

§ 4.2, ~~2.2~~

# 10/31 The Mean Value Theorem and its consequences

The IVT and EVT are important results about continuous  $f$ .  
The Mean Value Theorem is a 3<sup>rd</sup> important result for differentiable  $f$ .

Theorem (Mean Value Theorem) let  $f$  be defined on closed interval

$[a, b]$  such that:

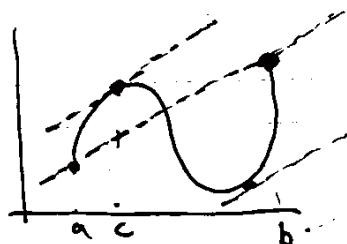
- $f$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$
- $f$  is differentiable on  $(a, b)$ .

Then there exists some  $c$  in  $(a, b)$  such that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}.$$

Notice that  $\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$  is the slope of the line from  $(a, f(a))$  to  $(b, f(b))$

E.g.

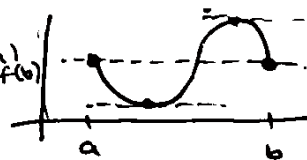


← the mean value theorem says there is some point  $c$  where the slope of the tangent is the same as the slope of the line connecting the end points

Since  $\frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$  is also the "average" (or "mean") rate of change of  $f$ .  
Then can also be thought of as saying somewhere instantaneous rate of change = average rate of change.

Pf idea: The case where  $f(a) = f(b)$  is called Rolle's thm

It says that if  $f$  looks like:  $f(a) = f(b)$  then it has a local max. or min. in  $(a, b)$ , which follows from EVT.



The more general case when  $f(a) \neq f(b)$  can be reduced to Rolle's theorem by "tilting your head".

See the book for the full proof. ...

The Mean Value Theorem has many consequences, including:

Thm If  $f'(x) = 0$  for all  $x$  in  $(a, b)$ , then  $f$  is constant on all of  $(a, b)$ .

Pf: Choose any points  $x_1 < x_2$  in  $(a, b)$ . Then by the MVT there is some  $c$  w.  $x_1 < c < x_2$  such that  $f(x_2) - f(x_1) = f'(c)(x_2 - x_1)$ . But by assumption  $f'(c) = 0$ , so  $f(x_2) = f(x_1)$ .  $\square$

Cor If  $f'(x) = g'(x)$  for all  $x$  in  $(a, b)$ , then  $f(x) = g(x) + c$  for some constant  $c \in \mathbb{R}$ , for all  $x \in (a, b)$ .

Pf: Apply previous theorem to  $f - g$ .  $\square$

What the derivative says about shape of graph § 4.3

We can now prove:

Thm. If  $f'(c) > 0$  on some interval, then  $f$  is increasing (on that interval).  
• If  $f'(c) < 0$  on some interval, then  $f$  is decreasing.

Pf: Very similar to proof of previous theorem, but now  $f'(c) > 0$  means  $f(x_2) > f(x_1)$  (increasing).  $\square$

E.g. This can help us draw graph of  $f$ .

Consider  $f(x) = x^3 - 3x$ , so  $f'(x) = 3(x^2 - 1) = 3(x+1)(x-1)$

We know critical points are  $x = -1$  and  $x = 1$ .

Choose points "intetween": e.g.  $x = 0 \Rightarrow f'(0) = 3(-1) = -3 < 0$

$x = -2 \Rightarrow f'(-2) = 3(4-1) = 9 > 0$

$x = 2 \Rightarrow f'(2) = 3(4-1) = 9 > 0$

$f'(x)$	+	0	-	0	+
		-1		1	

$\Rightarrow$  So from  $-\infty$  to  $-1$ ,  $f$  is increasing,

from  $-1$  to  $1$   $f$  is decreasing, from  $1$  to  $\infty$   $f$  is increasing.

