

Work out **ALL** questions below. Provide sufficient justification to every step of your arguments.

Write your solutions as well as your ID number clearly on A4-sized paper and submit them to *Instructor's office* **before 4pm (GMT +8) on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.**

Recommended time limit: 150 minutes.

1. Let  $a$  and  $b$  be two real numbers and

$$f(x) := \begin{cases} \frac{e^{-x^{-2}} - a}{x} & \text{for } x \neq 0, \\ b & \text{for } x = 0. \end{cases}$$

- (a) (8 points) If  $f$  is continuous everywhere on  $\mathbb{R}$ , what are the values of  $a$  and  $b$ ?  
 (b) (8 points) If  $f$  is continuous everywhere on  $\mathbb{R}$ , determine whether  $f'(0)$  and  $f''(0)$  exist. Find their values if they do.

**Solution.**

- (a) If  $f$  is continuous on  $\mathbb{R}$ , it is continuous at 0 in particular, and we have

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = b. \quad (1 \text{ point})$$

Since the limit of  $f(x)$  exists when  $x \rightarrow 0$ , we must have

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} (e^{-x^{-2}} - a) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} x f(x) = 0. \quad (1 \text{ point})$$

Notice that, under the transformation  $t := x^{-2}$ ,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} e^{-x^{-2}} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-t} = 0. \quad (2 \text{ points})$$

It follows that  $a = 0$ . (1 point)

Moreover, using l'Hospital's rule, it can be seen that

$$b = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^{-x^{-2}}}{x} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sqrt{t}}{e^t} \stackrel{\text{l'H.R.}}{=} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{t} e^t} = 0.$$

(correct use of l'Hospital's rule: 2 points)

(value of  $b$ : 1 point)

(Note that the transformation  $t := x^{-2}$  instead of  $t := x^{-1}$  is used here in order to avoid the need to consider separately the sided limits  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+}$  and  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-}$ .)

- (b) As  $f$  is continuous in particular at 0, we have  $a = b = 0$  as found in previous question. From the definition of derivatives, it follows that

$$f'(0) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^{-x^{-2}}}{x^2} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t}{e^t} \stackrel{\text{l'H.R.}}{=} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{e^t} = 0.$$

This shows that  $f'(0)$  exists.

(definition of derivative: 1 point)

(correct use of l'Hospital's rule: 2 points)

(value of  $f'(0)$ : 1 point)

Note also that

$$f'(x) = \frac{2-x^2}{x^4} e^{-x^{-2}} \quad \text{for } x \neq 0. \quad (1 \text{ point})$$

We then have

$$\begin{aligned} f''(0) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f'(x) - f'(0)}{x - 0} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(2-x^2)e^{-x^{-2}}}{x^5} \stackrel{(*)}{=} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left(2 - \frac{1}{t}\right) \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{t^{\frac{5}{2}}}{e^t} \\ &\stackrel{\text{l'H.R.}}{=} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5t^{\frac{3}{2}}}{2e^t} \stackrel{\text{l'H.R.}}{=} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3t^{\frac{1}{2}}}{2e^t} \stackrel{\text{l'H.R.}}{=} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2t^{\frac{1}{2}}e^t} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

((\*): the equality holds after knowing that both limits on the right-hand-side exist.)

Therefore,  $f''(0)$  also exists.

(correct use of l'Hospital's rule: 2 points)

(value of  $f''(0)$ : 1 point)

2. (a) (6 points) Let  $f(x) = \frac{x(x-1)(x-2)\cdots(x-n)}{(x+1)(x+2)\cdots(x+n)}$ . Find  $f'(0)$ .
- (b) (8 points) Suppose that the function  $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  satisfies  $f(x+y) = f(x)f(y)$  for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$ . If  $k := f'(0)$ , show that  $f'(x) = kf(x)$ .  
(Hint: you may have to consider the cases  $f(0) = 0$  and  $f(0) \neq 0$  separately.)

**Solution.**

- (a) Note that  $f(0) = 0$ .

