Math 140 Lecture 18

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with modifications by T. Milev

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Derivatives and the Shapes of Curves
What Does f' Say About f?



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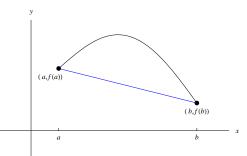
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- Suppose it has two real roots *a* and *b*. Then f(a) = 0 = f(b).
- *f* is a polynomial, so it is continuous and differentiable everywhere.
- By Rolle's Theorem, there is a *c* in (a, b) such that f'(c) = 0.
- $f'(x) = 3x^2 + 4$.
- Therefore f'(x) is always positive.
- Contradiction.

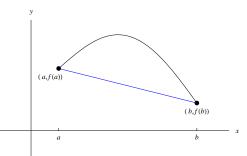
Let *f* be a function that is continuous on [*a*, *b*] and differentiable on (*a*, *b*). Then there is a number *c* in (*a*, *b*) such that $f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b-a}$.

Let *f* be a function that is continuous on [*a*, *b*] and differentiable on (*a*, *b*). Then there is a number *c* in (*a*, *b*) such that $f'(c) = \frac{f(b)-f(a)}{b-a}$.



- Consider the secant line from (a, f(a)) to (b, f(b)).
- Slope: *m* =

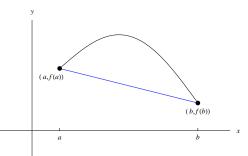
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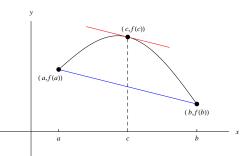
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• Consider the secant line from (*a*, *f*(*a*)) to (*b*, *f*(*b*)).

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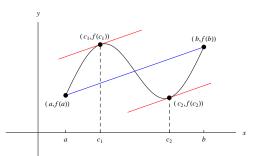


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- The Mean Value Theorem says somewhere in (*a*, *b*) is a number *c* where the slope of the tangent equals *m*.
- Maybe more than one number.

Let *f* be a function that is continuous on [*a*, *b*] and differentiable on (*a*, *b*). Then there is a number *c* in (*a*, *b*) such that $f'(c) = \frac{f(b)-f(a)}{b-a}$.

Proof.

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• Consider the function $(f - L)(x) = f(x) - f(a) - \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}(x - a)$.

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- Consider the function $(f L)(x) = f(x) f(a) \frac{f(b) f(a)}{b a}(x a)$.
- L is linear, so it's continuous and differentiable everywhere.
- *f* − *L* is continuous on [*a*, *b*]

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$$0 = (f - L)'(c) = f'(c) - \frac{L'(c)}{b} = f'(c) - \frac{f(b) - f(a)}{b - a}$$

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- Let x_1 and x_2 be any numbers in (a, b) with $x_1 < x_2$.
- *f* is differentiable on (*a*, *b*).
- Therefore *f* is differentiable on (x_1, x_2) and continuous on $[x_1, x_2]$.

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- Therefore *f* is differentiable on (x_1, x_2) and continuous on $[x_1, x_2]$.
- Mean Value Theorem: There exists c in (x_1, x_2) such that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1}$$

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$$0 = f(x_2) - f(x_1)$$
$$f(x_1) = f(x_2)$$

If f'(x) = 0 for all x in an interval (a, b), then f is constant on (a, b).

Proof.

- Let x_1 and x_2 be any numbers in (a, b) with $x_1 < x_2$.
- f is differentiable on (a, b).
- Therefore *f* is differentiable on (x_1, x_2) and continuous on $[x_1, x_2]$.
- Mean Value Theorem: There exists c in (x_1, x_2) such that

$$f'(c) = \frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1}$$

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$$f(x_1) = f(x_2)$$

Therefore f is constant on (a, b).

If f'(x) = g'(x) for all x in an interval (a, b), then f - g is constant on (a, b); that is, f(x) = g(x) + c where c is constant.