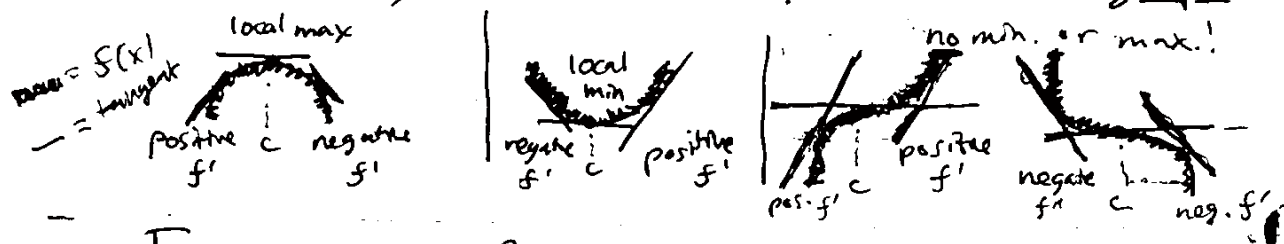
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The sign of  $f'(x)$  dictating increasing vs. decreasing also means we can use the derivative to identify local min. & max.:

Thm (First Derivative Test). Let  $c$  be a critical point of  $f$ . <sup>continuous fn.</sup>

- 1) If  $f'$  changes from negative to positive at  $c$ ,  $c$  is a local min.
- 2) If  $f'$  changes from positive to negative at  $c$ ,  $c$  is a local max.
- 3) If  $f'$  has same sign to the left and right of  $c$  (ie. both positive or both negative) then  $c$  is not a local min. or max.

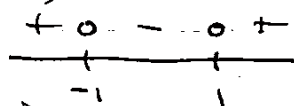
Can easily remember this if you think of the graph:



E.g. w/  $f(x) = x^3 - 3x$  as before, we found

sign chart of  $f'$  to be

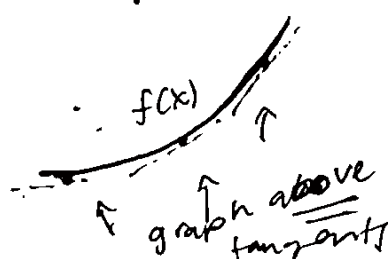
So  $-1$  is a local max, and  $1$  a local min



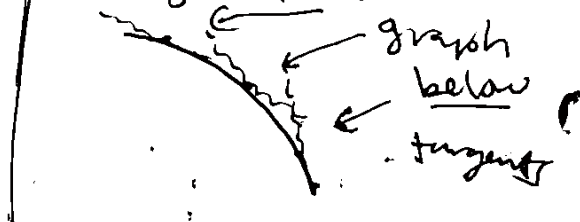
The second derivative  $f''$  also has important info about shape of graph of  $f$ .

Def'n If on some interval, the graph of  $f$  lies above all its tangents, then we say  $f$  is concave up on this interval. If on an interval, the graph of  $f$  lies below all its tangents, then  $f$  is concave down on this interval.

E.g. a concave up function:



a concave down function:

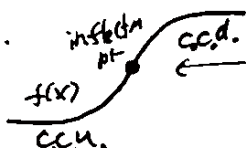


Thm If  $f''(x) > 0$  on an interval, then  $f$  is concave up there.

If  $f''(x) < 0$  on an interval, then  $f$  is concave down there.

Pf: See book. Similar to increasing/decreasing for  $f'$ . □

Def'n A point  $c$  where  $f$  switches from concave up to concave down, or vice-versa, is called an inflection point.

E.g.  this is an inflection point, it can tell you when process is changing from "exponential growth" to "leveling off"

Note: Can find inflection points by setting  $f''(x) = 0$   
(like with finding critical points by  $f'(x) = 0$ )


The second derivative can also help identify min.'s/max.'s:

Theorem (Second Derivative Test) Let  $c$  be a critical point of  $f$ .

• If  $f$  is concave up at  $c$ , then  $c$  is a local min.

• If  $f$  is concave down at  $c$ , then  $c$  is a local max.