(1 point)

By the definition of derivatives, we have

$$\begin{aligned} f'(0) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x)}{x} && \text{(definition: 2 points)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{x} \cdot \frac{x(x-1)(x-2)\cdots(x-n)}{(x+1)(x+2)\cdots(x+n)} \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(x-1)(x-2)\cdots(x-n)}{(x+1)(x+2)\cdots(x+n)} && \text{(computations: 2 points)} \\ &= \frac{(-1)(-2)\cdots(-n)}{(1)(2)\cdots(n)} \\ &= (-1)^n. && \text{(answer: 1 point)} \end{aligned}$$

- (b) **[Method 1]** If  $f(0) = 0$ , then  $f(x) = f(x+0) = f(x)f(0) = 0$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ . Therefore,  $f$  is the constant function which is constantly equal to 0, and thus the equality  $f'(x) = kf(x)$  holds trivially in this case. (2 points)

If  $f(0) \neq 0$ , we have

$$f(0) = f(0+0) = f(0)f(0) \Rightarrow f(0) = 1. \quad (1 \text{ point})$$

Therefore, from the definition of derivatives, we have

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{(x+h) - x} \quad \text{(definition: 2 points)}$$

Cont.

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x)f(h) - f(x)}{h} \\
&= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x)(f(h) - 1)}{h} && \text{(derivation: 3 points)} \\
&= f(x) \cdot \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{(f(h) - f(0))}{h - 0} = f(x)f'(0) = kf(x) .
\end{aligned}$$

**[Method 2]** (Assume that  $f$  is differentiable.) Treating  $x$  as a constant and differentiating the equation  $f(x+y) = f(x)f(y)$  with respect to  $y$  yield (strategy: 5 points)

$$f'(x+y) = f'(x+y) \cdot \frac{d(x+y)}{dy} = f(x)f'(y) .$$

Substituting  $y = 0$  then gives

$$f'(x) = f(x)f'(0) = kf(x) .$$

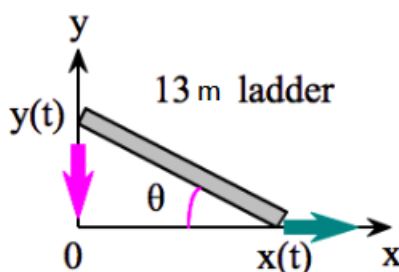
This holds true no matter whether  $f(0) = 0$  or not. (computation: 3 points)

3. (8 points) Find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  if  $\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) = \ln\left(\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}\right)$  .

**Solution.** Differentiating both sides of the equality with respect to  $x$  gives

$$\begin{aligned}
&\frac{1}{1 + \left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^2} \frac{y'x - y}{x^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \left( \frac{2x + 2yy'}{2\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \right) && (5 \text{ points}) \\
\Rightarrow &\frac{y'x - y}{x^2 + y^2} = \frac{x + yy'}{x^2 + y^2} \\
\Rightarrow &y'x - y = x + yy' \quad (\text{since } x^2 + y^2 > 0) && \text{(derivation: 2 points)} \\
\Rightarrow &\frac{dy}{dx} = y' = \frac{x + y}{x - y} . && \text{(answer: 1 point)}
\end{aligned}$$

4. (12 points) A ladder 13 metres long is leaning against a wall when its base starts to slide away. By the time the base is 12 metres from the wall, the base is moving at the rate of 0.5 m/s. At what rate is the area of the triangle formed by the ladder, the wall and the ground changing at that moment?



**Solution.** The area of the triangle in question is given by

$$A(t) = \frac{1}{2}x(t)y(t) . \quad \text{(relation between } A, x \text{ and } y: 2 \text{ points)}$$

Cont.

At the moment  $t = t_0$  when  $x(t_0) = 12$  (m), we have  $\left. \frac{dx}{dt} \right|_{t=t_0} = \frac{1}{2}$  (m/s). To find  $\left. \frac{dA}{dt} \right|_{t=t_0}$ , we first differentiate  $A(t)$  with respect to  $t$  to obtain

$$A'(t) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{dx}{dt} y + x \frac{dy}{dt} \right). \quad (3 \text{ points})$$

To find  $y(t_0)$  and  $\left. \frac{dy}{dt} \right|_{t=t_0}$ , we notice the relation  $x^2 + y^2 = 13^2$  as the triangle in question is a right-angled triangle. (relation between  $x$  and  $y$ : 2 points)

Therefore, we obtain

$$y(t_0) = \sqrt{13^2 - (x(t_0))^2} = \sqrt{13^2 - 12^2} = 5 \text{ (m)}. \quad (1 \text{ point})$$

By differentiating the equation  $x^2 + y^2 = 13^2$ , we also obtain

$$2x \frac{dx}{dt} + 2y \frac{dy}{dt} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \left. \frac{dy}{dt} \right|_{t=t_0} = \left( -\frac{x}{y} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} \right) \Big|_{t=t_0} = -\frac{12}{5} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = -\frac{6}{5} \text{ (m/s)}. \quad (3 \text{ points})$$

Therefore, substituting these values back into  $A'(t_0)$ , we get

$$A'(t_0) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{dx}{dt} y + x \frac{dy}{dt} \right) \Big|_{t=t_0} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{2} \cdot 5 - 12 \cdot \frac{6}{5} \right) = -\frac{119}{20} = -5.95 \text{ (m}^2\text{/s)}. \quad (1 \text{ point})$$

That is, the area is shrinking at the rate of 5.95 m<sup>2</sup>/s at that moment.

