

## Three views of the derivative

Suppose  $f: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  (where  $I$  is an interval), and  $c$  is an interior point of  $I$ . Then  $f$  is *differentiable at  $c$*  when any of the following equivalent properties holds.

1. The limit  $\lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$  exists, in which case the limit is the *derivative*, usually denoted by  $f'(c)$ .

2. There exists a function  $F_c: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  with the properties that  $F_c$  is continuous at  $c$  and  $f(x) = F_c(x)(x - c) + f(c)$  for every  $x$ .

In this situation,  $f'(c) = F_c(c)$ .

3. There exists a “best linear approximation” of  $f$  at  $c$ : namely, a linear function  $T$  with the property that

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(c + h) - f(c) - T(h)}{h} = 0.$$

Here  $T(h)$  has to be the linear function  $h \rightarrow f'(c)h$ .

Assignment due next class

Write a solution to Exercise 4.1.5.