

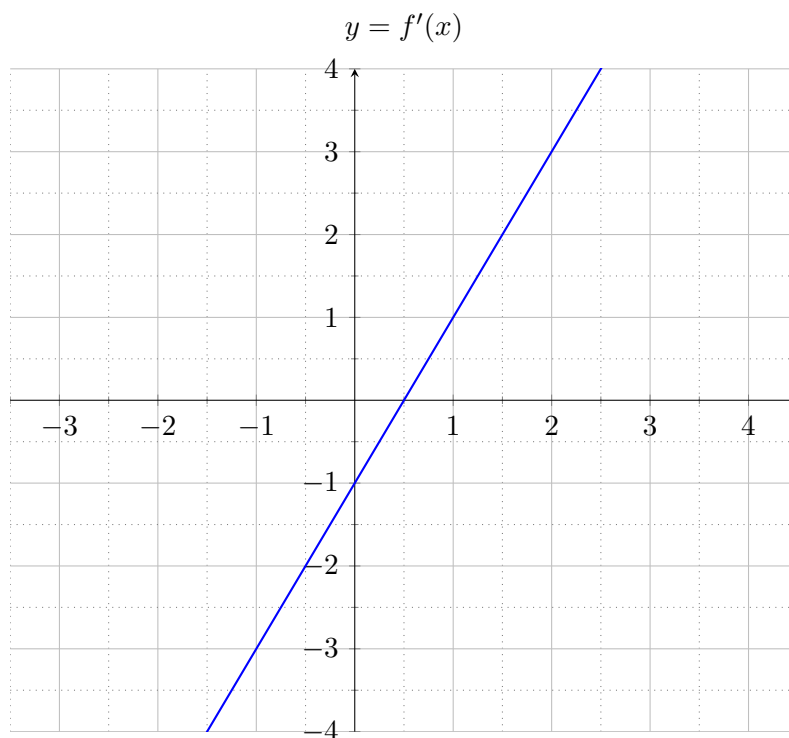
1. The purpose of this problem is to see how to construct a derivative function one point at a time by looking at a graph.

Background review: estimating derivatives, one point at a time:

- The derivative of a function at a point represents the slope (or rate of change) of a function at that point.
  - If you have a graph, you can estimate the derivative one point at a time by drawing the tangent line at that point, then calculating the slope of that tangent line (remember, slope is rise over run).
- (a) Go to the website <http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/activities/Derivate/>
- (b) Enter the function  $y = x^2 - x - 2$ . Use the tool to calculate the slope of the graph at each of the points  $x = -1, 0, 1, 2$  and  $2.5$ . Enter the values of the slope in the following table:

$x$	-1	0	1	2	2.5
slope of $f$ at $x$	-3	-1	1	3	4

- (c) Now plot these points and connect them smoothly to see a graph of  $f'(x)$



- (d) What do you think the formula for this graph is?

**Solution:** It's a straight line with slope 2 and  $y$ -intercept  $(0, -1)$ , so  $y = 2x - 1$

2. In this problem, you'll calculate the derivative of the same function as the previous problem, but this time you'll do it analytically (with formulas)

- (a) Calculate the derivative of  $f(x) = x^2 - x - 2$ .

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

**Solution:**

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{((x+h)^2 - (x+h) - 2) - (x^2 - x - 2)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2 + 2xh + h^2 - x - h - 2 - x^2 + x + 2}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{2xh + h^2 - h}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(2x + h - 1)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (2x + h - 1) \\ &= 2x - 1. \end{aligned}$$

- (b) Do your results from this problem match your results from the last problem?

**Solution:** Yes

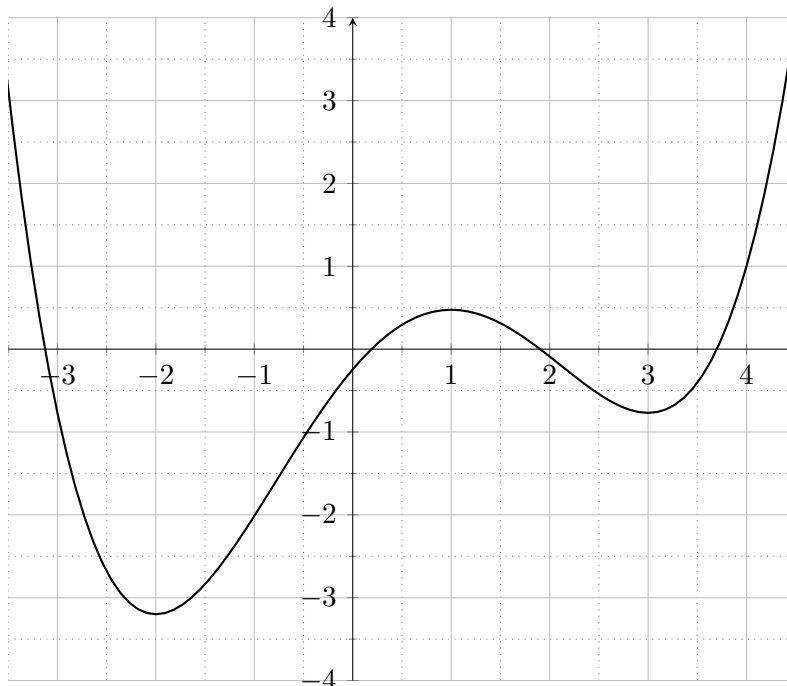
3. Khan academy has an exercise that gives a good visual and tactile experience of producing the derivative function point by point. Do at least one exercise on this website:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/math1300-week4>

