

Math 30, Tuesday 3/24/2020

noon class

The Closed Interval Method

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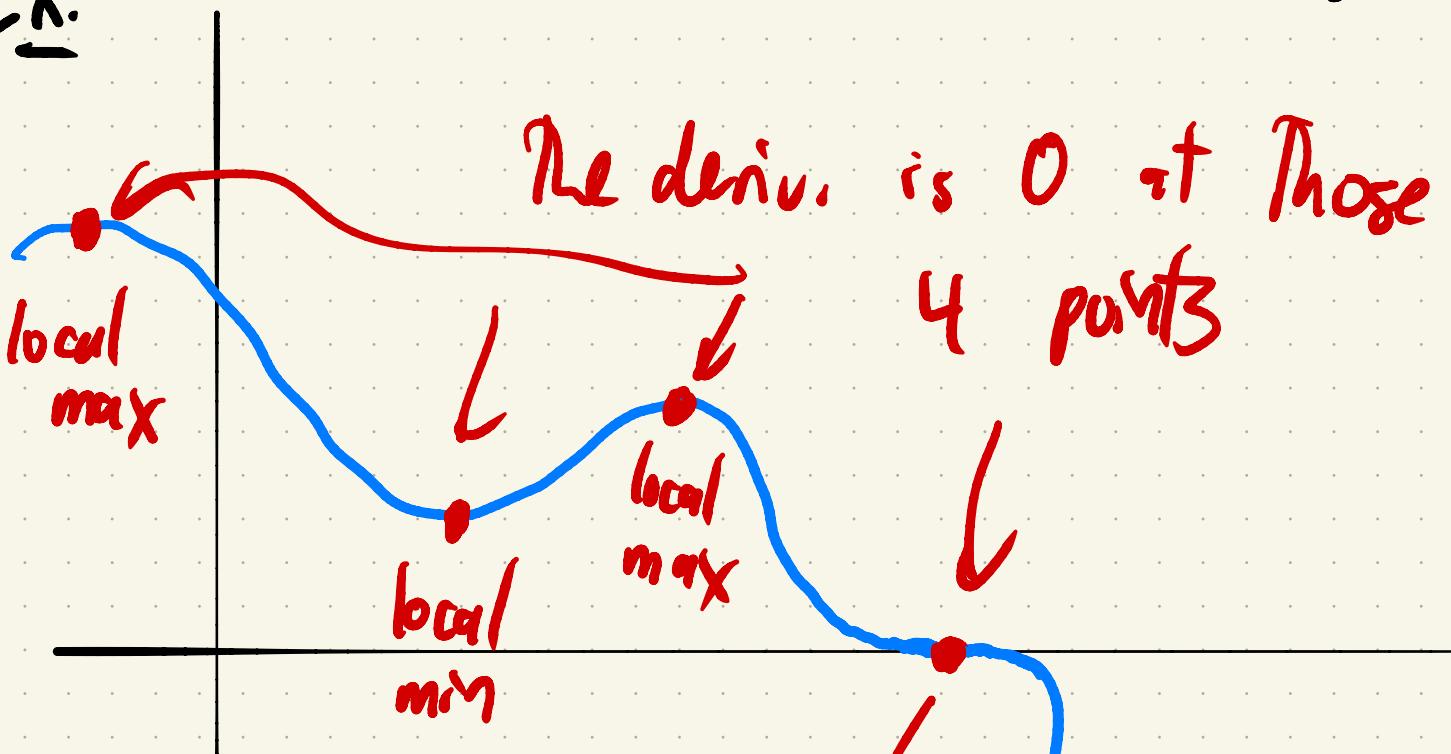


Last: Fermat's Theorem.

If you want local min & max,  
The candidates are the crit. pts

where  $f'(x) = 0$   
or doesn't exist.

Ex.



not a local min  
or a local max.  
"a failed candidate"

Today: Global min & max  
aka Absolute min & max

Now: look at critical points  
and boundary points  
→ includes boundary pts.

