

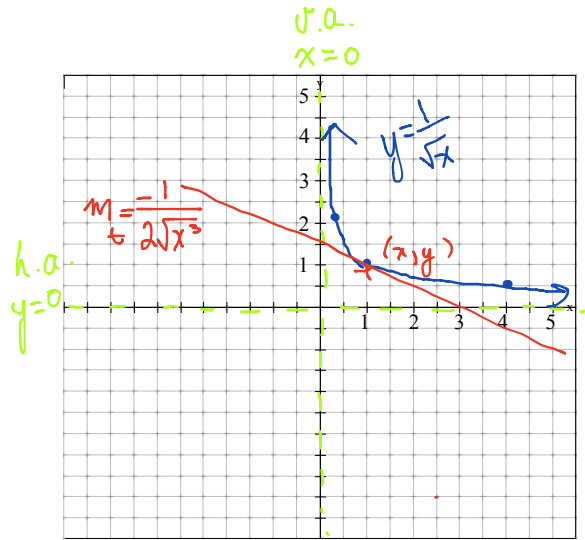
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UNIT 2 – DERIVATIVES

Section 4.1 – The Derivative Function

Ex. 1. Find the slope of the tangent to $y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$ at any point (x, y) .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Let } f(x) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \\
 m_t &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{x+h}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}}{h} \quad \frac{\sqrt{x}(\sqrt{x+h})}{\sqrt{x}(\sqrt{x+h})} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\sqrt{x} - \sqrt{x+h}) \cdot (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h})}{h \cdot \sqrt{x} \cdot \sqrt{x+h} \cdot (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h})} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - x - h}{h \cdot \sqrt{x} \cdot \sqrt{x+h} \cdot (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h})} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{-1}{\sqrt{x} \cdot \sqrt{x+h} \cdot (\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+h})} \quad \rightarrow \frac{-1}{2x\sqrt{x}} \\
 &= \frac{-1}{\sqrt{x} \cdot \sqrt{x} \cdot 2\sqrt{x}} = \frac{-1}{2(\sqrt{x})^3} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{-1}{2\sqrt{x}^3}
 \end{aligned}$$



We say that $\frac{-1}{2\sqrt{x}^3}$ is the “**derivative**” of $y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$.

∴ The **derivative** is an expression for the **slope of the tangent** to a curve.

Notation:

✱ If $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$ then $f'(x) = \frac{-1}{2\sqrt{x}^3}$ “**f prime at x**”

✱ If $y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$ then $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-1}{2\sqrt{x}^3}$ “**dy by dx**” or “**the derivative of y with respect to x**”

If $y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$ then $y' = \frac{-1}{2\sqrt{x}^3}$ “**y prime**”

Note: $\frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \right) = \frac{-1}{2\sqrt{x}^3}$ reads as “**the derivative of $\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}$ w.r.t. x**”

The **derivative** of $y = f(x)$ is:

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

Ex. 2. Find the derivative of the following functions from **first principles**.

a) $f(x) = x^2$

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

\therefore If $f(x) = x^2$ then
 $f'(x) = 2x$

b) $y = \frac{1}{x^2}$, Let $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$

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

\therefore If $y = \frac{1}{x^2}$ then
 $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{2}{x^3}$

Ex. 3. An object moves in a straight line with its position at time t seconds given by $s(t) = 8t - t^2$ where s is measured in metres.

- a) Find the **initial** velocity. Find v if $t = 0$
- b) Determine when the object is at rest. Find t if $v = 0$
- c) Find the **average** velocity during the third second. Find m_{secant} between $t = 2$ & $t = 3$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{a) } v(t) &= m_t \\ &= s'(t) \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{s(t+h) - s(t)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{8(t+h) - (t+h)^2 - (8t - t^2)}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{8t + 8h - t^2 - 2th - h^2 - 8t + t^2}{h} \\ &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (8 - 2t - h) \\ &= 8 - 2t \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore v(t) = 8 - 2t$
 $v(0) = 8$

\therefore the initial velocity is 8 m/s .

b) Find t if $v(t) = 0$
 $8 - 2t = 0$
 $-2t = -8$
 $t = 4$
 \therefore At $t = 4$ s the object is at rest.

c) $v_{\text{avg}} = \frac{s(3) - s(2)}{3 - 2}$
 $= \frac{15 - 12}{1}$
 $= 3$

\therefore the average velocity is 3 m/s during the third second.

