

2.6 Higher-Order Derivatives

Exercise :

Find fourth derivatives ($f^{(4)}$) of $f(x) = 2x^3 - 4x^2 + 7x - 8$.

Solution

$$f'(x) = 6x^2 - 8x + 7$$

$$f''(x) = 12x - 8$$

$$f'''(x) = 12$$

$$f^4(x) = \mathbf{0}$$

Example 1 : If $y = \sin 2x$, find $\frac{d^3y}{dx^3}$, $\frac{d^4y}{dx^4}$ and $\frac{d^{12}y}{dx^{12}}$

Solution

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

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -4 \sin 2x = -2^2 \sin 2x$$

$$\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} = \mathbf{-2^3 \cos 2x}$$

$$\frac{d^4y}{dx^4} = \mathbf{2^4 \sin 2x}$$

$$\frac{d^5y}{dx^5} = 2^5 \cos 2x$$

⋮

$$\frac{d^{12}y}{dx^{12}} = \mathbf{2^{12} \sin 2x}$$

❖ Velocity and Acceleration السرعة و التسارع

Example 2: An object moves along a coordinate line so that its position s satisfies $s = 2t^2 - 12t + 8$, where s is measured in centimeters and t in seconds.

- (a) Determine the velocity of the object when $t = 1$ and when $t = 6$.
(b) when is the velocity 0 ?
(c) when is it positive ?

Solution

(a) $v = 4t - 12$,

$$v(1) = 4(1) - 12 = 4 - 12 = -8 \text{ cm/s}$$

$$v(6) = 4(6) - 12 = 24 - 12 = 12 \text{ cm/s}$$

(b) $v = 0$

$$4t - 12 = 0$$

$$4t = 12$$

$$t = 3 \text{ s}$$

(c) $v > 0$

$$4t - 12 > 0$$

$$4t > 12$$

$$t > 3 \text{ s}$$