

# Unit 3] Curve Sketching

## I. Sketching Polynomial Functions

Prior: Sketch  $f(x) = x^3 + 2x^2 - 25x - 50$

- ① Find the roots
- ② End Behavior
- ③ In between behavior
- ④ Domain
- ⑤ Sketch
- ⑥ Max/Min
- ⑦ Range
- ⑧ Intervals of Inc/Dec

(+) even:  $\uparrow \dots \uparrow$   
(-) even:  $\downarrow \dots \downarrow$   
(+) odd:  $\downarrow \dots \uparrow$   
(-) odd:  $\uparrow \dots \downarrow$

Calculus to the rescue!

### A. Increasing / Decreasing Test

1. If  $f'(x) > 0$  on an interval, then  $f(x)$  is increasing on that interval.
2. If  $f'(x) < 0$  on an interval, then  $f(x)$  is decreasing on that interval.

ex 1 where is  $f(x) = 3x^4 - 4x^3 - 12x^2 + 5$  increasing : decreasing

approach:  $f'(x) > 0$  and  $f'(x) < 0$

$$f'(x) = 12x^3 - 12x^2 - 24x = 0$$

$$12x(x-2)(x+1) = 0$$

$$\text{Cps } x=0, x=2, x=-1$$

Int	$f'(x)$	conclusion
$(-\infty, -1)$	-	$f(x)$ is dec.
$(-1, 0)$	+	$f(x)$ is inc.
$(0, 2)$	-	$f(x)$ is dec.
$(2, \infty)$	+	$f(x)$ is inc.

$\therefore$  Decreasing:  
 $(-\infty, -1) \cup (0, 2)$

Increasing:  
 $(-1, 0) \cup (2, \infty)$

Note: Definition: A critical number/point of a function,  $f(x)$ , is a number  $c$  in the domain of  $f(x)$  such that either  $f'(c) = 0$  or  $f'(c) =$  does not exist

Slope is 0

derivative DNE

## B. The First Derivative Test

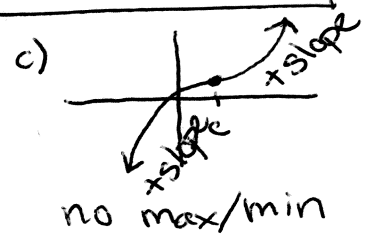
Suppose that  $c$  is a critical point of a continuous function  $f$ .

- a) If  $f'$  changes from positive to negative at  $c$ , then  $f$  has a relative maximum at  $c$ .
- b) If  $f'$  changes from negative to positive at  $c$ , then  $f$  has a relative minimum at  $c$ .
- c) If  $f'$  does not change signs at  $c$ , then  $f$  has no relative maximum or minimum at  $c$ .

relative = local

the absolute max/min is the highest/lowest max or min

global = absolute



ex 1 Where does  $f(x) = x^2 + 3x - 4$  have a minimum?

Approach:  $f'(x)$  changes from - to +

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

int	$f'(x)$	conclusion
$(-\infty, -\frac{3}{2})$	-	$f(x)$ is dec.
$(-\frac{3}{2}, \infty)$	+	$f(x)$ is inc. ← ∴ min

A.P. answer:  $f(x)$  has a min at  $x = -\frac{3}{2}$  because  $f'(x)$  changes from negative to positive.

# AP level example

**ex2** If  $f(x) = \frac{1}{3}x^3 - 4x^2 + 12x - 5$  and the domain is the set of all real numbers  $x$  such that  $0 \leq x \leq 9$ , then the absolute maximum value of the function  $f(x)$  occurs when  $x = ?$

Approach: find maximums, which is highest?  
 Max:  $f'(x)$  changes from + to -

$$f'(x) = x^2 - 8x + 12$$

$$(x-6)(x-2) = 0$$

C.P.  $x=6$   $x=2$

and endpoints:

$x=0$   $x=9$

int	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$	conclusion
0	(0, -5)	+	inc. ← ∴ min @ $x=0$
(0, 2)	<del>          </del>	+	inc.
2	(2, $\frac{17}{3}$ )	0	at rest ← ∴ <u>max @ <math>x=2</math></u>
(2, 6)	<del>          </del>	-	dec.
6	(6, -5)	0	at rest ← ∴ min @ $x=6$
(6, 9)	<del>          </del>	+	inc.
9	(9, 22)	+	inc. ← ∴ <u>max @ <math>x=9</math></u>

include to find the y-values

helpful for graphing

absolute max value at  $x=9$  is 22.

