Derivatives

Definition and Notation

If $y = f(x)$ then the derivative is defined to be $f'(x) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$.

If $y = f(x)$ then all of the following are equivalent notations for the derivative.

$$f'(x) = y' = \frac{df}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}\left(f(x)\right) = Df(x)$$

If $y = f(x)$ all of the following are equivalent notations for derivative evaluated at $x = a$.

$$f'(a) = y'\big|_{x=a} = \frac{df}{dx}\bigg|_{x=a} = \frac{dy}{dx}\bigg|_{x=a} = Df(a)$$

Interpretation of the Derivative

If $y = f(x)$ then,

1. $m = f'(a)$ is the slope of the tangent line to $y = f(x)$ at $x = a$ and the equation of the tangent line at $x = a$ is given by $y = f(a) + f'(a)(x-a)$.
2. $f'(a)$ is the instantaneous rate of change of $f(x)$ at $x = a$.
3. If $f(x)$ is the position of an object at time x then $f'(a)$ is the velocity of the object at $x = a$.

Basic Properties and Formulas

If $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are differentiable functions (the derivative exists), c and n are any real numbers,

1. $(c\,f)' = c\,f'(x)$
2. $(f \pm g)' = f'(x) \pm g'(x)$
3. $(f\,g)' = f'\,g + f\,g'$ – **Product Rule**
4. $\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)' = \frac{f'\,g - f\,g'}{g^2}$ – **Quotient Rule**
5. $\frac{d}{dx}(c) = 0$
6. $\frac{d}{dx}(x^n) = n\,x^{n-1}$ – **Power Rule**
7. $\frac{d}{dx}\left(f\left(g(x)\right)\right) = f'\left(g(x)\right)g'(x)$

This is the **Chain Rule**

Common Derivatives

$\frac{d}{dx}(x) = 1$

$\frac{d}{dx}(\sin x) = \cos x$

$\frac{d}{dx}(\cos x) = -\sin x$

$\frac{d}{dx}(\tan x) = \sec^2 x$

$\frac{d}{dx}(\sec x) = \sec x \tan x$

$\frac{d}{dx}(\csc x) = -\csc x \cot x$

$\frac{d}{dx}(\cot x) = -\csc^2 x$

$\frac{d}{dx}(\sin^{-1} x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

$\frac{d}{dx}(\cos^{-1} x) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}$

$\frac{d}{dx}(\tan^{-1} x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$

$\frac{d}{dx}(a^x) = a^x \ln(a)$

$\frac{d}{dx}(\mathbf{e}^x) = \mathbf{e}^x$

$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln(x)) = \frac{1}{x}, \quad x > 0$

$\frac{d}{dx}(\ln|x|) = \frac{1}{x}, \quad x \neq 0$

$\frac{d}{dx}(\log_a(x)) = \frac{1}{x \ln a}, \quad x > 0$

d a*x / dx = a

d x^n / dx = n * x