Extremes

Thursday, 21 November 2024 11:37 am

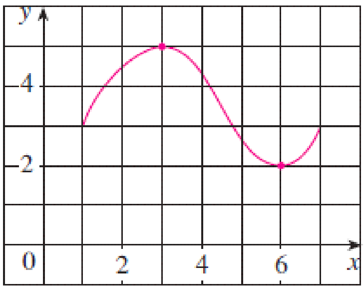
Maximum and Minimum Values

Some of the most important applications of differential calculus are *optimization problems*, in which we are required to find the optimal (best) way of doing something. Here are examples of such problems that we will solve in this chapter:

- What is the shape of a can that minimizes manufacturing costs?
- What is the maximum acceleration of a space shuttle? (This is an important question to the astronauts who have to withstand the effects of acceleration.)
- What is the radius of a contracted windpipe that expels air most rapidly during a cough?
- At what angle should blood vessels branch so as to minimize the energy expended by the heart in pumping blood?

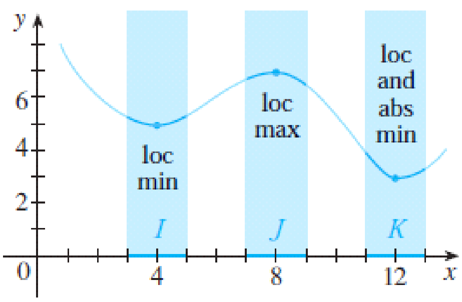
1 Definition Let c be a number in the domain D of a function f. Then $f(c)$ is the

- **absolute maximum** value of f on D if $f(c) \geqslant f(x)$ for all x in D.
- **absolute minimum** value of f on D if $f(c) \leqslant f(x)$ for all x in D.



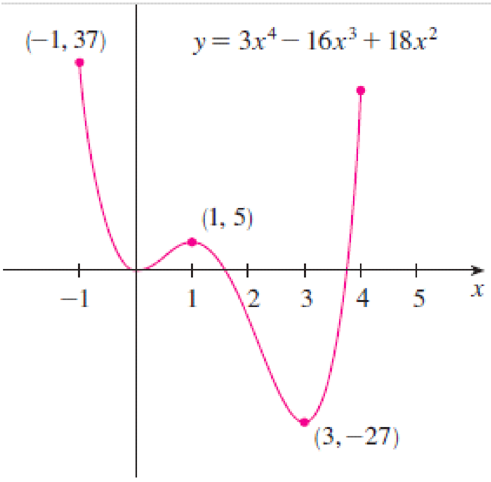
2 Definition The number $f(c)$ is a

- **local maximum** value of f if $f(c) \geqslant f(x)$ when x is near c.
- **local minimum** value of f if $f(c) \leqslant f(x)$ when x is near c.

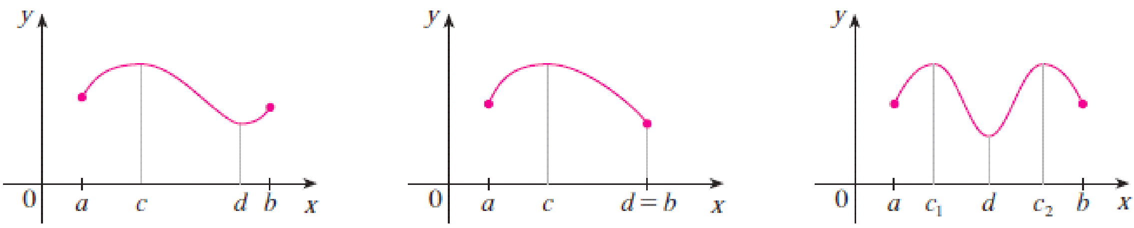


V EXAMPLE 4 The graph of the function

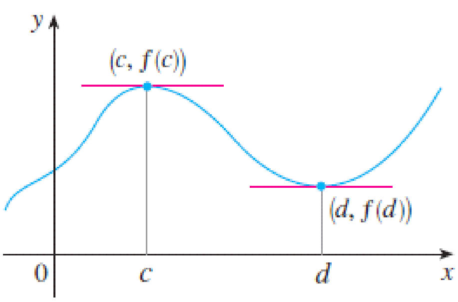
$$f(x) = 3x^4 - 16x^3 + 18x^2 \qquad -1 \leqslant x \leqslant 4$$