## II Graphing Rational, Radical, Trig, Log Functions

It's the same process as polynomials, except for domain issues; they will be additional critical points or possible inflection points, and horizontal and vertical asymptotes.

~~Inflection~~ Inflection points of a function  $f$  occur at  $c$  such that  $f''(c)=0$  and  $f''(x)$  changes from positive to negative or vice versa at  $c$ .

Domain issues; they will be critical points or possible inflection points

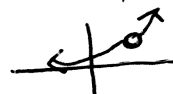
when  $f(x) = \text{DNE}$

\* asymptote



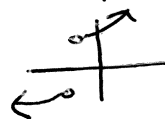
$\frac{x}{x-2} \Rightarrow \text{V.A.}$   
@  $x=2$

\* hole



$\frac{x(x-2)}{(x-2)} \Rightarrow \text{hole}$   
@  $x=2$

\* jump



piecewise

**Ex 1** Sketch the graph of  $f(x) = \frac{2x^2}{x^2-1}$  on the interval  $[-5, 4]$ .

Approach: rational  $\Rightarrow$  domain issues

$f'$  for c.p. ;  $f''$  for ip

Domain issues:  $x^2-1=0$   
 $x = \pm 1$

Boundary:  $x = -5$   
 $x = 4$

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

$x=0$   
 $x = \pm 1$   
 $\uparrow f'(x) = \text{DNE}$

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

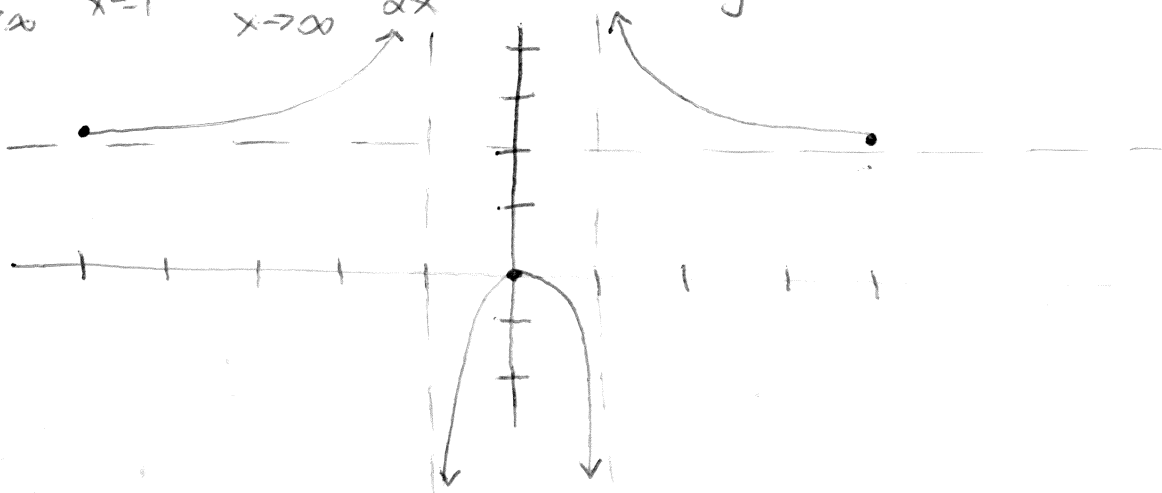
~~$x = \frac{1}{3}$~~   
 $x = \pm 1$   
 $\uparrow f''(x) = \text{DNE}$

int	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$	$f''(x)$	conclusion about $f(x)$
-5	$(-5, \frac{25}{12})$	+	+	inc, CU
$(-5, -1)$	<del>X</del>	+	+	inc, CU
-1	DNE	DNE	DNE	? ←
$(-1, 0)$	<del>X</del>	+	-	inc, CD
0	$(0, 0)$	0	-	at rest, CD ∴ max
$(0, 1)$	<del>X</del>	-	-	dec, CD
1	DNE	DNE	DNE	? ←
$(1, 4)$	<del>X</del>	-	+	dec, CU
4	$(4, \frac{32}{15})$	-	+	dec, CU

$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1} \frac{2x^2}{x^2-1} = \frac{2}{0} = \infty$   
 ∴  $x = -1$  is a VA  
  
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{2x^2}{x^2-1} = \frac{2}{0} = \infty$   
 ∴  $x = 1$  is a VA

