

4.3 Monotonic Functions and the First Derivative Test

Increasing Functions and Decreasing Functions

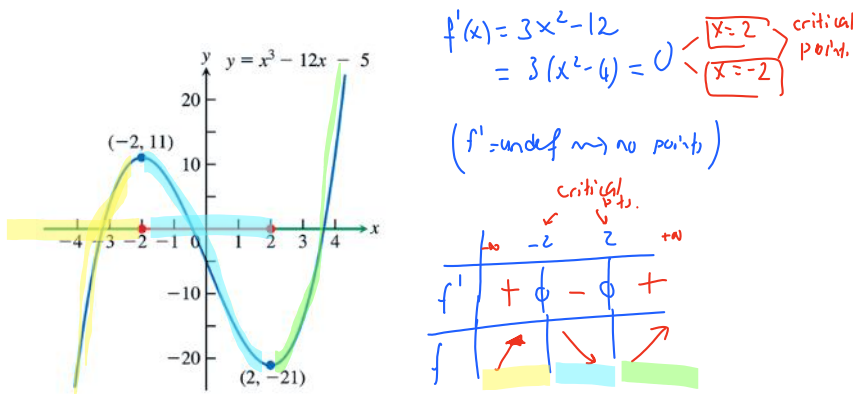
COROLLARY 3 Suppose that f is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b) .

If $f'(x) > 0$ at each point $x \in (a, b)$, then f is increasing on $[a, b]$.

If $f'(x) < 0$ at each point $x \in (a, b)$, then f is decreasing on $[a, b]$.

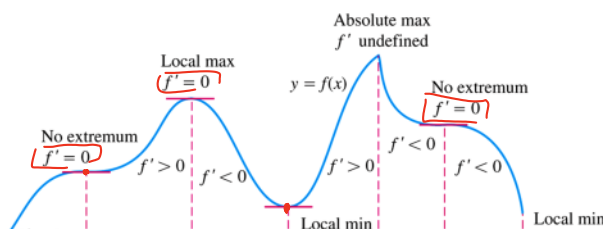
$f' > 0 \Rightarrow f$ is increasing
 $f' < 0 \Rightarrow f$ is decreasing

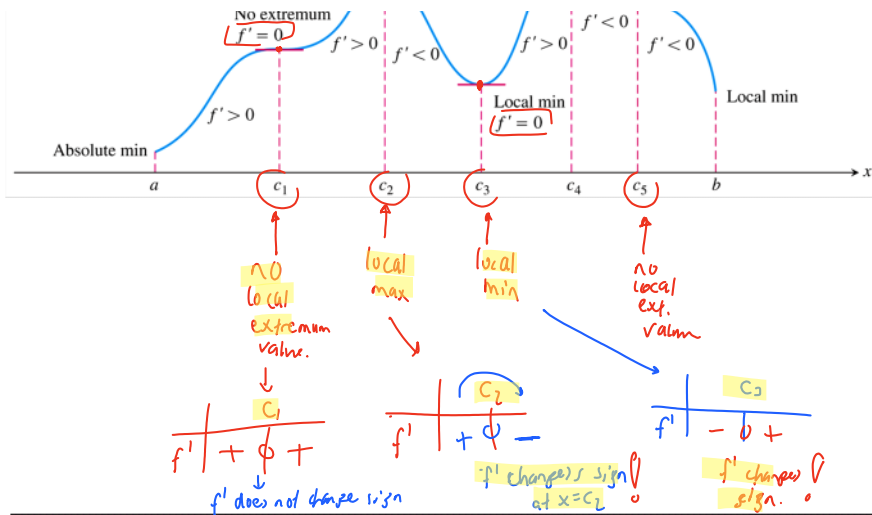
EXAMPLE 1 Find the critical points of $f(x) = x^3 - 12x - 5$ and identify the intervals on which f is increasing and on which f is decreasing.



| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Interval | $-\infty < x < -2$ | $-2 < x < 2$ | $2 < x < \infty$ |
| f' evaluated | $f'(-3) = 15$ | $f'(0) = -12$ | $f'(3) = 15$ |
| Sign of f' | + | - | + |
| Behavior of f | increasing | decreasing | increasing |

The critical points of a function locate where it is increasing and where it is decreasing. The first derivative changes sign at a critical point where a local extremum occurs.

