

MAC 2311  
Section 4.1  
max/min

An absolute max is the largest maximum for the graph in question.

An absolute min is the smallest minimum for the graph in question.

technical definitions

Let  $c$  be any number in the domain  $D$  of a function  $f(x)$

$c$  is an absolute maximum value of  $f$  on  $D$  if  $f(c) \geq f(x)$  for all  $x$  in  $D$ .

$c$  is an absolute minimum value of  $f$  on  $D$  if  $f(c) \leq f(x)$  for all  $x$  in  $D$ .

NOTE For a closed interval, the endpoints can be potential maximums or minimums.

relative maximum (local) : A max for a given interval

local max if  $f(c) \geq f(x)$  when  $x$  is near  $c$

relative minimum : A min for a given interval

local min if  $f(c) \leq f(x)$  when  $x$  is near  $c$

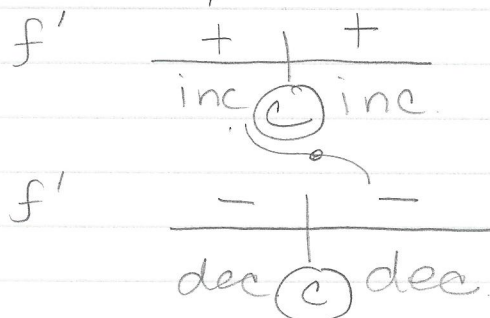
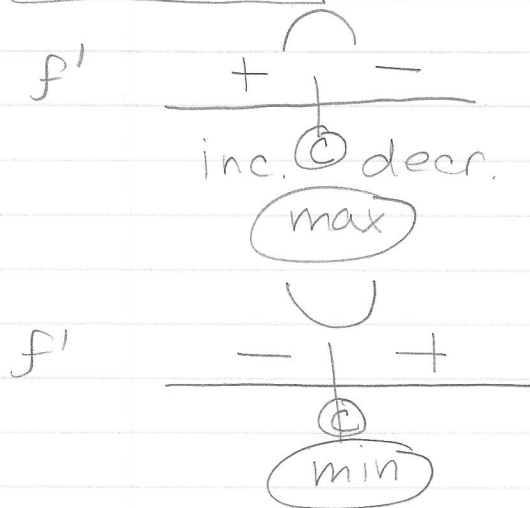
to test for max/mins, we use the first derivative analysis.

summary

- ① find  $f'(x)$
- ② set  $f'(x) = 0$  and solve for  $x$
- ③ determine for what  $x$  values  $f(x)$  is undefined.
- ④ analyze with test points
- ⑤ Be sure to include endpoints if the domain is finite.

Indications

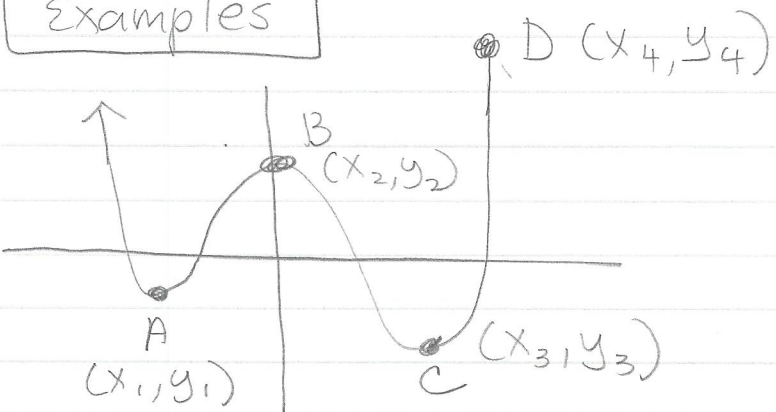
Let  $c =$  critical number (possible max/min)



possible inflection points

(another test — the second derivative analysis — is needed to confirm this)

Examples



local max

$B \ \& \ D$

occurs at  $x_2$   
 the value is  $f(x_2) = y_2$

occurs at  $x_4$   
 the value is  $f(x_4) = y_4$

absolute max

none since left tail approaches  $\infty$

local mins

occur at  $A \neq c$

$A$  occurs at  $x_1$   
value is  $f(x_1) = y_1$

$C$  occurs at  $x_3$   
value is  $f(x_3) = y_3$

absolute min

lowest of all  $\Rightarrow$  at  $c$   
mins

Fermat's Theorem

If  $f$  has a local max or min at  $c$ ,  
then  $f'(c)$  exists and  $f'(c) = 0$ .

Examples

Concentrate on # 29-44, 47-62

We will graph in a later section

32) Find the critical numbers

critical numbers

x values when

$f'(x) = 0$

$f'(x)$  is undefined.

stationary points

singular points

$f(x) = 2x^3 + x^2 + 2x$   
 $f'(x) = 6x^2 + 2x + 2$

$f'(x) = 0$

$6x^2 + 2x + 2 = 0$   
 $2(3x^2 + x + 1) = 0$

$f'(x)$  undefined

none

$x = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{1 - 4(3)(1)}}{2(3)} = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{-11}}{6} = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{11}i}{6}$

(not real)  
so no critical numbers.

so the graph of  $f(x) = 2x^3 + x^2 + 2x$  has no max or mins.

