

Handout

• The derivative of a derivative is called the **second derivative** and can be represented by :

$$f''(x) \leftarrow \text{NEWTON}$$
 or  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \leftarrow \text{LEIBNIZ } \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{d}{dx} \right) = \frac{d^2y}{(dx)^3}$ 

The derivative of the second derivative is called the third derivative and can be represented by:

$$f'''(x) \leftarrow \text{NEWTON}$$
 or  $\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} \leftarrow \text{LEIBNIZ } \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{d}{dx} \right) \right)$ 

## Ex 1.

Determine the second derivitave of

a) 
$$y = (2x - 1)^4$$
  
 $y' = \frac{1}{4}(2x - 1)^3(2)$   
 $= 8(2x - 1)^3$   
 $y'' = \frac{1}{4}(2x - 1)^3(2)$   
 $y'' = \frac{1}{4}(2x - 1)^3$ 

Ex 2.

Determine f''(1), if 
$$f(x) = (2 - x^2)^{10}$$
.

$$f'(x) = 10(2-x^{2})^{9}(-2x)$$

$$= -20x(2-x^{2})^{9} \qquad f'g + fg'$$

$$f''(x) = -20(2-x^{2})^{9}(-20x)(9)(2-x^{2})^{8}(-2x)$$

$$= -20(2-x^{2})^{9} + 360x^{2}(2-x^{2})^{8}$$

$$f''(x) = -20(2-x^{2})^{8}(2-x^{2}-18x^{2})$$

$$f''(x) = -20(1)(2-1-18)$$

$$= 346$$

b) 
$$y = \frac{x}{x^2 - 1} = x \cdot (x^2 - 1)^{-1}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1(x^2 - 1) - x(2x)}{(x^2 - 1)^2}$$

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

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

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

$$= \frac{-2x(x^2 - 1)[x^2 - 1 - 2(x^2 + 1)]}{(x^2 - 1)^4}$$

$$y'' = \frac{-2x[-x^2 - 3]}{(x^2 - 1)^3}$$

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

## **Thought Experiment:**

Since a derivative can be described as a rate of change **or** the slope of the tangent line... **What would the derivative of a derivative represent?** 

**Ex 3.**Given the following functions, sketch the graphs of the first and second derivative. You may work in pairs if you wish.

