

Section 2.2: The Derivative as a Function

Recall that we defined the derivative of a function f at the number c by

$$f'(c) = \lim_{x \rightarrow c} \frac{f(x) - f(c)}{x - c}$$

which can also be written as

$$f'(c) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(c + h) - f(c)}{h}.$$

We can interpret this in many ways

- ▶ the rate of change of f at c ,
- ▶ the slope of the line tangent to the graph of f at $(c, f(c))$,
- ▶ velocity if f is the position of a moving object.

The Derivative Function

Let f be a function. Define the new function f' by

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

called the **derivative** of f . The domain of this new function is the set

$$\{x \mid x \text{ is in the domain of } f, \text{ and } f'(x) \text{ exists}\}.$$

f' is read as "f prime."

Example

Let $f(x) = \sqrt{x-1}$. Identify the domain of f . Find f' and identify its domain.

for x in the domain of f , we require $x-1 \geq 0$.

i.e. $x \geq 1$. In interval notation, the domain of f is $[1, \infty)$.

By definition

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{x+h-1} - \sqrt{x-1}}{h} \end{aligned}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left(\frac{\sqrt{x+h-1} - \sqrt{x-1}}{h} \right) \left(\frac{\sqrt{x+h-1} + \sqrt{x-1}}{\sqrt{x+h-1} + \sqrt{x-1}} \right)$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x+h-1 - (x-1)}{h(\sqrt{x+h-1} + \sqrt{x-1})}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{x}+h-\cancel{1} - \cancel{x}+\cancel{1}}{h(\sqrt{x+h-1} + \sqrt{x-1})}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{h}}{\cancel{h}(\sqrt{x+h-1} + \sqrt{x-1})}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+h-1} + \sqrt{x-1}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x+0-1} + \sqrt{x-1}} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x-1}}$$

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

For x in the domain of f' , we require $x-1 > 0$.

In interval notation, the domain of f' is

$$(1, \infty).$$

Use the result to find $f'(5)$ where $f(x) = \sqrt{x-1}$.

Because we know that $f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x-1}}$,
we can find $f'(5)$ by evaluating $f'(x)$
@ $x=5$.

$$f'(5) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{5-1}} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{4}} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

Find the equation of the line tangent to f at $(5, f(5))$.

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x-1}, \text{ so } f(5) = \sqrt{5-1} = \sqrt{4} = 2.$$

So our point $(5, f(5)) = (5, 2)$.

Also, the slope $m_{\text{tan}} = f'(5)$. So $m_{\text{tan}} = f'(5) = \frac{1}{4}$.

$$y - 2 = \frac{1}{4}(x - 5)$$

pt. slope

$$y - y_0 = m(x - x_0)$$

$$y - 2 = \frac{1}{4}x - \frac{5}{4}$$

$$y = \frac{1}{4}x - \frac{5}{4} + 2 \Rightarrow$$

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

Question

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

Let $f(x) = 2x^2 + x$; determine $f'(x)$.

(a) $f'(x) = 4$

(b) $f'(x) = 2x + 1$

(c) $f'(x) = 4x + x$

(d) $f'(x) = 4x + 1$

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2(x+h)^2 + (x+h) - (2x^2 + x)}{h}$$

How are the functions $f(x)$ and $f'(x)$ related?

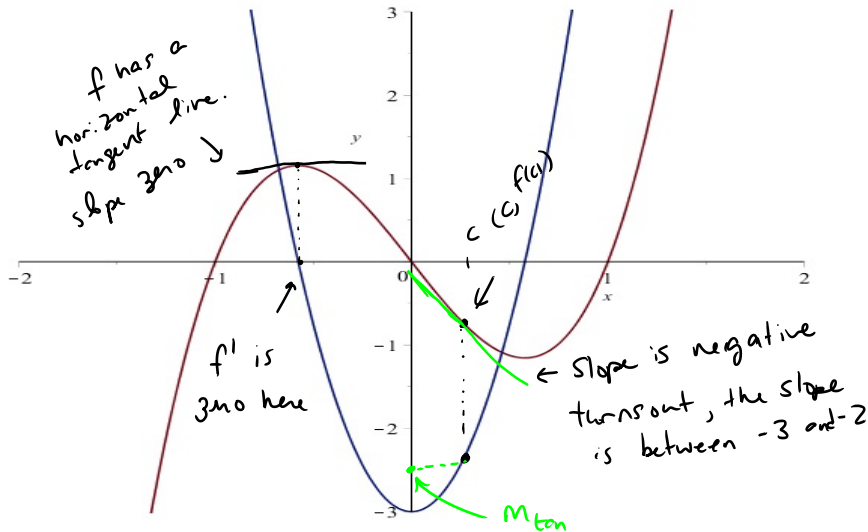


Figure: Red $f(x)$, Blue $f'(x)$

Remarks:

