

1. Each of the following expressions is  $f'(a)$  for some function  $f(x)$  at some point  $x = a$ . Determine what  $f(x)$  and  $a$  are.

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

b)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi} \frac{\cos(3x) + 1}{x - \pi}$

c)  $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^2 - e^{2+h}}{h}$

**Solution, part a:**

$$f(x) = x^2, a = 3.$$

**Solution, part b:**

$$f(x) = \cos(3x), a = \pi$$

**Solution, part c:**

$$f(x) = -e^x, a = 2$$

2. Find the formula for the tangent line to the curve

$$y = \frac{1}{x}$$

passing through the point  $(2, 1/2)$ .

**Solution:**

Let  $f(x) = 1/x$ . We need to compute  $f'(a)$ . Now,

$$f'(2) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{2}}{x - 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{\frac{2-x}{2x}}{x - 2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 2} \frac{-1}{2x} = \frac{-1}{4}.$$

Hence the tangent line (which passes through  $(2, 1/2)$ ) is given by

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

3. A population of bacteria has size 10000 at time  $t = 0$  and doubles every 5 hours.
- Write a formula for the function  $P(t)$  giving bacteria population at time  $t$  hours.
  - Determine the rate of growth of the population at time  $t = 1$ . You will need to know that

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2^h - 1}{h} = \ln(2).$$

**Solution, part a:**

$$P(t) = 10000 \cdot 2^{t/5}.$$

**Solution, part b:**

The rate of growth at time  $t = 1$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} P'(1) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{P(1+h) - P(1)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{10000 \cdot 2^{(1+h)/5} - 10000 \cdot 2^{1/5}}{h} \\ &= 10000 \cdot 2^{1/5} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2^{h/5} - 1}{h}. \end{aligned}$$

Now make a substitution,  $u = h/5$ . We then get

$$P'(1) = 10000 \cdot 2^{1/5} \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{2^u - 1}{5u} = 2000 \cdot 2^{1/5} \lim_{u \rightarrow 0} \frac{2^u - 1}{u} = 2000 \cdot 2^{1/5} \ln(2).$$