

Average and Instantaneous Rate of Change

i). Average Rate of Change: If (x_0, y_0) and (x_1, y_1) are points on the graph of $y = f(x)$, then the average rate of change of y with respect to x over the interval

$$[x_0, x_1] \text{ is } \frac{f(x_1) - f(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0} = \frac{y_1 - y_0}{x_1 - x_0} = \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}.$$

ii). Instantaneous Rate of Change: If (x_0, y_0) is a point on the graph of $y = f(x)$, then the instantaneous rate of change of y with respect to x at x_0 is $f'(x_0)$.