

# 12) Differentiation

12.1) Gradients of curves

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## 12.1) Gradients of curves

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## Worked example

Find the gradient between the points on the curve  $y = x^2$ :

(5, 25) and (6, 36)

## Your turn

Find the gradient between the points on the curve  $y = x^2$ :

(5, 25) and (5.1, 26.01)

10.1

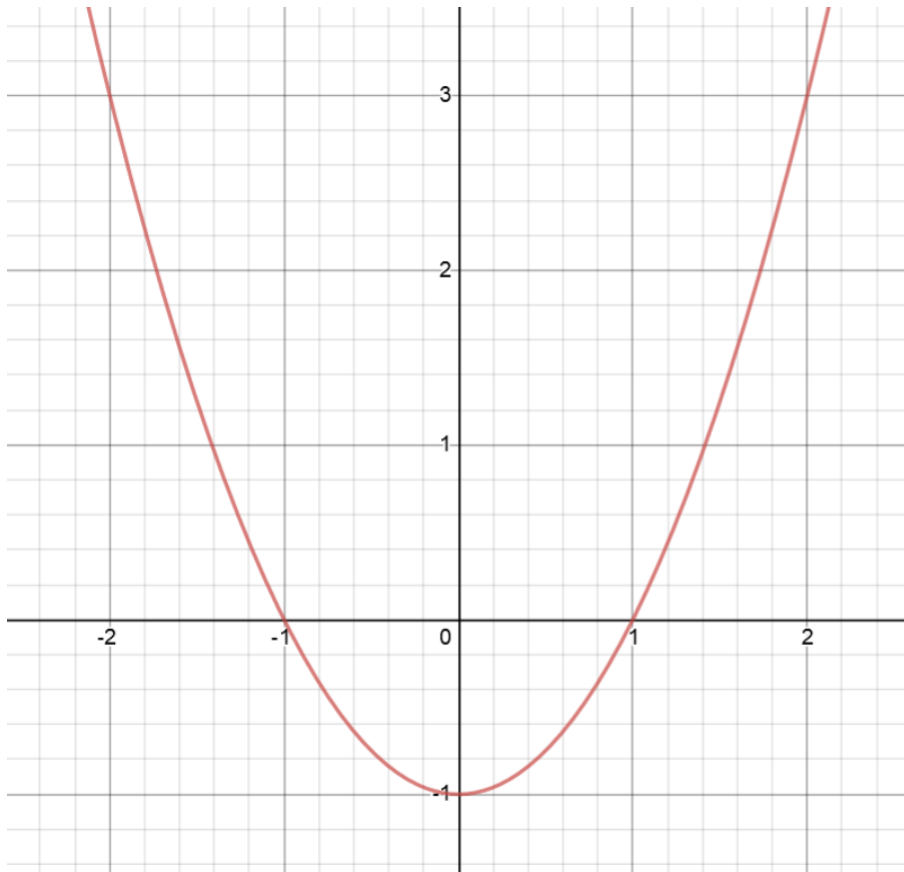
## Worked example

Find an estimate for the gradient of each curve at the point where:

$$x = 2$$

$$x = 0$$

$$x = -1$$



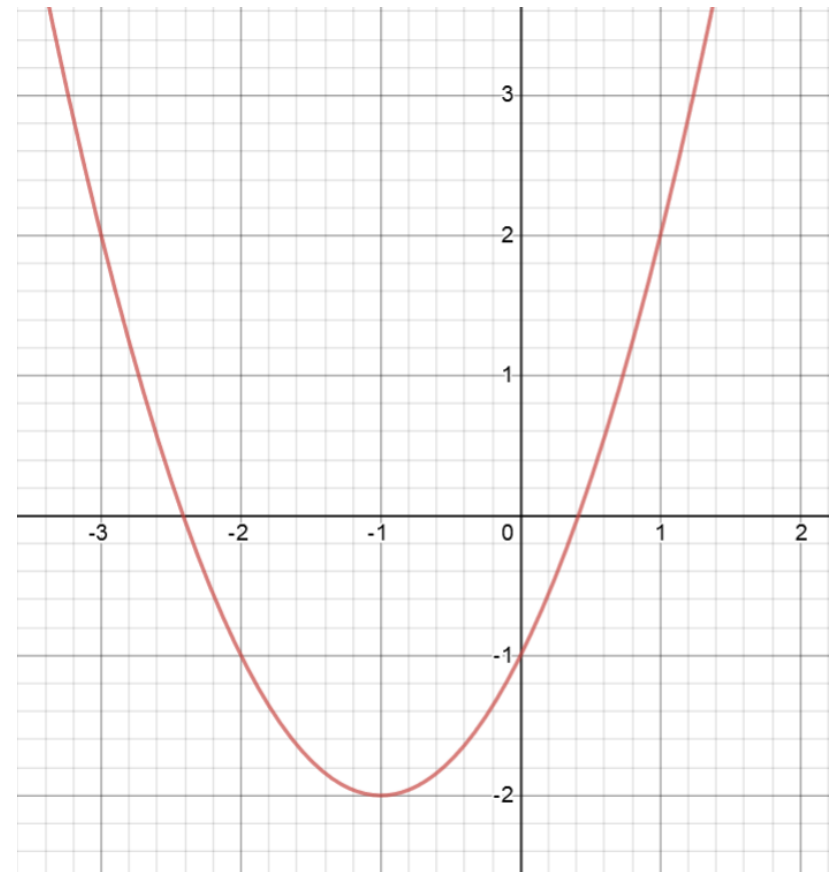
## Your turn

Find an estimate for the gradient of each curve at the point where:

$$x = 1 \quad 4$$

$$x = -1 \quad 0$$

$$x = -2 \quad -0.4$$



## 12.2) Finding the derivative

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## Worked example

The point  $A$  with coordinates  $(8,64)$  lies on the curve with equation  $y = x^2$ .

At point  $A$  the curve has gradient  $g$ .

a) Show that  $g = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (16 + h)$

b) Deduce the value of  $g$ .

## Your turn

The point  $A$  with coordinates  $(4,16)$  lies on the curve with equation  $y = x^2$ .

At point  $A$  the curve has gradient  $g$ .

a) Show that  $g = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (8 + h)$

b) Deduce the value of  $g$ .

Shown

## Worked example

Prove from first principles that the derivative of  $3x$  is 3

## Your turn

Prove from first principles that the derivative of  $5x$  is 5

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= 5x \\f'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{5(x+h) - 5(x)}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{5x + 5h - 5x}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{5h}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} 5 \\&= 5\end{aligned}$$

## Worked example

Prove from first principles that the derivative of  $3x^2$  is  $6x$

## Your turn

Prove from first principles that the derivative of  $5x^2$  is  $10x$

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= 5x^2 \\f'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{5(x+h)^2 - 5(x)^2}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{5x^2 + 10xh + 5h^2 - 5x^2}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{10xh + 5h^2}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(10x + 5h)}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (10x + 5h) \\&= 10x\end{aligned}$$

[As  $h \rightarrow 0$ ,  $5h \rightarrow 0$ ]



## Worked example

Prove from first principles that the derivative of  $x^4$  is  $4x^3$ .

## Your turn

Prove from first principles that the derivative of  $x^3$  is  $3x^2$

$$\begin{aligned}f(x) &= x^3 \\f'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^3 - (x)^3}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^3 + 3x^2h + 3xh^2 + h^3 - x^3}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x^2h + 3xh^2 + h^3}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(3x^2 + 3xh^2 + h^3)}{h} \\&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (3x^2 + 3xh + h^2) \\&= 3x^2\end{aligned}$$

[As  $h \rightarrow 0$ ,  $3xh \rightarrow 0$  and  $h^2 \rightarrow 0$ ]

## 12.3) Differentiating $x^n$

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## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$x^2$$

$$x^3$$

$$x^4$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$x^5$$

$$5x^4$$

## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$3x^2$$

$$-2x^3$$

$$5x^4$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$-3x^5$$

$$-15x^4$$

## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$\sqrt{x}$$

$$\sqrt[3]{x}$$

$$\sqrt[4]{x}$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$\sqrt[5]{x}$$

$$\frac{1}{5}x^{-\frac{4}{5}}$$

## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$\frac{1}{x}$$

$$\frac{1}{x^2}$$

$$\frac{1}{x^3}$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$\frac{1}{x^4}$$

$$-4x^{-5} = -\frac{4}{x^5}$$

## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$\frac{2}{x}$$

$$\frac{3}{4x^2}$$

$$\frac{6}{5x^3}$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$\frac{7}{8x^4}$$

$$-\frac{7}{2}x^{-5} = -\frac{7}{2x^5}$$

## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$\frac{2}{3}\sqrt{x}$$

$$\frac{4}{7}\sqrt[3]{x}$$

$$\frac{5}{6}\sqrt[4]{x}$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$\frac{3}{5}\sqrt{x}$$

$$\frac{3}{10}x^{-\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{3}{10\sqrt{x}}$$



## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$\frac{2}{3\sqrt{x}}$$

$$\frac{4}{7\sqrt[3]{x}}$$

$$\frac{5}{6\sqrt[4]{x}}$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$\frac{3}{5\sqrt{x}}$$

$$-\frac{3}{10}x^{-\frac{3}{2}} = -\frac{3}{10x\sqrt{x}}$$

## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$\sqrt{36x^7}$$

$$\sqrt{25x^7}$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$\sqrt{16x^8}$$

$$16x^3$$

$$\sqrt{9x^8}$$

$$24x^7$$

## 12.4) Differentiating quadratics

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## Worked example

Find the gradient of the curve:

$$y = x^2 + 3x + 2 \text{ at } (4, 30)$$

$$y = 2x^3 - x + 5 \text{ at } (-1, 4)$$

## Your turn

Find the gradient of the curve:

$$y = 3x^2 - 2x + 1 \text{ at } (-2, 17)$$

**-14**

## Worked example

Find the coordinates of the point(s) where the gradient is 4:

$$y = x^2 - 8x + 3$$

$$y = 5x^2 - x + 7$$

## Your turn

Find the coordinates of the point(s) where the gradient is 3:

$$y = 3x^2 - 9x + 7$$

$$(2, 1)$$

## Worked example

Let  $f(x) = 8x^2 - 4x - 3$

- Find the gradient of  $y = f(x)$  at the point  $\left(\frac{1}{2}, 0\right)$
- Find the coordinates of the point on the graph of  $y = f(x)$  where the gradient is 44.
- Find the gradient of  $y = f(x)$  at the points where the curve meets the line  $y = 12x + 21$ .

## Your turn

Let  $f(x) = 4x^2 - 8x + 3$

- Find the gradient of  $y = f(x)$  at the point  $\left(\frac{1}{2}, 0\right)$
- Find the coordinates of the point on the graph of  $y = f(x)$  where the gradient is 8.
- Find the gradient of  $y = f(x)$  at the points where the curve meets the line  $y = 4x - 5$ .

a)  $-4$

b)  $(2, 3)$

c) At  $(1, -1)$  gradient = 0

At  $(2, 3)$  gradient = 8

## 12.5) Differentiating functions with two or more terms

[Chapter CONTENTS](#)

## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$y = 4x^3 + 3x^2 + 2x + 1$$

$$f(x) = x^3 - 2x^5 - 3x^{-2} - 2$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$y = 5x^4 - 2x^7 + 12345 - x^5$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 20x^3 - 14x^6 - 5x^4$$



## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$y = 2\sqrt{x} + 3x^{\frac{4}{3}} - \frac{1}{x} + \frac{5}{x^2}$$

$$f(x) = 4\sqrt[3]{x} + 2x^{\frac{1}{4}} - \frac{5}{x^3} + \frac{3}{\sqrt{x}} + 6x^{-2}$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$y = 3\sqrt{x} + 4x^{\frac{5}{3}} - \frac{5}{x} + \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x}}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3}{2}x^{-\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{20}{3}x^{\frac{2}{3}} + 5x^{-2} - \frac{1}{3}x^{-\frac{4}{3}}$$

## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$y = x^4(x - 5)$$

$$f(x) = x^3(x + 2)$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$f(x) = x^2(x - 3)$$

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 - 6x$$

## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

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

$$f(x) = \frac{(3x - 2)^2}{5x}$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$f(x) = \frac{(2x + 3)^2}{5x}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{4}{5} - \frac{9}{5}x^{-2}$$

$$= \frac{4}{5} - \frac{9}{5x^2}$$

## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$y = \frac{x^3 + 2}{\sqrt{x}}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 5}{\sqrt[3]{x}}$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 3}{\sqrt{x}}$$