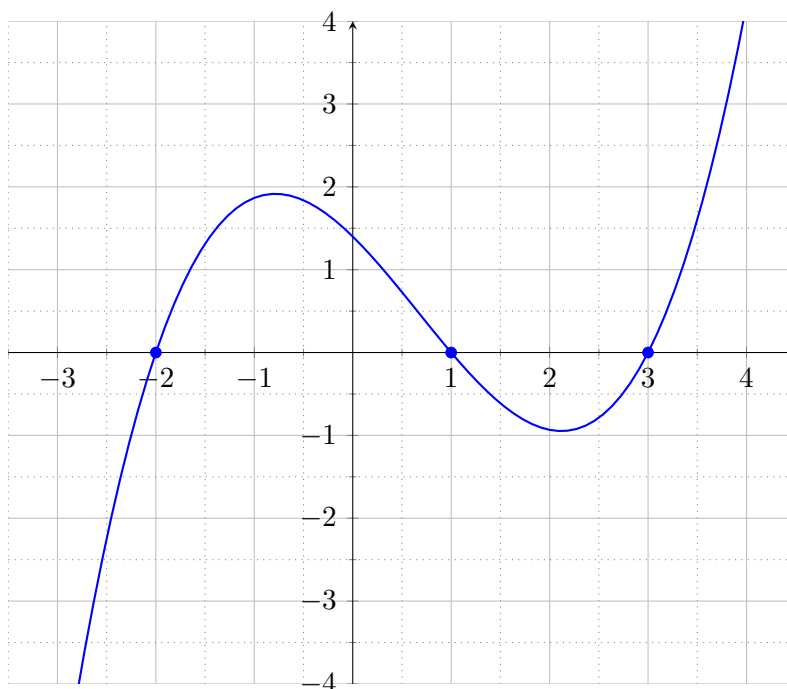
In the space below, sketch the graph of  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$  from one of the exercises you did.

**Solution:** Solutions vary.

4. Below is a graph of a function.



Without the aid of technology, use the graph of the function above to sketch a graph of its derivative function on the axes below.



5. Based on your experience above, what seems to be true about the relationship between  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$ ?

(a) Where  $f(x)$  is increasing,  $f'(x)$  is positive.

(b) Where  $f(x)$  is decreasing,  $f'(x)$  is negative.

6. Below are some more involved questions. We will be addressing these in the coming sections. Do you have any guesses for these?

(a) Where  $f(x)$  is concave up,  $f'(x)$  is increasing.

(b) Where  $f(x)$  is concave down,  $f'(x)$  is decreasing.

(c) Where  $f(x)$  is discontinuous, has a cusp or corner, or has a vertical tangent line  $f'(x)$  is undefined.

**Solution:** Note: discontinuities can include where  $f(x)$  is undefined, has a vertical asymptote, has a jump discontinuity, or has a hole.

(d) What will the derivative be when  $f(x)$  has a relative high point (maximum) or relative low point (minimum)?

**Solution:** At the relative extreme points of  $f(x)$ , the derivative will be zero or will be undefined.

(e) If the derivative is 0 at a point, what are all the ways the original function could look?

**Solution:** The top of a hill ( $y = -x^2$  at  $x = 0$ ), the bottom of a valley ( $y = x^2$  at  $x = 0$ ), or a horizontal tangent line that is neither a high point or a low point ( $y = x^3$  at  $x = 0$ ).

(f) What about if the derivative has a relative maximum or minimum?

**Solution:** Where the derivative has a relative maximum the original function has its steepest positive slope and where the derivative has a relative minimum the original function has its steepest negative slope. The function changes concavity there.