{3}\right)+1}x^{(-2/3)+1} + C \\ &= \frac{1}{2}x^2 + 12x^{1/3} + C.\end{aligned}$$

c. Using Note, write the integral as

$$4\int \frac{1}{1+x^2}\, dx.$$

Then, use the fact that $\tan^{-1}(x)$ is an antiderivative of $\frac{1}{1+x^2}$ to conclude that

$$\int \frac{4}{1+x^2}\, dx = 4\tan^{-1}(x) + C.$$

d. Rewrite the integrand as

$$\tan x \cos x = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} \cdot \cos x = \sin x.$$

Therefore,

$$\int \tan x \cos x\, dx = \int \sin x\, dx = -\cos x + C.$$

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video length:** 1 minute 57 seconds
- **Context:** This video demonstrates how to find the indefinite integral $\int \left(\sqrt{x} - \frac{2}{x^2}\right) dx$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 4.10.3

Evaluate $\int \left(4x^3 - 5x^2 + x - 7\right)\, dx$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Initial-Value Problems

We look at techniques for integrating a large variety of functions involving products, quotients, and compositions later in the text. Here we turn to one common use for antiderivatives that arises often in many applications: solving differential equations.

A differential equation is an equation that relates an unknown function and one or more of its derivatives. The equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x) \tag{4.10.6}$$

is a simple example of a differential equation. Solving this equation means finding a function y with a derivative f. Therefore, the solutions of Equation 4.10.6 are the antiderivatives of f. If F is one antiderivative of f, every function of the form $y = F(x) + C$ is a solution of that differential equation. For example, the solutions of

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x^2$$

are given by

$$y = \int 6x^2\,dx = 2x^3 + C.$$

Sometimes we are interested in determining whether a particular solution curve passes through a certain point (x_0, y_0) —that is, $y(x_0) = y_0$. The problem of finding a function y that satisfies a differential equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x)$$

with the additional condition

$$y(x_0) = y_0$$

is an example of an initial-value problem. The condition $y(x_0) = y_0$ is known as an initial condition. For example, looking for a function y that satisfies the differential equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x^2$$

and the initial condition

$$y(1) = 5$$

is an example of an initial-value problem. Since the solutions of the differential equation are $y = 2x^3 + C$, to find a function y that also satisfies the initial condition, we need to find C such that $y(1) = 2(1)^3 + C = 5$. From this equation, we see that $C = 3$, and we conclude that $y = 2x^3 + 3$ is the solution of this initial-value problem as shown in the following graph (Figure 4.10.2).

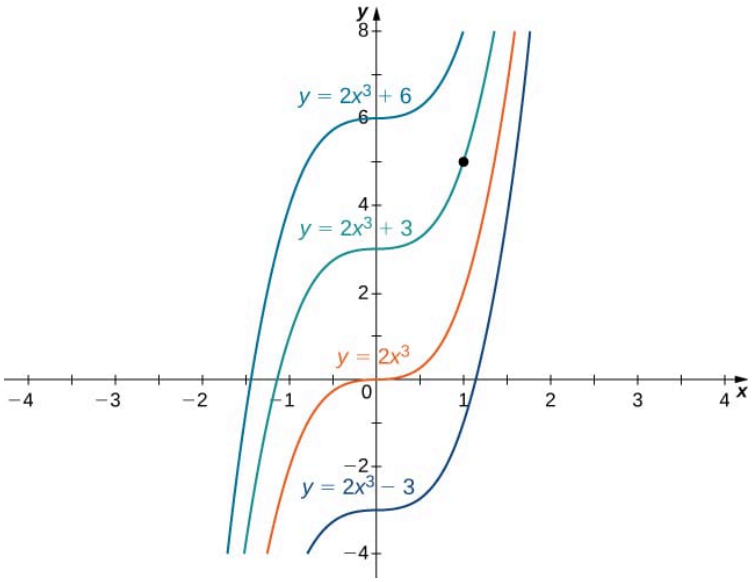


Figure 4.10.2: Some of the solution curves of the differential equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x^2$ are displayed. They are - from bottom to top: $y = 2x^3 - 3$, $y = 2x^3$, $y = 2x^3 + 3$, $y = 2x^3 + 6$. Each is a vertical shift of the others. Of these, the function $y = 2x^3 + 3$ satisfies the differential equation and the initial condition $y(1) = 5$.

Example 4.10.4: Solving an Initial-Value Problem

Solve the initial-value problem

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \sin x, \quad y(0) = 5.$$

Solution

First we need to solve the differential equation. If $\frac{dy}{dx} = \sin x$, then

$$y = \int \sin(x)\, dx = -\cos x + C.$$

Next we need to look for a solution y that satisfies the initial condition. The initial condition $y(0) = 5$ means we need a constant C such that $-\cos x + C = 5$. Therefore,

$$C = 5 + \cos(0) = 6.$$

The solution of the initial-value problem is $y = -\cos x + 6$.

Exercise 4.10.4

Solve the initial value problem $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^{-2}, \quad y(1) = 2.$

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Initial-value problems arise in many applications. Next we consider a problem in which a driver applies the brakes in a car. We are interested in how long it takes for the car to stop. Recall that the velocity function $v(t)$ is the derivative of a position function $s(t)$, and the acceleration $a(t)$ is the derivative of the velocity function. In earlier examples in the text, we could calculate the velocity from the position and then compute the acceleration from the velocity. In the next example we work the other way around. Given an acceleration function, we calculate the velocity function. We then use the velocity function to determine the position function.

Example 4.10.5:

A car is traveling at the rate of 88 ft/sec $(60$ mph) when the brakes are applied. The car begins decelerating at a constant rate of 15 ft/sec^2.

a. How many seconds elapse before the car stops?
b. How far does the car travel during that time?

Solution

a. First we introduce variables for this problem. Let t be the time (in seconds) after the brakes are first applied. Let $a(t)$ be the acceleration of the car (in feet per seconds squared) at time t. Let $v(t)$ be the velocity of the car (in feet per second) at time t. Let $s(t)$ be the car's position (in feet) beyond the point where the brakes are applied at time t.

The car is traveling at a rate of 88 ft/sec. Therefore, the initial velocity is $v(0) = 88$ ft/sec. Since the car is decelerating, the acceleration is

$$a(t) = -15 \text{ ft/sec}^2.$$

The acceleration is the derivative of the velocity,

$$v\,'(t) = 15.$$

Therefore, we have an initial-value problem to solve:

$$v\,'(t) = -15, \quad v(0) = 88.$$

Integrating, we find that

$$v(t) = -15t + C.$$

Since $v(0) = 88, C = 88.$ Thus, the velocity function is

$$v(t) = -15t + 88.$$

To find how long it takes for the car to stop, we need to find the time t such that the velocity is zero. Solving $-15t + 88 = 0,$ we obtain $t = \dfrac{88}{15}$ sec.

b. To find how far the car travels during this time, we need to find the position of the car after $\dfrac{88}{15}$ sec. We know the velocity $v(t)$ is the derivative of the position $s(t)$. Consider the initial position to be $s(0) = 0$. Therefore, we need to solve the initial-value problem

$$s\,'(t) = -15t + 88, \quad s(0) = 0.$$

Integrating, we have

$$s(t) = -\frac{15}{2}t^2 + 88t + C.$$

Since $s(0) = 0$, the constant is $C = 0$. Therefore, the position function is

$$s(t) = -\frac{15}{2}t^2 + 88t.$$

After $t = \frac{88}{15}$ sec, the position is $s\left(\frac{88}{15}\right) \approx 258.133$ ft.

Exercise 4.10.5

Suppose the car is traveling at the rate of 44 ft/sec. How long does it take for the car to stop? How far will the car travel?

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- If F is an antiderivative of f, then every antiderivative of f is of the form $F(x) + C$ for some constant C.
- Solving the initial-value problem $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = f(x), y(x_0) = y_0$ requires us first to find the set of antiderivatives of f and then to look for the particular antiderivative that also satisfies the initial condition.

Glossary

Antiderivative

A function F such that $F\,'(x) = f(x)$ for all x in the domain of f is an antiderivative of f

Indefinite integral

The most general antiderivative of $f(x)$ is the indefinite integral of f; we use the notation $\int f(x)\ dx$ to denote the indefinite integral of f

Initial value problem

A problem that requires finding a function y that satisfies the differential equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x)$ together with the initial condition $y(x_0) = y_0$

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Answers

Exercise 4.10.1

What function has a derivative of $\sin x$?

Exercise 4.10.1

$F(x) = -\cos x + C$

Exercise 4.10.2

Calculate $\frac{d}{dx}\Big(x\sin x + \cos x + C\Big)$.

Exercise 4.10.2

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

Exercise 4.10.3

Integrate each term in the integrand separately, making use of the power rule.

Exercise 4.10.3

$\int \left(4x^3 - 5x^2 + x - 7\right)\ dx = \quad x^4 - \frac{5}{3}x^3 + \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 7x + C$

Exercise 4.10.4

Find all antiderivatives of $f(x) = 3x^{-2}$.

Exercise 4.10.4

$y = -\frac{3}{x} + 5$

Exercise 4.10.5

$v(t) = -15t + 44$.

Exercise 4.10.5

2.93 sec, 64.5 ft

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4.10E: Exercises for Section 4.10

Exercises 1 - 21

Find the antiderivative $F(x)$ of each function $f(x)$.

1. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{x^3}$

   Answer

   $$F(x) = \frac{1}{-2x^2} + C$$

2. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{x^2} + x$
3. $f(x) = e^x - 3x^2 + \sin x$

   Answer

   $$F(x) = e^x - x^3 - \cos x + C$$

4. $f(x) = e^x + 3x - x^2$
5. $f(x) = x - 1 + 4\sin(2x)$

   Answer

   $$F(x) = \frac{x^2}{2} - x - 2\cos(2x) + C$$

6. $f(x) = 5x^4 + 4x^5$
7. $f(x) = x + 12x^2$

   Answer

   $$F(x) = \tfrac{1}{2}x^2 + 4x^3 + C$$

8. $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$
9. $f(x) = \left(\sqrt{x}\right)^3$

   Answer

   $$F(x) = \tfrac{2}{5}\left(\sqrt{x}\right)^5 + C$$

10. $f(x) = x^{1/3} + \left(2x\right)^{1/3}$
11. $f(x) = \dfrac{x^{1/3}}{x^{2/3}}$

    Answer

    $$F(x) = \tfrac{3}{2}x^{2/3} + C$$

12. $f(x) = 2\sin(x) + \sin(2x)$
13. $f(x) = \sec^2 x + 1$

    Answer

    $$F(x) = x + \tan x + C$$

14. $f(x) = \sin x \cos x$
15. $f(x) = \sin^2(x)\cos(x)$

Answer

$$F(x) = \tfrac{1}{3}\sin^3(x) + C$$

16. $f(x) = 0$
17. $f(x) = \tfrac{1}{2}\csc^2 x + \dfrac{1}{x^2}$

Answer

$$F(x) = -\tfrac{1}{2}\cot x - \frac{1}{x} + C$$

18. $f(x) = \csc x \cot x + 3x$
19. $f(x) = 4\csc x \cot x - \sec x \tan x$

Answer

$$F(x) = -\sec x - 4\csc x + C$$

20. $f(x) = 8(\sec x)\big(\sec x - 4\tan x\big)$
21. $f(x) = \tfrac{1}{2}e^{-4x} + \sin x$

Answer

$$F(x) = -\tfrac{1}{8}e^{-4x} - \cos x + C$$

Exercises 22 - 30

Evaluate the integral.

22. $\displaystyle\int (-1)\ dx$
23. $\displaystyle\int \sin x\ dx$

Answer

$$\int \sin x\ dx = -\cos x + C$$

24. $\displaystyle\int \left(4x + \sqrt{x}\right)\ dx$
25. $\displaystyle\int \frac{3x^2 + 2}{x^2}\ dx$

Answer

$$\int \frac{3x^2 + 2}{x^2}\ dx = 3x - \frac{2}{x} + C$$

26. $\displaystyle\int \left(\sec x \tan x + 4x\right)\ dx$
27. $\displaystyle\int \left(4\sqrt{x} + \sqrt[4]{x}\right)\ dx$

Answer

$$\int \left(4\sqrt{x} + \sqrt[4]{x}\right)\ dx = \frac{8}{3}x^{3/2} + \frac{4}{5}x^{5/4} + C$$

28. $\displaystyle\int \left(x^{-1/3} - x^{2/3}\right)\ dx$
29. $\displaystyle\int \frac{14x^3 + 2x + 1}{x^3}\ dx$

Answer

$$\int \frac{14x^3 + 2x + 1}{x^3}\ dx = 14x - \frac{2}{x} - \frac{1}{2x^2} + C$$

30. $\int \left(e^x + e^{-x}\right)\, dx$

Exercises 31 - 35

Solve the initial value problem.

31. $f\,'(x) = x^{-3}, \quad f(1) = 1$

Answer

$$f(x) = -\frac{1}{2x^2} + \frac{3}{2}$$

32. $f\,'(x) = \sqrt{x} + x^2, \quad f(0) = 2$
33. $f\,'(x) = \cos x + \sec^2(x), \quad f(\frac{\pi}{4}) = 2 + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$

Answer

$$f(x) = \sin x + \tan x + 1$$

34. $f\,'(x) = x^3 - 8x^2 + 16x + 1, \quad f(0) = 0$
35. $f\,'(x) = \dfrac{2}{x^2} - \dfrac{x^2}{2}, \quad f(1) = 0$

Answer

$$f(x) = -\tfrac{1}{6}x^3 - \frac{2}{x} + \frac{13}{6}$$

Exercises 36 -40

Find two possible functions f given the second- or third-order derivatives.

36. $f''(x) = x^2 + 2$
37. $f''(x) = e^{-x}$

Answer

Answers may vary; one possible answer is $f(x) = e^{-x}$

38. $f''(x) = 1 + x$
39. $f'''(x) = \cos x$

Answer

Answers may vary; one possible answer is $f(x) = -\sin x$

40. $f'''(x) = 8e^{-2x} - \sin x$
41. A car is being driven at a rate of 40 mph when the brakes are applied. The car decelerates at a constant rate of $10\ \text{ft}/\text{sec}^2$. How long before the car stops?

Answer

5.867 sec

42. In the preceding problem, calculate how far the car travels in the time it takes to stop.
43. You are merging onto the freeway, accelerating at a constant rate of $12\ \text{ft}/\text{sec}^2$. How long does it take you to reach merging speed at 60 mph?

Answer

7.333 sec

44. Based on the previous problem, how far does the car travel to reach merging speed?
45. A car company wants to ensure its newest model can stop in 8 sec when traveling at 75 mph. If we assume constant

deceleration, find the value of deceleration that accomplishes this.

Answer

13.75 ft/sec^2

46. A car company wants to ensure its newest model can stop in less than 450 ft when traveling at 60 mph. If we assume constant deceleration, find the value of deceleration that accomplishes this.

Exercises 47 - 52

Find the antiderivative of the function, assuming $F(0) = 0$.

47. [T] $f(x) = x^2 + 2$

Answer

$F(x) = \frac{1}{3}x^3 + 2x$

48. [T] $f(x) = 4x - \sqrt{x}$
49. [T] $f(x) = \sin x + 2x$

Answer

$F(x) = x^2 - \cos x + 1$

50. [T] $f(x) = e^x$
51. [T] $f(x) = \dfrac{1}{(x+1)^2}$

Answer

$F(x) = -\dfrac{1}{x+1} + 1$

52. [T] $f(x) = e^{-2x} + 3x^2$

Exercises 53 - 56

Determine whether the statement is true or false. Either prove it is true or find a counterexample if it is false.

53. If $f(x)$ is the antiderivative of $v(x)$, then $2f(x)$ is the antiderivative of $2v(x)$.

Answer

True

54. If $f(x)$ is the antiderivative of $v(x)$, then $f(2x)$ is the antiderivative of $v(2x)$.
55. If $f(x)$ is the antiderivative of $v(x)$, then $f(x) + 1$ is the antiderivative of $v(x) + 1$.

Answer

False

56. If $f(x)$ is the antiderivative of $v(x)$, then $(f(x))^2$ is the antiderivative of $(v(x))^2$.

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4.11: Chapter 4 Review Exercises

Exercises 1-4

True or False? Justify your answer with a proof or a counterexample. Assume that $f(x)$ is continuous and differentiable unless stated otherwise.

1. If $f(-1) = -6$ and $f(1) = 2$, then there exists at least one point $x \in [-1, 1]$ such that $f\,'(x) = 4$.

   Answer

   True, by Mean Value Theorem

2. If $f\,'(c) = 0$, there is a maximum or minimum at $x = c$.
3. There is a function such that $f(x) < 0$, $f\,'(x) > 0$, and $f''(x) < 0$. (A graphical "proof" is acceptable for this answer.)

   Answer

   True

4. There is a function such that there is both an inflection point and a critical point for some value $x = a$.
5. Given the graph of $f\,'$, determine where f is increasing or decreasing.

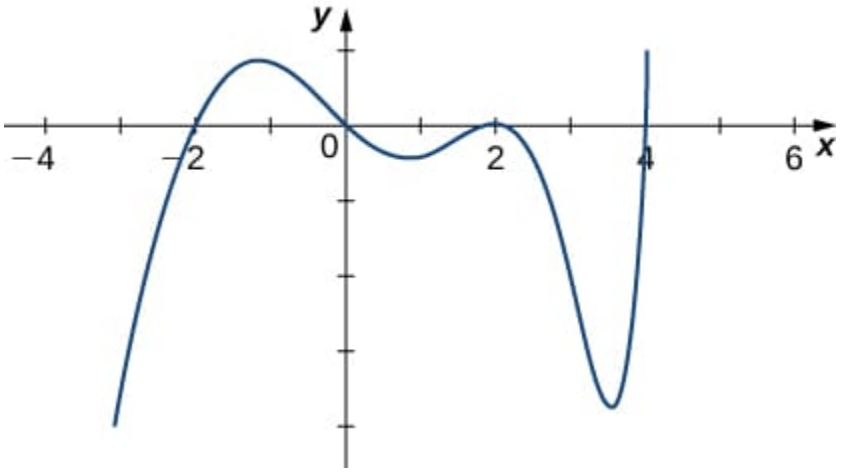


Figure 4.11.1: The function increases to cross the x-axis at –2, reaches a maximum and then decreases through the origin, reaches a minimum and then increases to a maximum at 2, decreases to a minimum and then increases to pass through the x-axis at 4 and continues increasing.