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

## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$y = \frac{(x + 4)^3}{5x^2}$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

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

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{3} - 4x^{-2} - \frac{16}{3}x^{-3}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} - \frac{4}{x^2} - \frac{16}{3x^3}$$

## Worked example

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

$$y = \frac{3 - 4x}{2x^2\sqrt{x}}$$

## Your turn

Differentiate with respect to  $x$ :

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

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{1}{2}x^{-\frac{5}{2}} - \frac{1}{3}x^{-\frac{3}{2}}$$

## 12.6) Gradients, tangents and normal [Chapter CONTENTS](#)

## Worked example

Find the gradient of the curve:

$$y = 8\sqrt{x} + \frac{48}{x} \text{ at } (4, 28)$$

$$y = \frac{3}{x^2} - \frac{18}{\sqrt{x}} \text{ at } \left(9, -\frac{161}{27}\right)$$

## Your turn

Find the gradient of the curve:

$$y = 5\sqrt{x} - \frac{3}{x} \text{ at } \left(16, \frac{317}{16}\right)$$

$$\frac{163}{256}$$



## Worked example

Find the coordinates of the point(s) where the gradient is 10:

$$y = x^3 + 6x^2 - 11x + 7$$

## Your turn

Find the coordinates of the point(s) where the gradient is 2:

$$y = x^3 - 3x^2 - 7x + 8$$

$(-1, 11)$  and  $(3, -13)$

## Worked example

For the curve  $y = f(x)$ ,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 723 + kx^5 + 2k,$$

where  $k$  is a constant.

When  $x = -3$ , the gradient of the curve is 241. Find  $k$ .

## Your turn

For the curve  $y = f(x)$ ,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3}{2} - kx^4 + k,$$

where  $k$  is a constant.

When  $x = -2$ , the gradient of the curve is  $-6$ . Find  $k$ .

$$k = \frac{1}{2}$$

## Worked example

Find the equation of the tangent to the curve  $y = x^4$  when  $x = 2$

## Your turn

Find the equation of the tangent to the curve  $y = x^3$  when  $x = 2$

$$y - 8 = 12(x - 2)$$

$$y = 12x - 16$$

## Worked example

Find the equation of the normal to the curve  $y = x^4$  when  $x = 2$

## Your turn

Find the equation of the normal to the curve  $y = x^3$  when  $x = 2$

$$y - 8 = -\frac{1}{12}(x - 2)$$
$$y = -\frac{1}{12}x + \frac{49}{6}$$

## Worked example

Find the equation of the tangent to the curve with equation

$$y = x^3 - 5x^2 - 3x + 2 \text{ at the point } (5, -13)$$

## Your turn

Find the equation of the tangent to the curve with equation

$$y = x^3 - 3x^2 + 2x - 1 \text{ at the point } (3, 5)$$

$$y = 11x - 28$$

## Worked example

Find the equation of the normal to the curve with equation  $y = 3 - 4\sqrt[3]{x}$  at the point where  $x = 8$ .

Give your answer in the form  $ax + by + c = 0$

## Your turn

Find the equation of the normal to the curve with equation  $y = 8 - 3\sqrt{x}$  at the point where  $x = 4$ .

Give your answer in the form  $ax + by + c = 0$

$$3y - 4x + 10 = 0$$

## Worked example

The point  $P$  with  $x$ -coordinate  $\frac{1}{4}$  lies on the curve with equation  $y = 2x^2$ .

The normal to the curve at  $P$  intersects the curve at points  $P$  and  $Q$ .

Find the coordinates of  $Q$

## Your turn

The point  $P$  with  $x$ -coordinate  $\frac{1}{2}$  lies on the curve with equation  $y = 4x^2$ .

The normal to the curve at  $P$  intersects the curve at points  $P$  and  $Q$ .

Find the coordinates of  $Q$

$$\left(-\frac{9}{16}, \frac{81}{64}\right)$$

## 12.7) Increasing and decreasing functions [Chapter CONTENTS](#)



## Worked example

Show that the function

$f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 + 8x - 5$  is increasing for all real values of  $x$ .

## Your turn

Show that the function

$f(x) = x^3 + 6x^2 + 21x + 2$  is increasing for all real values of  $x$ .