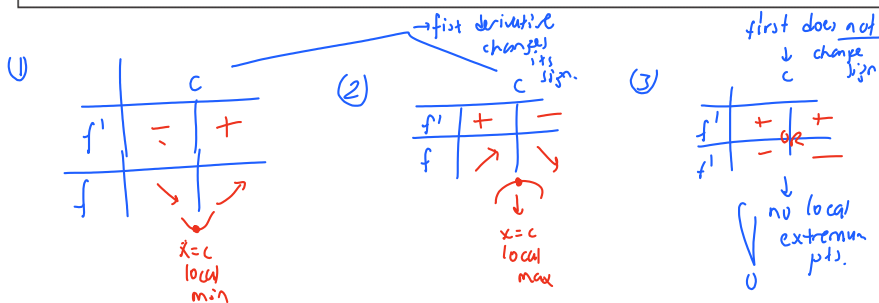




First Derivative Test for Local Extrema

Suppose that c is a critical point of a continuous function f , and that f is differentiable at every point in some interval containing c except possibly at c itself. Moving across this interval from left to right,

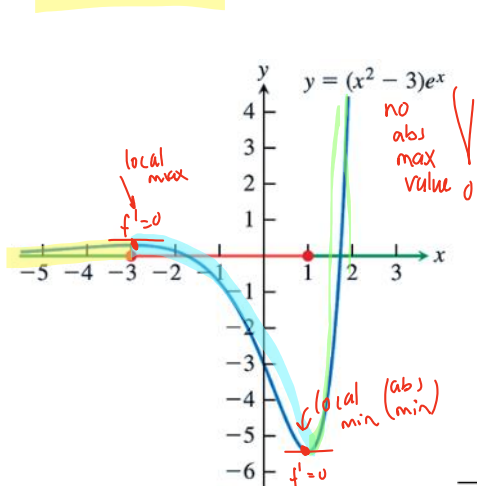
1. if f' changes from **negative to positive** at c , then f has a **local minimum** at c ;
2. if f' changes from **positive to negative** at c , then f has a **local maximum** at c ;
3. if f' does **not change sign** at c (that is, f' is positive on both sides of c or negative on both sides), then f has **no local extremum** at c .



EXAMPLE 3 Find the critical points of

$$f(x) = (x^2 - 3)e^x.$$

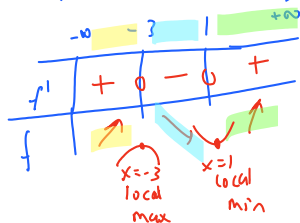
Identify the intervals on which f is **increasing** and **decreasing**. Find the function's **local** and **absolute extreme values**.



$$f'(x) = 2x \cdot e^x + (x^2 - 3) \cdot e^x = e^x(x^2 + 2x - 3)$$

$$f' = e^x(x+3)(x-1) = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x = -3 \\ x = 1 \end{cases} \text{ crit. points}$$

(f' = undef \rightarrow no such pt)



| Interval | $x < -3$ | $-3 < x < 1$ | $1 < x$ |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| Sign of f' | + | - | + |
| Behavior of f | increasing | decreasing | increasing |