- ▶ if $f(x)$ is a function of x , then $f'(x)$ is a new function of x (called the derivative of f)
- ▶ The number $f'(c)$ (if it exists) is the slope of the curve of $y = f(x)$ at the point $(c, f(c))$
- ▶ this is also the slope of the tangent line to the curve of y at $(c, f(c))$
- ▶ "slope of the curve", "slope of the tangent line", and "rate of change" are the same concept

Definition: A function f is said to be *differentiable* at c if $f'(c)$ exists. It is called *differentiable* on an open interval I if it is differentiable at each point in I .

Failure to be Differentiable

We saw that the domain of $f(x) = \sqrt{x-1}$ is $[1, \infty)$ whereas the domain of its derivative $f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x-1}}$ was $(1, \infty)$. Hence f is **not differentiable at 1**.

Another Example: Show that $y = |x|$ is not differentiable at zero.

For $f(x) = |x|$, $f'(0)$ would be

$$f'(0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{|0+h| - |0|}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{|h| - 0}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{|h|}{h}$$

Recall

$$|h| = \begin{cases} h, & h \geq 0 \\ -h, & h < 0 \end{cases}$$

Using one sided limits

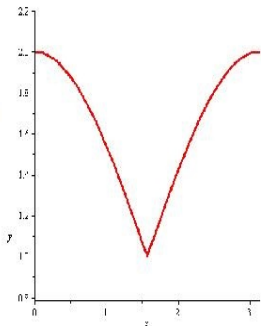
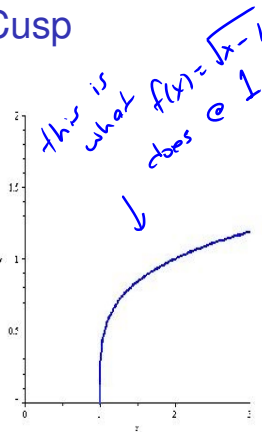
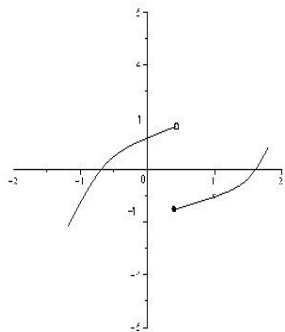
$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{|h|}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{-h}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} -1 = -1$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{|h|}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{h}{h} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} 1 = 1$$

so $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{|h|}{h}$ DNE

That is, $f'(0)$ DNE. $y = |x|$ is not differentiable @ zero.

Failure to be differentiable: Discontinuity, Vertical tangent, or Corner/Cusp



Theorem

Differentiability implies continuity.

That is, if f is differentiable at c , then f is continuous at c . Note that the corner example shows that **the converse of this is not true!**

for example $f(x) = |x|$ is continuous @ 0, but it's not differentiable there.

Questions

(1) **True or False:** Suppose that we know that $f'(3) = 2$. We can conclude that f is continuous at 3.

If it's differentiable @ 3, it must be continuous @ 3.

(2) **True or False:** Suppose that we know that $f'(1)$ does not exist. We can conclude that f is discontinuous at 1.

It may or may not be continuous, we'd need more information to reach a conclusion.

Section 2.3: The Derivative of a Polynomial; The Derivative of e^x

First some notation:

If $y = f(x)$, the following notation are interchangeable:

$$f'(x) = y'(x) = y' = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{df}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx}f(x) = Df(x) = D_x f(x)$$

Leibniz Notation: $\lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{dy}{dx}$

You can think of D , or $\frac{d}{dx}$ as an "operator."

It acts on a function to produce a new function—its derivative.

Taking a derivative is referred to as *differentiation*.

