

3. The limit $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{9+3h} - 3}{h}$ represents the derivative of a certain function f at a certain point a . Which of the following is correct? [15]
- (a) $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$, $a = 3$,
 (b) $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$, $a = 9$,
 (c) $f(x) = 3\sqrt{x}$, $a = 9$,
 (d) $f(x) = \sqrt{3x}$, $a = 3$, then $f'(3) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(3+h) - f(3)}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{9+3h} - 3}{h}$.
 (e) None of the above.

4. Let $f(x) = x + \frac{4}{x^2}$. Find a value of x in $(1, 2)$ such that the tangent line to the graph of f at $(x, f(x))$ is parallel to the secant line which cuts the curve at $x = 1$ and $x = 2$. [20]

Solution: Parallel means having the same slope. The slope of the secant line at $x = 1$ and $x = 2$ equals

$$m = \frac{f(2) - f(1)}{2 - 1} = \frac{2 + \frac{4}{4} - (1 + 4)}{1} = 2 + 1 - 1 - 4 = -2.$$

The slope of the tangent line at the point $(x, f(x))$ equals

$$f'(x) = 1 - \frac{4 \cdot 2}{x^3} = 1 - \frac{8}{x^3}.$$

So we must find $x \in (1, 2)$ such that $f'(x) = m$, so $1 - \frac{8}{x^3} = -2$ (such x exists by the Mean Value Theorem). Let us solve this equation for x :

$$1 - \frac{8}{x^3} = -2, \quad \frac{8}{x^3} = 3, \quad x^3 = \frac{8}{3}, \quad x = \sqrt[3]{\frac{8}{3}} = \frac{\sqrt[3]{8}}{\sqrt[3]{3}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt[3]{3}}.$$

Let us check that $\frac{2}{\sqrt[3]{3}} \in (1, 2)$: this follows from $1 < \frac{8}{3} < 8$.

Answer: $x = \frac{2}{\sqrt[3]{3}}$.

5. Find all intervals where the function $f(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 - 9x + 1$ is increasing or decreasing. [15]

Solution: By a consequence of the Mean Value Theorem, f is increasing if $f'(x) > 0$, and decreasing if $f'(x) < 0$. Now

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 + 6x - 9 = 3(x^2 + 2x - 3) = 3(x - 1)(x + 3).$$

So, the splitting points for $f'(x)$ are $x = 1$ and $x = -3$. Testing:

$$f' : \quad \underline{\quad + \quad} \quad \underline{\quad - \quad} \quad \underline{\quad + \quad}$$

So,

$$f : \quad \text{increases} \quad \text{decreases} \quad \text{increases}$$

Answer: f is increasing on $(-\infty, -3]$ and $[1, \infty)$, and decreasing on $[-3, 1]$.

END OF PAPER