

- T** 71. Use the inequalities in Exercise 70 to estimate  $f(0.1)$  if  $f'(x) = 1/(1 + x^4 \cos x)$  for  $0 \leq x \leq 0.1$  and  $f(0) = 1$ .
- T** 72. Use the inequalities in Exercise 70 to estimate  $f(0.1)$  if  $f'(x) = 1/(1 - x^4)$  for  $0 \leq x \leq 0.1$  and  $f(0) = 2$ .
73. Let  $f$  be differentiable at every value of  $x$  and suppose that  $f(1) = 1$ , that  $f' < 0$  on  $(-\infty, 1)$ , and that  $f' > 0$  on  $(1, \infty)$ .
- Show that  $f(x) \geq 1$  for all  $x$ .
  - Must  $f'(1) = 0$ ? Explain.
74. Let  $f(x) = px^2 + qx + r$  be a quadratic function defined on a closed interval  $[a, b]$ . Show that there is exactly one point  $c$  in  $(a, b)$  at which  $f$  satisfies the conclusion of the Mean Value Theorem.
75. Use the same-derivative argument, as was done to prove the Product and Power Rules for logarithms, to prove the Quotient Rule property.
76. Use the same-derivative argument to prove the identities
- $\tan^{-1} x + \cot^{-1} x = \frac{\pi}{2}$
  - $\sec^{-1} x + \csc^{-1} x = \frac{\pi}{2}$
77. Starting with the equation  $e^{x_1} e^{x_2} = e^{x_1 + x_2}$ , derived in the text, show that  $e^{-x} = 1/e^x$  for any real number  $x$ . Then show that  $e^{x_1}/e^{x_2} = e^{x_1 - x_2}$  for any numbers  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ .
78. Show that  $(e^{x_1})^{x_2} = e^{x_1 x_2} = (e^{x_2})^{x_1}$  for any numbers  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ .

## 4.3 Monotonic Functions and the First Derivative Test

In sketching the graph of a differentiable function, it is useful to know where it increases (rises from left to right) and where it decreases (falls from left to right) over an interval. This section gives a test to determine where it increases and where it decreases. We also show how to test the critical points of a function to identify whether local extreme values are present.

### Increasing Functions and Decreasing Functions

As another corollary to the Mean Value Theorem, we show that functions with positive derivatives are increasing functions and functions with negative derivatives are decreasing functions. A function that is increasing or decreasing on an interval is said to be **monotonic** on the interval.

**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  $[a, b]$ .

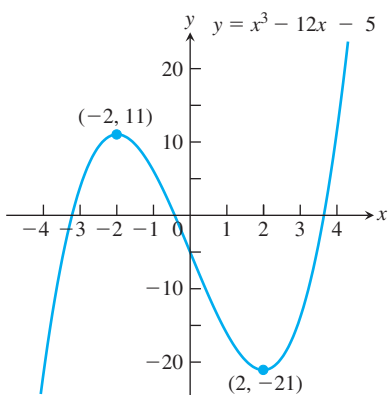
**Proof** Let  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  be any two points in  $[a, b]$  with  $x_1 < x_2$ . The Mean Value Theorem applied to  $f$  on  $[x_1, x_2]$  says that

$$f(x_2) - f(x_1) = f'(c)(x_2 - x_1)$$

for some  $c$  between  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ . The sign of the right-hand side of this equation is the same as the sign of  $f'(c)$  because  $x_2 - x_1$  is positive. Therefore,  $f(x_2) > f(x_1)$  if  $f'$  is positive on  $(a, b)$  and  $f(x_2) < f(x_1)$  if  $f'$  is negative on  $(a, b)$ . ■

Corollary 3 tells us that  $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$  is increasing on the interval  $[0, b]$  for any  $b > 0$  because  $f'(x) = 1/\sqrt{x}$  is positive on  $(0, b)$ . The derivative does not exist at  $x = 0$ , but Corollary 3 still applies. The corollary is valid for infinite as well as finite intervals, so  $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$  is increasing on  $[0, \infty)$ .

