

Evaluate  $f'(x)$  using the definition. Let  $f(x) = \frac{x}{x+1}$

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} = \frac{\frac{x+h}{x+h+1} - \frac{x}{x+1}}{h} \right)$$

As it stands, plugging in  $h = 0$  evaluates to  $\frac{0}{0}$ , which is

indeterminate. Fortunately, we can simplify using basic algebra:

Divide numerators by  $h$ :  $\frac{\frac{x}{h} + 1}{x+h+1} - \frac{\frac{x}{h}}{x+1}$

Common denominator:  $\frac{\left(\frac{x}{h} + 1\right)(x+1) - \left(\frac{x}{h}\right)(x+h+1)}{(x+h+1)(x+1)}$

Expand numerator:  $\frac{\left(\frac{x^2}{h} + x + \frac{x}{h} + 1\right) - \left(\frac{x^2}{h} + x + \frac{x}{h}\right)}{(x+h+1)(x+1)}$

Simplify numerator:  $\frac{1}{(x+h+1)(x+1)}$

We can now plug in  $h = 0$

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{1}{(x+h+1)(x+1)} \right) = \frac{1}{(x+0+1)(x+1)} = \frac{1}{(x+1)^2}$$