

NICKS & TRICKS

LCOL Guide to – Calculus II

1. Here are the basics of differentiation – don't forget about page 25 of your log book!

Basics of differentiation



Function – $f(x)$	Derivative $f'(x)$
x^n	nx^{n-1}
x^3	$3x^{3-1} = 3x^2$
x^5	$5x^4$
x^{10}	$10x^9$
x^1	$1x^0 = 1$

2. Calculus is very useful for practical questions as well.

Remember: **differentiating** any equation will give you the equation for its **rate of change**!

and to find the **maximum** or **minimum** of any function, differentiate and **put = 0**!

Worked Example

The amount, in appropriate units, of a certain medicinal drug in the bloodstream t hours after it has been taken can be estimated by the function:

$$C(t) = -t^3 + 4.5t^2 + 54t, \text{ where } 0 \leq t \leq 9, t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

(i) Use the drug amount function $C(t) = -t^3 + 4.5t^2 + 54t$ to find, in terms of t , the rate at which the drug amount is changing after t hours.

We need to **differentiate** the function to find the **rate of change**:

$$C(t) = -t^3 + 4.5t^2 + 54t$$

$$C'(t) = -3t^2 + 9t + 54$$

(ii) Use your answer to part (i) to find the rate at which the drug amount is changing after 4 hours.

Here we sub in $t = 4$ to our **rate of change** function

$$C'(t) = -3t^2 + 9t + 54$$

$$C'(4) = -3(4)^2 + 9(4) + 54$$

$$C'(4) = -48 + 36 + 54$$

$$C'(4) = 42$$

After 4 hours, the drug amount is **changing at a rate** of 42 units per hour.

(iii) Use your answer to part (i) to find the maximum amount of the drug in the bloodstream over the first 9 hours.

Maximum/Minimum
 $C'(t) = 0$
and solve for t

$$C(t) = -t^3 + 4.5t^2 + 54t$$

$$C'(t) = -3t^2 + 9t + 54$$

$$-3t^2 + 9t + 54 = 0$$

$$t^2 - 3t - 18 = 0$$

$$(t - 6)(t + 3) = 0$$

$$t - 6 = 0$$

$$t + 3 = 0$$

$$t = 6 \text{ hours}$$

$$t = -3$$

Not a valid solution

The maximum amount of the drug in the bloodstream occurs after 6 hours.

Now we sub $t = 6$ into the function to find the maximum amount of drug in the bloodstream.

$$C(t) = -t^3 + 4.5t^2 + 54t$$

$$C(6) = -(6)^3 + 4.5(6)^2 + 54(6)$$

$$C(6) = -216 + 162 + 324$$

$$C(6) = 270 \text{ units}$$

The maximum amount of the drug in the bloodstream over the first 9 hours is 270 units.

(iv) Use your answer to part (i) to show that the drug amount in the bloodstream is decreasing 7 hours after the drug has been taken. Explain your reasoning.

Sub $t = 7$ into our rate of change function:

$$C'(7) = -3(7)^2 + 9(7) + 54$$

Rate of Change at $t = 7$ hours

$$C'(7) = -147 + 63 + 54$$

$$C'(7) = -30$$

After 7 hours, the drug amount is changing at a rate of **-30 units per hour**.

As this is negative the amount of the drug is **decreasing**.

