

Calculus I, Section 2.8, #38  
 The Derivative as a Function

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Water temperature affects the growth rate of brook trout. The table shows the amount of weight gained by brook trout after 24 days in various water temperatures.<sup>1</sup>

Temperature (C°)	15.5	17.7	20.0	22.4	24.4
Weight gained (g)	37.2	31.0	19.8	9.7	-9.8

If  $W(x)$  is the weight gain at temperature  $x$ , construct a table of estimated values for  $W'$  and sketch its graph. What are the units for  $W'(x)$ ?

For values of the temperature *not* at the endpoints, we'll use the symmetric difference quotient to estimate the IROC,  $W'(x)$ .

$$W'(17.7) \approx \frac{19.8 - 37.2}{20.0 - 15.5} \approx -3.8667$$

$$W'(20.0) \approx \frac{9.7 - 31.0}{22.4 - 17.7} \approx -4.5319$$

$$W'(22.4) \approx \frac{-9.8 - 9.7}{24.4 - 20.0} \approx -6.7273$$

For values of the temperature at the endpoints, we'll estimate the IROC with a one-sided difference quotient.

$$W'(15.5) \approx \frac{31.0 - 37.2}{17.7 - 15.5} \approx -2.8182$$

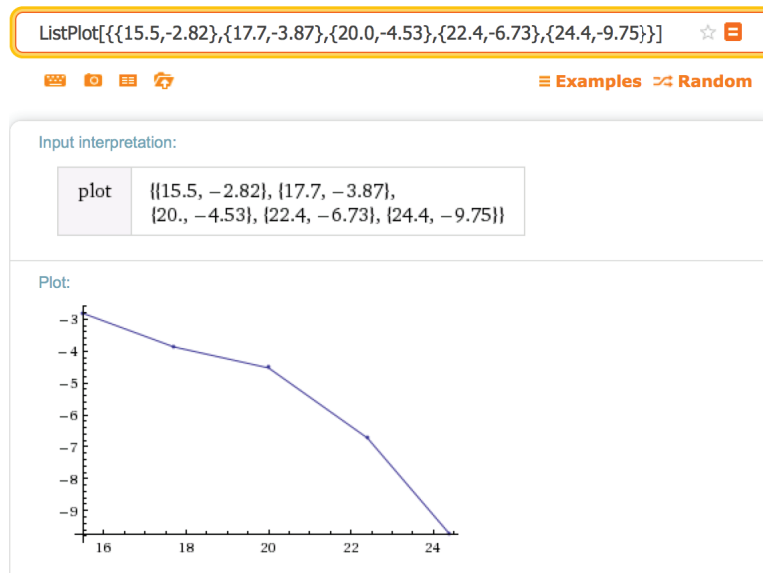
$$W'(24.4) \approx \frac{-9.8 - 9.7}{24.4 - 22.4} = -9.75$$

Let's put these values into one table.

Temperature (C°)	15.5	17.7	20.0	22.4	24.4
$W'(x)$ ( $\frac{g}{C^\circ}$ )	-2.82	-3.87	-4.53	-6.73	-9.75

The units on  $W'(x)$  are  $\frac{g}{C^\circ}$ .

The graph is shown below, courtesy of WolframAlpha.



<sup>1</sup>Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 163, #38.