BC 1 Measuring Speed

Name: _____ Section 2.1

(1) Times and positions of a bike rider are given in the table below.

Time	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
(Seconds)							
Position (Feet)	0	2.8	7.2	15.3	25.6	38.7	46.1

(a) Compute the average speed (in feet/second) of the rider during each of the following time intervals.

[1, 2]	[2, 3]	[3, 4]	[4, 5]	[5, 6]

(b) We want to approximate the rider's instantaneous speed at time t = 2 seconds. Compute the average speed of the rider during each of the following time intervals. [2, 5] [2, 4] [2, 3]

- (c) Which of the approximations from (b) is probably best? Why?
- (d) Compute the average speed of the rider during the time interval [1, 3].
- (e) How do you think this approximation compares to the approximation over the interval [2, 3]?
- (f) What information would you need to find a better estimate of the rider's instantaneous speed at t = 2 seconds?

BC 1 Measuring Speed Name: _____ Section 2.1

- (2) Now, consider a simple model of the rider's position: $s(t) = t^2 + 3t 1$. Use this model for the computations below.
- (a) Compute the average velocity of the rider over each of the following intervals. [2, 4] [2, 3] [2, 2.5]
- (b) Any opinion about which of these approximations is closest to the rider's instantaneous speed at t = 2?
- (c) Compute a better estimate for the rider's instantaneous speed at t = 2 seconds. Show your method.
- (d) Compute an even better estimate for the rider's instantaneous speed at t = 2 seconds. Show your method.
- (e) Explain how the expression $\frac{s(2+h) s(2)}{h}$, with various values of *h*, gives approximations for the rider's speed at t = 2 seconds. Simplify this expression for the given model for position *s*(*t*).

(f) What happens to this expression as *h* approaches 0?