> **3 The Extreme Value Theorem** If f is continuous on a closed interval $[a, b]$, then f attains an absolute maximum value $f(c)$ and an absolute minimum value $f(d)$ at some numbers c and d in $[a, b]$.



4 Fermat's Theorem If f has a local maximum or minimum at c, and if $f'(c)$ exists, then $f'(c) = 0$.



6 Definition A **critical number** of a function f is a number c in the domain of f such that either $f'(c) = 0$ or $f'(c)$ does not exist.

The Closed Interval Method To find the *absolute* maximum and minimum values of a continuous function f on a closed interval $[a, b]$:

1. Find the values of f at the critical numbers of f in (a, b).
2. Find the values of f at the endpoints of the interval.
3. The largest of the values from Steps 1 and 2 is the absolute maximum value; the smallest of these values is the absolute minimum value.

V EXAMPLE 8 Find the absolute maximum and minimum values of the function

$$f(x) = x^3 - 3x^2 + 1 \qquad -\tfrac{1}{2} \leqslant x \leqslant 4$$

EXAMPLE 9

(a) Use a graphing device to estimate the absolute minimum and maximum values of the function $f(x) = x - 2\sin x$, $0 \leqslant x \leqslant 2\pi$.

(b) Use calculus to find the exact minimum and maximum values.

The Mean Value Theorem

Rolle's Theorem Let f be a function that satisfies the following three hypotheses:

1. f is continuous on the closed interval $[a, b]$.
2. f is differentiable on the open interval (a, b).
3. $f(a) = f(b)$

Then there is a number c in (a, b) such that $f'(c) = 0$.

The Mean Value Theorem Let f be a function that satisfies the following hypotheses:

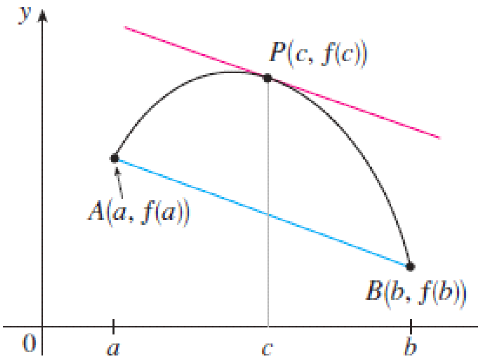
1. f is continuous on the closed interval $[a, b]$.
2. f is differentiable on the open interval (a, b).

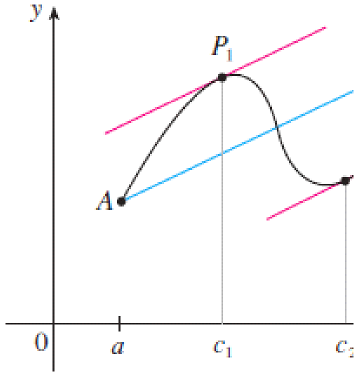
Then there is a number c in (a, b) such that

$$\boxed{1} \qquad f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$$

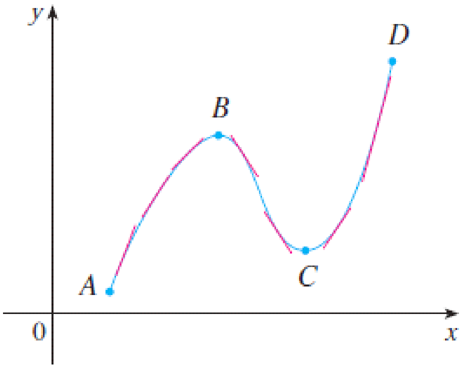
or, equivalently,

$$\boxed{2} \qquad f(b) - f(a) = f'(c)(b - a)$$





What Does f' Say About f?