Check for HA or OA:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^2}{x^2-1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4x}{2x} = 2 \quad \therefore y=2 \text{ is HA}$$



ex2 Sketch  $f(x) = \sin x + \cos x$ ,  $0 \leq x \leq \pi$

$$f'(x) = \cos x - \sin x = 0$$

$$\cos x = \sin x$$

C.P.  $x = \frac{\pi}{4}$

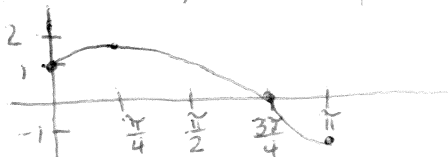
$$f''(x) = -\sin x - \cos x = 0$$

$$-\sin x = \cos x$$

P.P.  $x = \frac{3\pi}{4}$

boundary:  $x=0$   
 $x=\pi$

int	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$	$f''(x)$	conclusion about $f(x)$
0	$(0, 0)$	+	-	inc, CD
$(0, \frac{\pi}{4})$	<del>X</del>	+	-	inc, CD
$\frac{\pi}{4}$	$(\frac{\pi}{4}, \sqrt{2})$	0	-	at rest, CD ∴ max
$(\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4})$	<del>X</del>	-	-	dec, CD
$\frac{3\pi}{4}$	$(\frac{3\pi}{4}, 0)$	-	0	dec ∴ IP
$(\frac{3\pi}{4}, \pi)$	<del>X</del>	-	+	dec, CU
$\pi$	$(\pi, -1)$	-	+	dec, CU



### III. Conceptual Curve Sketching (3c)

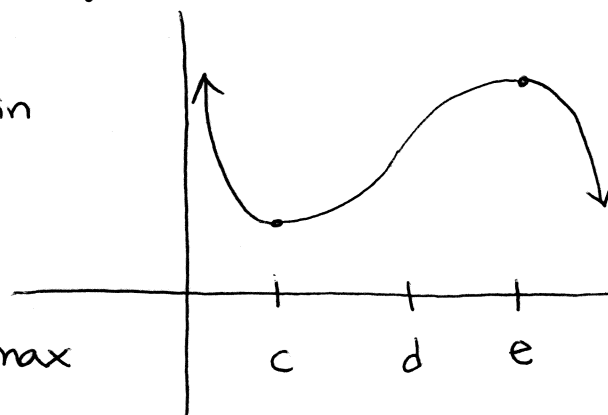
#### A. Facts:

$f'(a) = 0$	$a$ is a critical point of $f(x)$
$f'(a) = \text{DNE}$	$a$ is a critical point of $f(x)$
$f'(a) < 0$	$f(x)$ is decreasing
$f'(a) > 0$	$f(x)$ is increasing
$f''(a) = 0$	$a$ is a possible inflection point
$f''(a) = \text{DNE}$	$a$ is a possible inflection point
$f''(a) < 0$	$f(x)$ is concave down
$f''(a) > 0$	$f(x)$ is concave up
$f(a) = \text{DNE}$	$f(x)$ has a hole, jump or asymptote
$f(a) > 0$	$f(x)$ is <u>above</u> the $x$ -axis
$f(a) < 0$	$f(x)$ is <u>below</u> the $x$ -axis

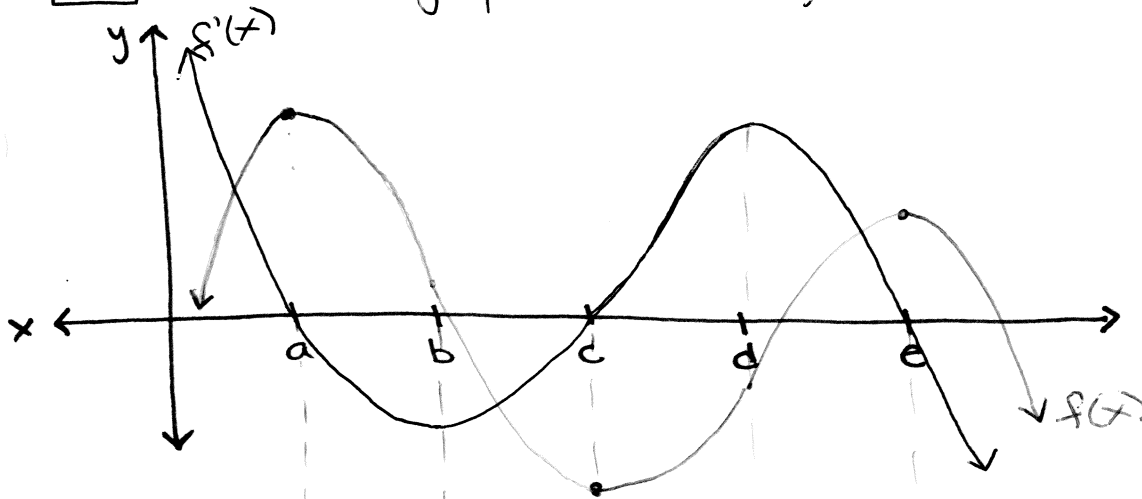
**ex1** Sketch a graph that satisfies the following:

1.  $c < d < e$
2.  $f'(c) = 0$
3.  $f'(d) = 1$
4.  $f''(d) = 0$
5.  $f'(e) = 0$
6.  $f''(x) > 0$  if  $x < d$
7.  $f''(x) < 0$  if  $x > d$

int	$f(x)$	$f'(x)$	$f''(x)$	conclusion about $f(x)$
$(-\infty, c)$			+	CU
$c$		0	+	at rest, CU $\therefore$ min
$(c, d)$			+	CU
$d$		+	0	inc, $\therefore$ IP
$(d, e)$			-	CD
$e$		0	-	at rest, CD $\therefore$ max
$(e, \infty)$			-	CD



ex2 Given the graph of  $f'(x)$ , sketch  $f(x)$ .



- Set up where CPs : IB occur
- \*  $f'(x) = 0$
- \*  $f''(x) = 0$

$f'(x)$	+	○	-	-	-	○	+	+	+	○	-
$f''(x)$	-	-	-	○	+	+	+	○	-	-	-
conclusion about $f(x)$	inc	dec	dec	inc	inc	inc	inc	inc	dec	dec	dec
	CD	CD	CU	CU	CD	CD	CD	CD	CD	CD	CD
	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
	max	IP	min	IP	max						

looking at the value of the function shown

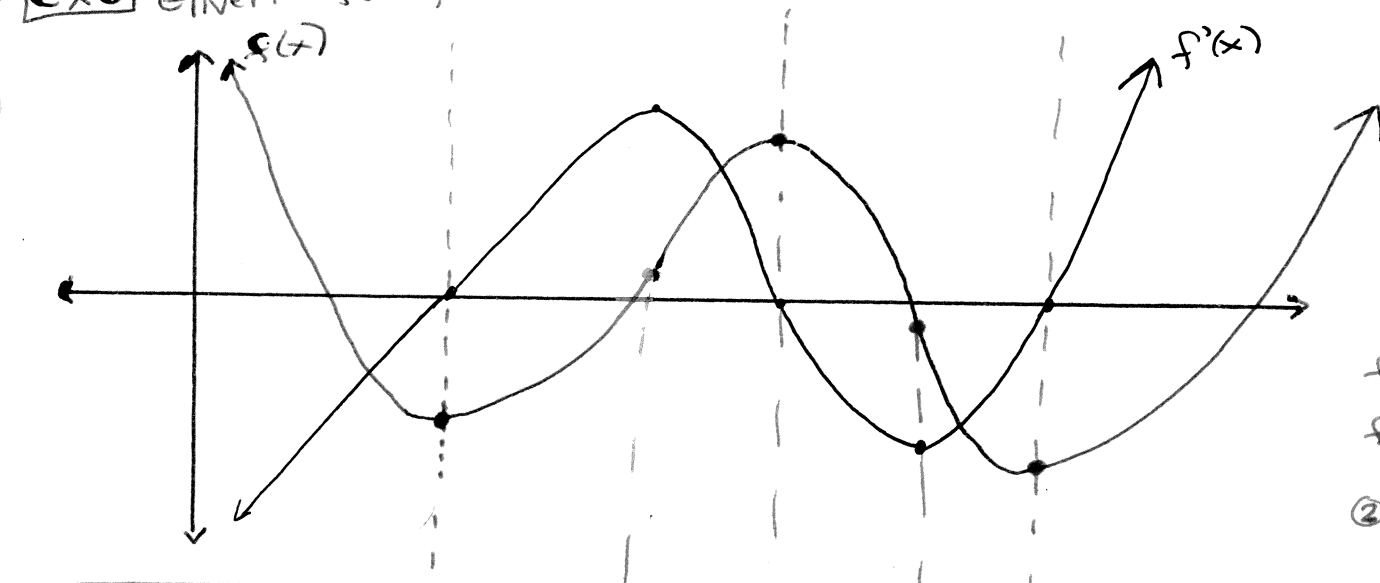
looking at the slopes of the function shown

slopes of  $f'$  represent  $f''$

Note: There will always be more than 1 answer to this type of problem b/c no specific points are given for  $f(x)$ .

