

# **MTH 201 -- Calculus**

## **Module 3A: Interpreting and estimating derivatives**

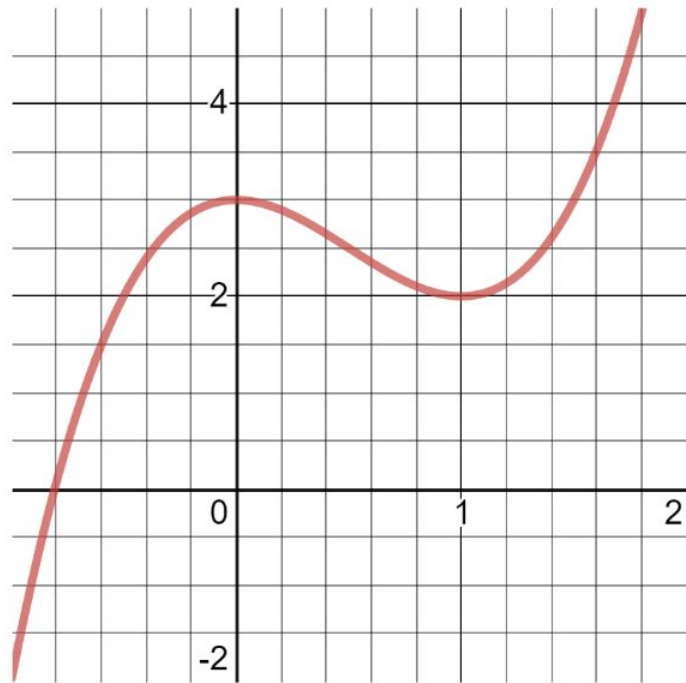
September 21-22, 2020



# Agenda for today

- Polling activity over Daily Preparation
- Q&A time
- Minilecture: Connecting concavity to the second derivative
- Activity: Card sorting
- Quick (ungraded) quiz
- Feedback time

The graph of a function  $f(x)$  is shown. The *derivative* of  $f(x)$  (that is,  $f'(x)$ ) is positive on the interval



$(1, \infty)$

$(-0.8, \infty)$

$(0.5, \infty)$

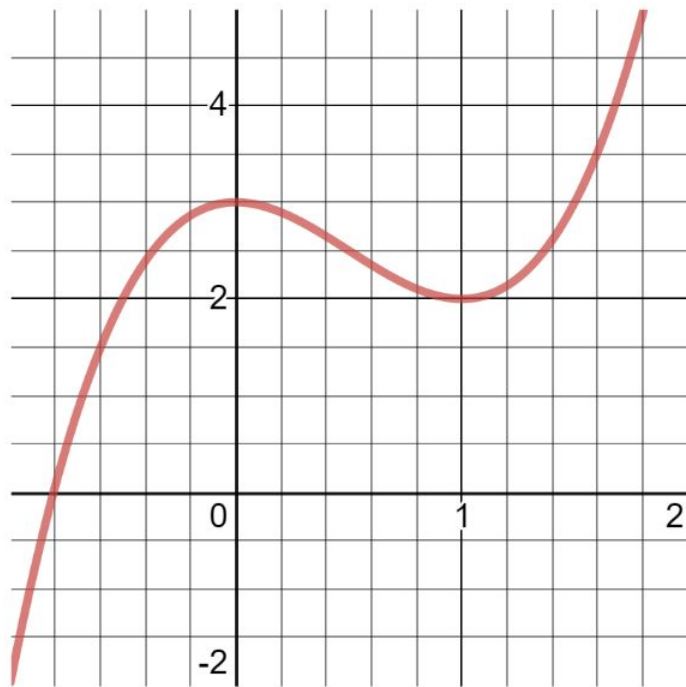
$(-\infty, 0) \cup (1, \infty)$

None of the above



To 0

The graph of a function  $f(x)$  is shown. The function is *concave up* on the interval