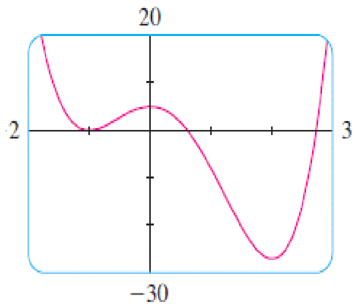
Increasing/Decreasing Test

(a) If $f'(x) > 0$ on an interval, then f is increasing on that interval.

(b) If $f'(x) < 0$ on an interval, then f is decreasing on that interval.

V EXAMPLE 1 Find where the function $f(x) = 3x^4 - 4x^3 - 12x^2 + 5$ is increasing and where it is decreasing.

SOLUTION $$f'(x) = 12x^3 - 12x^2 - 24x = 12x(x - 2)(x + 1)$$



Interval	$12x$	$x-2$	$x+1$	$f'(x)$	f
$x<-1$	−	−	−	−	decreasing on $(-\infty, -1)$
$-1<x<0$	−	−	+	+	increasing on $(-1, 0)$
$0<x<2$	+	−	+	−	decreasing on $(0, 2)$
$x>2$	+	+	+	+	increasing on $(2, \infty)$

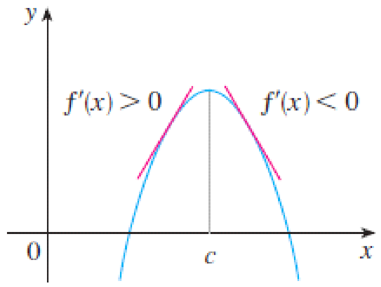
The graph of f shown in Figure 2 confirms the information in the chart.

The First Derivative Test Suppose that c is a critical number of a continuous function f.

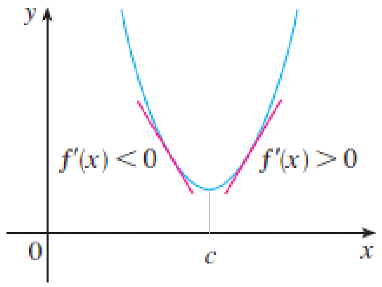
(a) If f' changes from positive to negative at c, then f has a local maximum at c.

(b) If f' changes from negative to positive at c, then f has a local minimum at c.

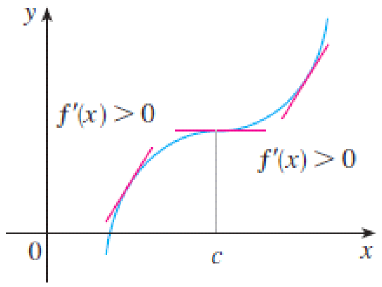
(c) If f' does not change sign at c (for example, if f' is positive on both sides of c or negative on both sides), then f has no local maximum or minimum at c.



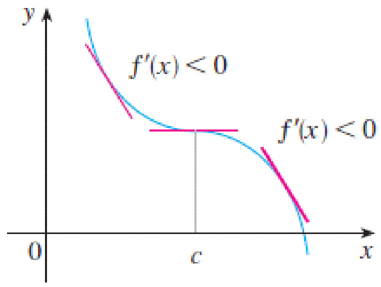
(a) Local maximum



(b) Local minimum



(c) No maximum or minimum



(d) No maximum or minimum

V EXAMPLE 2 Find the local minimum and maximum values of the function f in Example 1.

SOLUTION From the chart in the solution to Example 1 we see that $f'(x)$ changes from negative to positive at -1, so $f(-1) = 0$ is a local minimum value by the First Derivative Test. Similarly, f' changes from negative to positive at 2, so $f(2) = -27$ is also a local minimum value. As previously noted, $f(0) = 5$ is a local maximum value because $f'(x)$ changes from positive to negative at 0.

What Does f'' Say About f?