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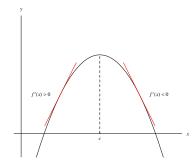
• Let
$$F(x) = f(x) - g(x)$$
.

• Then
$$F'(x) = f'(x) - g'(x) = 0$$
 for all x in (a, b) .

If f'(x) = g'(x) for all x in an interval (a, b), then f - g is constant on (a, b); that is, f(x) = g(x) + c where c is constant.

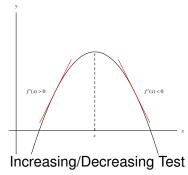
- Let F(x) = f(x) g(x).
- Then F'(x) = f'(x) g'(x) = 0 for all x in (a, b).
- By the previous theorem, F is constant, so f g is constant.

What Does f' Say About f?



- Consider the graph on the left.
- f'(x) > 0 to the left of c and f'(x) < 0 to the right of c.
- *f* is increasing to the left of *c* and decreasing to the right of *c*.

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- This property holds more generally:

If f'(x) > 0 on an interval, then *f* is increasing on that interval.

2 If f'(x) < 0 on an interval, then *f* is decreasing on that interval.

Find where the function $f(x) = 3x^4 + 8x^3 - 18x^2 + 6$ is increasing and where it is decreasing.

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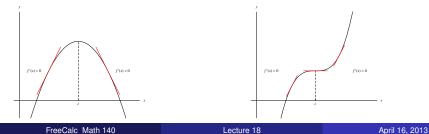
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(-3,0)	—	+	—	+	
(0,1)	+	+	—	-	
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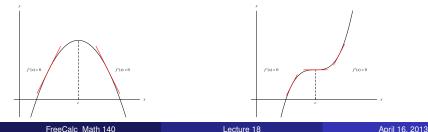
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Interval	12 <i>x</i>	<i>x</i> + 3	<i>x</i> – 1	f'(x)	f
$(-\infty, -3)$	—	—	—	-	decreasing
(-3,0)	—	+	—	+	increasing
(0,1)	+	+	—	_	decreasing
$(1,\infty)$	+	+	+	+	increasing

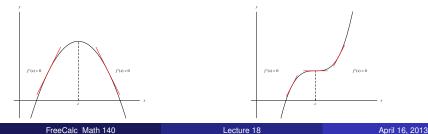
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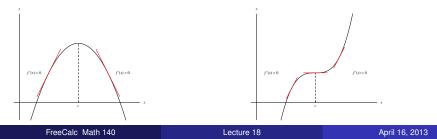
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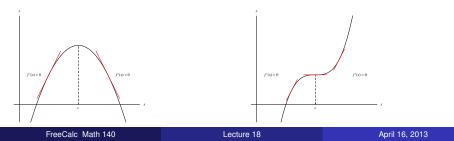
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- In other words, f'(x) changes sign at *c*.



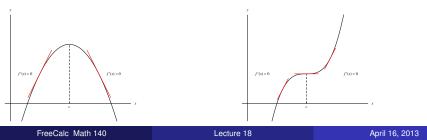
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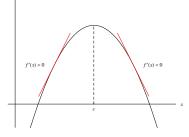


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- In the second picture, f'(x) > 0 to the left of c and f'(x) > 0 to the right of c. f'(x) doesn't change sign at c.
- In the first picture there's a local maximum, but not in the second.
- This suggests a way of testing for local maxima/minima.

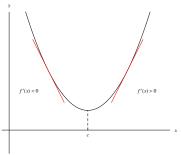


- If f' changes from positive to negative at c, then f has a local maximum at c.
- If f' changes from negative to positive at c, then f has a local minimum at c.
- If f' doesn't change signs at c, then f has no local maximum or minimum at c.