$(1, \infty)$

$(-0.8, \infty)$

$(0.5, \infty)$

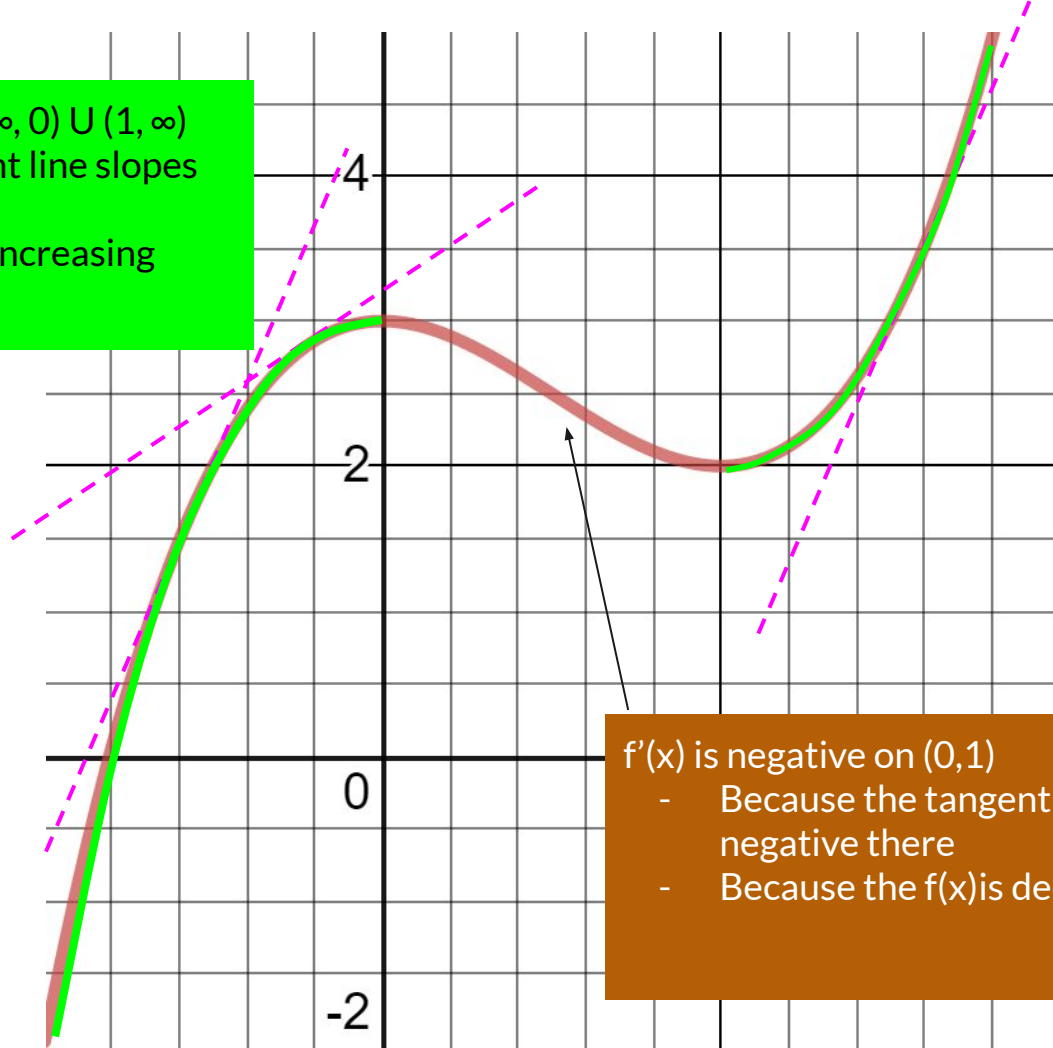
$(-\infty, 0) \cup (1, \infty)$

None of the above



**$f'(x)$  is positive on  $(-\infty, 0) \cup (1, \infty)$**

- Because the tangent line slopes are all positive there
- Because the  $f(x)$  is increasing there



**$f'(x)$  is negative on  $(0, 1)$**

- Because the tangent line slopes are all negative there
- Because the  $f(x)$  is decreasing there