To find the intervals where a function  $f$  is increasing or decreasing, we first find all of the critical points of  $f$ . If  $a < b$  are two critical points for  $f$ , and if the derivative  $f'$  is continuous but never zero on the interval  $(a, b)$ , then by the Intermediate Value Theorem applied to  $f'$ , the derivative must be everywhere positive on  $(a, b)$ , or everywhere negative there. One way we can determine the sign of  $f'$  on  $(a, b)$  is simply by evaluating the derivative at a single point  $c$  in  $(a, b)$ . If  $f'(c) > 0$ , then  $f'(x) > 0$  for all  $x$  in  $(a, b)$  so  $f$  is increasing on  $[a, b]$  by Corollary 3; if  $f'(c) < 0$ , then  $f$  is decreasing on  $[a, b]$ . The next example illustrates how we use this procedure.



**FIGURE 4.20** The function  $f(x) = x^3 - 12x - 5$  is monotonic on three separate intervals (Example 1).

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

**Solution** The function  $f$  is everywhere continuous and differentiable. The first derivative

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= 3x^2 - 12 = 3(x^2 - 4) \\ &= 3(x + 2)(x - 2) \end{aligned}$$

is zero at  $x = -2$  and  $x = 2$ . These critical points subdivide the domain of  $f$  to create non-overlapping open intervals  $(-\infty, -2)$ ,  $(-2, 2)$ , and  $(2, \infty)$  on which  $f'$  is either positive or negative. We determine the sign of  $f'$  by evaluating  $f'$  at a convenient point in each subinterval. The behavior of  $f$  is determined by then applying Corollary 3 to each subinterval. The results are summarized in the following table, and the graph of  $f$  is given in Figure 4.20.

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

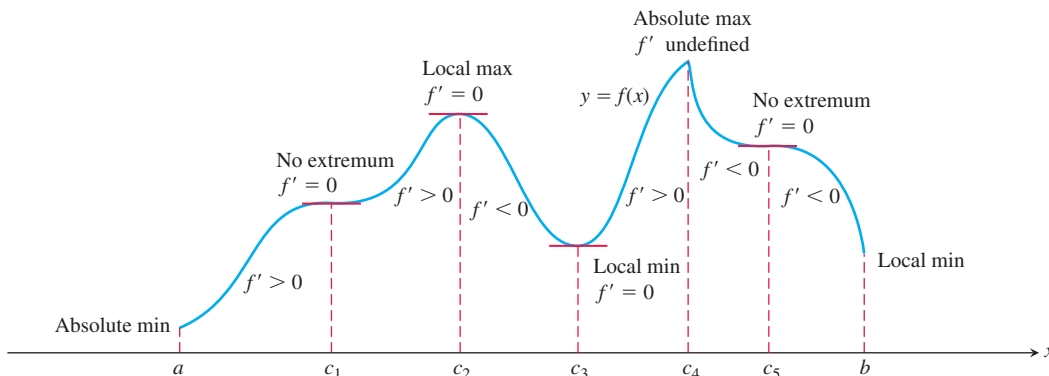
We used “strict” less-than inequalities to identify the intervals in the summary table for Example 1, since open intervals were specified. Corollary 3 says that we could use  $\leq$  inequalities as well. That is, the function  $f$  in the example is increasing on  $-\infty < x \leq -2$ , decreasing on  $-2 \leq x \leq 2$ , and increasing on  $2 \leq x < \infty$ . We do not talk about whether a function is increasing or decreasing at a single point.

**HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY**

Edmund Halley  
(1656–1742)

**First Derivative Test for Local Extrema**

In Figure 4.21, at the points where  $f$  has a minimum value,  $f' < 0$  immediately to the left and  $f' > 0$  immediately to the right. (If the point is an endpoint, there is only one side to consider.) Thus, the function is decreasing on the left of the minimum value and it is increasing on its right. Similarly, at the points where  $f$  has a maximum value,  $f' > 0$  immediately to the left and  $f' < 0$  immediately to the right. Thus, the function is increasing on the left of the maximum value and decreasing on its right. In summary, at a local extreme point, the sign of  $f'(x)$  changes.