4.4 Concavity and Curve Sketching

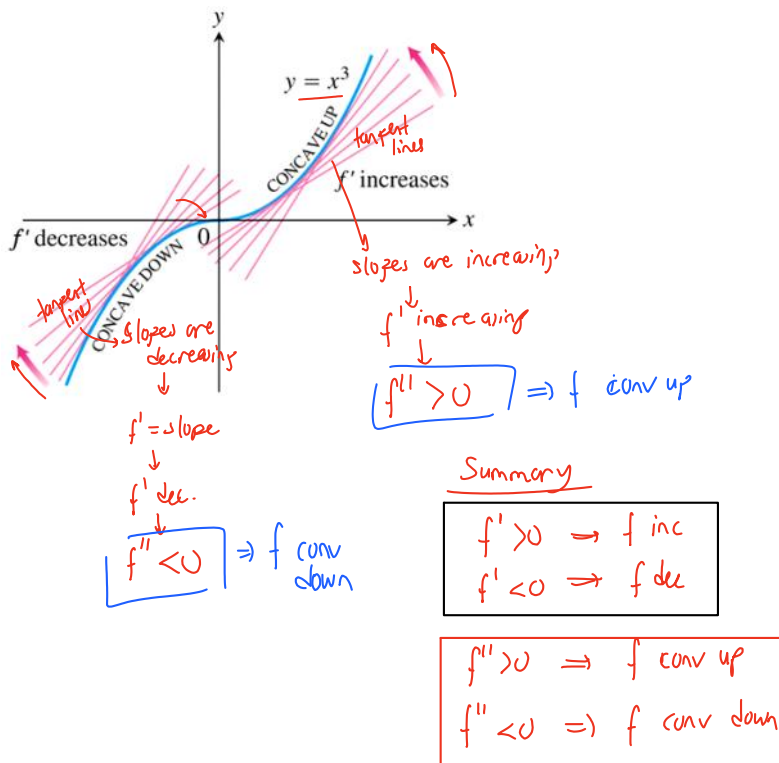


FIGURE 4.24 The graph of $f(x) = x^3$ is concave down on $(-\infty, 0)$ and concave up on $(0, \infty)$ (Example 1a).

DEFINITION The graph of a differentiable function $y = f(x)$ is

- (a) **concave up** on an open interval I if f' is increasing on I ;
- (b) **concave down** on an open interval I if f' is decreasing on I .

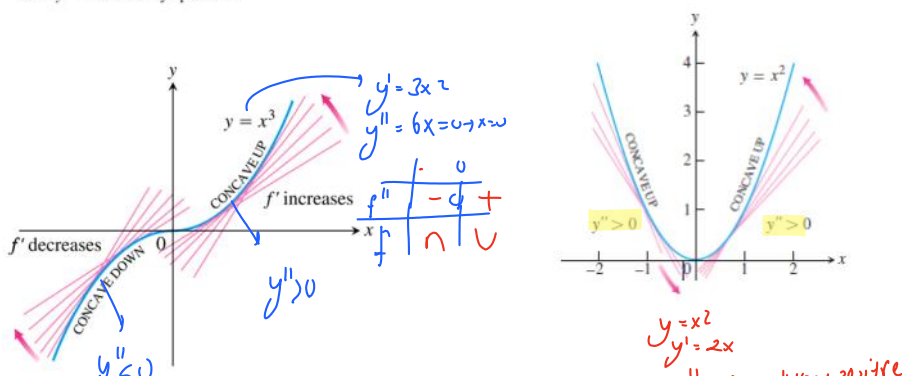
The Second Derivative Test for Concavity

Let $y = f(x)$ be twice-differentiable on an interval I .

1. If $f'' > 0$ on I , the graph of f over I is concave up.
2. If $f'' < 0$ on I , the graph of f over I is concave down.

EXAMPLE 1

- (a) The curve $y = x^3$ (Figure 4.24) is concave down on $(-\infty, 0)$ where $y'' = 6x < 0$ and concave up on $(0, \infty)$ where $y'' = 6x > 0$.
- (b) The curve $y = x^2$ (Figure 4.25) is concave up on $(-\infty, \infty)$ because its second derivative $y'' = 2$ is always positive.





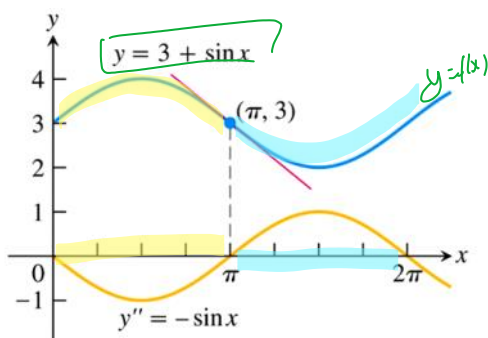
$$y = x^2$$

$$y' = 2x$$

$$y'' = 2 \rightarrow \text{always positive}$$

f is always conc up

EXAMPLE 2 Determine the concavity of $y = 3 + \sin x$ on $[0, 2\pi]$.



$$y' = \cos x \quad \text{on } [0, \pi]$$

$$y'' = -\sin x = 0 \quad \begin{cases} x=0 \\ x=\pi \\ x=2\pi \end{cases} \quad \text{on } [0, 2\pi]$$

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|---------|--------|
| | 0 | π | 2π |
| f'' | - | + | |
| f | | | |
| | conc down | conc up | |



DEFINITION A point where the graph of a function has a tangent line and where the concavity changes is a **point of inflection**.