Ex. 4. Show that the derivative of the absolute value function $f(x) = |x|$ does not exist at $x = 0$.

Illustrate your solution graphically.

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

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

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

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

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

L.S.L.

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{-h}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0^-} (-1)$$

$$= -1$$

R.S.L.

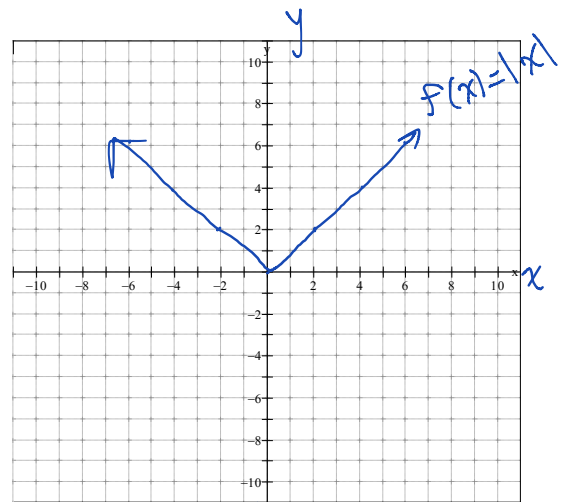
$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{+h}{h}$$

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

$$= 1$$

\therefore L.S.L. \neq R.S.L.

$\therefore \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{|h|}{h}$ does not exist.

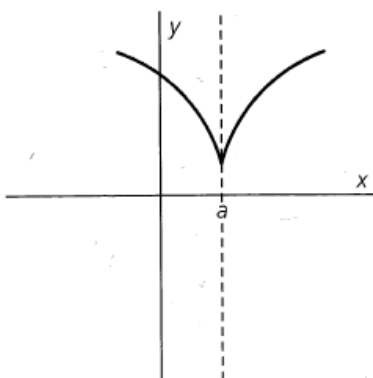


$$f(x) = \begin{cases} -x & , \text{ if } x < 0 \\ x & , \text{ if } x \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

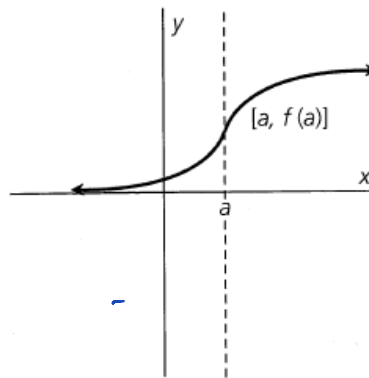
$$f'(x) = \begin{cases} -1 & , \text{ if } x < 0 \\ 1 & , \text{ if } x > 0 \end{cases}$$

The Existence of Derivatives

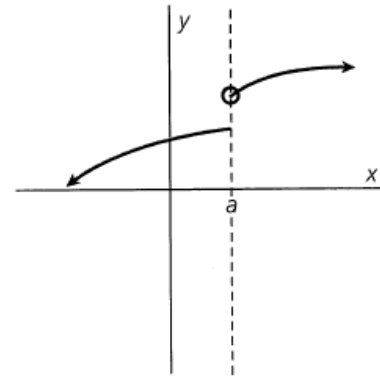
A function f is said to be **differentiable** at a if $f'(a)$ exists. At points where f is not differentiable, we say that the *derivative does not exist*. Three common ways for a derivative to fail to exist are shown.



Cusp



Vertical Tangent



Discontinuity

Section 4.2 – The Derivatives of Polynomial Functions

Ex. 1. From *first principles* find the *derivative* of $y = x^2 - 5x + 1$.

Let $f(x) = x^2 - 5x + 1$

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

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x+h)^2 - 5(x+h) + 1 - (x^2 - 5x + 1)}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cancel{x^2} + 2xh + \cancel{h^2} - 5x - 5h + 1 - \cancel{x^2} + 5x - 1}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} (2x + h - 5)$$

$$= 2x - 5$$

\therefore If $y = x^2 - 5x + 1$ then $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x - 5$

$$y = x^2 - 5x + 1$$

$$y = 1x^2 - 5x^1 + 1x^0$$

Using the Power Rule on each term,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x^1 - 5x^0 + 0x^{-1}$$

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = 2x - 5$$

Recall: i) if $f(x) = x^2$ then $f'(x) = 2x$ ii) if $f(x) = x^3$ then $f'(x) = 3x^2$ iii) if $f(x) = x^4$ then $f'(x) = 4x^3$ iv) if $f(x) = x^n$ then $f'(x) = nx^{n-1}$