**FIGURE 4.21** 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.

These observations lead to a test for the presence and nature of local extreme values of differentiable functions.

### 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  $c$ .

The test for local extrema at endpoints is similar, but there is only one side to consider in determining whether  $f$  is increasing or decreasing, based on the sign of  $f'$ .

**Proof of the First Derivative Test** Part (1). Since the sign of  $f'$  changes from negative to positive at  $c$ , there are numbers  $a$  and  $b$  such that  $a < c < b$ ,  $f' < 0$  on  $(a, c)$ , and  $f' > 0$  on  $(c, b)$ . If  $x \in (a, c)$ , then  $f(c) < f(x)$  because  $f' < 0$  implies that  $f$  is decreasing on  $[a, c]$ . If  $x \in (c, b)$ , then  $f(c) < f(x)$  because  $f' > 0$  implies that  $f$  is increasing on  $[c, b]$ . Therefore,  $f(x) \geq f(c)$  for every  $x \in (a, b)$ . By definition,  $f$  has a local minimum at  $c$ .

Parts (2) and (3) are proved similarly. ■

**EXAMPLE 2** Find the critical points of

$$f(x) = x^{1/3}(x - 4) = x^{4/3} - 4x^{1/3}.$$

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

**Solution** The function  $f$  is continuous at all  $x$  since it is the product of two continuous functions,  $x^{1/3}$  and  $(x - 4)$ . The first derivative

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= \frac{d}{dx}(x^{4/3} - 4x^{1/3}) = \frac{4}{3}x^{1/3} - \frac{4}{3}x^{-2/3} \\ &= \frac{4}{3}x^{-2/3}(x - 1) = \frac{4(x - 1)}{3x^{2/3}} \end{aligned}$$

is zero at  $x = 1$  and undefined at  $x = 0$ . There are no endpoints in the domain, so the critical points  $x = 0$  and  $x = 1$  are the only places where  $f$  might have an extreme value.

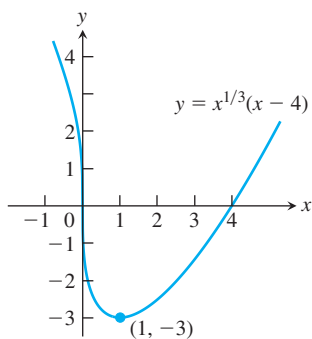
The critical points partition the  $x$ -axis into open intervals on which  $f'$  is either positive or negative. The sign pattern of  $f'$  reveals the behavior of  $f$  between and at the critical points, as summarized in the following table.

Interval	$x < 0$	$0 < x < 1$	$x > 1$
Sign of $f'$	–	–	+
Behavior of $f$	decreasing	decreasing	increasing

Corollary 3 to the Mean Value Theorem implies that  $f$  decreases on  $(-\infty, 0)$ , decreases on  $(0, 1)$ , and increases on  $(1, \infty)$ . The First Derivative Test for Local Extrema tells us that  $f$  does not have an extreme value at  $x = 0$  ( $f'$  does not change sign) and that  $f$  has a local minimum at  $x = 1$  ( $f'$  changes from negative to positive).

The value of the local minimum is  $f(1) = 1^{1/3}(1 - 4) = -3$ . This is also an absolute minimum since  $f$  is decreasing on  $(-\infty, 1)$  and increasing on  $(1, \infty)$ . Figure 4.22 shows this value in relation to the function's graph.

Note that  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} f'(x) = -\infty$ , so the graph of  $f$  has a vertical tangent at the origin. ■



**FIGURE 4.22** The function  $f(x) = x^{1/3}(x - 4)$  decreases when  $x < 1$  and increases when  $x > 1$  (Example 2).

