

local maximum or minimum. The second derivative is

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

Since $e^{1/x} > 0$ and $x^4 > 0$, we have $f''(x) > 0$ when $x > -\frac{1}{2}$ ($x \neq 0$) and $f''(x) < 0$ when $x < -\frac{1}{2}$. So the curve is concave downward on $(-\infty, -\frac{1}{2})$ and concave upward on $(-\frac{1}{2}, 0)$ and on $(0, \infty)$. The inflection point is $(-\frac{1}{2}, e^{-2})$.

To sketch the graph of f we first draw the horizontal asymptote $y = 1$ (as a dashed line), together with the parts of the curve near the asymptotes in a preliminary sketch [Figure 13(a)]. These parts reflect the information concerning limits and the fact that f is decreasing on both $(-\infty, 0)$ and $(0, \infty)$. Notice that we have indicated that $f(x) \rightarrow 0$ as $x \rightarrow 0^-$ even though $f(0)$ does not exist. In Figure 13(b) we finish the sketch by incorporating the information concerning concavity and the inflection point. In Figure 13(c) we check our work with a graphing device.

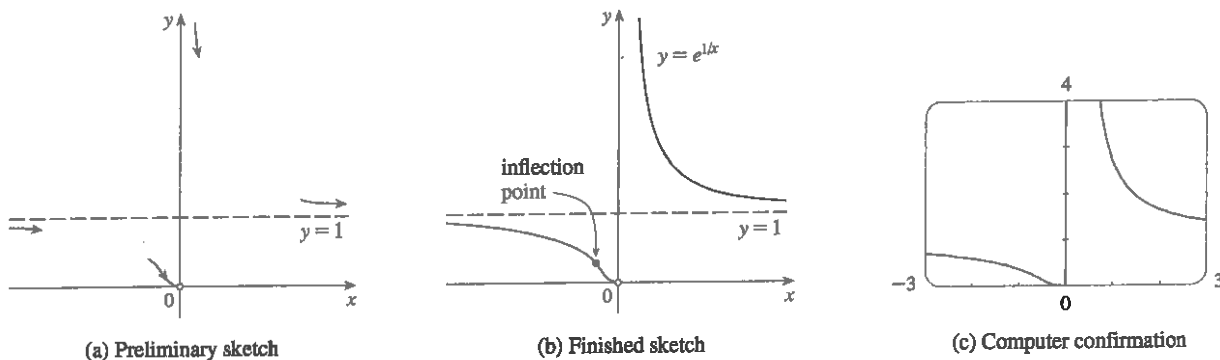
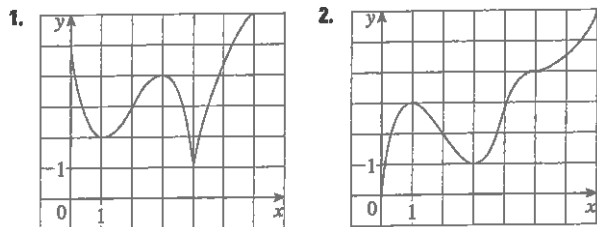


FIGURE 13

4.3 Exercises

1–2 Use the given graph of f to find the following.

- The open intervals on which f is increasing.
- The open intervals on which f is decreasing.
- The open intervals on which f is concave upward.
- The open intervals on which f is concave downward.
- The coordinates of the points of inflection.



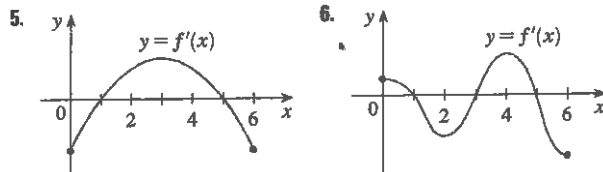
3. Suppose you are given a formula for a function f .
- How do you determine where f is increasing or decreasing?

- How do you determine where the graph of f is concave upward or concave downward?
- How do you locate inflection points?

4. (a) State the First Derivative Test.
 (b) State the Second Derivative Test. Under what circumstances is it inconclusive? What do you do if it fails?

5–6 The graph of the derivative f' of a function f is shown.

- On what intervals is f increasing or decreasing?
- At what values of x does f have a local maximum or minimum?



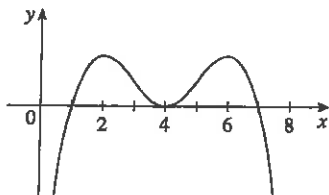
Graphing calculator or computer required

Computer algebra system required

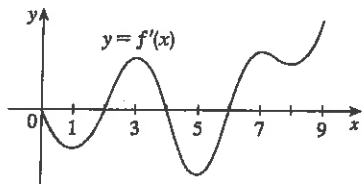
1. Homework Hints available at stewartcalculus.com

7. In each part state the x -coordinates of the inflection points of f . Give reasons for your answers.

- (a) The curve is the graph of f .
 (b) The curve is the graph of f' .
 (c) The curve is the graph of f'' .



8. The graph of the first derivative f' of a function f is shown.
- (a) On what intervals is f increasing? Explain.
 (b) At what values of x does f have a local maximum or minimum? Explain.
 (c) On what intervals is f concave upward or concave downward? Explain.
 (d) What are the x -coordinates of the inflection points of f ? Why?



9–18

- (a) Find the intervals on which f is increasing or decreasing.
 (b) Find the local maximum and minimum values of f .
 (c) Find the intervals of concavity and the inflection points.

9. $f(x) = 2x^3 + 3x^2 - 36x$

10. $f(x) = 4x^3 + 3x^2 - 6x + 1$

11. $f(x) = x^4 - 2x^2 + 3$

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

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

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

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

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

17. $f(x) = x^2 - x - \ln x$

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

- 19–21 Find the local maximum and minimum values of f using both the First and Second Derivative Tests. Which method do you prefer?

19. $f(x) = x^5 - 5x + 3$

20. $f(x) = \frac{x^2}{x-1}$

21. $f(x) = \sqrt{x} - \sqrt[3]{x}$

22. (a) Find the critical numbers of $f(x) = x^4(x-1)^3$.
 (b) What does the Second Derivative Test tell you about the behavior of f at these critical numbers?
 (c) What does the First Derivative Test tell you?

23. Suppose f'' is continuous on $(-\infty, \infty)$.

- (a) If $f'(2) = 0$ and $f''(2) = -5$, what can you say about f ?
 (b) If $f'(6) = 0$ and $f''(6) = 0$, what can you say about f ?

- 24–29 Sketch the graph of a function that satisfies all of the given conditions.