Some Derivative Rules

The derivative of a constant function is zero.

$$\frac{d}{dx}c = 0$$

The derivative of the identity function is one.

$$\frac{d}{dx}x = 1$$

*this reads as
"the derivative of x
with respect to
x is one"*

For positive integer n^1 ,

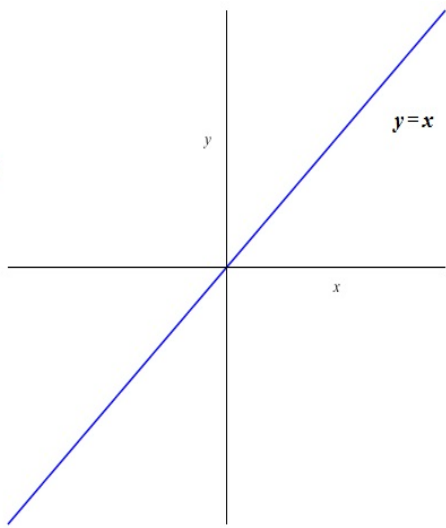
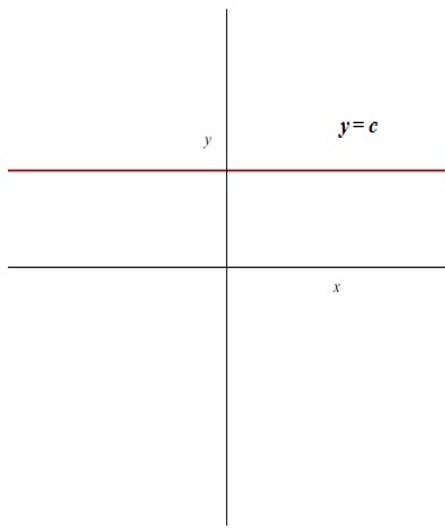
$$\frac{d}{dx}x^n = nx^{n-1}$$

This last one is called the **power rule**.

¹This rule turns out to hold for any real number n , though the proofs for more general cases require results yet to come.

$$\frac{d}{dx}c = 0,$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}x = 1$$



Evaluate Each Derivative

(a) $\frac{d}{dx}(-7) = 0$ Der. of a constant

(b) $\frac{d}{dx} 3\pi = 0$ Ditto

(c) $\frac{d}{dx} x^9 = 9x^8$ power rule $\frac{d}{dx} x^n = nx^{n-1}$

More Derivative Rules

Assume f and g are differentiable functions and k is a constant.

Constant multiple rule: $\frac{d}{dx} kf(x) = kf'(x)$

Sum rule: $\frac{d}{dx} (f(x) + g(x)) = f'(x) + g'(x)$

Difference rule: $\frac{d}{dx} (f(x) - g(x)) = f'(x) - g'(x)$

The rules we have thus far allow us to find the derivative of any polynomial function.

Example: Evaluate Each Derivative

$$(a) \frac{d}{dx}(x^4 - 3x^2) = \frac{d}{dx} x^4 - \frac{d}{dx} 3x^2$$

(Difference)

$$= \frac{d}{dx} x^4 - 3 \frac{d}{dx} x^2$$

(Constant factor)

$$= 4x^{4-1} - 3(2x^{2-1})$$

(power rule)

$$= 4x^3 - 3(2x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} x^n = nx^{n-1}$$

$$= 4x^3 - 6x$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(b)} \quad \frac{d}{dx}(2x^3+3x^2-12x+1) &= \frac{d}{dx} 2x^3 + \frac{d}{dx} 3x^2 - \frac{d}{dx} 12x + \frac{d}{dx} 1 \\ &= 2 \frac{d}{dx} x^3 + 3 \frac{d}{dx} x^2 - 12 \frac{d}{dx} x + \frac{d}{dx} 1 \\ &= 2(3x^{3-1}) + 3(2x^{2-1}) - 12 \cdot 1 + 0 \\ &= 2(3x^2) + 3(2x) - 12 \\ &= 6x^2 + 6x - 12 \end{aligned}$$

Example

If $f(x) = 2x^3 + 3x^2 - 12x + 1$, find all points on the graph of f at which the slope of the graph is zero.

If the slope of the graph @ $(c, f(c))$ is zero, then

$f'(c) = 0$. So this can be restated as saying

"find all values of c at which $f'(c) = 0$ ".

We know $f'(x) = 6x^2 + 6x - 12$. So

$$f'(c) = 0 \Rightarrow 6c^2 + 6c - 12 = 0$$

$$\text{Solve this: } 6(c^2 + c - 2) = 0$$

$$6(c+2)(c-1) = 0$$

This holds if $c+2=0$ or $c-1=0$
 $c=-2$ or $c=1$

The points have x-values -2 and 1 . We get the y's from $f(x) = 2x^3 + 3x^2 - 12x + 1$

$$f(-2) = 2(-2)^3 + 3(-2)^2 - 12(-2) + 1 = 2(-8) + 3(4) + 24 + 1 = 21$$

$$f(1) = 2(1)^3 + 3(1)^2 - 12(1) + 1 = 2 + 3 - 12 + 1 = -6$$

There are two points where the slope of f is zero, $(1, -6)$ and $(-2, 21)$.