| | | | |
|-------|---|---|--|
| | c | | |
| f'' | - | + | |
| f | | | |
| | conv. changes (f'' changes its sign) | | |
| | $x=c \rightarrow$ inflection point $\leftarrow x=c$ | | |

OR

| | | | |
|-------|--|---|--|
| | c | | |
| f'' | + | - | |
| f | | | |
| | conv changes (f'' changes its sign) | | |



At a point of inflection $(c, f(c))$, either $f''(c) = 0$ or $f''(c)$ fails to exist.

$$x=c \text{ inflection point} \rightarrow f''(c) = 0$$

$$\text{OR}$$

$$f''(c) = \text{undef}$$

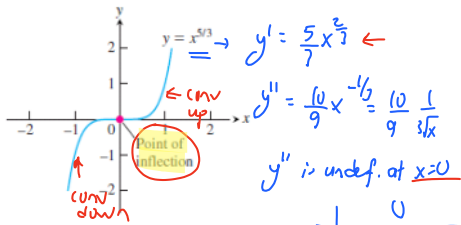


FIGURE 4.27 The graph of $f(x) = x^{5/3}$ has a horizontal tangent at the origin where the concavity changes, although f'' does not exist at $x = 0$ (Example 3).

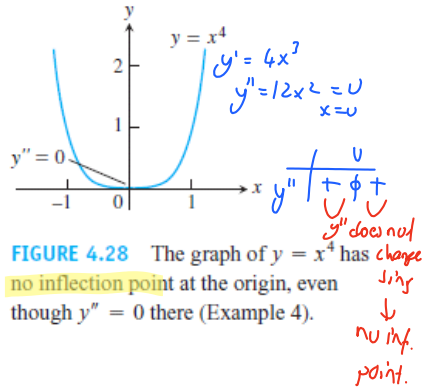


FIGURE 4.28 The graph of $y = x^4$ has **no inflection point** at the origin, even though $y'' = 0$ there (Example 4).

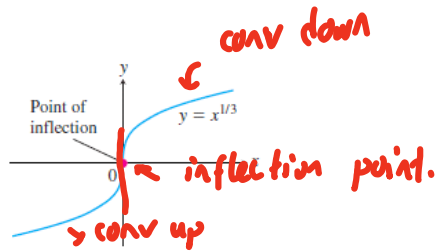
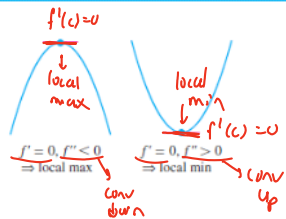


FIGURE 4.29 A point of inflection where y' and y'' fail to exist (Example 5).

THEOREM 5—Second Derivative Test for Local Extrema Suppose f'' is continuous on an open interval that contains $x = c$.

1. If $f'(c) = 0$ and $f''(c) < 0$, then f has a **local maximum** at $x = c$.
2. If $f'(c) = 0$ and $f''(c) > 0$, then f has a **local minimum** at $x = c$.
3. If $f'(c) = 0$ and $f''(c) = 0$, then the **test fails**. The function f may have a local maximum, a local minimum, or neither.



Curve Sketching

EXAMPLE 7 Sketch a graph of the function

$$f(x) = x^4 - 4x^3 + 10$$

using the following steps.

- (a) Identify where the extrema of f occur.
- (b) Find the intervals on which f is increasing and the intervals on which f is decreasing.
- (c) Find where the graph of f is concave up and where it is concave down.
- (d) Sketch the general shape of the graph for f .
- (e) Plot some specific points, such as local maximum and minimum points, points of in-

- (c) Find where the graph of f is concave up and where it is concave down.
- (d) Sketch the general shape of the graph for f .
- (e) Plot some specific points, such as local maximum and minimum points, points of inflection, and intercepts. Then sketch the curve.

Exercise for you

The general shape of the curve is shown in the accompanying figure.