24. Vertical asymptote $x = 0$, $f'(x) > 0$ if $x < -2$,
 $f'(x) < 0$ if $x > -2$ ($x \neq 0$),
 $f''(x) < 0$ if $x < 0$, $f''(x) > 0$ if $x > 0$

25. $f'(0) = f'(2) = f'(4) = 0$,
 $f'(x) > 0$ if $x < 0$ or $2 < x < 4$,
 $f'(x) < 0$ if $0 < x < 2$ or $x > 4$,
 $f''(x) > 0$ if $1 < x < 3$, $f''(x) < 0$ if $x < 1$ or $x > 3$

26. $f'(1) = f'(-1) = 0$, $f'(x) < 0$ if $|x| < 1$,
 $f'(x) > 0$ if $1 < |x| < 2$, $f'(x) = -1$ if $|x| > 2$,
 $f''(x) < 0$ if $-2 < x < 0$, inflection point $(0, 1)$

27. $f'(x) > 0$ if $|x| < 2$, $f'(x) < 0$ if $|x| > 2$,
 $f'(-2) = 0$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} |f'(x)| = \infty$, $f''(x) > 0$ if $x \neq 2$

28. $f'(x) > 0$ if $|x| < 2$, $f'(x) < 0$ if $|x| > 2$,
 $f'(2) = 0$, $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = 1$, $f(-x) = -f(x)$,
 $f''(x) < 0$ if $0 < x < 3$, $f''(x) > 0$ if $x > 3$

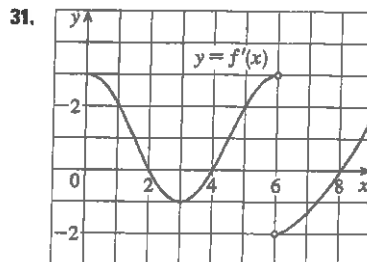
29. $f'(x) < 0$ and $f''(x) < 0$ for all x

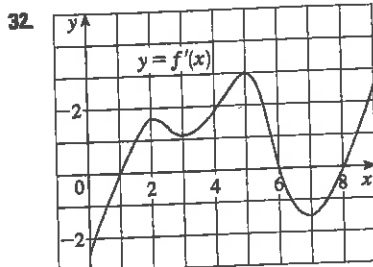
30. Suppose $f(3) = 2$, $f'(3) = \frac{1}{2}$, and $f'(x) > 0$ and $f''(x) < 0$ for all x .

- (a) Sketch a possible graph for f .
 (b) How many solutions does the equation $f(x) = 0$ have? Why?
 (c) Is it possible that $f'(2) = \frac{1}{3}$? Why?

- 31–32 The graph of the derivative f' of a continuous function f is shown.

- (a) On what intervals is f increasing? Decreasing?
 (b) At what values of x does f have a local maximum? Local minimum?
 (c) On what intervals is f concave upward? Concave downward?
 (d) State the x -coordinate(s) of the point(s) of inflection.
 (e) Assuming that $f(0) = 0$, sketch a graph of f .





33-44

- (a) Find the intervals of increase or decrease.
 (b) Find the local maximum and minimum values.
 (c) Find the intervals of concavity and the inflection points.
 (d) Use the information from parts (a)–(c) to sketch the graph.
 Check your work with a graphing device if you have one.

33. $f(x) = 2x^3 - 3x^2 - 12x$ 34. $f(x) = 2 + 3x - x^3$
 35. $f(x) = 2 + 2x^2 - x^4$ 36. $g(x) = 200 + 8x^3 + x^4$
 37. $h(x) = (x + 1)^5 - 5x - 2$ 38. $h(x) = 5x^3 - 3x^5$
 39. $F(x) = x\sqrt{6-x}$ 40. $G(x) = 5x^{2/3} - 2x^{5/3}$
 41. $C(x) = x^{1/3}(x + 4)$ 42. $f(x) = \ln(x^4 + 27)$
 43. $f(\theta) = 2 \cos \theta + \cos^2 \theta$, $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$
 44. $S(x) = x - \sin x$, $0 \leq x \leq 4\pi$

45-52

- (a) Find the vertical and horizontal asymptotes.
 (b) Find the intervals of increase or decrease.
 (c) Find the local maximum and minimum values.
 (d) Find the intervals of concavity and the inflection points.
 (e) Use the information from parts (a)–(d) to sketch the graph of f .

45. $f(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x^2}$ 46. $f(x) = \frac{x^2 - 4}{x^2 + 4}$
 47. $f(x) = \sqrt{x^2 + 1} - x$ 48. $f(x) = \frac{e^x}{1 - e^x}$
 49. $f(x) = e^{-x^2}$ 50. $f(x) = x - \frac{1}{6}x^2 - \frac{2}{3} \ln x$
 51. $f(x) = \ln(1 - \ln x)$ 52. $f(x) = e^{\arctan x}$

53. Suppose the derivative of a function f is $f'(x) = (x + 1)^2(x - 3)^3(x - 6)^4$. On what interval is f increasing?

54. Use the methods of this section to sketch the curve $y = x^3 - 3a^2x + 2a^3$, where a is a positive constant. What do the members of this family of curves have in common? How do they differ from each other?

55-56

- (a) Use a graph of f to estimate the maximum and minimum values. Then find the exact values.
 (b) Estimate the value of x at which f increases most rapidly. Then find the exact value.

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

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

57-58

- (a) Use a graph of f to give a rough estimate of the intervals of concavity and the coordinates of the points of inflection.
 (b) Use a graph of f'' to give better estimates.

57. $f(x) = \cos x + \frac{1}{2} \cos 2x$, $0 \leq x \leq 2\pi$

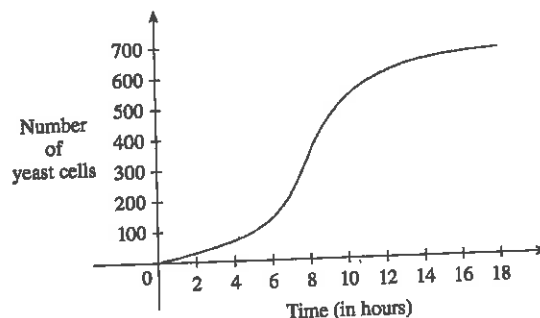
58. $f(x) = x^3(x - 2)^4$

CAS 59-60 Estimate the intervals of concavity to one decimal place by using a computer algebra system to compute and graph f'' .

59. $f(x) = \frac{x^4 + x^3 + 1}{\sqrt{x^2 + x + 1}}$

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

61. A graph of a population of yeast cells in a new laboratory culture as a function of time is shown.
 (a) Describe how the rate of population increase varies.
 (b) When is this rate highest?
 (c) On what intervals is the population function concave upward or downward?
 (d) Estimate the coordinates of the inflection point.



62. Let $f(t)$ be the temperature at time t where you live and suppose that at time $t = 3$ you feel uncomfortably hot. How do you feel about the given data in each case?

- (a) $f'(3) = 2$, $f''(3) = 4$
 (b) $f'(3) = 2$, $f''(3) = -4$
 (c) $f'(3) = -2$, $f''(3) = 4$
 (d) $f'(3) = -2$, $f''(3) = -4$

63. Let $K(t)$ be a measure of the knowledge you gain by studying for a test for t hours. Which do you think is larger, $K(8) - K(7)$ or $K(3) - K(2)$? Is the graph of K concave upward or concave downward? Why?

