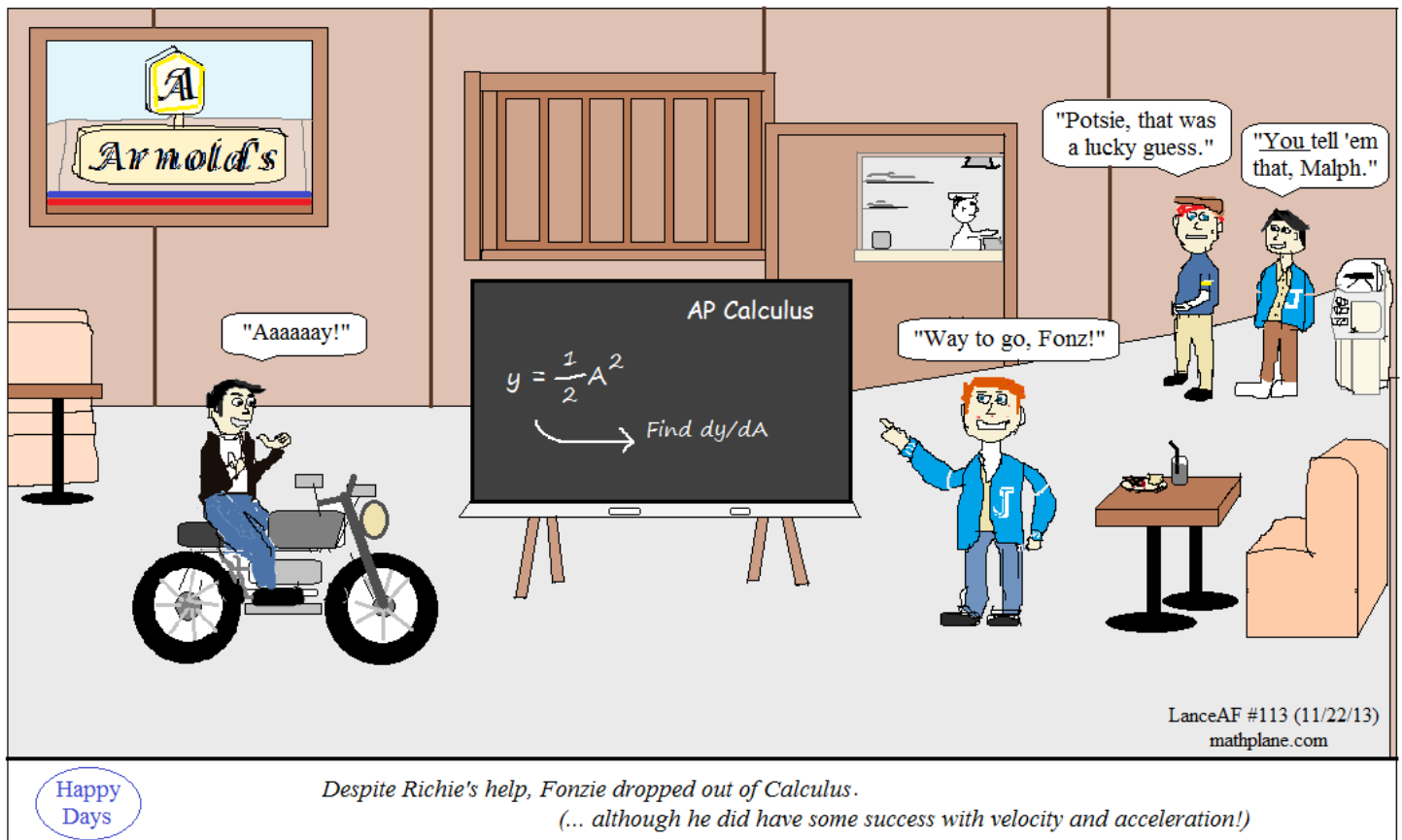


# Calculus: Applications of Derivatives

## Examples and explanations



*Despite Richie's help, Fonzie dropped out of Calculus.  
(... although he did have some success with velocity and acceleration!)*

*Topics include linearization, velocity, optimization, sketching rational expressions, volume, slope, and more.*

Projectile Motion: Calculus and Algebra Applications

A kid launches a water balloon from a balcony.  
The trajectory is described by the function

$$h(t) = -16t^2 + 64t + 80 \quad \text{where}$$

$t$  is time (in seconds)

$h(t)$  is the height of the balloon (in feet)

Using properties of quadratics and Algebra:

- 1) What is the maximum height the water balloon reaches?
- 2) When does the balloon hit the ground?
- 3) What is the height of the balcony?

Answers and Graph:

Since the degree of the polynomial is 2, it's a quadratic (parabola facing down).

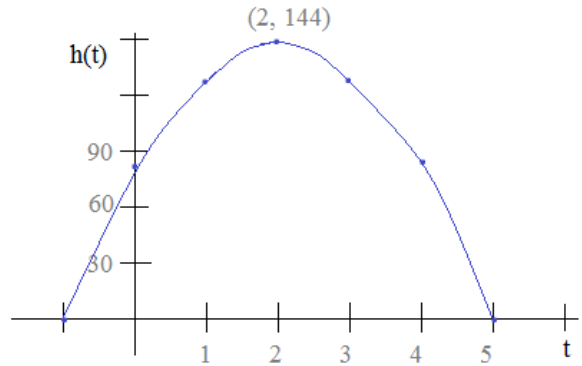
- 1) The maximum height will be at the vertex!

The vertex is  $(-b/2a, h(-b/2a))$

$$\begin{aligned} a &= -16 \\ b &= 64 \\ c &= 80 \end{aligned} \quad \frac{-b}{2a} = \frac{-64}{2(-16)} = 2$$

$$h(2) = -16(2)^2 + 64(2) + 80 = 144$$

The maximum height is 144 feet,  
and it occurs at 2 seconds...



- 2) Balloon hits the ground when the height is 0.

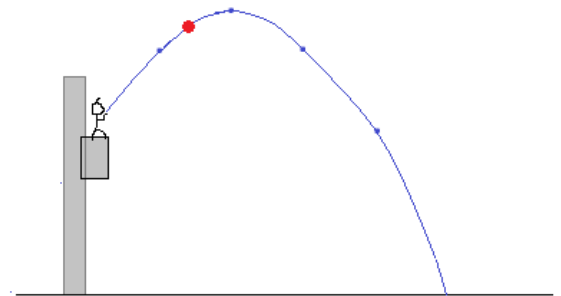
$$h(t) = 0$$

$$-16t^2 + 64t + 80 = 0$$

$$-16(t^2 - 4t - 5) = 0$$

$$-16(t - 5)(t + 1) = 0$$

The balloon hits the ground  
at -1 and 5 seconds...  
(since time cannot be negative,  
the answer is 5 seconds after launch.)



