

The Derivative Song

by Tom Lehrer (and sung to the tune of “There’ll Be Some Changes Made”)

You take a function of x and you call it y ,
Take any old x -naught that you care to try,
You make a little change in x and call it delta x ,
The corresponding change in y is what you find nex',
And then you take the quotient and now carefully
Send delta x to zero, and I think you'll see
That what the limit gives us, if our work all checks
Is what they call dy -by- dx ,
It's just dy -by- dx .