

The Second Derivative

1. Laura says:

I feel bad today, but I'm feeling better than yesterday, and I seem to be improving faster and faster.

Let $f(t)$ be Laura's health as a function of time. Based on her statement, what can you say about the signs of $f(t)$, $f'(t)$, and $f''(t)$?

2. Representative Michaud says:

The defense budget will increase this year, but not by as much as it increased last year.

Let $B(t)$ be the defense budget as a function of time. Based on Congressman Michaud's remarks, what can you say about the signs of $B'(t)$ and $B''(t)$?

3. The plot below is of a $f'(x)$. For what values of x is:
- (a) $f(x)$ increasing?
 - (b) $f(x)$ decreasing?
 - (c) $f'(x)$ positive?
 - (d) $f'(x)$ negative?
 - (e) $f''(x)$ positive?
 - (f) $f''(x)$ negative?
4. Sketch $f''(x)$, given the $f'(x)$ in Fig. 1.
5. Sketch a possible $f(x)$ that corresponds to the $f'(x)$ in Fig. 1.

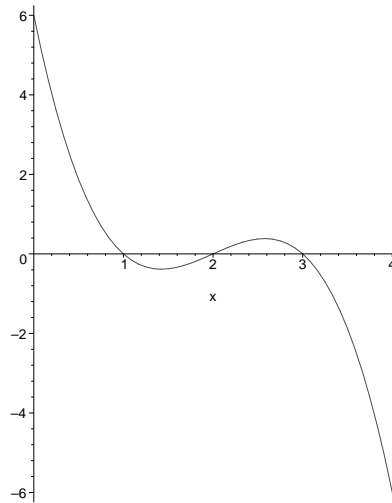


Figure 1: A plot of $f'(x)$.