

Section 5.1. First derivative.

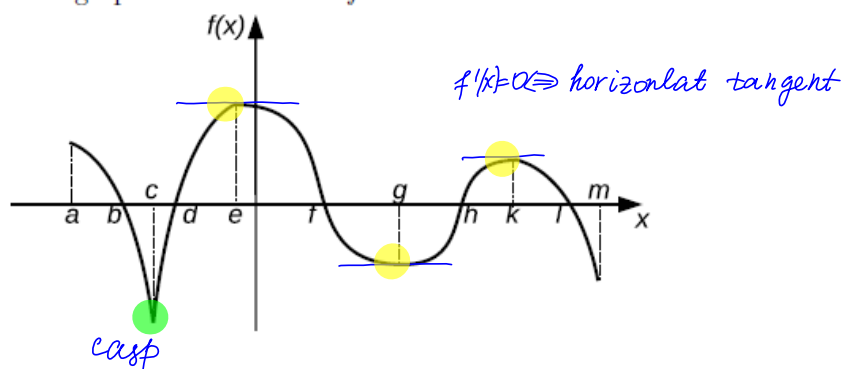
The values of x in the domain of f where $f'(x) = 0$ or where $f'(x)$ does not exist are called the **critical values** of f .

The function f is **increasing** on an interval (a, b) if $f(x_2) > f(x_1)$ whenever $a < x_1 < x_2 < b$, and f is **decreasing** on (a, b) if $f(x_2) < f(x_1)$ whenever $a < x_1 < x_2 < b$.

Increasing / decreasing test

- If $f'(x) > 0$ on an interval, then f is **increasing** on that interval
- If $f'(x) < 0$ on an interval, then f is **decreasing** on that interval

Example 1. Given the graph of the function f .



1. Identify intervals on which $f'(x) > 0$. What does it say about $f(x)$?

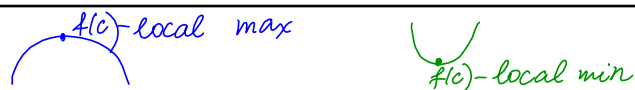
$$f'(x) > 0 \text{ (} f \text{ increases)} : (c, e) \cup (g, k)$$

2. Identify intervals on which $f'(x) < 0$. What does it say about $f(x)$?

$$f'(x) < 0 \text{ (} f \text{ decreases)} : (a, c) \cup (e, g) \cup (k, m)$$

3. What are the x -coordinate(s) of the points where $f'(x)$ does not exist? Where $f'(x) = 0$? What does it say about $f(x)$?

$$\begin{array}{l} f'(e) = f'(g) = f'(k) = 0 \\ f'(c) \text{ DNE} \end{array}$$

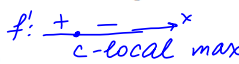




A function f has a **local maximum** at c if $f(c) \geq f(x)$ when x is near c . Similarly, f has a **local minimum** at c if $f(c) \leq f(x)$ when x is near c . The quantity $f(c)$ is called a **local extremum** if it is either a local maximum or a local minimum.

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If f has a local maximum or minimum at c , and if $f'(c)$ exists, then $f'(c) = 0$

The first derivative test Suppose that c is a critical number of a continuous function f .

- If f' changes from positive to negative at c , then f has a local max at c . 
- If f' changes from negative to positive at c , then f has a local min at c . 
- If f' does not change sign at c , then f has a no local max or min at c . 

To find intervals on which a function is increasing or decreasing, we will construct a sign chart for $f'(x)$ to determine which values of x make $f'(x) > 0$ and which values make $f'(x) < 0$.

Example 2. Find the critical values of f , the intervals on which f is increasing, the intervals on which f is decreasing, and the local extrema for the following functions. Do not graph.

1. $f(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 - 9x + 3$

step 1. Find the critical values of $f(x)$.

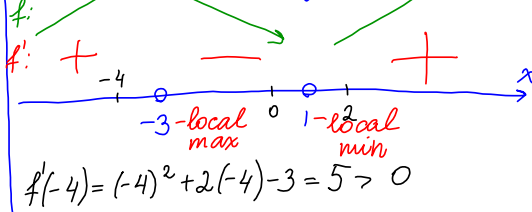
$$f'(x) = \frac{3x^2 + 6x - 9}{3} = 0$$

$$x^2 + 2x - 3 = 0$$

$$(x+3)(x-1) = 0$$

$$x_1 = -3, x_2 = 1$$

step 2. Construct sign chart



$$f'(-4) = (-4)^2 + 2(-4) - 3 = 5 > 0$$

$$f'(0) = -9 < 0$$

$$f'(2) = 2^2 + 2(2) - 3 = 5 > 0$$

f increases on: $(-\infty, -3) \cup (1, \infty)$

f decreases on: $(-3, 1)$

f has a local max @ $x = -3$

f has a local min @ $x = 1$

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

Critical values:

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

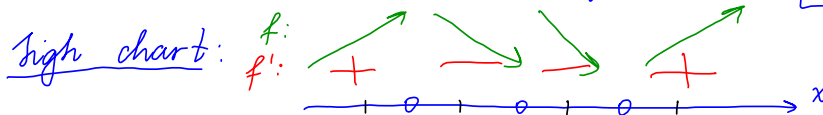
$$= \frac{2x^2 - 2x - x^2}{(x-1)^2} = \frac{x^2 - 2x}{(x-1)^2} = 0$$

$$x^2 - 2x = 0$$

$$x(x-2) = 0$$

$$x_1 = 0, x_2 = 2$$

$f'(x)$ does not exist if $(x-1)^2 = 0$ or $x_3 = 1$



$$f'(-1) = \frac{(-1)^2 - 2(-1)}{(-1-1)^2} = \frac{3}{4} > 0$$

$$f'(0.5) = \frac{(0.5)^2 - 2(0.5)}{(0.5-1)^2} = \frac{-0.75}{0.25} < 0$$

$$f'(1.5) = \frac{(1.5)^2 - 2(1.5)}{(1.5-1)^2} = \frac{2.25 - 3}{(0.5)^2} = \frac{-0.75}{0.25} < 0$$

$$f'(3) = \frac{3^2 - 2(3)}{(3-1)^2} = \frac{3}{4} > 0$$

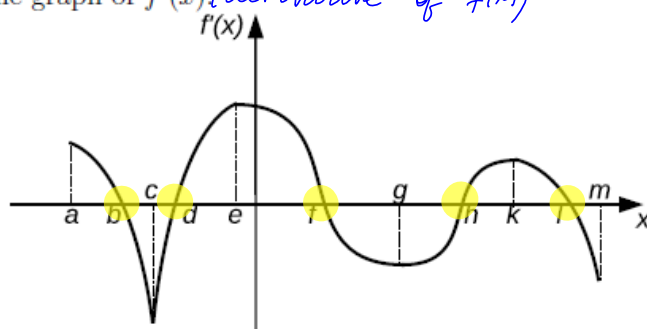
f increases on $(-\infty, 0) \cup (2, \infty)$

f decreases on $(0, 1) \cup (1, 2)$

f has a local max @ $x = 0$

f has a local min @ $x = 2$

Example 3. Given the graph of $f'(x)$ (derivative of $f(x)$)



1. Identify intervals on which f is increasing/decreasing.

f increases on $(a, b) \cup (d, f) \cup (h, l)$ ($f'(x) > 0$)

f decreases on $(b, d) \cup (f, h) \cup (l, m)$ ($f'(x) < 0$)

2. Identify the x coordinates of the points where f has a local maximum/local minimum.

f has local max @ $x=b, x=f, x=l$

f has local min @ $x=d, x=h$