\*\*Note: the domain is  $0 \leq t \leq 5$

- 3) The height of the balcony would be the  $h(t)$  when  $t = 0$ . (assuming we omit the height of the kid!)

$$h(0) = -16(0) + 64(0) + 80 = 80 \text{ feet}$$

Projectile Motion: Calculus and Algebra Applications

A kid launches a water balloon from a balcony.  
The trajectory is described by the function  $h(t) = -16t^2 + 64t + 80$

where  $t$  is time (in seconds)  
 $h(t)$  is the height of the balloon (in feet)

Using Calculus applications

- 1) What is the initial velocity of the balloon?
- 2) What is the maximum height reached?
- 3) What is the acceleration of the balloon at 3 seconds?
- 4) What is the height of the balloon at 4 seconds?
- 5) What is the speed of the balloon at 4 seconds?
- 6) When is the balloon 100 feet high?
- 7) What is the AROC during the entire flight of the balloon?

$h(t)$  describes the position of the balloon  
 $h(t) = -16t^2 + 64t + 80$  (feet)

$h'(t)$  describes the velocity of the balloon ('instantaneous rate of change')  
 $h'(t) = -32t + 64$  (feet/second)

$h''(t)$  describes the acceleration (rate the velocity is changing)  
 $h''(t) = -32$  (feet/second<sup>2</sup>)

$|h'(t)|$  absolute value of velocity is the speed of the balloon

Answers:

- 1) The initial velocity is the rate of change at  $t = 0$ .  
 $h'(0) = -32(0) + 64 = 64$  feet/second
- 2) The maximum height occurs when the balloon changes direction.  
 (in other words, when the rate of change is zero, the balloon is at a max)  
 $h'(t) = -32t + 64$  When  $h'(t) = 0$ ,  $t = 2$   
 Since max height occurs at  $t = 2$  seconds, the balloon is at  $h(2) = 144$  feet...

- 3) The acceleration at 3 seconds can be found using the 2nd derivative.

$$h''(t) = -32, \quad h''(3) = -32 \text{ feet/second}^2$$

- 4) and 5) The height is "location", so use the function:  $h(4) = -16(4)^2 + 64(4) + 80 = 80$

The velocity is "rate of change", so use the first derivative:  $h'(4) = -32(4) + 64 = -64$  feet/second

The speed is the absolute value of the velocity: 64 feet/second

- 6) The "position/location" of the balloon is found using the function:

$$100 = -16t^2 + 64t + 80$$

$$16t^2 - 64t + 20 = 0$$

$$4t^2 - 16t + 5 = 0$$

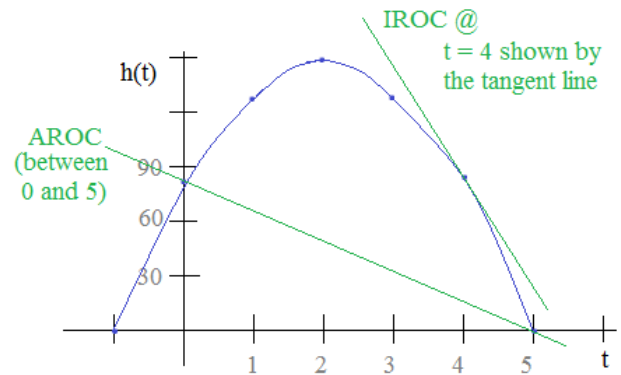
(quadratic formula)

$$t = 0.34 \text{ seconds} \text{ and } 3.66 \text{ seconds}$$

- 7) AROC (average rate of change) is the slope between 2 points.

The points in this case are  $(0, 80)$  and  $(5, 0)$

$$\frac{h(5) - h(0)}{5 - 0} = \frac{0 - 80}{5 - 0} = -16 \text{ feet/second}$$



*Example:* Two particles that move along a horizontal axis have the following models:

$$x(t) = 3\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{4}t\right) \quad s(t) = t^3 - 6t^2 + 9t + 4$$

On the interval  $0 \leq t \leq 6$ , when do the particles move in the same direction?

Find the intervals where each particle increases and decreases...

First derivative....

$$x'(t) = -3\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{4}t\right) \cdot \frac{\pi}{4}$$

$$s'(t) = 3t^2 - 12t + 9 + 0$$

Then, set equal to zero (to find where particle changes direction)

$$-3 \frac{\pi}{4} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{4}t\right) = 0$$

$$3t^2 - 12t + 9 = 0$$

$$\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{4}t\right) = 0$$

$$3(t^2 - 4t + 3) = 0$$

$$t = 4k \text{ (where } k \text{ is any integer)}$$

$$(t-3)(t-1) = 0$$

So, in interval  $[0, 6]$ , 0 and 4

$$t = 1 \text{ and } 3$$

Then, test each sub-interval to determine whether increasing or decreasing...

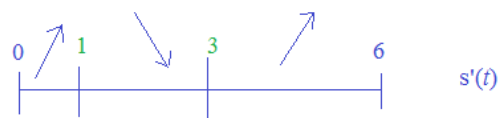
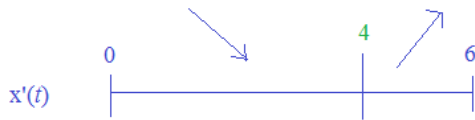
$$x'(1) = -3 \frac{\pi}{4} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{4} \cdot 1\right) < 0$$

$$s'(1/2) = 3(1/2 - 3)(1/2 - 1) > 0$$

$$x'(5) = -3 \frac{\pi}{4} \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{4} \cdot 5\right) > 0$$

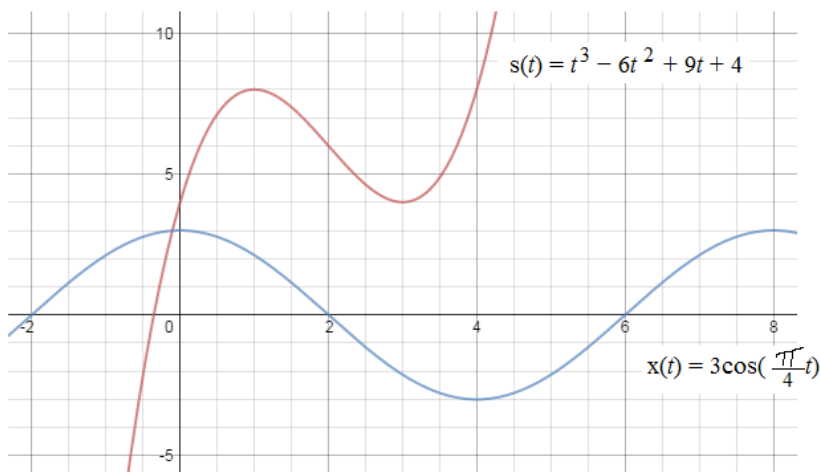
$$s'(2) = 2(2 - 3)(2 - 1) < 0$$

$$s'(4) = 2(4 - 3)(4 - 1) > 0$$



Finally, determine the sub-intervals where  $x(t)$  and  $s(t)$  move in the same direction....

