

Skip to ...

2.4 Interpreting The derivative $\longrightarrow$ Next time 2.3...

given $y = f(x)$

$$\text{The Derivative} = f'(x) = \frac{dy}{dx} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

this measures: $\frac{\text{difference in } y}{\text{difference in } x}$.

If $y = f(x)$ is ...DISTANCE

$$S = f(t) \quad \begin{array}{l} s = \text{position} \\ t = \text{time.} \end{array}$$

$$\text{then } \frac{ds}{dt} = f'(t) = \text{speed}$$

change in position
over time.

$$S(1) = 10$$

$$S'(1) = -1 \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{At the moment} \\ t=1 \text{ ~~position~~ } \\ \text{position is decreasing.} \end{array}$$

TEMPERATURE

$$T = f(t) \quad \begin{array}{l} T = \text{temp} \\ t = \text{time} \end{array}$$

$$\text{then } \frac{dT}{dt} = f'(t) = \text{change in Temp.}$$

change in temperature
over time.

$$T(1) = 10$$

$$T'(1) = 3$$

At the moment $t=1$
the temperature is
increasing.

Estimate $T(2)$
well $T(1)=10$ and
it is changing 3
per step so...

$$T(2) \sim 13$$

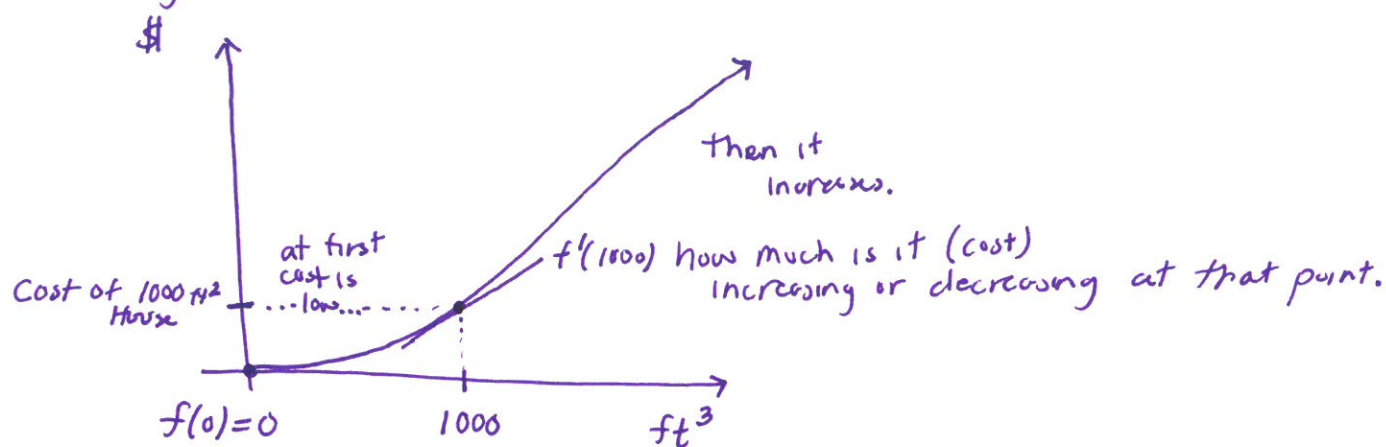
Lets do lots of examples!

Ex $C = f(A)$ $\nearrow$ \$ cost of building a house is dependent
of the area in square feet.

What does $\frac{dC}{dA}$ mean? UNITS $\frac{\text{change in cost (dollars)}}{\text{change in area (sq feet)}}$

$f'(1000) = 10 \dots$ I have 1000 square feet if I went up
to 1001 it would cost about \$10 more.

What might this function look like...



Ex $N = f(c)$ Number of students who eat at the commons is dependent on the cost of food \$.

what should $N = f(0) = ?$ LOTS! = 2000
It's FREE!!

What does N do as C increases?

What would $N' = f'(10) = -20$ ^{expect pos or neg?}

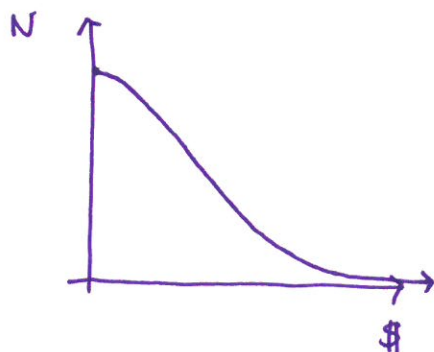
UNITS $\left(\frac{\text{Students}}{\$} \right)$

fewer students would eat if we increased the cost.

