

## 5.3 Second Derivative Test

## PRACTICE

Use the sign chart(s) to answer the following.

1. Given  $g(x)$  is twice differentiable on  $[-3, 3]$

$x$	$-3 < x < -2$	$-2$	$-2 < x < 1$	$1$	$1 < x < 3$
$g'(x)$	Negative	0	Positive	0	Negative

Intervals where  $g(x)$  is increasing:  $(-2, 1)$

Intervals where  $g(x)$  is decreasing:  $(-3, -2)$   $(1, 3)$

Extrema:  $x = -2$  relative min  
 $x = 1$  relative max

There is a relative minimum at  $x = -2$  because  $f'(x)$  changes from negative to positive.

There is a relative maximum at  $x = 1$  because  $f'(x)$  changes from positive to negative.

$x$	$-3 < x < -\frac{1}{2}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$-\frac{1}{2} < x < 3$
$g''(x)$	Positive	0	Negative

Intervals where  $g(x)$  is concave up:  $(-3, -\frac{1}{2})$

Intervals where  $g(x)$  is concave down:  $(-\frac{1}{2}, 3)$

Points of Inflection:  $x = -\frac{1}{2}$

$$f''(x) = 0$$

$f''(x)$  changes positive to negative.

2. Given  $f(x)$  is continuous and twice differentiable.

Interval	$x < -1$	$x = -1$	$-1 < x < 1$	$x = 1$	$1 < x < 2$	$x = 2$	$2 < x < 4$	$x = 4$	$4 < x < 5$	$x = 5$	$x > 5$
$f'(x)$	Positive	0	Negative	Negative	Negative	0	Negative	Negative	Negative	0	Positive
$f''(x)$	Negative	Negative	Negative	0	Positive	0	Negative	0	Positive	Positive	Positive

Intervals where  $f(x)$  is increasing:  $(-\infty, -1)$   $(5, \infty)$

Intervals where  $f(x)$  is decreasing:  $(-1, 5)$

Extrema:  $x = -1$  relative max  
 $x = 5$  relative min

There is a relative maximum at  $x = -1$  because  $f'(x)$  changes from positive to negative.

There is a relative minimum at  $x = 5$  because  $f'(x)$  changes from negative to positive.

Intervals where  $f(x)$  is concave up:  $(1, 2)$   $(4, \infty)$

Intervals where  $f(x)$  is concave down:  $(-\infty, 1)$   $(2, 4)$

Points of Inflection:  $x = 1$   $x = 4$

$$x = 2$$

$$f''(x) = 0$$

$f''(x)$  changes signs

3. Given  $f(x)$  is continuous and twice differentiable.

Interval	$(-\infty, -2)$	$-2$	$(-2, 3)$	$3$	$(3, \infty)$
Test Value	$x = -4$	$x = -2$	$x = 0$	$x = 3$	$x = 4$
$f'(x)$	$f'(-4) = 4$	$f'(-2) = 0$	$f'(0) = -7$	$f'(3) = -3$	$f'(4) = -4$
$f''(x)$	$f''(-4) = -6$	$f''(-2) = -4$	$f''(0) = -7$	$f''(3) = 0$	$f''(4) = 8$

Intervals where  $f(x)$  is increasing:  $(-\infty, -2)$

Intervals where  $f(x)$  is decreasing:  $(-2, \infty)$

Extrema:  $x = -2$  relative max

There is a relative maximum at  $x = -2$  because  $f'(x)$  changes from positive to negative.

Intervals where  $f(x)$  is concave up:  $(3, \infty)$

Intervals where  $f(x)$  is concave down:  $(-\infty, 3)$

Points of Inflection:  $x = 3$

$$f''(x) = 0$$

$f'(x)$  changes negative to positive

Find the points of inflection.