E.g.  $f(x) = x^2 \Rightarrow$    $c = 0$  is a c.p.  
and  $f''(0) = 2 > 0$   
so c.c.u.  $\Rightarrow$  local min

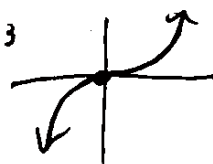
$f(x) = -x^2$    $c = 0$  is a c.p.  
and  $f''(0) = -2 < 0$   
so c.c.d.  $\Rightarrow$  local max.

These examples show why 2<sup>nd</sup> deriv. test is true too!

WARNING: If  $f''(c) = 0$  (so  $f$  is neither c.c.u. or c.c.d. at  $c$ )  
then 2<sup>nd</sup> deriv. test is inconclusive, so

could be min  
or max  
or neither:

E.g.  $f(x) = x^3$



at  $c = 0$  c.p.  
have  $f''(c) = 0$ ,  
and  $0$  is  
neither local min.  
nor local max.

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## Summary of curve sketching §4.5

Now that we have the tools of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> derivatives, we can give very reasonable sketches of graphs of most  $f$ .

Let us summarize the main things to depict in a sketch of  $f(x)$ :

A Domain - where is  $f(x)$  defined?

B Intercepts - where does graph cross  $x$ - and  $y$ -axes?  
i.e., where is  $f(x)=0$  and what is  $f(0)$ ?

C Symmetry - Is  $f(x)$  even or odd?  
and Periodicity Is it periodic (like  $\sin/\cos$ )?

D Asymptotes - Does  $f(x)$  have vertical or horizontal asymptotes?  
where? (Remember: limits at  $\infty$  or  $-\infty$ )

E Increasing/Decreasing - Where is  $f(x)$  increasing or decreasing?  
To figure this out, we look at  $f'(x)$ , where it is  $> 0$  and  $< 0$ .

F (Local) Minima/Maxima - where are the minima/maxima of  $f(x)$ ? What are the values there?  
Use critical points ( $f'(x)=0$ ) to find.

G - Concavity and points of inflection - where is the graph of  $f(x)$  concave up or down? where are the inflection points?  
Use second derivative  $f''(x)$  for these.

E.g. Let's use these guidelines to sketch graph of

$$f(x) = \frac{2x^2}{x^2 - 1}$$

A Domain:  $f(x)$  not defined when  $x^2 - 1 = 0$ ,  
i.e. at  $x = \pm 1$ .

B Intercepts:  $f(0) = 0$ , and this is only point on  $x$  or  $y$ -axes.

C Symmetry: This is an even function since  $f(-x) = f(x)$   
(= symmetric over  $y$ -axis)

D Asymptotes:  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2x^2}{(x^2-1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \frac{2x^2}{(x^2-1)} = \underline{\underline{2}}$   
So horizontal asymptote at  $y=2$ .

Also, vertical asymptotes at  $x=1$  and  $x=-1$   
(since denominator goes to 0 there).

E Increasing/Decreasing:  $f'(x) = \frac{(x^2-1) \cdot 4x - 2x^2 \cdot 2x}{(x^2-1)^2}$  by quot. rule  
 $= -\frac{4x}{(x^2-1)^2}$

This is  $< 0$  for  $x > 0$  and  $> 0$  for  $x < 0$  so...  
 $f$  decreasing when  $x > 0$  and  $f$  increasing when  $x < 0$

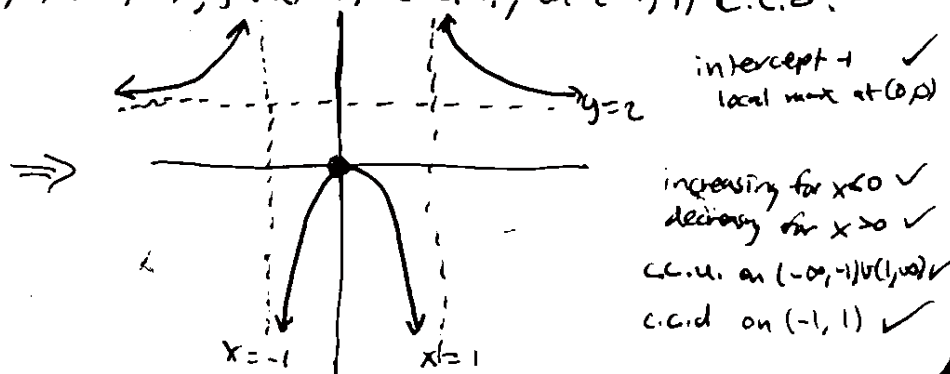
F Min./max.: critical points are only 0 (where  $f'(x)=0$ )  
and have  $f(0)=0$ . It is a local max  
by 1st deriv. test (we go from increasing to decreasing at  $x=0$ )

