Previous facts about $f$, $f'$, and $f''$

- if $f' > 0$ on an interval, then $f$ is _____________ on that interval.
- if $f' < 0$ on an interval, then $f$ is _____________ on that interval.
- if $f'' > 0$ on an interval, then $f$ is _____________ on that interval.
- if $f'' < 0$ on an interval, then $f$ is _____________ on that interval.

The First Derivative Test

Let $a$ be a point in the domain of a function $f$. Then

- $f$ has a **local maximum** at $a$ if $f(a) \, \underline{\text{is less than}} \, f(x)$ for all $x$ values near $a$.
- $f$ has a **local minimum** at $a$ if $f(a) \, \underline{\text{is greater than}} \, f(x)$ for all $x$ values near $a$.
- $a$ is called a **critical point** of $f$ if $f'(a) = 0$ or $f'(a)$ is __________.

Note: we use the term *extrema* to refer to both maxima and minima.

**Question** Consider the graphs below:

What happens to $f'$ around $x_0$ in each of the graphs?

The First Derivative Test

Let $x_0$ be a critical point of a continuous function $f$.

- If ____________________________, then $f$ has a local max at $x_0$.
- If ____________________________, then $f$ has a local min at $x_0$. 
Questions

1. Find and classify all of the local extrema of \( f(x) = x^3 - 3x + 4 \). (i.e. decide whether they are local maxima, minima, or neither.)

2. True or False? : If \( f'(x_0) = 0 \), then \( f \) has a local max or min at \( x_0 \). Explain.

The Second Derivative Test

Consider again the plots on the previous page. How does the concavity of a function of at a critical point relate to local extrema?

The Second Derivative Test:

- If \( f'(x_0) = 0 \) and \( f''(x_0) > 0 \) then \( f \) has a local \underline{maximum} \ at \( x_0 \).
- If \( f'(x_0) = 0 \) and \( f''(x_0) < 0 \) then \( f \) has a local \underline{minimum} \ at \( x_0 \).
- If \( f'(x_0) = 0 \) and \( f''(x_0) = 0 \) then the test gives no information.

Questions

3. Use the second derivative test to classify the critical points of \( f(x) = x^3 - 3x + 4 \).

4. Classify the critical point \( x = 0 \) for \( y = x^3 \), \( y = x^4 \), and \( y = -x^4 \).
Definition  A function $f$ has an inflection point at $a$ if the concavity of $f$ changes at $a$. At an inflection point $x_0$, 

$$f''(x_0) = \text{or} \quad f''(x_0)$$

WARNING!!! Not every point where $f''(x) = 0$ is an inflection point (just as not every point where $f' = 0$ is a local max or local min.). Example?

Questions

5. Consider $f(x) = (x^2 - 4)^7$. What are the roots of this function? Find and classify all local extrema. Also find the inflection points. Then draw the graph.
6. Consider \( y = x \ln x \) for \( x > 0 \). Find any critical points, and classify them. Also find the roots and any inflection points. Draw the graph. What is your best guess as to what happens as we approach 0? We will prove this next week.

7. Find and classify all the critical points of \( f(x) = \sqrt[3]{x} \). Find roots and IPs too, and draw the graph.

8. Find and classify all the critical points of \( g(x) = |x|(x^2 - 9) \). Find all roots and IPs too, and draw the graph. (Hint: Write it as a piecewise function!)
9. Find and classify all critical points of $f(x) = xe^{-\frac{x^2}{2}}$.

10. Consider $f(x) = x^4 + ax^2 + b$.

   (a) Under what conditions on $a$ and $b$ will this function have one critical point? Will it be a local maximum, local minimum or neither?

   (b) Under what conditions on $a$ and $b$ will this function have exactly three critical points? What are they and which are local maxima and local minima?

   (c) Is it ever possible for this function to have two critical points? No critical points? More than three critical points? Explain.
Challenge Question  Consider the general cubic:

\[ f(x) = x^3 + ax^2 + bx + c. \]

(a) By taking derivatives and using the quadratic formula, show that:

- if \( a^2 = 3b \), then \( f(x) \) has exactly one critical point at \( x = -\frac{1}{3}a \), and it is an inflection point;

- if \( a^2 < 3b \), then \( f(x) \) has no critical points, but does have one inflection point;

- if \( a^2 > 3b \), then \( f(x) \) has two critical points: one max, and one min, and an inflection point exactly in the middle between the two.

(b) Draw examples of each case.