5. (a) (10 points) Evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (\sin((x+2)^{\frac{3}{4}}) - \sin(x^{\frac{3}{4}}))$  using the Mean Value Theorem.

(b) (6 points) Applying the Mean Value Theorem to show that  $\frac{1}{1+x} < \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} < 1$  for  $x > 0$ .

**Solution.**

(a) Let  $f(z) := \sin(z^{\frac{3}{4}})$ , then  $f'(z) = \cos(z^{\frac{3}{4}}) \cdot \frac{3}{4} \cdot z^{-\frac{1}{4}}$ . (2 points)

As  $f$  is differentiable (and thus continuous) on  $(0, \infty)$ , the Mean Value Theorem can be applied to assure that, for every  $x > 0$ , there is a number  $c \in (x, x+2)$  such that

$$\sin((x+2)^{\frac{3}{4}}) - \sin(x^{\frac{3}{4}}) = \frac{3}{4c^{\frac{1}{4}}} \cos(c^{\frac{3}{4}}) \cdot (x+2-x) = \frac{3}{2c^{\frac{1}{4}}} \cos(c^{\frac{3}{4}}). \quad (2 \text{ points})$$

When  $x \rightarrow \infty$ , we have  $c \rightarrow \infty$  (by the Squeeze Theorem). (2 points)

Note also that

$$0 \leq \left| \frac{3}{2c^{\frac{1}{4}}} \cos(c^{\frac{3}{4}}) \right| \leq \frac{3}{2c^{\frac{1}{4}}}. \quad (1 \text{ point})$$

Since  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{c^{\frac{1}{4}}} = 0$ , the Squeeze Theorem yields  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{3}{2c^{\frac{1}{4}}} \cos(c^{\frac{3}{4}}) \right| = 0$ . (2 points)

Therefore,  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{3}{2c^{\frac{1}{4}}} \cos(c^{\frac{3}{4}}) = 0$ , i.e.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (\sin((x+2)^{\frac{3}{4}}) - \sin(x^{\frac{3}{4}})) = 0$ . (1 point)

Cont.

- (b) We know that  $\ln(1+x)$  is continuous at every  $x \in [0, \infty)$  and differentiable at every  $x \in (0, \infty)$ . (1 point)

The Mean Value Theorem can then be applied to assure that, for every  $x > 0$ , there exists a constant  $c \in (0, x)$  such that

$$\frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} = \frac{\ln(1+x) - \ln(1)}{x} = \frac{1}{1+c} < 1.$$

(Mean Value Thm. + inequality: 3+1 points)

Moreover, we have

$$\frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} = \frac{1}{1+c} > \frac{1}{1+x}.$$
 (1 point)

The required inequalities are thus proved.

6. Determine if the following limits exist or not. Evaluate them if they do.

(a) (5 points)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin^{-1} x}{x}$

(b) (8 points)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\sin^{-1} x}{x} \right)^{\frac{1}{x^2}}$

(Hint: avoid differentiating quotients whenever you want to apply l'Hospital's rule.)

(c) (8 points)  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \left( \left( 1 + \frac{1}{x} \right)^x - e \right)$

**Solution.**

- (a) Put  $y := \sin^{-1} x$ , then we have  $x = \sin y$  and thus  $y \rightarrow 0$  when  $x \rightarrow 0$ . (1 point)

It therefore follows that

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin^{-1} x}{x} = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{y}{\sin y} = \frac{1}{\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin y}{y}} = 1. \quad (\text{derivation} + \text{answer: } 3+1 \text{ points})$$