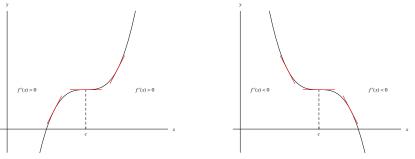
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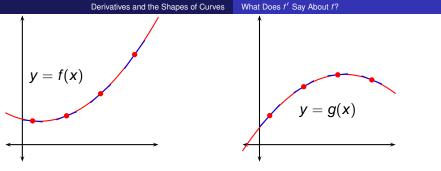
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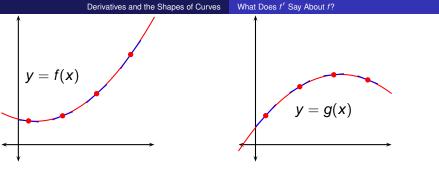


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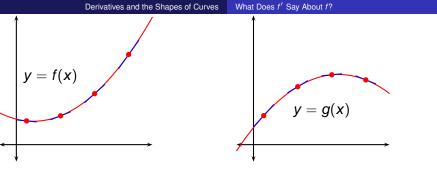
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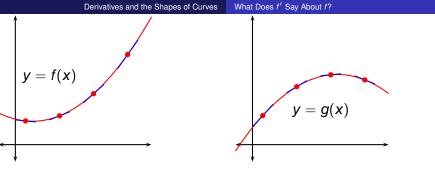
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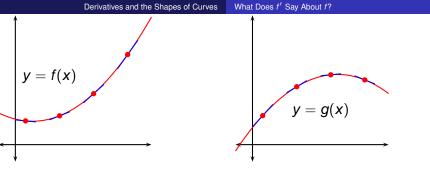
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Concavity Test

If f''(x) > 0 for all x in I, then the graph of f is concave up on I.

2 If f''(x) < 0 for all x in I, then the graph of f is concave down on I.

Definition (Inflection Point)

Let *f* be a twice differentiable function. A point *P* on a curve y = f(x) is called an inflection point if *f* changes from concave up to concave down or from concave down to concave up at *P*.

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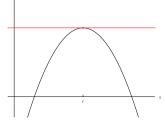
Another way of saying this is that P is an inflection point if f'' changes signs at P.

This gives us a new way of checking if critical points are local maxima or local minima:

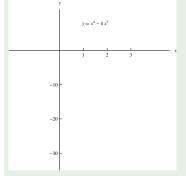
- The Second Derivative Test Suppose *f*^{''} is continuous near *c*.
 - If f'(c) = 0 and f''(c) > 0, then *f* has a local minimum at *c*.
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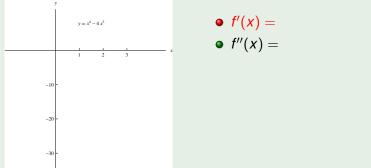
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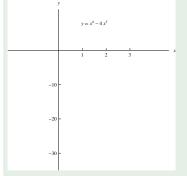
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- f'(c) = 0, so f has a horizontal tangent at c.
- f''(c) < 0, so f is concave down near c.
- This means *f* lies below its horizontal tangent.
- This means f(c) is a local maximum.

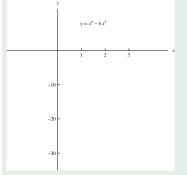






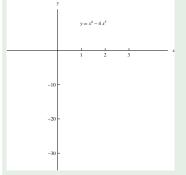
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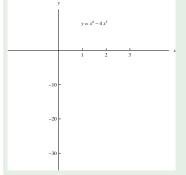


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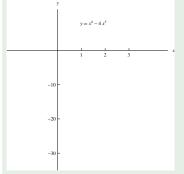
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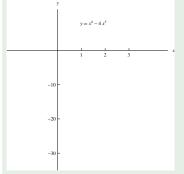
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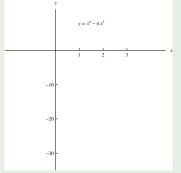


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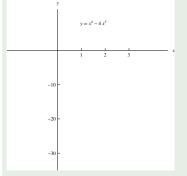
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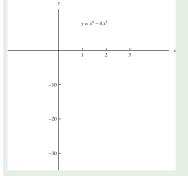