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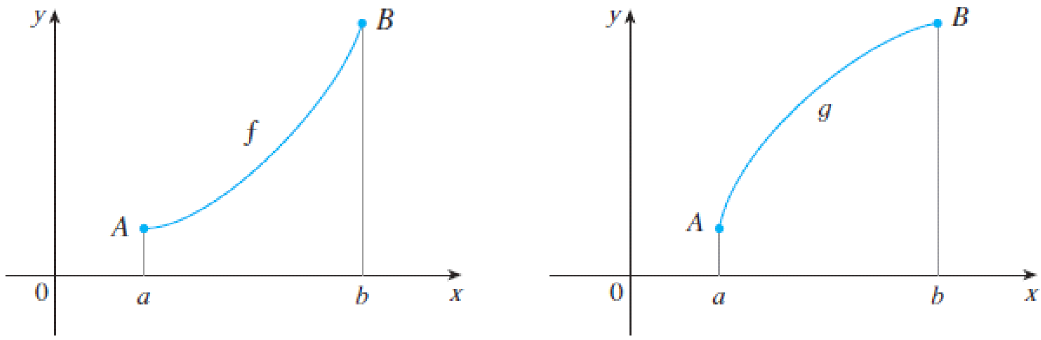

(a) (b)

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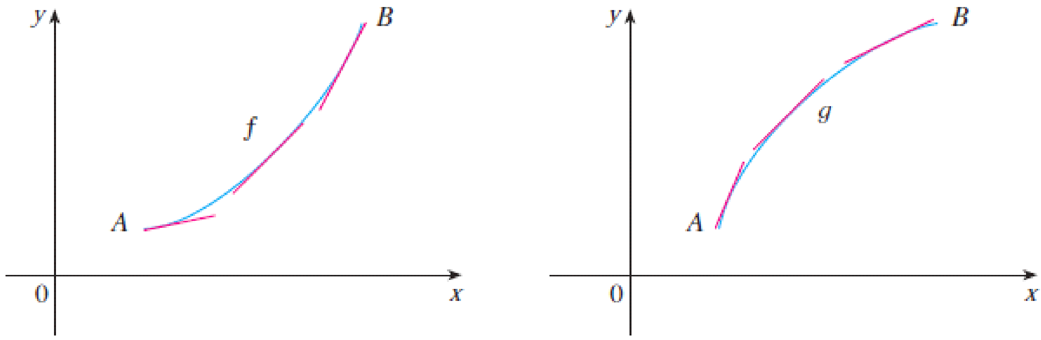

(a) Concave upward (b) Concave downward

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Definition If the graph of f lies above all of its tangents on an interval I, then it is called **concave upward** on I. If the graph of f lies below all of its tangents on I, it is called **concave downward** on I.

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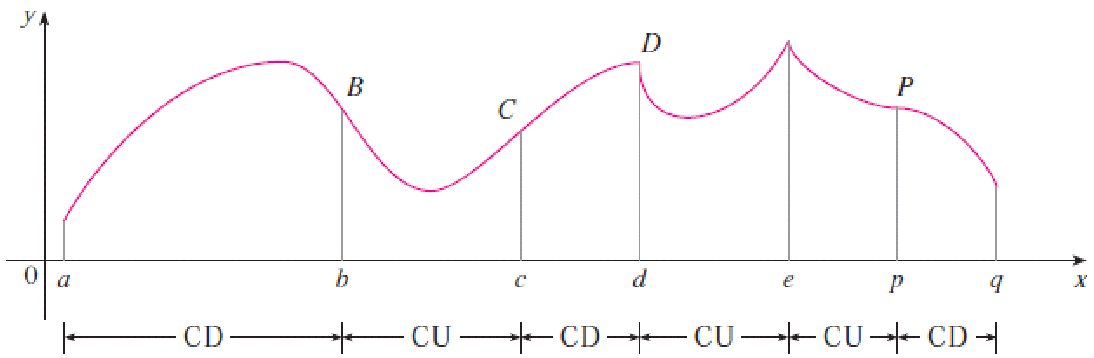

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Concavity Test

(a) If $f''(x) > 0$ for all x in I, then the graph of f is concave upward on I.

