

3. The points P and Q are moving along the graph of a twice-differentiable function $y = f(x)$ in the xy -plane in such a way that their coordinates are differentiable functions of time t , and the tangent line to the graph at the point P intersects the graph also at the point Q at all times. (Assume that the coordinates are measured in meters and the time is measured in seconds.)

Find $f''(2)$ if

① the x -coordinate of Q is -1 and decreasing at a rate of 3 m/s when the x -coordinate of P is 2 and increasing at a rate of 4 m/s,

② $y = 9x - 8$ is an equation for the tangent line to the graph of f at the point with $x = 2$, and

③ $y = -6x - 23$ is an equation for the tangent line to the graph of f at the point with $x = -1$.

Let a and b be the x -coordinates of P and Q , respectively. Then:

$$f(b) = f(a) + f'(a) \cdot (b-a) \quad \text{at all times}$$

↓ d/dt

$$f'(b) \frac{db}{dt} = f'(a) \frac{da}{dt} + f''(a) \frac{da}{dt} \cdot (b-a) + f'(a) \cdot \left(\frac{db}{dt} - \frac{da}{dt} \right)$$

↓

$$f''(a) = \frac{f'(b) - f'(a)}{b-a} \cdot \frac{db/dt}{da/dt}$$

↓

$$\begin{aligned} a=2, \frac{da}{dt}=4, b=-1, \frac{db}{dt}=-3 \quad \text{by ①} \\ f'(2)=9 \quad \text{by ②}, f'(-1)=-6 \quad \text{by ③} \end{aligned}$$

$$f''(2) = \frac{-6-9}{-1-2} \cdot \frac{-3}{4} = -\frac{15}{4}$$