Answer

Increasing: $(-2, 0) \cup (4, \infty)$, decreasing: $(-\infty, -2) \cup (0, 4)$

6. The graph of f is given below. Draw $f\,'$.

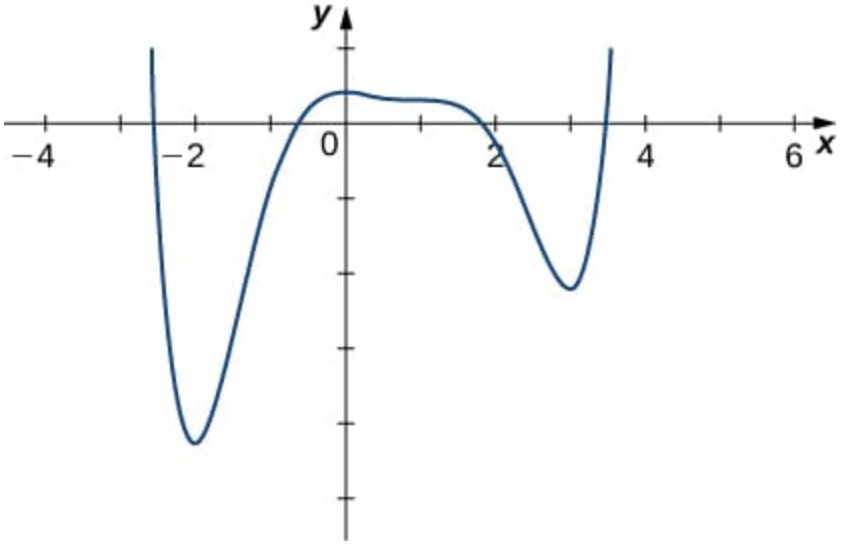


Figure 4.11.2: The function decreases rapidly and reaches a local minimum at –2, then it increases to reach a local maximum at 0, at which point it decreases slowly at first, then stops decreasing near 1, then continues decreasing to reach a minimum at 3, and then increases rapidly.

7. Find the linear approximation $L(x)$ to $y = x^2 + \tan(\pi x)$ near $x = \frac{1}{4}$.

   Answer

   $L(x) = \frac{17}{16} + \frac{1}{2}(1 + 4\pi)\left(x - \frac{1}{4}\right)$

8. Find the differential of $y = x^2 - 5x - 6$ and evaluate for $x = 2$ with $dx = 0.1$.

Exercises 9 - 10

Find the critical points and the local and absolute extrema of the following functions on the given interval.

9. $f(x) = x + \sin^2(x)$ over $[0, \pi]$

   Answer

   Critical point: $x = \frac{3\pi}{4}$,
   Absolute minimum: 0 when $x = 0$,
   Absolute maximum: π when $x = \pi$

10. $f(x) = 3x^4 - 4x^3 - 12x^2 + 6$ over $[-3, 3]$

Exercises 11 - 14

Determine over which intervals the following functions are increasing, decreasing, concave up, and concave down.

11. $x(t) = 3t^4 - 8t^3 - 18t^2$

    Answer

    Increasing: $(-1, 0) \cup (3, \infty)$,
    Decreasing: $(-\infty, -1) \cup (0, 3)$,
    Concave up: $\left(-\infty, \frac{1}{3}\left(2 - \sqrt{13}\right)\right) \cup \left(\frac{1}{3}\left(2 + \sqrt{13}\right), \infty\right)$,
    Concave down: $\left(\frac{1}{3}\left(2 - \sqrt{13}\right), \frac{1}{3}\left(2 + \sqrt{13}\right)\right)$

12. $y = x + \sin(\pi x)$
13. $g(x) = x - \sqrt{x}$

Answer

Increasing: $\left(\frac{1}{4}, \infty\right)$,
Decreasing: $\left(0, \frac{1}{4}\right)$,
Concave up: $(0, \infty)$,
Concave down: nowhere

14. $f(\theta) = \sin(3\theta)$

Exercises 15 - 18

Evaluate the following limits.

15. $\lim_{x \to \infty} \dfrac{3x\sqrt{x^2+1}}{\sqrt{x^4-1}}$

Answer

3

16. $\lim_{x \to \infty} \cos\left(\dfrac{1}{x}\right)$
17. $\lim_{x \to 1} \dfrac{x-1}{\sin(\pi x)}$

Answer

$-\frac{1}{\pi}$

18. $\lim_{x \to \infty} (3x)^{1/x}$

Exercises 19 - 20

Use Newton's method to find the first two iterations, given the starting point.

19. $y = x^3 + 1, \quad x_0 = 0.5$

Answer

$x_1 = -1, \;\; x_2 = -1$

20. $\dfrac{1}{x+1} = \dfrac{1}{2}, \quad x_0 = 0$

Exercises 20 - 21

Find the antiderivatives $F(x)$ of the following functions.

21. $g(x) = \sqrt{x} - \dfrac{1}{x^2}$

Answer

$F(x) = \dfrac{2x^{3/2}}{3} + \dfrac{1}{x} + C$

22. $f(x) = 2x + 6\cos x, \quad F(\pi) = \pi^2 + 2$

Exercises 23 - 24

Graph the following functions by hand. Make sure to label the inflection points, critical points, zeros, and asymptotes.

23. $y = \dfrac{1}{x(x+1)^2}$

Answer

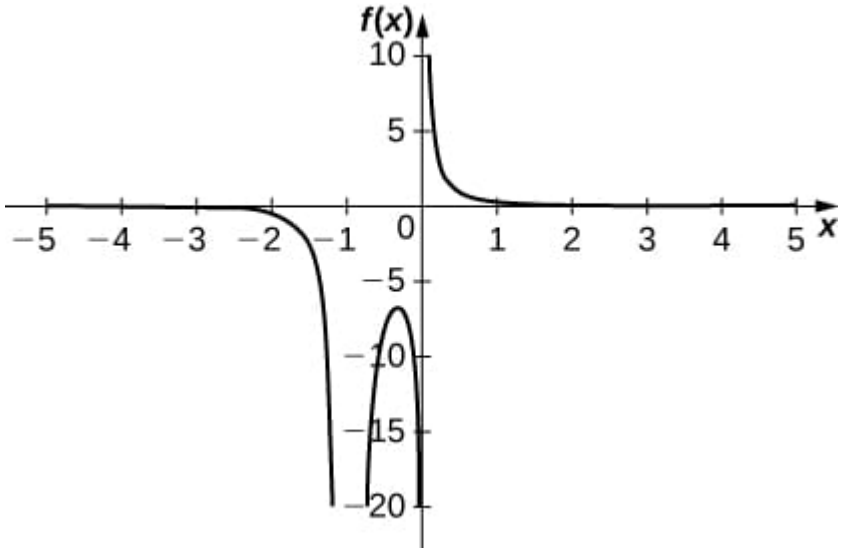


Figure 4.11.3: This graph has vertical asymptotes at x = 0 and x = –1. The first part of the function occurs in the third quadrant with a horizontal asymptote at y = 0. The function decreases quickly from near (–5, 0) to near the vertical asymptote (–1, ∞). On the other side of the asymptote, the function is roughly U-shaped and pointed down in the third quadrant between x = –1 and x = 0 with maximum near (–0.4, –6). On the other side of the x = 0 asympotote, the function decreases from its vertical asymptote near (0, ∞) and to approach the horizontal asymptote y = 0.

Inflection points: none;
Critical points: $x = -\frac{1}{3}$;
Zeros: none;
Vertical asymptotes: $x = -1, \;\; x = 0$;
Horizontal asymptote: $y = 0$

24. $y = x - \sqrt{4 - x^2}$
25. A car is being compacted into a rectangular solid. The volume is decreasing at a rate of $2 \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}$. The length and width of the compactor are square, but the height is not the same length as the length and width. If the length and width walls move toward each other at a rate of 0.25 m/sec, find the rate at which the height is changing when the length and width are 2 m and the height is 1.5 m.

Answer

The height is decreasing at a rate of 0.125 m/sec

26. A rocket is launched into space; its kinetic energy is given by $K(t) = \frac{1}{2}m(t)v(t)^2$, where K is the kinetic energy in joules, m is the mass of the rocket in kilograms, and v is the velocity of the rocket in meters/second. Assume the velocity is increasing at a rate of $15 \text{ m}/\text{sec}^2$ and the mass is decreasing at a rate of 10 kg/sec because the fuel is being burned. At what rate is the rocket's kinetic energy changing when the mass is 2000 kg and the velocity is 5000 m/sec? Give your answer in mega-Joules (MJ), which is equivalent to 10^6 J.
27. The famous **Regiomontanus' problem** for angle maximization was proposed during the 15th century. A painting hangs on a wall with the bottom of the painting a distance a feet above eye level, and the top b feet above eye level. What distance x (in feet) from the wall should the viewer stand to maximize the angle subtended by the painting, θ?

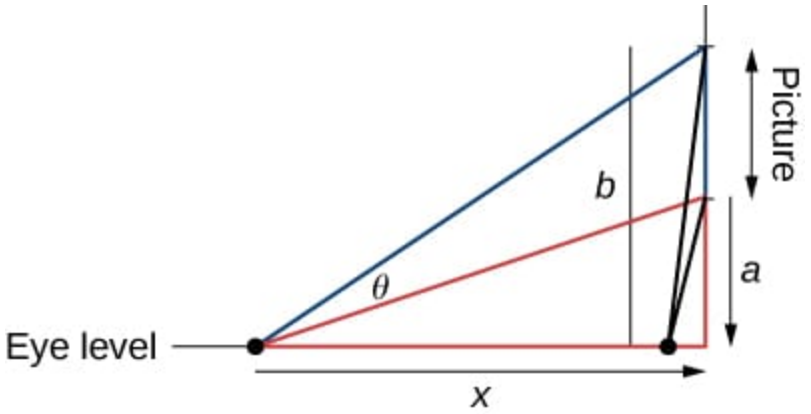


Figure $4.11.4$: A point is marked eye level, and from this point a right triangle is made with adjacent side length x and opposite side length a, which is the length from the bottom of the picture to the level of the eye. A second right triangle is made from the point marked eye level, with the adjacent side being x and the other side being length b, which is the height of the picture. The angle between the two hypotenuses is marked θ.

Answer

$x = \sqrt{ab}$ feet

28. An airline sells tickets from Tokyo to Detroit for $\$1200$. There are 500 seats available and a typical flight books 350 seats. For every $\$10$ decrease in price, the airline observes an additional five seats sold. What should the fare be to maximize profit? How many passengers would be onboard?

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5: DIFFERENTIAL CALCULUS WITH PARAMETRIC CURVES

Introduction

While functions, given by $y = f(x)$, and implicitly defined curves, given by $f(x, y) = c$, provide us with a variety of curves, parametric equations expand the possibilities. For example, parametric equations are useful in describing the motion of objects in terms of time in two dimensional space, with a natural extension to three dimensions. They also give us some pretty pictures!

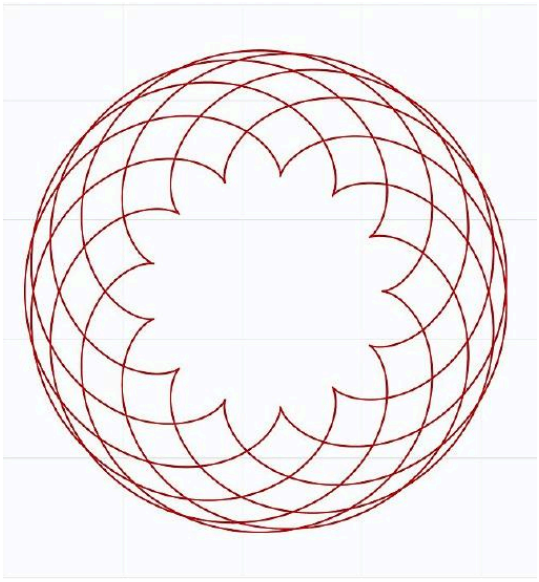


Figure 5.1: A curve given by parametric equations of the form $x(t) = (a - b)\cos(t) + b\cos(t((\frac{a}{b} - 1))$, $y(t) = (a - b)\sin(t) - b\sin(t(\frac{a}{b} - 1))$ (CC BY-SA 2.0; Josep M Battle i Ferrer via Wikimedia)

5.1: Parametric Equations

5.1E: Exercises for Section 5.1

5.2: Differential Calculus of Parametric Curves

5.2E: Exercises for Section 5.2

5.3: Chapter 5 Review Exercises

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5.1: Parametric Equations

Learning Objectives

- Plot a curve described by parametric equations.
- Convert the parametric equations of a curve into the form $y = f(x)$.
- Recognize the parametric equations of basic curves, such as a line and a circle.
- Recognize the parametric equations of a cycloid.

In this section we examine parametric equations and their graphs. In the two-dimensional coordinate system, parametric equations are useful for describing curves that are not necessarily functions. The parameter is an independent variable that both x and y depend on, and as the parameter increases, the values of x and y trace out a path along a plane curve. For example, if the parameter is t (a common choice), then t might represent time. Then x and y are defined as functions of time, and $(x(t), y(t))$ can describe the position in the plane of a given object as it moves along a curved path.

Parametric Equations and Their Graphs

Consider the orbit of Earth around the Sun. Our year lasts approximately 365.25 days, but for this discussion we will use 365 days. On January 1 of each year, the physical location of Earth with respect to the Sun is nearly the same, except for leap years, when the lag introduced by the extra $\frac{1}{4}$ day of orbiting time is built into the calendar. We call January 1 "day 1" of the year. Then, for example, day 31 is January 31, day 59 is February 28, and so on.

The number of the day in a year can be considered a variable that determines Earth's position in its orbit. As Earth revolves around the Sun, its physical location changes relative to the Sun. After one full year, we are back where we started, and a new year begins. According to Kepler's laws of planetary motion, the shape of the orbit is elliptical, with the Sun at one focus of the ellipse. We study this idea in more detail in Conic Sections.

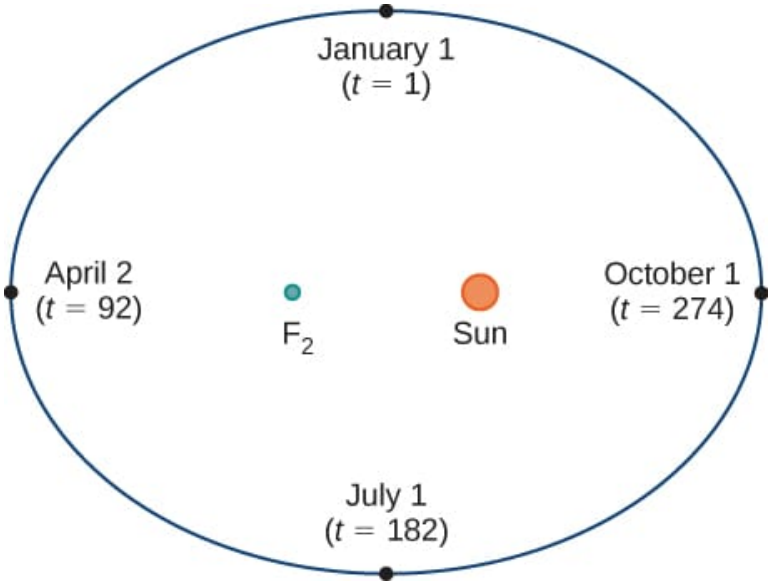


Figure 5.1.1: Earth's orbit around the Sun during one year. The point labeled F_2 is one of the foci of the ellipse; the other focus is occupied by the Sun. In the figure, an ellipse with January 1 ($t = 1$) at the top, April 2 ($t = 92$) on the left, July 1 ($t = 182$) on the bottom, and October 1 ($t = 274$) on the right. The focal points of the ellipse have F2 on the left and the Sun on the right.

Figure 5.1.1 depicts **Earth's orbit** around the Sun during one year. The point labeled F_2 is one of the foci of the ellipse; the other focus is occupied by the Sun. If we superimpose coordinate axes over this graph, then we can assign ordered pairs to each point on the ellipse (Figure 5.1.2). Then each x value on the graph is a value of position as a function of time, and each y value is also a value of position as a function of time. Therefore, each point on the graph corresponds to a value of Earth's position as a function

of time.

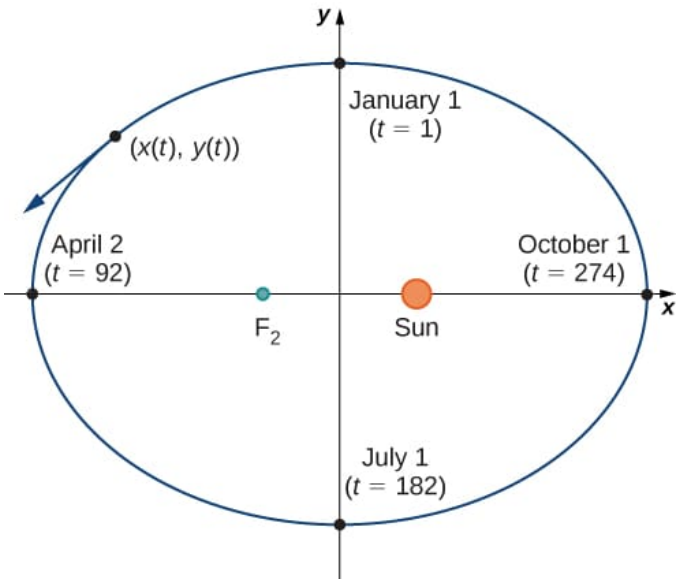


Figure 5.1.2: Coordinate axes superimposed on the orbit of Earth from Figure 5.1.1 with the origin at the center of the ellipse.