**$f'(x) > 0$  means  $f(x)$  is increasing**

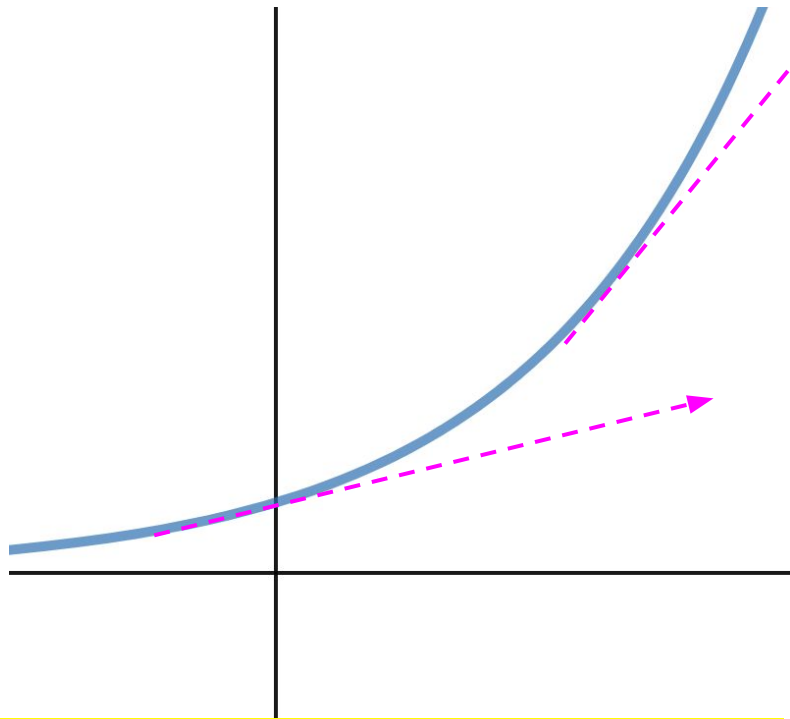
**$f'(x) < 0$  means  $f(x)$  is decreasing**

**$f'(x) = 0$  means... we'll discuss later**

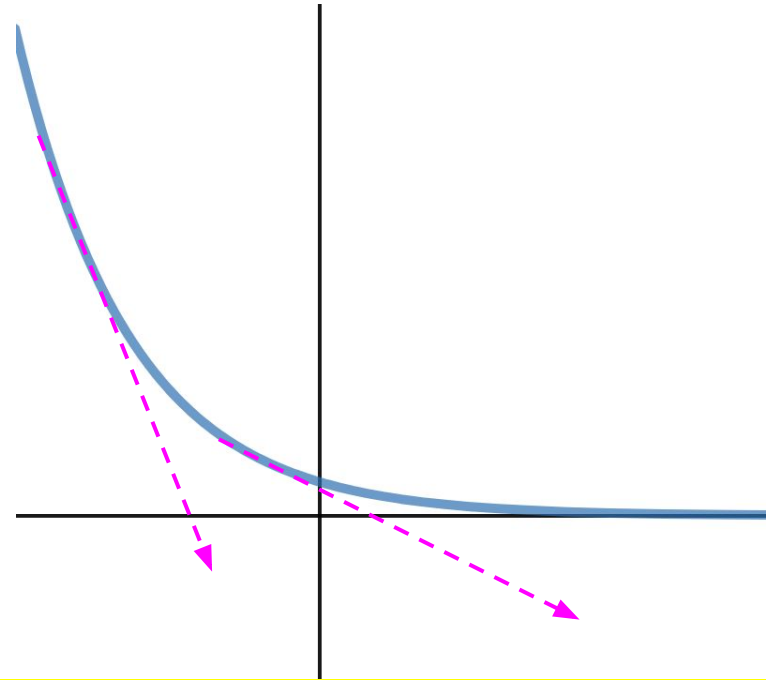
—

**A function is concave up on an interval if its rate of change is increasing on that interval.**

—



**Increasing and concave up**



**Decreasing and concave up**

**In both cases: Tangent line slopes are increasing**



Concave up  $\rightarrow$

Rate of change is increasing  $\rightarrow$

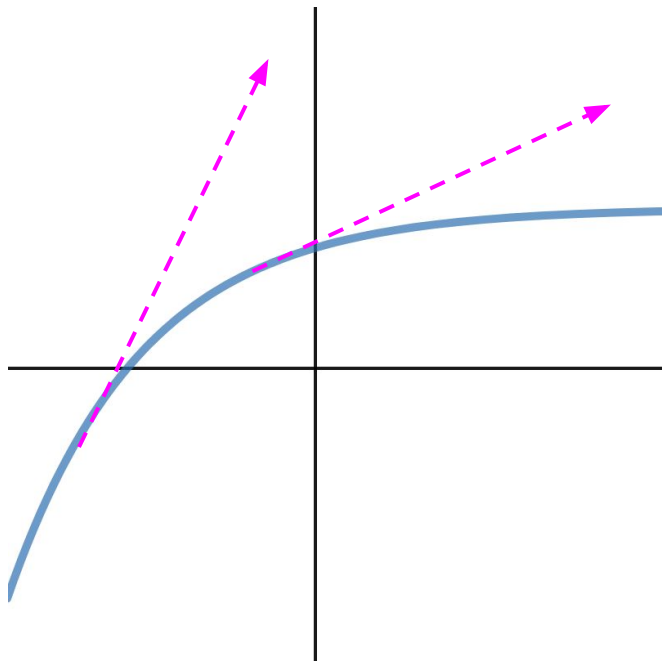
$f'(x)$  is increasing

The original  $f(x)$  might not be  
increasing.