### The Closed Interval Method.

To find the global max & min of  $f$  on  $[a, b]$ :

- (1) Find the values of  $f$  at crit. pts
- (2) " " boundary pts  
 $a$  &  $b$
- (3) compare & find biggest & smallest values of  $f$ .

Ex. Find global max & min. of

$$f(x) = x^4 + 8x^3 + 3$$

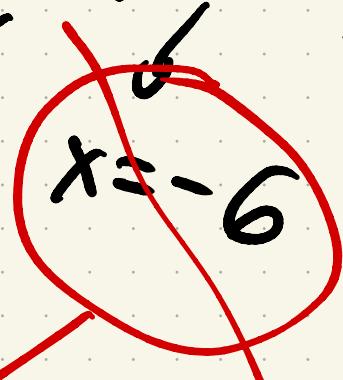
on  $[-1, 1]$ .

1. Find values of  $f$  at crit. pts.

where  $f' = 0$ . 

$$f'(x) = 4x^3 + 24x^2 = 4x^2(x + 6)$$

crit. pts are  $x = 0$  

$f(0) = 3$  value at  
crit. pt  $x = 0$  

technically no because

not in the interval  $[-1, 1]$ .

Ex. Find global max & min. of  
 $f(x) = x^4 + 8x^3 + 3$   
on  $[-1, 1]$ .

2. Now find values of  $f$  at the boundary points  $x=-1$  and  $x=1$ :

$$f(-1) = 1 - 8 + 3 = -4$$

$$f(1) = 1 + 8 + 3 = 12$$

3. Compare those values:

smallest  $\leftarrow f(-1) = -4$

$$f(0) = 3$$

biggest  $\leftarrow f(1) = 12$

These are the candidates for the global max & min.

global max:  $f(1) = 12$ , global min:  $f(-1) = -4$ .

I plotted using Wolfram Alpha:

## MATH 30, 3/24-25/2020: THE CLOSED INTERVAL METHOD

**Last time:** Critical points and Fermat's theorem. If you want to find local max and min, the candidates are the critical points (you can ignore all the other points).

**The Closed Interval Method.** To find the *global* max and min values of  $f$  on  $[a, b]$ :

- (1) Find the values of  $f$  at the critical points of  $f$  in  $(a, b)$ .
- (2) Find  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$ .
- (3) Compare all these values, and take the biggest and smallest values of  $f$ .

**Example.** Find the global max and min of the function  $f(x) = x^4 + 8x^3 + 3$  on the interval  $[-1, 1]$ .

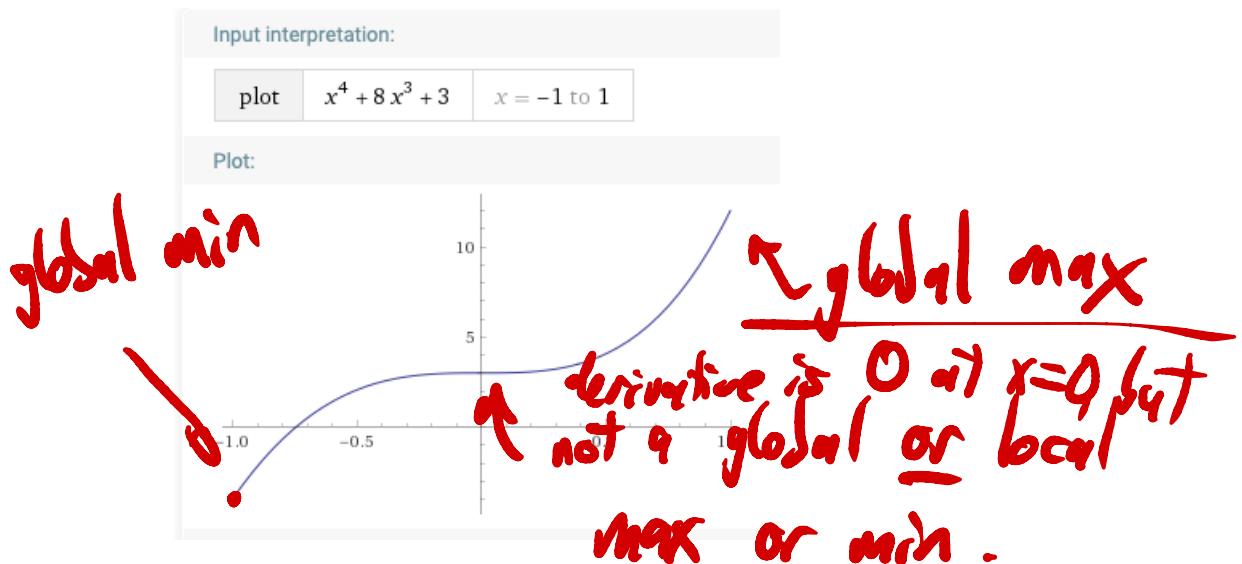
**Solution.** First, let's find the critical points:  $f'(x) = 4x^3 + 24x^2 = 4x^2(x + 6)$ . So the critical points are  $x = 0$  and ... **not**  $x = -6$  only because that point is not in the interval  $[-1, 1]$ .