We can determine the functions for $x(t)$ and $y(t)$, thereby parameterizing the orbit of Earth around the Sun. The variable t is called an independent parameter and, in this context, represents time relative to the beginning of each year.

A curve in the (x, y) plane can be represented parametrically. The equations that are used to define the curve are called *parametric equations*.

Definition: Parametric Equations

If x and y are continuous functions of t on an interval I, then the equations

$$x = x(t) \tag{5.1.1}$$

and

$$y = y(t) \tag{5.1.2}$$

are called **parametric equations** and t is called the parameter. The set of points (x, y) obtained as t varies over the interval I is called the graph of the parametric equations. The graph of parametric equations is called a **parametric curve** or plane curve, and is denoted by C.

Notice in this definition that x and y are used in two ways. The first is as functions of the independent variable t. As t varies over the interval I, the functions $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ generate a set of ordered pairs (x, y). This set of ordered pairs generates the graph of the parametric equations. In this second usage, to designate the ordered pairs, x and y are variables. It is important to distinguish the variables x and y from the functions $x(t)$ and $y(t)$.

Example 5.1.1: Graphing a Parametrically Defined Curve

Sketch the curves described by the following parametric equations:

a. $x(t) = t - 1, \quad y(t) = 2t + 4, \quad \text{for } -3 \le t \le 2$
b. $x(t) = t^2 - 3, \quad y(t) = 2t + 1, \quad \text{for } -2 \le t \le 3$
c. $x(t) = 4\cos t, \quad y(t) = 4\sin t, \quad \text{for } 0 \le t \le 2\pi$

Solution

a. To create a graph of this curve, first set up a table of values. Since the independent variable in both $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ is t, let t appear in the first column. Then $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ will appear in the second and third columns of the table.

Table $5.1.1$*: Values of parametric equations* $x(t) = t - 1$ *and* $y(t) = 2t + 4$ *over* $-3 \leq t \leq 2$

t	$x(t)$	$y(t)$
–3	–4	–2
–2	–3	0
–1	–2	2
0	–1	4
1	0	6
2	1	8

The second and third columns in this table provide a set of points to be plotted. The graph of these points appears in Figure $5.1.3$. The arrows on the graph indicate the **orientation** of the graph, that is, the direction that a point moves on the graph as t varies from –3 to 2.

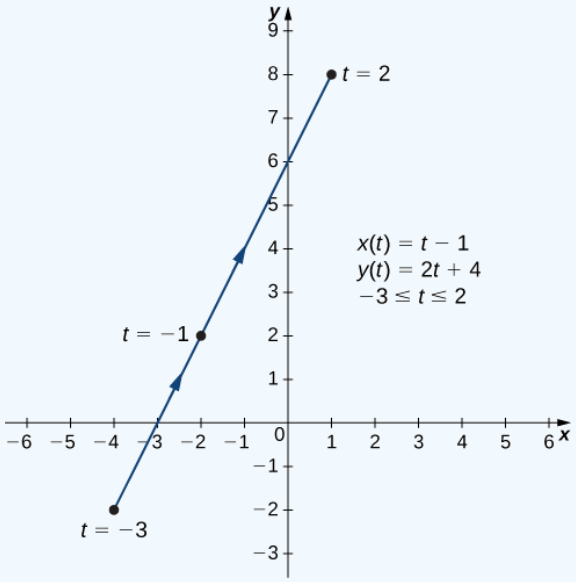


Figure $5.1.3$: Graph of the plane curve described by the parametric equations in Example $5.1.1$, part a. A straight line going from $(-4, -2)$ through $(-3, 0)$, $(-2, 2)$, and $(0, 6)$ to $(1, 8)$ with an arrow pointed up and to the right. The point $(-4, -2)$ is marked $t = -3$, the point (–2, 2) is marked $t = -1$, and the point $(1, 8)$ is marked $t = 2$.

b. To create a graph of this curve, again set up a table of values.

Table $5.1.2$*: Values of parametric equations* $x(t) = t^2 - 3$ *and* $y(t) = 2t + 1$ *over* $-2 \leq t \leq 3$

t	$x(t)$	$y(t)$
–2	1	–3
–1	–2	–1
0	–3	1
1	–2	3
2	1	5
3	6	7

The second and third columns in this table give a set of points to be plotted (Figure $5.1.4$). The first point on the graph (corresponding to $t = -2$) has coordinates $(1, -3)$, and the last point (corresponding to $t = 3$) has coordinates $(6, 7)$. As t progresses from -2 to 3, the point on the curve travels along a parabola. The direction the point moves is again called the orientation and is indicated on the graph.

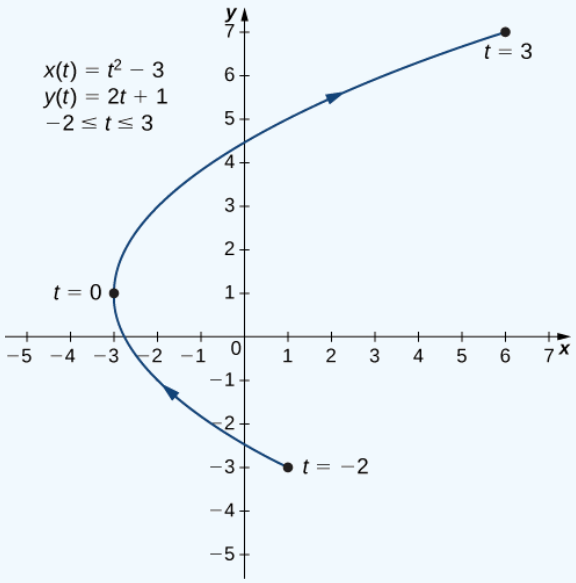


Figure $5.1.4$: Graph of the plane curve described by the parametric equations Example $5.1.1$, part b. A curved line going from $(1, -3)$ through $(-3, 1)$ to $(6, 7)$ with arrow pointing in that order. The point $(1, -3)$ is marked $t = -2$, the point $(-3, 1)$ is marked $t = 0$, and the point $(6, 7)$ is marked $t = 3$.

c. In this case, use multiples of $\pi/6$ for t and create another table of values:

Table $5.1.3$*: Values of parametric equations* $x(t) = 4\cos t, y(t) = 4\sin t$ *over* $0 \le t \le 2\pi$

t	$x(t)$	$y(t)$	t	$x(t)$	$y(t)$
0	4	0	$\frac{7\pi}{6}$	$-2\sqrt{3} \approx -3.5$	-2
$\frac{\pi}{6}$	$2\sqrt{3} \approx 3.5$	2	$\frac{4\pi}{3}$	–2	$-2\sqrt{3} \approx -3.5$
$\frac{\pi}{3}$	2	$2\sqrt{3} \approx 3.5$	$\frac{3\pi}{2}$	0	–4
$\frac{\pi}{2}$	0	4	$\frac{5\pi}{3}$	2	$-2\sqrt{3} \approx -3.5$
$\frac{2\pi}{3}$	–2	$2\sqrt{3} \approx 3.5$	$\frac{11\pi}{6}$	$2\sqrt{3} \approx 3.5$	-2
$\frac{5\pi}{6}$	$-2\sqrt{3} \approx -3.5$	2	2π	4	0
π	–4	0			

The graph of this plane curve appears in the following graph.

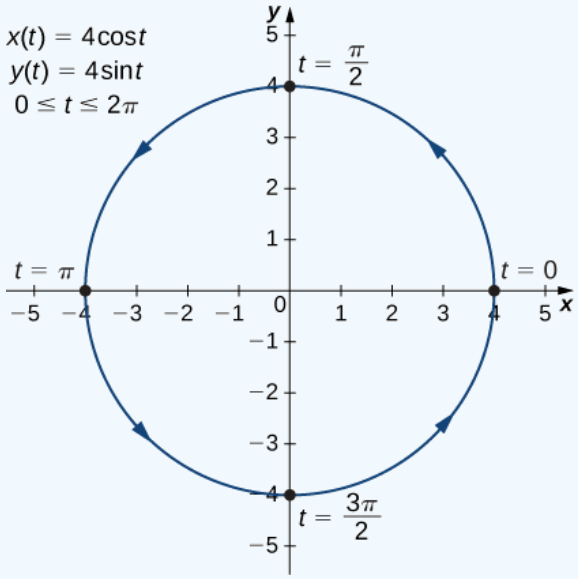


Figure 5.1.5: Graph of the plane curve described by the parametric equations in Example 5.1.1, part c. This is the graph of a circle with radius 4 centered at the origin, with a counterclockwise orientation. The point $(4,0)$ is marked $t=0$, the point $(0,4)$ is marked $t=\pi/2$, the point $(-4,0)$ is marked $t=\pi$, and the point $(0,-4)$ is marked $t=3\pi/2$. The starting point and ending points of the curve both have coordinates $(4,0)$.

This is the graph of a circle with radius 4 centered at the origin, with a counterclockwise orientation. The starting point and ending points of the curve both have coordinates $(4,0)$.

Exercise 5.1.1

Sketch the curve described by the parametric equations

$$x(t)=3t+2, \quad y(t)=t^2-1, \quad \text{for } -3\le t\le 2.$$

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Interactive Element

Visualizing a Parametric Curves As Time Elapses

Unlike curves that are described in the form $y=f(x)$ that just give the static path of an object, parametrically described curves, $x=x(t), y=y(t)$, give the dynamic motion of an object. The visualization below shows the graph of the static curve defined parametrically, but if you click on the "Move" button, you can observe its dynamic motion by observing the dynamic motion of an ant as it travels according to the motion described by the parametrically defined path. If you click on the Next button, it will take you to a different parametrically defined curve.

\(x(t)=\sin(t), y(t)=2\sin(t), 0

\(x(t)=t^2, y(t)=t^3, -2

\(x(t)=\cos(-t), y(t)=\sin(-t), 0

\(x(t)=e^t, y(t)=e^{2t}, -2

\(x(t)=t^3-6t, y(t)=t^2-5, 0

\(x(t)=t-\sin(t), y(t)=1-\cos(t), 0

\(x(t)=2\cos(t^2), y(t)=2\sin(t^2), 0

\(x(t)=e^t\cos(8t), y(t)=e^t\sin(8t), -2

\(x(t)=\frac{1}{t}, y(t)=\frac{1}{t^2}, -4

\(x(t)=t+t^2, y(t)=t-t^2, -3

Move Next



Eliminating the Parameter

To better understand the graph of a curve represented parametrically, it is useful to rewrite the two equations as a single equation relating the variables x and y. Then we can apply any previous knowledge of equations of curves in the plane to identify the curve. For example, the equations describing the plane curve in Example $5.1.1b$ are

$$x(t) = t^2 - 3 \tag{5.1.3}$$
$$y(t) = 2t + 1 \tag{5.1.4}$$

over the region $-2 \leq t \leq 3$.

Solving Equation $5.1.4$ for t gives

$$t = \frac{y-1}{2}.$$

This can be substituted into Equation $5.1.3$:

$$x = \left(\frac{y-1}{2}\right)^2 - 3 \tag{5.1.5}$$
$$= \frac{y^2 - 2y + 1}{4} - 3 \tag{5.1.6}$$
$$= \frac{y^2 - 2y - 11}{4}. \tag{5.1.7}$$

Equation $5.1.7$ describes x as a function of y. These steps give an example of eliminating the parameter. The graph of this function is a parabola opening to the right (Figure $5.1.4$). Recall that the plane curve started at $(1, -3)$ and ended at $(6, 7)$. These terminations were due to the restriction on the parameter t.

Example $5.1.2$: Eliminating the Parameter

Eliminate the parameter for each of the plane curves described by the following parametric equations and describe the resulting graph.

a. $x(t) = \sqrt{2t+4}, \quad y(t) = 2t + 1, \quad \text{for } -2 \leq t \leq 6$
b. $x(t) = 4\cos t, \quad y(t) = 3\sin t, \quad \text{for } 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$

Solution

a. To eliminate the parameter, we can solve either of the equations for t. For example, solving the first equation for t gives

$$x = \sqrt{2t+4}$$
$$x^2 = 2t+4$$
$$x^2 - 4 = 2t$$
$$t = \frac{x^2-4}{2}.$$

Note that when we square both sides it is important to observe that $x \geq 0$. Substituting $t = \frac{x^2-4}{2}$ into $y(t)$ yields

$$y(t) = 2t+1 \tag{5.1.8}$$
$$y = 2\left(\frac{x^2-4}{2}\right)+1 \tag{5.1.9}$$
$$y = x^2 - 4 + 1 \tag{5.1.10}$$
$$y = x^2 - 3. \tag{5.1.11}$$

This is the equation of a parabola opening upward. There is, however, a domain restriction because of the limits on the parameter t. When $t = -2$, $x = \sqrt{2(-2)+4} = 0$, and when $t = 6$, $x = \sqrt{2(6)+4} = 4$. The graph of this plane curve follows.

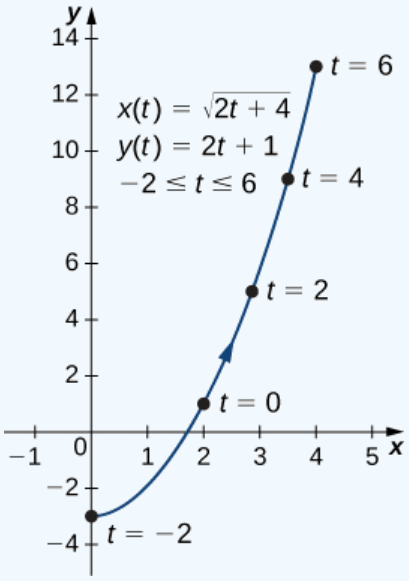


Figure 5.1.7: Graph of the plane curve described by the given parametric equations. A parabolic curve is going from $(0,-3)$ through $(2,1)$ to $(4,13)$ with an arrow going in that order. The point $(0,-3)$ is marked $t=-2$, the point $(2,1)$ is marked $t=0$, the point $(2\sqrt{2},5)$ is marked $t=2$, the point (2\sqrt{3}, 9) is marked $t=4$, and the point (4, 13) is marked $t=6$

b. Sometimes it is necessary to be a bit creative in eliminating the parameter. The parametric equations for this example are

$$x(t) = 4\cos t$$

and

$$y(t) = 3\sin t$$

Solving either equation for t directly is not advisable because sine and cosine are not one-to-one functions. However, dividing the first equation by 4 and the second equation by 3 (and suppressing the t) gives us

$$\cos t = \frac{x}{4}$$

and

$$\sin t = \frac{y}{3}.$$

Now use the Pythagorean identity $\cos^2 t + \sin^2 t = 1$ and replace the expressions for $\sin t$ and $\cos t$ with the equivalent expressions in terms of x and y. This gives

$$\left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y}{3}\right)^2 = 1$$

$$\frac{x^2}{16} + \frac{y^2}{9} = 1.$$

This is the equation of a horizontal ellipse centered at the origin, with semi-major axis 4 and semi-minor axis 3 as shown in the following graph.

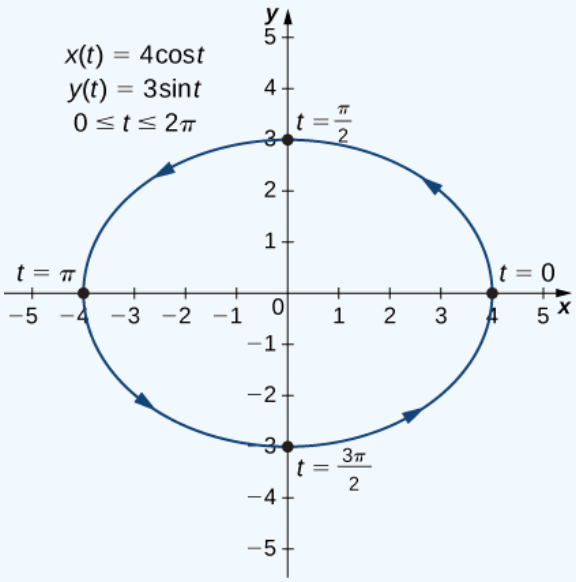


Figure 5.1.8: Graph of the plane curve described by the parametric equations: $x(t) = 4\cos(t)$, $y(t) = \sin(t)$, and $0 \le t \le 2\pi$. An ellipse with horizontal major axis of length 8 and with vertical minor radius length 6 that is centered at the origin with an arrow going counterclockwise. The point $(4, 0)$ is marked $t = 0$, the point $(0, 3)$ is marked $t = \pi/2$, the point $(-4, 0)$ is marked $t = \pi$, and the point $(0, -3)$ is marked $t = 3\pi/2$.

As *t* progresses from 0 to 2π, a point on the curve traverses the ellipse once, in a counterclockwise direction. Recall from the section opener that the orbit of Earth around the Sun is also elliptical. This is a perfect example of using parameterized curves to model a real-world phenomenon.

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of the this concept.

- Video Length: 2 minutes 24 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to eliminate the parameter to find the corresponding rectangular equation for parametric equations $x = 2\sin\theta, y = sin(2\theta)$.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 5.1.2

Eliminate the parameter for the plane curve defined by the following parametric equations and describe the resulting graph.

$$x(t) = 2 + \frac{3}{t}, \quad y(t) = t - 1, \quad \text{for } 2 \leq t \leq 6$$

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

So far we have seen the method of eliminating the parameter, assuming we know a set of parametric equations that describe a plane curve. What if we would like to start with the equation of a curve and determine a pair of parametric equations for that curve? This is certainly possible, and in fact it is possible to do so in many different ways for a given curve. The process is known as **parameterization of a curve.**

Example 5.1.3: Parameterizing a Curve

Find two different pairs of parametric equations to represent the graph of $y = 2x^2 - 3$.

Solution

First, it is always possible to parameterize a curve by defining $x(t) = t$, then replacing x with t in the equation for $y(t)$. This gives the parameterization

$$x(t) = t, \quad y(t) = 2t^2 - 3.$$

Since there is no restriction on the domain in the original graph, there is no restriction on the values of t.

