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Course: MATH 100 (A01, A02, A03) Fall **Assignment:** Assignment 7
 2021

Identify the coordinates of any local and absolute extreme points and inflection points. Graph the function.

$$f(x) = \ln(11 - 2x^2)$$

Identify the domain and any symmetries the function may have. Since the natural log is only defined for nonnegative numbers. The domain, shown below, is all values that cause $11 - 2x^2$ to be greater than 0.

$$\left(-\sqrt{\frac{11}{2}}, \sqrt{\frac{11}{2}} \right)$$

A function that satisfies $f(x) = f(-x)$ is considered an even function, while a function that satisfies $f(-x) = -f(x)$ is considered odd. Even functions are symmetric about the y-axis and odd functions are radially symmetric about the origin. The function $f(x) = \ln(11 - 2x^2)$ is an even function.

Knowing now that the function exists over $\left(-\sqrt{\frac{11}{2}}, \sqrt{\frac{11}{2}} \right)$ and that it is symmetric about the y-axis will help in identifying the graph. Next find the critical points of $f(x) = \ln(11 - 2x^2)$.

The critical points exist where $f'(x) = 0$ or $f'(x)$ is undefined. Find $f'(x)$.

$$f(x) = \ln(11 - 2x^2)$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{4x}{2x^2 - 11}$$

Now set $f'(x) = \frac{4x}{2x^2 - 11}$ equal to 0 and solve for x. Note that $f'(x) = 0$ at $x = 0$.

Now solve for x when $f'(x)$ is undefined. Set the denominator equal to zero and solve for x.

$$2x^2 - 11 = 0$$

$$2x^2 = 11$$

$$x = \pm \sqrt{\frac{11}{2}}$$

Note that the values $x = \pm \sqrt{\frac{11}{2}}$ do not need to be considered because it was determined that $x = \pm \sqrt{\frac{11}{2}}$ are not in the domain of $f(x)$, $\left(-\sqrt{\frac{11}{2}}, \sqrt{\frac{11}{2}} \right)$.

The only critical value to consider is $x = 0$, which does lie in the domain of $f(x)$. To determine the nature of the critical point, apply the Second Derivative Test.

Find $f''(x)$.

$$f'(x) = \frac{4x}{2x^2 - 11}$$

$$f''(x) = \frac{-4(2x^2 + 11)}{(2x^2 - 11)^2}$$

Use $f''(x)$ to determine whether the critical point is a maximum or minimum. Maximums occur when $f''(x) < 0$ and minimums when $f''(x) > 0$. Is $f''(0)$ less than 0 because $f''(0) = -\frac{4}{11}$.

There is a maximum at $x = 0$ because $f''(0)$ is less than 0. Since this is the only critical point, the point at $x = 0$ is both a local maximum and an absolute maximum. The coordinates of this point are $(0, \ln 11)$.

Lastly, find the inflection points by finding x -values such that $f''(x)$ is equal to zero or undefined.

Set $f''(x) = \frac{-4(2x^2 + 11)}{(2x^2 - 11)^2}$ equal to 0 and solve for x . Note that there are no real x -values such that $f''(x) = 0$.

Use a similar process to find out where $f''(x) = \frac{-4(2x^2 + 11)}{(2x^2 - 11)^2}$ is undefined. Note that $f''(x)$ is undefined at $x = \pm \sqrt{\frac{11}{2}}$.

It was determined earlier that the values $x = \pm \sqrt{\frac{11}{2}}$ are not in the domain of $f(x)$. Therefore, there are no inflection points.

Using the information gathered in the previous steps to graph the function.

Note that the graph to the right exists between $\left(-\sqrt{\frac{11}{2}}, \sqrt{\frac{11}{2}}\right)$, is symmetric to the y -axis, and has a maximum at $(0, \ln 11)$.

