

Calculus I - Lecture 16

Minima and Maxima & Mean Value Theorem

Lecture Notes:

<http://www.math.ksu.edu/~gerald/math220d/>

Course Syllabus:

<http://www.math.ksu.edu/math220/spring-2014/indexs14.html>

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March 24, 2014

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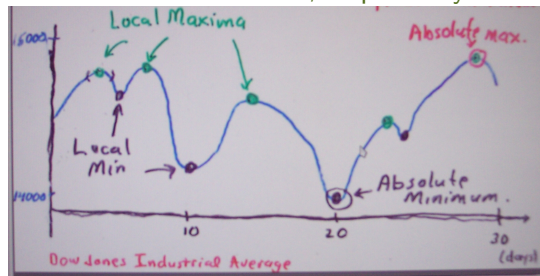
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Definition (Absolute Extrema)

Let $f(x)$ be a function defined on on interval I and let $a \in I$.

1. We say that $f(x)$ has an **absolute maximum** at $x = a$ if $f(a)$ is the maximal value of $f(x)$ on I . That is

$$f(a) \geq f(x) \text{ for all } x \in I.$$

2. We say that $f(x)$ has an **absolute minimum** at $x = a$ if $f(a)$ is the minimal value of $f(x)$ on I . That is

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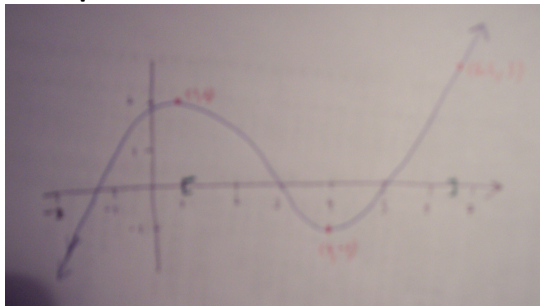
Definition (Local Extrema)

Let $f(x)$ be a function.

1. We say that $f(x)$ has an **local maximum** at $x = a$ if $f(a)$ is the maximal value of $f(x)$ on some open interval I inside the domain of f containing a .
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In the above situation the **value** $f(a)$ is called a global (or local) maximum (or minimum).

Example:



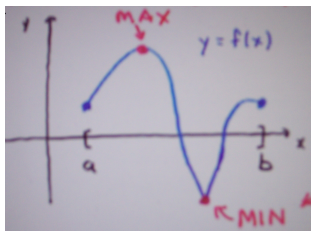
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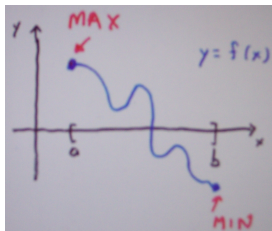
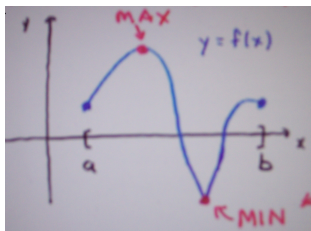
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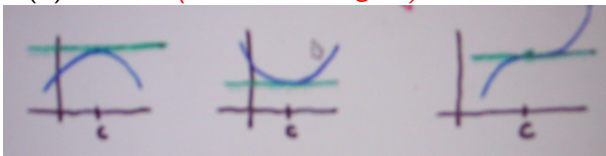
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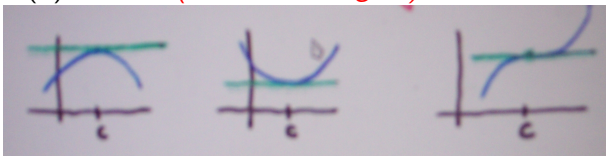
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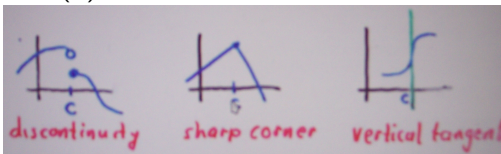
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A point c in the domain of a function $f(x)$ is called a critical point if either

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2. or $f'(c)$ does **not** exist.



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The function $f(x) = x^3$ has no local minima or maxima.

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Suppose that $f(x)$ is continuous on the closed interval $[a, b]$. Then $f(x)$ attains its absolute maximum and minimum values on $[a, b]$ at either:

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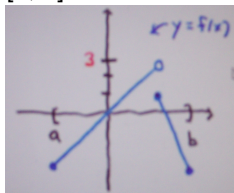
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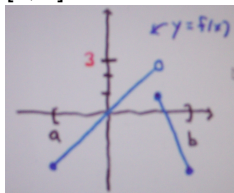
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Example: What is the maximum value of $f(x)$ on the interval $[a, b]$?



Solution: There is none.

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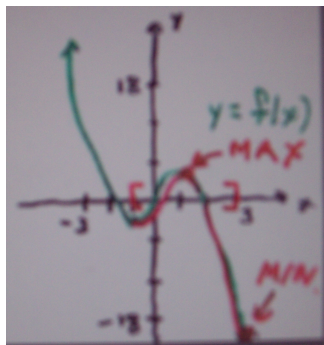
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Maximal value is 2 at $x = 1$,

Minimal value is -18 at $x = 3$.



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Maximal value is $\frac{3}{2\sqrt[3]{2}}$, minimal value is -3 .

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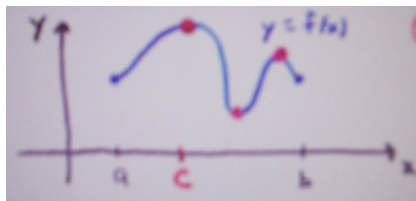
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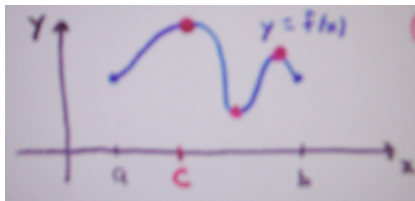
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Proof: Follows from the results of the last section!

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$c = \frac{3}{2}$ satisfies the conclusion of Rolle's Theorem.

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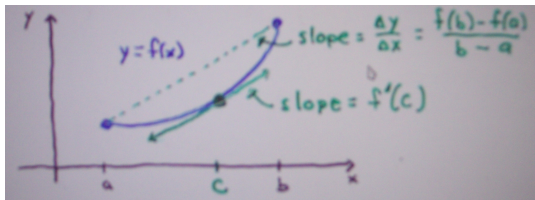
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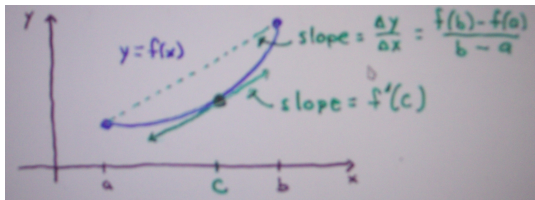


Theorem (Mean Value Theorem)

Suppose $f(x)$ is a continuous function on $[a, b]$ and is differentiable on (a, b) .

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Intuitive version: There is always a time when your instantaneous velocity equals your average velocity.

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