Shown

## Worked example

Find the interval(s) on which the function  $f(x) = x^3 - 6x^2 - 135x + 1$  is increasing.

## Your turn

Find the interval(s) on which the function  $f(x) = x^3 + 6x^2 - 135x - 2$  is increasing.

$$x \leq -9 \text{ and } x \geq 5$$

## Worked example

Show that the function  $5 - x(4x^2 + 3)$  is decreasing for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$

## Your turn

Show that the function  $3 + 4x(-x^2 - 5)$  is decreasing for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$

Shown

## Worked example

Find the interval on which the function  
 $f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 - 9x - 10$  is decreasing.

## Your turn

Find the interval on which the function  
 $f(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 - 9x + 5$  is decreasing.

$[-3, 1]$

## 12.8) Second order derivatives

[Chapter CONTENTS](#)

## Worked example

$$\text{If } y = 5x^3 - \frac{4}{x^3}, \text{ find } \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$$

## Your turn

$$\text{If } y = 3x^5 + \frac{4}{x^2}, \text{ find } \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 60x^3 + \frac{24}{x^4}$$

## Worked example

If  $f(x) = 3\sqrt{x} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$ , find  $f''(x)$ .

## Your turn

If  $f(x) = 3\sqrt{x} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$ , find  $f''(x)$ .

$$f''(x) = -\frac{3}{4}x^{-\frac{3}{2}} + \frac{3}{8}x^{-\frac{5}{2}}$$

## 12.9) Stationary points



## Worked example

Find the least value of

$$f(x) = x^2 + 6x - 9$$

## Your turn

Find the least value of

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

5

## Worked example

Find the turning point of

$$y = \sqrt[4]{x} - 2x$$

## Your turn

Find the turning point of

$$y = \sqrt{x} - x$$

$$\left(\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{4}\right)$$

## Worked example

Find the coordinates of the turning/stationary point(s) of the curves by differentiation:

$$y = x^2 + 6x - 2$$

$$y = 2x^3 + 6x^2 - 4$$

## Your turn

Find the coordinates of the turning/stationary point(s) of the curves by differentiation:

$$y = x^3 + 3x^2 - 4$$

$(-2, 0)$  and  $(0, -4)$

## Worked example

Find the coordinates of the turning/stationary point(s) of the curves by differentiation:

$$y = \frac{2}{3}x^3 - 3.5x^2 + 3x + 5$$

## Your turn

Find the coordinates of the turning/stationary point(s) of the curves by differentiation:

$$y = x^3 + \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 2x + 4$$

$$\left(-1, \frac{11}{2}\right) \text{ and } \left(\frac{2}{3}, \frac{86}{27}\right)$$

## Worked example

Find the stationary points on the curve  $y = \frac{5}{3}x^3 - 80x$

## Your turn

Find the stationary points on the curve  $y = x^3 - 12x$

$(-2, 16)$  and  $(2, -16)$

## Worked example

Find the stationary point on the curve with equation

$y = x^4 - 108x$ , and determine whether it is a local maximum, a local minimum or a point of inflection.

## Your turn

Find the stationary point on the curve with equation

$y = x^4 - 32x$ , and determine whether it is a local maximum, a local minimum or a point of inflection.

$(2, -48)$  Local minimum

## Worked example

Find the coordinates of the stationary points on the curve with equation  $y = 4x^3 + 30x^2 + 48x - 3$  and use the second derivative to determine their nature

## Your turn

Find the coordinates of the stationary points on the curve with equation  $y = 2x^3 - 15x^2 + 24x + 6$  and use the second derivative to determine their nature