Interval  $(1, 3)$  where both are decreasing (i.e. moving to the left)  
and, Interval  $(4, 6]$  where both are increasing (i.e. moving to the right)



## Derivatives and Linear Equations

*Example:* Find equation of a normal line to  $f(x) = 3x^3 - 2x^2 + 5x - 3$  at  $x = 2$

To find the equation of a line, we need a point and the slope.

To determine the slope, find the first derivative of  $f(x)$ .

$$f'(x) = 9x^2 - 4x + 5$$

Then, to find the slope of the tangent at  $x = 2$ :  $f'(2) = 9(2)^2 - 4(2) + 5 = 33$

Since the slope of the tangent is 33, the slope of the normal (perpendicular) is  $-1/33$

And, a point on the normal will be where  $x = 2$ :

$$f(2) = 3(2)^3 - 2(2)^2 + 5(2) - 3 = 23$$

Therefore, an equation with slope  $-1/33$  going through  $(2, 23)$  is

$$y - 23 = \frac{-1}{33}(x - 2)$$

*Example:* Write the equation of a line tangent to  $x^2 + 5x + 6$  at  $x = 1$

Then, graph the equation and the tangent line.

If  $y = x^2 + 5x + 6$ , then

$$y' = 2x + 5$$

Therefore, the instantaneous rate of change at  $x = 1$  is

$$f'(1) \quad 2(1) + 5 = 7$$

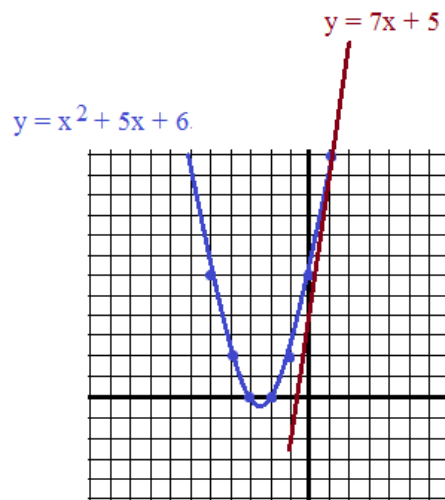
And, to find a point on the tangent line, we use  $x = 1$

$$f(1) \quad (1)^2 + 5(1) + 6 = 12$$

So, the equation of the tangent line is

$$y - 12 = 7(x - 1)$$

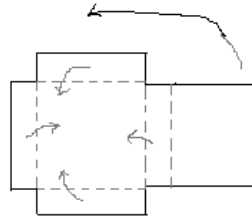
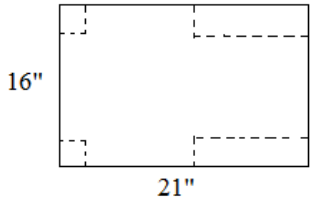
$$y = 7x + 5$$



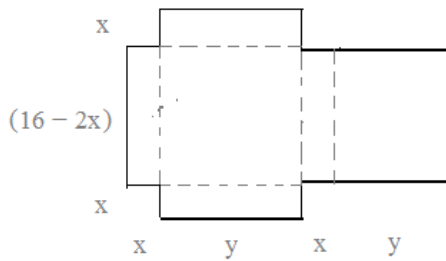
You are given a 16" x 21" cardboard sheet.  
 After cutting out the corners, you can fold up 3 of the sides.  
 Then, the fourth side will be folded up and extended over the other 3 to form a lid.

What are the dimensions of the enclosed box with the largest volume?

Step 1: Draw a diagram to visualize the question



Step 2: Label diagram, establish variables, and write equations



since  $2x + 2y = 21$ ,  $y = \frac{21 - 2x}{2}$

Volume = (length)(width)(height)

length =  $(16 - 2x)$

height =  $x$

width =  $\frac{(21 - 2x)}{2}$

$V = (16 - 2x)\left(\frac{21 - 2x}{2}\right)(x)$

Step 3: Solve.

To find the maximum (or minimum) volume, find  $dV/dx$  and set it equal to 0...

$V = (16x - 2x^2)\left(\frac{21 - 2x}{2}\right)$

$\frac{dV}{dx} = 6x^2 - 74x + 168$

$V = (8x - x^2)(21 - 2x)$

then, set derivative equal to zero...

$V = 168x - 16x^2 - 21x^2 + 2x^3$

$6x^2 - 74x + 168 = 0$

$V = 2x^3 - 37x^2 + 168x$

$3x^2 - 37x + 84 = 0$

$x = 3$  or  $28/3$

Step 4: Answer question and check solutions

If  $x = 28/3$ , height = 9.33  
 length =  $(16 - 2(9.33)) = -2.66$

Impossible...  $x \neq 28/3$

If  $x = 3$ , height = 3  
 length =  $(16 + 2(3)) = 10$   
 width =  $\frac{(21 + 2(3))}{2} = 7.5$

The dimensions of the box (with lid) are  
 10" x 7.5" x 3"

- Check:
- If  $x = 2$ , then dimensions are 12" x 8.5" x 2" 204 cubic inches
  - If  $x = 2.5$ , then dimensions are 11" x 8" x 2.5" 220 cubic inches
  - If  $x = 3$ , then dimensions are 10" x 7.5" x 3" 225 cubic inches ←
  - If  $x = 3.5$ , then dimensions are 9" x 7" x 3.5" 220.5 cubic inches
  - If  $x = 4$ , then dimensions are 8" x 6.5" x 4" 208 cubic inches

Example: A company wants to construct an open top box with a square bottom that is 400 cubic feet.  
 What dimensions would minimize the cost of materials?

Given constraint: Volume of the box:  $V = (\text{length})(\text{width})(\text{height})$

$$400 = (x)(x)(h)$$

Setting up equation:

What are we trying to minimize? Surface Area (to use least amount of material)

$$SA = x^2 + 4xh \quad (\text{area of bottom and area of 4 sides})$$

Since there are 2 variables, we'll try to substitute out one of them...

$$\text{(Using the constraint)} \quad 400 = x^2 h \implies h = \frac{400}{x^2}$$

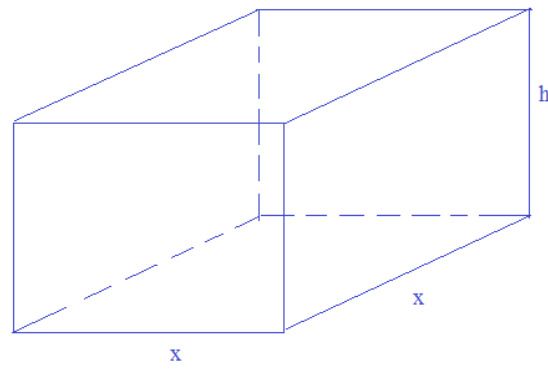
$$\text{So, } SA = x^2 + 4x\left(\frac{400}{x^2}\right)$$

$$SA = x^2 + \frac{1600}{x}$$

To find extremes, we set the derivative equal to zero

$$\begin{cases} SA' = 2x - \frac{1600}{x^2} = 0 \\ 2x = \frac{1600}{x^2} \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} x = 9.28 \\ \text{then, } 400 = x^2 h \\ \text{so, } h = 4.64 \end{cases}$$

9.28 x 9.28 x 4.64



Now suppose the company wants to use a fortified material on the bottom that cost \$3 per square foot, while the rest of the box will use materials that cost \$1 per square foot.  
 Now, what should the dimensions of the box be to minimize cost of materials?