We have complete freedom in the choice for the second parameterization. For example, we can choose $x(t) = 3t - 2$. The only thing we need to check is that there are no restrictions imposed on x; that is, the range of $x(t)$ is all real numbers. This is the case for $x(t) = 3t - 2$. Now since $y = 2x^2 - 3$, we can substitute $x(t) = 3t - 2$ for x. This gives

$$y(t) = 2(3t - 2)^2 - 2 = 2(9t^2 - 12t + 4) - 2 = 18t^2 - 24t + 8 - 2 = 18t^2 - 24t + 6.$$

Therefore, a second parameterization of the curve can be written as

$$x(t) = 3t - 2 \text{ and } y(t) = 18t^2 - 24t + 6.$$

Example 5.1.4

Find parametric equations for the line that passes through the points $(3, 4)$ and $(1, 7)$.

Solution

- **Video length**: 3 minutes 28 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to find parametric equations of a line that passes through two points.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Example 5.1.5

Find parametric equation equations for the graph given by the function $f(x) = e^x - \sin x$.

Solution

- **Video length**: 51 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to find parametric equations for a function.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

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Example 5.1.6

Find parametric equations for the circle centered at $(2, -3)$ with radius 4.

Solution

- **Video length**: 1 minute 36 seconds
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to find parametric equations for a circle.

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Exercise 5.1.3

Find two different sets of parametric equations to represent the graph of $y = x^2 + 2x$.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Cycloids and Other Parametric Curves

Imagine going on a bicycle ride through the country. The tires stay in contact with the road and rotate in a predictable pattern. Now suppose a very determined ant is tired after a long day and wants to get home. So he hangs onto the side of the tire and gets a free ride. The path that this ant travels down a straight road is called a *cycloid* (Figure $5.1.10$). A cycloid generated by a circle (or bicycle wheel) of radius a is given by the parametric equations

$$x(t) = a(t - \sin t), \quad y(t) = a(1 - \cos t).$$

To see why this is true, consider the path that the center of the wheel takes. The center moves along the x-axis at a constant

height equal to the radius of the wheel. If the radius is a, then the coordinates of the center can be given by the equations

$$x(t) = at, \quad y(t) = a$$

for any value of t. Next, consider the ant, which rotates around the center along a circular path. If the bicycle is moving from left to right then the wheels are rotating in a clockwise direction. A possible parameterization of the circular motion of the ant (relative to the center of the wheel) is given by

$$x(t) = -a \sin t$$
$$y(t) = -a \cos t.$$

(The negative sign is needed to reverse the orientation of the curve. If the negative sign were not there, we would have to imagine the wheel rotating counterclockwise.) Adding these equations together gives the equations for the cycloid.

$$x(t) = a(t - \sin t)$$
$$y(t) = a(1 - \cos t)$$

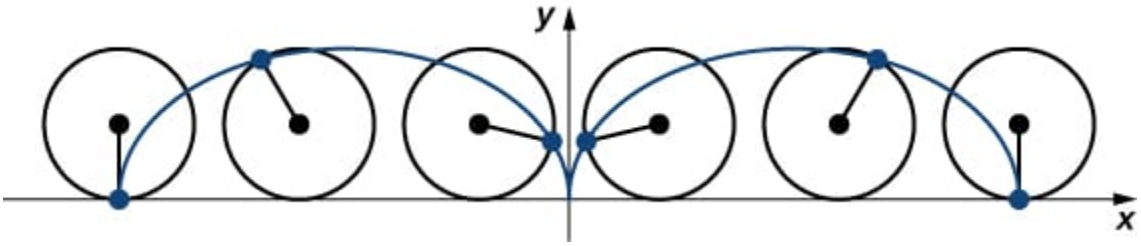


Figure $5.1.10$: For a wheel traveling along a road without slipping, a point on the edge of the wheel traces out a cycloid. The diagram shows a series of circles with a center marked and a point on the circle drawing out a curve as if the circle was rolling along a horizontal line (the x -axis). The shape made appears like the upper half of a horizontally elongated oval with the height being the diameter of the original circle, and the horizontal length being the circumference of the circle.

Now suppose that the bicycle wheel doesn't travel along a straight road but instead moves along the inside of a larger wheel, as in Figure $5.1.11$. In this graph, the green circle is traveling around the blue circle in a counterclockwise direction. A point on the edge of the green circle traces out the red graph, which is called a *hypocycloid*.

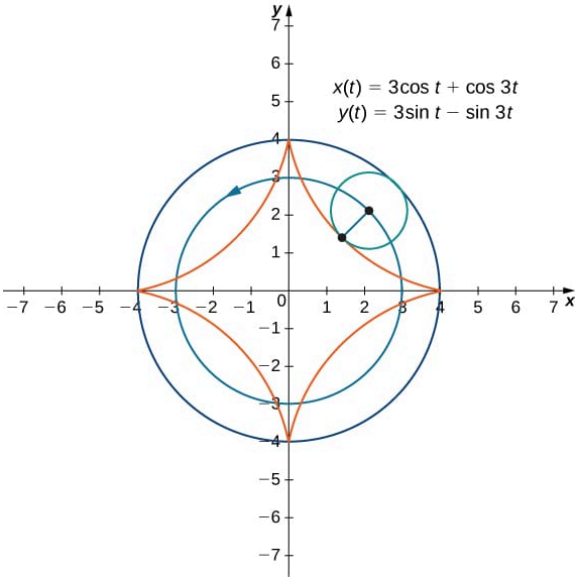


Figure $5.1.11$: Graph of the hypocycloid described by the parametric equations shown. Two circles are drawn, both with center at the origin and with radii 3 and 4, respectively; the circle with radius 3 has an arrow pointing in the counterclockwise direction. There is a third circle drawn with the center on the circle with radius 3 and touching the circle with radius 4 at one point. That is, this third circle has radius equal to 1. A point is drawn on this third circle, and if it were to roll along the other two circles, it would draw out a four pointed star with points at $(4, 0)$, $(0, 4)$, $(-4, 0)$, and $(0, -4)$. Parametric equation of these circles are represented by the equations: $x(t) = 3cos(t) + cos(3t)$ and $y(t) = 3sin(t) – sin(3t)$.

The general parametric equations for a hypocycloid are

$$x(t) = (a-b)\cos t + b\cos(\frac{a-b}{b})t$$

$$y(t) = (a-b)\sin t - b\sin(\frac{a-b}{b})t.$$

These equations are a bit more complicated, but the derivation is somewhat similar to the equations for the cycloid. In this case we assume the radius of the larger circle is a and the radius of the smaller circle is b. Then the center of the wheel travels along a circle of radius $a-b$. This fact explains the first term in each equation above. The period of the second trigonometric function in both $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ is equal to $\dfrac{2\pi b}{a-b}$.

The ratio $\dfrac{a}{b}$ is related to the number of **cusps** on the graph (cusps are the corners or pointed ends of the graph), as illustrated in Figure $5.1.10$. This ratio can lead to some very interesting graphs, depending on whether or not the ratio is rational. Figure $5.1.9$ corresponds to $a=4$ and $b=1$. The result is a hypocycloid with four cusps. Figure $5.1.10$ shows some other possibilities. The last two hypocycloids have irrational values for $\dfrac{a}{b}$. In these cases the hypocycloids have an infinite number of cusps, so they never return to their starting point. These are examples of what are known as **space-filling curves.**

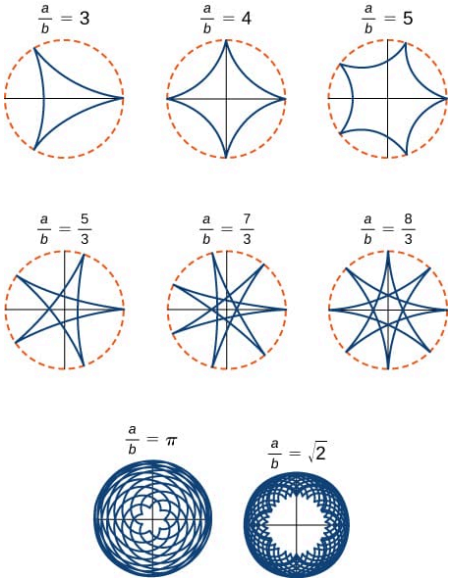


Figure $5.1.12$: Graph of various hypocycloids corresponding to different values of $\frac{a}{b}$. The first is a three pointed star marked $\frac{a}{b}=3$. The second is a four pointed star marked $\frac{a}{b}=4$. The third is a five pointed star marked $\frac{a}{b}=5$. None of these first three figures has lines that cross each other. The fourth figure is a five pointed star but this one has lines which cross each other and looks like the star that children first learn to draw; it is marked $\frac{a}{b}=5/3$. A similar sort of star with seven points is next and is marked $\frac{a}{b}=7/3$. Then a similar star with eight points is next and is marked $\frac{a}{b}=8/3$. The next figure is a complicated series of curves that ultimately creates a small rosette in the middle; this is marked $\frac{a}{b}=\pi$. Lastly, there is an even more complicated series of curves that creates a large rosette with sharper florets marked $\frac{a}{b}=\sqrt{2}$.

The Witch of Agnesi

Many plane curves in mathematics are named after the people who first investigated them, like the folium of Descartes or the spiral of Archimedes. However, perhaps the strangest name for a curve is the **witch of Agnesi.** Why a witch?

Maria Gaetana Agnesi (1718–1799) was one of the few recognized women mathematicians of eighteenth-century Italy. She wrote a popular book on analytic geometry, published in 1748, which included an interesting curve that had been studied by Fermat in 1630. The mathematician Guido Grandi showed in 1703 how to construct this curve, which he later called the "versoria," a Latin term for a rope used in sailing. Agnesi used the Italian term for this rope, "versiera," but in Latin, this same word means a "female goblin." When Agnesi's book was translated into English in 1801, the translator used the term "witch" for the curve, instead of rope. The name "witch of Agnesi" has stuck ever since.

The witch of Agnesi is a curve defined as follows: Start with a circle of radius a so that the points $(0,0)$ and $(0,2a)$ are points on the circle (Figure $5.1.13$). Let O denote the origin. Choose any other point A on the circle, and draw the secant line OA. Let B denote the point at which the line OA intersects the horizontal line through $(0,2a)$. The vertical line through B intersects the horizontal line through A at the point P. As the point A varies, the path that the point P travels is the witch of Agnesi curve for the given circle.

Witch of Agnesi curves have applications in physics, including modeling water waves and distributions of spectral lines. In probability theory, the curve describes the probability density function of the *Cauchy distribution*. In this project you will parameterize these curves.

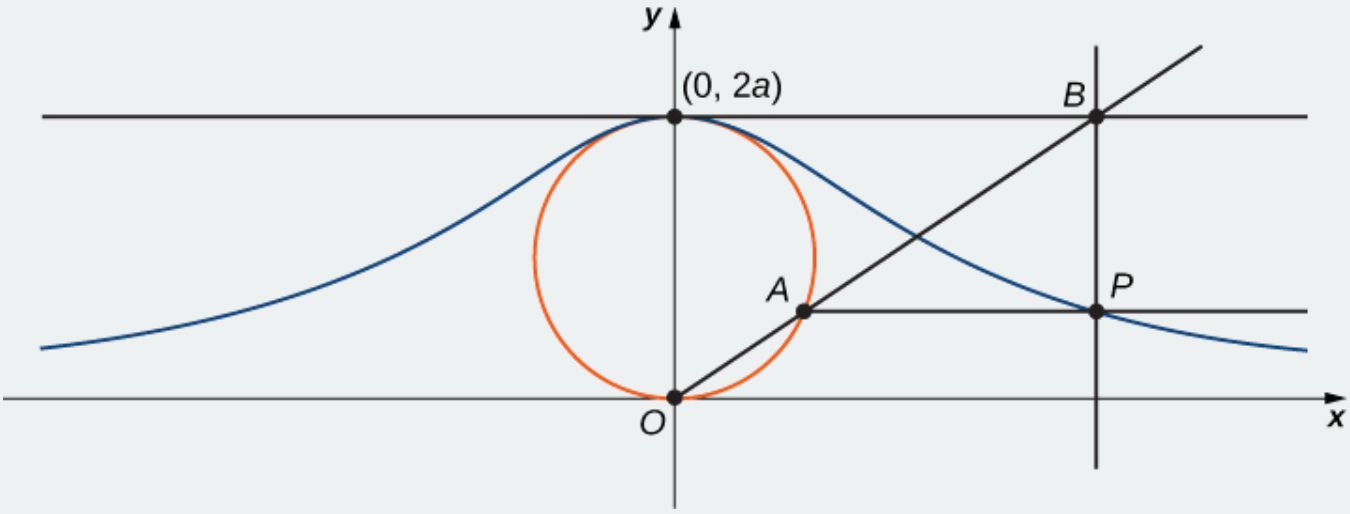


Figure $5.1.13$: As the point A moves around the circle, the point P traces out the witch of Agnesi curve for the given circle.

1. On the figure, label the following points, lengths, and angle:
   a. C is the point on the x-axis with the same x-coordinate as A.
   b. x is the x-coordinate of P, and y is the y-coordinate of P.
   c. E is the point $(0,a)$.
   d. F is the point on the line segment OA such that the line segment EF is perpendicular to the line segment OA.
   e. b is the distance from O to F.
   f. c is the distance from F to A.
   g. d is the distance from O to C.
   h. θ is the measure of angle $\angle COA$.

The goal of this project is to parameterize the witch using θ as a parameter. To do this, write equations for x and y in terms of only θ.

2. Show that $d = \dfrac{2a}{\sin\theta}$.
3. Note that $x = d\cos\theta$. Show that $x = 2a\cot\theta$. When you do this, you will have parameterized the x-coordinate of the curve with respect to θ. If you can get a similar equation for y, you will have parameterized the curve.
4. In terms of θ, what is the angle $\angle EOA$?
5. Show that $b + c = 2a\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta\right)$.
6. Show that $y = 2a\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta\right)\sin\theta$.
7. Show that $y = 2a\sin^2\theta$. You have now parameterized the y-coordinate of the curve with respect to θ.
8. Conclude that a parameterization of the given witch curve is

$$x = 2a\cot\theta, \quad y = 2a\sin^2\theta, \quad \text{for } -\infty < \theta < \infty. \tag{5.1.12}$$

9. Use your parameterization to show that the given witch curve is the graph of the function $f(x) = \dfrac{8a^3}{x^2 + 4a^2}$.

Travels with My Ant: The Curtate and Prolate Cycloids

Earlier in this section, we looked at the parametric equations for a cycloid, which is the path a point on the edge of a wheel traces as the wheel rolls along a straight path. In this project we look at two different variations of the cycloid, called the curtate and prolate cycloids.

First, let's revisit the derivation of the parametric equations for a cycloid. Recall that we considered a tenacious ant trying to get home by hanging onto the edge of a bicycle tire. We have assumed the ant climbed onto the tire at the very edge, where the tire touches the ground. As the wheel rolls, the ant moves with the edge of the tire (Figure $5.1.14$).

As we have discussed, we have a lot of flexibility when parameterizing a curve. In this case we let our parameter t represent the angle the tire has rotated through. Looking at Figure $5.1.12$, we see that after the tire has rotated through an angle of t, the position of the center of the wheel, $C = (x_C, y_C)$, is given by

$$x_C = at \text{ and } y_C = a.$$

Furthermore, letting $A = (x_A, y_A)$ denote the position of the ant, we note that

$$x_C - x_A = a\sin t \text{ and } y_C - y_A = a\cos t$$

Then

$$x_A = x_C - a\sin t = at - a\sin t = a(t - \sin t) \tag{5.1.13}$$

$$y_A = y_C - a\cos t = a - a\cos t = a(1 - \cos t). \tag{5.1.14}$$

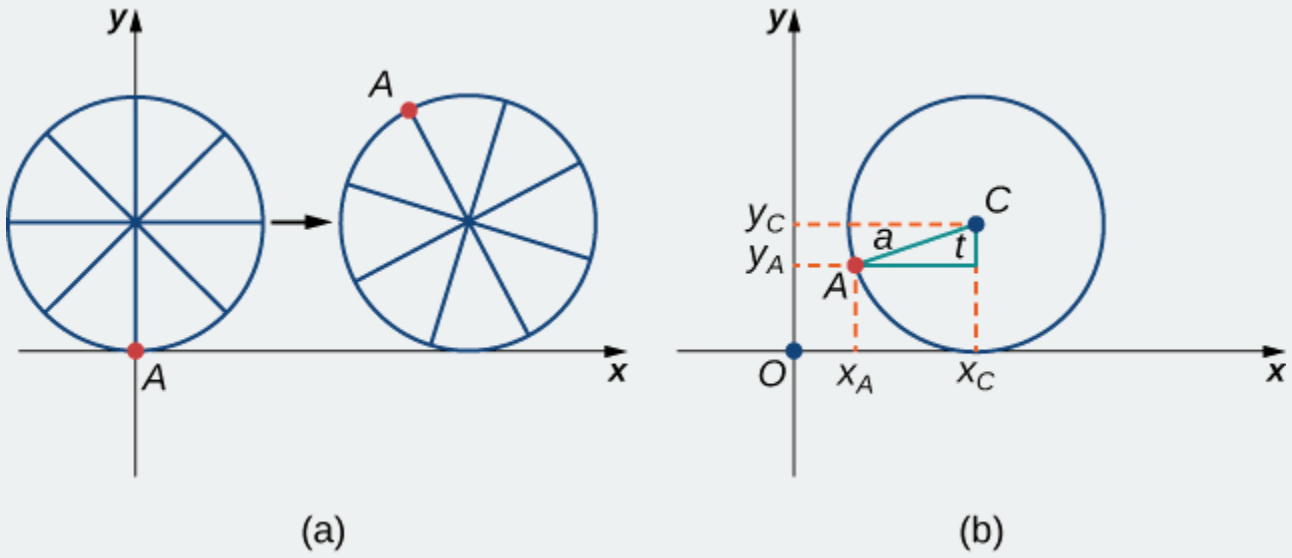


Figure $5.1.14$: (a) The ant clings to the edge of the bicycle tire as the tire rolls along the ground. The figure marks the point A on the circle, place at the origin in the xy-plane. The circle has "spokes," with point A being at the end of one of these spokes. The circle appears to be traveling along the x-axis in the positive direction, with point A being above the x-axis in a second image of the circle drawn slightly to the right. (b) Using geometry to determine the position of the ant after the tire has rotated through an angle of t. The figure has a circle in the first quadrant with its center at point C. It touches the x-axis at x_c. The point A is drawn on the circle and a right triangle is made from this point and point C. The radius, marked a, serves as the hypotenuse of that triangle. The angle at C between A and x_c is marked t. Lines are drawn to give the x and y values of A as x_A and y_A, respectively. Similarly, a line is drawn to give the y value of C as y_C.