**(1, 17) Local maximum**

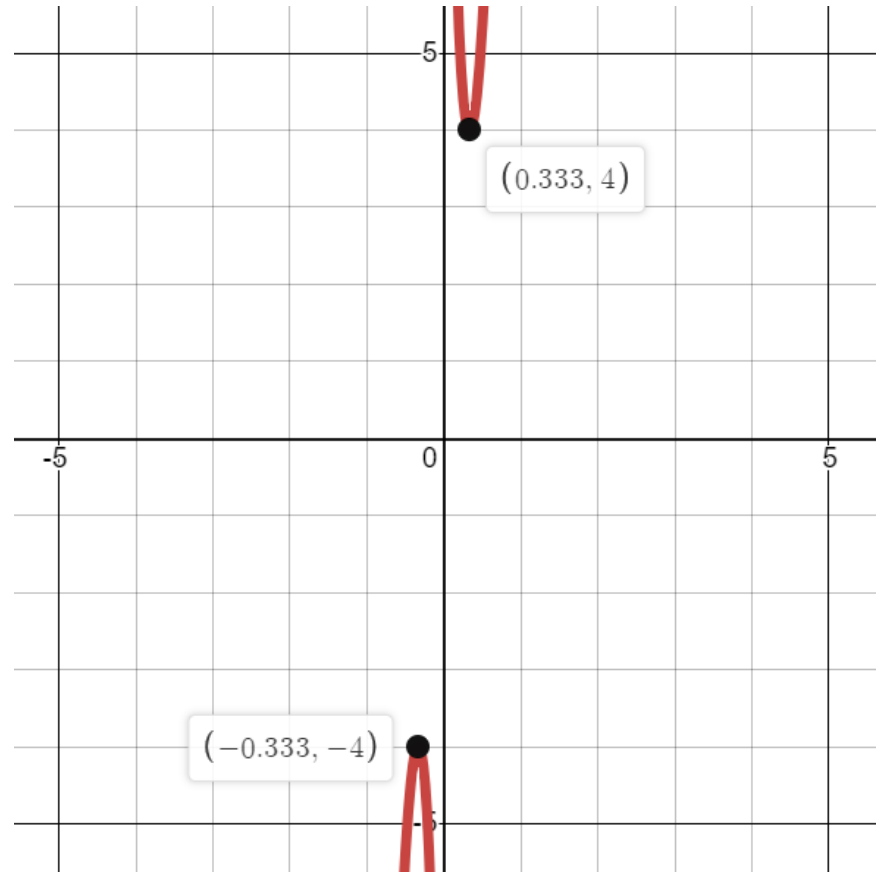
**(4, -10) Local minimum**

## Worked example

Sketch the graph of  $y = \frac{1}{x} + \frac{256}{3}x^3$  labelling the stationary points.

## Your turn

Sketch the graph of  $y = \frac{1}{x} + 27x^3$  labelling the stationary points.



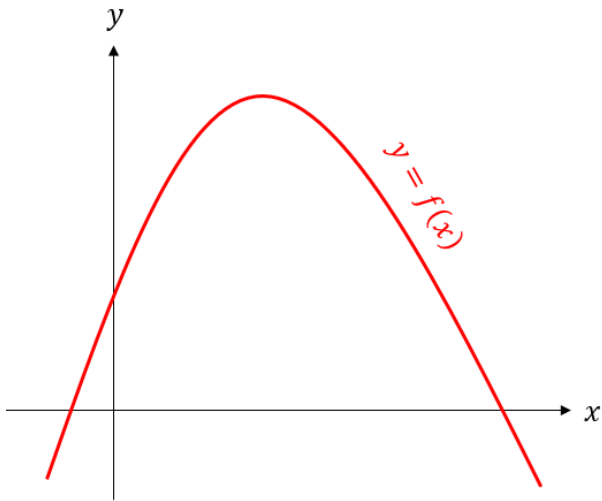


## 12.10) Sketching gradient functions

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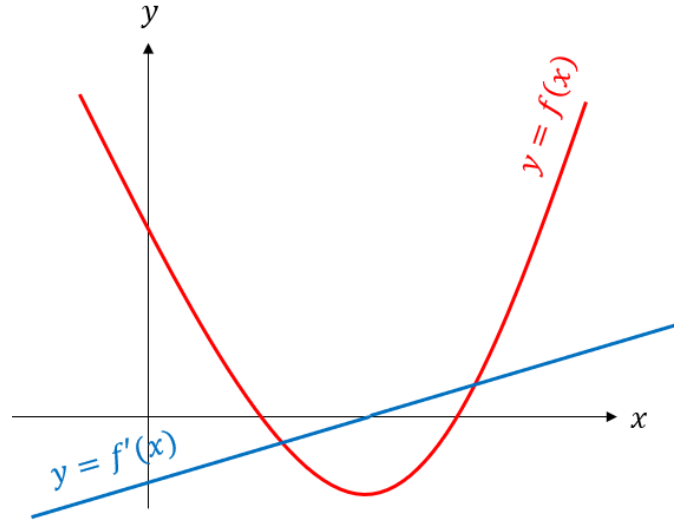
# Worked example