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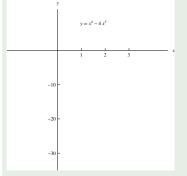


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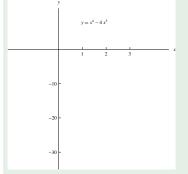


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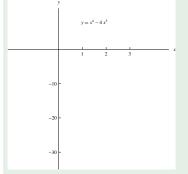
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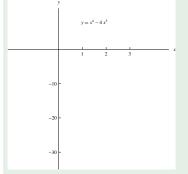
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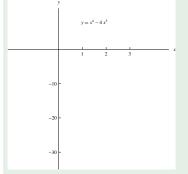


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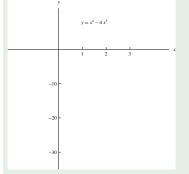


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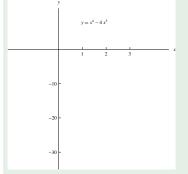
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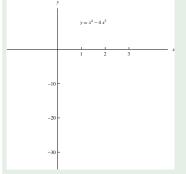


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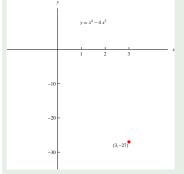
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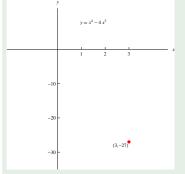
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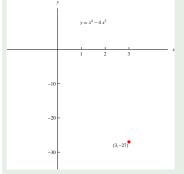
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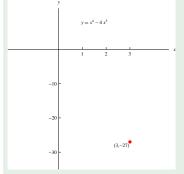
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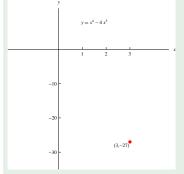
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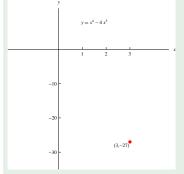
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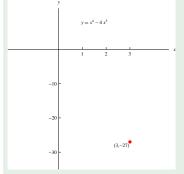
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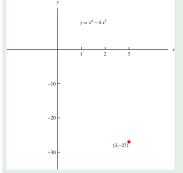
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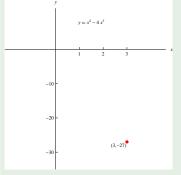
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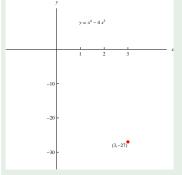
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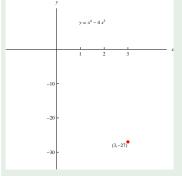
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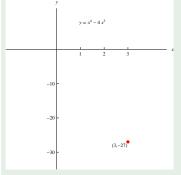
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(0,2)		
$(2,\infty)$		

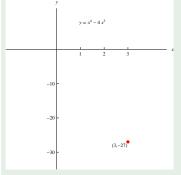
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$$f'(x) = 4x^3 - 12x^2 = 4x^2(x-3)$$
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• $f''(x) = 12x^2 - 24x = 12x(x-2)$.

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$$f''(0) = 0$$
 and $f''(3) = 36 > 0$.

- Second Derivative Test:
- Local minimum at 3. f(3) = -27.
- No information about 0.
- First Derivative Test:
- f' is on $(-\infty, 0)$ and on (0, 3).
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Discuss the curve $y = f(x) = x^4 - 4x^3$ with respect to concavity, points of inflection, and local maxima and minima. Sketch the curve.