Now compare the values of the function  $f$  at  $x = -1, 0, 1$ :

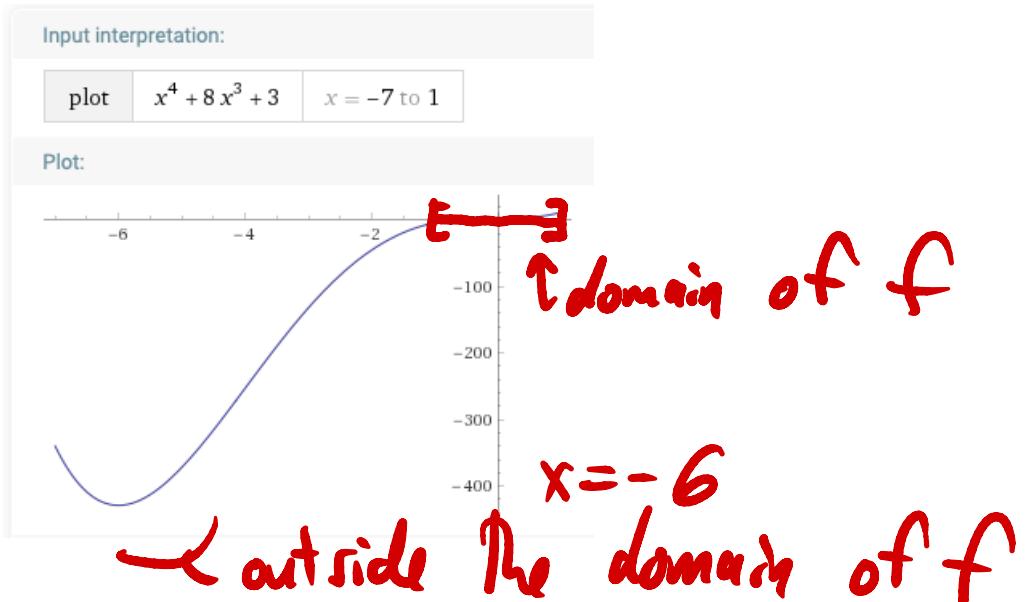
$$\begin{aligned} f(-1) &= -4 \\ f(0) &= 3 \\ f(1) &= 12. \end{aligned}$$

So we see that the global maximum is  $f(1) = 12$ , and the global minimum is  $f(-1) = -4$ .