If $f(10) = 1000$ what might we expect

$f(10.5) = 990$ students

$f(9.5) = 1010$ students.



what might we expect

$\lim_{\$ \rightarrow \infty} f(c) = 0?$

$\lim_{\$ \rightarrow \infty} f'(c) = 0?$

Ex $E = f(d)$ is the effectiveness of a drug given a dose (ml)

effectiveness — measured in % of population that recovers in 3 days.

What does $f(1) = 10$ mean?

What do we think $f(0) = \underline{.5}$ should be?

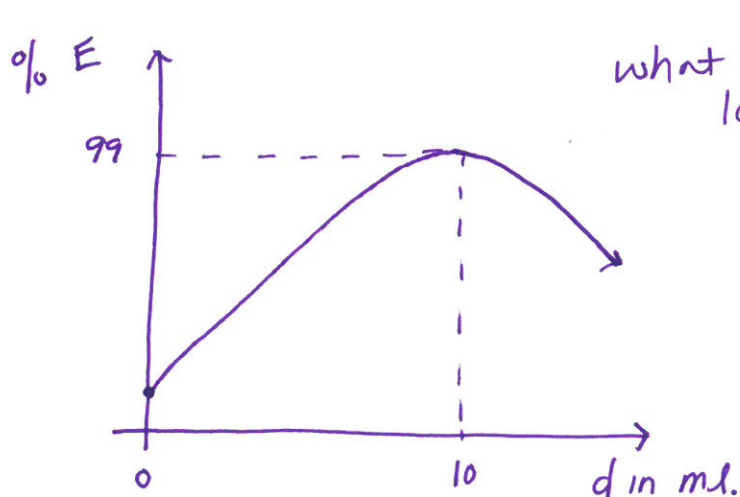
depends ... maybe some people recover w/o drug but if the drug works at all it is less than 10.

If $f'(1) = 10$ should we give more of the drug?

Yes — the effectiveness is increasing !!

If $f(10) = 99$ and $f'(10) = -1$ what does this tell us?

Giving a dose of 10 ml is 99% effective but giving more decreases effectiveness. so we should not give more.



what might this function look like...

4
Ex What if I can tell you exactly The change in stock market prices per day... into the FUTURE !!

$$S = f'(d) \longrightarrow \text{I know the rate of change...}$$

what would $f(d)$ tell me?

$f(d)$ — the stock market price on date d .

Work to get use to thinking about what functions mean. This is the best way to actually be able to apply calculus to real world problems!!

Section 2.4 – Interpretations of the Derivative

1. Let $f(p)$ represent the daily demand for San Francisco '49ers T-shirts when the price for a shirt is p dollars. In other words, $f(p)$ gives the number of shirts purchased daily if the selling price is p dollars.
 - (a) Is f increasing or decreasing?
 - (b) What are the units of p , $f(p)$, and $f'(p)$?
 - (c) Explain, in terms of shirts and dollars, the practical meaning of the following:
 - i. $f(20) = 150$
 - ii. $f'(20) = -5$
 - iii. $f(30)$
 - (d) Let d represent demand. Then $d = f(p)$, so the function f takes _____ as an input and gives _____ as an output. On the other hand, the inverse function f^{-1} takes _____ as an input and gives _____ as an output, so $f^{-1}(\text{_____}) = \text{_____}$.
 - (e) Give practical interpretations of $f(25)$ and $f^{-1}(25)$.
2. (Taken from *Hughes-Hallett, et. al.*) If t is the number of years since 1993, the population, P , of China, in billions, can be approximated by the function
$$P = f(t) = 1.15(1.014)^t.$$
 - (a) Calculate and interpret $f(6)$ in the context of this problem.
 - (b) Use the table method to estimate $\frac{dP}{dt}$ at $t = 6$, and give an interpretation of this number in the context of this problem.
3. Between noon and 6 p.m., the temperature in a town rises continually, but rises at its quickest around 3 p.m., and slowest around noon and 6 p.m.
 - (a) Sketch a possible graph of $H = f(t)$, where H is the temperature in the town (in degrees Fahrenheit) and t represents the time (in hours) after 12:00 noon.
 - (b) Explain, in terms of degrees and hours, what each of the following represents:
 - (i) $f'(2)$
 - (ii) $f'(3) = 7$
 - $f(4) = 40$
 - $f'(4) = 1$
 - (c) Use the statements given in parts (iii) and (iv) from above to estimate the temperature in the town at 5:30 p.m. Is the actual temperature higher or lower than the estimate?

Section 2.4 – Interpretations of the Derivative

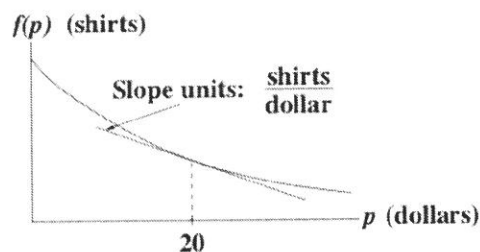
1. Let $f(p)$ represent the daily demand for San Francisco '49ers T-shirts when the price for a shirt is p dollars. In other words, $f(p)$ gives the number of shirts purchased daily if the selling price is p dollars.