Volume of the box:  $V = (\text{length})(\text{width})(\text{height})$

$$400 = (x)(x)(h)$$

What are we trying to minimize? Cost of the box...

$$\text{Cost} = \$3(x^2) + \$1(4xh)$$

$$C = 3x^2 + 4xh$$

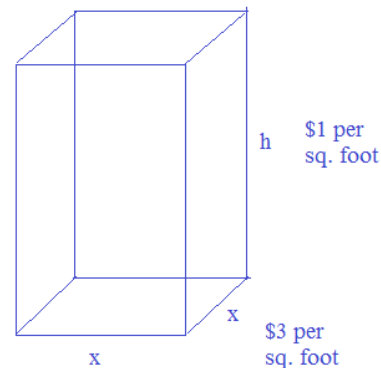
$$400 = x^2 h \implies h = \frac{400}{x^2}$$

$$C = 3x^2 + \frac{1600}{x}$$

$$C' = 6x - \frac{1600}{x^2} \quad 6x^3 = 1600$$

$$x = 6.44 \quad \text{and} \quad h = 9.65$$

6.44 x 6.44 x 9.65



Since the materials for the bottom are more expensive, we'd expect this box to have a smaller base (i.e. be higher and narrower...)

**Example:** Find the point lying on the curve  $y = \sqrt{x+2}$  that is closest to  $(4, 0)$

Step 1: Establish the optimization main function..

Since we're looking for the closest point, we'll looking to minimize distance...

$$\text{distance} = \sqrt{(x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2}$$

Step 2: Create a 1-variable equation to minimize...

$$\text{distance} = \sqrt{(x - 4)^2 + (y - 0)^2}$$

(distance from some point to  $(4, 0)$ )

$$\text{distance} = \sqrt{(x - 4)^2 + (\sqrt{x+2} - 0)^2}$$

(distance from a point on the curve to  $(4, 0)$ )

Step 3: Take the derivative and find the minimum value

$$\text{distance} = \sqrt{(x - 4)^2 + (\sqrt{x+2})^2}$$

$$d = \sqrt{x^2 - 8x + 16 + x + 2}$$

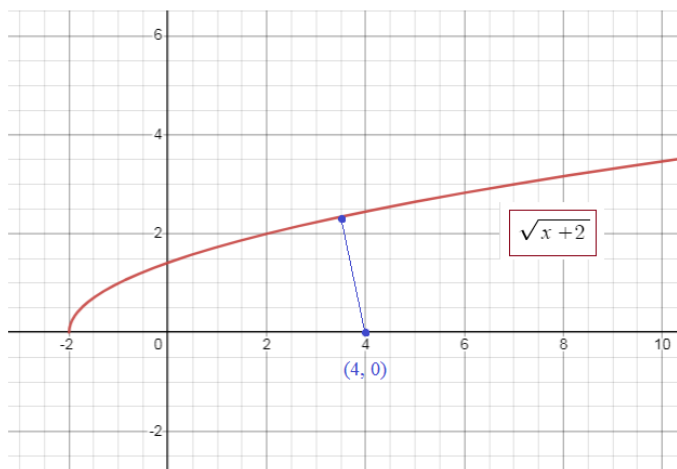
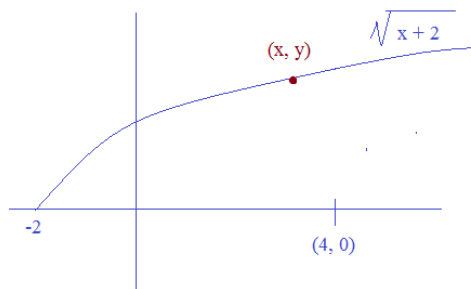
$$d' = \frac{1}{2} (x^2 - 7x + 18)^{-\frac{1}{2}} (2x - 7)$$

Set equal to zero to find critical values..

$$0 = \frac{(2x - 7)}{2\sqrt{x^2 - 7x + 18}}$$

$$x = \frac{7}{2} \quad \text{Then, } y = \sqrt{\frac{7}{2} + 2} = \sqrt{\frac{11}{2}}$$

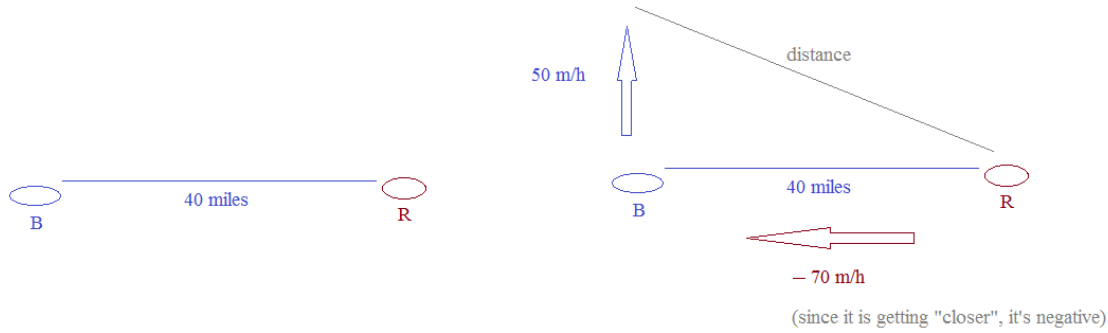
$\left(\frac{7}{2}, \sqrt{\frac{11}{2}}\right)$





*Example:* A red car is 40 miles due east of a blue car.  
 The red car is traveling west at a speed of 70 miles per hour.  
 At the same time, the blue car is traveling north at a speed of 50 miles per hour.

At what time will the cars be closest to each other?