**EXAMPLE 3** Find the critical points of

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

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

**Solution** The function  $f$  is continuous and differentiable for all real numbers, so the critical points occur only at the zeros of  $f'$ .

Using the Derivative Product Rule, we find the derivative

$$\begin{aligned} f'(x) &= (x^2 - 3) \cdot \frac{d}{dx} e^x + \frac{d}{dx} (x^2 - 3) \cdot e^x \\ &= (x^2 - 3) \cdot e^x + (2x) \cdot e^x \\ &= (x^2 + 2x - 3)e^x. \end{aligned}$$

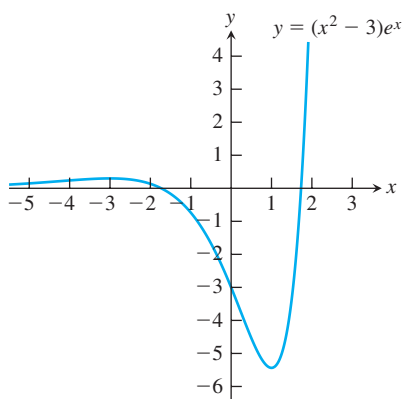
Since  $e^x$  is never zero, the first derivative is zero if and only if

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + 2x - 3 &= 0 \\ (x + 3)(x - 1) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The zeros  $x = -3$  and  $x = 1$  partition the  $x$ -axis into open intervals as follows.

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

We can see from the table that there is a local maximum (about 0.299) at  $x = -3$  and a local minimum (about  $-5.437$ ) at  $x = 1$ . The local minimum value is also an absolute minimum because  $f(x) > 0$  for  $|x| > \sqrt{3}$ . There is no absolute maximum. The function increases on  $(-\infty, -3)$  and  $(1, \infty)$  and decreases on  $(-3, 1)$ . Figure 4.23 shows the graph. ■



**FIGURE 4.23** The graph of  $f(x) = (x^2 - 3)e^x$  (Example 3).

## Exercises 4.3

### Analyzing Functions from Derivatives

Answer the following questions about the functions whose derivatives are given in Exercises 1–14:

- What are the critical points of  $f$ ?
- On what open intervals is  $f$  increasing or decreasing?
- At what points, if any, does  $f$  assume local maximum and minimum values?

- $f'(x) = x(x - 1)$
- $f'(x) = (x - 1)(x + 2)$
- $f'(x) = (x - 1)^2(x + 2)$
- $f'(x) = (x - 1)^2(x + 2)^2$
- $f'(x) = (x - 1)e^{-x}$
- $f'(x) = (x - 7)(x + 1)(x + 5)$
- $f'(x) = \frac{x^2(x - 1)}{x + 2}, x \neq -2$
- $f'(x) = \frac{(x - 2)(x + 4)}{(x + 1)(x - 3)}, x \neq -1, 3$
- $f'(x) = 1 - \frac{4}{x^2}, x \neq 0$
- $f'(x) = 3 - \frac{6}{\sqrt{x}}, x \neq 0$

11.  $f'(x) = x^{-1/3}(x + 2)$       12.  $f'(x) = x^{-1/2}(x - 3)$

13.  $f'(x) = (\sin x - 1)(2 \cos x + 1), 0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$

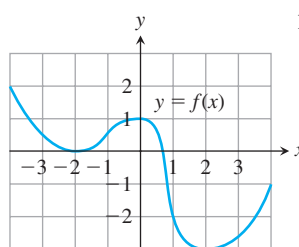
14.  $f'(x) = (\sin x + \cos x)(\sin x - \cos x), 0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$

### Identifying Extrema

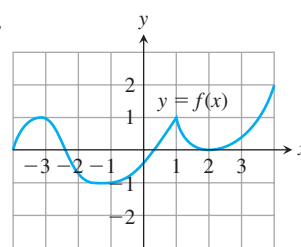
In Exercises 15–44:

- Find the open intervals on which the function is increasing and decreasing.
- Identify the function's local and absolute extreme values, if any, saying where they occur.