33. Let $f(x) = \arcsin\left(\frac{x-1}{x+1}\right) - 2 \arctan \sqrt{x} + \frac{\pi}{2}$. Note that the domain of f is $[0, \infty)$. Thus,

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{x-1}{x+1}\right)^2}} \cdot \frac{(x+1) - (x-1)}{(x+1)^2} - \frac{2}{1+x} \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}(x+1)} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}(x+1)} = 0.$$

Then $f(x) = C$ on $(0, \infty)$ by Theorem 5. By continuity of f , $f(x) = C$ on $[0, \infty)$. To find C , we let $x = 0 \Rightarrow$
 $\arcsin(-1) - 2 \arctan(0) + \frac{\pi}{2} = C \Rightarrow -\frac{\pi}{2} - 0 + \frac{\pi}{2} = 0 = C$. Thus, $f(x) = 0 \Rightarrow$

$$\arcsin\left(\frac{x-1}{x+1}\right) = 2 \arctan \sqrt{x} - \frac{\pi}{2}.$$

35. Let $g(t)$ and $h(t)$ be the position functions of the two runners and let $f(t) = g(t) - h(t)$. By hypothesis,
 $f(0) = g(0) - h(0) = 0$ and $f(b) = g(b) - h(b) = 0$, where b is the finishing time. Then by the Mean Value Theorem,
 there is a time c , with $0 < c < b$, such that $f'(c) = \frac{f(b) - f(0)}{b - 0}$. But $f(b) = f(0) = 0$, so $f'(c) = 0$. Since
 $f'(c) = g'(c) - h'(c) = 0$, we have $g'(c) = h'(c)$. So at time c , both runners have the same speed $g'(c) = h'(c)$.

4.3 How Derivatives Affect the Shape of a Graph

- f is increasing on $(1, 3)$ and $(4, 6)$.
 - f is decreasing on $(0, 1)$ and $(3, 4)$.
 - f is concave upward on $(0, 2)$.
 - f is concave downward on $(2, 4)$ and $(4, 6)$.
 - The point of inflection is $(2, 3)$.
- Use the Increasing/Decreasing (I/D) Test.
 - Use the Concavity Test.
 - At any value of x where the concavity changes, we have an inflection point at $(x, f(x))$.
- Since $f'(x) > 0$ on $(1, 5)$, f is increasing on this interval. Since $f'(x) < 0$ on $(0, 1)$ and $(5, 6)$, f is decreasing on these intervals.
 - Since $f'(x) = 0$ at $x = 1$ and f' changes from negative to positive there, f changes from decreasing to increasing and has a local minimum at $x = 1$. Since $f'(x) = 0$ at $x = 5$ and f' changes from positive to negative there, f changes from increasing to decreasing and has a local maximum at $x = 5$.
- There is an IP at $x = 3$ because the graph of f changes from CD to CU there. There is an IP at $x = 5$ because the graph of f changes from CU to CD there.
 - There is an IP at $x = 2$ and at $x = 6$ because $f'(x)$ has a maximum value there, and so $f''(x)$ changes from positive to negative there. There is an IP at $x = 4$ because $f'(x)$ has a minimum value there and so $f''(x)$ changes from negative to positive there.
 - There is an inflection point at $x = 1$ because $f''(x)$ changes from negative to positive there, and so the graph of f changes from concave downward to concave upward. There is an inflection point at $x = 7$ because $f''(x)$ changes from positive to negative there, and so the graph of f changes from concave upward to concave downward.

9. (a) $f(x) = 2x^3 + 3x^2 - 36x \Rightarrow f'(x) = 6x^2 + 6x - 36 = 6(x^2 + x - 6) = 6(x+3)(x-2)$.

We don't need to include the "6" in the chart to determine the sign of $f'(x)$.

Interval	$x+3$	$x-2$	$f'(x)$	f
$x < -3$	-	-	+	increasing on $(-\infty, -3)$
$-3 < x < 2$	+	-	-	decreasing on $(-3, 2)$
$x > 2$	+	+	+	increasing on $(2, \infty)$

(b) f changes from increasing to decreasing at $x = -3$ and from decreasing to increasing at $x = 2$. Thus, $f(-3) = 81$ is a local maximum value and $f(2) = -44$ is a local minimum value.

(c) $f'(x) = 6x^2 + 6x - 36 \Rightarrow f''(x) = 12x + 6$. $f''(x) = 0$ at $x = -\frac{1}{2}$, $f''(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow x > -\frac{1}{2}$, and $f''(x) < 0 \Leftrightarrow x < -\frac{1}{2}$. Thus, f is concave upward on $(-\frac{1}{2}, \infty)$ and concave downward on $(-\infty, -\frac{1}{2})$. There is an inflection point at $(-\frac{1}{2}, f(-\frac{1}{2})) = (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{37}{2})$.

11. (a) $f(x) = x^4 - 2x^2 + 3 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 4x^3 - 4x = 4x(x^2 - 1) = 4x(x+1)(x-1)$.

Interval	$x+1$	x	$x-1$	$f'(x)$	f
$x < -1$	-	-	-	-	decreasing on $(-\infty, -1)$
$-1 < x < 0$	+	-	-	+	increasing on $(-1, 0)$
$0 < x < 1$	+	+	-	-	decreasing on $(0, 1)$
$x > 1$	+	+	+	+	increasing on $(1, \infty)$

(b) f changes from increasing to decreasing at $x = 0$ and from decreasing to increasing at $x = -1$ and $x = 1$. Thus, $f(0) = 3$ is a local maximum value and $f(\pm 1) = 2$ are local minimum values.

(c) $f''(x) = 12x^2 - 4 = 12(x^2 - \frac{1}{3}) = 12(x + 1/\sqrt{3})(x - 1/\sqrt{3})$. $f''(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow x < -1/\sqrt{3}$ or $x > 1/\sqrt{3}$ and $f''(x) < 0 \Leftrightarrow -1/\sqrt{3} < x < 1/\sqrt{3}$. Thus, f is concave upward on $(-\infty, -\sqrt{3}/3)$ and $(\sqrt{3}/3, \infty)$ and concave downward on $(-\sqrt{3}/3, \sqrt{3}/3)$. There are inflection points at $(\pm\sqrt{3}/3, \frac{22}{9})$.

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

$\tan x = 1 \Rightarrow x = \frac{\pi}{4}$ or $\frac{5\pi}{4}$. Thus, $f'(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow \cos x - \sin x > 0 \Leftrightarrow \cos x > \sin x \Leftrightarrow 0 < x < \frac{\pi}{4}$ or $\frac{5\pi}{4} < x < 2\pi$ and $f'(x) < 0 \Leftrightarrow \cos x < \sin x \Leftrightarrow \frac{\pi}{4} < x < \frac{5\pi}{4}$. So f is increasing on $(0, \frac{\pi}{4})$ and $(\frac{5\pi}{4}, 2\pi)$ and f is decreasing on $(\frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4})$.

(b) f changes from increasing to decreasing at $x = \frac{\pi}{4}$ and from decreasing to increasing at $x = \frac{5\pi}{4}$. Thus, $f(\frac{\pi}{4}) = \sqrt{2}$ is a local maximum value and $f(\frac{5\pi}{4}) = -\sqrt{2}$ is a local minimum value.

