

1. Compute the derivative of $f(x) = \frac{2x+1}{x+3}$ using the definition of derivative.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{2(x+h)+1}{(x+h)+3} - \frac{2x+1}{x+3}}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{(2x+2h+1)(x+3) - (x+h+3)(2x+1)}{(x+h+3)(x+3)}}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{5h}{(x+h+3)(x+3)h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{5}{(x+h+3)(x+3)} \\ &= \frac{5}{(x+3)^2} \end{aligned}$$

2. Find an equation of the tangent line to the graph of $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$ at $(1, 1)$.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned} f'(1) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{1+h} - \sqrt{1}}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{1+h} - 1}{h} \frac{\sqrt{1+h} + 1}{\sqrt{1+h} + 1} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(1+h) - 1}{h(\sqrt{1+h} + 1)} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h}{h(\sqrt{1+h} + 1)} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+h} + 1} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

So the equation of the tangent line is

$$y - 1 = \frac{1}{2}(x - 1)$$

3. If a ball is thrown into the air with a velocity of 40 m/s, its height (in meters) after t seconds is given by $y = 40t - 5t^2$. Find the velocity if the ball after 2 seconds. Is it going upward or downward at that time?

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}v(2) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[40(2+h) - 5(2+h)^2] - [40 \times 2 - 5 \times 2^2]}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{20h - 5h^2}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 20 - 5h \\&= 20\end{aligned}$$

So the velocity after 2 seconds is 20, going upward since it is positive.

4. $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}$. Show that $f'(0)$ does not exist. [Hint: $(a-b)(a^2+ab+b^2) = a^3-b^3$]

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}f'(0) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt[3]{0+h} - \sqrt[3]{0}}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h^{\frac{1}{3}}}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h^{\frac{2}{3}}} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{h^2}} \\&= \infty\end{aligned}$$

So $f'(0)$ does not exist.

5. On which intervals is $f(x) = |x - 6|$ differentiable?

Solution:

If $x > 6$:

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{|x + h - 6| - |x - 6|}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x + h - 6) - (x - 6)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 1 \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

If $x < 6$:

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{|x + h - 6| - |x - 6|}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(6 - (x + h)) - (6 - x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-h}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} -1 \\ &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

if $x = 6$: we are going to show $f'(6)$ doesn't exist since

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{|x + h - 6| - |x - 6|}{h} \neq \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|x + h - 6| - |x - 6|}{h}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{|x+h-6| - |x-6|}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{(6 - (x+h)) - (6-x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{-h}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} -1 \\ &= -1\end{aligned}$$

while

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|x+h-6| - |x-6|}{h} &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|x+h-6| - |x-6|}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{(x+h-6) - (x-6)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{h}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} 1 \\ &= 1\end{aligned}$$

6. $f(x) = 3x^2$. Compute f' , f'' , f''' using definition of derivative.

Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}f'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{3(x+h)^2 - 3x^2}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{6xh + 3h^2}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 6x + 3h \\ &= 6x\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f''(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f'(x+h) - f'(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{6(x+h) - 6x}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{6h}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 6 \\ &= 6 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f'''(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f''(x+h) - f''(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{6 - 6}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 0 \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

7. Prove the derivative of an even function is an odd function.

Solution: If f is an even function,

$$\begin{aligned} f'(-x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(-x+h) - f(-x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x-h) - f(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+k) - f(x)}{-k} \\ &= - \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+k) - f(x)}{k} \\ &= -f'(x) \end{aligned}$$

So f' is an odd function.