Note that these are the same parametric representations we had before, but we have now assigned a physical meaning to the parametric variable t.

After a while the ant is getting dizzy from going round and round on the edge of the tire. So he climbs up one of the spokes toward the center of the wheel. By climbing toward the center of the wheel, the ant has changed his path of motion. The new path has less up-and-down motion and is called a **curtate cycloid** (Figure 5.1.15). As shown in the figure, we let b denote the distance along the spoke from the center of the wheel to the ant. As before, we let t represent the angle the tire has rotated through. Additionally, we let $C = (x_C, y_C)$ represent the position of the center of the wheel and $A = (x_A, y_A)$ represent the position of the ant.

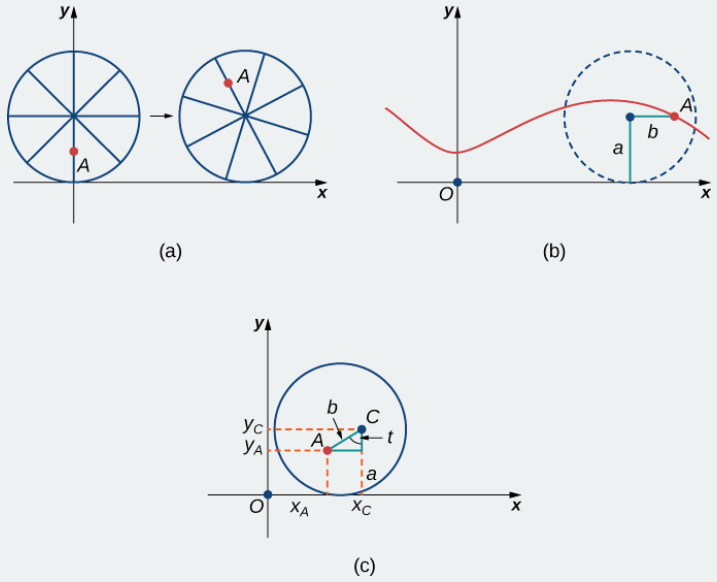


Figure 5.1.15: (a) The ant climbs up one of the spokes toward the center of the wheel. The figure has a circle with "spokes," where point A is in the middle of one of these spokes. The circle is tangent to the x-axis at the origin. The circle appears to be traveling to the right on the x-axis, with point A being higher up in a second image of the circle drawn slightly to the right. (b) The ant's path of motion after he climbs closer to the center of the wheel. The figure shows the curve that point A would trace out, as the circle travels to the right. It is vaguely sinusoidal. This is called a curtate cycloid. (c) The new setup, now that the ant has moved closer to the center of the wheel. The figure has a circle in the first quadrant with center C. It touches the x-axis at x_c. The point A is drawn inside the circle and a right triangle is made from this point and point C. The hypotenuse is marked b, the angle at C between A and x_C is marked (\t\), and the distance from C to x_C is marked a. Lines are drawn to give the x and y values of A as x_A and y_A, respectively. Similarly, a line is drawn to give the y value of C as y_C.

1. What is the position of the center of the wheel after the tire has rotated through an angle of t?
2. Use geometry to find expressions for $x_C - x_A$ and for $y_C - y_A$.
3. On the basis of your answers to parts 1 and 2, what are the parametric equations representing the curtate cycloid?

Once the ant's head clears, he realizes that the bicyclist has made a turn, and is now traveling away from his home. So he drops off the bicycle tire and looks around. Fortunately, there is a set of train tracks nearby, headed back in the right direction. So the ant heads over to the train tracks to wait. After a while, a train goes by, heading in the right direction, and he manages to jump up and just catch the edge of the train wheel (without getting squished!).

The ant is still worried about getting dizzy, but the train wheel is slippery and has no spokes to climb, so he decides to just hang on to the edge of the wheel and hope for the best. Now, train wheels have a flange to keep the wheel running on the tracks. So, in this case, since the ant is hanging on to the very edge of the flange, the distance from the center of the wheel to the ant is actually greater than the radius of the wheel (Figure 5.1.14).

The setup here is essentially the same as when the ant climbed up the spoke on the bicycle wheel. We let b denote the distance from the center of the wheel to the ant, and we let t represent the angle the tire has rotated through. Additionally, we let $C = (x_C, y_C)$ represent the position of the center of the wheel and $A = (x_A, y_A)$ represent the position of the ant (Figure 5.1.16).

When the distance from the center of the wheel to the ant is greater than the radius of the wheel, his path of motion is called a prolate cycloid. A graph of a **prolate cycloid** is shown in Figure 5.1.16.

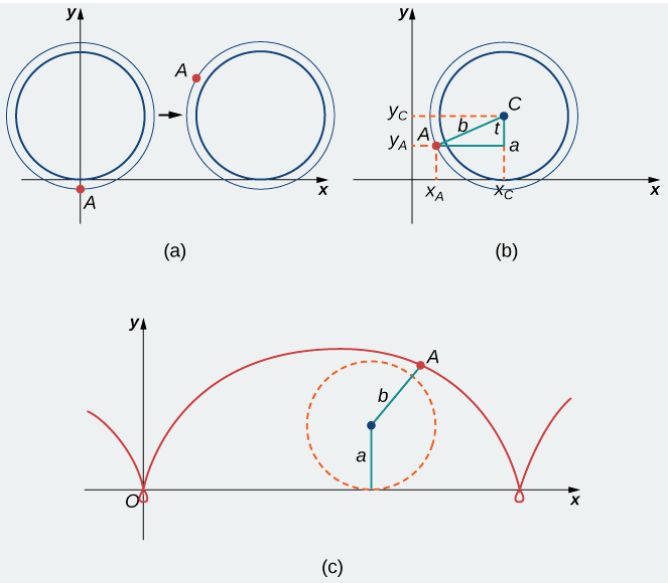


Figure 5.1.16: (a) The ant is hanging onto the flange of the train wheel. The figure has a circle and a point A that is outside the circle on the y-axis (below the origin). The circle is tangent to the x-axis at the origin. The circle appears to be traveling to the right on the x-axis, with point A being above the x-axis in a second image of the circle drawn slightly to the right. (b) The new setup, now that the ant has jumped onto the train wheel. The figure has a circle in the first quadrant with center C. It touches the x-axis at x_C. A point A is drawn outside the circle and a right triangle is made from this point and point C. The hypotenuse is marked b, the angle at C between A and x_C is marked t, and the distance from C to x_C is marked a. Lines are drawn to give the x and y values of A as x_A and y_A, respectively. Similarly, a line is drawn to give the y value of $\backslash$C as y_C.

4. Using the same approach you used in parts 1– 3, find the parametric equations for the path of motion of the ant.

5. What do you notice about your answer to part 3 and your answer to part 4?

> Notice that the ant is actually traveling backward at times (the “loops” in the graph), even though the train continues to move forward. He is probably going to be really dizzy by the time he gets home!

Key Concepts

- Parametric equations provide a convenient way to describe a curve. A parameter can represent time or some other meaningful quantity.
- It is often possible to eliminate the parameter in a parameterized curve to obtain a function or relation describing that curve.
- There is always more than one way to parameterize a curve.
- Parametric equations can describe complicated curves that are difficult or perhaps impossible to describe using rectangular coordinates.

Glossary

Cycloid
: The curve traced by a point on the rim of a circular wheel as the wheel rolls along a straight line without slippage

Cusp
: A pointed end or part where two curves meet

Orientation
: The direction that a point moves on a graph as the parameter increases

Parameter
: An independent variable that both x and y depend on in a parametric curve; usually represented by the variable t

Parametric curve
The graph of the parametric equations $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ over an interval $a \leq t \leq b$ combined with the equations

Parametric equations
The equations $x = x(t)$ and $y = y(t)$ that define a parametric curve

Parameterization of a curve
Rewriting the equation of a curve defined by a function $y = f(x)$ as parametric equations

Contributors and Attributions

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Answers

Exercise 5.1.1

Make a table of values for $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ using t values from -3 to 2.

Exercise 5.1.1

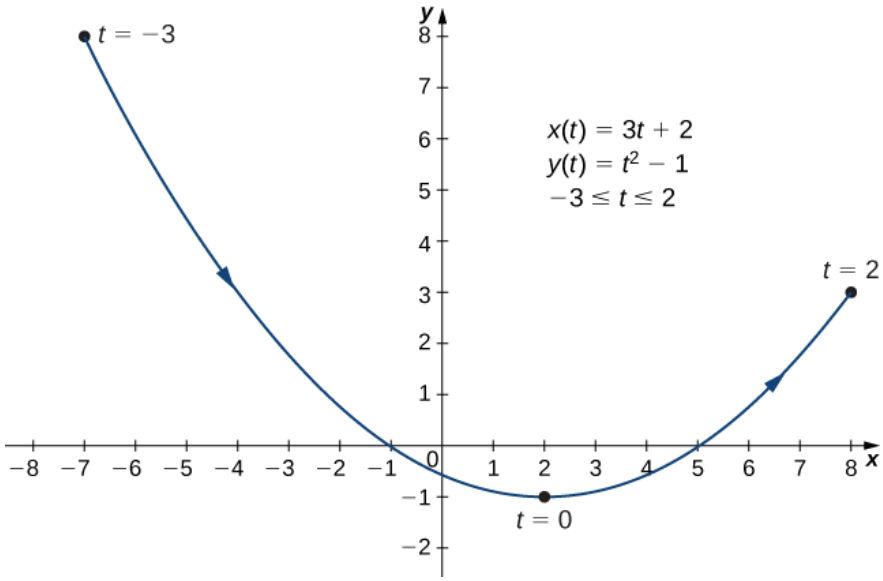


Figure 5.1.6: On the graph there are also written three equations: $x(t) = 3t + 2, y(t) = t^2 - 1$, and $-3 \leq t \leq 2$. A curved line going from (–7, 8) through (–1, 0) and (2, –1) to (8, 3) with an arrow going in that order. The point (–7, 8) is marked $t = -3$, the point (2, –1) is marked $t = 0$, and the point (8, 3) is marked $t = 2$.

Exercise 5.1.2

Solve one of the equations for t and substitute into the other equation.

Exercise 5.1.2

$x = 2 + \frac{3}{y+1}$, or $y = -1 + \frac{3}{x-2}$. This equation describes a portion of a rectangular hyperbola centered at $(2, -1)$.

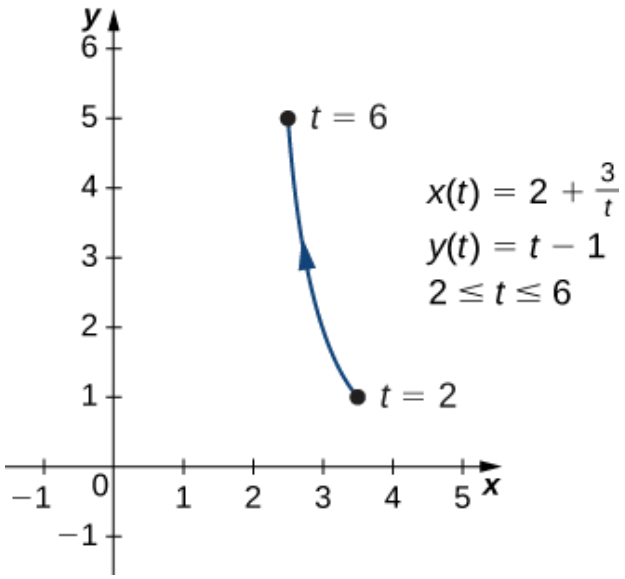


Figure 5.1.9: Equations: $x(t) = 2 + 3/t, y(t) = t - 1$, and $2 \leq t \leq 6$. A curve going from $(3.5, 1)$ to $(2.5, 5)$ with an arrow going in that order.

Exercise 5.1.3

Follow the steps in Example 5.1.3. Remember we have freedom in choosing the parameterization for $x(t)$.

Exercise 5.1.3

One possibility is $x(t) = t, \quad y(t) = t^2 + 2t$. Another possibility is $x(t) = 2t - 3, \quad y(t) = (2t-3)^2 + 2(2t-3) = 4t^2 - 8t + 3$. There are, in fact, an infinite number of possibilities.

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5.1E: Exercises for Section 5.1

Exercises 1 - 4

Sketch the curves below by eliminating the parameter t. Give the orientation of the curve.

1. $x = t^2 + 2t, \quad y = t + 1$

Answer

Orientation: bottom to top

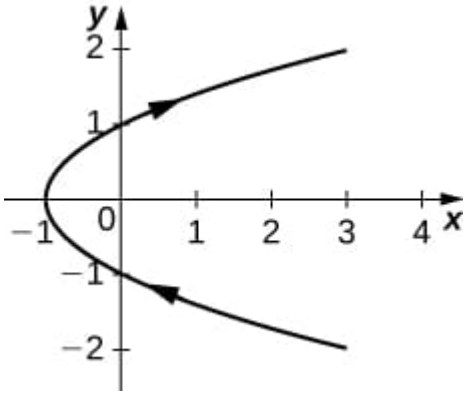


Figure $5.1E.1$: A parabola open to the right with $(-1, 0)$ being the leftmost point (the vertex), with arrow on the curve indicating the direction going from smaller y values to larger.

2. $x = \cos(t), \quad y = \sin(t), \quad \text{for } (0, 2\pi]$
3. $x = 2t + 4, \quad y = t - 1$

Answer

Orientation: left to right

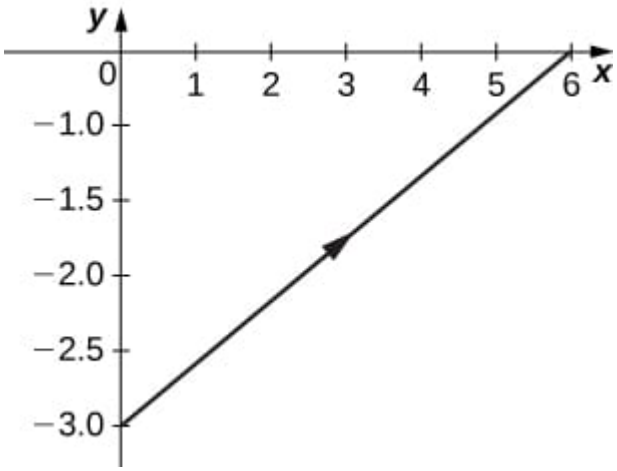


Figure $5.1E.2$: A straight line passing through $(0, -3)$ and $(6, 0)$ with an arrow along the line pointing up and to the right.

4. $x = 3 - t, \quad y = 2t - 3, \quad \text{for } 1.5 \leq t \leq 3$

Exercise 5

Eliminate the parameter and sketch the graph.

5. $x = 2t^2, \quad y = t^4 + 1$

Answer

$$y = \frac{x^2}{4} + 1$$

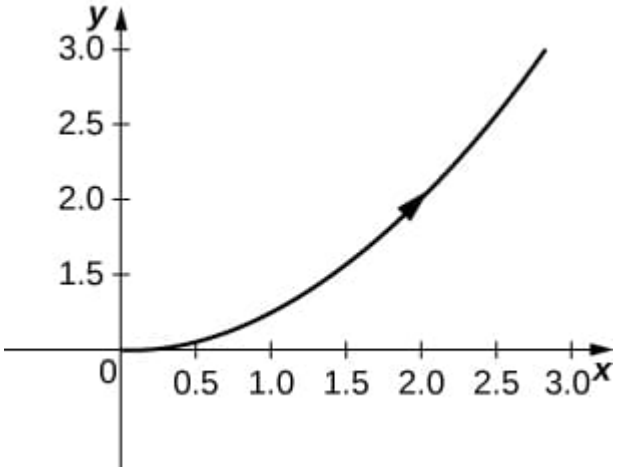


Figure $5.1E.3$: Half a parabola starting at the origin and passing through $(2, 2)$ with arrow on the curve up and to the right.

Exercises 6 - 9

Use technology (CAS or calculator) to sketch the parametric equations.

6. [T] $x = t^2 + t, \quad y = t^2 - 1$
7. [T] $x = e^{-t}, \quad y = e^{2t} - 1$

Answer

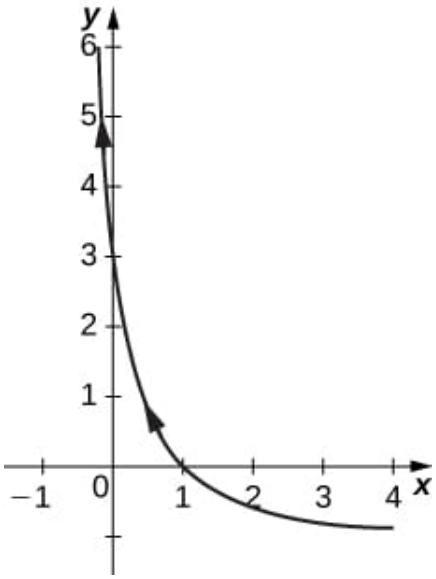


Figure $5.1E.4$: A decreasing, concave up curve passing through the points through $(1, 0)$ and $(0, 3)$ with arrow on the curve pointing up and to the left.