Sketch  $y = f'(x)$  on the same axes



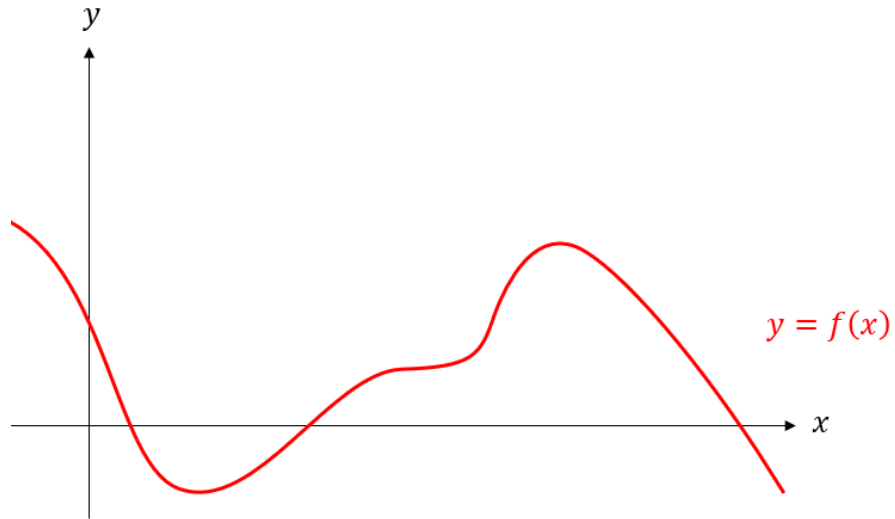
# Your turn

Sketch  $y = f'(x)$  on the same axes



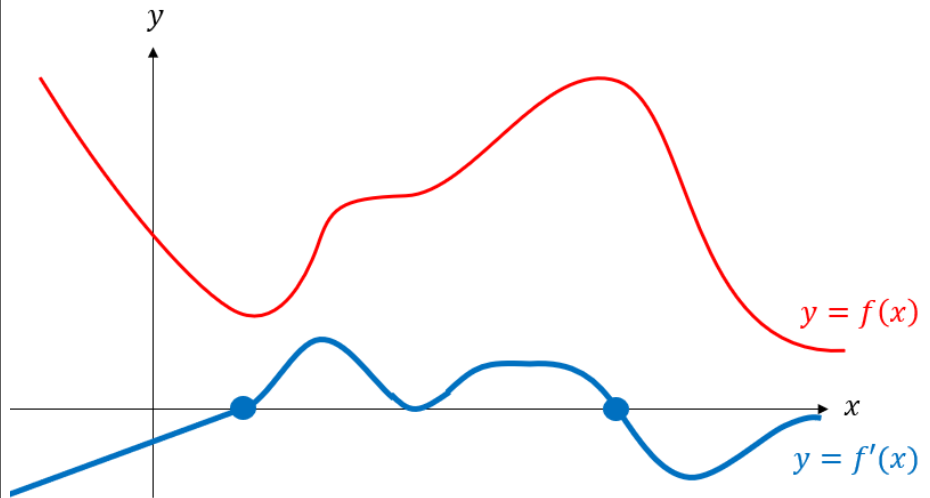
## Worked example

Sketch  $y = f'(x)$  on the same axes



## Your turn

Sketch  $y = f'(x)$  on the same axes



## Worked example

A negative cubic has the equation  $y = f(x)$ .

The curve has stationary points at  $(4, 1)$  and  $(-1, 0)$  and cuts the  $x$ -axis at  $(6, 0)$ .