4.  $f(x) = \sin \frac{x}{2}$  on the interval  $(-\pi, 3\pi)$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2} \cos \left( \frac{x}{2} \right)$$

$$f''(x) = -\frac{1}{4} \sin \left( \frac{x}{2} \right)$$

$$-\frac{1}{4} \sin \left( \frac{x}{2} \right) = 0$$



$$\frac{x}{2} = 0 \quad \frac{x}{2} = \pi$$

$$x = 0 \quad x = 2\pi$$

test	$-\frac{\pi}{2}$	$0$	$\pi$	$2\pi$	$\frac{5\pi}{2}$
$f'(x)$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$0$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$0$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$

$x = 0$  is point of inflection

$$f''(0) = 0, f''\left(-\frac{\pi}{2}\right) > 0$$

$$f''(\pi) < 0$$

$f''(x)$  changes signs from positive to negative

$x = 2\pi$  is a point of inflection

$$f''(2\pi) = 0, f''(\pi) < 0, f''\left(\frac{5\pi}{2}\right) > 0$$

$f''(x)$  changes signs from negative to positive

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

$$f'(x) = -2xe^{-x^2}$$

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

$$2e^{-x^2}(2x^2 - 1) = 0$$

$$2e^{-x^2} \neq 0 \quad \left| \quad 2x^2 - 1 = 0 \right.$$

$$2x^2 = 1$$

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

$$x = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \pm \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$$

test	$-1$	$-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$0$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$1$
$f''(x)$	$2e^{-1}$	$0$	$-2$	$0$	$2e^{-1}$

$x = -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$  is a point of inflection

$$f''\left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) = 0, f''(-1) > 0, f''(0) < 0$$

$f''(x)$  changes signs from positive to negative

$x = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$  is a point of inflection

$$f''\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right) = 0, f''(0) < 0, f''(1) > 0$$

$f''(x)$  changes signs from negative to positive

Find all points of inflection and relative extrema. Use the Second Derivative Test where applicable.

6.  $f(x) = 5 + 3x^2 - x^3$

$x = 0$  relative min  $f''(0) = 6$   $\cup$   
 $f''(0) > 0$  concave up

$x = 2$  relative max  $f''(2) = -6$   $\cap$   
 $f''(2) < 0$  concave down

$x = 1$  point of inflection  
 $f''(1) = 0$ ,  $f''(0) > 0$   
 $f''(2) < 0$

$f''(x)$  changes signs from positive to negative

7.  $h(x) = (2x - 5)^2$

$h'(x) = 2(2x - 5)(2)$   
 $0 = 8x - 20$   
 $x = \frac{20}{8} = \frac{5}{2}$

$h''(x) = 8$

No points of inflection

$x = \frac{5}{2}$  relative min  
 $f'(\frac{5}{2}) = 0$   
 $f''(\frac{5}{2}) > 0$   
 concave up  $\cup$

8.  $f(x) = x + 2 \sin x$  on the interval  $[0, 2\pi]$

$x = \frac{2\pi}{3}$  relative max  $f''(\frac{2\pi}{3}) = -\sqrt{3}$   
 $f''(\frac{2\pi}{3}) < 0$  concave down  $\cap$

$x = \frac{4\pi}{3}$  relative min  $f''(\frac{4\pi}{3}) = \sqrt{3}$   
 $f''(\frac{4\pi}{3}) > 0$  concave up  $\cup$

$x = \pi$  point of inflection  
 $f''(\pi) = 0$ ,  $f''(\frac{2\pi}{3}) < 0$   
 $f''(\frac{4\pi}{3}) > 0$

$f''(x)$  changes signs from negative to positive

Note: 0 and  $2\pi$  would be points of inflection if they weren't the endpoints. Can't be a point of inflection at endpoint bc you aren't changing concavity!

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

$f'(x) = 8x^3 - 8$   
 $0 = 8x^3 - 8$   
 $8 = 8x^3$   
 $1 = x^3$   
 $1 = x$

$f''(x) = 24x^2$   
 $0 = 24x^2$

$0 = x$  Not a point of inflection  
 $f''(-1) = 24$   
 $f''(1) = 24$   
 Does not change concavity!

$x = 1$  relative min  
 $f''(1) = 24$   
 $f''(1) > 0$   
 concave up  $\cup$

State the intervals of concavity.