- (b) Put  $y := \sin^{-1} x$ , then we have  $x = \sin y$  and thus  $y \rightarrow 0$  when  $x \rightarrow 0$ . Notice that  $\frac{\sin^{-1} x}{x} = \frac{y}{\sin y}$  is positive when  $x$  (hence  $y$ ) is close to 0. Substituting  $x$  by  $\sin y$  and taking logarithm of the expression in the limit, we are led to consider the limit

$$\lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln \frac{y}{\sin y}}{\sin^2 y} = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln |y| - \ln |\sin y|}{\sin^2 y} = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \underbrace{\frac{y^2}{\sin^2 y}}_{=1} \cdot \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\ln |y| - \ln |\sin y|}{y^2}$$

$$\stackrel{\text{l'H.R.}}{=} \lim_{\left(\frac{0}{0}\right)} \frac{\frac{1}{y} - \frac{\cos y}{\sin y}}{2y} = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \underbrace{\frac{y}{\sin y}}_{=1} \cdot \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin y - y \cos y}{2y^3}$$

$$\stackrel{\text{l'H.R.}}{=} \lim_{\left(\frac{0}{0}\right)} \frac{\cos y - \cos y + y \sin y}{6y^2} = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin y}{6y} = \frac{1}{6}.$$

As a result,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{\sin^{-1} x}{x} \right)^{\frac{1}{x^2}} = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} e^{\frac{1}{\sin^2 y} \ln \frac{y}{\sin y}} = e^{\frac{1}{6}}.$$

(correct use of l'Hospital's rule: 4 points)

(derivation + answer: 3+1 points)

Cont.

(c) It is known that

$$e = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} (1 + y)^{\frac{1}{y}}, \quad (2 \text{ points})$$

so l'Hospital's rule can be applied to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \left( \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x - e \right) &= \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{(1 + y)^{\frac{1}{y}} - e}{y} \\ &\stackrel{\text{l'H.R.}}{=} \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} (1 + y)^{\frac{1}{y}} \underbrace{\left( \frac{1}{y(1 + y)} - \frac{\ln(1 + y)}{y^2} \right)}_{= \frac{1}{y} - \frac{1}{1+y}} \\ &= \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \underbrace{(1 + y)^{\frac{1}{y}}}_{= e} \left( \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{y - \ln(1 + y)}{y^2} - \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{(1 + y)} \right) \\ &\stackrel{\text{l'H.R.}}{=} \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} e \left( \frac{1 - \frac{1}{1+y}}{2y} - 1 \right) \\ &= e \left( \lim_{y \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{2(1 + y)} - 1 \right) = -\frac{e}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

(correct use of l'Hospital's rule: 3 points)

(computation + answer: 2+1 points)

7. Let

$$f(x) := \frac{\sqrt{|x|}(x - 2)}{\sqrt{x + 1}}.$$

- (1 point) What is the domain of  $f$ ?
- (3 points) Find all vertical asymptotes of the graph of  $f$ .
- (6 points) Evaluate  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (f(x) - x)$ . Thus find all slant asymptotes of the graph of  $f$ .
- (6 points) Find all critical points of  $f$  (in its domain). Identify also the intervals on which  $f$  is increasing or decreasing.
- (6 points) Identify all the intervals on which the graph of  $f$  is concave upward or downward. Is there any inflection point?
- (4 points) Sketch the graph of  $f$  using the results above. Label all local extrema and inflection points with their coordinates.

**Solution.**

- The denominator  $\sqrt{x + 1}$  of  $f(x)$  is well-defined only when  $x + 1 \geq 0$ , so  $f(x)$  is well-defined only when  $x + 1 > 0$ . Therefore, the domain of  $f$  is  $(-1, \infty)$ . (1 point)
- As the numerator of  $f(x)$  converges to a finite value when  $x$  converges to any number  $x_0 \in (-1, \infty)$ , it follows that  $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$  or  $-\infty$  only when the denominator  $\sqrt{x + 1} \rightarrow 0^+$ . This happens only when  $x \rightarrow -1^+$ . (1 point)

In that case,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -1^+} \frac{\sqrt{|x|}(x - 2)}{\sqrt{x + 1}} = -\infty. \quad (1 \text{ point})$$

Therefore, the line  $x = -1$  is the only vertical asymptote of the graph of  $f$ . (1 point)

Cont.