Recall: $a^2 - b^2 = (a-b)(a+b)$
 $a^3 - b^3 = (a-b)(a^2 + ab + b^2)$
 $a^4 - b^4 = (a-b)(a^3 + a^2b + ab^2 + b^3)$

$$\ast a^n - b^n = (a-b)(a^{n-1} + a^{n-2}b + a^{n-3}b^2 + \dots + a^2b^{n-3} + ab^{n-2} + b^{n-1})$$

Ex. 2. From *first principles* find the *derivative* of $f(x) = x^n$

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

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

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{[(x+h) - x] [(x+h)^{n-1} + (x+h)^{n-2} \cdot x + (x+h)^{n-3} \cdot x^2 + \dots + (x+h)^2 \cdot x^{n-3} + (x+h) \cdot x^{n-2} + x^{n-1}]}{h}$$

$$= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h [(x+h)^{n-1} + (x+h)^{n-2} \cdot x + (x+h)^{n-3} \cdot x^2 + \dots + (x+h)^2 \cdot x^{n-3} + (x+h) \cdot x^{n-2} + x^{n-1}]}{h}$$

$$= x^{n-1} + x^{n-2} \cdot x + x^{n-3} \cdot x^2 + \dots + x^2 \cdot x^{n-3} + x \cdot x^{n-2} + x^{n-1}$$

$$= x^{n-1} + x^{n-1} + x^{n-1} + \dots + x^{n-1} + x^{n-1} + x^{n-1} \} n \text{ terms}$$

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

\therefore If $f(x) = x^n$ then $f'(x) = n \cdot x^{n-1}$

POWER RULE

If $y = ax^n$ then $\frac{dy}{dx} = nax^{n-1}$

Note: If $y = k$, where k is a constant, $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$

$$y = kx^0$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 0 \cdot kx^{0-1}$$

$$= 0$$

Ex. 3. Differentiate each function using the **Power Rule**. Use either the **Leibniz notation** $\frac{dy}{dx}$ or the **prime notation** $f'(x)$, depending on which is appropriate.

a) $y = 4$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

b) $g(x) = 3x^4 + 12x^3 - 8x^2 + 1$

$$g'(x) = 12x^3 + 36x^2 - 8x^2 + 0$$

$$g'(x) = 12x^3 + 36x^2 - 8$$

c) $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$

$$f(x) = x^{-1}$$

$$f'(x) = -1x^{-2}$$

$$\therefore f'(x) = -\frac{1}{x^2}$$

d) $s = \sqrt{t}$

$$s = t^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = \frac{1}{2}t^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{t}}$$

e) $y = \left(\frac{x}{2}\right)^2$

$$y = \frac{x^2}{4}$$

$$y = \frac{1}{4}x^2$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{2}x$$

f) $h(t) = -2(t^2 - 3)^2$

$$h(t) = -2(t^2 - 3)(t^2 - 3)$$

$$h(t) = -2t^4 + 12t^2 - 18$$

$$h'(t) = -8t^3 + 24t$$

Ex. 4. Find the **equations** of the **tangent** and **normal** to the curve $y = (x-3)^2 - 2$ at $x = 5$.

(Note: The **normal line** is **perpendicular** to the **tangent line** at the point of tangency.)

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

$$y = x^2 - 6x + 7$$

$$m_t = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

$$= 2x - 6$$

at $x = 5$

$$m_t = 4 \quad ; \quad y = 2$$

For tangent,

$$m_t = 4 \quad ; \quad (5, 2); \quad b = \underline{\quad}$$

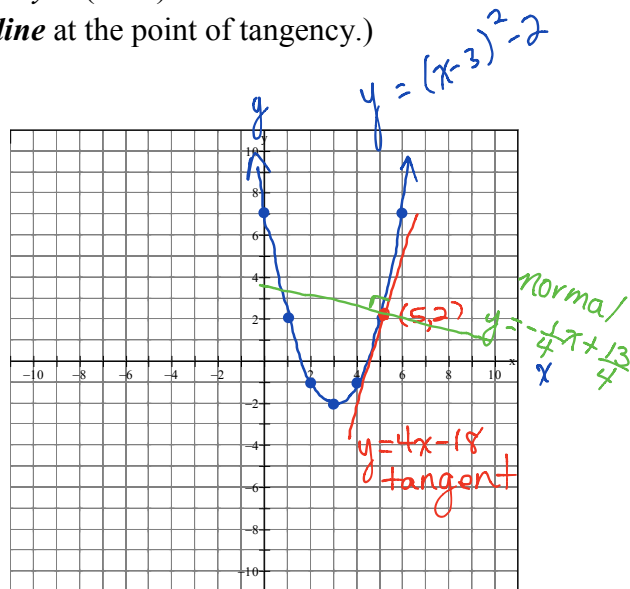
Find b

$$2 = 4(5) + b$$

$$2 = 20 + b$$

$$-18 = b$$

\therefore the equation of the tangent is $y = 4x - 18$.