The Derivative of e^x

Consider $a > 0$ and $a \neq 1$. Let $f(x) = a^x$. Analyze the limit $f'(0)$ and $f'(x)$

By definition

$$f'(0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(0+h) - f(0)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^{0+h} - a^0}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^h - 1}{h}$$

$$\Rightarrow f'(0) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^h - 1}{h}$$

provided this limit exists.

This limit does exist; it depends on a and is some number.

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^{x+h} - a^x}{h}$$

$$a^{x+h} = a^x \cdot a^h$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^x a^h - a^x}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(a^h - 1) a^x}{h} = \left(\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{a^h - 1}{h} \right) a^x$$

The red expression is $f'(0)$ - some number.

So $f'(x) = f'(0) a^x$ a constant times a^x

The Derivative of e^x

Definition: The number e is defined² by the property

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^h - 1}{h} = 1.$$

It follows that

Theorem: $y = e^x$ is differentiable (at all real numbers) and

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^x = e^x.$$

²This is one of several mutually consistent ways to define this number.
Numerically, $e \approx 2.718282$.

Question

Evaluate the derivative of $f(x) = 4x^6 - 2e^x$

(a) $f'(x) = 24x^5 - 2xe^{x-1}$

(b) $f'(x) = 6x^5 - e^x$

(c) $f'(x) = 24x^5 - 2e^{x-1}$

(d) $f'(x) = 24x^5 - 2e^x$

Section 2.4: Differentiating a Product or Quotient; Higher Order Derivatives

Motivating Example: Evaluate the derivative

$$\frac{d}{dx}[x^3(2x^2-6x+17)]$$

we don't need new rules, we
can distribute first.

$$\frac{d}{dx} [2x^5 - 6x^4 + 17x^3]$$

$$= 2(5x^4) - 6(4x^3) + 17(3x^2)$$

$$= 10x^4 - 24x^3 + 51x^2$$

Derivative of A Product

Now consider evaluating the derivative

$$\frac{d}{dx}[(3x^5 - 2x^2 + x)(x^3 - 2x^2 + x - 1)]$$

As before, we can expand this all out to get an 8th degree polynomial.

This requires a lot of algebra before even starting to take the derivative.

We'd like a way of taking the derivative of a product.

Derivative of A Product

Theorem: (Product Rule) Let f and g be differentiable functions of x . Then the product $f(x)g(x)$ is differentiable. Moreover

$$\frac{d}{dx}[f(x)g(x)] = f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x).$$

This can be stated using Leibniz notation as

$$\frac{d}{dx}[f(x)g(x)] = \frac{df}{dx}g(x) + f(x)\frac{dg}{dx}.$$

Example

Compute $\frac{d}{dx}x^5$ using the product rule with $f(x) = x^2$ and $g(x) = x^3$. Compare this with the result from the power rule on x^5 .

$$\frac{d}{dx}[f(x)g(x)] = f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x)$$

If $f(x) = x^2$, then $f'(x) = 2x$

and $g(x) = x^3$, then $g'(x) = 3x^2$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } \frac{d}{dx}[x^5] &= \frac{d}{dx}[x^2 \cdot x^3] = \overset{f'}{2x}(\overset{g}{x^3}) + \overset{f}{x^2}(\overset{g'}{3x^2}) \\ &= 2x^4 + 3x^4 = 5x^4 \end{aligned}$$

Note this matches the power rule

$$\frac{d}{dx}x^5 = 5x^4$$

Example

Evaluate $\frac{d}{dx}[(3x^5 - 2x^2 + x)(x^3 - 2x^2 + x - 1)]$

$$\text{If } f(x) = 3x^5 - 2x^2 + x, \quad f'(x) = 15x^4 - 4x + 1$$

$$\text{If } g(x) = x^3 - 2x^2 + x - 1, \quad g'(x) = 3x^2 - 4x + 1$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}[(3x^5 - 2x^2 + x)(x^3 - 2x^2 + x - 1)] =$$

$$(15x^4 - 4x + 1)(x^3 - 2x^2 + x - 1) + (3x^5 - 2x^2 + x)(3x^2 - 4x + 1)$$

f'

g

f

g'

Example

Evaluate $\frac{d}{dx} e^{2x}$ using the product rule.