(c) Notice that, as  $|x| = x$  when  $x > 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (f(x) - x) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{\sqrt{|x|}(x-2)}{\sqrt{x+1}} - x \right) \\ &= \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( x \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\frac{1}{x}}} - 1 \right) - \frac{2}{\sqrt{1+\frac{1}{x}}} \right). \quad (\text{treatment to } |x|: 1 \text{ point})\end{aligned}$$

While it can be seen easily that

$$- \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2}{\sqrt{1+\frac{1}{x}}} = -2, \quad (1 \text{ point})$$

the limit of the first term can be computed via the transformation  $u := \frac{1}{x}$  and the use of l'Hospital's rule to give

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+\frac{1}{x}}} - 1 \right) = \lim_{u \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\frac{1}{\sqrt{1+u}} - 1}{u} \stackrel{\text{l'H.R.}}{\underset{\left(\frac{0}{0}\right)}{=}} - \lim_{u \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{2(1+u)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = -\frac{1}{2}. \quad (2 \text{ points})$$

As a result,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (f(x) - x) = -\frac{1}{2} - 2 = -\frac{5}{2}. \quad (1 \text{ point})$$

This shows that the line  $y = x - \frac{5}{2}$  is a slant asymptote (which is the only one) of the graph of  $f$ . (1 point)

(d) Via logarithmic differentiation, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{f'(x)}{f(x)} &= \frac{d}{dx} \ln |f(x)| = \frac{1}{2x} + \frac{1}{x-2} - \frac{1}{2(x+1)} \\ &= \frac{2x^2 + 3x - 2}{2x(x+1)(x-2)} = \frac{(2x-1)(x+2)}{2x(x+1)(x-2)} \\ \Rightarrow f'(x) &= \frac{\sqrt{|x|}(2x-1)(x+2)}{2x(x+1)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \quad (2 \text{ points})\end{aligned}$$

for all  $x \in (-1, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$ . (Note that we have to take absolute value before taking logarithm in this case.)

Since

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\sqrt{|x|}}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} = \infty$$

(or  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{\sqrt{|x|}}{x} = -\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-} \frac{1}{\sqrt{|x|}} = -\infty$ ), we see that  $f'(0)$  does not exist. (1 point)

(This claim follows from l'Hospital's rule which gives

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^\pm} \frac{f(x) - f(0)}{x - 0} \stackrel{\text{l'H.R.}}{\underset{\left(\frac{0}{0}\right)}{=}} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^\pm} f'(x) = \pm\infty,$$

where  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^\pm}$  denotes either  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+}$  or  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^-}$ .) It is easy to see that, among all  $x \in (-1, \infty)$ ,  $x = 0$  is the only point such that  $f'$  is not defined, and  $f'(x) = 0$  if and only if  $x = \frac{1}{2}$ . (1 point)

Cont.

As a result, 0 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  are the only critical points of  $f$ .

It can be seen that the sign of  $f'(x)$  on  $(-1, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$  is the same as the sign of  $\frac{2x-1}{x}$ , and we thus see that

$$f'(x) \begin{cases} > 0 & \text{for } x \in (-1, 0) \cup (\frac{1}{2}, \infty), \\ < 0 & \text{for } x \in (0, \frac{1}{2}). \end{cases} \quad (1 \text{ point})$$

Therefore,  $f$  is increasing on  $(-1, 0)$  and on  $(\frac{1}{2}, \infty)$  while it is decreasing on  $(0, \frac{1}{2})$ .

(1 point)

(e) Via logarithmic differentiation again, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{f''(x)}{f'(x)} &= \frac{d}{dx} \ln |f'(x)| = \frac{1}{2x} + \frac{2}{2x-1} + \frac{1}{x+2} - \frac{1}{x} - \frac{3}{2(x+1)} \\ &= \frac{11x+2}{2x(2x-1)(x+2)(x+1)} \\ \Rightarrow f''(x) &= \frac{\sqrt{|x|}(11x+2)}{4x^2(x+1)^{\frac{5}{2}}} \end{aligned} \quad (2 \text{ points})$$

for  $x \in (-1, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$ .

Notice that the sign of  $f''(x)$  is the same as the sign of  $11x+2$  on the domain of  $f''$ , and thus

$$f''(x) \begin{cases} > 0 & \text{for } x \in (-\frac{2}{11}, 0) \cup (0, \infty), \\ < 0 & \text{for } x \in (-1, -\frac{2}{11}). \end{cases} \quad (1 \text{ point})$$

Therefore, the graph of  $f$  is concave upward on  $(-\frac{2}{11}, 0)$  and on  $(0, \infty)$  while it is concave downward on  $(-1, -\frac{2}{11})$ . (1 point)

As the concavity of the graph of  $f$  has changed when  $x$  increases across  $-\frac{2}{11}$ , there is an inflection point of the graph of  $f$  at the point  $P(-\frac{2}{11}, f(-\frac{2}{11})) = P(-\frac{2}{11}, -\frac{8\sqrt{2}}{11})$ .