8. [T] $x = 3\cos t, \quad y = 4\sin t$
9. [T] $x = \sec t, \quad y = \cos t$

Answer

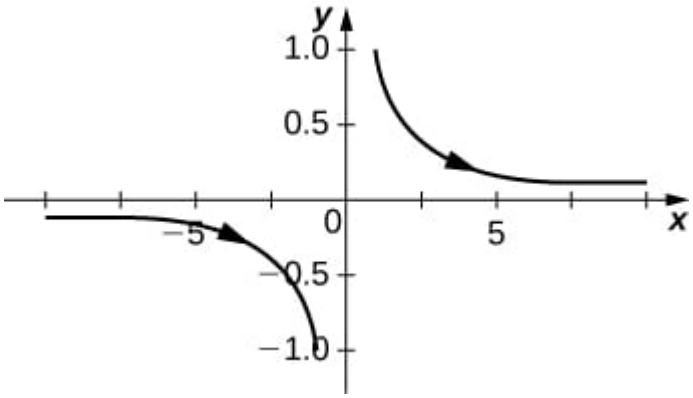


Figure $5.1E.5$: A graph with asymptotes at the x and y axes. There is a portion of the graph in the third quadrant that is decreasing and concave down with arrow pointing down and to the right. There is a portion of the graph in the first quadrant that is decreasing and concave up with arrow pointing down and to the right.

Exercises 10 - 20

Sketch the parametric equations by eliminating the parameter. Indicate any asymptotes of the graph.

10. $x = e^t, \quad y = e^{2t} + 1$
11. $x = 6\sin(2\theta), \quad y = -4\cos(2\theta)$

Answer

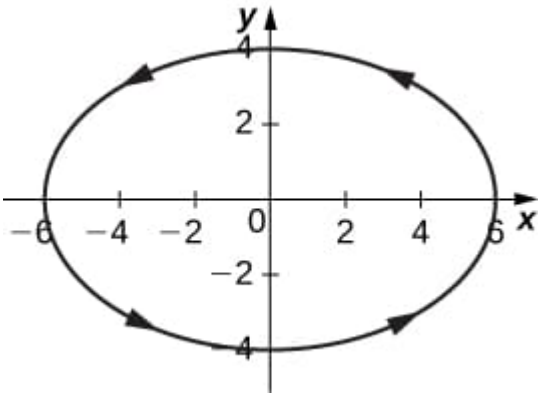


Figure $5.1E.6$: An ellipse centered at the origin with a vertical minor axis of length 8, and a horizontal major axis of length 12. The arrows along the ellipse go counterclockwise.

12. $x = \cos\theta, \quad y = 2\sin(2\theta)$
13. $x = 3 - 2\cos\theta, \quad y = -5 + 3\sin\theta$

Answer

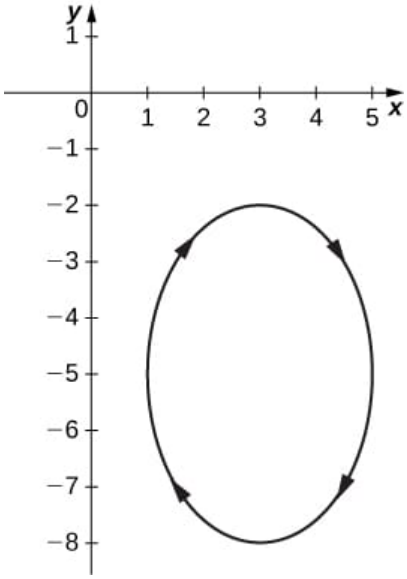


Figure $5.1E.7$: An ellipse in the fourth quadrant with a horizontal minor axis of length 4, and a vertical major axis of length 6, with center at $(3, -5)$. The arrows go clockwise.

14. $x = 4 + 2\cos\theta, \quad y = -1 + \sin\theta$
15. $x = \sec t, \quad y = \tan t$

Answer

Asymptotes are $y = x$ and $y = -x$

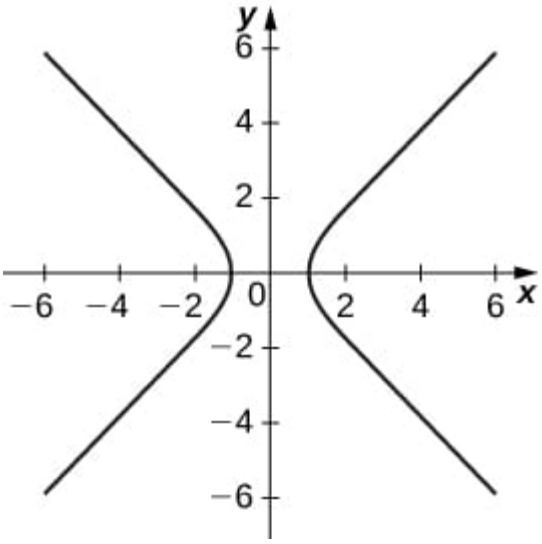


Figure $5.1E.8$: A graph with asymptotes at $y = x$ and $y = -x$. The first branch of the graph occurs in the second and third quadrants with vertex at $(-1, 0)$. The second branch of the graph occurs in the first and fourth quadrants with vertex as $(1, 0)$.

16. $x = \ln(2t), \quad y = t^2$
17. $x = e^t, \quad y = e^{2t}$

Answer

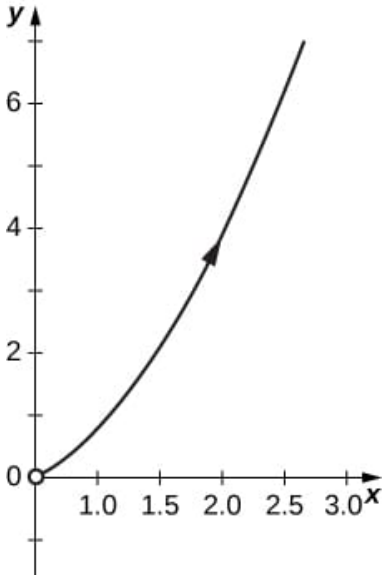


Figure $5.1E.9$: A curve starting at the origin with an open hole at the origin, and increasing with a concave up graph to the right, with arrow pointing up and to the right.

18. $x = e^{-2t}, \quad y = e^{3t}$
19. $x = t^3, \quad y = 3 \ln t$

Answer

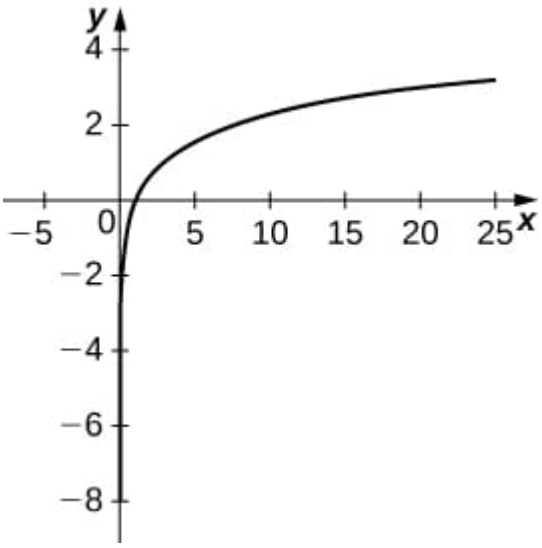


Figure $5.1E.10$: A curve with asymptote being the y-axis. The curve starts in the fourth quadrant against the y-axis, and increases rapidly, passing through $(1, 0)$ at which point is increases much more slowly. The curve is concave down throughout.

20. $x = 4\sec\theta, \quad y = 3\tan\theta$

Exercises 21 - 38

Convert the parametric equations of a curve into rectangular form. No sketch is necessary. State the domain of the rectangular form.

21. $x = t^2 - 1, \quad y = \dfrac{t}{2}$

Answer

$x = 4y^2 - 1$; domain: $x \in [1, \infty)$.

22. $x = \dfrac{1}{\sqrt{t+1}}, \quad y = \dfrac{t}{1+t}, \quad \text{for } t > -1$
23. $x = 4\cos\theta, \quad y = 3\sin\theta, \quad \text{for } t \in (0, 2\pi]$

Answer

$\dfrac{x^2}{16} + \dfrac{y^2}{9} = 1$; domain $x \in [-4, 4]$.

24. $x = \cosh t, \quad y = \sinh t$
25. $x = 2t - 3, \quad y = 6t - 7$

Answer

$y = 3x + 2$; domain: all real numbers.

26. $x = t^2, \quad y = t^3$
27. $x = 1 + \cos t, \quad y = 3 - \sin t$

Answer

$(x-1)^2 + (y-3)^2 = 1$; domain: $x \in [0, 2]$.

28. $x = \sqrt{t}, \quad y = 2t + 4$
29. $x = \sec t, \quad y = \tan t, \quad \text{for } \pi \le t < \frac{3\pi}{2}$

Answer

$y = \sqrt{x^2 - 1}$; domain: $x \in (-\infty, -1]$.

30. $x = 2\cosh t, \quad y = 4\sinh t$
31. $x = \cos(2t), \quad y = \sin t$

Answer

$y^2 = \dfrac{1 - x}{2}$; domain: $x \in [-1, 1]$.

32. $x = 4t + 3, \quad y = 16t^2 - 9$
33. $x = t^2, \quad y = 2\ln t, \quad \text{for } t \geq 1$

Answer

$y = \ln x$; domain: $x \in [1, \infty)$.

34. $x = t^3, \quad y = 3\ln t, \quad \text{for } t \geq 1$
35. $x = t^n, \quad y = n\ln t, \quad \text{for } t \geq 1$, where n is a natural number

Answer

$y = \ln x$; domain: $x \in (0, \infty)$.

36. $x = \ln(5t), \quad y = \ln(t^2)$ where $1 \leq t \leq e$
37. $x = 2\sin(8t), \quad y = 2\cos(8t)$

Answer

$x^2 + y^2 = 4$; domain: $x \in [-2, 2]$.

38. $x = \tan t, \quad y = \sec^2 t - 1$

Exercises 39 - 48

The pairs of parametric equations represent lines, parabolas, circles, ellipses, or hyperbolas. Name the type of basic curve that each pair of equations represents.

39. $x = 3t + 4, \quad y = 5t - 2$

Answer

line

40. $x - 4 = 5t, \quad y + 2 = t$
41. $x = 2t + 1, \quad y = t^2 - 3$

Answer

parabola

42. $x = 3\cos t, \quad y = 3\sin t$
43. $x = 2\cos(3t), \quad y = 2\sin(3t)$

Answer

circle

44. $x = \cosh t, \quad y = \sinh t$
45. $x = 3\cos t, \quad y = 4\sin t$

Answer

ellipse

46. $x = 2\cos(3t), \quad y = 5\sin(3t)$
47. $x = 3\cosh(4t) \quad y = 4\sinh(4t)$

Answer

the right branch of a horizontally opening hyperbola

48. $x = 2\cosh t, \quad y = 2\sinh t$

Exercises 49 - 50

The following exercises involve parametric equations for a circle.

49. Show that $x = h + r\cos\theta, \quad y = k + r\sin\theta$ represents the equation of a circle.
50. Use the equations in the preceding problem to find a set of parametric equations for a circle whose radius is 5 and whose center is $(-2, 3)$.

Exercises 51 - 53

Use a graphing utility to graph the curve represented by the parametric equations and identify the curve from its equation.

51. [T] $x = \theta + \sin\theta, \quad y = 1 - \cos\theta$

Answer

The equations represent a cycloid.

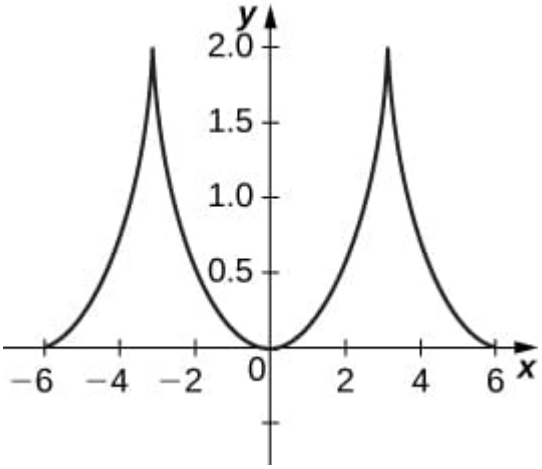


Figure $5.1E.11$: A graph starting at $(-6, 0)$ increasing rapidly to a sharp point at $(-3, 2)$ and then decreasing rapidly to the origin. The graph is symmetric about the y axis, so the graph increases rapidly to $(3, 2)$ before decreasing rapidly to $(6, 0)$.

52. [T] $x = 2t - 2\sin t, \quad y = 2 - 2\cos t$
53. [T] $x = t - 0.5\sin t, \quad y = 1 - 1.5\cos t$

Answer

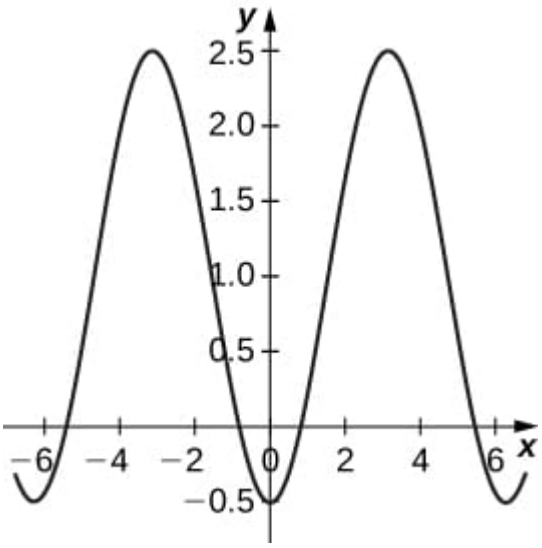


Figure $5.1E.12$: A sinusoidal graph with minimum y-value -0.5 and maximum y-value 2.5. The minima occur at $x = -2\pi, 0, 2\pi), and the maxima occur at \(x = -\pi, \pi$.

54. An airplane traveling horizontally at 100 m/s over flat ground at an elevation of 4000 meters must drop an emergency package on a target on the ground. The trajectory of the package is given by $x = 100t, \quad y = -4.9t^2 + 4000, \quad$ where $t \geq 0$ where the origin is the point on the ground directly beneath the plane at the moment of release. How many horizontal meters before the target should the package be released in order to hit the target?
55. The trajectory of a bullet is given by $x = v_0(\cos\alpha)t, \quad y = v_0(\sin\alpha)t - \frac{1}{2}gt^2$ where $v_0 = 500$ m/s, $g = 9.8 = 9.8\ \text{m/s}^2$, and $\alpha = 30$ degrees. When will the bullet hit the ground? How far from the gun will the bullet hit the ground?

Answer

22,092 meters at approximately 51 seconds.

56. [T] Use technology to sketch the curve represented by $x = \sin(4t), \quad y = \sin(3t), \quad$ for $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$.
57. [T] Use technology to sketch \(x=2\tan(t), \quad y=3\sec(t), \quad \text{for }-π

Answer

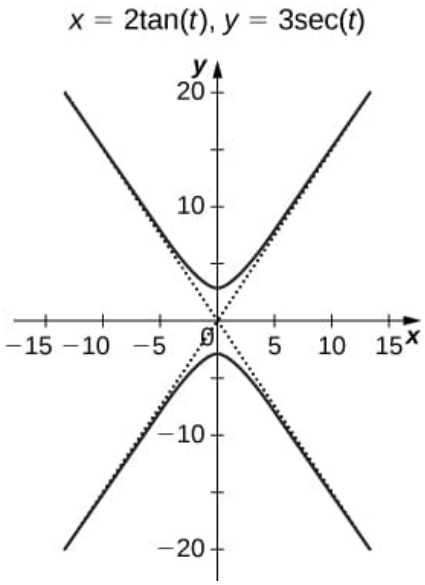


Figure $5.1E.13$: A graph with asymptotes roughly near $y = \frac{3}{2}x$ and y = –\frac{3}{2}x. The upper branch of the graph is in the first and second quadrants with vertex at $(0, 3)$. The lower branch of the graph is in the third and fourth quadrants with vertex at $(0, -3)$.

58. Sketch the curve known as an **epitrochoid**, which gives the path of 3a point on a circle of radius b as it rolls on the outside of a circle of radius a. The equations are

$x = (a+b)\cos t - c \cdot \cos\left[\frac{(a+b)t}{b}\right], \quad y = (a+b)\sin t - c \cdot \sin\left[\frac{(a+b)t}{b}\right].$

Let $a = 1, \ \ b = 2, \ \ c = 1.$

59. [T] Use technology to sketch the spiral curve given by $x = t\cos(t), \quad y = t\sin(t)$ for $-2\pi \le t \le 2\pi.$

Answer

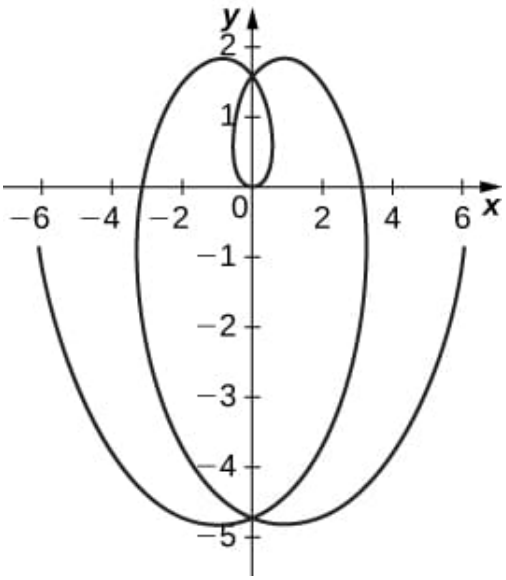


Figure $5.1E.14$: A graph starting at roughly $(-6,-1)$ decreasing to a minimum in the third quadrant near $(-1,-4.8)$ increasing through roughly $(0,-4.7)$ and $(3,0)$ to a maximum near $(1,1.9)$ before decreasing through $(0,1.5)$ to the origin. The graph is symmetric about the y- axis, so the graph increases through $(0,1.5)$ to a maximum in the second quadrant, decreases again through $(0,-4.7)$, and then increases to $(6,-1)$.

60. [T] Use technology to graph the curve given by the parametric equations $x = 2\cot(t), \quad y = 1 - \cos(2t), \quad \text{for } -\pi/2 \le t \le \pi/2.$ This curve is known as the witch of Agnesi.