- (a) Is f increasing or decreasing?

f is decreasing.

- (b) What are the units of p , $f(p)$, and $f'(p)$?

p has units of dollars, and $f(p)$ has units of shirts. Since $f'(p)$ represents the rate of change of $f(p)$ with respect to p , its units are shirts per dollar.



- (c) Explain, in terms of shirts and dollars, the practical meaning of the following:

- i. $f(20) = 150$

This states that if the price for a shirt is \$20, then 150 shirts will be bought daily.

- ii. $f'(20) = -5$

This states that if the price for a shirt is \$20, then the daily demand for shirts will decrease by about 5 shirts for each additional dollar that is charged for the shirt.

- iii. $f(30)$

This represents the number of shirts that will be bought in a day if the price for a shirt is \$30.

- (d) Let d represent demand. Then $d = f(p)$, so the function f takes price as an input and gives demand as an output. On the other hand, the inverse function f^{-1} takes demand as an input and gives price as an output, so $f^{-1}(d) = p$.

- (e) Give practical interpretations of $f(25)$ and $f^{-1}(25)$.

$f(25)$ represents the number of shirts bought daily if the selling price is \$25.

$f^{-1}(25)$ represents the selling price of a shirt that would result in 25 shirts being bought daily.

2. (Taken from *Hughes-Hallett, et. al.*) If t is the number of years since 1993, the population, P , of China, in billions, can be approximated by the function

$$P = f(t) = 1.15(1.014)^t.$$

- (a) Calculate and interpret $f(6)$ in the context of this problem.

$f(6) = 1.25$, which indicates that the population of China was 1.25 billion in 1999.

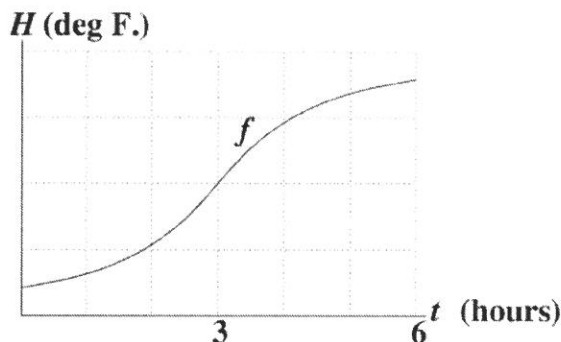
- (b) Use the table method to estimate $\frac{dP}{dt}$ at $t = 6$, and give an interpretation of this number in the context of this problem.

$$P'(6) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1.15(1.014)^{6+h} - 1.15(1.014)^6}{h}$$

h	0.1	0.01	0.001
$\frac{1.15(1.014)^{6+h} - 1.15(1.014)^6}{h}$	0.01739	0.01738	0.01738

From the calculations to the left, $P'(6)$ equals about 0.01738, which means that the population of China is increasing by about 17.4 million people per year in 1999.

3. Between noon and 6 p.m., the temperature in a town rises continually, but rises at its quickest around 3 p.m., and slowest around noon and 6 p.m.
- (a) Sketch a possible graph of $H = f(t)$, where H is the temperature in the town (in degrees Fahrenheit) and t represents the time (in hours) after 12:00 noon.



- (b) Explain, in terms of degrees and hours, what each of the following represents:

i. $f'(2)$

This represents the rate at which the temperature increases, in degrees per hour, at 2 p.m.

iii. $f(4) = 40$

This states that at 4 p.m., the temperature in the town is 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

ii. $f'(3) = 7$

This states that at 3 p.m., the temperature is increasing at a rate of 7 degrees Fahrenheit per hour.

iv. $f'(4) = 1$

This states that at 4 p.m., the temperature in the town is increasing at a rate of 1 degree Fahrenheit per hour.

- (c) Use the statements given in parts (iii) and (iv) from above to estimate the temperature in the town at 5:30 p.m. Is the actual temperature higher or lower than the estimate?

$$\text{Estimated Temperature at 5:30 p.m.} = 40^{\circ}\text{F} + \left(1 \frac{^{\circ}\text{F}}{\text{hr}}\right)(1.5 \text{ hours}) = 41.5^{\circ}\text{F}$$

This estimate is higher than the actual temperature at 5:30 p.m. because this calculation assumes that the temperature continues to increase at the same rate of 1 degree Fahrenheit per hour between 4 and 5:30 p.m. We can see from our graph in part (a), however, that f gets less and less steep between 4 and 5:30 p.m.