Note: If you're given the graph of  $f'(x)$ , maximums : minimums occur when  $f'(x)$  crosses the x-axis.

Ex 3 Given  $f(x)$ , sketch  $f'(x)$ .



- ① Set up  
C.P.s  
↓  
I.P.s  
 $f'(x)=0$   
 $f''(x)=0$

② Fill out  $f'(x)$   
(Slopes)

③ Fill out  $f''(x)$

④ Make a conclusion

$f'(x)$	-	0	+	+	+	0	-	-	-	0	+
$f''(x)$	+	+	+	0	-	-	-	0	+	+	+

Make a conclusion about  $f'(x)$

- \* below the x-axis
- \* above the x-axis
- \* above the x-axis
- \* below the x-axis
- \* below the x-axis
- \* below the x-axis
- \* above the x-axis
- \* above the x-axis

↑ \* inc

↑ \* inc

↑ \* dec

↑ \* dec

↑ \* inc

↑ \* inc

on/through x-axis

max

on/through x-axis

min

on/through x-axis

Note: when  $f(x)$  has a max or min,  $f'(x)$  will cross through the x-axis

Note: when  $f(x)$  has an inflection point,  $f'(x)$  will have a max or min.

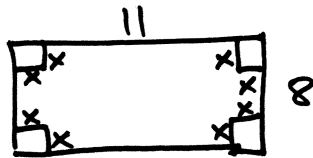


# IV Applications of the Derivative

## A. Optimization (3D)

**ex1** From an 8ft by 11ft size rectangle, what size square do I cut off of the corners to maximize Volume?

Pre-Cal



$$V = l \times w \times h$$

$$V = (11-2x)(8-2x)x$$

$$V = 4x^3 - 38x^2 + 88x$$

maximize  
but  $x = -\frac{b}{2a}$   
only works  
for quadratics  
ii

Calculus to the Rescue!

① Maximum occurs where  $f'(x)$  changes from positive to negative (first derivative test)

② Maximum occurs at a critical point where  $f''(x) < 0$  aka CD (second derivative test)

$$V' = 12x^2 - 76x + 88 = 0$$

C.P.  $x = 1.525$  or  $x = 4.808$   
check to make sure!

① 1<sup>st</sup> deriv. test.

int	$f'(x)$
$(0, 1.525)$	+
$(1.525, 4)$	-

$\therefore$  max at  $x = 1.525$

$\therefore$  The slopes change from positive to negative at 1.525, so that is where the maximum volume occurs

② 2<sup>nd</sup> deriv. test

$$V'' = 24x - 76$$

$$V''(1.525) = 24(1.525) - 76 = - \therefore \text{CD}$$

$\therefore$  The function is concave down at the critical point of 1.525, so that is where the max Vol occurs!

**ex2** What is the maximum acceleration on the interval  $0 \leq t \leq 3$  by the particle whose velocity is given by

$$v(t) = t^3 - 3t^2 + 12t + 4 ?$$

$$a(t) = 3t^2 - 6t + 12 \leftarrow \text{maximize} \quad a'(t) = 6t - 6 = 0$$

$$t = 1 \text{ c.p.}$$

and

$$t = 0 \quad t = 3 \text{ b.p.}$$

int	$a'(t)$
(0, 1)	-
(1, 3)	+

$\therefore \text{min}$

so check the boundary points!

$$a(0) = 12$$

$$a(3) = 21$$

$\therefore$  the max acceleration is 21 units/time<sup>2</sup>

**ex3** Find the shortest distance from  $P(2, 0)$  to the curve  $y^2 - x^2 = 1$ .  
 point 2  $P(2, 0)$  to the curve  
 point 1  $(x, \pm\sqrt{x^2+1})$

$$y^2 - x^2 = 1$$

distance formula:

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

$$y^2 = x^2 + 1 \quad \therefore y = \pm\sqrt{x^2+1}$$

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

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

$$d = \sqrt{2x^2 - 4x + 5} \leftarrow \text{minimize}$$

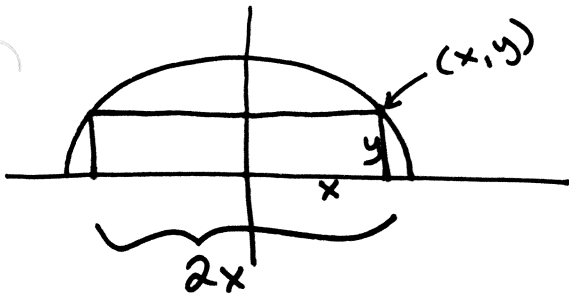
$$d' = \frac{1}{2}(2x^2 - 4x + 5)^{-1/2} (4x - 4)$$

