Vocabulary

Suppose $f(x)$ is a real-valued function with domain D and suppose c is a point in D.

1. $f(c)$ is an **absolute maximum value** for f if $f(c) \geq f(x)$ for each x in D.
2. $f(c)$ is a **(absolute) minimum value** for f if $f(c) \leq f(x)$ for each x in D.
3. $f(c)$ is a **local maximum value** for f if $f(c) \geq f(x)$ for each x in D *near* c.
4. $f(c)$ is a **local minimum value** for f if $f(c) \leq f(x)$ for each x in D *near* c.
5. We say c is a **critical point** for f if either $f'(c) = 0$ or $f'(c)$ does not exist.

Key Tools

1. [Fermat's Theorem] If $f(c)$ is a (local or absolute) maximum/minimum value, and if f is defined on both sides of c, and if $f'(c)$ exists, then $f'(c) = 0$.
2. [Extreme Value Theorem] If the domain of f is a closed, bounded interval, and if f is continuous, then f is guaranteed to have both a maximum and a minimum value.

1. Sketch the graph of a function with domain $[-3, 3]$ that has an absolute maximum of 5 at $x = -2$, an absolute minimum of 0 at $x = 2$ and a local minimum of 2 at $x = 0$ that is not an absolute minimum.

2. Give an example of a function with domain $(-1, 1)$ that does not attain either an absolute minimum or an absolute maximum value. Why doesn't your example violate the Extreme Value Theorem?

3. Sketch a discontinuous function with domain $[-1,1]$ that attains a minimum but does not attain a maximum value. Why doesn't your example violate the Extreme Value Theorem?

4. Give an example of a continuous function with domain $[0,\infty)$ that attains a minimum but does not attain a maximum value. Why doesn't your example violate the Extreme Value Theorem?

5. Consider the function $\sec(x)$. Sketch this function. From the sketch answer the following. Does this function have any absolute maximums? Absolute minimums? Local maximums? Local minimums?

6. Find all critical points of the function $f(x) = \sin(x)^{1/3}$.

7. Key Tool: Closed Interval Method

To find a maximum or minimum value for a continuous function defined on an closed, bounded interval $[a, b]$, look in all of the following locations:

1. The end points.
2. The critical points.

Find the absolute maximum and minimum values of $f(x) = x - x^{1/3}$ on the interval $[-1, 4]$, and the locations where those values are attained.

8. Find the absolute maximum and minimum values of $f(x) = e^{-x^2}$ on the interval $[-2, 3]$, and the locations where those values are attained.

9. Find the maximum and minimum values of $f(x) = x - x^{1/3}$ on the interval [-1,4]. Determine where those maximum and minimum values occur.

10. Find the maximum and minimum values of $f(x) = x + \dfrac{1}{x}$ on the interval [1/5,4]. Determine where those maximum and minimum values occur.

11. Find the maximum and minimum values of $f(x) = x^{2/3}$ on the interval [-8,8]. Determine where those maximum and minimum values occur.

12. A ball thrown in the air at time $t = 0$ has a height given by

$$h(t) = h_0 + v_0 t - \frac{1}{2} g_0 t^2$$

meters where t is measured in seconds, h_0 is the height at time 0, v_0 is the velocity (in meters per second) at time 0 and g_0 is the constant acceleration due to gravity (in m/s^2). Assuming $v_0 > 0$, find the time that the ball attains its maximum height. Then find the maximum hight.