

## SECTION 3-1: DEFINING THE DERIVATIVE

Read Section 3.1. Work the embedded problems.

1. Definition of the Derivative (version 1)

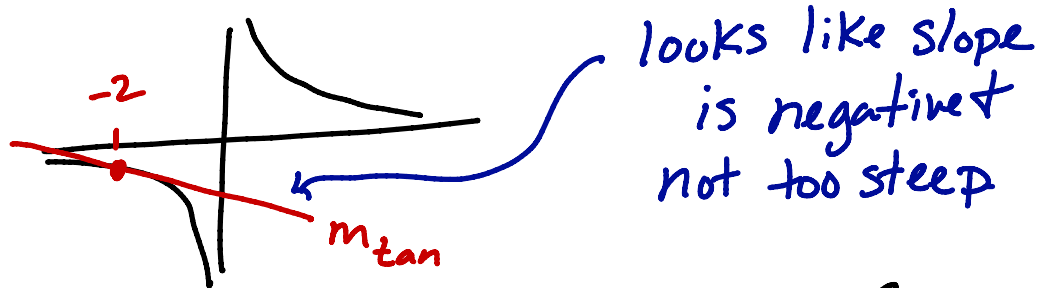
$$f'(a) = m_{\text{tan}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x) - f(a)}{x - a}$$

2. Definition of the Derivative (version 2)

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

3. In the problems below, let  $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ .

- (a) Using a rough sketch of  $f(x)$  make a rough estimate of the slope of the tangent to  $f(x)$  when  $x = -2$ .



- (b) Using the first version of the difference quotient, find  $m_{\text{tan}}$  when  $a = -2$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(-2) = m_{\text{tan}} &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{f(x) - f(-2)}{x - (-2)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{\frac{1}{x} + \frac{1}{2}}{x + 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \left( \frac{2+x}{2x} \right) \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \left( \frac{1}{x+2} \right) \left( \frac{x+2}{2x} \right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -2} \frac{1}{2x} = \frac{1}{-4} = \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right) \end{aligned}$$

- (c) Using the second version of the difference quotient, find  $m_{\text{tan}}$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(-2) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(-2+h) - f(-2)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{-2+h} + \frac{1}{2}}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{1}{h} \right) \left( \frac{2 + (-2+h)}{(-2+h)(2)} \right) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h}{2(h-2)h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2(h-2)} = \frac{-1}{4} \end{aligned}$$

- (d) Write the equation of the line tangent to  $f(x)$  when  $x = -2$ . (Plausible?)

point  $(-2, -\frac{1}{2})$   
 $m = -\frac{1}{4}$

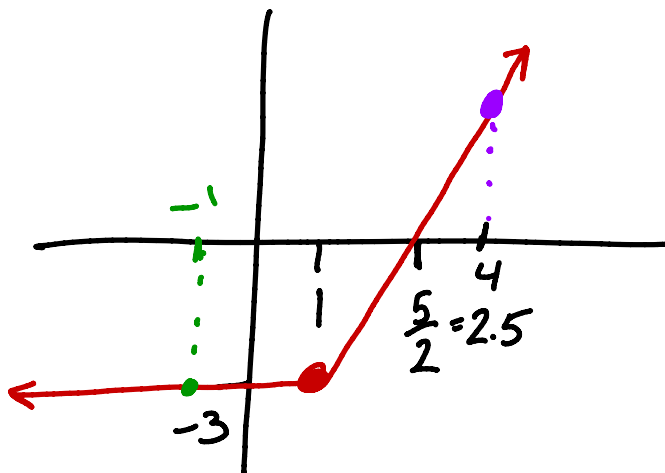
line:  $y + \frac{1}{2} = -\frac{1}{4}(x+2)$  or  $y = -\frac{1}{4}x - 1$  (Looks roughly correct)

4. Graph the function  $G(t) = \begin{cases} -3 & x \leq 1 \\ 2x - 5 & 1 < x \end{cases}$ .

(a) Use the graph to determine  $G'(-1)$  and  $G'(4)$

•  $G'(-1) = 0$

•  $G'(4) = 2$



(b) Explain – using the definition – why  $G'(1)$  fails to exist.

The definition is a two-sided limit. But we can see that on the right, all secant lines have a slope of 2 but on the left, all secant lines have a slope of 0.

5. A rock is dropped from a height of 100 feet. Its height above ground at time  $t$  seconds later is given by  $s(t) = -16t^2 + 100$ .

(a) Find and interpret  $s(0)$  and  $s(1)$ .

$s(0) = 100$  ft. (When time starts, the rock is dropped from 100ft)

$s(1) = 84$  ft (One second after the rock is dropped, it is 84 ft above the ground. Or, it has dropped 16 feet.)

(b) Find and interpret  $s'(1)$ .

Assume you are told that  $s'(1) = -32$  what are its units? Interpret.

units: feet/second

Interpretation: One second after the rock is dropped, the rock is falling at a rate of 32 ft per second.