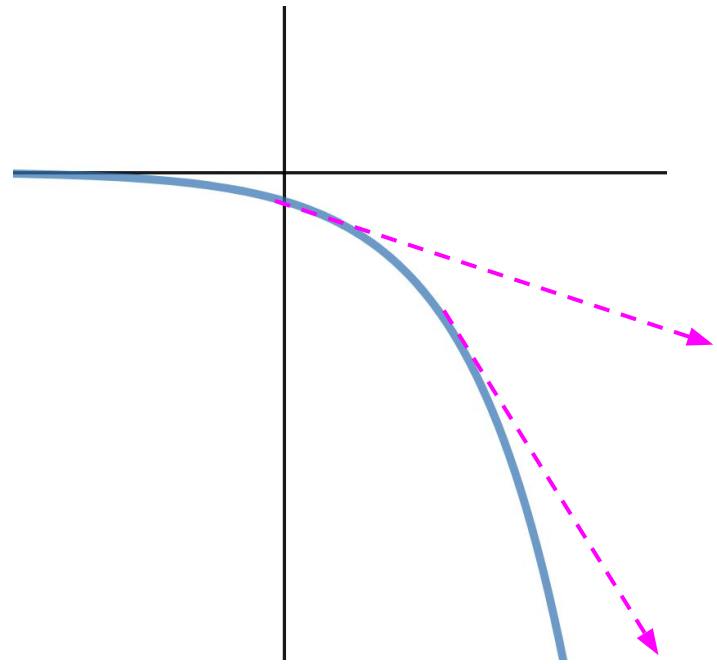
---

A function is concave **down** on an interval if its **rate of change is decreasing** on that interval.

---



**Increasing and concave  
down**



**Decreasing and concave  
down**

**In both cases: Tangent line slopes are decreasing**

Concave down →

Rate of change is decreasing →

$f'(x)$  is decreasing

The original  $f(x)$  might not be decreasing.

---

Concave Up, Decreasing



Concave Up, Increasing



Concave Down, Decreasing



Concave Down, Increasing



---

Connecting this to the second  
derivative

The second derivative  $f''(x)$  of a function  $f(x)$  is...