- (c) $f''(x) = -\sin x - \cos x = 0 \Rightarrow -\sin x = \cos x \Rightarrow \tan x = -1 \Rightarrow x = \frac{3\pi}{4}$ or $\frac{7\pi}{4}$. Divide the interval $(0, 2\pi)$ into subintervals with these numbers as endpoints and complete a second derivative chart.

Interval	$f''(x) = -\sin x - \cos x$	Concavity
$(0, \frac{3\pi}{4})$	$f''(\frac{\pi}{2}) = -1 < 0$	downward
$(\frac{3\pi}{4}, \frac{7\pi}{4})$	$f''(\pi) = 1 > 0$	upward
$(\frac{7\pi}{4}, 2\pi)$	$f''(\frac{11\pi}{8}) = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{3} < 0$	downward

There are inflection points at $(\frac{3\pi}{4}, 0)$ and $(\frac{7\pi}{4}, 0)$.

15. (a) $f(x) = e^{2x} + e^{-x} \Rightarrow f'(x) = 2e^{2x} - e^{-x}$. $f'(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow 2e^{2x} > e^{-x} \Leftrightarrow e^{3x} > \frac{1}{2} \Leftrightarrow 3x > \ln \frac{1}{2} \Leftrightarrow x > \frac{1}{3}(\ln 1 - \ln 2) \Leftrightarrow x > -\frac{1}{3} \ln 2 [\approx -0.23]$ and $f'(x) < 0$ if $x < -\frac{1}{3} \ln 2$. So f is increasing on $(-\frac{1}{3} \ln 2, \infty)$ and f is decreasing on $(-\infty, -\frac{1}{3} \ln 2)$.

(b) f changes from decreasing to increasing at $x = -\frac{1}{3} \ln 2$. Thus,

$$f(-\frac{1}{3} \ln 2) = f(\ln \sqrt[3]{1/2}) = e^{2 \ln \sqrt[3]{1/2}} + e^{-\ln \sqrt[3]{1/2}} = e^{\ln \sqrt[3]{1/4}} + e^{\ln \sqrt[3]{2}} = \sqrt[3]{1/4} + \sqrt[3]{2} = 2^{-2/3} + 2^{1/3} [\approx 1.89]$$

is a local minimum value.

- (c) $f''(x) = 4e^{2x} + e^{-x} > 0$ [the sum of two positive terms]. Thus, f is concave upward on $(-\infty, \infty)$ and there is no point of inflection.

17. (a) $f(x) = x^2 - x - \ln x \Rightarrow f'(x) = 2x - 1 - \frac{1}{x} = \frac{2x^2 - x - 1}{x} = \frac{(2x+1)(x-1)}{x}$. Thus, $f'(x) > 0$ if $x > 1$

[note that $x > 0$] and $f'(x) < 0$ if $0 < x < 1$. So f is increasing on $(1, \infty)$ and f is decreasing on $(0, 1)$.

(b) f changes from decreasing to increasing at $x = 1$. Thus, $f(1) = 0$ is a local minimum value.

(c) $f''(x) = 2 + 1/x^2 > 0$ for all x , so f is concave upward on $(0, \infty)$. There is no inflection point.

19. $f(x) = x^5 - 5x + 3 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 5x^4 - 5 = 5(x^2 + 1)(x + 1)(x - 1)$.

First Derivative Test: $f'(x) < 0 \Rightarrow -1 < x < 1$ and $f'(x) > 0 \Rightarrow x > 1$ or $x < -1$. Since f' changes from positive to negative at $x = -1$, $f(-1) = 7$ is a local maximum value; and since f' changes from negative to positive at $x = 1$, $f(1) = -1$ is a local minimum value.

Second Derivative Test: $f''(x) = 20x^3$. $f'(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = \pm 1$. $f''(-1) = -20 < 0 \Rightarrow f(-1) = 7$ is a local maximum value. $f''(1) = 20 > 0 \Rightarrow f(1) = -1$ is a local minimum value.

Preference: For this function, the two tests are equally easy.

21. $f(x) = \sqrt{x} - \sqrt[4]{x} \Rightarrow f'(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2} - \frac{1}{4}x^{-3/4} = \frac{1}{4}x^{-3/4}(2x^{1/4} - 1) = \frac{2\sqrt[4]{x} - 1}{4\sqrt[4]{x^3}}$

First Derivative Test: $2\sqrt[4]{x} - 1 > 0 \Rightarrow x > \frac{1}{16}$, so $f'(x) > 0 \Rightarrow x > \frac{1}{16}$ and $f'(x) < 0 \Rightarrow 0 < x < \frac{1}{16}$.

Since f' changes from negative to positive at $x = \frac{1}{16}$, $f(\frac{1}{16}) = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{2} = -\frac{1}{4}$ is a local minimum value.

[continued]

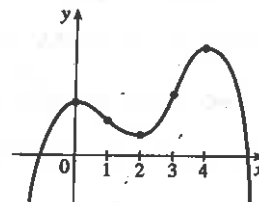
$$\text{Second Derivative Test: } f''(x) = -\frac{1}{4}x^{-3/2} + \frac{3}{16}x^{-7/4} = -\frac{1}{4\sqrt{x^3}} + \frac{3}{16\sqrt[4]{x^7}}$$

$$f'(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = \frac{1}{16}. \quad f''\left(\frac{1}{16}\right) = -16 + 24 = 8 > 0 \Rightarrow f\left(\frac{1}{16}\right) = -\frac{1}{4} \text{ is a local minimum value.}$$

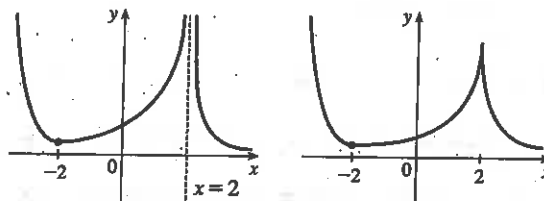
Preference: The First Derivative Test may be slightly easier to apply in this case.

23. (a) By the Second Derivative Test, if $f'(2) = 0$ and $f''(2) = -5 < 0$, f has a local maximum at $x = 2$.
- (b) If $f'(6) = 0$, we know that f has a horizontal tangent at $x = 6$. Knowing that $f''(6) = 0$ does not provide any additional information since the Second Derivative Test fails. For example, the first and second derivatives of $y = (x - 6)^4$, $y = -(x - 6)^4$, and $y = (x - 6)^3$ all equal zero for $x = 6$, but the first has a local minimum at $x = 6$, the second has a local maximum at $x = 6$, and the third has an inflection point at $x = 6$.

25. $f'(0) = f'(2) = f'(4) = 0 \Rightarrow$ horizontal tangents at $x = 0, 2, 4$.
- $f'(x) > 0$ if $x < 0$ or $2 < x < 4 \Rightarrow f$ is increasing on $(-\infty, 0)$ and $(2, 4)$.
- $f'(x) < 0$ if $0 < x < 2$ or $x > 4 \Rightarrow f$ is decreasing on $(0, 2)$ and $(4, \infty)$.
- $f''(x) > 0$ if $1 < x < 3 \Rightarrow f$ is concave upward on $(1, 3)$.
- $f''(x) < 0$ if $x < 1$ or $x > 3 \Rightarrow f$ is concave downward on $(-\infty, 1)$ and $(3, \infty)$. There are inflection points when $x = 1$ and 3 .