By properties of exponentials $e^{2x} = e^x \cdot e^x$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx} [e^{2x}] &= \frac{d}{dx} [e^x \cdot e^x] = \left(\frac{d}{dx} e^x\right) \cdot e^x + e^x \left(\frac{d}{dx} e^x\right) \\ &= e^x \cdot e^x + e^x \cdot e^x \\ &= e^{2x} + e^{2x} = 2e^{2x}\end{aligned}$$

Question

$$\frac{d}{dx} [f(x)g(x)] = f'(x)g(x) + f(x)g'(x)$$

Evaluate $f'(x)$ where $f(x) = 3x^4 e^{2x}$.

(a) $f'(x) = 6x^4 e^{2x}$

$$f'(x) = \left(\frac{d}{dx} 3x^4\right) e^{2x} + 3x^4 \left(\frac{d}{dx} e^{2x}\right)$$

(b) $f'(x) = 12x^3 e^{2x} + 6x^4 e^{2x}$

(c) $f'(x) = 24x^3 e^{2x}$

(d) $f'(x) = 3x^4 e^{2x} + 12x^3 e^{2x}$

The Derivative of a Quotient

Theorem (Quotient Rule) Let f and g be differentiable functions of x . Then on any interval for which $g(x) \neq 0$, the ratio $\frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ is differentiable.

Moreover

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right) = \frac{f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{[g(x)]^2}.$$

This can be stated using Leibniz notation as

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right) = \frac{\frac{df}{dx}g(x) - f(x)\frac{dg}{dx}}{[g(x)]^2}.$$

An immediate consequence of this is that

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{g(x)} \right) = -\frac{g'(x)}{[g(x)]^2}.$$

Example

Use the quotient rule to show that for positive integer n^3

$$\frac{d}{dx} x^{-n} = -n x^{-n-1}$$

For n a positive integer, $x^{-n} = \frac{1}{x^n}$

Use $\frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{1}{g(x)} \right] = \frac{-g'(x)}{(g(x))^2}$ when $g(x) = x^n$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x^{-n}] = \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{1}{x^n} \right] = \frac{-n x^{n-1}}{(x^n)^2} = \frac{-n x^{n-1}}{x^{2n}}$$

³Note that this shows that the power rule works for both positive and negative integers.

$$= -n x^{n-1-2n}$$

$$= -n x^{-n-1}$$

That is, $\frac{d}{dx} [x^{-n}] = -n x^{-n-1}$

For example, $\frac{d}{dx} x^{-5} = -5 x^{-6}$

Example

Evaluate $\frac{d}{dx} e^{-x}$

We'll use $e^{-x} = \frac{1}{e^x}$

Use $\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{g(x)} \right) = \frac{-g'(x)}{(g(x))^2}$ with $g(x) = e^x$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} e^{-x} &= \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{1}{e^x} \right] = \frac{-e^x}{(e^x)^2} = \frac{-e^x}{e^{2x}} \\ &= -e^{x-2x} = -e^{-x} \end{aligned}$$

Example

Evaluate $\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{e^x}{x^2 + 2x} \right)$

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

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

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

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{f(x)}{g(x)} \right) = \frac{f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{(g(x))^2}$$

$$f(x) = e^x, \quad f'(x) = e^x$$

$$g(x) = x^2 + 2x$$

$$g'(x) = 2x + 2$$

Question

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

$$\frac{d}{dx} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{f'(x)g(x) - f(x)g'(x)}{(g(x))^2}$$

(a) $f'(x) = \frac{3x^2 + 8x - 3}{(x^2 + 1)^2}$

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

(c) $f'(x) = \frac{-3x^2 - 8x + 3}{(x^2 + 1)^2}$

(d) $f'(x) = \frac{-3x^2 - 8x + 3}{x^4 + 1}$

Higher Order Derivatives:

Given $y = f(x)$, the function f' may be differentiable as well. We may take its derivative which is called the **second derivative** of f . We use the following notation and language:

First derivative: $\frac{dy}{dx} = y' = f'(x)$

Second derivative: $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = y'' = f''(x)$

Third derivative: $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d^3y}{dx^3} = y''' = f'''(x)$

Fourth derivative: $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{d^3y}{dx^3} = \frac{d^4y}{dx^4} = y^{(4)} = f^{(4)}(x)$

n^{th} derivative: $\frac{d}{dx} \frac{d^{n-1}y}{dx^{n-1}} = \frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = y^{(n)} = f^{(n)}(x)$

Remarks on Notation

- ▶ $\frac{d}{dx}$ can *operate* on a function to produce a new function; e.g.

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} \right) = \frac{d^3 y}{dx^3}$$

- ▶ It's too hard to read multiple primes (say beyond 3). Parentheses **must** be used to distinguish powers from derivatives.

y^5 is the fifth power of y ;

$y^{(5)}$ is the fifth derivative of y