

# Homework 1 of Computational Mathematics

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1.  $f(x) = x^3 + 2x + k$ , then  $f'(x) = 3x^2 + 2 > 0$  for all  $x$ . Thus, we assume there are two points  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  s.t.  $f(a) = f(b) = 0$ . By Rolle's Theorem, there exists a point  $c$  in  $[a, b]$  (or  $[b, a]$ ) s.t.  $f'(c) = 0$  (Contradiction).

And since  $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$  and  $f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$  as  $x \rightarrow -\infty$ , by IVT, there exists at least one  $x$  s.t.  $f(x) = 0$ . Thus, the graph of  $f(x)$  crosses the  $x$ -axis exactly once whatever  $k$  is.

2. By EVT, we know that the maximum occurs either  $f'(x) = 0$  or  $a, b$ .

(a)  $f'(x) = \frac{1}{3}(2 - e^x) = 0$  when  $x = \ln(2)$ . And since  $f'(x) > 0$  when  $x \in (0, \ln(2))$  and  $f'(x) < 0$  when  $x \in (\ln(2), 1)$ ,  $f(\ln(2)) = \frac{1}{3}(2 - 2 + 2\ln 2) = \frac{2\ln(2)}{3}$  is the maximum.

(b)  $f'(x) = \frac{4x^2 - 8x - (4x - 3)(2x - 2)}{x^4 - 4x^3 + 4x^2} = \frac{-4x^2 + 6x - 8}{x^4 - 4x^3 + 4x^2} < 0$  for  $x \in [0.5, 1]$ . Thus,  
 $f(0.5) = \frac{2 - 3}{0.25 - 2} = \frac{4}{7}$ .

(c)  $f'(x) =$