We want to minimize distance...

$$d = \sqrt{(x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2}$$

or utilize the Pythagorean Theorem

$$x^2 + y^2 = d^2$$

$$(0 + 50t)^2 + (40 - 70t)^2 = d^2$$

$$\sqrt{(0 + 50t)^2 + (40 - 70t)^2} = d$$

$$d = \sqrt{2500t^2 + 1600 - 5600t + 4900t^2}$$

$$d = \sqrt{1600 - 5600t + 7400t^2}$$

(take 1st derivative and set equal to zero)

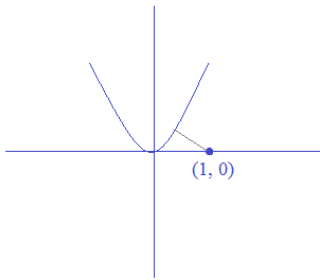
$$d' = \frac{1}{2} (1600 - 5600t + 7400t^2)^{-1/2} \cdot (-5600 + 14800t)$$

$$d' = \frac{1 \cdot (-5600 + 14800t)}{2 (1600 - 5600t + 7400t^2)^{1/2}}$$

$d' = 0$  when  $t = .3783$  22.7 minutes

*Example:* Find the point on the curve  $y = x^2$  that is closest to (1, 0)

quick sketch:



Using the distance formula:

$$d = \sqrt{(x_1 - x_2)^2 + (y_1 - y_2)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{(x - 1)^2 + (y - 0)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{(x - 1)^2 + (x^2)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{x^4 + x^2 - 2x + 1}$$

$$d' = \frac{1}{2} (x^4 + x^2 - 2x + 1)^{-1/2} (4x^3 - 2x + 2)$$

find where  $(4x^3 - 2x + 2) = 0$

$x = .59$

$y = .35$

Linearization formula is similar to point slope form of line.

$$(y - y_1) = m(x - x_1) \quad \text{point slope form where } m \text{ is slope}$$

and  $(x_1, y_1)$  is a point

$$L(x) = f(a) + f'(x)(x - a)$$

$$L(x) - f(a) = f'(x)(x - a)$$

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

Linearization Application:

*Example:* Approximate the value of  $\sqrt{145}$

The general equation for square root is  $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$

To approximate, we'll use the *nearby* point  $(144, 12)$

To find the linear approximation, we need the slope (derivative)...

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$$

$$f'(144) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{144}} = \frac{1}{24}$$

$$(y - y_1) = m(x - x_1) \quad L(x) - 12 = \frac{1}{24}(x - 144)$$

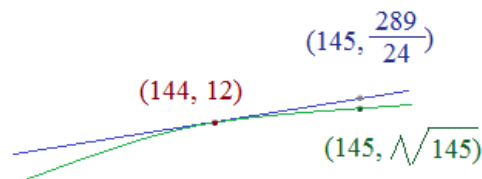
$$y = mx + b \quad L(x) = \frac{1}{24}x + 6$$

Approximate  $\sqrt{145}$ , using the linear equation:

$$L(145) = \frac{145}{24} + 6 = \frac{289}{24} \approx 12.04167$$

$$\text{True value: } \sqrt{145} \approx 12.04159$$

Very close!!



Example:  $f(x) = \sqrt{1-x}$

Using  $x = 0$ , find a linear approximation of  $\sqrt{.9}$

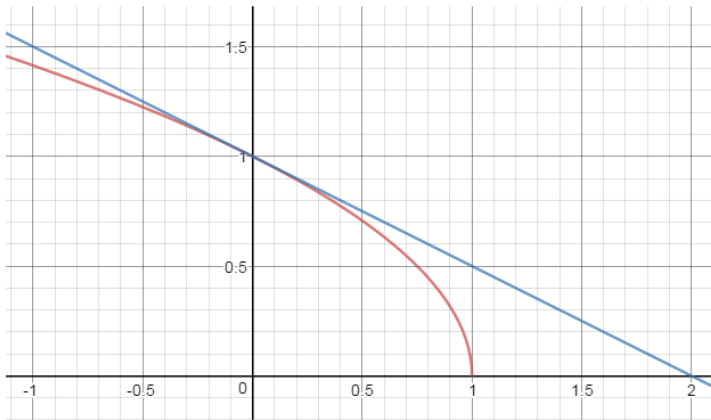
To find the tangent line at  $x = 0$ , we need a point and the slope...

point: @  $x = 0$ ,  $f(0) = 1$  (0, 1)

slope: To find IROC,  $f'(x) = -\frac{1}{2}(1-x)^{-1/2}$

$$f'(0) = -1/2$$

Equation of the line:  $y - 1 = -\frac{1}{2}(x - 0)$



Now, to find the approximation of  $\sqrt{.9}$

we'll let  $x = .1$  (because  $f(.1) = \sqrt{1-.1} = \sqrt{.9}$ )

If  $x = .1$ , then  $y - 1 = -\frac{1}{2}(.1 - 0)$

$$y = -.05 + 1$$

$$y = .95$$

true value:  $\sqrt{.9} = .9487$

(Note: since the curve is concave down, the linear approximation overestimates the true value...)

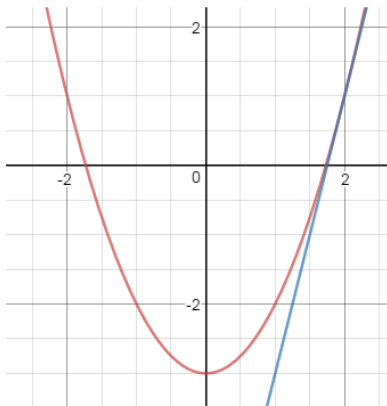
Example:  $f(x) = x^2 - 3$  Find  $f(1.7)$

Calculate the error from using a linear approximation at  $x = 2$

$f(2) = 1$  so, the point is (2, 1)

$f'(2) = 2(2) - 0 = 4$

the linearization of the curve is  $y - 1 = 4(x - 2)$



The true value:  $f(1.7) = (1.7)^2 - 3 = -.11$

The linear approximation:  $y - 1 = 4((1.7) - 2)$

$$y = -1.2 + 1 = -.20$$

The error is  $-.09$ ...

(since the curve is concave up, it makes sense that the approximation underestimates...)