→ The derivative of  $f'(x)$

→ **The rate at which  $f'(x)$  is changing**

---

Concave up  $\rightarrow$

Rate of change is increasing  $\rightarrow$

$f'(x)$  is increasing  $\rightarrow$

$f''(x)$  is positive

---



Concave down  $\rightarrow$

Rate of change is decreasing  $\rightarrow$

$f'(x)$  is decreasing  $\rightarrow$

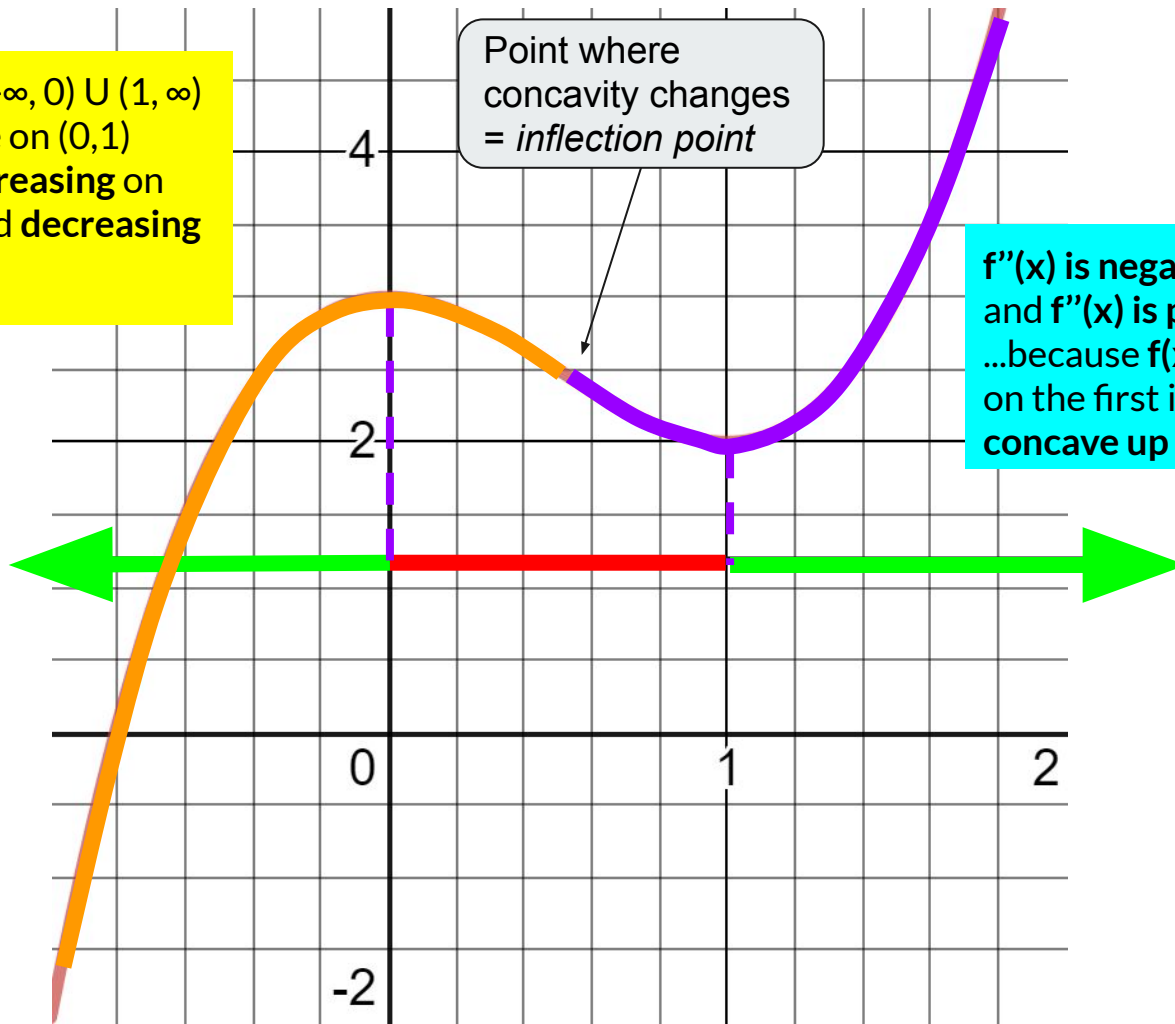
$f''(x)$  is negative

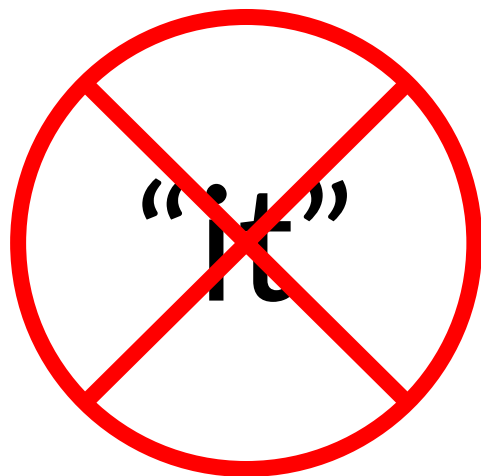
—

$f'(x)$  is **positive** on  $(-\infty, 0) \cup (1, \infty)$   
and  $f'(x)$  is **negative** on  $(0, 1)$   
...because  $f(x)$  is **increasing** on  
the first interval and **decreasing**  
on the second one

Point where  
concavity changes  
= *inflection point*

$f''(x)$  is **negative** on  $(-\infty, 0.5)$   
and  $f''(x)$  is **positive** on  $(0.5, \infty)$   
...because  $f(x)$  is **concave down**  
on the first interval and  
**concave up** on the second one.





"The function  
is increasing  
because it's  
positive"...

"It's negative,  
so it's concave down"



"The function  
is increasing because  
its derivative is positive"...

"The second derivative  
 $f''(x)$  is negative,  
so  $f(x)$  is concave down"

---

**Activity: Sorting out  $f$ ,  $f'$ , and  $f''$**   
**→ Desmos**

**Feedback:**

**<http://gvsu.edu/s/1rx>**

**Add sticky notes for  
comments, ideas, and  
questions.**

---