

For Questions asking about how the slope changes, we have to look at the tangent lines, and not the values of the function.

Finding inflection points using the second derivative.

$$f''(x) < 0$$
 slope increasing  $f'(x) > 0$  f(x)  $< 0$  slope is  $f''(x) > 0$  1

decreasing

 $f''(a) = 0$   $f'(a) = 0$ 

So we can use (the same) approach to find inflection points that we used to find local max/mins.

Inflection points must occur where at points x=a where f''(a)=0.

As before, we need to determine whether f"(x) changes sign at a.

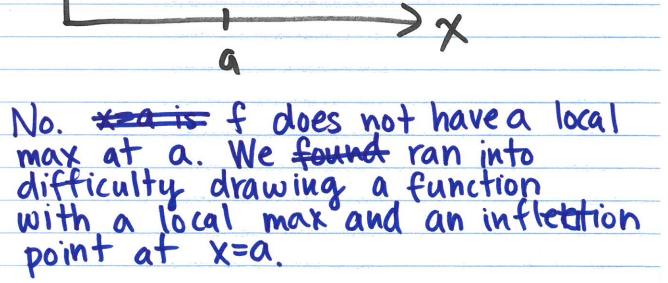
Ex: Find local maxima, minima, and inflection points of  $f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 + 5$ 

critical values:

$$f'(x) = 3x^{2} - 3 \cdot 2x^{1} + 0$$
  
=  $3x^{2} - 6x = 0$   
 $3x(x-2) = 0$   
 $x=0$  or  $x=2$ 

f has an inflection point at x=1.

Is this an Example of a function with a local max and an inflection point at the same point?



In fact if f has a local max at x= a then the tangent line is horizontal at a. But if f changes concavity at a, then f lies above the tangent line on one side ot a and below the tangent line on the other side of x=a.