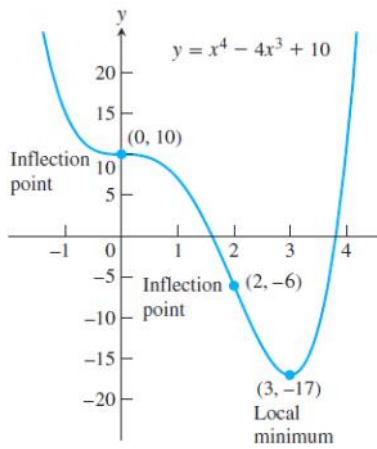
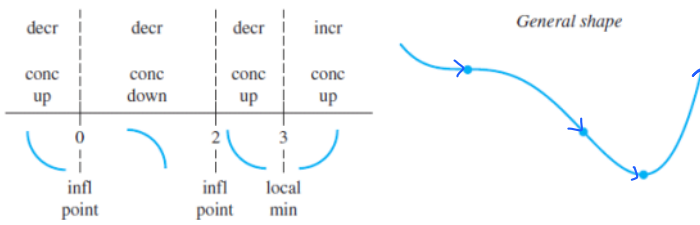


FIGURE 4.30 The graph of $f(x) = x^4 - 4x^3 + 10$ (Example 7).

Procedure for Graphing $y = f(x)$

1. Identify the **domain** of f and any symmetries the curve may have.
2. Find the derivatives y' and y'' .
3. Find the **critical points** of f , if any, and identify the function's behavior at each one.
4. Find where the curve is **increasing** and where it is **decreasing**.
5. Find the points of **inflection**, if any occur, and determine the **concavity** of the curve.
6. **Identify any asymptotes** that may exist (see Section 2.6).
7. **Plot key points**, such as the intercepts and the points found in Steps 3–5, and sketch the curve together with any **asymptotes** that exist.

EXAMPLE 8 Sketch the graph of $f(x) = \frac{(x+1)^2}{1+x^2}$.
x-intercept: $y=0$ $x=-1$
y-intercept: $x=0, y=1$
 ~~$x=0, y=1$~~

Solution

(1) The **domain** of f is $(-\infty, \infty)$ and there are no symmetries about either axis or the origin (Section 1.1).

(2) Find f' and f'' .
 $f' \rightarrow$ inc / dec $f'' \rightarrow$ conc up / down

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

$$f'(x) = \frac{2(x+1)(1+x^2) - (x+1)^2 \cdot 2x}{(1+x^2)^2} = \frac{2(1-x^2)}{(1+x^2)^2} = 0 \quad \begin{matrix} x=1 \\ x=-1 \end{matrix}$$

(f' undefined \rightarrow no such pt)

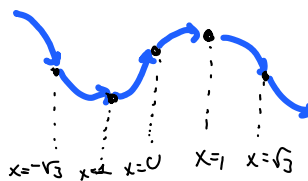
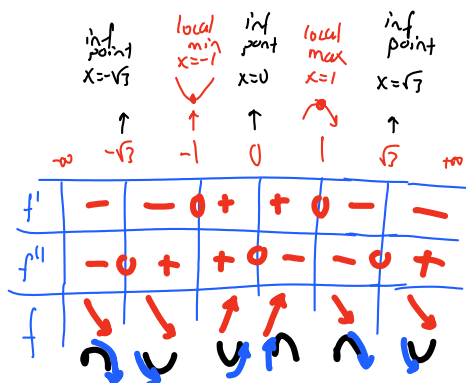
$$f''(x) = \frac{-4x \cdot (1+x^2)^2 - 2(1-x^2) \cdot 2(1+x^2) \cdot 2x}{(1+x^2)^4} = \frac{4x(x^2-3)}{(1+x^2)^3} = 0 \quad \begin{matrix} x=0 \\ x=-\sqrt{3} \\ x=\sqrt{3} \end{matrix}$$

(f'' undefined \rightarrow no such pt)

(3) Behavior at critical points:

(4) Increasing and decreasing.

(5) Inflection points.



(6) Asymptotes:
 (1) H.A: $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = 1$ $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = 1$
 (2) V.A: no vertical asym
 (3) ...
 $y=1$ H.A

6. Asymptotes: $x \rightarrow \infty$
 $f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 2x + 1}{1 + x^2} = \frac{(x+1)^2}{1+x^2}$
 (2) V.A: no vertical asym.
 (3) O.A: no oblique asym.
 $x \rightarrow -\infty$
 $y = 1$ H.A

Remark: $f(x) = \frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} \rightarrow \deg P(x) = \deg Q(x) + 1 \Rightarrow$ there is oblique asym.
 $\frac{P(x)}{Q(x)} \mid \frac{Q(x)}{R(x)} \mid \frac{Q(x)}{R(x)} = ax + b$
 $y = ax + b$ O.A.
 7. The graph of f is sketched in Figure 4.31.

