Math 140 Lecture 17

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- Fermat's Theorem
- (3.1)The Closed Interval Method



(3.1) Maximum and Minimum Values

- Fermat's Theorem
- (3.1)The Closed Interval Method

(2) (3.3) Derivatives and the Shapes of Curves

Fermat's Theorem

The next theorem gives a condition that can help to find local maxima and minima.

Let f be a function defined in an open interval around c and such that f'(c) exists. If f has a local maximum or minimum at c, then f'(c) = 0.

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• Therefore $f'(c) \leq 0$

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• Therefore $f'(c) \leq 0$ and $f'(c) \geq 0$, so f'(c) = 0.

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- Let $f(x) = x^3$.
- Then $f'(x) = 3x^2$.
- f'(x) = 0 when x = 0.
- But *f* has no local maximum or minimum at 0!

Let f be a function defined in an open interval around c and such that f'(c) exists. If f has a local maximum or minimum at c, then f'(c) = 0.

What does Fermat's Theorem not say?



Fermat's Theorem does not say "if f'(c) = 0, then *f* has a local maximum or a local minimum at *c*."

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Fermat's Theorem does not say "if f has a local maximum or minimum at c, then f'(c) exists."

Fermat's Theorem and Example 6 suggest that we should look at three types of points to find local maxima and minima:

- Points *c* for which f'(c) = 0.
- 2 Points *c* for which f'(c) doesn't exist.
- Points c at end of intervals where f is defined. Here, we need also that f be defined at c.

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Definition (Critical Number)

A critical number of a function f is a number c in the domain of f such that either f'(c) = 0 or f'(c) doesn't exist.

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Fermat's Theorem says that if f has a local maximum or minimum at c, and c is not an endpoint, then c is a critical number for f.

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= $4x^{1/4} - x^{9/4}$

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 $4 - 9x^2 = 0$
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 $x = \pm \frac{2}{3}$

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- Critical numbers occur:
 - Where f'(x) isn't defined: • Where f'(x) = 0:

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 $x = 1$

Critical numbers occur:
 Where f'(x) isn't defined: 0.

2 Where
$$f'(x) = 0: \frac{2}{3}$$
 and $-\frac{2}{3}$.

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- Critical numbers occur:
 - Where f'(x) isn't defined: 0. Where f'(x) = 0: $\frac{2}{3}$ and $-\frac{2}{3}$.
- f isn't defined at $-\frac{2}{3}!$

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 - Where f'(x) isn't defined: 0. Where f'(x) = 0: $\frac{2}{3}$ and $-\frac{2}{3}$.
- *f* isn't defined at $-\frac{2}{3}$! Therefore the critical numbers are 0 and $\frac{2}{3}$.

The Closed Interval Method

We know from the Extreme Value Theorem that a continuous function attains its absolute maximum and minimum on a closed interval [a, b]. The maximum might occur at an endpoint. The minimum might occur at an endpoint.

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To find the absolute maximum and minimum values of a continuous function f on a closed interval [a, b]:

Find the values of *f* at the critical numbers of *f* in [*a*, *b*].

- Find the values c with f'(c) = 0.
- Find the values *c* where *f'* does not exist.
- Find the values of f at the endpoints a and b.
- The absolute maximum of *f* is maximum of the preceding values; the absolute minimum value is the minimum.

Find the absolute maximum and minimum values of the function $f(x) = -x^3 + 2x^2 + 4x - 5$ on the interval [1,3].



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4 3 2

-2 -3

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$$f'(x) = -3x^2 + 4x + 4$$

= (-3x - 2)(x - 2)

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Need to check:
The critical numbers of f in [a, b].
The endpoints a and b.
x | f(x)

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Δ 3 2 1 2 3 -2 -3_4

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3 \\
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1 & 0 \\
2 & 3 \\
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Absolute minimum:

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Absolute maximum: 3. Absolute minimum:

FreeCalc Math 140

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lf N



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Absolute maximum: 3. Absolute minimum: -2.

FreeCalc Math 140

The Mean Value Theorem

- Many results in this section (and others) depend on an important theorem, called the Mean Value Theorem.
- Before we can prove the Mean Value Theorem, we need to prove Rolle's Theorem.

Let f be a function that satisfies the following three conditions:

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- f is differentiable on the open interval (a, b).
- f(a) = f(b).

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Then there is a number c in (a, b) such that f'(c) = 0.

- f is a horizontal line.
- 2 f(x) > f(a) for some x in (a, b).
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