For the normal,

$$m_n = -\frac{1}{4} \quad ; \quad (5, 2); \quad b = \underline{\quad}$$

Find b

$$2 = -\frac{1}{4}(5) + b$$

$$\frac{8}{4} = -\frac{5}{4} + b$$

$$\frac{13}{4} = b$$

\therefore the equation of the normal is $y = -\frac{1}{4}x + \frac{13}{4}$

Ex. 5. Find $f'(a)$ for the given function $f(x)$ at the given value of a .

a) $f(x) = \left(1 - \frac{2}{x}\right) \left(3 - \frac{4}{x}\right); a = 1$

$$f(x) = 3 - \frac{10}{x} + \frac{8}{x^2}$$

$$f(x) = 3 - 10x^{-1} + 8x^{-2}$$

$$f'(x) = 10x^{-2} - 16x^{-3}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{10}{x^2} - \frac{16}{x^3}$$

$$f'(1) = 10 - 16$$

$$= -6$$

$$\therefore f'(1) = -6$$

b) $f(x) = \frac{2 + \sqrt{x^3}}{\sqrt{4x}}; a = 4$

$$f(x) = \frac{2 + x^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\sqrt{4} \cdot \sqrt{x}}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{2 + x^{\frac{3}{2}}}{2x^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{2x^0}{2x^{\frac{1}{2}}} + \frac{1x^{\frac{3}{2}}}{2x^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

$$f(x) = 1x^{-\frac{1}{2}} + \frac{1}{2}x^1$$

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

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

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

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

$$f'(4) = -\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{2}$$

$$f'(4) = -\frac{1}{16} + \frac{8}{16}$$

$$\therefore f'(4) = \frac{7}{16}$$

Ex. 1. Find the *slope* of the *tangent* to the curve $y = \sqrt{3x^3}$ at the point $P(3, 9)$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 y &= \sqrt{3x^3} \\
 y &= \sqrt{3} \cdot \sqrt{x^3} \\
 y &= \sqrt{3} x^{\frac{3}{2}} \\
 m_t &= \frac{dy}{dx} \\
 &= \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} x^{\frac{1}{2}}
 \end{aligned}
 \quad
 \begin{aligned}
 m_t &= \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \cdot \sqrt{x} \\
 \text{at } x &= 3 \\
 m_t &= \frac{3\sqrt{3}}{2} \cdot \sqrt{3} \\
 &= \frac{9}{2}
 \end{aligned}
 \quad
 \therefore \text{the slope of the tangent is } \frac{9}{2}.$$

Ex. 2. Find the *slope* of the *normal* to the curve $y = (\sqrt{x} - 2)(3\sqrt{x} + 8)$ at the $x = 4$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 y &= (\sqrt{x} - 2)(3\sqrt{x} + 8) \\
 y &= 3x + 2\sqrt{x} - 16 \\
 y &= 3x^1 + 2x^{\frac{1}{2}} - 16 \\
 m_t &= \frac{dy}{dx} \\
 &= 3 + x^{-\frac{1}{2}} \\
 m_t &= 3 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}
 \end{aligned}
 \quad
 \begin{aligned}
 \text{at } x &= 4 \\
 m_t &= 3 + \frac{1}{2} \\
 m_t &= \frac{7}{2} \\
 \therefore m_n &= -\frac{2}{7}
 \end{aligned}
 \quad
 \therefore \text{at } x=4 \text{ the slope of the normal is } -\frac{2}{7}.$$