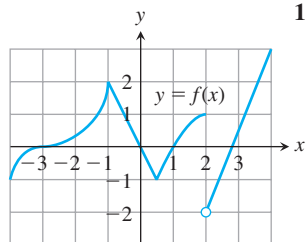
15.



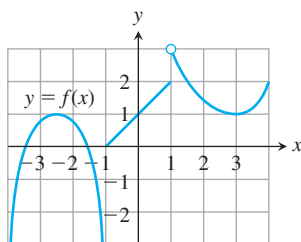
16.



17.



18.



19.  $g(t) = -t^2 - 3t + 3$

21.  $h(x) = -x^3 + 2x^2$

23.  $f(\theta) = 3\theta^2 - 4\theta^3$

25.  $f(r) = 3r^3 + 16r$

27.  $f(x) = x^4 - 8x^2 + 16$

29.  $H(t) = \frac{3}{2}t^4 - t^6$

31.  $f(x) = x - 6\sqrt{x-1}$

33.  $g(x) = x\sqrt{8-x^2}$

35.  $f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 3}{x - 2}, x \neq 2$

37.  $f(x) = x^{1/3}(x + 8)$

39.  $h(x) = x^{1/3}(x^2 - 4)$

41.  $f(x) = e^{2x} + e^{-x}$

43.  $f(x) = x \ln x$

20.  $g(t) = -3t^2 + 9t + 5$

22.  $h(x) = 2x^3 - 18x$

24.  $f(\theta) = 6\theta - \theta^3$

26.  $h(r) = (r + 7)^3$

28.  $g(x) = x^4 - 4x^3 + 4x^2$

30.  $K(t) = 15t^3 - t^5$

32.  $g(x) = 4\sqrt{x} - x^2 + 3$

34.  $g(x) = x^2\sqrt{5-x}$

36.  $f(x) = \frac{x^3}{3x^2 + 1}$

38.  $g(x) = x^{2/3}(x + 5)$

40.  $k(x) = x^{2/3}(x^2 - 4)$

42.  $f(x) = e^{\sqrt{x}}$

44.  $f(x) = x^2 \ln x$

In Exercises 45–56:

a. Identify the function's local extreme values in the given domain, and say where they occur.

b. Which of the extreme values, if any, are absolute?

**T** c. Support your findings with a graphing calculator or computer grapher.

45.  $f(x) = 2x - x^2, -\infty < x \leq 2$

46.  $f(x) = (x + 1)^2, -\infty < x \leq 0$

47.  $g(x) = x^2 - 4x + 4, 1 \leq x < \infty$

48.  $g(x) = -x^2 - 6x - 9, -4 \leq x < \infty$

49.  $f(t) = 12t - t^3, -3 \leq t < \infty$

50.  $f(t) = t^3 - 3t^2, -\infty < t \leq 3$

51.  $h(x) = \frac{x^3}{3} - 2x^2 + 4x, 0 \leq x < \infty$

52.  $k(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 + 3x + 1, -\infty < x \leq 0$

53.  $f(x) = \sqrt{25 - x^2}, -5 \leq x \leq 5$

54.  $f(x) = \sqrt{x^2 - 2x - 3}, 3 \leq x < \infty$

55.  $g(x) = \frac{x - 2}{x^2 - 1}, 0 \leq x < 1$

56.  $g(x) = \frac{x^2}{4 - x^2}, -2 < x \leq 1$

In Exercises 57–64:

a. Find the local extrema of each function on the given interval, and say where they occur.

**T** b. Graph the function and its derivative together. Comment on the behavior of  $f$  in relation to the signs and values of  $f'$ .