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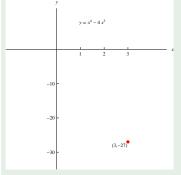
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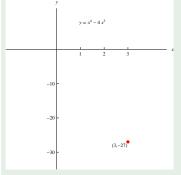
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Interval	f''(x)	Concave
$(-\infty,0)$	+	
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$(2,\infty)$	+	

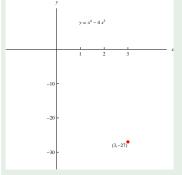
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Interval	f''(x)	Concave
$(-\infty,0)$	+	up
(0,2)	—	down
$(2,\infty)$	+	up

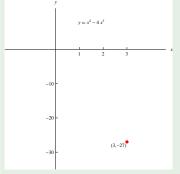
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$(-\infty,0)$	+	up
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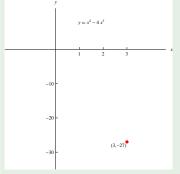
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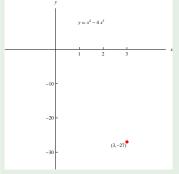
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• Critical numbers: 0 and 3.

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(0,2)	—	down
$(2,\infty)$	+	up

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$$f'(x) = 4x^3 - 12x^2 = 4x^2(x-3)$$
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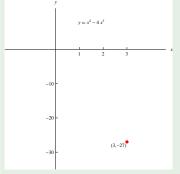
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- Local minimum at 3. f(3) = -27.
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- First Derivative Test:
- f' is on $(-\infty, 0)$ and on (0, 3).
- No local max or min at 0.
- Inflection points: 0 and 2

Discuss the curve $y = f(x) = x^4 - 4x^3$ with respect to concavity, points of inflection, and local maxima and minima. Sketch the curve.



Interval	f''(x)	Concave
$(-\infty,0)$	+	up
(0,2)	—	down
$(2,\infty)$	+	up

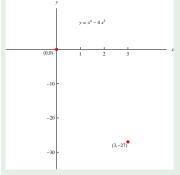
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- Inflection points: (0,) and (2,

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Interval	f''(x)	Concave
$(-\infty,0)$	+	up
(0,2)	—	down
$(2,\infty)$	+	up

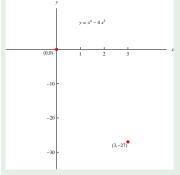
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(0,2)	—	down
$(2,\infty)$	+	up

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$$f'(x) = 4x^3 - 12x^2 = 4x^2(x-3)$$
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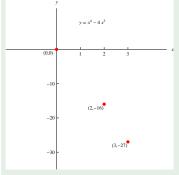
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(0,2)	—	down
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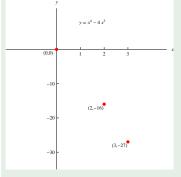
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$(-\infty,0)$	+	up
(0,2)	—	down
$(2,\infty)$	+	up

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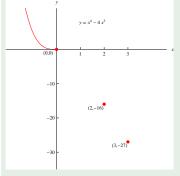
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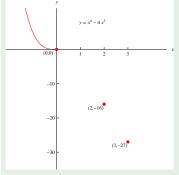
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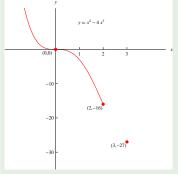
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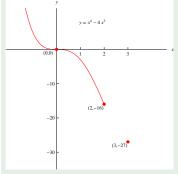
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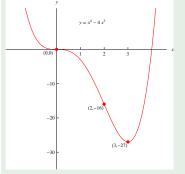
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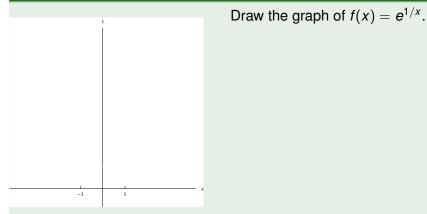
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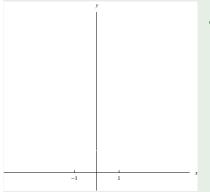
Example (Example 6, p. 277)



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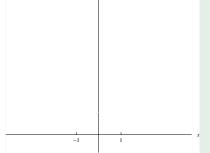
Draw the graph of $f(x) = e^{1/x}$.