$$d' = \frac{2x - 2}{\sqrt{2x^2 - 4x + 5}} = 0 \quad \therefore 2x - 2 = 0$$

$$x = 1 \text{ c.p.}$$

$$d(1) = \sqrt{2(1)^2 - 4(1) + 5} = \sqrt{3} \text{ units}$$

**ex4** Find the area of the largest rectangle that can be inscribed in a semi circle of radius  $r$ .



$$A = 2xy$$

circle:  
 $x^2 + y^2 = r^2$

everything is going to be in terms of "r"

$$A = 2x(r^2 - x^2)^{1/2}$$

$$y = \sqrt{r^2 - x^2}$$

maximize

$$A' = 2x \cdot \frac{1}{2}(r^2 - x^2)^{-1/2}(-2x) + (r^2 - x^2)^{1/2} \cdot (2)$$

$$A' = \frac{-2x^2}{\sqrt{r^2 - x^2}} + 2\sqrt{r^2 - x^2} = 0$$

$$= -2x^2 + 2(r^2 - x^2) = 0$$

$$-2x^2 + 2r^2 - 2x^2 = 0$$

$$-4x^2 = -2r^2$$

$$x^2 = \frac{r^2}{2}$$

$$x = \pm \sqrt{\frac{r^2}{2}}$$

$$x = \pm \frac{r}{\sqrt{2}}$$

int	$A'(x)$	
$(-\infty, \frac{r}{\sqrt{2}})$	-	
$(\frac{r}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{r}{\sqrt{2}})$	+	$\therefore$ min
$(\frac{r}{\sqrt{2}}, \infty)$	-	$\therefore$ max

So  $x = \frac{r}{\sqrt{2}}$  gives the max area

$$A\left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{2}}\right) = 2 \cdot \frac{r}{\sqrt{2}} \left(r^2 - \left(\frac{r}{\sqrt{2}}\right)^2\right)^{1/2}$$

$$= \frac{2r}{\sqrt{2}} \left(r^2 - \frac{r^2}{2}\right)^{1/2}$$

$$= \frac{2r}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\frac{2r^2 - r^2}{2}\right)^{1/2}$$

$$= \frac{2r}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\frac{r^2}{2}\right)^{1/2}$$

$$\frac{2r}{\sqrt{2}} \cdot \frac{r}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{2r^2}{2} = r^2$$

$\therefore$  the max area is  
 $A = r^2$

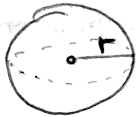
## V Related Rates (3E)

A. Rates of change will be dependent on time.

we will use the derivative to find the specified rates of change (slope).

**ex 1** Air is being pumped into a spherical balloon at a rate of  $20 \text{ in}^3/\text{min}$ . At what rate is the radius changing when the radius is  $3 \text{ in}$  long?

Approach:



adding Volume at a rate of  $20 \text{ in}^3/\text{min}$

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{dV}{dt} = 20$$

want: the rate of change of the radius:  $\rightarrow \frac{dr}{dt}$

change in volume with respect to time

$$V = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3$$

$r$  &  $V$  are both changing depending on the time  $\therefore$  implicit differentiation is used with respect to time

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^2 \frac{dr}{dt}$$

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = 4\pi r^2 \frac{dr}{dt}$$

we want to find the rate of change in the radius,  $\frac{dr}{dt}$ .

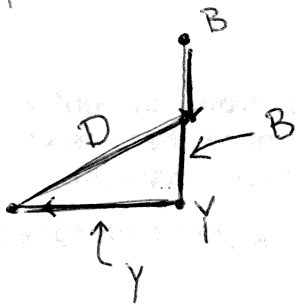
$$20 = 4\pi (3)^2 \frac{dr}{dt}$$

$$\text{given: } \frac{dV}{dt} = 20, r = 3$$

$$\boxed{\frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{20}{36\pi}}$$

**ex2** At 8 pm, a boat is 20 km due North of a yacht. The boat travels South at a rate of 9 km/hr and the yacht travels due West at 12 km/hr. At 9:20 pm at what rate is the distance between the two changing?

