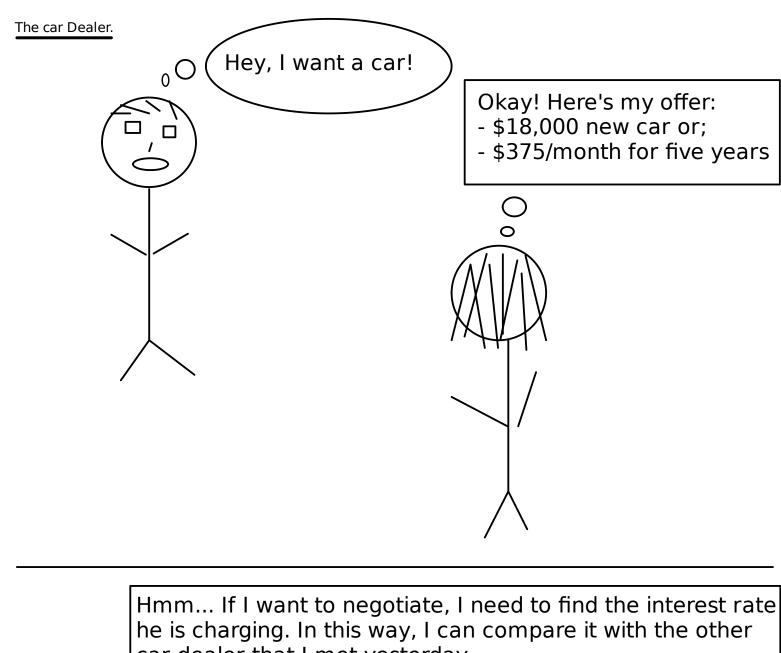
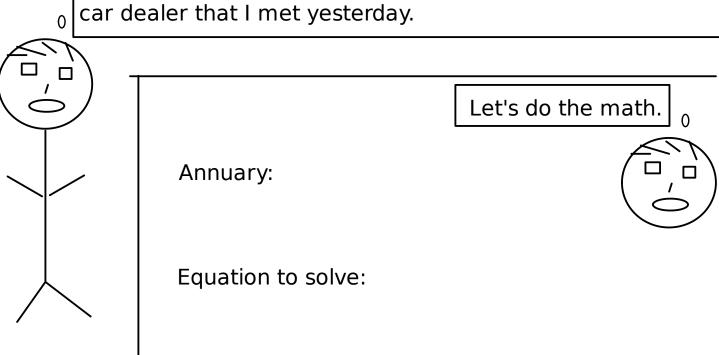
# Chapter 3 Applications of Derivatives

3.8 Newton's Method





# Roots of polynomials.

- for quadratic polynomial  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c$  , the roots are given by:

$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{a}$$

- There are formulas for cubics and quartics (horribly long...).
- For polynomials of degree greater than 4, there is no general formula!



#### Niels Henrik Abel

- 1802-1829
- Died from Turberculosis



- 1811-1932
- Died in a duel for a mysterious mistress...

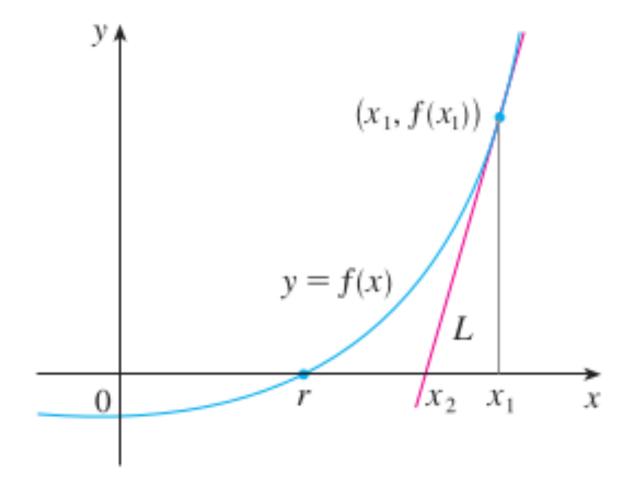


# The urgent need of Newton's method!

## **KEY IDEAS:**

- The tangent line approximate well the function.
- Replace the fonction with its tangent line.
- Intersect the tangent line with the x-axis.

## Data:



$$x_{n+1} = x_n - \frac{f(x_n)}{f'(x_n)}$$

**EXAMPLE 1** Starting with  $x_1 = 2$ , find the third approximation  $x_3$  to the root of the equation  $x^3 - 2x - 5 = 0$ .

# $MANY^{MANY}APPLICATIONS!!!$

- Finding solutions to general equations such as

$$\cos(x) = x$$

- At the core of many numerical methods in ingeneering.