*Example:* Using a linear approximation, estimate the value of  $\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{7}\right)$

The function is  $f(x) = \cos(x)$

We'll let  $x = \frac{\pi}{3}$  for a comparison point..  $\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = 1/2 \implies$  point:  $\left(\frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{1}{2}\right)$

Now, we need the slope:  $f'(x) = -\sin(x)$  slope is  $-\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{-\sqrt{3}}{2}$

linearized model in point-slope form:  $y - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{-\sqrt{3}}{2} \left(x - \frac{\pi}{3}\right)$

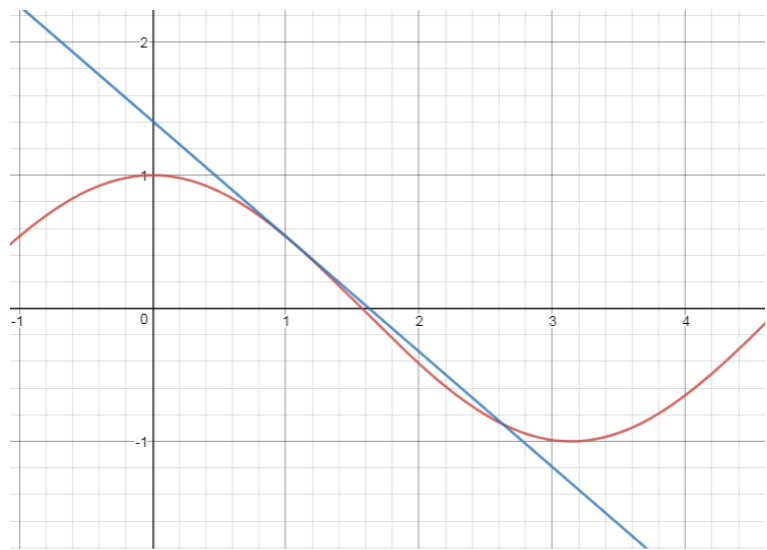
Now, let's estimate  $\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{7}\right)$   $y - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{-\sqrt{3}}{2} \left(\frac{2\pi}{7} - \frac{\pi}{3}\right)$

$$y - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{-\sqrt{3}}{2} \left(-\frac{\pi}{21}\right)$$

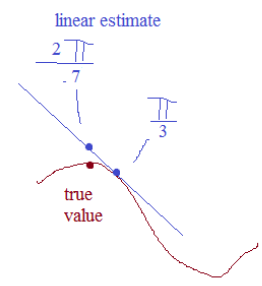
$$y = \frac{\sqrt{3}\pi}{42} + \frac{1}{2}$$

approx: .62955

True value:  
 $\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{7}\right)$  approx: .62351

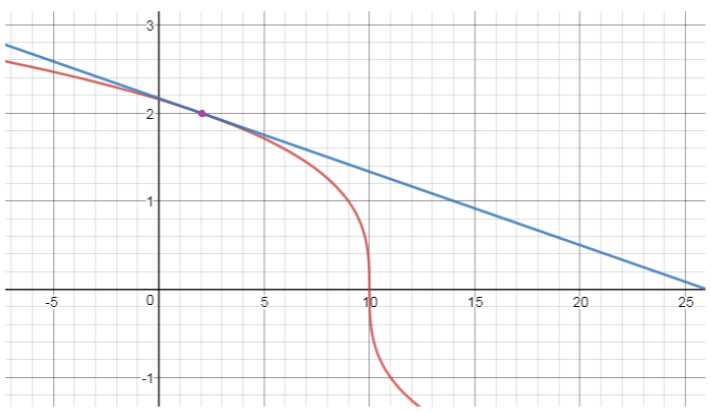


Since the line is above the curve when  $x = \frac{2\pi}{7}$  we'd expect our estimate to be greater than the true value!



*Example:*  $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{10-x}$   $x = 2$

Find approx. of  $\sqrt[3]{8.3}$



point: (2, 2)  
 slope:  $\frac{-1}{3}(10-x)^{\frac{-2}{3}}$  at  $x = 2$ , this slope is  $\frac{-1}{12}$

Linearized model:  $y - 2 = \frac{-1}{12}(x - 2)$

To approximate, let  $x = 1.7$ ...  
 true value is approx. 2.0247  
 linear approximation: 2.025

Since the curve is concave down, the linear approximation overestimates!

Finding derivatives of inverses and slope of inverses

Method 1: (If possible), find the inverse and take the derivative...

Example:  $f(x) = x^3 + 7$

If  $f^{-1}(x)$  is the inverse, find the slope of the curve at  $f^{-1}(15)$

Find the inverse...

$y = x^3 + 7$  switch the x's and y's...

$x = y^3 + 7$  solve for y...

$x - 7 = y^3$

$\sqrt[3]{x-7} = y$

Take the derivative...

$f^{-1}(x) = \sqrt[3]{x-7}$

The derivative is  $\frac{1}{3}(x-7)^{-2/3}$

So, the slope at 15 is

$\frac{1}{3}(15-7)^{-2/3} = \frac{1}{12}$

Unfortunately, sometimes it's difficult to find the inverse.

Method 2:  $g'(x) = \frac{1}{f'(g(x))}$

Example:  $f(x) = x^3 + 3x + 6$

If  $g(x)$  is the inverse, find  $g'(2)$

The relevant coordinate is  $(-1, 2)$   $f(x)$   
 $(2, -1)$   $g(x)$

The slope of tangent at  $(-1, 2)$  is

$3(-1)^2 + 3(-1) + 6 = 6 \leftarrow f'(g(x))$

\*\*\*Therefore the slope of tangent at  $(2, -1)$  must be

$\frac{1}{6}$

$g'(2) = \frac{1}{f'(g(2))} = \frac{1}{f'(-1)} = \frac{1}{6}$

NOTE: Since  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are inverses, their coordinates are flipped...

$f(x)$  has a coordinate  $(?, 2)$   
 and  
 $g(x)$  has a coordinate  $(2, ?)$

What is  $g(2)$ ?

$2 = x^3 + 3x + 6$

$x^3 + 3x + 4 = 0$

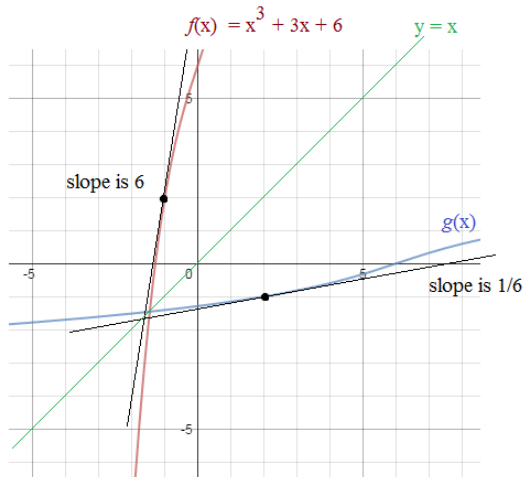
(Using a calculator or Rational Root/Factor Theorem, we can find that  $(-1)$  is a solution!)

Possible rational roots: 1, 2, 4, -1, -2, -4

$(-1)^3 + 3(-1) + 4 = 0$  ✓

NOTE: inverse functions reflect over the line  $y = x$ ... Therefore, the slopes of mirror points are reciprocals!