G - Concavity/points of inflection:  $f''(x) = \frac{(x^2-1)^2 \cdot (-4) - (-4x)(2(x^2-1) \cdot 2x)}{(x^2-1)^4}$   
 $= \frac{12x^2+4}{(x^2-1)^3}$  (by quot. rule)

Since  $12x^2+4 > 0$  for all  $x$ , no points of inflection,  
and  $f''(x) > 0$  exactly when  $(x^2-1)^3 > 0$ , which is  
when  $|x| > 1$ , i.e.  $x > 1$  or  $x < -1$

So on  $(-\infty, -1) \cup (1, \infty)$ ,  $f(x)$  is c.c.u., on  $(-1, 1)$  c.c.d.

Altogether  
this gives  
us the  
Sketch;



## 11/7 L'Hôpital's Rule § 4.4

Recall that the derivative was defined as a limit. Surprisingly, the derivative can also help us compute certain limits.

The kinds of limits the derivative helps with are those in "indeterminate form", which basically means  $\frac{0}{0}$  or  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ .

Def'n A limit  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  is said to be of indeterminate form of type  $\frac{0}{0}$  if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = 0 = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x)$ .

E.g.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\ln(x)}{x-1}$  is indeterminate of type  $\frac{0}{0}$  since  $\ln(1) = 0$  and  $1-1 = 0$ .

This is a limit we cannot evaluate just by "plugging in".

Def'n A limit  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  is indeterminate of type  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$

if  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = \pm\infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} g(x) = \pm\infty$

E.g.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{x-1}$  is indeterminate of type  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$  since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \ln(x) = \infty$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x-1 = \infty$

Theorem (L'Hôpital's Rule) If  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$  is indeterminate of type  $\frac{0}{0}$  or  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$  then  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow a} \frac{f'(x)}{g'(x)}$

Note: Here we also allow  $a = \pm\infty$  (limits at infinity)

or one sided limits like  $\lim_{x \rightarrow a^+} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ , etc.

E.g. Since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\ln(x)}{x-1}$  is indeterminate of type  $\frac{0}{0}$ ,  
we can apply L'Hôpital's rule to compute:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{\ln(x)}{x-1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{d/dx(\ln(x))}{d/dx(x-1)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1/x}{1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 1} \frac{1}{x} = \underline{\underline{1}}.$$

E.g. Since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{x-1}$  is indeterminate of type  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$ ,  
we can apply L'Hôpital:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(x)}{x-1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/x}{1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} = \underline{\underline{0}}.$$

WARNING! L'Hôpital's rule does not work if the  
limit is not of indeterminate form:

E.g. If we tried to apply L'Hôpital to  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2}{x+1}$

$$\text{we would write } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2}{x+1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{2x}{1} = 0$$

but this is wrong since we can just plug in 0 to

$$\text{see that } \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x^2}{x+1} = \frac{0^2}{0+1} = \frac{0}{1} = \underline{\underline{1}}.$$

E.g. Sometimes limits look like " $0 \cdot \infty$ ." These are really  
indeterminate of type  $\frac{0}{0}$  or  $\frac{\infty}{\infty}$  "in disguise"

If we look at  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \cdot e^{-x}$  we have  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x = \infty$   
and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} e^{-x} = 0$

We can re-write  $e^{-x}$  as  $\frac{1}{e^x}$  to then use L'Hôpital:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x}{e^x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d/dx(x)}{d/dx(e^x)} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{e^x} = \underline{\underline{0}}.$$