Approach: Draw!



$$B^2 + Y^2 = D^2$$

$$2B \cdot \frac{dB}{dt} + 2Y \cdot \frac{dY}{dt} = 2D \cdot \frac{dD}{dt}$$

$$2(8)(9) + 2(16)(12) = 2(8\sqrt{5}) \frac{dD}{dt}$$

$$\frac{528}{2(8\sqrt{5})} = \frac{dD}{dt}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{dD}{dt} = 73.79 \text{ km/hr}}$$

distance:

$$\star d = rt$$

$\star$  pythagorean theorem

$$\star 1 \text{ hr } 20 \text{ min} = \frac{4}{3} \text{ hr}$$

All 3 change with respect to time

want:  $\frac{dD}{dt}$

given:  $\frac{dB}{dt} = 9$

$\frac{dY}{dt} = 12$

$$d = rt$$

$$B = 20 - 9\left(\frac{4}{3}\right) = 8$$

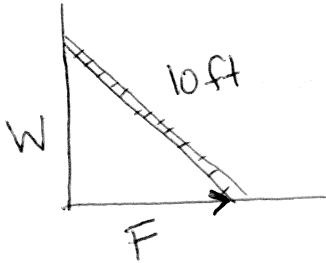
$$Y = 12 \cdot \frac{4}{3} = 16$$

$$B^2 + Y^2 = D^2$$

$$8^2 + 16^2 = D^2$$

$$\boxed{D = 8\sqrt{5}}$$

**ex3** A ladder that is 10 ft long rests against a wall. If the bottom of the ladder is sliding away from the wall at a rate of 1 ft/s, how fast is the top of the ladder sliding down the wall when the bottom reaches 6 ft away?



$$W^2 + F^2 = 10^2$$

$$2W \frac{dW}{dt} + 2F \frac{dF}{dt} = 0$$

want:  $\frac{dW}{dt}$

given:  $\frac{dF}{dt} = 1$

$F = 6$

$$W^2 + 6^2 = 10^2$$

$w = 8$

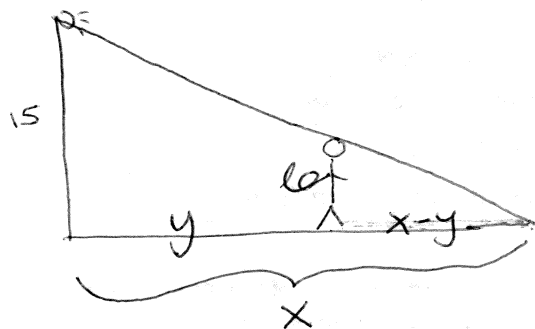
$$2(8) \frac{dW}{dt} + 2(6)(1) = 0$$

$$\frac{dW}{dt} = -\frac{3}{4} \text{ ft/s}$$

negative because it's sliding down

**ex 4** A woman that is 6 ft tall walks away from a light post that is 15 ft tall at a rate of 5 ft/sec. At what rate is the tip of her shadow moving? How fast is the length of her shadow changing?

① Draw



given:  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 5$

want:  $\frac{dx}{dt}$

② Relate the sides/set up proportions

$$\frac{15}{x} = \frac{6}{x-y}$$

$$15(x-y) = 6x$$

$$15x - 15y = 6x$$

$$9x - 15y = 0$$

③ Implicit differentiation

$$9 \frac{dx}{dt} - 15 \frac{dy}{dt} = 0$$

④ Plug in

$$9 \frac{dx}{dt} - 15(5) = 0$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{75}{9}$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{25}{3} \text{ ft/sec}$$

units!

treat  $(x-y)$  as one variable

or  
re-draw the triangle and set up another proportion

2nd question: want:  $\frac{d(x-y)}{dt}$

$$\frac{15}{x} = \frac{6}{x-y}$$

$$15(x-y) = 6x$$

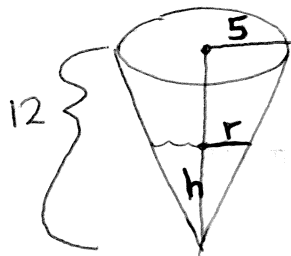
$$15 \frac{d(x-y)}{dt} = 6 \frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$\frac{d(x-y)}{dt} = \frac{6}{15} \cdot \frac{25}{3}$$

$$\frac{d(x-y)}{dt} = \frac{10}{3} \text{ ft/sec}$$

**ex5** A conical tank is 10 ft across the top; 12 ft deep. If water is flowing in at a rate of  $10 \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$  find the rate of change of the height of the water when the water is 8 feet deep.