61. [T] Sketch the curve given by parametric equations $x = \cosh(t), \quad y = \sinh(t)$, for $-2 \le t \le 2.$

Answer

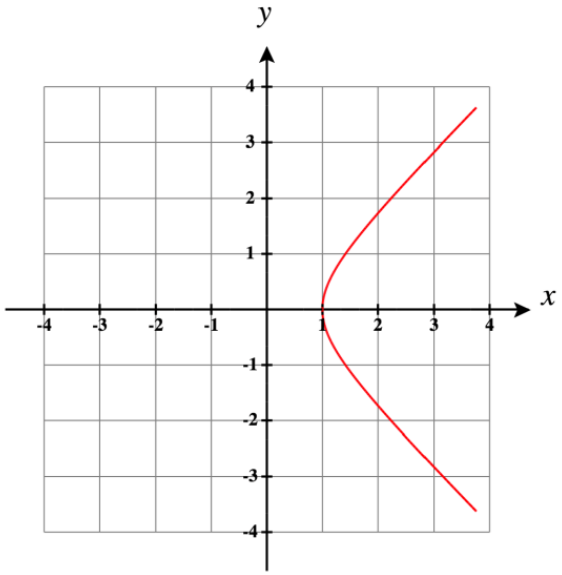


Figure $5.1E.15$: A hyperbola with only the right branch shown. A vertex occurs at the point $(1, 0)$. The graph has asymptotes $y = x$ and $y = -x$.

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5.2: Differential Calculus of Parametric Curves

Learning Objectives

- Determine derivative and equations of tangents for parametric curves.
- Find the second derivative for parametric curves

Now that we have introduced the concept of a parameterize curve, our next step is to learn how to work with this concept in the context of calculus. For example, if we know a parametrization of a given curve, is it possible to calculate the slope of a tangent line to the curve? How about the arc length of the curve? Or the area under the curve?

Another scenario: Suppose we would like to represent the location of a baseball after the ball leaves a pitcher's hand. If the position of the baseball is represented by the plane curve $(x(t), y(t))$ then we should be able to use calculus to find the speed of the ball at any given time. Furthermore, we should be able to calculate just how far that ball has traveled as a function of time.

Derivatives of Parametric Equations

We start by asking how to calculate the slope of a line tangent to a parametric curve at a point. Consider the plane curve defined by the parametric equations

$$x(t) = 2t + 3 \tag{5.2.1}$$
$$y(t) = 3t - 4 \tag{5.2.2}$$

within $-2 \leq t \leq 3$.

The graph of this curve appears in Figure 5.2.1. It is a line segment starting at $(-1, -10)$ and ending at $(9, 5)$.

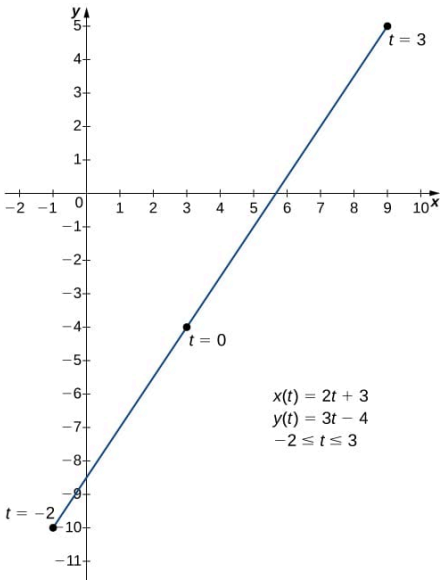


Figure 5.2.1: A straight line from $(-1, -10)$ to $(9, 5)$. The point $(-1, -10)$ is marked $t = -2$, the point $(3, -4)$ is marked $t = 0$, and the point $(9, 5)$ is marked $t = 3$. There are three equations marked: $x(t) = 2t + 3$, $y(t) = 3t$–4, and $-2 \leq t \leq 3$.

We can eliminate the parameter by first solving Equation 5.2.1 for t:

$$x(t) = 2t + 3$$

$$x - 3 = 2t$$

$$t = \frac{x-3}{2}.$$

Substituting this into $y(t)$ (Equation 5.2.2), we obtain

$$y(t) = 3t - 4$$

$$y = 3\left(\frac{x-3}{2}\right) - 4$$

$$y = \frac{3x}{2} - \frac{9}{2} - 4$$

$$y = \frac{3x}{2} - \frac{17}{2}.$$

The slope of this line is given by $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3}{2}$. Next we calculate $x\,'(t)$ and $y\,'(t)$. This gives $x\,'(t) = 2$ and $y\,'(t) = 3$. Notice that

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/dt}{dx/dt} = \frac{3}{2}.$$

This is no coincidence, as outlined in the following theorem.

Theorem: Derivative of Parametric Equations

Consider the plane curve defined by the parametric equations $x = x(t)$ and $y = y(t)$. Suppose that $x\,'(t)$ and $y\,'(t)$ exist, and assume that $x\,'(t) \neq 0$. Then the derivative $\frac{dy}{dx}$ is given by

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} = \frac{y'(t)}{x'(t)}. \tag{5.2.3}$$

Proof

This theorem can be proven using the Chain Rule. In particular, assume that the parameter t can be eliminated, yielding a differentiable function $y = F(x)$. Then $y(t) = F(x(t))$. Differentiating both sides of this equation using the Chain Rule yields

$$y'(t) = F'\big(x(t)\big)x'(t),$$

so

$$F'\big(x(t)\big) = \frac{y'(t)}{x'(t)}.$$

But $F\,'\big(x(t)\big) = \frac{dy}{dx}$, which proves the theorem.

□

Equation 5.2.3 can be used to calculate derivatives of plane curves, as well as critical points. Recall that a critical point of a differentiable function $y = f(x)$ is any point $x = x_0$ such that either $f\,'(x_0) = 0$ or $f\,'(x_0)$ does not exist. Equation 5.2.3 gives a formula for the slope of a tangent line to a curve defined parametrically regardless of whether the curve can be described by a function $y = f(x)$ or not.

Example 5.2.1: Finding the Derivative of a Parametric Curve

Calculate the derivative $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for each of the following parametrically defined plane curves, and locate any critical points on their respective graphs.

a. $x(t) = t^2 - 3, \quad y(t) = 2t - 1, \quad \text{for } -3 \le t \le 4$
b. $x(t) = 2t + 1, \quad y(t) = t^3 - 3t + 4, \quad \text{for } -2 \le t \le 2$
c. $x(t) = 5\cos t, \quad y(t) = 5\sin t, \quad \text{for } 0 \le t \le 2\pi$

Solution

a. To apply Equation 5.2.3, first calculate $x\,'(t)$ and $y\,'(t)$:

$$x\,'(t) = 2t$$

$$y\,'(t) = 2.$$

Next substitute these into the equation:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/dt}{dx/dt}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2}{2t}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{t}.$$

This derivative is undefined when $t = 0$. Calculating $x(0)$ and $y(0)$ gives $x(0) = (0)^2 - 3 = -3$ and $y(0) = 2(0) - 1 = -1$, which corresponds to the point $(-3, -1)$ on the graph. The graph of this curve is a parabola opening to the right, and the point $(-3, -1)$ is its vertex as shown in Figure 5.2.2.

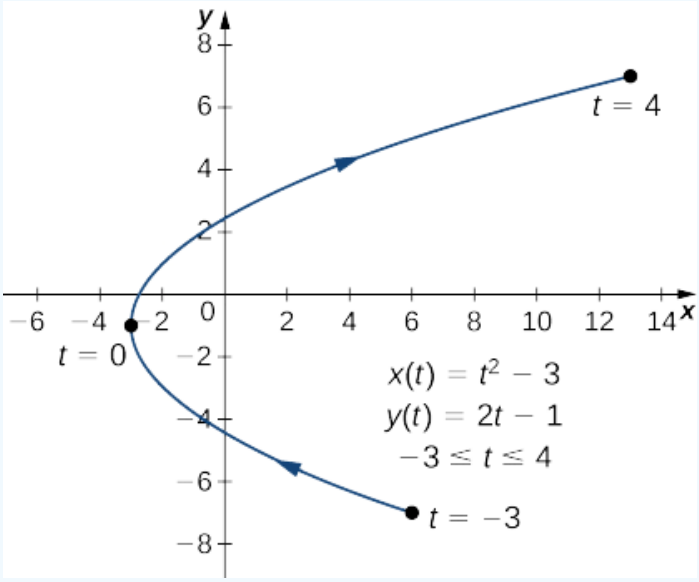


Figure 5.2.2: A parabolic curve going from $(6, -7)$ through $(-3, -1)$ to $(13, 7)$ with arrow pointing in that order. The point $(6, -7)$ is marked $t = -3$, the point $(-3, -1)$ is marked $t = 0$, and the point $(13, 7)$ is marked $t = 4$. On the graph there are also written three equations: $x(t) = t^2 - 3$, $y(t) = 2t - 1$, and $-3 \le t \le 4$.

b. To apply Equation 5.2.3, first calculate $x\,'(t)$ and $y\,'(t)$:

$$x\,'(t) = 2$$

$$y'(t) = 3t^2 - 3.$$

Next substitute these into the equation:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/dt}{dx/dt}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3t^2 - 3}{2}.$$

This derivative is zero when $t = \pm 1$. When $t = -1$ we have

$$x(-1) = 2(-1) + 1 = -1 \text{ and } y(-1) = (-1)^3 - 3(-1) + 4 = -1 + 3 + 4 = 6,$$

which corresponds to the point $(-1, 6)$ on the graph. When $t = 1$ we have

$$x(1) = 2(1) + 1 = 3 \text{ and } y(1) = (1)^3 - 3(1) + 4 = 1 - 3 + 4 = 2,$$

which corresponds to the point $(3, 2)$ on the graph. The point $(3, 2)$ is a relative minimum and the point $(-1, 6)$ is a relative maximum, as seen in the following graph (Figure 5.2.3).

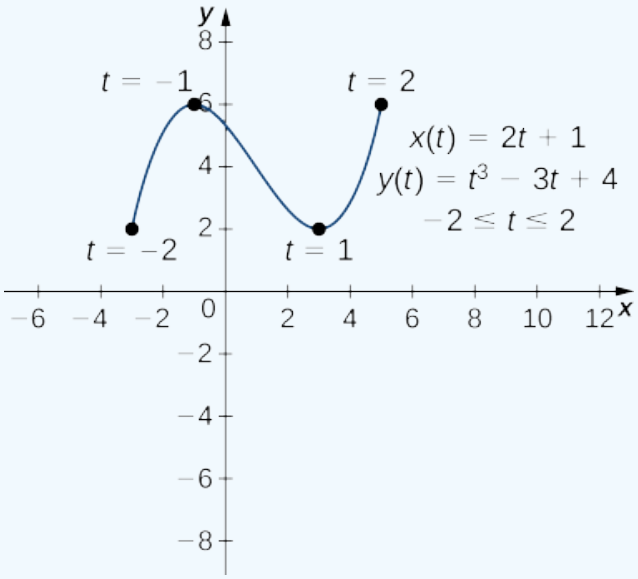


Figure 5.2.3: A vaguely sinusoidal curve going from $(-3, 2)$ through $(-1, 6)$ and $(3, 2)$ to $(5, 6)$. The point $(-3, 2)$ is marked $t = -2$, the point $(-1, 6)$ is marked $t = -1$, the point $(3, 2)$ is marked $t = 1$, and the point $(5, 6)$ is marked $t = 2$. On the graph, the following is written: $x(t) = 2t + 1$, $y(t) = t^3 - 3t + 4$, and $-2 \leq t \leq 2$.

c. To apply Equation 5.2.3, first calculate $x'(t)$ and $y'(t)$:

$$x'(t) = -5 \sin t$$

$$y'(t) = 5 \cos t.$$

Next substitute these into the equation:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/dt}{dx/dt}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{5 \cos t}{-5 \sin t}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\cot t.$$

This derivative is zero when $\cos t = 0$ and is undefined when $\sin t = 0$. This gives $t = 0, \frac{\pi}{2}, \pi, \frac{3\pi}{2}$, and 2π as critical points for *t*. Substituting each of these into $x(t)$ and $y(t)$, we obtain

Table of values generated to graph $x(t) = 5\cos t$ and $y(t) = 5\sin t$.

t	$x(t)$	$y(t)$
0	5	0
$\frac{\pi}{2}$	0	5
π	–5	0
$\frac{3\pi}{2}$	0	–5
2π	5	0

These points correspond to the sides, top, and bottom of the circle that is represented by the parametric equations (Figure 5.2.4). On the left and right edges of the circle, the derivative is undefined, and on the top and bottom, the derivative equals zero.

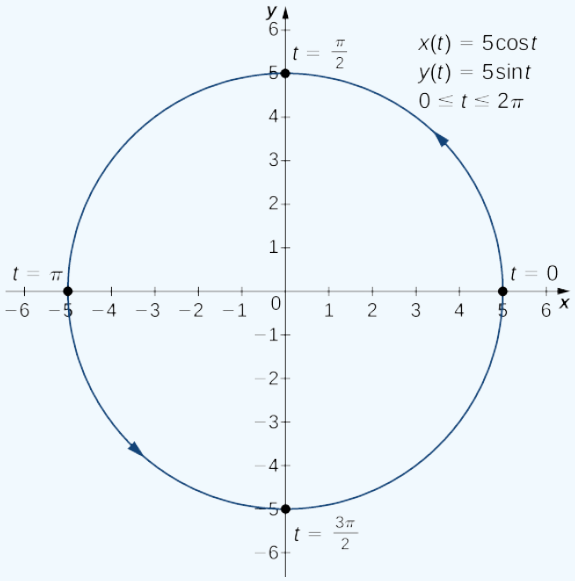


Figure 5.2.4: A circle with radius 5 centered at the origin is graphed with arrow going counterclockwise. The point $(5, 0)$ is marked $t = 0$, the point $(0, 5)$ is marked $t = \pi/2$, the point $(-5, 0)$ is marked $t = \pi$, and the point $(0, -5)$ is marked $t = 3\pi/2$. On the graph, the following is written: $x(t) = 5cos(t)$, $y(t) = 5sin(t)$, and $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$.

Exercise 5.2.1

Calculate the derivative dy/dx for the plane curve defined by the equations

$$x(t) = t^2 - 4t, \quad y(t) = 2t^3 - 6t, \quad \text{for } -2 \leq t \leq 3$$

and locate any critical points on its graph.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Example 5.2.2: Finding a Tangent Line

Find the equation of the tangent line to the curve defined by the equations

$$x(t) = t^2 - 3, \quad y(t) = 2t - 1, \quad \text{for } -3 \leq t \leq 4 \tag{5.2.4}$$

when $t = 2$.

Solution

First find the slope of the tangent line using Equation 5.2.3, which means calculating $x\,'(t)$ and $y\,'(t)$:

$$x\,'(t) = 2t$$

$$y\,'(t) = 2.$$

Next substitute these into the equation:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/dt}{dx/dt}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2}{2t}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{t}.$$

When $t = 2$, $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{2}$, so this is the slope of the tangent line. Calculating $x(2)$ and $y(2)$ gives

$$x(2) = (2)^2 - 3 = 1 \text{ and } y(2) = 2(2) - 1 = 3,$$

which corresponds to the point $(1, 3)$ on the graph (Figure 5.2.6). Now use the point-slope form of the equation of a line to find the equation of the tangent line:

$$y - y_0 = m(x - x_0)$$

$$y - 3 = \frac{1}{2}(x - 1)$$

$$y - 3 = \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{2}$$

$$y = \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{5}{2}.$$

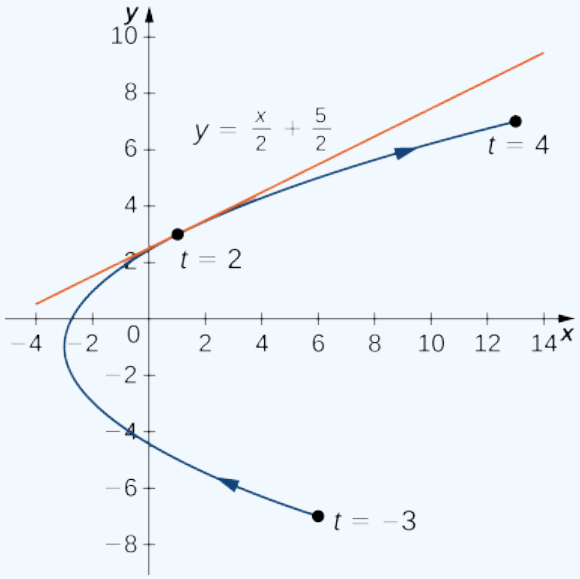


Figure 5.2.6: A parabolic curve going from $(6, -7)$ through $(-3, -1)$ to $(13, 7)$ with arrow pointing in that order. The point $(6, -7)$ is marked $t = -3$, the point $(-3, -1)$ is marked $t = 0$, and the point $(13, 7)$ is marked $t = 4$. At the point $(1, 3)$, which is marked $t = 2$, there is a tangent line with equation $y = x/2 + 5/2$.

Example 5.2.3

Find the equation of the tangent lines where the curve crosses itself at $(3, 2)$ and the curve is defined by the equations

$$x(t) = t^2 - t + 1, \quad y(t) = t^3 - 3t \tag{5.2.5}$$

Solution

Watch the accompanying video for a visual demonstration of this concept.

- **Video Length**: 3 minutes and 33 seconds.
- **Context**: This video demonstrates how to find the equation of a tangent line where a curve crosses itself.

This interactive element is not available in this format. Visit the link or scan the QR code to access it online.

View this YouTube Video online

Exercise 5.2.2

Find the equation of the tangent line to the curve defined by the equations

$$x(t) = t^2 - 4t, \quad y(t) = 2t^3 - 6t, \quad \text{for } -2 \le t \le 6 \text{ when } t = 5.$$

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Second-Order Derivatives

Our next goal is to see how to take the second derivative of a function defined parametrically. The second derivative of a function $y = f(x)$ is defined to be the derivative of the first derivative; that is,

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx}\left[\frac{dy}{dx}\right]. \tag{5.2.6}$$

Since

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\dfrac{dy}{dt}}{\dfrac{dx}{dt}},$$

we can replace the y on both sides of Equation 5.2.6 with $\dfrac{dy}{dx}$. This gives us

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right) = \frac{\dfrac{d}{dt}\left(\dfrac{dy}{dx}\right)}{\dfrac{dx}{dt}}. \tag{5.2.7}$$

If we know dy/dx as a function of t, then this formula is straightforward to apply.