36  $h(p) = \frac{p-1}{p^2+4}$

$h'(p) = \frac{1(p^2+4) - (2p)(p-1)}{(p^2+4)^2}$   
 (Quotient)

$f = p-1$     $g = p^2+4$   
 $f' = 1$     $g' = 2p$

$h'(p) = \frac{p^2+4 - 2p^2 + 2p}{(p^2+4)^2} = \frac{-p^2 + 2p + 4}{(p^2+4)^2}$

$h'(p) = 0$   
 (num = 0)

$h'(p)$  undefined  
 (denom = 0)

$-p^2 + 2p + 4 = 0$   
 $-(p^2 - 2p - 4) = 0$

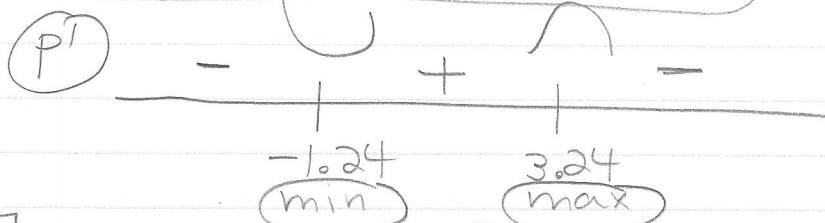
$p^2 + 4 = 0$   
 $p^2 = -4$   
 $p = \pm 2i$

$p = \frac{+2 \pm \sqrt{4 - 4(1)(-4)}}{2(1)}$

not real  
 $\Rightarrow$  no critical numbers.

$p = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{20}}{2} = \frac{2 \pm 2\sqrt{5}}{2}$

$p = 1 \pm \sqrt{5} \approx 3.24 \text{ \& } -1.24$



test  $p = -2$     $\frac{-(-2)^2 + 2(-2) + 4}{((-2)^2 + 4)^2} = \frac{-4 - 4 + 4}{16^2} = (-)$

Using  $p'$   $p = 0$     $\frac{-(0)^2 + 2(0) + 4}{(0^2 + 4)^2} = \frac{4}{16} = (+)$

$p = 4$     $\frac{-(4)^2 + 2(4) + 4}{(4^2 + 4)^2} = \frac{-16 + 8 + 4}{(20)^2} = (-)$

47-62 Absolute max/min → include endpoints.

50  $f(x) = x^3 - 6x^2 + 5$   $[-3, 5]$

$f(x) = x^3 - 6x^2 + 5$

$f'(x) = 3x^2 - 12x$

$f'(x) = 0$

$f'(x)$  undefined

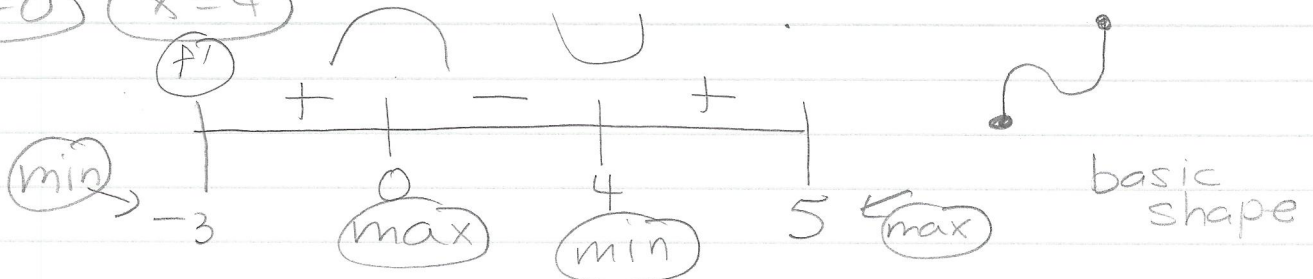
$3x^2 - 12x = 0$

none → no denominator

$3x(x - 4) = 0$

$x = 0$

$x = 4$



test points into  $f'(x) = 3x^2 - 12x$

$x = -2$   $3(-2)^2 - 12(-2) = 12 + 24 = 36$  (+)

$x = 1$   $3(1)^2 - 12(1) = 3 - 12 = -9$  (-)

$x = 4.5$   $3(4.5)^2 - 12(4.5) = 60.75 - 54 = 6.75$  (+)

use  $f(x) = x^3 - 6x^2 + 5$  to find point values.

