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1. Find all relative extrema of  $f(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 - 24x + 2$  and the  $x$ -value where each occurs.

*Solution.* First,  $f'(x) = 3x^2 + 6x - 24 = 3(x^2 + 2x - 8) = 3(x + 4)(x - 2)$ . Thus,  $f'(x) = 0$  when  $x = -4$  or when  $x = 2$ . Notice that  $f'(x)$  is never undefined.

Charting  $f'(x)$ , we have  $f'(-5) = 3(-1)(-7) > 0$ ,  $f'(0) = -24 < 0$ , and  $f'(3) = 3(7)(1) > 0$ . Since there is a sign change of  $f'(x)$  at both  $x = -4$  and at  $x = 2$ , both of these  $x$ -values give relative extrema.

As  $f(-4) = (-4)^3 + 3(-4)^2 - 24(-4) + 2 = 82$ , we have a relative extrema of 82 at  $x = -4$ . As  $f(2) = (2)^3 + 3(2)^2 - 24(2) + 2 = -26$ , we have a relative extrema of -26 at  $x = 2$ .

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2. For the function  $f(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 + 3x + 4$ , find its inflection points, the open intervals where it is concave up, and the open intervals where it is concave down.

*Solution.* First,  $f'(x) = 3x^2 + 6x + 3$  and so  $f''(x) = 6x + 6$ . Thus,  $f''(x) = 0$  when  $x = -1$ .

Charting  $f''(x)$ , we have  $f''(-2) = 6(-2) + 6 < 0$  and  $f''(0) = 6 > 0$ , so  $f''(x)$  changes sign at  $x = -1$ . As  $f(-1) = -1 + 3 - 3 + 4 = 3$ , we have that  $(-1, 3)$  is an inflection point. Since  $f''(x)$  is negative on  $(-\infty, -1)$ , the graph is concave down on that interval. Since  $f''(x)$  is positive on  $(-1, +\infty)$ , the graph is concave up on that interval.