Graph of  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$ ...  
 Note the symmetry/reflection over  $y = x$



Method 3: Flip the x and y; Use implicit differentiation

$x = y^3 + 3y + 6$

$1 = 3y^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 3 \frac{dy}{dx} + 0$

$1 = \frac{dy}{dx} (3y^2 + 3)$

$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{3y^2 + 3}$

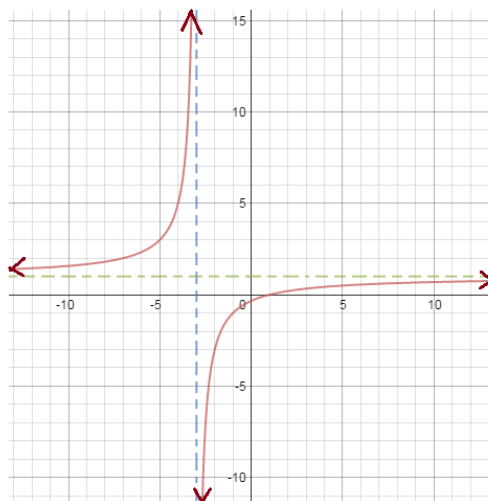
at  $(2, -1)$ , the slope is  $\frac{1}{6}$

**Derivative Application: Sketching Rational Expressions**

Example:  $f(x) = \frac{x-1}{x+3}$

Use algebra concepts to graph the function.  
Then, use calculus concepts to verify the shape!

Vertical Asymptotes: $x = -3$	Where the function is undefined. (denominator = 0 and numerator $\neq 0$ )
Horizontal Asymptote: $y = 1$	End behavior (since degree of numerator is same as degree of denominator, use the lead coefficients)
"Holes": None	
x-intercept: $(1, 0)$	x-intercept: when $y = 0$
y-intercept: $(0, -\frac{1}{3})$	y-intercept: when $x = 0$



Now, let's use derivatives to verify the shape:

Use quotient rule

$$f'(x) = \frac{(1)(x+3) - (1)(x-1)}{(x+3)^2} = \frac{2}{(x+3)^2}$$

Critical values: Since  $f'(x)$  never equals 0, there are no extrema (no max or min)

The derivative  $f'(x)$  is undefined at  $x = -3$ :  
an asymptote

Test -4:  $\frac{2}{(-4+3)^2} > 0$  increasing in the interval  $(-\infty, -3)$

Test -2:  $\frac{2}{(-2+3)^2} > 0$  increasing in the interval  $(-3, \infty)$

$$f''(x) = \frac{(0)(x+3)^2 - 2(x+3)^1 \cdot (2)}{((x+3)^2)^2} = \frac{-4(x+3)}{(x+3)^4} = \frac{-4}{(x+3)^3}$$

Concavity: Since  $f''(x)$  never equals 0, there are no points of inflection

The second derivative has a critical value at  $x = -3$   
(where it is undefined)

Test -4:  $\frac{-4}{(-4+3)^3} > 0$  concave up between  $(-\infty, -3)$

Test -2:  $\frac{-4}{(-2+3)^3} < 0$  concave down between  $(-3, \infty)$

Example:  $g(x) = \frac{x^2-2}{x+1}$  Find the relative extrema.  
Determine the concavity and inflection points (if any).

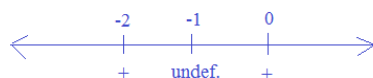
Sketch the graph.

$$g'(x) = \frac{2x(x+1) - 1(x^2-2)}{(x+1)^2} = \frac{x^2+2x+2}{(x+1)^2}$$

$g'(x)$  will never equal zero,  
so no max or min...

Note: the discriminant of  $x^2+2x+2$  is  $-4$ ...  
So, the two solutions are imaginary!

There is a critical value at  $-1$ , where the derivative is undefined...

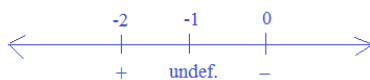


Then, test a point on left and right of  $-1$ ... increasing for all  $x$ , except  $-1$

$$g''(x) = \frac{(2x+2)(x+1)^2 - 2(x+1)(x^2+2x+2)}{(x+1)^4}$$

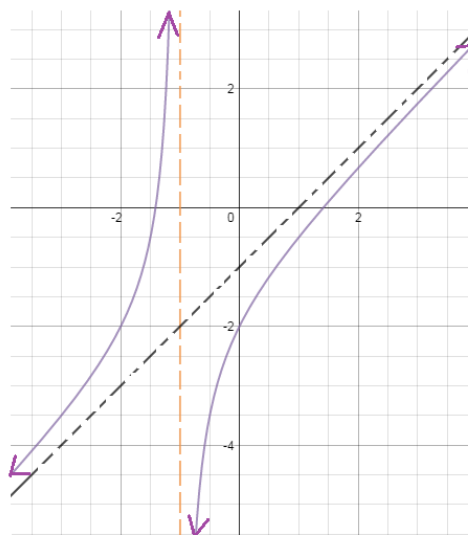
$$= \frac{(2x+2)(x+1) - 2(x^2+2x+2)}{(x+1)^3} = \frac{-2}{(x+1)^3}$$

$g''(x)$  never equals zero, so there are no points of inflection.  
But, the 2nd derivative is undefined at  $x = -1$



After testing points on the left and right of  $-1$ , we find its concavity...