min

at  $x = -3$   $f(-3) = (-3)^3 - 6(-3)^2 + 5 = -76$

$x = 4$   $f(4) = (4)^3 - 6(4)^2 + 5 = -27$

absolute min → occurs at  $x = -3$   
value  $y = -76$

max

at  $x = 0$   $f(0) = (0)^3 - 6(0)^2 + 5 = 5$

$x = 5$   $f(5) = (5)^3 - 6(5)^2 + 5 = -20$

absolute max → occurs when  $x = 0$   
value  $y = 5$

$$\textcircled{56} \quad f(t) = \frac{\sqrt{t}}{1+t^2} \quad [0, 2]$$

$$f'(t) = \frac{\frac{1}{2}t^{-1/2}(1+t^2) - t^{1/2}(2t)}{(1+t^2)^2}$$

$$f = t^{1/2} \quad g = 1+t^2$$

$$f' = \frac{1}{2}t^{-1/2} \quad g' = 2t$$

$$f'(t) = \frac{\frac{1+t^2}{2t^{1/2}} - 2t^{3/2}}{(1+t^2)^2} \cdot \frac{2t^{1/2}}{2t^{1/2}}$$

$$f'(t) = \frac{1+t^2 - 2t^{3/2}(2t^{1/2})}{(1+t^2)^2(2t^{1/2})} = \frac{1+t^2 - 4t^2}{(1+t^2)^2(2t^{1/2})}$$

$$f'(t) = \frac{1-3t^2}{(1+t^2)^2(2t^{1/2})}$$

$$f'(t) = 0$$

(num = 0)

$$1 - 3t^2 = 0$$

$$-3t^2 = -1$$

$$t^2 = \frac{1}{3}$$

$$t = \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$t \approx \pm 0.58$$

$$f'(t) \text{ undef}$$

(denom = 0)

$$(1+t^2)^2 = 0$$

$$1+t^2 = 0$$

$$t^2 = -1$$

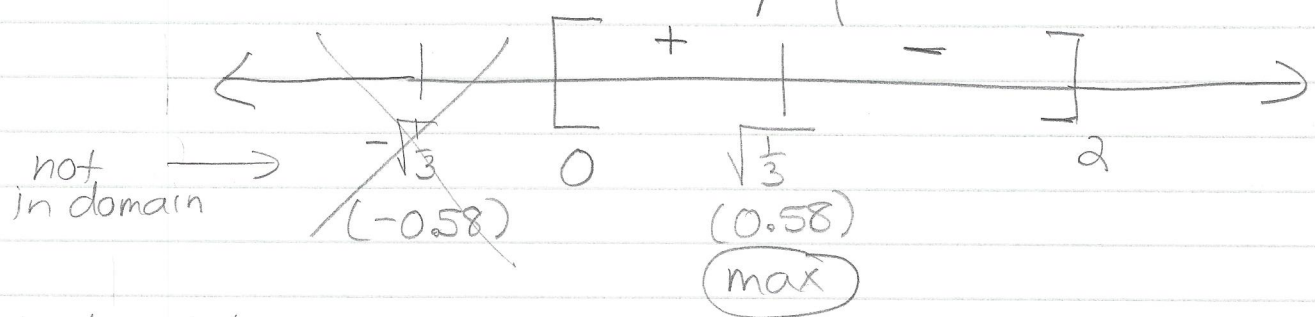
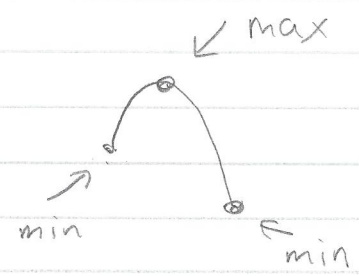
$$(2t^{1/2}) = 0$$

$$t = 0$$

56 continued

[0, 2]

$$\text{using } f'(t) = \frac{1 - 3t^2}{(1+t^2)^2 (2t^{1/2})}$$



test points

$$f'(1) = \frac{1 - 3(1)^2}{(1+(1)^2)^2 (2(1)^{1/2})} = \frac{1-3}{4(2)(1)} = \frac{-2}{8} = (-)$$

$$f'(0.5) = \frac{1 - 3(0.5)^2}{(1+(0.5)^2)^2 (2(0.5)^{1/2})} = \frac{0.25}{(+)} = (+)$$

now use  $f(t) = \frac{\sqrt{t}}{1+t^2}$  to find the point values

**max** one possibility (local & absolute) <sub>max</sub>

$$t = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} \quad f\left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}}{1 + \left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}\right)^2} \approx \frac{3^{3/4}}{4} \approx 0.570$$

**mins**

$$t = 0 \quad f(0) = \frac{\sqrt{0}}{1+0^2} = 0 \quad \leftarrow$$

**absolute min**

$$t = 2 \quad f(2) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{1+2^2} \approx 0.283$$



## Hints

- ① It is fine to use decimal approximations.
- ② It is also a good idea to program the original function and the first derivative into the graphing calculator. That way, the calculator can help with the evaluation phase.
- ③ Check your derivatives using Wolfram Alpha or another online program before you proceed. If your derivative is off, your interpretation will also be off.