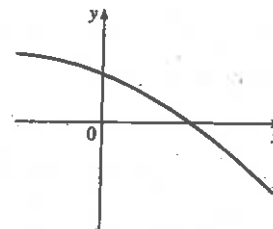


27. $f'(x) > 0$ if $|x| < 2 \Rightarrow f$ is increasing on $(-2, 2)$.
- $f'(x) < 0$ if $|x| > 2 \Rightarrow f$ is decreasing on $(-\infty, -2)$ and $(2, \infty)$. $f'(-2) = 0 \Rightarrow$ horizontal tangent at $x = -2$. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 2} |f'(x)| = \infty \Rightarrow$ there is a vertical



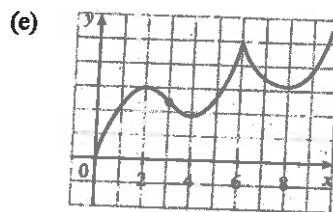
asymptote or vertical tangent (cusp) at $x = 2$. $f''(x) > 0$ if $x \neq 2 \Rightarrow f$ is concave upward on $(-\infty, 2)$ and $(2, \infty)$.

29. The function must be always decreasing (since the first derivative is always negative) and concave downward (since the second derivative is always negative).



31. (a) f is increasing where f' is positive, that is, on $(0, 2)$, $(4, 6)$, and $(8, \infty)$; and decreasing where f' is negative, that is, on $(2, 4)$ and $(6, 8)$.
- (b) f has local maxima where f' changes from positive to negative, at $x = 2$ and at $x = 6$, and local minima where f' changes from negative to positive, at $x = 4$ and at $x = 8$.
- (c) f is concave upward (CU) where f' is increasing, that is, on $(3, 6)$ and $(6, \infty)$, and concave downward (CD) where f' is decreasing, that is, on $(0, 3)$.

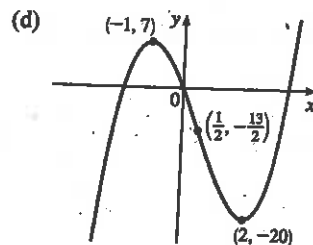
- (d) There is a point of inflection where f changes from being CD to being CU, that is, at $x = 3$.



31. (a) $f(x) = 2x^3 - 3x^2 - 12x \Rightarrow f'(x) = 6x^2 - 6x - 12 = 6(x^2 - x - 2) = 6(x-2)(x+1)$.
 $f'(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow x < -1$ or $x > 2$ and $f'(x) < 0 \Leftrightarrow -1 < x < 2$. So f is increasing on $(-\infty, -1)$ and $(2, \infty)$, and f is decreasing on $(-1, 2)$.

- (b) Since f changes from increasing to decreasing at $x = -1$, $f(-1) = 7$ is a local maximum value. Since f changes from decreasing to increasing at $x = 2$, $f(2) = -20$ is a local minimum value.

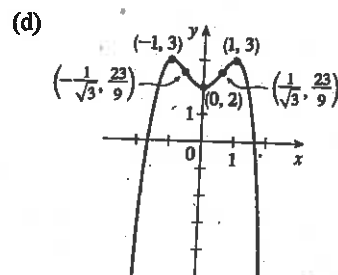
- (c) $f''(x) = 6(2x - 1) \Rightarrow f''(x) > 0$ on $(\frac{1}{2}, \infty)$ and $f''(x) < 0$ on $(-\infty, \frac{1}{2})$.
 So f is concave upward on $(\frac{1}{2}, \infty)$ and concave downward on $(-\infty, \frac{1}{2})$. There is a change in concavity at $x = \frac{1}{2}$, and we have an inflection point at $(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{13}{2})$.



35. (a) $f(x) = 2 + 2x^2 - x^4 \Rightarrow f'(x) = 4x - 4x^3 = 4x(1 - x^2) = 4x(1+x)(1-x)$. $f'(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow x < -1$ or $0 < x < 1$ and $f'(x) < 0 \Leftrightarrow -1 < x < 0$ or $x > 1$. So f is increasing on $(-\infty, -1)$ and $(0, 1)$ and f is decreasing on $(-1, 0)$ and $(1, \infty)$.

- (b) f changes from increasing to decreasing at $x = -1$ and $x = 1$, so $f(-1) = 3$ and $f(1) = 3$ are local maximum values. f changes from decreasing to increasing at $x = 0$, so $f(0) = 2$ is a local minimum value.

- (c) $f''(x) = 4 - 12x^2 = 4(1 - 3x^2)$. $f''(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow 1 - 3x^2 = 0 \Leftrightarrow x^2 = \frac{1}{3} \Leftrightarrow x = \pm 1/\sqrt{3}$. $f''(x) > 0$ on $(-1/\sqrt{3}, 1/\sqrt{3})$ and $f''(x) < 0$ on $(-\infty, -1/\sqrt{3})$ and $(1/\sqrt{3}, \infty)$. So f is concave upward on $(-1/\sqrt{3}, 1/\sqrt{3})$ and f is concave downward on $(-\infty, -1/\sqrt{3})$ and $(1/\sqrt{3}, \infty)$. $f(\pm 1/\sqrt{3}) = 2 + \frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{9} = \frac{23}{9}$. There are points of inflection at $(\pm 1/\sqrt{3}, \frac{23}{9})$.

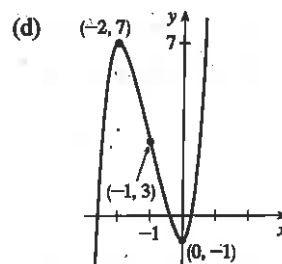


37. (a) $h(x) = (x+1)^5 - 5x - 2 \Rightarrow h'(x) = 5(x+1)^4 - 5$. $h'(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow 5(x+1)^4 = 5 \Leftrightarrow (x+1)^4 = 1 \Rightarrow (x+1)^2 = 1 \Rightarrow x+1 = 1$ or $x+1 = -1 \Rightarrow x = 0$ or $x = -2$. $h'(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow x < -2$ or $x > 0$ and $h'(x) < 0 \Leftrightarrow -2 < x < 0$. So h is increasing on $(-\infty, -2)$ and $(0, \infty)$ and h is decreasing on $(-2, 0)$.

(b) $h(-2) = 7$ is a local maximum value and $h(0) = -1$ is a local minimum value.

(c) $h''(x) = 20(x+1)^3 = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = -1$. $h''(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow x > -1$ and
 $h''(x) < 0 \Leftrightarrow x < -1$, so h is CU on $(-1, \infty)$ and h is CD on $(-\infty, -1)$.

There is a point of inflection at $(-1, h(-1)) = (-1, 3)$.