(definition of inflection points: 1 point)

(coordinates of the inflection point: 1 point)

(f) The curve  $y = f(x)$  is shown in Figure 1.

( $y = f(x)$  approaching asymptotes: 1 point)

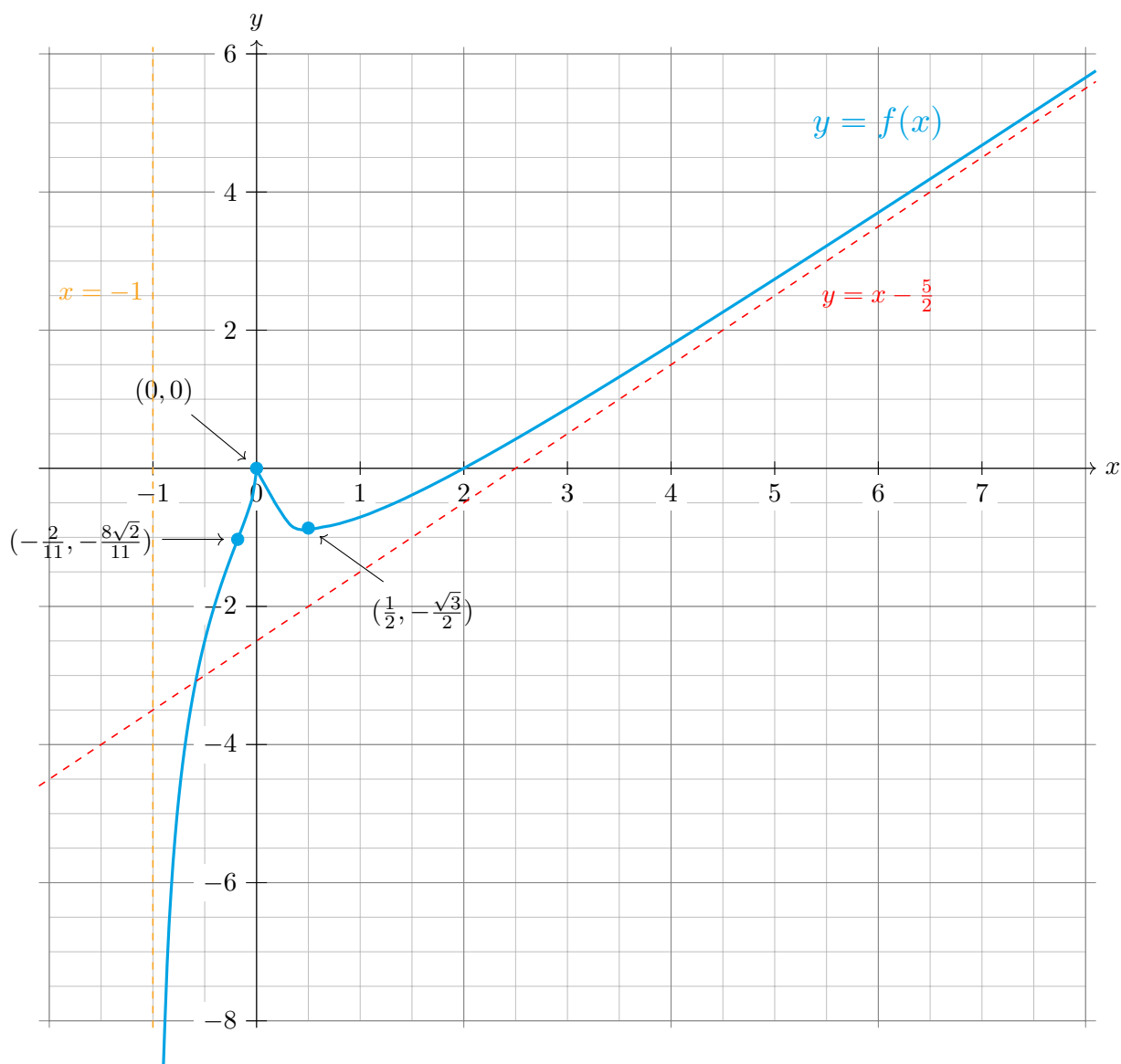
(corner at  $(0, 0)$ : 0.5 points)

(correct extrema: 0.5 points)

(concavity: 1 point)

(labelling extrema and the inflection point: 1 point)



Figure 1: The curve  $y = f(x)$  of Problem (7)