57.  $f(x) = \sin 2x, 0 \leq x \leq \pi$

58.  $f(x) = \sin x - \cos x, 0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$

59.  $f(x) = \sqrt{3} \cos x + \sin x, 0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$

60.  $f(x) = -2x + \tan x, \frac{-\pi}{2} < x < \frac{\pi}{2}$

61.  $f(x) = \frac{x}{2} - 2 \sin \frac{x}{2}, 0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$

62.  $f(x) = -2 \cos x - \cos^2 x, -\pi \leq x \leq \pi$

63.  $f(x) = \csc^2 x - 2 \cot x, 0 < x < \pi$

64.  $f(x) = \sec^2 x - 2 \tan x, \frac{-\pi}{2} < x < \frac{\pi}{2}$

### Theory and Examples

Show that the functions in Exercises 65 and 66 have local extreme values at the given values of  $\theta$ , and say which kind of local extreme the function has.

65.  $h(\theta) = 3 \cos \frac{\theta}{2}, 0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi, \text{ at } \theta = 0 \text{ and } \theta = 2\pi$

66.  $h(\theta) = 5 \sin \frac{\theta}{2}, 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi, \text{ at } \theta = 0 \text{ and } \theta = \pi$

67. Sketch the graph of a differentiable function  $y = f(x)$  through the point  $(1, 1)$  if  $f'(1) = 0$  and

a.  $f'(x) > 0$  for  $x < 1$  and  $f'(x) < 0$  for  $x > 1$ ;

b.  $f'(x) < 0$  for  $x < 1$  and  $f'(x) > 0$  for  $x > 1$ ;

c.  $f'(x) > 0$  for  $x \neq 1$ ;

d.  $f'(x) < 0$  for  $x \neq 1$ .

68. Sketch the graph of a differentiable function  $y = f(x)$  that has

a. a local minimum at  $(1, 1)$  and a local maximum at  $(3, 3)$ ;

b. a local maximum at  $(1, 1)$  and a local minimum at  $(3, 3)$ ;

c. local maxima at  $(1, 1)$  and  $(3, 3)$ ;

d. local minima at  $(1, 1)$  and  $(3, 3)$ .

69. Sketch the graph of a continuous function  $y = g(x)$  such that

a.  $g(2) = 2, 0 < g' < 1$  for  $x < 2, g'(x) \rightarrow 1^-$  as  $x \rightarrow 2^-$ ,  
 $-1 < g' < 0$  for  $x > 2$ , and  $g'(x) \rightarrow -1^+$  as  $x \rightarrow 2^+$ ;

b.  $g(2) = 2, g' < 0$  for  $x < 2, g'(x) \rightarrow -\infty$  as  $x \rightarrow 2^-$ ,  
 $g' > 0$  for  $x > 2$ , and  $g'(x) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $x \rightarrow 2^+$ .

70. Sketch the graph of a continuous function  $y = h(x)$  such that

a.  $h(0) = 0, -2 \leq h(x) \leq 2$  for all  $x, h'(x) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $x \rightarrow 0^-$ ,  
and  $h'(x) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $x \rightarrow 0^+$ ;

b.  $h(0) = 0, -2 \leq h(x) \leq 0$  for all  $x, h'(x) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $x \rightarrow 0^-$ ,  
and  $h'(x) \rightarrow -\infty$  as  $x \rightarrow 0^+$ .

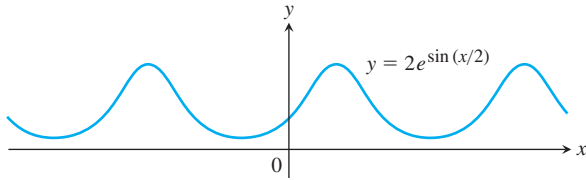
71. Discuss the extreme-value behavior of the function  $f(x) = x \sin(1/x), x \neq 0$ . How many critical points does this function have? Where are they located on the  $x$ -axis? Does  $f$  have an absolute minimum? An absolute maximum? (See Exercise 49 in Section 2.3.)

72. Find the open intervals on which the function  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx + c, a \neq 0$ , is increasing and decreasing. Describe the reasoning behind your answer.

73. Determine the values of constants  $a$  and  $b$  so that  $f(x) = ax^2 + bx$  has an absolute maximum at the point  $(1, 2)$ .