39. (a) $F(x) = x\sqrt{6-x} \Rightarrow$

$$F'(x) = x \cdot \frac{1}{2}(6-x)^{-1/2}(-1) + (6-x)^{1/2}(1) = \frac{1}{2}(6-x)^{-1/2}[-x + 2(6-x)] = \frac{-3x+12}{2\sqrt{6-x}}$$

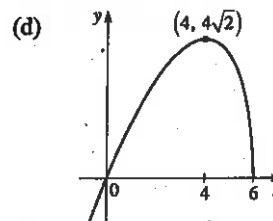
$F'(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow -3x+12 > 0 \Leftrightarrow x < 4$ and $F'(x) < 0 \Leftrightarrow 4 < x < 6$. So F is increasing on $(-\infty, 4)$ and F is decreasing on $(4, 6)$.

(b) F changes from increasing to decreasing at $x = 4$, so $F(4) = 4\sqrt{2}$ is a local maximum value. There is no local minimum value.

(c) $F'(x) = -\frac{3}{2}(x-4)(6-x)^{-1/2} \Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} F''(x) &= -\frac{3}{2} \left[(x-4) \left(-\frac{1}{2}(6-x)^{-3/2}(-1) \right) + (6-x)^{-1/2}(1) \right] \\ &= -\frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2}(6-x)^{-3/2} [(x-4) + 2(6-x)] = \frac{3(x-8)}{4(6-x)^{3/2}} \end{aligned}$$

$F''(x) < 0$ on $(-\infty, 6)$, so F is CD on $(-\infty, 6)$. There is no inflection point.



41. (a) $C(x) = x^{1/3}(x+4) = x^{4/3} + 4x^{1/3} \Rightarrow C'(x) = \frac{4}{3}x^{1/3} + \frac{4}{3}x^{-2/3} = \frac{4}{3}x^{-2/3}(x+1) = \frac{4(x+1)}{3\sqrt[3]{x^2}}$. $C'(x) > 0$ if

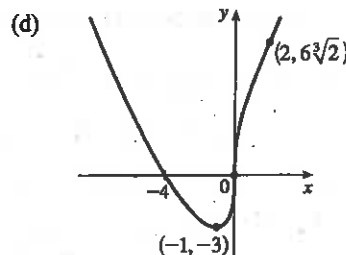
$-1 < x < 0$ or $x > 0$ and $C'(x) < 0$ for $x < -1$, so C is increasing on $(-1, \infty)$ and C is decreasing on $(-\infty, -1)$.

(b) $C(-1) = -3$ is a local minimum value.

(c) $C''(x) = \frac{4}{9}x^{-2/3} - \frac{8}{9}x^{-5/3} = \frac{4}{9}x^{-5/3}(x-2) = \frac{4(x-2)}{9\sqrt[3]{x^5}}$.

$C''(x) < 0$ for $0 < x < 2$ and $C''(x) > 0$ for $x < 0$ and $x > 2$, so C is concave downward on $(0, 2)$ and concave upward on $(-\infty, 0)$ and $(2, \infty)$.

There are inflection points at $(0, 0)$ and $(2, 6\sqrt[3]{2}) \approx (2, 7.56)$.



43. (a) $f(\theta) = 2\cos\theta + \cos^2\theta$, $0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi \Rightarrow f'(\theta) = -2\sin\theta + 2\cos\theta(-\sin\theta) = -2\sin\theta(1 + \cos\theta)$.

$f'(\theta) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \theta = 0, \pi$, and 2π . $f'(\theta) > 0 \Leftrightarrow \pi < \theta < 2\pi$ and $f'(\theta) < 0 \Leftrightarrow 0 < \theta < \pi$. So f is increasing on $(\pi, 2\pi)$ and f is decreasing on $(0, \pi)$.

(b) $f(\pi) = -1$ is a local minimum value.

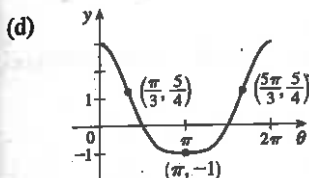
(c) $f'(\theta) = -2 \sin \theta (1 + \cos \theta) \Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} f''(\theta) &= -2 \sin \theta (-\sin \theta) + (1 + \cos \theta)(-2 \cos \theta) = 2 \sin^2 \theta - 2 \cos \theta - 2 \cos^2 \theta \\ &= 2(1 - \cos^2 \theta) - 2 \cos \theta - 2 \cos^2 \theta = -4 \cos^2 \theta - 2 \cos \theta + 2 \\ &= -2(2 \cos^2 \theta + \cos \theta - 1) = -2(2 \cos \theta - 1)(\cos \theta + 1) \end{aligned}$$

Since $-2(\cos \theta + 1) < 0$ [for $\theta \neq \pi$], $f''(\theta) > 0 \Rightarrow 2 \cos \theta - 1 < 0 \Rightarrow \cos \theta < \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \frac{\pi}{3} < \theta < \frac{5\pi}{3}$ and

$f''(\theta) < 0 \Rightarrow \cos \theta > \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow 0 < \theta < \frac{\pi}{3}$ or $\frac{5\pi}{3} < \theta < 2\pi$. So f is CU on $(\frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{5\pi}{3})$ and f is CD on $(0, \frac{\pi}{3})$ and

$(\frac{5\pi}{3}, 2\pi)$. There are points of inflection at $(\frac{\pi}{3}, f(\frac{\pi}{3})) = (\frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{5}{4})$ and $(\frac{5\pi}{3}, f(\frac{5\pi}{3})) = (\frac{5\pi}{3}, \frac{5}{4})$.



45. $f(x) = 1 + \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x^2}$ has domain $(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$.

(a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x^2}\right) = 1$, so $y = 1$ is a HA. $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left(1 + \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x^2}\right) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\frac{x^2 + x - 1}{x^2}\right) = -\infty$ since

$(x^2 + x - 1) \rightarrow -1$ and $x^2 \rightarrow 0$ as $x \rightarrow 0^+$ [a similar argument can be made for $x \rightarrow 0^-$], so $x = 0$ is a VA.

(b) $f'(x) = -\frac{1}{x^2} + \frac{2}{x^3} = -\frac{1}{x^3}(x - 2)$. $f'(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 2$. $f'(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow 0 < x < 2$ and $f'(x) < 0 \Leftrightarrow x < 0$

or $x > 2$. So f is increasing on $(0, 2)$ and f is decreasing on $(-\infty, 0)$ and $(2, \infty)$.

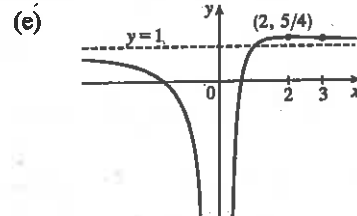
(c) f changes from increasing to decreasing at $x = 2$, so $f(2) = \frac{5}{4}$ is a local

maximum value. There is no local minimum value.

(d) $f''(x) = \frac{2}{x^3} - \frac{6}{x^4} = \frac{2}{x^4}(x - 3)$. $f''(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 3$. $f''(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow$

$x > 3$ and $f''(x) < 0 \Leftrightarrow x < 0$ or $0 < x < 3$. So f is CU on $(3, \infty)$ and f

is CD on $(-\infty, 0)$ and $(0, 3)$. There is an inflection point at $(3, \frac{11}{9})$.



