

AP Calculus

Formal Definition of Derivative

1-4: Use the formal definition of a derivative to find $f'(x)$.

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

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2(x+h)^2 - 3 - (2x^2 - 3)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2(x^2 + 2xh + h^2) - 3 - (2x^2 - 3)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x^2 + 4xh + 2h^2 - 3 - 2x^2 + 3}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{4xh + 2h^2}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(4x + 2h)}{h} = \boxed{4x}$$

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

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

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - x - h}{x(x+h)h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-h}{x(x+h)h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-1}{x(x+h)} = \frac{-1}{x^2}$$

3. $f(x) = \sqrt{5+x}$

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{5+x+h} - \sqrt{5+x}}{h} \cdot \left(\frac{\sqrt{5+x+h} + \sqrt{5+x}}{\sqrt{5+x+h} + \sqrt{5+x}} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{5+x+h - (5+x)}{h(\sqrt{5+x+h} + \sqrt{5+x})}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h}{h(\sqrt{5+x+h} + \sqrt{5+x})} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{5+x+h} + \sqrt{5+x}}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{5+x+h} + \sqrt{5+x}} = \boxed{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{5+x}}}$$

4. $f(x) = x^3 + 6x + 8$

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^3 + 6(x+h) + 8 - (x^3 + 6x + 8)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^3 + 3x^2h + 3xh^2 + h^3 + 6x + 6h + 8 - x^3 - 6x - 8}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x^2h + 3xh^2 + h^3 + 6h}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(3x^2 + 3xh + h^2 + 6)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 3x^2 + 3xh + h^2 + 6 = \boxed{3x^2 + 6}$$

5. Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of $y=g(x)$ at $x=5$ if $g(5)=-3$ and $g'(5)=4$.

$$y + 3 = 4(x - 5)$$

6. Find the equation of the tangent line to the graph of $y=g(x)$ at $x=-2$ if $g(-2)=7$ and $g'(-2)=-1$.

$$y - 7 = -1(x + 2)$$

7-8 Find an equation of the tangent line to the curve at the given point.

7. $y = 4x - 3x^2$, (2, -4)

$$y' = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{4(x+h) - 3(x+h)^2 - (4x - 3x^2)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{4x + 4h - 3(x^2 + 2xh + h^2) - 4x + 3x^2}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{4x + 4h - 3x^2 - 6xh - 3h^2 - 4x + 3x^2}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{4h - 6xh - 3h^2}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(4 - 6x - 3h)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 4 - 6x - 3h = 4 - 6x \Big|_{x=2} = -8$$

$$y + 4 = -8(x - 2)$$

8. $y = \sqrt{x}$, (4, 2)

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

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

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+h} + \sqrt{x}} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} \Big|_{x=4} = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$y - 2 = \frac{1}{4}(x - 4)$$

9. If an equation of the tangent line to the curve $y=f(x)$ at the point where $a=2$ is $y=4x-5$, find $f(2)$ and $f'(2)$.

$$f(2) = 4(2) - 5 = 3$$

$$f'(2) = 4$$

10. If the tangent line to $y=f(x)$ at (4,3) passes through the point (0,2), find $f(4)$ and $f'(4)$.

$$f(4) = 3$$

$$f'(4) = \frac{2-3}{0-4} = \frac{-1}{-4} = \frac{1}{4}$$

11-19 Each limit represents some derivative of some function f . State such an f and what derivative is asked for in each case.

11. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(1+h)^{10} - 1}{h}$
 $f(x) = x^{10}$
 want $f'(1)$

12. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln(x+h+9) - \ln(x+9)}{h}$
 $f(x) = \ln(x+9)$
 want $f'(x)$

13. $\lim_{x \rightarrow \frac{\pi}{4}} \frac{\tan x - 1}{x - \frac{\pi}{4}}$
 $f(x) = \tan x$
 want $f'(\frac{\pi}{4})$

14. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{((x+h)^3 - 5(x+h) - 10) - (x^3 - 5x + 10)}{h}$
 $f(x) = x^3 - 5x - 10$
 want $f'(x)$

15. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 5} \frac{2^x - 32}{x - 5}$
 $f(x) = 2^x$
 want $f'(5)$

16. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt[4]{16+h} - 2}{h}$
 $f(x) = \sqrt[4]{x}$
 want $f'(16)$

17. $\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} \frac{t^4 + t - 2}{t - 1}$
 $f(x) = t^4 + t$
 want $f'(1)$

18. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos(\pi+h) + 1}{h}$
 $f(x) = \cos x$
 want $f'(\pi)$

19. $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{x+h+2} - \frac{1}{x+2}}{h}$
 $f(x) = \frac{1}{x+2}$
 want $f'(x)$