

1.3 Rate of Change

A Average Rate of Change

$$y = f(x), \quad y_1 = f(x_1), \quad y_2 = f(x_2)$$

$$\Delta x = x_2 - x_1 \text{ (change in variable } x \text{)}$$

$$\Delta y = y_2 - y_1 \text{ (change in variable } y \text{)}$$

The *Average Rate of Change* (ARC) in y variable over the interval $[x_1, x_2]$ is given by:

$$ARC = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1}$$

Note: The *Average Rate of Change* is the same as the *slope of the secant line* passing through the points $P(x_1, y_1)$ and $Q(x_2, y_2)$.

If $x_1 = a$ and $x_2 = a + h$ then:

$$ARC = \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

Ex 1. Consider $y = f(x) = (x+1)^2$. Find the rate of change in the y variable over the interval $[-1, 2]$.

$$x_1 = -1, \quad y_1 = f(x_1) = f(-1) = (-1+1)^2 = 0$$

$$x_2 = 2, \quad y_2 = f(x_2) = f(2) = (2+1)^2 = 9$$

$$\Delta x = x_2 - x_1 = 2 - (-1) = 3, \quad \Delta y = y_2 - y_1 = 9 - 0 = 9$$

$$ARC = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{9}{3} = 3 \quad \therefore ARC = 3$$

B Average Velocity

Let $s = s(t)$ be the position function, where s is position in meters and t is the time in seconds.

$$s = s(t), \quad s_1 = s(t_1), \quad s_2 = s(t_2)$$

$$\Delta t = t_2 - t_1 \text{ (time duration)}$$

$$\Delta s = s_2 - s_1 \text{ (displacement)}$$

The *Average Velocity* (AV) over the time interval $[t_1, t_2]$ is given by:

$$AV = \frac{\text{rise}}{\text{run}} = \frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t} = \frac{s_2 - s_1}{t_2 - t_1} = \frac{s(t_2) - s(t_1)}{t_2 - t_1}$$

Note: The *unit* of measurement for velocity is m/s .

Ex 2. A rock is launched vertically upward. The height of the rock is given by $s(t) = 100t - 10t^2$. Find the average velocity over the time interval $[1, 2]$.

$$t_1 = 1, \quad s_1 = s(t_1) = s(1) = 100(1) - 10(1)^2 = 90m$$

$$t_2 = 2, \quad s_2 = s(t_2) = s(2) = 100(2) - 10(2)^2 = 160m$$

$$\Delta t = t_2 - t_1 = 2 - 1 = 1s, \quad \Delta s = s_2 - s_1 = 160 - 90 = 70m$$

$$AV = \frac{\Delta s}{\Delta t} = \frac{70}{1} = 70 \quad \therefore AV = 70m/s$$

C Instantaneous Rate of Change

As $h \rightarrow 0$ the Average Rate of Change approaches to the *Instantaneous Rate of Change* (IRC):

$$IRC = RC = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

Note: The *Instantaneous Rate of Change* (IRC) is the same as the *slope of the tangent line* at the point $P(a, f(a))$.

Similarly, the *Average Velocity* (AV) approaches *Instantaneous Velocity* (IV):

$$IV = v = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{s(a+h) - s(a)}{h}$$

Ex 3. Consider the following position function: $s(t) = t^2 - 4t$.

a) Find the instantaneous velocity at $t = 3s$.

$$a = 3, \quad s(a) = s(3) = 3^2 - 4(3) = -3$$

$$s(a+h) = s(3+h) = (3+h)^2 - 4(3+h) = 9 + 6h + h^2 - 12 - 4h$$

$$v = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{s(a+h) - s(a)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(9 + 6h + h^2 - 12 - 4h) - (-3)}{h} =$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(2+h)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (2+h) = 2+0 = 2 \quad \therefore v = 2m/s$$

b) Find the instantaneous velocity at the generic moment $t = a$

$$s(a) = a^2 - 4a$$

$$s(a+h) = (a+h)^2 - 4(a+h) = a^2 + 2ah + h^2 - 4a - 4h$$

$$v = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{s(a+h) - s(a)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(a^2 + 2ah + h^2 - 4a - 4h) - (a^2 - 4a)}{h} =$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(2a+h-4)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (2a+h-4) = 2a+0-4 = 2a-4$$

$$\therefore v = 2a - 4$$

c) Use the formula at part b) to compute the velocity at time $t = 5s$.

$$\begin{cases} v = 2a - 4 \\ a = 5s \end{cases} \Rightarrow v = 2(5) - 4 = 6 \quad \therefore v = 6m/s$$

d) Find the moment(s) of time at which the velocity is zero.

$$\begin{cases} v = 2a - 4 \\ v = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow 0 = 2a - 4 \Rightarrow a = 2 \quad \therefore a = 2s$$

Ex 4. A spherical balloon is inflated. Find the instantaneous rate of change in volume of the balloon with respect to its radius when the radius is $10m$.

$$V(r) = \frac{4\pi}{3}r^3, \quad r = a = 10m$$

$$V(a) = V(10) = \frac{4\pi}{3}(10)^3, \quad V(a+h) = V(10+h) = \frac{4\pi}{3}(10+h)^3$$

$$\begin{aligned} IRC &= \lim_{\Delta r \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta r} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{V(a+h) - V(a)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{4\pi}{3}(10+h)^3 - \frac{4\pi}{3}(10)^3}{h} = \\ &= \frac{4\pi}{3} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(10+h)^3 - (10)^3}{h} = \frac{4\pi}{3} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h[(10+h)^2 + (10+h)(10) + 10^2]}{h} = \\ &= \frac{4\pi}{3} \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} [(10+h)^2 + (10+h)(10) + 10^2] = \frac{4\pi}{3} [(10+0)^2 + (10+0)(10) + 10^2] \\ \therefore IRC &= 400\pi m^2 \end{aligned}$$

Reading: Nelson Textbook, Pages 22-28

Homework: Nelson Textbook: Page 28 #2a, 7, 12, 14, 15b, 20, 22