(b) If $f''(x) < 0$ for all x in I, then the graph of f is concave downward on I.

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Definition A point P on a curve $y = f(x)$ is called an **inflection point** if f is continuous there and the curve changes from concave upward to concave downward or from concave downward to concave upward at P.

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The Second Derivative Test Suppose f'' is continuous near c.

(a) If $f'(c) = 0$ and $f''(c) > 0$, then f has a local minimum at c.

(b) If $f'(c) = 0$ and $f''(c) < 0$, then f has a local maximum at c.

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V EXAMPLE 6 Discuss the curve $y = x^4 - 4x^3$ with respect to concavity, points of inflection, and local maxima and minima. Use this information to sketch the curve.

Note: No Sketching.

SOLUTION If $f(x) = x^4 - 4x^3$, then

$$f'(x) = 4x^3 - 12x^2 = 4x^2(x - 3)$$
$$f''(x) = 12x^2 - 24x = 12x(x - 2)$$

To find the critical numbers we set $f'(x) = 0$ and obtain $x = 0$ and $x = 3$. To use the Second Derivative Test we evaluate f'' at these critical numbers:

$$f''(0) = 0 \qquad f''(3) = 36 > 0$$

Since $f'(3) = 0$ and $f''(3) > 0$, $f(3) = -27$ is a local minimum. Since $f''(0) = 0$, the Second Derivative Test gives no information about the critical number 0. But since $f'(x) < 0$ for $x < 0$ and also for $0 < x < 3$, the First Derivative Test tells us that f does not have a local maximum or minimum at 0. [In fact, the expression for $f'(x)$ shows that f decreases to the left of 3 and increases to the right of 3.]

Since $f''(x) = 0$ when $x = 0$ or 2, we divide the real line into intervals with these numbers as endpoints and complete the following chart.

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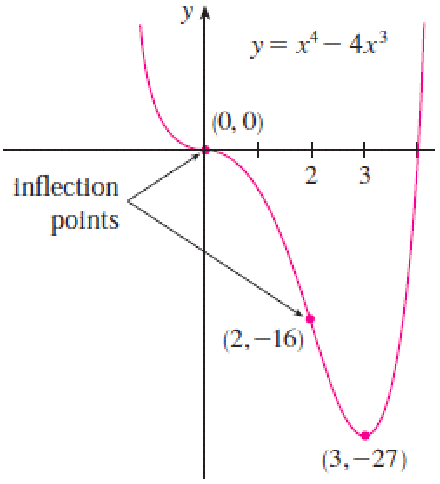
Interval	$f''(x) = 12x(x - 2)$	Concavity
$(-\infty, 0)$	$+$	upward
$(0, 2)$	$-$	downward
$(2, \infty)$	$+$	upward



EXAMPLE 7 Sketch the graph of the function $f(x) = x^{2/3}(6 - x)^{1/3}$.

Note: No Sketching.

SOLUTION Calculation of the first two derivatives gives

$$f'(x) = \frac{4 - x}{x^{1/3}(6 - x)^{2/3}} \qquad f''(x) = \frac{-8}{x^{4/3}(6 - x)^{5/3}}$$

Since $f'(x) = 0$ when $x = 4$ and $f'(x)$ does not exist when $x = 0$ or $x = 6$, the critical numbers are 0, 4, and 6.

Interval	$4 - x$	$x^{1/3}$	$(6 - x)^{2/3}$	$f'(x)$	f
$x < 0$	+	−	+	−	decreasing on $(-\infty, 0)$
$0 < x < 4$	+	+	+	+	increasing on $(0, 4)$
$4 < x < 6$	−	+	+	−	decreasing on $(4, 6)$
$x > 6$	−	+	+	−	decreasing on $(6, \infty)$