For fun, let's look at the graph of the function on the given interval  $[-1, 1]$ :



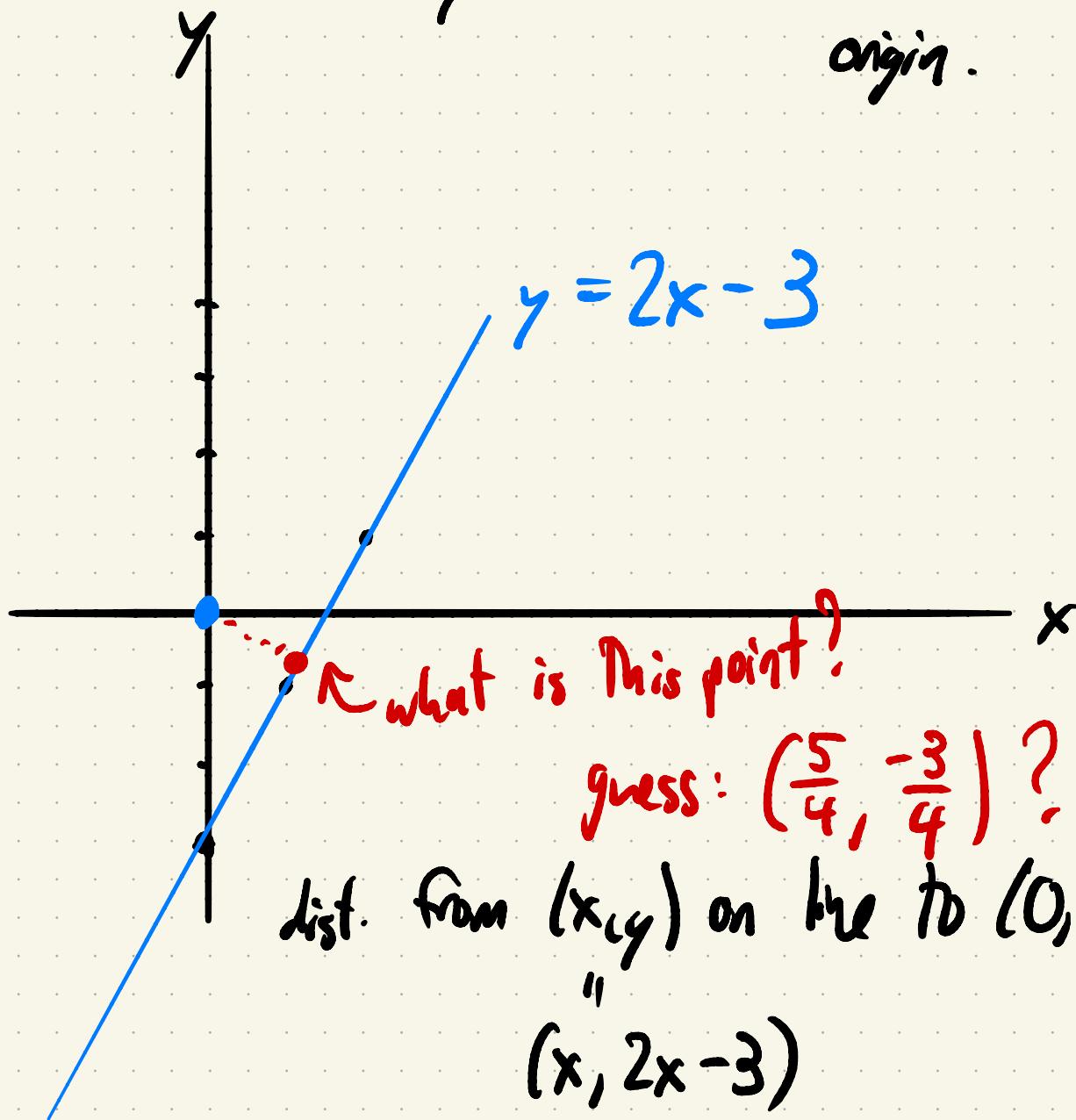
Also for fun (even though I wasn't asking about this), let's look at the graph on the interval  $[-7, 1]$ :



Now it's your turn! Here are some "optimization and pessimization" problems: (You will probably need scratch paper...)