47. (a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} (\sqrt{x^2 + 1} - x) = \infty$ and

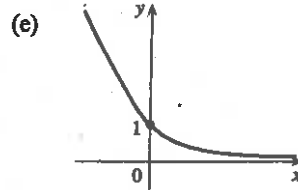
$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (\sqrt{x^2 + 1} - x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (\sqrt{x^2 + 1} - x) \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + 1} + x}{\sqrt{x^2 + 1} + x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + 1} + x} = 0, \text{ so } y = 0 \text{ is a HA.}$$

(b) $f(x) = \sqrt{x^2 + 1} - x \Rightarrow f'(x) = \frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + 1}} - 1$. Since $\frac{x}{\sqrt{x^2 + 1}} < 1$ for all x , $f'(x) < 0$, so f is decreasing on \mathbb{R} .

(c) No minimum or maximum

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(d) } f''(x) &= \frac{(x^2 + 1)^{1/2}(1) - x \cdot \frac{1}{2}(x^2 + 1)^{-1/2}(2x)}{(\sqrt{x^2 + 1})^2} \\ &= \frac{(x^2 + 1)^{1/2} - \frac{x^2}{(x^2 + 1)^{1/2}}}{x^2 + 1} = \frac{(x^2 + 1) - x^2}{(x^2 + 1)^{3/2}} = \frac{1}{(x^2 + 1)^{3/2}} > 0, \end{aligned}$$

so f is CU on \mathbb{R} . No IP



49. (a) $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} e^{-x^2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \pm\infty} \frac{1}{e^{x^2}} = 0$, so $y = 0$ is a HA. There is no VA.

(b) $f(x) = e^{-x^2} \Rightarrow f'(x) = e^{-x^2}(-2x)$. $f'(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 0$. $f'(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow x < 0$ and $f'(x) < 0 \Leftrightarrow x > 0$. So f is increasing on $(-\infty, 0)$ and f is decreasing on $(0, \infty)$.

(c) f changes from increasing to decreasing at $x = 0$, so $f(0) = 1$ is a local maximum value. There is no local minimum value.

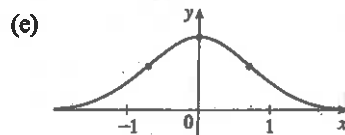
$$\text{(d) } f''(x) = e^{-x^2}(-2) + (-2x)e^{-x^2}(-2x) = -2e^{-x^2}(1 - 2x^2).$$

$$f''(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x^2 = \frac{1}{2} \Leftrightarrow x = \pm 1/\sqrt{2}. \quad f''(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$x < -1/\sqrt{2} \text{ or } x > 1/\sqrt{2} \text{ and } f''(x) < 0 \Leftrightarrow -1/\sqrt{2} < x < 1/\sqrt{2}. \text{ So}$$

f is CU on $(-\infty, -1/\sqrt{2})$ and $(1/\sqrt{2}, \infty)$, and f is CD on $(-1/\sqrt{2}, 1/\sqrt{2})$.

There are inflection points at $(\pm 1/\sqrt{2}, e^{-1/2})$.



51. $f(x) = \ln(1 - \ln x)$ is defined when $x > 0$ (so that $\ln x$ is defined) and $1 - \ln x > 0$ [so that $\ln(1 - \ln x)$ is defined].

The second condition is equivalent to $1 > \ln x \Leftrightarrow x < e$, so f has domain $(0, e)$.

(a) As $x \rightarrow 0^+$, $\ln x \rightarrow -\infty$, so $1 - \ln x \rightarrow \infty$ and $f(x) \rightarrow \infty$. As $x \rightarrow e^-$, $\ln x \rightarrow 1^-$, so $1 - \ln x \rightarrow 0^+$ and $f(x) \rightarrow -\infty$. Thus, $x = 0$ and $x = e$ are vertical asymptotes. There is no horizontal asymptote.

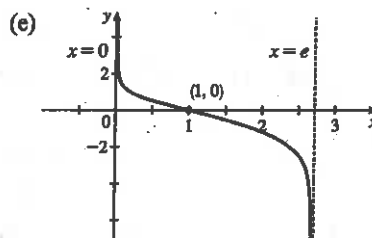
(b) $f'(x) = \frac{1}{1 - \ln x} \left(-\frac{1}{x}\right) = -\frac{1}{x(1 - \ln x)} < 0$ on $(0, e)$. Thus, f is decreasing on its domain, $(0, e)$.

(c) $f'(x) \neq 0$ on $(0, e)$, so f has no local maximum or minimum value.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(d) } f''(x) &= -\frac{[x(1 - \ln x)]'}{[x(1 - \ln x)]^2} = \frac{x(-1/x) + (1 - \ln x)}{x^2(1 - \ln x)^2} \\ &= \frac{\ln x}{x^2(1 - \ln x)^2} \end{aligned}$$

so $f''(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow \ln x < 0 \Leftrightarrow 0 < x < 1$. Thus, f is CU on $(0, 1)$

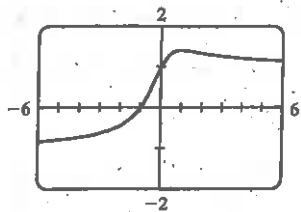
and CD on $(1, e)$. There is an inflection point at $(1, 0)$.



53. The nonnegative factors $(x + 1)^2$ and $(x - 6)^4$ do not affect the sign of $f'(x) = (x + 1)^2(x - 3)^5(x - 6)^4$.

So $f'(x) > 0 \Rightarrow (x - 3)^5 > 0 \Rightarrow x - 3 > 0 \Rightarrow x > 3$. Thus, f is increasing on the interval $(3, \infty)$.

55. (a)



From the graph, we get an estimate of $f(1) \approx 1.41$ as a local maximum value, and no local minimum value.

$$f(x) = \frac{x+1}{\sqrt{x^2+1}} \Rightarrow f'(x) = \frac{1-x}{(x^2+1)^{3/2}}$$

$$f'(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 1. f(1) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}} = \sqrt{2} \text{ is the exact value.}$$

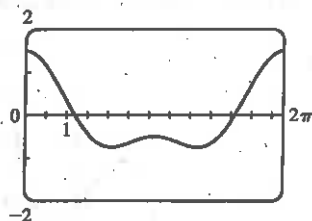
(b) From the graph in part (a), f increases most rapidly somewhere between $x = -\frac{1}{2}$ and $x = -\frac{1}{4}$. To find the exact value, we need to find the maximum value of f' , which we can do by finding the critical numbers of f' .

$$f''(x) = \frac{2x^2 - 3x - 1}{(x^2 + 1)^{5/2}} = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{17}}{4}. x = \frac{3 + \sqrt{17}}{4} \text{ corresponds to the minimum value of } f'.$$

The maximum value of f' occurs at $x = \frac{3 - \sqrt{17}}{4} \approx -0.28$.