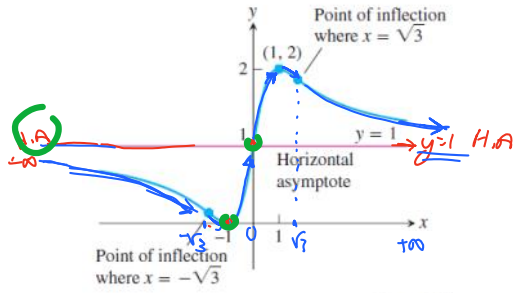


FIGURE 4.31 The graph of $y = \frac{(x+1)^2}{1+x^2}$ (Example 8).

EXAMPLE 9 Sketch the graph of $f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 4}{2x}$.

Solution

1. The domain of f is all nonzero real numbers. There are no intercepts because neither x nor $f(x)$ can be zero. Since $f(-x) = -f(x)$, we note that f is an odd function, so the graph of f is symmetric about the origin.

2.

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 4}{2x} = \frac{x}{2} + \frac{2}{x}$$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{2}{x^2} = \frac{x^2 - 4}{2x^2}$$

$$f''(x) = \frac{4}{x^3}$$

3. Behavior at critical points.

4. Increasing and decreasing.

5. Inflection points.

6. Asymptotes.

7. The graph of f is sketched in Figure 4.32.

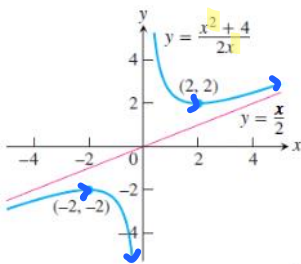


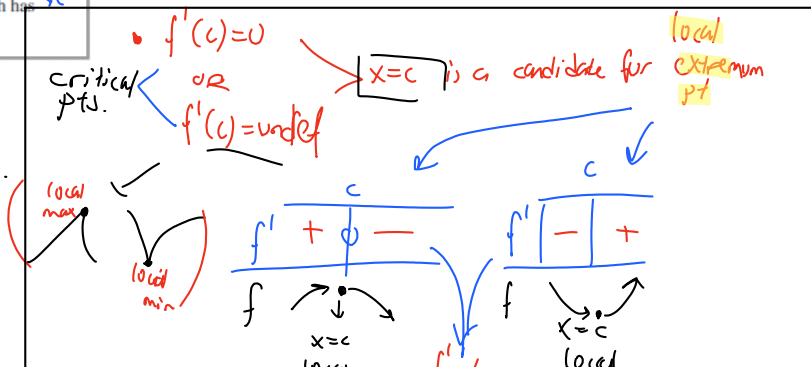
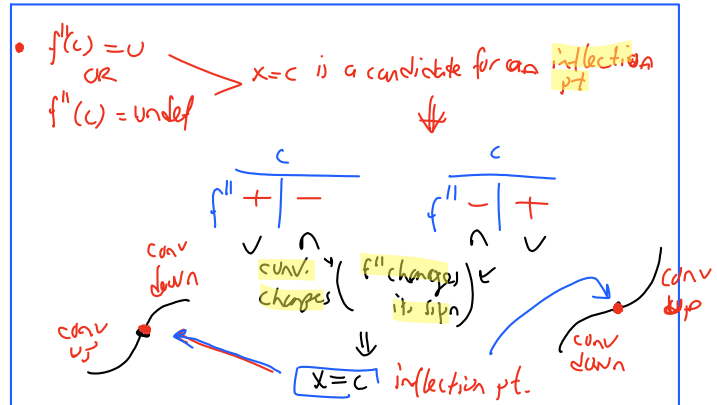
FIGURE 4.32 The graph of $y = \frac{x^2 + 4}{2x}$ (Example 9).