concave up:  $(-\infty, -1)$       concave down:  $(-1, \infty)$

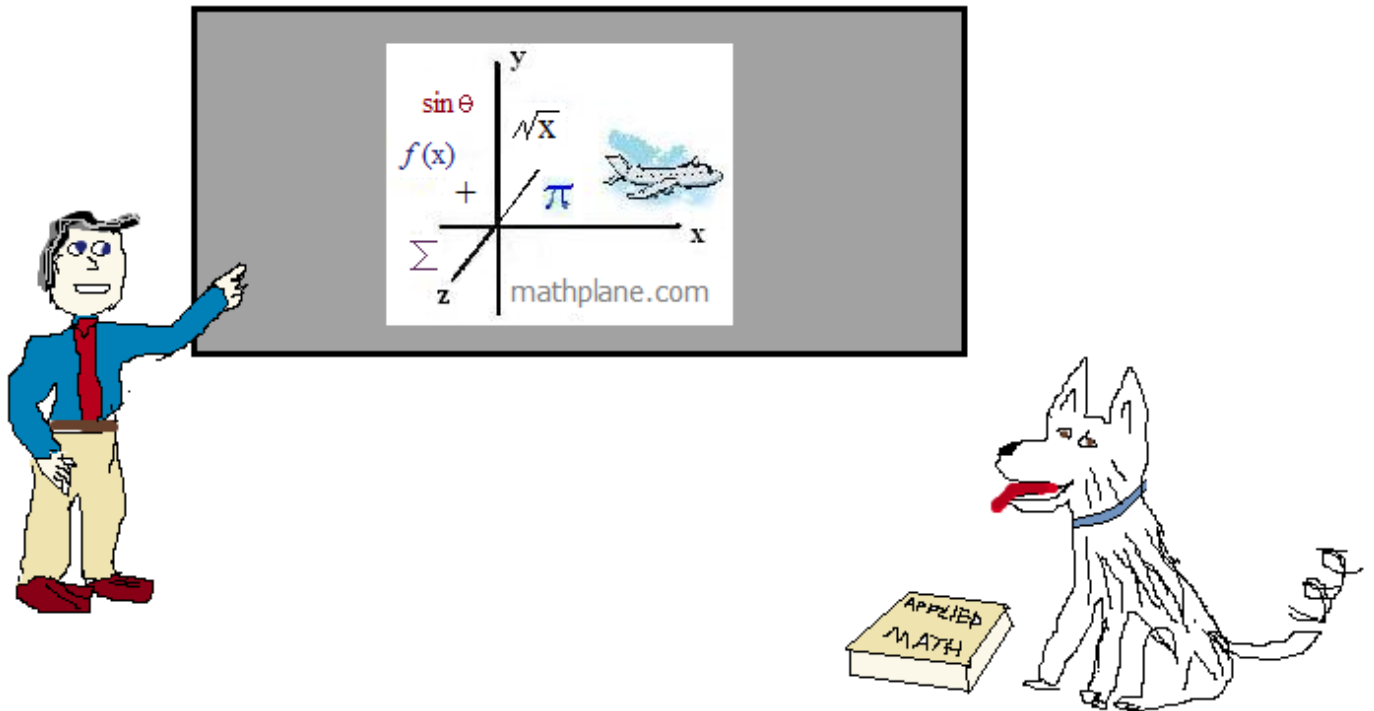


Vertical Asymptote:  $x = -1$   
Horizontal Asymptote: None  
"Slant" (Oblique) Asymptote:  $y = x - 1$   
x-intercepts:  $(\sqrt{2}, 0)$   $(-\sqrt{2}, 0)$   
y-intercept:  $(0, -2)$

Thanks for visiting. (Hope it helps!)

If you have questions, suggestions, or requests, let us know.

Cheers

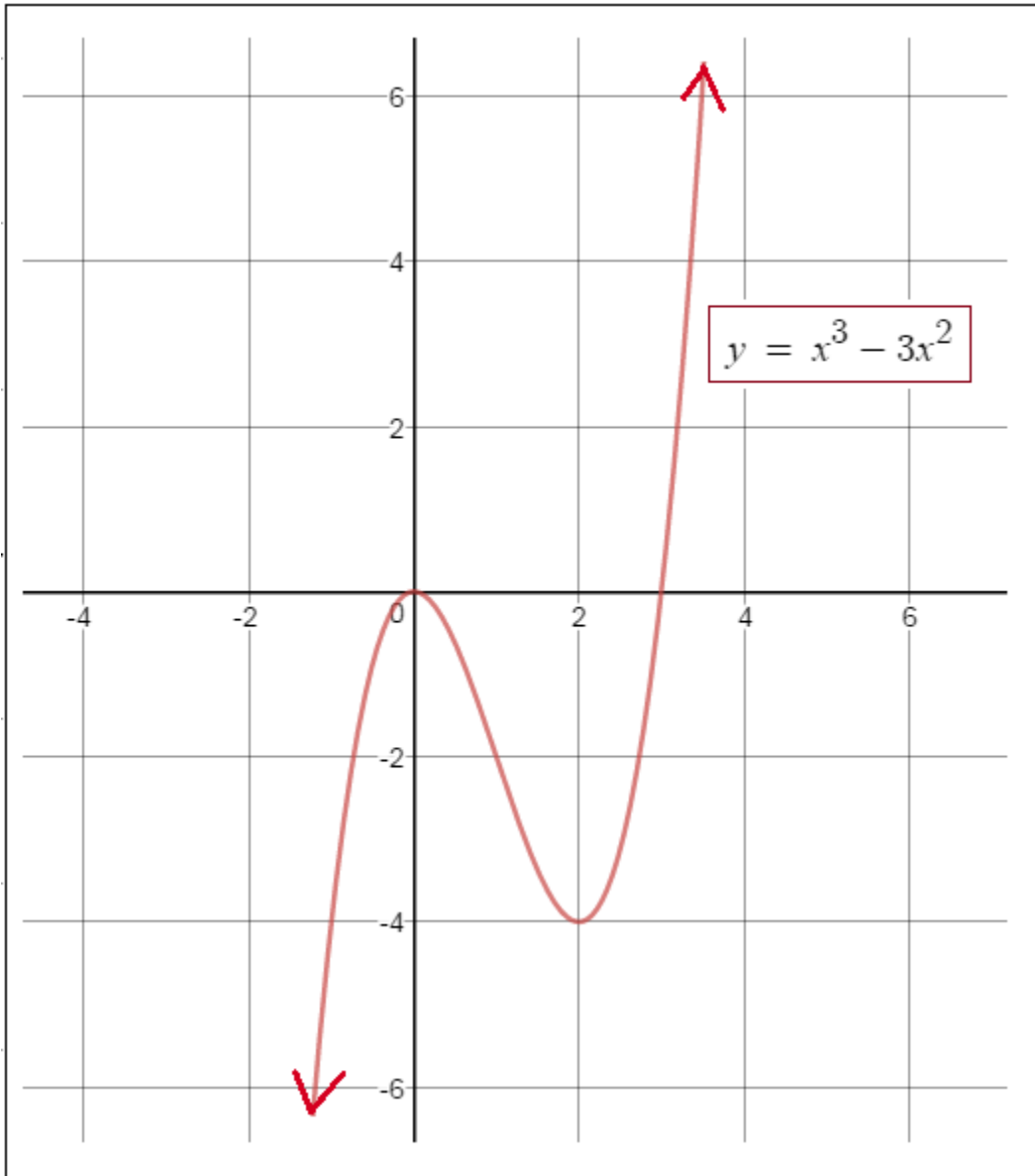


And, Mathplane *Express* for mobile at [mathplane.ORG](http://mathplane.ORG)

Also, at [TeachersPayTeachers](http://TeachersPayTeachers)

One more question-→

What is the equation of the line tangent to the curve *at the point of inflection*?



ANSWER-→



What is the equation of the line tangent to the curve at the point of inflection?

$$y = x^3 - 3x^2$$

ANSWER

First, where is the point of inflection?

Where 2nd derivative equals zero.

$$y' = 3x^2 - 6x$$

$$y'' = 6x - 6$$

$$y'' = 0 \text{ when } x = 1$$

Therefore, point of inflection is (1, -2)

$$-2 = (1)^3 - 3(1)^2$$

Now, find the slope at  $x = 1$

$$y' = 3x^2 - 6x$$

$$y' = 3(1)^2 - 6(1) = -3$$

Equation of the line:

slope: -3 point: (1, -2)

$$y + 2 = -3(x - 1)$$

or

$$y = -3x + 1$$