Example 5.2.4: Finding a Second Derivative

Calculate the second derivative d^2y/dx^2 for the plane curve defined by the parametric equations $x(t) = t^2 - 3, \quad y(t) = 2t - 1,$ for $-3 \le t \le 4$.

Solution

From Example 5.2.1 we know that $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = \dfrac{2}{2t} = \dfrac{1}{t}$. Using Equation 5.2.7, we obtain

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{(d/dt)(dy/dx)}{dx/dt} = \frac{(d/dt)(1/t)}{2t} = \frac{-t^{-2}}{2t} = -\frac{1}{2t^3}.$$

Exercise 5.2.3

Calculate the second derivative d^2y/dx^2 for the plane curve defined by the equations

$$x(t) = t^2 - 4t, \quad y(t) = 2t^3 - 6t, \quad \text{for } -2 \le t \le 3$$

and locate any critical points on its graph.

Hint available at the end of this section.

Answer available at the end of this section.

Key Concepts

- The derivative of the parametrically defined curve $x = x(t)$ and $y = y(t)$ can be calculated using the formula $\dfrac{dy}{dx} = \dfrac{y'(t)}{x'(t)}$. Using the derivative, we can find the equation of a tangent line to a parametric curve.
- The second derivative for parametric curves can be computed using \dfrac{d^2y}{dx^2}=\dfrac{d}{dx}\left[\dfrac{dy}{dx}\right] \)

Key Equations

- **Derivative of parametric equations**

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} = \frac{y'(t)}{x'(t)}$$

- **Second-order derivative of parametric equations**

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right) = \frac{\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)}{\frac{dx}{dt}}$$

Contributors and Attributions

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Answers

Exercise 5.2.1

Calculate $x'(t)$ and $y'(t)$ and use Equation 5.2.3.

Exercise 5.2.1

$x'(t) = 2t - 4$ and $y'(t) = 6t^2 - 6$, so $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{6t^2 - 6}{2t - 4} = \frac{3t^2 - 3}{t - 2}$.

This expression is undefined when $t = 2$ and equal to zero when $t = \pm 1$.

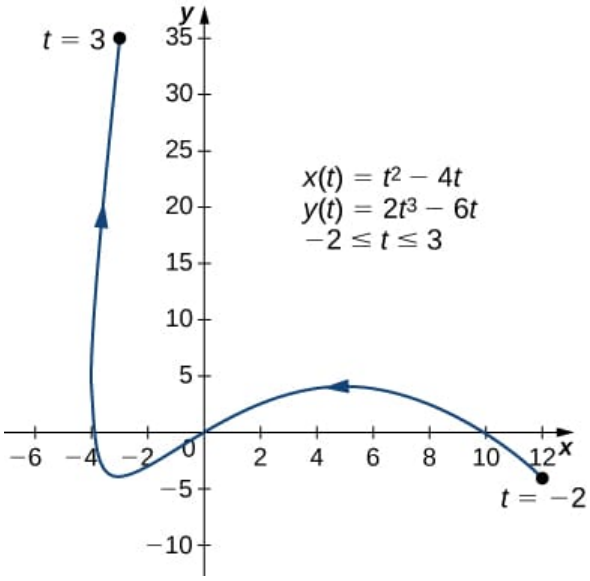


Figure 5.2.5: A curve going from $(12, -4)$ through the origin and $(-4, 0)$ to $(-3, 36)$ with arrows in that order. The point $(12, -4)$ is marked $t = -2$ and the point $(-3, 36)$ is marked $t = 3$. On the graph, the following is written: $x(t) = t2–4t$, $y(t) = 2t^3–6t$, and $-2 \le t \le 3$.

Exercise 5.2.2

Calculate $x'(t)$ and $y'(t)$ and use Equation 5.2.3.

Exercise 5.2.2

The equation of the tangent line is $y = 24x + 100$.

Exercise 5.2.3

Start with the solution from the previous exercise, and use Equation 5.2.7.

Exercise 5.2.3

$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{3t^2 - 12t + 3}{2(t-2)^3}$. Critical points $(5, 4)$, $(-3, -4)$,and $(-4, 6)$.

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5.2E: Exercises for Section 5.2

Exercises 1 - 4

Each set of parametric equations represents a line. Without eliminating the parameter, find the slope of each line.

1. $x = 3 + t, \quad y = 1 - t$
2. $x = 8 + 2t, \quad y = 1$

Answer

$m = 0$

3. $x = 4 - 3t, \quad y = -2 + 6t$
4. $x = -5t + 7, \quad y = 3t - 1$

Answer

$m = -\frac{3}{5}$

Exercises 5 - 9

Determine the slope of the tangent line, then find the equation of the tangent line at the given value of the parameter.

5. $x = 3\sin t, \quad y = 3\cos t, \quad \text{for } t = \frac{\pi}{4}$
6. $x = \cos t, \quad y = 8\sin t, \quad \text{for } t = \frac{\pi}{2}$

Answer

Slope $= 0; y = 8.$

7. $x = 2t, \quad y = t^3, \quad \text{for } t = -1$
8. $x = t + \dfrac{1}{t}, \quad y = t - \dfrac{1}{t}, \quad \text{for } t = 1$

Answer

Slope is undefined; $x = 2.$

9. $x = \sqrt{t}, \quad y = 2t, \quad \text{for } t = 4$

Exercises 10 - 13

Find all points on the curve that have the given slope.

10. $x = 4\cos t, \quad y = 4\sin t$, slope = 0.5

Solution

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/dt}{dx/dt} = \frac{4\cos t}{-4\sin t} = -\cot t.$$

Setting this derivative equal to 0.5, we obtain the equation, $\tan t = -2.$

$$\tan t = -2 \implies \frac{y}{x} = -2 \implies y = -2x.$$

Note also that this pair of parametric equations represents the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 16.$

By substitution, we find that this curve has a slope of 0.5 at the points:

$\left(\frac{4\sqrt{5}}{5}, \frac{-8\sqrt{5}}{5}\right)$ and $\left(\frac{-4\sqrt{5}}{5}, \frac{8\sqrt{5}}{5}\right)$.

11. $x = 2\cos t, \quad y = 8\sin t$, slope= -1

12. $x = t + \dfrac{1}{t}, \quad y = t - \dfrac{1}{t}$, slope= 1

Answer

No points possible; undefined expression.

13. $x = 2 + \sqrt{t}, \quad y = 2 - 4t$, slope= 0

Exercises 14 - 16

Write the equation of the tangent line in Cartesian coordinates for the given parameter t.

14. $x = e^{\sqrt{t}}, \quad y = 1 - \ln t^2, \quad$ for $t = 1$

Answer

$y = -\left(\frac{4}{e}\right)x + 5$

15. $x = t \ln t, \quad y = \sin^2 t, \quad$ for $t = \frac{\pi}{4}$
16. $x = e^t, \quad y = (t-1)^2$, at $(1, 1)$

Answer

$y = -2x + 3$

17. For $x = \sin(2t), \quad y = 2\sin t$ where $0 \le t < 2\pi$. Find all values of t at which a horizontal tangent line exists.
18. For $x = \sin(2t), \quad y = 2\sin t$ where $0 \le t < 2\pi$. Find all values of t at which a vertical tangent line exists.

Answer

A vertical tangent line exists at $t = \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4}$

19. Find all points on the curve $x = 4\cos(t), \quad y = 4\sin(t)$ that have the slope of $\frac{1}{2}$.
20. Find $\dfrac{dy}{dx}$ for $x = \sin(t), \quad y = \cos(t)$.

Answer

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\tan(t)$$

21. Find the equation of the tangent line to $x = \sin(t), \quad y = \cos(t)$ at $t = \frac{\pi}{4}$.
22. For the curve $x = 4t, \quad y = 3t - 2$, find the slope and concavity of the curve at $t = 3$.

Answer

$\dfrac{dy}{dx} = \dfrac{3}{4}$ and $\dfrac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 0$, so the curve is neither concave up nor concave down at $t = 3$. Therefore the graph is linear and has a constant slope but no concavity.

23. For the parametric curve whose equation is $x = 4\cos\theta, \quad y = 4\sin\theta$, find the slope and concavity of the curve at $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$.
24. Find the slope and concavity for the curve whose equation is $x = 2 + \sec\theta, \quad y = 1 + 2\tan\theta$ at $\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}$.

Answer

$\dfrac{dy}{dx} = 4, \quad \dfrac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -4\sqrt{3}$; the curve is concave down at $\theta = \frac{\pi}{6}$.

25. Find all points on the curve $x = t + 4, \quad y = t^3 - 3t$ at which there are vertical and horizontal tangents.
26. Find all points on the curve $x = \sec\theta, \quad y = \tan\theta$ at which horizontal and vertical tangents exist.

Answer

No horizontal tangents. Vertical tangents at $(1, 0)$ and $(-1, 0)$.

Exercises 27 - 29

Find d^2y/dx^2.

27. $x = t^4 - 1, \quad y = t - t^2$
28. $x = \sin(\pi t), \quad y = \cos(\pi t)$

Answer

$d^2y/dx^2 = -\sec^3(\pi t)$

29. $x = e^{-t}, \quad y = te^{2t}$

Exercises 30 - 31

Find points on the curve at which tangent line is horizontal or vertical.

30. $x = t(t^2 - 3), \quad y = 3(t^2 - 3)$

Answer

Horizontal $(0, -9)$;
Vertical $(\pm 2, -6)$.

31. $x = \dfrac{3t}{1 + t^3}, \quad y = \dfrac{3t^2}{1 + t^3}$

Exercises 32 - 34

Find dy/dx at the value of the parameter.

32. $x = \cos t, y = \sin t, \quad \text{for } t = \frac{3\pi}{4}$

Answer

$dy/dx = 1$

33. $x = \sqrt{t}, \quad y = 2t + 4, t = 9$
34. $x = 4\cos(2\pi s), \quad y = 3\sin(2\pi s), \quad \text{for } s = -\frac{1}{4}$

Answer

$dy/dx = 0$

Exercises 35 - 36

Find d^2y/dx^2 at the given point without eliminating the parameter.

35. $x = \frac{1}{2}t^2, \quad y = \frac{1}{3}t^3, \quad \text{for } t = 2$
36. $x = \sqrt{t}, \quad y = 2t + 4, \quad \text{for } t = 1$

Answer

$d^2y/dx^2 = 4$

37. Find intervals for t on which the curve $x = 3t^2, \quad y = t^3 - t$ is concave up as well as concave down.
38. Determine the concavity of the curve $x = 2t + \ln t, \quad y = 2t - \ln t$.

Answer

Concave up on $t > 0$.

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5.3: Chapter 5 Review Exercises

Exercises 1 - 2

***True or False?* Justify your answer with a proof or a counterexample.**

1. The rectangular coordinates of the point $\left(4, \frac{5\pi}{6}\right)$ are $\left(2\sqrt{3}, -2\right)$.
2. Given $x = f(t)$ and $y = g(t)$, if $\dfrac{dx}{dy} = \dfrac{dy}{dx}$, then $f(t) = g(t) + C$, where C is a constant.

Answer

False. Imagine $y = t + 1, \;\; x = -t + 1.$

In exercises 3 - 6

Sketch the parametric curve and eliminate the parameter to find the Cartesian equation of the curve.

3. $x = 1 + t, \;\; y = t^2 - 1, \quad -1 \le t \le 1$
4. $x = e^t, \;\; y = 1 - e^{3t}, \quad 0 \le t \le 1$

Answer

$$y = 1 - x^3$$

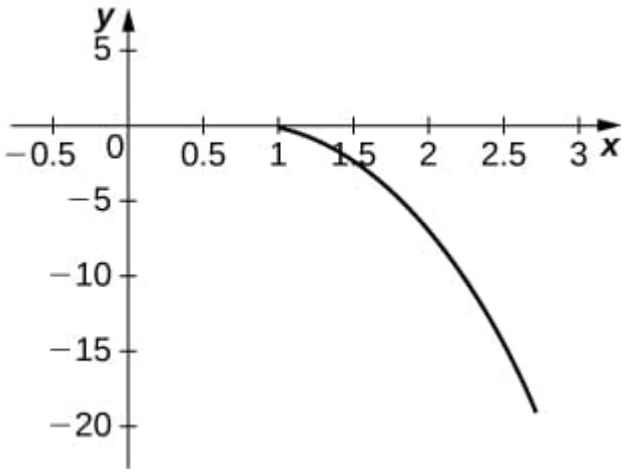


Figure 5.3.1: Graph of a curve starting at $(1, 0)$ and decreasing concave down into the fourth quadrant and ending at $(e, 1 - e^3)$.

5. $x = \sin\theta, \;\; y = 1 - \csc\theta, \quad 0 \le \theta \le 2\pi$
6. $x = 4\cos\phi, \;\; y = 1 - \sin\phi, \quad 0 \le \phi \le 2\pi$

Answer

$$\frac{x^2}{16} + (y-1)^2 = 1$$

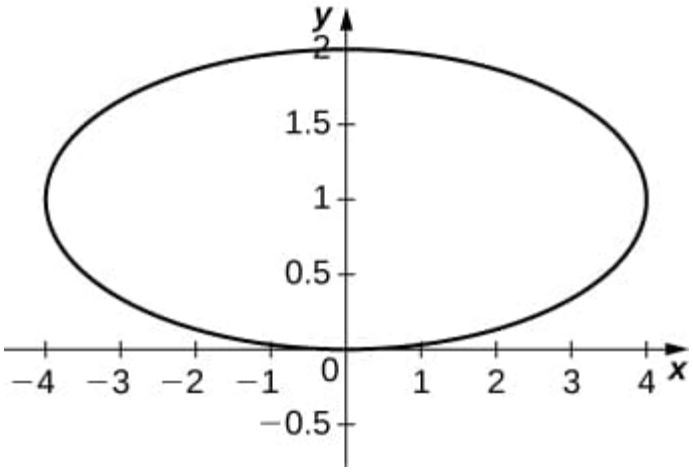


Figure 5.3.2: Graph of an ellipse with center (0, 1), a horizontal major axis of length 8, and vertical minor axis of length 2.

Exercises 7 - 8

7. For, $x = \ln(t), \quad y = t^2 - 1, \quad t = 1$, find the equation of the tangent line to the given curve. Graph both the function and its tangent line.
8. Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$, $\frac{dx}{dy}$, and $\frac{d^2x}{dy^2}$ of $y = (2 + e^{-t}), \quad x = 1 - \sin t$

Answer

$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{e^t \cos t}, \frac{dx}{dy} = e^t \cos t, \frac{d^2x}{dy^2} = e^{2t}(\sin t - \cos t).$

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6: APPENDICES

6.1: A- Table of Derivatives

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6.1: A- Table of Derivatives

General Formulas

1. $\frac{d}{dx}(c) = 0$
2. $\frac{d}{dx}(f(x) + g(x)) = f\,'(x) + g\,'(x)$
3. $\frac{d}{dx}(f(x)g(x)) = f\,'(x)g(x) + f(x)g\,'(x)$
4. $\frac{d}{dx}(x^n) = nx^{n-1}, \quad$ for real numbers n
5. $\frac{d}{dx}(cf(x)) = cf\,'(x)$
6. $\frac{d}{dx}(f(x) - g(x)) = f\,'(x) - g\,'(x)$
7. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}\right) = \frac{g(x)f'(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{(g(x))^2}$
8. $\frac{d}{dx}[f(g(x))] = f\,'(g(x)) \cdot g\,'(x)$

Trigonometric Functions

9. $\frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) = \cos x$
10. $\frac{d}{dx}(\tan x) = \sec^2 x$
11. $\frac{d}{dx}(\sec x) = \sec x \tan x$
12. $\frac{d}{dx}(\cos x) = -\sin x$
13. $\frac{d}{dx}(\cot x) = -\csc^2 x$
14. $\frac{d}{dx}(\csc x) = -\csc x \cot x$

Inverse Trigonometric Functions

15. $\frac{d}{dx}(\sin^{-1} x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$
16. $\frac{d}{dx}(\tan^{-1} x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$
17. $\frac{d}{dx}(\sec^{-1} x) = \frac{1}{|x|\sqrt{x^2-1}}$
18. $\frac{d}{dx}(\cos^{-1} x) = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$
19. $\frac{d}{dx}(\cot^{-1} x) = \frac{-1}{1+x^2}$
20. $\frac{d}{dx}(\csc^{-1} x) = \frac{-1}{|x|\sqrt{x^2-1}}$

Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

21. $\frac{d}{dx}(e^x) = e^x$
22. $\frac{d}{dx}(\ln|x|) = \frac{1}{x}$
23. $\frac{d}{dx}(b^x) = b^x \ln b$

24. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\log_b x\right) = \frac{1}{x \ln b}$

Hyperbolic Functions

25. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\sinh x\right) = \cosh x$
26. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\tanh x\right) = \operatorname{sech}^2\ x$
27. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\operatorname{sech} x\right) = -\operatorname{sech}\ x \tanh x$
28. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\cosh x\right) = \sinh x$
29. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\coth x\right) = -\operatorname{csch}^2\ x$
30. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\operatorname{csch} x\right) = -\operatorname{csch} x \coth x$

Inverse Hyperbolic Functions

31. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\sinh^{-1} x\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2+1}}$
32. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\tanh^{-1} x\right) = \frac{1}{1-x^2} \quad (|x|<1)$
33. \(\quad \dfrac{d}{dx}\left(\text{sech}^{-1}\,x\right)=\dfrac{-1}{x\sqrt{1-x^2}}\quad (0
34. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\cosh^{-1} x\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2-1}} \quad (x>1)$
35. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\coth^{-1} x\right) = \frac{1}{1-x^2} \quad (|x|>1)$
36. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(\operatorname{csch}^{-1} x\right) = \frac{-1}{|x|\sqrt{1+x^2}} \quad (x \neq 0)$

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