① Draw



given:  $\frac{dV}{dt} = 10$

want:  $\frac{dh}{dt}$  when  $h = 8$

② Relate the sides: use the Volume formula!

$$V = \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h$$

③ Implicit differentiation

product rule

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 \cdot \frac{dh}{dt} + h \cdot \frac{2}{3} \pi r \cdot \frac{dr}{dt}$$

→ missing  $r$  and  $\frac{dr}{dt}$

$$\frac{r}{8} = \frac{5}{12}$$

$$r = \frac{10}{3}$$

$$\frac{r}{h} = \frac{5}{12}$$

$$12r = 5h$$

$$12 \frac{dr}{dt} = 5 \frac{dh}{dt}$$

$$\frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{5}{12} \frac{dh}{dt}$$

④ Plug in

$$10 = \frac{1}{3} \pi \left(\frac{10}{3}\right)^2 \cdot \frac{dh}{dt} + 8 \cdot \frac{2}{3} \pi \cdot \frac{10}{3} \cdot \frac{5}{12} \frac{dh}{dt}$$

$$10 = \frac{dh}{dt} \left( \frac{100\pi}{27} + \frac{200\pi}{27} \right)$$

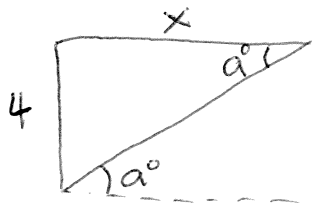
Units!

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = \frac{9}{10\pi} \text{ ft/min}$$



**ex6** A plane at an altitude of 4 km passes directly over a tracking telescope on the ground. When the angle of elevation is  $60^\circ$ , it is observed that the angle is decreasing by  $30^\circ/\text{min}$ . How fast is the plane traveling?

① Draw



given: not much, just 4...

want:  $\frac{dx}{dt}$  when  $a=60$   $\therefore \frac{da}{dt} = -30$

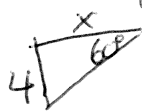
② Set up:

$$\tan a = \frac{4}{x}$$

③ Implicit differentiation

$$\sec^2 a \frac{da}{dt} = -4x^{-2} \frac{dx}{dt}$$

→ missing  $x$



$$\tan 60 = \frac{4}{x}$$

$$\frac{\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}}{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{4}{x}$$

$$x = \frac{4}{\sqrt{3}}$$

④ Plug in

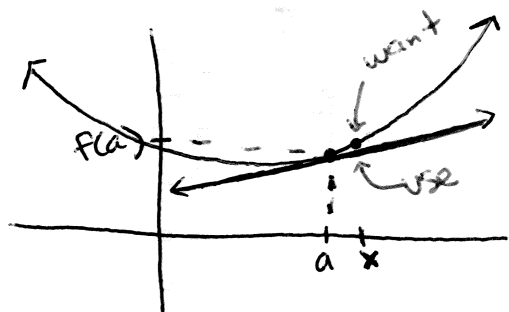
$$\sec^2 60 \cdot -30 = -4 \left( \frac{4}{\sqrt{3}} \right)^{-2} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$2^2 \cdot -30 = \frac{-2}{16} \frac{dx}{dt}$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 160 \text{ km/min}$$

## VI. Linear Approximation (3G)

Use the tangent line at  $(a, f(a))$  as an approximation/  
estimation of the curve  $f(x)$  when  $x$  is near  $a$ .



equation of the  
tangent line  
linear approximation

**ex 1** Find the linearization of the function  $f(x) = \sqrt{x+3}$  at  $a=1$  and use it to approximate the numbers  $\sqrt{3.98}$  and  $\sqrt{4.05}$ .

① Find tangent line:

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

$$f'(1) = \frac{1}{2}(1+3)^{-1/2} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{4}} = \frac{1}{4} = m$$

$$f(1) = \sqrt{1+3} = 2 \quad (1, 2) \leftarrow \text{point}$$

$$2 = \frac{1}{4}(1) + b$$

$$\frac{7}{4} = b$$

$$y = \frac{1}{4}x + \frac{7}{4}$$
$$L(x) = \frac{1}{4}x + \frac{7}{4}$$

this will approximate  
the y-values of  
 $f(x) = \sqrt{x+3}$  for  
x-values close  
to 1.

② Approximate

$$\sqrt{3.98} ; \sqrt{x+3} = \sqrt{3.98}$$

$$x = .98$$

close to 1

$$L(.98) = \frac{1}{4}(.98) + \frac{7}{4} = \boxed{1.995}$$

$$\sqrt{4.05} ; \sqrt{x+3} = \sqrt{4.05}$$

$$x = 1.05$$

close to 1

$$L(1.05) = \frac{1}{4}(1.05) + \frac{7}{4} = \boxed{2.0125}$$