10.  $g(x) = \frac{x}{x-1}$

$(-\infty, 1)$  concave down  $f''(x) < 0$

$(1, \infty)$  concave up  $f''(x) > 0$

11.  $f(x) = x^3 - 12x$

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

$f''(x) = 6x$

$x = 0$  point of inflection

test	-1	0	1
$f''(x)$	-6	0	6

Concave down  
 $(-\infty, 0)$

Concave up  
 $(0, \infty)$

A particle moves along the  $x$ -axis with the position function given below. Find the velocity and acceleration. Use a sign chart to describe the motion of the particle.

12.  $x(t) = \frac{1}{3}t^3 - 3t^2 + 8t + 1$  where  $t > 0$

$v(t) = x'(t) = t^2 - 6t + 8$

$a(t) = x''(t) = 2t - 6$

Interval	(0,2)	2	(2,3)	3	(3,4)	4	(4, ∞)
Test Value	$t = 1$	$t = 2$	$t = \frac{5}{2}$	$t = 3$	$t = \frac{7}{2}$	$t = 4$	$t = 5$
$f'(x)$	$f'(1) = 3$ Increasing right	$f'(2) = 0$ No Velocity	$f'(\frac{5}{2}) = -\frac{3}{4}$ Decreasing left	$f'(3) = -1$ Decreasing left	$f'(\frac{7}{2}) = -\frac{3}{4}$ Decreasing left	$f'(4) = 0$ No Velocity	$f'(5) = 3$ Increasing right
$f''(x)$	$f''(1) = -4$	$f''(2) = -6$	$f''(\frac{5}{2}) = -1$	$f''(3) = 0$	$f''(\frac{7}{2}) = 1$	$f''(4) = 2$	$f''(5) = 4$
Conclusion	Slowing down	(2) = -2 Not moving	Speeding Up		Slowing down	Not moving	Speeding up

13.  $x(t) = t - 3(t - 4)^{\frac{1}{3}}$  where  $t > 0$

$v(t) = x'(t) = 1 - (t - 4)^{-\frac{2}{3}}$

$0 = 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{(t-4)^2}}$   $t \neq 4$

$\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{(t-4)^2}} = 1$

$1 = \sqrt[3]{(t-4)^2}$

$1^3 = (t-4)^2$

$\pm\sqrt{1} = t - 4$

$4 \pm 1 = t$

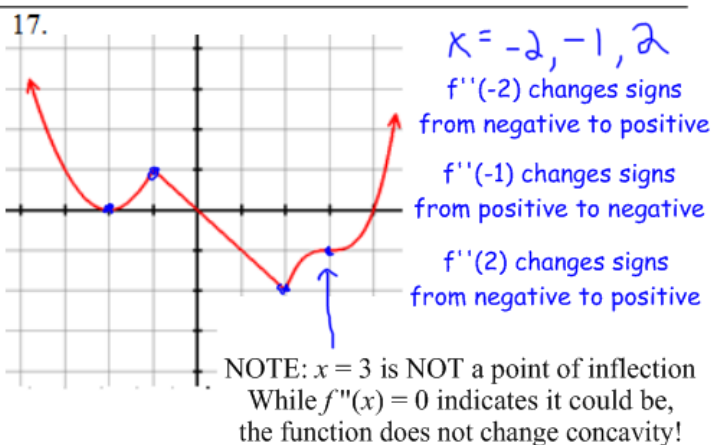
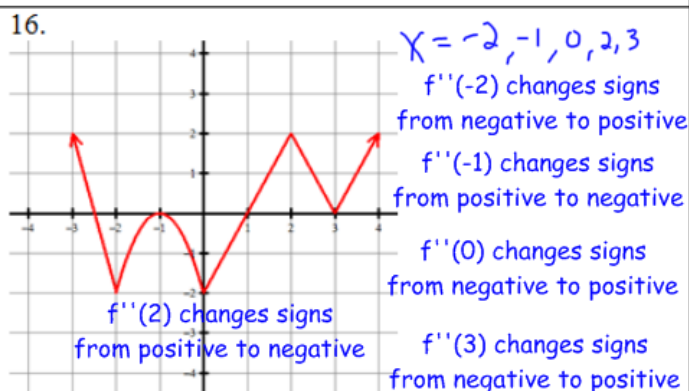
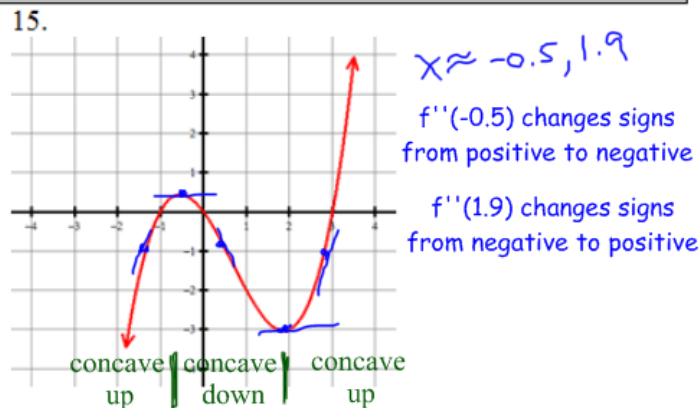
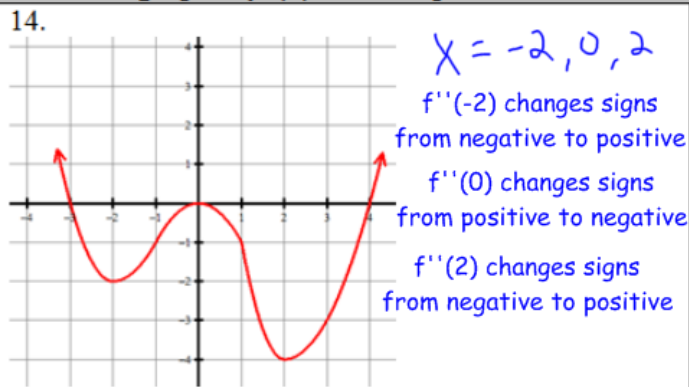
$t = 5 \text{ or } 3$