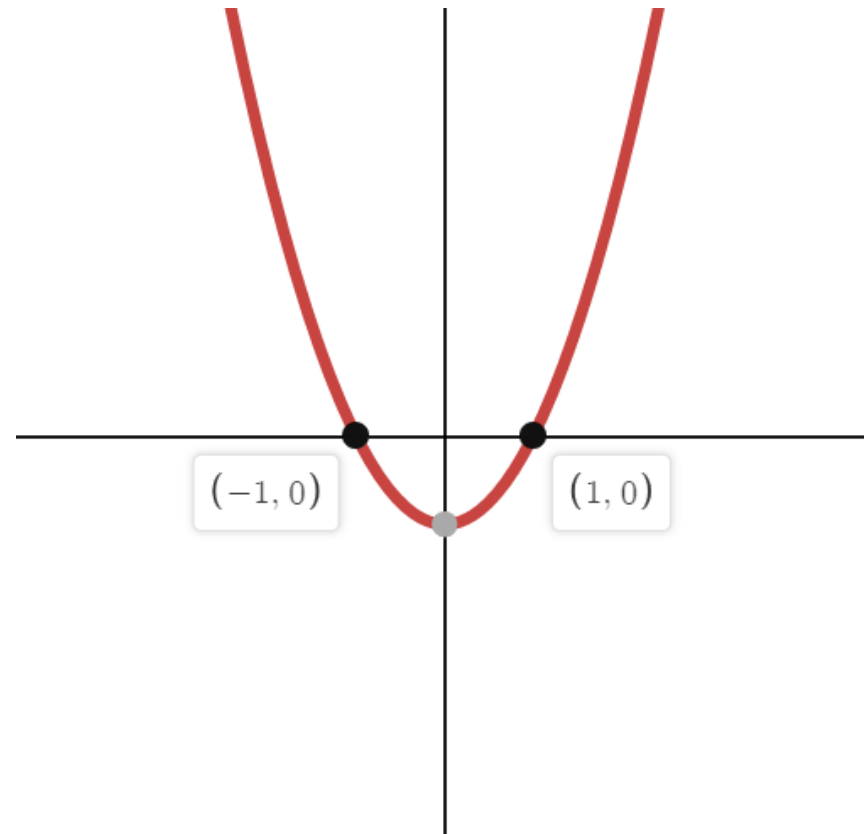
Sketch the gradient function,  $y = f'(x)$ , showing the coordinates of any points where the curve cuts or meets the  $x$ -axis.

## Your turn

A positive cubic has the equation  $y = f(x)$ .

The curve has stationary points at  $(-1, 4)$  and  $(1, 0)$  and cuts the  $x$ -axis at  $(-3, 0)$ .

Sketch the gradient function,  $y = f'(x)$ , showing the coordinates of any points where the curve cuts or meets the  $x$ -axis.



## 12.11) Modelling with differentiation [Chapter CONTENTS](#)

## Worked example

Given that the area,  $A \text{ cm}^2$ , of an expanding circle is related to its radius,  $r \text{ cm}$ , by the formula  $A = \pi r^2$ , find the rate of change of area with respect to radius at the instant when the radius is  $10 \text{ cm}$ .

## Your turn

Given that the volume,  $V \text{ cm}^3$ , of an expanding sphere is related to its radius,  $r \text{ cm}$ , by the formula  $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$ , find the rate of change of volume with respect to radius at the instant when the radius is  $5 \text{ cm}$ .

**$314 \text{ cm}^3 \text{ per cm}$**

## Worked example

A cuboid is to be made with volume  $81 \text{ cm}^3$ .

The cuboid has a rectangular cross-section where the length of the rectangle is equal to twice its width,  $x \text{ cm}$ .

The volume of the cuboid is  $81 \text{ cm}^3$ .

- Show that the total length,  $L$ , of the twelve edges of the cuboid is given by  $L = 12x + \frac{162}{x^2}$
- Given that  $x$  can vary, use differentiation to find the maximum or minimum value of  $L$
- Justify that the value of  $L$  you have found is a minimum

## Your turn

A cuboid is to be made from  $54\text{m}^2$  of sheet metal.

The cuboid has a horizontal base and no top.

The height of the cuboid is  $x$  metres.

Two of the opposite vertical faces are squares.

- Show that the volume,  $V \text{ m}^3$ , of the tank is given by

$$V = 18x - \frac{2}{3}x^3.$$

- Given that  $x$  can vary, use differentiation to find the maximum or minimum value of  $V$ .
- Justify that the value of  $V$  you have found is a maximum

a) Shown

b)  $V = 36$

c)  $\frac{d^2V}{dx^2} = -4x ; x = 3, \frac{d^2V}{dx^2} = -12 < 0$