

Name: _____

Date: _____

Learning Goal 4.1

Using derivative tests for curve sketching.

More Questions – Solutions

1. For the following functions, find the inflection points, the intervals over which the function is concave up or down, and find any local extrema.

a. $f(x) = 3x^4 - 4x^3$

$$\begin{aligned}f'(x) &= 12x^3 - 12x^2 \\&= 12x^2(x - 1)\end{aligned}$$

$$x = 0$$

$$x = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned}f''(x) &= 36x^2 - 24x \\&= 12x(3x - 2)\end{aligned}$$

$$x = 0$$

$$x = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$f''(0) = 0$$

Inflection Point

	$12x$	$3x - 2$	$f''(x)$	$f(x)$
$x < 0$	–	–	+	up
$x = 0$	0	–	0	
$0 < x < \frac{2}{3}$	+	–	–	down
$x = \frac{2}{3}$	+	0	0	
$x > \frac{2}{3}$	+	+	+	up

$$f''(1) = 12$$

Concave Up

Local Minimum

Concave Up: $(-\infty, 0) \cup (\frac{2}{3}, \infty)$

Concave Down: $(0, \frac{2}{3})$

b. $f(x) = x^{2/3}(6-x)^{1/3}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f'(x) &= -\frac{1}{3}x^{2/3}(6-x)^{-2/3} \\
 &\quad + \frac{2}{3}x^{-1/3}(6-x)^{1/3} \\
 &= \frac{1}{3}x^{-1/3}(6-x)^{-2/3}(-x+2(6-x)) \\
 &= \frac{1}{3}x^{-1/3}(6-x)^{-2/3}(12-3x) \\
 &= x^{-1/3}(6-x)^{-2/3}(4-x) \\
 &= \frac{4-x}{x^{1/3}(6-x)^{2/3}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$x = 0$
Local Minimum

$x = 4$
Local Maximum

$x = 6$
Inflection Point

$$f''(x) = -\frac{1}{3}x^{-4/3}(6-x)^{-2/3}(4-x) + \frac{2}{3}x^{-1/3}(6-x)^{-5/3}(4-x) - x^{-1/3}(6-x)^{-2/3}$$

$$f''(x) = -\frac{1}{3}x^{-4/3}(6-x)^{-5/3}((6-x)(4-x) - 2x(4-x) + 3x(6-x))$$

$$f''(x) = -\frac{1}{3}x^{-4/3}(6-x)^{-5/3}(24 - 10x + x^2 - 8x + 2x^2 + 18x - 3x^2)$$

$$f''(x) = -\frac{1}{3}x^{-4/3}(6-x)^{-5/3}(24)$$

$$f''(x) = -\frac{8}{x^{4/3}(6-x)^{5/3}}$$

$x = 0$

$x = 6$

	$4-x$	$x^{1/3}$	$(6-x)^{2/3}$	$f'(x)$	$f(x)$
$x < 0$	+	-	+	-	dec
$x = 0$	+	0	+	DNE	
$0 < x < 4$	+	+	+	+	inc
$x = 4$	0	+	+	0	
$4 < x < 6$	-	+	+	-	dec
$x = 6$	-	+	0	DNE	
$x > 6$	-	+	+	-	dec

	$-x^{4/3}$	$(6-x)^{5/3}$	$f''(x)$	$f(x)$
$x < 0$	-	+	-	down
$x = 0$	0	+	DNE	
$0 < x < 6$	-	+	-	down
$x = 6$	-	0	DNE	
$x > 6$	-	-	+	up

Concave Up: $(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, 6)$

Concave Down: $(6, \infty)$

c. $f(x) = \frac{1}{x^2 + 1}$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= -(x^2 + 1)^{-2} \times 2x \\ &= -\frac{2x}{(x^2 + 1)^2} \end{aligned}$$

	$-2x$	$f'(x)$	$f(x)$
$x < 0$	+	+	inc
$x = 0$	0	0	
$x > 0$	-	-	dec

$$x = 0$$

Local Maximum

$$\begin{aligned} f''(x) &= 8x^2(x^2 + 1)^{-3} \\ &\quad - 2(x^2 + 1)^{-2} \\ &= 2(x^2 + 1)^{-3}(4x^2 - (x^2 + 1)) \\ &= \frac{2(3x^2 - 1)}{(x^2 + 1)^3} \end{aligned}$$

	$3x^2 - 1$	$f''(x)$	$f(x)$
$x < -\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$	+	+	up
$x = -\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$	0	0	
$-\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}} < x < \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$	-	-	down
$x = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$	0	0	
$x > \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$	+	+	up

$$x = -\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}$$

Concave Up:
 $\left(-\infty, -\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}\right) \cup \left(\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}, \infty\right)$

Concave Down:
 $\left(-\sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}, \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}}\right)$

d. $f(x) = x + \frac{1}{x}$

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 1 - \frac{1}{x^2} \\ &= \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2} \end{aligned}$$

$x = -1$

Local Maximum

$$\begin{aligned} f''(x) &= 0 - (-2x^{-3}) \\ &= \frac{2}{x^3} \end{aligned}$$

$x = 0$

	$x^2 - 1$	x^2	$f'(x)$	$f(x)$
$x < -1$	+	+	+	inc
$x = -1$	0	+	0	
$-1 < x < 0$	-	+	-	dec
$x = 0$	-	0	DNE	
$0 < x < 1$	-	+	-	dec
$x = 1$	0	+	0	
$x > 1$	+	+	+	inc

$x = 0$

Inflection Point

$x = 1$

Local Minimum

	x^{-3}	$f'(x)$	$f(x)$
$x < 0$	-	-	down
$x = 0$	0	0	
$x > 0$	+	+	up

Concave Up:

$(0, \infty)$

Concave Down:

$(-\infty, 0)$

e. $f(x) = \sin x + \cos x$

$f'(x) = \cos x - \sin x$

$x = \frac{\pi}{4} + 2\pi n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$

Local Maximum

$f''(x) = -\sin x - \cos x$

$x = \frac{3\pi}{4} + 2\pi n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$

$x = \frac{7\pi}{4} + 2\pi n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$

		$f'(x)$	$f(x)$
$0 < x < \frac{\pi}{4}$	$\cos x > \sin x$	+	inc
$x = \frac{\pi}{4}$	$\cos x = \sin x$	0	
$\frac{\pi}{4} < x < \frac{5\pi}{4}$	$\cos x < \sin x$	-	dec
$x = \frac{5\pi}{4}$	$\cos x = \sin x$	0	
$\frac{5\pi}{4} < x < 2\pi$	$\cos x > \sin x$	+	inc

$x = \frac{5\pi}{4} + 2\pi n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$

Local Minimum

		$f''(x)$	$f(x)$
$0 < x < \frac{\pi}{2}$	both +ve	-	down
$\frac{\pi}{2} < x < \frac{3\pi}{4}$	$\cos x < \sin x$	-	down
$x = \frac{3\pi}{4}$	$-\cos x = \sin x$	0	
$\frac{3\pi}{4} < x < \pi$	$\cos x > \sin x$	+	up
$\pi < x < \frac{3\pi}{2}$	both -ve	+	up
$x = \frac{7\pi}{4}$	$\cos x = \sin x$	0	
$\frac{7\pi}{4} < x < 2\pi$	$\cos x > \sin x$	-	down

Concave Up:

$\left(\frac{3\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4}\right) + 2\pi n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$

Concave Down:

$\left(-\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4}\right) + 2\pi n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$