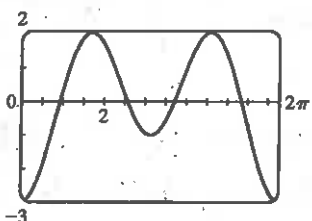
57. $f(x) = \cos x + \frac{1}{2} \cos 2x \Rightarrow f'(x) = -\sin x - \sin 2x \Rightarrow f''(x) = -\cos x - 2 \cos 2x$

(a)



From the graph of f , it seems that f is CD on $(0, 1)$, CU on $(1, 2.5)$, CD on $(2.5, 3.7)$, CU on $(3.7, 5.3)$, and CD on $(5.3, 2\pi)$. The points of inflection appear to be at $(1, 0.4)$, $(2.5, -0.6)$, $(3.7, -0.6)$, and $(5.3, 0.4)$.

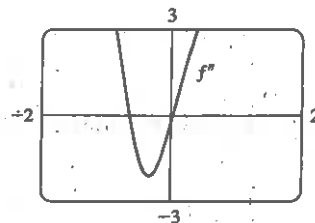
(b)



From the graph of f'' (and zooming in near the zeros), it seems that f is CD on $(0, 0.94)$, CU on $(0.94, 2.57)$, CD on $(2.57, 3.71)$, CU on $(3.71, 5.35)$, and CD on $(5.35, 2\pi)$. Refined estimates of the inflection points are $(0.94, 0.44)$, $(2.57, -0.63)$, $(3.71, -0.63)$, and $(5.35, 0.44)$.

58. $f(x) = \frac{x^4 + x^3 + 1}{\sqrt{x^2 + x + 1}}$. In Maple, we define f and then use the command

`plot(diff(diff(f, x), x), x=-2..2);` In Mathematica, we define f and then use `Plot[Dt[Dt[f, x], x], {x, -2, 2}]`. We see that $f'' > 0$ for $x < -0.6$ and $x > 0.0$ [≈ 0.03] and $f'' < 0$ for $-0.6 < x < 0.0$. So f is CU on $(-\infty, -0.6)$ and $(0.0, \infty)$ and CD on $(-0.6, 0.0)$.



61. (a) The rate of increase of the population is initially very small, then gets larger until it reaches a maximum at about $t = 8$ hours, and decreases toward 0 as the population begins to level off.
- (b) The rate of increase has its maximum value at $t = 8$ hours.
- (c) The population function is concave upward on $(0, 8)$ and concave downward on $(8, 18)$.
- (d) At $t = 8$, the population is about 350, so the inflection point is about $(8, 350)$.

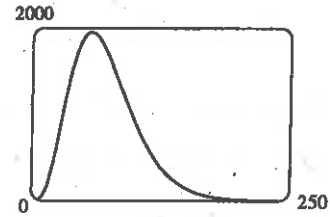
63. Most students learn more in the third hour of studying than in the eighth hour, so $K(3) - K(2)$ is larger than $K(8) - K(7)$.

In other words, as you begin studying for a test, the rate of knowledge gain is large and then starts to taper off, so $K'(t)$ decreases and the graph of K is concave downward.

65. $S(t) = At^p e^{-kt}$ with $A = 0.01$, $p = 4$, and $k = 0.07$. We will find the zeros of f'' for $f(t) = t^p e^{-kt}$.

$$f'(t) = t^p(-ke^{-kt}) + e^{-kt}(pt^{p-1}) = e^{-kt}(-kt^p + pt^{p-1})$$

$$\begin{aligned} f''(t) &= e^{-kt}(-kpt^{p-1} + p(p-1)t^{p-2}) + (-kt^p + pt^{p-1})(-ke^{-kt}) \\ &= t^{p-2}e^{-kt}[-kpt + p(p-1) + k^2t^2 - kpt] \\ &= t^{p-2}e^{-kt}(k^2t^2 - 2kpt + p^2 - p) \end{aligned}$$



Using the given values of p and k gives us $f''(t) = t^2 e^{-0.07t}(0.0049t^2 - 0.56t + 12)$. So $S''(t) = 0.01f''(t)$ and its zeros are $t = 0$ and the solutions of $0.0049t^2 - 0.56t + 12 = 0$, which are $t_1 = \frac{200}{7} \approx 28.57$ and $t_2 = \frac{600}{7} \approx 85.71$.

At t_1 minutes, the rate of increase of the level of medication in the bloodstream is at its greatest and at t_2 minutes, the rate of decrease is the greatest.

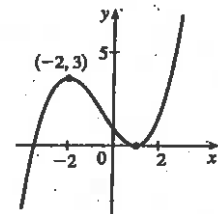
67. $f(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d \Rightarrow f'(x) = 3ax^2 + 2bx + c$

We are given that $f(1) = 0$ and $f(-2) = 3$, so $f(1) = a + b + c + d = 0$ and

$$f(-2) = -8a + 4b - 2c + d = 3. \text{ Also } f'(1) = 3a + 2b + c = 0 \text{ and}$$

$f'(-2) = 12a - 4b + c = 0$ by Fermat's Theorem. Solving these four equations, we get

$$a = \frac{2}{9}, b = \frac{1}{3}, c = -\frac{4}{9}, d = \frac{7}{9}, \text{ so the function is } f(x) = \frac{1}{9}(2x^3 + 3x^2 - 12x + 7).$$



69. (a) $f(x) = x^3 + ax^2 + bx \Rightarrow f'(x) = 3x^2 + 2ax + b$. f has the local minimum value $-\frac{2}{9}\sqrt{3}$ at $x = 1/\sqrt{3}$, so
- $$f'(1/\sqrt{3}) = 0 \Rightarrow 1 + \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}a + b = 0 \quad (1) \text{ and } f(1/\sqrt{3}) = -\frac{2}{9}\sqrt{3} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{9}\sqrt{3} + \frac{1}{3}a + \frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3}b = -\frac{2}{9}\sqrt{3} \quad (2).$$

Rewrite the system of equations as

$$\frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3}a + b = -1 \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{1}{3}a + \frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3}b = -\frac{1}{3}\sqrt{3} \quad (4)$$

and then multiplying (4) by $-2\sqrt{3}$ gives us the system

$$\frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3}a + b = -1$$

$$-\frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3}a - 2b = 2$$

Adding the equations gives us $-b = 1 \Rightarrow b = -1$. Substituting -1 for b into (3) gives us

$$\frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3}a - 1 = -1 \Rightarrow \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{3}a = 0 \Rightarrow a = 0. \text{ Thus, } f(x) = x^3 - x.$$

- (b) To find the smallest slope, we want to find the minimum of the slope function, f' , so we'll find the critical numbers of f' . $f(x) = x^3 - x \Rightarrow f'(x) = 3x^2 - 1 \Rightarrow f''(x) = 6x$. $f''(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = 0$. At $x = 0$, $y = 0$, $f'(x) = -1$, and f'' changes from negative to positive. Thus, we have a minimum for f' and $y - 0 = -1(x - 0)$, or $y = -x$, is the tangent line that has the smallest slope.