1. Find the point on the line  $y = 2x - 3$  that is closest to the origin. Make a sketch.
  2. Prove that among all rectangles of a given perimeter (say they all have perimeter  $P$ ), the square has the largest area.
  3. Find the global max and min of the function  $f(x) = x^5 + x + 1$  on the interval  $[-1, 1]$ .
  4. Find the global max and min of the function  $f(x) = x^3 - x^2 - 8x + 1$  on the interval  $[-2, 2]$ .
  5. If  $1200 \text{ cm}^2$  of cardboard is available to make a box with a square base and an open top, find the largest possible volume of the box.

1. Pt. on line  $y = 2x - 3$  closest to the origin.



$$d = \sqrt{x^2 + (2x - 3)^2} \quad ) \text{ minimize } d,$$

Trick:

It's easier to minimize  $d^2$ :

$$f(x) = x^2 + (2x - 3)^2$$

✓ since  $x$  minimizes both!

$$y = 2x - 3$$

to minimize

$$f(x) = x^2 + (2x - 3)^2$$

find crit. pt's:  $f'(x) = 0$ .

$$f'(x) = 2x + 2(2x - 3) \cdot 2$$

chain rule!

$$= 2x + 8x - 12$$

$$= 10x - 12$$

This is zero when  $10x = 12$

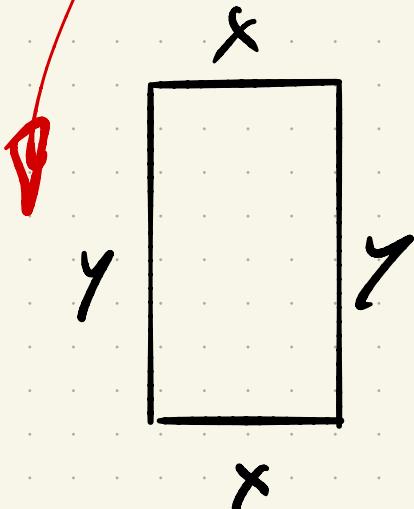
The only crit. pt.  $\rightarrow x = \frac{6}{5}$

So the y-value is

~~point on line closest to  $(0,0)$~~

$$y = 2\left(\frac{6}{5}\right) - 3 = \frac{12 - 15}{5} = -\frac{3}{5}$$
$$(x,y) = \left(\frac{6}{5}, -\frac{3}{5}\right)$$

2. ~~Show~~: among all rectangles w/ same perimeter  $P$ , The square has the largest area.



Perimeter is

$$P = 2x + 2y$$

Find when  $A = xy$  is biggest.

