

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

Ex The distance traveled by a falling object is:

$$s(t) = 4.9 t^2, \quad t \text{ in sec}$$

s(t) in m

a) If I drop a rock, how fast is it moving after 5 sec?

We'll find  $s'(5)$

$$\begin{aligned} s'(5) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{s(5+h) - s(5)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{4.9(5+h)^2 - 4.9 \cdot 5^2}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{4.9(25 + 10h + h^2) - 4.9 \cdot 25}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{4.9 \cdot 25} + 49h + \cancel{4.9}h^2 - \cancel{4.9 \cdot 25}}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{h}(49 + \cancel{4.9}h)}{\cancel{h}} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 49 + 4.9h \\ &= 49 + 4.9 \cdot 0 = \boxed{49 \text{ m/s}} \end{aligned}$$

b) If I drop it from a height of 3m,  
how fast is it going when it hits the ground?

Find the time of impact, then find derivative at  
that time.

$$s(t) = 4.9t^2$$

set  $s(t) = 3$ , solve for  $t$ .

$$4.9t^2 = 3$$

$$t^2 = \frac{3}{4.9}$$

$$t = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4.9}} = .782$$

Now  $s'(.782)$

$$s'(.782) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{s(.782+h) - s(.782)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{4.9(.782+h)^2 - 4.9 \cdot .782^2}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 4.9 \frac{\cancel{.782^2} + 1.56h + h^2 - \cancel{.782^2}}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 4.9 \frac{\cancel{h}(1.56+h)}{\cancel{h}}$$

$$= 4.9(1.56 + 0) = 7.66 \text{ m/s.}$$

# Math Colloquium

5-6

Downstairs Library

Mathematical Billiards

## The Derivative as a function

We can find the derivative without plugging in a specific point, we get a function as the answer.

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

(never plug in for  $x$ , so  $x$ 's remain in the answer)

The derivative is like a function transformation:

start with a function  $f(x)$ ,

obtain another function  $f'(x)$ .

↑  
How fast  $f(x)$  is changing.

Ex My bank account balance is given by:  
 $f(t) = 2000 + 5/t$ ,  $t$  in days  
 $f(t)$  in \$.

Find  $f'(t)$  ← how much my account changes on day  $t$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 f'(t) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(t+h) - f(t)}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2000 + \frac{5}{t+h} - \left(2000 + \frac{5}{t}\right)}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{2000} + \frac{5}{t+h} - \cancel{2000} - \frac{5}{t}}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \cdot \left( \frac{5}{t+h} - \frac{5}{t} \right) \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \left( \frac{5}{t+h} \cdot \frac{t}{t} - \frac{5}{t} \cdot \frac{t+h}{t+h} \right) \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \left( \frac{5t}{t(t+h)} - \frac{5t+5h}{t(t+h)} \right) \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \left( \frac{5t - (5t+5h)}{t(t+h)} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\cancel{t}} \cdot \frac{-5\cancel{t}}{t(t+h)}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-5}{t(t+h)} = \boxed{\frac{-5}{t^2}}$$

$$f(t) = 2000 + 5/t$$

$$f'(t) = -5/t^2$$

$$f(1) = 2005 \quad \leftarrow \text{on day 1, I have } \$2005$$

$$f'(1) = -5 \quad \leftarrow \text{on day 1, I'm losing } \$5/\text{day.}$$

Find  $f'(x)$ :

$$f(x) = 5 + 2x - x^2$$

$$f(x) = 3 - 7x$$

$$2 - 2x$$

$$-7$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{5 + 2(x+h) - (x+h)^2 - (5 + 2x - x^2)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{5 + 2x + 2h - (x^2 + 2xh + h^2) - 5 - 2x + x^2}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{5} + 2x + 2h - \cancel{x^2} - 2xh - h^2 - \cancel{5} - 2x + \cancel{x^2}}{h}$$

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

$$= 2 - 2x - 0 = \underline{2 - 2x}$$

$$f(x) = 3 - 7x$$

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

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{3 - 7(x+h) - (3 - 7x)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{3} - \cancel{7x} - 7h - \cancel{3} + \cancel{7x}}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-7h}{h} = \boxed{-7}$$

Harder

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

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x}$$

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

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

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+0} + \sqrt{x}} = \boxed{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{x+3}{x-1}$$

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{x+h+3}{x+h-1} - \frac{x+3}{x-1}}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \left( \frac{x+h+3}{x+h-1} \cdot \frac{x-1}{x-1} - \frac{x+3}{x-1} \cdot \frac{x+h-1}{x+h-1} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \left( \frac{x^2+h x+3 x-x-h-3 - (x^2+h x-x+3 x+3 h-3)}{(x+h-1)(x-1)} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{h} \left( \frac{\cancel{x^2+h x+3 x-x-h-3} - \cancel{x^2+h x-x-3 x-3 h+3}}{(x+h-1)(x-1)} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\cancel{h}} \left( \frac{-4h}{(x+h-1)(x-1)} \right)$$

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

Deriv. is a limit of something, so  
it might not exist.

$$f(x) = \frac{x+3}{x-1}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{4}{(x-1)^2}$$

→ this DNE if  $x=1$

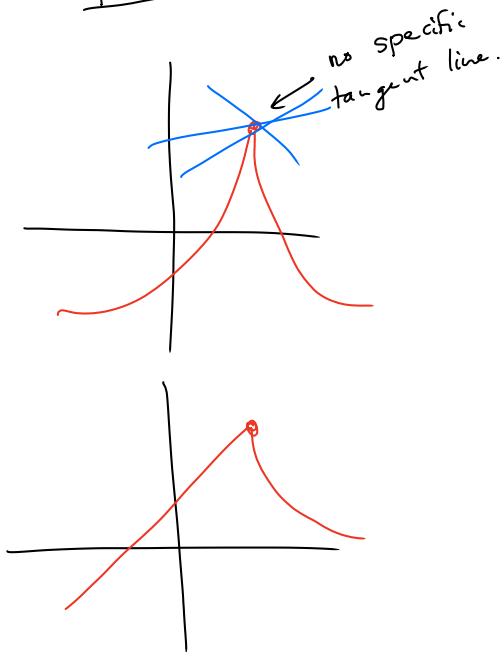
We say  $f$  is not differentiable at  $x=1$   
 $\uparrow$   
 derivative DNE

Here also  $f(1)$  DNE

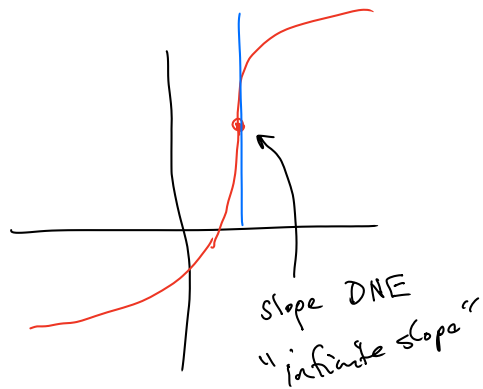
So when  $f(a)$  DNE, then  $f'(a)$  also DNE.

But sometimes  $f'$  DNE even when  $f(a)$  does exist.

pointy-point



vertical slope



MPG ZERO

$$\frac{\text{miles}}{\text{gal}} = \frac{\quad}{0}$$