

Proof: Since  $f$  is continuous on a closed interval  $[a, b]$ ,  $f$  attains its minimum on it, so  $f$  has at least one local minimum. Then we would like to show that  $f$  cannot have finitely many local minimums: suppose  $\{f(x_1), f(x_2), f(x_3), \dots, f(x_n)\}$  are all of  $f$ 's local minimums, and  $n \geq 2$ . Between two adjacent points  $f(x_i), f(x_{i+1})$ , since  $f$  is continuous,  $f$  attains a maximum, denoted by  $f(y_i)$ , on  $[x_i, x_{i+1}]$ . Furthermore,  $f(y) > \max \{f(x_i), f(x_{i+1})\}$ . It follows that

$$\frac{f(x_i) - f(y)}{x_i - y} > 0 > \frac{f(x_{i+1}) - f(y)}{x_{i+1} - y}$$

So  $f$  is not convex, leading to a contradiction. Third we need to show that  $f$  can have

infinitely many local minimums: the example is  $f: [-2, 2], f(x) = \begin{cases} -x, & -2 \leq x < -1 \\ 1, & -1 \leq x \leq 1 \\ x, & 1 < x \leq 2 \end{cases}$ .

Proof: If  $f(0) = f(1) = \dots = f(n-1)$ , then  $f(i) = 1, i \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n\}$ . This means for any interval  $[i, i+1], i \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$ , there is some  $c_i \in (i, i+1)$  with  $f'(c_i) = 0$ . If “ $f(i)$ ”s are not all equal, then there is some  $f(i) > 1$  and some  $f(j) < 1$ . Without losing generality we assume that  $i < j$ . By Mean Value Theorem of continuous function, there is some point  $x \in (i, j)$  such that  $f(x) = 1$ . Thus, on the interval  $(x, n)$ , there is some  $c \in (x, n)$  such that  $f'(c) = 0$ .

Proof:  $f(0) \geq g(0)$  is trivially true. When  $x > 0$ , construct a function  $T: [0, +\infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $T(x) = f(x) - g(x)$ . Since both  $f$  and  $g$  are differentiable, we know that  $T$  is differentiable. Given  $x > 0$ , by the Mean value Theorem, there is some  $y \in (0, x)$  such that  $T'(y) = \frac{T(x) - T(0)}{x - 0}$ . Since  $T(0) = 0$  and  $T'(y) = f'(y) - g'(y) \geq 0$ ,  $\frac{T(x)}{x} \geq 0$ . But this means  $T(x) \geq 0$ , or  $f(x) \geq g(x)$ .

Proof: Let the two points where  $f$  attains zero be  $a$  and  $b$ , namely,  $f(a) = f(b) = 0$ . Let  $I = (a, b)$ ,  $\bar{I} = [a, b]$ . Suppose the maximum of  $f$  on  $\bar{I}$ , denoted by  $f(x_0)$  is strictly greater than zero. Then  $x_0 \in I$  and  $f'(x_0) = 0$ . Since  $f(x_0) > 0$ ,  $f''(x_0) = -f'(x_0)g(x_0) + f(x_0) = f(x_0) > 0$ . But this means there exists some  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that on the neighborhood  $(x_0 - \varepsilon, x_0 + \varepsilon)$ ,  $f(x_0)$  is a strict local minimum. It follows that  $f(x_0)$  is not the maximum point of  $f$ , leading to a contradiction. Suppose the maximum of  $f$  on  $\bar{I}$ , denoted by  $f(x_0)$  is strictly smaller than zero. A similar proof shows that this assumption fails. So  $\max_{x \in \bar{I}} f(x) = \min_{x \in \bar{I}} f(x) = 0$ . It follows that  $f$  is 0 on the interval between  $f(a)$  and  $f(b)$ .