Ex. 3. Find the values of x so that the tangent to the function $y = \frac{3}{\sqrt[3]{x}}$ is parallel to the line

$$\begin{aligned}
 x + 16y + 3 &= 0 \\
 x + 16y + 3 &= 0 \\
 \frac{16y}{16} &= \frac{-1x - 3}{16} \\
 y &= -\frac{1}{16}x - \frac{3}{16} \\
 \text{slope} &= -\frac{1}{16}
 \end{aligned}
 \quad
 \left.
 \begin{aligned}
 y &= \frac{3}{\sqrt[3]{x}} \\
 y &= 3x^{-\frac{1}{3}} \\
 m_t &= \frac{dy}{dx} \\
 &= -x^{-\frac{4}{3}} \\
 &= -\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x^4}}
 \end{aligned}
 \right\}
 \quad
 \begin{aligned}
 \text{Find } x \text{ if} \\
 m_t &= -\frac{1}{16} \\
 -\frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x^4}} &= -\frac{1}{16} \\
 \left(\sqrt[3]{x^4}\right)^3 &= (16)^3 \\
 x^4 &= 4096 \\
 x &= \pm \sqrt[4]{4096} \\
 x &= \pm 8
 \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore x = \pm 8.$

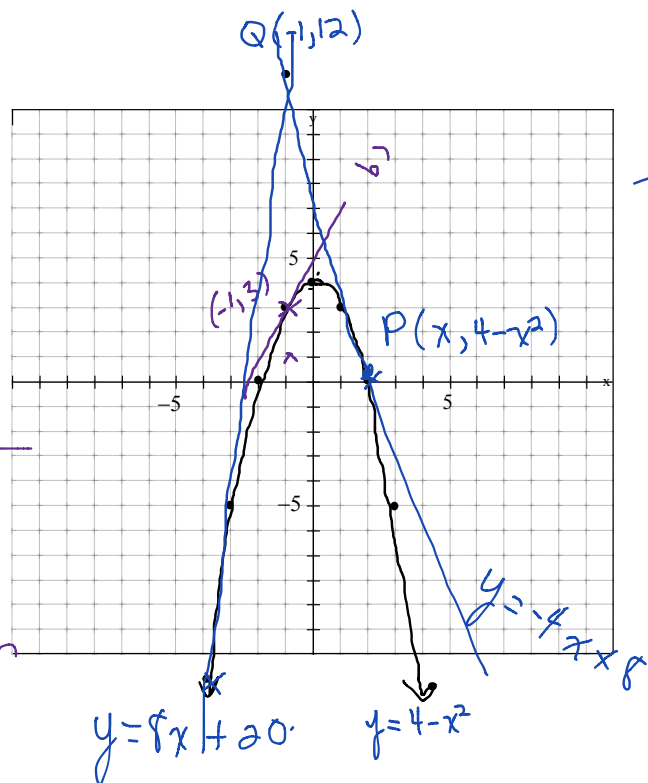
Ex. 4. Find the equation(s) of the tangent(s) to the curve $y = 4 - x^2$ that pass through the following points and illustrate graphically.

- a) $(-1, 1)$ b) $(-1, 3)$ c) $(-1, 12)$

a) no tangent can be drawn to the curve $y = 4 - x^2$ through $(-1, 1)$

b) $y = 4 - x^2$ For the tangent,
 $m_t = \frac{dy}{dx}$
 $m_t = -2x$
 at $x = -1$
 $m_t = -2(-1) = 2$ ∴ the equation of the tangent is $y = 2x + 5$

For the tangent,
 $m_t = 2; (-1, 3); b = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$
 $3 = 2(-1) + b$
 $3 = -2 + b$
 $5 = b$



c) Let $P(x_1, 4 - x_1^2)$ be the point of tangency through $Q(x_2, y_2)$.

$$m_t = m_{PQ}$$

$$-2x = \frac{12 - (4 - x^2)}{-1 - x}$$

$$\frac{-2x}{1} \times \frac{8 + x^2}{-1 - x}$$

$$-2x(-1 - x) = 1(8 + x^2)$$

$$2x + 2x^2 = 8 + x^2$$

$$x^2 + 2x - 8 = 0$$

$$(x + 4)(x - 2) = 0$$

$$\therefore x = -4 \text{ or } x = 2$$

Follow Ex. 4.
 ↓

For tangent at $x = -4$
 $m_t = -2(-4); (-4, -12); b = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$
 $= 8$

$$-12 = 8(-4) + b$$

$$-12 = -32 + b$$

$$20 = b$$

∴ the equation of the tangent at $x = -4$ is $y = 8x + 20$

at $x = 2$,
 $m_t = -4; (2, 0); b = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$
 $0 = -4(2) + b$
 $8 = b$

∴ the equation of the tangent at $x = 2$ is $y = -4x + 8$.