But  $y$  is related to  $x$

$$\therefore y = \frac{P-2x}{2}$$

So

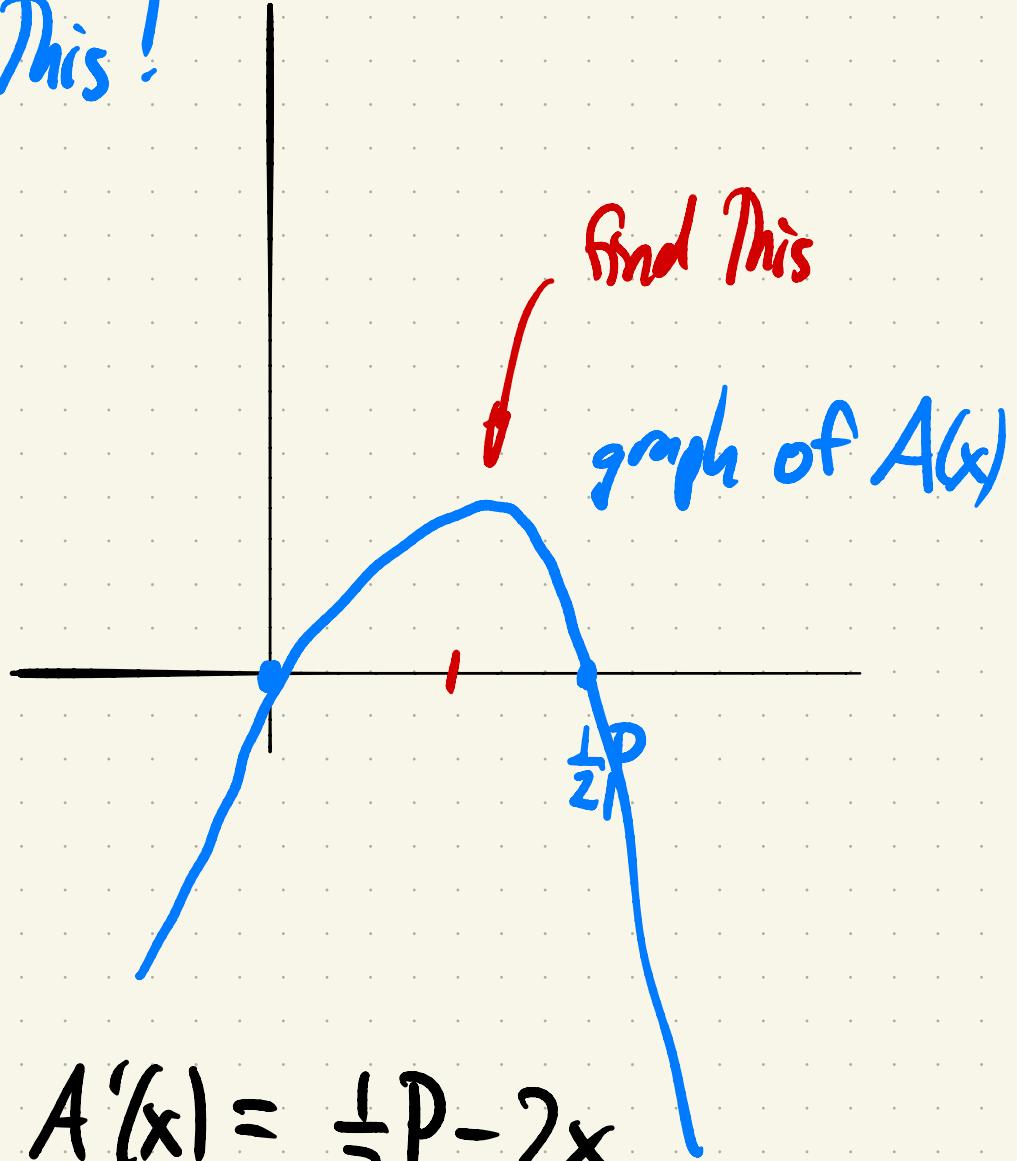
$$A(x) = x \left( \frac{P}{2} - x \right) = \frac{1}{2} Px - x^2$$

where is it biggest?

$$A(x) = x \left( \frac{P}{2} - x \right) = \frac{1}{2} Px - x^2$$

where is it biggest?

maximize this!



$$\text{Find crit. pt's: } A'(x) = \frac{1}{2}P - 2x$$

This is zero when  $x = \frac{1}{4}P$  <sup>Q</sup> <sub>space!</sub>

But remember  $P = 2x + 2y = \frac{1}{2}P + 2y$   
 So also  $y = \frac{1}{4}P$  So the max happens when  $x = y$

4. Global max & min of

$$f(x) = x^3 - x^2 - 8x + 1$$

on  $[-2, 2]$ .

Closed Int. Method:

1. Look at values of  $f$  at crit. pt's:

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 - 2x - 8$$

This is zero when (quad. formula):

$$x = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{4 - 4(3)(-8)}}{6}$$

$$= \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{4 + 96}}{6}$$

$$= \frac{2 \pm 10}{6} = \frac{-8}{6} \text{ and } 2$$

max & min of  
 $f(x) = x^3 - x^2 - 8x + 1$   
on  $[-2, 2]$ .

already  
on day

Crit. pt's:  $x = -\frac{4}{3}$  and  $x = 2$ .

also look at  $x = -2$  (boundary pt.)

3. Compare

$f(-\frac{4}{3})$ ,  $f(-2)$ ,  $f(2)$

see which is biggest &  
which is smallest.

The end -