74. Determine the values of constants  $a, b, c$ , and  $d$  so that  $f(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$  has a local maximum at the point  $(0, 0)$  and a local minimum at the point  $(1, -1)$ .

75. Locate and identify the absolute extreme values of
- $\ln(\cos x)$  on  $[-\pi/4, \pi/3]$ ,
  - $\cos(\ln x)$  on  $[1/2, 2]$ .
76. a. Prove that  $f(x) = x - \ln x$  is increasing for  $x > 1$ .  
 b. Using part (a), show that  $\ln x < x$  if  $x > 1$ .
77. Find the absolute maximum and minimum values of  $f(x) = e^x - 2x$  on  $[0, 1]$ .
78. Where does the periodic function  $f(x) = 2e^{\sin(x/2)}$  take on its extreme values and what are these values?

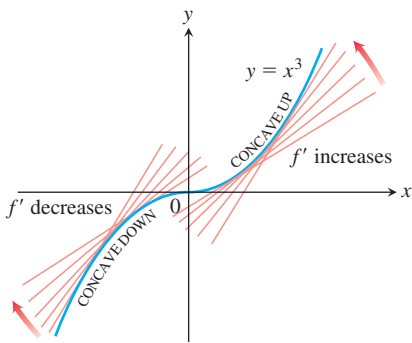


79. Find the absolute maximum value of  $f(x) = x^2 \ln(1/x)$  and say where it is assumed.
80. a. Prove that  $e^x \geq 1 + x$  if  $x \geq 0$ .  
 b. Use the result in part (a) to show that
- $$e^x \geq 1 + x + \frac{1}{2}x^2.$$
81. Show that increasing functions and decreasing functions are one-to-one. That is, show that for any  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  in  $I$ ,  $x_2 \neq x_1$  implies  $f(x_2) \neq f(x_1)$ .

Use the results of Exercise 81 to show that the functions in Exercises 82–86 have inverses over their domains. Find a formula for  $df^{-1}/dx$  using Theorem 3, Section 3.8.

82.  $f(x) = (1/3)x + (5/6)$       83.  $f(x) = 27x^3$   
 84.  $f(x) = 1 - 8x^3$               85.  $f(x) = (1 - x)^3$   
 86.  $f(x) = x^{5/3}$

## 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).

We have seen how the first derivative tells us where a function is increasing, where it is decreasing, and whether a local maximum or local minimum occurs at a critical point. In this section we see that the second derivative gives us information about how the graph of a differentiable function bends or turns. With this knowledge about the first and second derivatives, coupled with our previous understanding of symmetry and asymptotic behavior studied in Sections 1.1 and 2.6, we can now draw an accurate graph of a function. By organizing all of these ideas into a coherent procedure, we give a method for sketching graphs and revealing visually the key features of functions. Identifying and knowing the locations of these features is of major importance in mathematics and its applications to science and engineering, especially in the graphical analysis and interpretation of data.

### Concavity

As you can see in Figure 4.24, the curve  $y = x^3$  rises as  $x$  increases, but the portions defined on the intervals  $(-\infty, 0)$  and  $(0, \infty)$  turn in different ways. As we approach the origin from the left along the curve, the curve turns to our right and falls below its tangents. The slopes of the tangents are decreasing on the interval  $(-\infty, 0)$ . As we move away from the origin along the curve to the right, the curve turns to our left and rises above its tangents. The slopes of the tangents are increasing on the interval  $(0, \infty)$ . This turning or bending behavior defines the *concavity* of the curve.

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

- concave up** on an open interval  $I$  if  $f'$  is increasing on  $I$ ;
- concave down** on an open interval  $I$  if  $f'$  is decreasing on  $I$ .

If  $y = f(x)$  has a second derivative, we can apply Corollary 3 of the Mean Value Theorem to the first derivative function. We conclude that  $f'$  increases if  $f'' > 0$  on  $I$ , and decreases if  $f'' < 0$ .