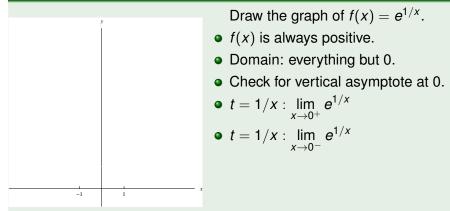
• *f*(*x*) is always positive.

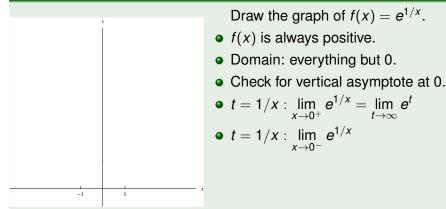


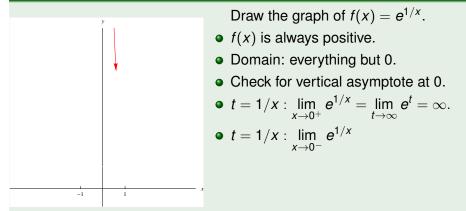
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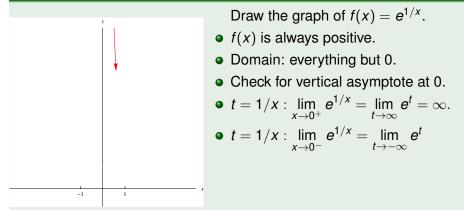
- *f*(*x*) is always positive.
- Domain: everything but 0.

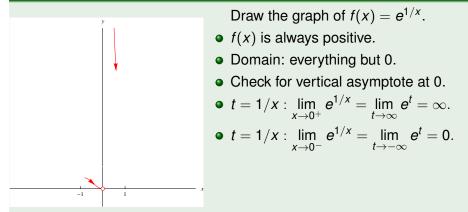


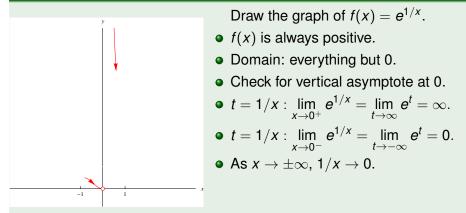


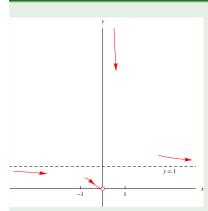












Draw the graph of $f(x) = e^{1/x}$.

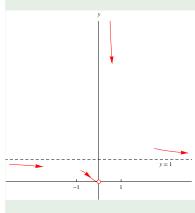
- f(x) is always positive.
- Domain: everything but 0.
- Check for vertical asymptote at 0.

•
$$t = 1/x$$
: $\lim_{x\to 0^+} e^{1/x} = \lim_{t\to\infty} e^t = \infty$.

•
$$t = 1/x : \lim_{x \to 0^-} e^{1/x} = \lim_{t \to -\infty} e^t = 0.$$

• As
$$x \to \pm \infty$$
, $1/x \to 0$.

• Therefore
$$\lim_{x\to\pm\infty} e^{1/x} = 1$$



$$f'(x) = e^{1/x}(1/x)'$$

Draw the graph of $f(x) = e^{1/x}$.

- *f*(*x*) is always positive.
- Domain: everything but 0.
- Check for vertical asymptote at 0.

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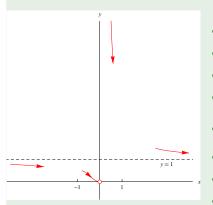
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$$f'(x) = e^{1/x} (1/x)' = e^{1/x} (1/x)'$$



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- Domain: everything but 0.
- Check for vertical asymptote at 0.

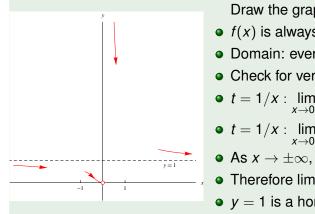
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$$f'(x) = e^{1/x}(1/x)' = e^{1/x}(-x^{-2})$$



Draw the graph of $f(x) = e^{1/x}$. f(x) is always positive.

