

- This handout is not meant to be comprehensive.
- Know the basic concepts from Chapter 1 (logarithms, exponentials, functional notation, algebra, etc).

## Main concepts:

- limits and limit laws (evaluating limits, tricks when  $\rightarrow 0/0$  or  $\infty - \infty$ , indeterminant forms)
- intermediate value theorem (roots of equations)
- continuity, discontinuity (jump, removable, infinite)
- vertical and horizontal asymptotes (infinite limits, limits at infinity)
- tangent lines, velocities, and other rates of change
- derivative (two definitions for derivative at a point,  $g'(2)$ )
- derivative as a function (given  $f(x)$ , find  $f'(x)$ )

## Be familiar with things like:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = L \iff \lim_{x \rightarrow a^-} f(x) = L \text{ and } \lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} f(x) = L$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \infty \text{ (the limit does not exist)}$$

- vertical asymptote:  $x = a$  is a vertical asymptote if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^{+/-}} f(x) = \pm\infty$
- horizontal asymptote:  $y = L$  is a horizontal asymptote if either  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} f(x) = L$
- Limit tricks: factor, rationalize, common denominator:

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(3+h)^2 - 9}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{9 + 6h + h^2 - 9}{h}$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{t^2 + 9} - 3}{t^2} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{t^2 + 9} - 3}{t^2} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{t^2 + 9} + 3}{\sqrt{t^2 + 9} + 3}$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\left(\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{2}\right)}{x - 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{1}{x - 2} \left[ \frac{2 - x}{2x} \right]$$

- If  $r > 0$  is a rational number, then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x^r} = 0$ .
- If  $r > 0$  is a rational number such that  $x^r$  is defined for all  $x$ , then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{1}{x^r} = 0$ .

**Example** Evaluate:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3x^2 - x - 2}{5x^2 + 4x + 1},$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \sqrt{x^2 - x} + x$$

SOL: To evaluate a limit at infinity of a rational function, we divide the numerator and denominator by the highest power of  $x$  that occurs in the denominator. We don't have to worry about division by zero since we are looking at very large  $x$ .

If the limit is as  $x \rightarrow -\infty$  and involves square roots, remember  $x = -\sqrt{x^2}$  if  $x < 0$ .

- Continuity:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$
- Polynomials are continuous everywhere, ie.  $P(x)$  is a polynomial then it is continuous for  $x \in (-\infty, \infty)$ .

**Intermediate Value Theorem** Suppose that  $f$  is continuous on the closed interval  $[a, b]$  and let  $N$  be any number between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$ . Then there exists a number  $c$  in  $(a, b)$  such that  $f(c) = N$ .

**Example** Show that there is a root of the equation  $4x^3 - 6x^2 + 3x - 2 = 0$  between 1 and 2. Sketch the situation.

**Example: infinite limits at infinity** Find  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (x^2 - x)$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (x^2 - x) &\rightarrow \infty - \infty \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x(x - 1) = \infty \cdot \infty = \infty \end{aligned}$$

**Definition** The tangent line to  $y = f(x)$  at  $(a, f(a))$  is the line through  $(a, f(a))$  whose slope is equal to  $f'(a)$ , the derivative of  $f$  evaluated at  $a$ .

- The point slope form of the equation of a line with slope  $m$  through the point  $(x_1, y_1)$ :  $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$
- The derivative of  $f(x)$  at  $x = a$  can be interpreted as the slope of the tangent line to the curve at  $x = a$  which is the slope of the curve at  $x = a$ .
- The derivative of the position function  $s = f(t)$  is the velocity function  $f'(t) = v(t)$ .
- The derivative is an instantaneous rate of change.

**Example:** A particle moves along a straight line with equation of motion  $s = f(t) = 2t^3 - t$ , where  $s$  is measured in meters and  $t$  in seconds. Find the velocity when  $t = 2$ .

- The derivative as function:

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

- A function can be continuous at a point, but not differentiable at that point.
- A function which is differentiable at a point is continuous at that point.

**Example** draw a sketch which illustrates why the definition

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

can be interpreted as the slope of the tangent line at  $x = a$ .

- Study the concept checks, true false quiz, and review exercises for Chapter 2.
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