

Rates of Change in Polynomial Functions

Recall:

$$\text{Average Rate of Change} = \frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1}$$

$$IROC \approx \frac{f(a+h) - f(a)}{h}$$

over the interval $x_1 \leq x \leq x_2$

at $x = a$, where $h \approx 0.01$

Example 1

a) Create a quartic function that has x-intercepts at $x = -3, -1, 1, 3$ and has a y-intercept of -5 . Sketch the function.

$$y = a(x-x_1)(x-x_2)(x-x_3)(x-x_4)$$

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

sub in $(0, -5)$

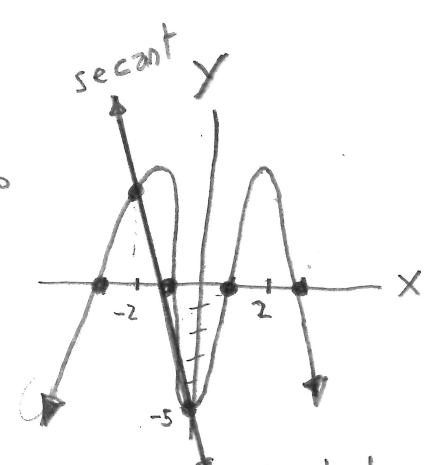
$$-5 = a(3)(1)(-1)(-3)$$

$$\frac{-5}{9} = \frac{9a}{9}$$

$$a = -\frac{5}{9}$$

lead term: $-\frac{5}{9}x^4$

x-ints: $\pm 1, \pm 3$
 y-int: -5
 end behaviours:
 as $x \rightarrow -\infty, y \rightarrow -\infty$
 as $x \rightarrow \infty, y \rightarrow -\infty$



$$f(x) = -\frac{5}{9}(x+3)(x+1)(x-1)(x-3)$$

b) Is this an even or odd function? Explain your reasoning.

It has even symmetry since the graph is the same when reflected about the y-axis.

Also... $f(-x) = -\frac{5}{9}(-x+3)(-x+1)(-x-1)(-x-3)$

$$= -\frac{5}{9}(-1)(x-3)(-1)(x-1)(-1)(x+1)(-1)(x+3)$$

$$= -\frac{5}{9}(x-3)(x-1)(x+1)(x+3)$$

$\therefore f(-x) = f(x)$ which implies even symmetry.

c) On the interval from $x = -2$ to $x = 0$, do you expect the average rate of change to be positive or negative? *Negative since the secant slopes downwards.*
 Draw a secant on your graph and calculate the rate of change over that interval.

$$A.R.O.C. = \frac{f(0) - f(-2)}{(0) - (-2)}$$

$$= \frac{-5 - 8.\bar{3}}{2}$$

$$\approx -6.7$$

Example 2

Consider the function $f(x) = 2x^3 - 14x^2 + 30x - 18$.

a) Create a sketch of this function.

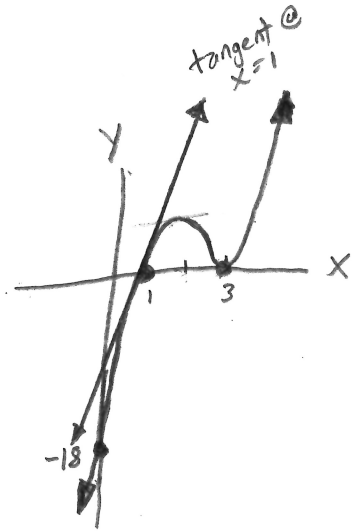
$$f(x) = 2(x^3 - 7x^2 + 15x - 9)$$

$g(x)$
 $g(1) = 0$
 $\therefore x-1$ is a factor

1	-7	15	-9
1	-6	9	0

← lead term

$$\begin{aligned}
 f(x) &= 2(x-1)(x^2 - 6x + 9) \\
 &= 2(x-1)(x-3)(x-3) \\
 &= 2(x-1)(x-3)^2 \\
 \text{x-int: } &1 \text{ and } 3 \\
 \text{y-int: } &-18 \\
 \text{end behaviours} & \\
 \text{as } x \rightarrow -\infty, y &\rightarrow -\infty \\
 \text{as } x \rightarrow \infty, y &\rightarrow \infty
 \end{aligned}$$



b) Draw a tangent at $x = 1$. Do you expect the instantaneous rate of change to be positive or negative at this point? Positive since the tangent slopes upwards. Calculate the IROC at $x = 1$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{IROC} &\cong \frac{f(1.01) - f(1)}{0.01} \\
 &\cong \frac{0.079202 - 0}{0.01}
 \end{aligned}$$

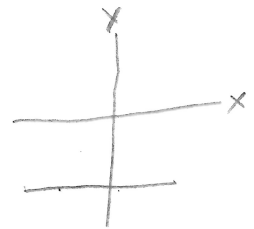
$$\cong 7.9$$

The Derivative (Extension)

The derivative is a function that is used to determine the IROC at any point on a graph. The derivative of a polynomial function is determined by following these steps:

1. Create a new coefficient by multiplying each coefficient by the exponent on x .
2. Drop each exponent by 1.

$$y = -18$$



Example 3

Determine the derivative of the function in example 2 and use it to verify your answer for the IROC when $x = 1$.

derivative (IROC) \rightarrow
 $y = 2x^3 - 14x^2 + 30x - 18$
 $y' = 6x^2 - 28x + 30$
 set $x = 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
 y' &= 6(1)^2 - 28(1) + 30 \\
 &= 6 - 28 + 30 \\
 &= 8
 \end{aligned}$$

Bonus: Determine the coordinates of the local maximum by setting the derivative equal to zero and solving for x .

See attached! ↻

Continued...

$$y = 2x^3 - 14x^2 + 30x - 18$$

$$y' = 6x^2 - 28x + 30$$

$$\text{set } y' = 0$$

$$0 = 6x^2 - 28x + 30$$

$$0 = 2(3x^2 - 14x + 15) \quad P(45) \quad -9, -5$$

$$0 = 2(3x^2 - 9x - 5x + 15) \quad S(-14)$$

$$0 = 2[3x(x-3) - 5(x-3)]$$

$$0 = 2(3x-5)(x-3)$$

$$x = \frac{5}{3} \text{ or } x = 3$$

$$(1.67)$$

Δ local max

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

$$y = 2\left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^3 - 14\left(\frac{5}{3}\right)^2 + 30\left(\frac{5}{3}\right) - 18$$

$$y \approx 2.37$$

$$\rightarrow (1.67, 2.37)$$