- Domain: everything but 0.
- Check for vertical asymptote at 0.

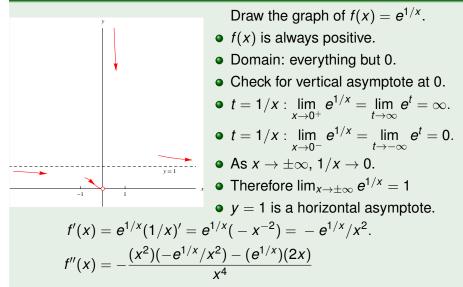
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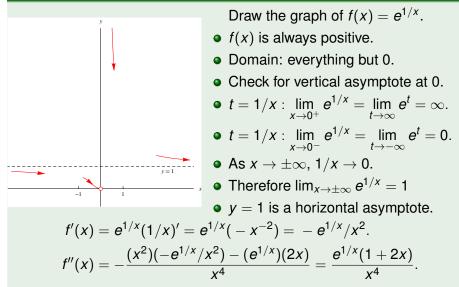
•
$$t = 1/x : \lim_{x \to 0^-} e^{1/x} = \lim_{t \to -\infty} e^t = 0.$$

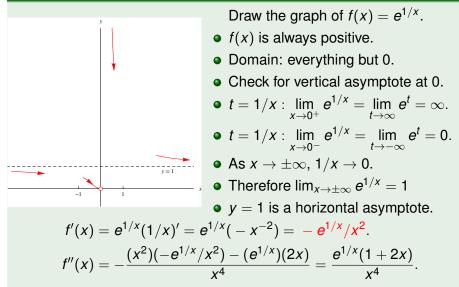
• As
$$x \to \pm \infty$$
, $1/x \to 0$.

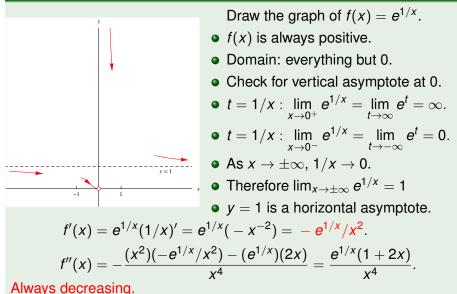
• Therefore
$$\lim_{x\to\pm\infty} e^{1/x} = 1$$

$$f'(x) = e^{1/x}(1/x)' = e^{1/x}(-x^{-2}) = -e^{1/x}/x^2.$$

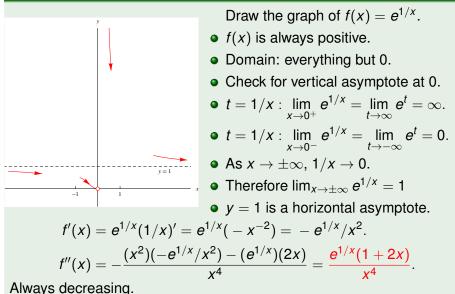




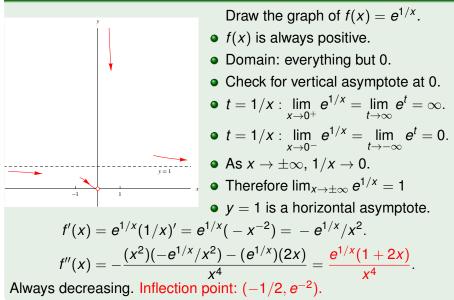


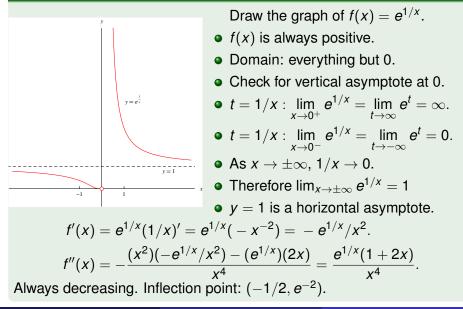


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