

FIGURE 3.12 The positions of a body moving along a coordinate line at time t and shortly later at time $t + \Delta t$. Here the coordinate line is horizontal.

DEFINITION Velocity (instantaneous velocity) is the derivative of position with respect to time. If a body's position at time t is $s = f(t)$, then the body's velocity at time t is

$$v(t) = \frac{ds}{dt} = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(t + \Delta t) - f(t)}{\Delta t}.$$

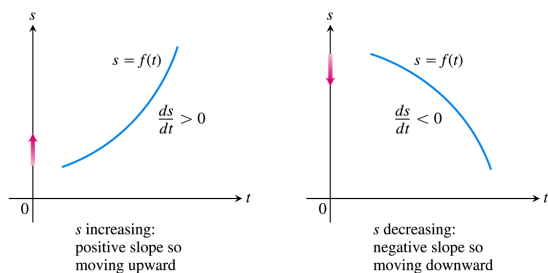
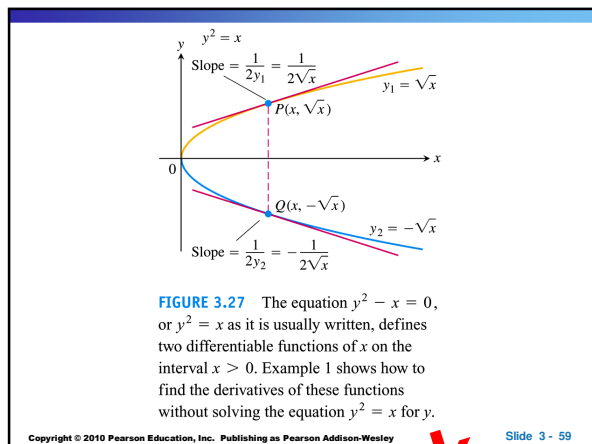
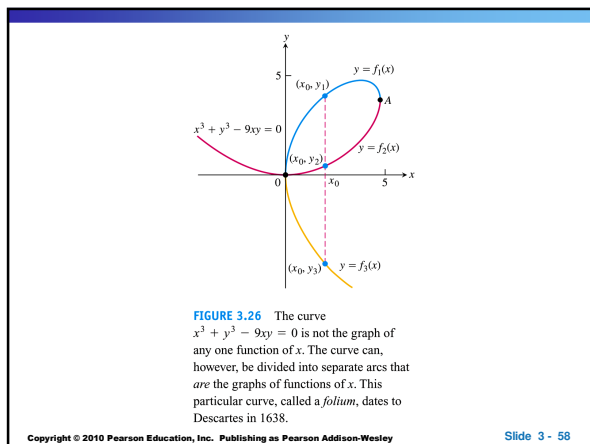


FIGURE 3.13 For motion $s = f(t)$ along a straight line (the vertical axis), $v = ds/dt$ is positive when s increases and negative when s decreases. The blue curves represent position along the line over time; they do not portray the path of motion, which lies along the s -axis.

DEFINITION Speed is the absolute value of velocity.

$$\text{Speed} = |v(t)| = \left| \frac{ds}{dt} \right|$$

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