$a(t) = x''(t) = \frac{2}{3}(t - 4)^{-\frac{5}{3}}$

$0 = \frac{2}{3\sqrt[3]{(t-4)^5}}$   $t \neq 4$

Interval	(0,3)	3	(3,4)	4	(4,5)	5	(5, ∞)
Test Value	$t = 1$	$t = 3$	$t = \frac{7}{2}$	$t = 4$	$t = \frac{9}{2}$	$t = 5$	$t = 6$
$f'(x)$	$f'(1) > 0$ Increasing right	$f'(3) = 0$ No Velocity	$f'(\frac{7}{2}) < 0$ Decreasing left	$f'(4) = \text{DNE}$ No Velocity	$f'(\frac{9}{2}) < 0$ Decreasing left	$f'(5) = 0$ No Velocity	$f'(6) > 0$ Increasing right
$f''(x)$	$f''(1) < 0$	$f''(3) < 0$	$f''(\frac{7}{2}) < 0$	$f''(4) = \text{DNE}$	$f''(\frac{9}{2}) > 0$	$f''(5) > 0$	$f''(6) > 0$
Conclusion	Slowing down	Not moving	Speeding up	Not moving	Slowing down	Not moving	Speeding up

Given the graph of  $f'(x)$ , find the points of inflection.



## TEST PREP

### MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. E
5. A

### FREE RESPONSE 7 points

(a) Solve  $|v(t)| = 2$  on  $2 \leq t \leq 4$ .  
 $t = 3.128$  (or 3.127) and  $t = 3.473$

2 :  $\begin{cases} 1 : \text{considers } |v(t)| = 2 \\ 1 : \text{answer} \end{cases}$

(b)  $v(t) = 0$  when  $t = 0.536033, 3.317756$   
 $v(t)$  changes sign from negative to positive at time  $t = 0.536033$ .  
 $v(t)$  changes sign from positive to negative at time  $t = 3.317756$ .

3 :  $\begin{cases} 1 : \text{considers } v(t) = 0 \\ 2 : \text{answers with justification} \end{cases}$

Therefore, the particle changes direction at time  $t = 0.536$  and time  $t = 3.318$  (or 3.317).

(c)  $v(4) = -11.475758 < 0$ ,  $a(4) = v'(4) = -22.295714 < 0$

2 : conclusion with reason

The speed is increasing at time  $t = 4$  because velocity and acceleration have the same sign.