Graphical Behavior of Functions from Derivatives

Graphical Behavior of Functions from Derivatives

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Differentiable \Rightarrow smooth, connected; graph may rise and fall</p> | <p>$y' > 0 \Rightarrow$ rises from left to right; may be wavy</p> | <p>$y' < 0 \Rightarrow$ falls from left to right; may be wavy</p> |
| <p>$y'' > 0 \Rightarrow$ concave up throughout; no waves; graph may rise or fall</p> | <p>$y'' < 0 \Rightarrow$ concave down throughout; no waves; graph may rise or fall</p> | <p>y'' changes sign at an inflection point</p> |
| <p>y' changes sign \Rightarrow graph has local maximum or local minimum</p> | <p>$y' = 0$ and $y'' < 0$ at a point; graph has local maximum</p> | <p>$y' = 0$ and $y'' > 0$ at a point; graph has local minimum</p> |

$f' > 0 \Rightarrow f$ inc $f'' > 0 \Rightarrow f$ conv up
 $f' < 0 \Rightarrow f$ dec $f'' < 0 \Rightarrow f$ conv down



- $\frac{0}{0} \Rightarrow \text{L'H}$
- $\frac{\infty}{\infty} \Rightarrow \text{L'H}$ directly apply
- $0 \cdot \infty \rightarrow \frac{0}{\frac{1}{\infty} = 0} = \frac{0}{0} \Rightarrow \text{L'H}$
- $\frac{\infty}{\frac{1}{\infty} = 0} = \frac{\infty}{0} \Rightarrow \text{L'H}$
- $\infty - \infty \rightarrow \frac{0}{0} \text{ or } \frac{\infty}{\infty} \Rightarrow \text{L'H}$ (transfor)

$1^\infty, 0^0, \infty^0$

EXAMPLE 1 The following limits involve $0/0$ indeterminate forms, so we apply l'Hôpital's Rule. In some cases, it must be applied repeatedly.

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3x - \sin x}{x} \sim \frac{0}{0}$ (indeter. form)

$\text{L'H} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{3 - \cos x}{1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} 3 - \cos x = 2$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{1+x} - 1}{x} \sim \frac{0}{0}$

$\text{L'H} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\frac{1}{2\sqrt{1+x}}}{1} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1+x}} = \frac{1}{2}$

(c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sqrt{1+x} - 1 - x/2}{x^2}$

(d) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{x - \sin x}{x^3} \sim \frac{0}{0}$

$\text{L'H} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{1 - \cos x}{3x^2} \sim \frac{0}{0}$

$\text{L'H} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x}{6x} \sim \frac{0}{0}$

$\text{L'H} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\cos x}{6} = \frac{1}{6}$

EXAMPLE 4 Find the limits of these ∞/∞ forms:


(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi/2} \frac{\sec x}{1 + \tan x}$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln x}{2\sqrt{x}}$

(c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^x}{x^2}$

b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln x}{2\sqrt{x}} \sim \frac{\infty}{\infty}$

$\text{L'H} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} = 0$



EXAMPLE 5 Find the limits of these $\infty \cdot 0$ forms:


(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(x \sin \frac{1}{x} \right)$

(b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sqrt{x} \ln x$

b) $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \sqrt{x} \ln x \sim 0 \cdot (-\infty)$

$= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{\frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} = x^{-1/2}} \sim \frac{-\infty}{\infty} \Rightarrow \text{L'H}$

$\text{L'H} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{-\frac{1}{2}x^{-3/2}} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} -2x^{1/2} = 0$



$$\begin{aligned} & \dots \\ & x \rightarrow 0^+ \quad \dots \\ & = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln(1+x)}{x} \sim \frac{0}{0} \\ & \stackrel{\text{L'H}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\frac{1}{1+x}}{1} = \frac{1}{1+0} = \boxed{1} \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{result of the} \\ \text{question with } \ln \end{array} \\ & \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} (1+x)^{\frac{1}{x}} = e^{\boxed{1}} = e // \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE 8 Find $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x^{1/x}$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right) \rightarrow 1^\infty \text{ indeter. power.} \\ & \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} x \ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right) \rightarrow \infty \cdot 0 \\ & = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)}{\frac{1}{x}} \rightarrow \frac{0}{0} \text{ Apply L'H} \\ & \stackrel{\text{L'H}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{x}} \cdot \frac{-1}{x^2}}{\frac{-1}{x^2}} \\ & = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{1+\frac{1}{x}} = \frac{1}{1+0} \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{result of the} \\ \text{question with } \ln \end{array} \\ & \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x}\right)^x = e^{\boxed{1}} = e \end{aligned}$$