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CHPT 4: Applications of Differentiation

Major Applications: Find value(s) that maximize or minimize a function $f(x)$, sometimes w/ some restriction on x .

Def Let $f(x)$ have Domain D . Then $f(x)$ has an absolute maximum (aka ^{global} maximum) at c if

$$f(c) \geq f(x) \quad \forall x \in D$$

The # $f(c)$ is the maximum value.

Extreme value =
either one

Similarly f has an absolute minimum at c if

$$f(c) \leq f(x) \quad \forall x \in D \quad f(c) \text{ is } \underline{\text{minimum value}}$$



Def $f(x)$ has a local maximum at c if $\exists \epsilon > 0$ so that $f(c) \geq f(x)$ for all $x \in (c - \epsilon, c + \epsilon)$!

Similarly local minimum

Ex



Ex $f(x) = x^2$ has a global (and local) min at $x=0$.
On $(-\infty, \infty)$ it has no global maximum.

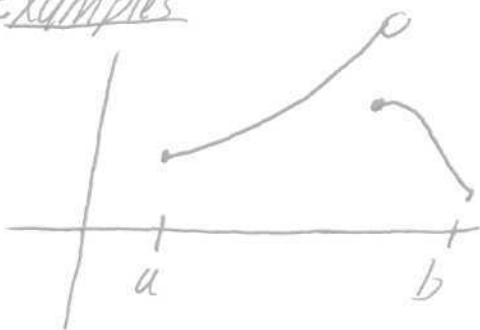
$f(x) = x^2$ has a global maximum value of 25 at $x=5$ on $[-2, 5]$.

Two Key Theorems:

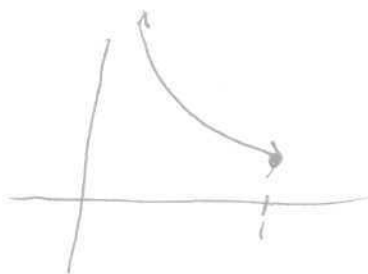
Extreme Value Thm

Let $f(x)$ be continuous on a closed interval $[a, b]$. Then $f(x)$ attains an absolute maximum value $f(c)$ and an absolute minimum value $f(d)$ at some $c, d \in [a, b]$.

Examples



No maximum value!



$f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ on $(0, 1]$

No maximum value,
not a closed interval!

Fermat's Theorem

Suppose $f(x)$ has a local max or min at c .
If $f'(c)$ exists then $f'(c) = 0$.

Proof Suppose local max at c .



For $h > 0$ and small, $\frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h} < 0$

For $h < 0$ and small, $\frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h} > 0$

Thus $\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(c+h) - f(c)}{h}$ must = 0 if it exists
||
 $f'(c)$

Ex $f(x) = x^2$

$f'(x) = 2x$ This local max/min can only occur at $x = 0$

Ex $f(x) = x^3$ $f'(x) = 3x^2$ but no local max/min at $x = 0$

