

Calculus 1

Chapter 4. Applications of Derivatives

4.3. Monotone Functions and the First Derivative Test—Examples and Proofs

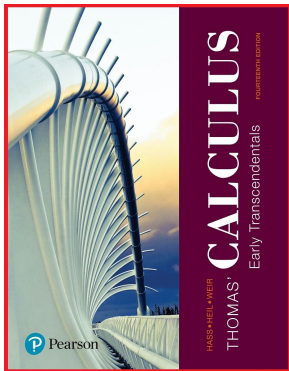


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Corollary 4.3

Corollary 4.3. The First Derivative Test for Increasing and Decreasing.

Suppose that f is continuous on $[a, b]$ and differentiable on (a, b)

If $f' > 0$ at each point of (a, b) , then f increases on $[a, b]$.

If $f' < 0$ at each point of (a, b) , then f decreases on $[a, b]$.

Proof. Suppose $x_1, x_2 \in [a, b]$ with $x_1 < x_2$. The Mean Value Theorem (Theorem 4.4) applied to f on $[x_1, x_2]$ implies that $f(x_2) - f(x_1) = f'(c)(x_2 - x_1)$ for some c between x_1 and x_2 . Since $x_2 - x_1 > 0$, then $f(x_2) - f(x_1)$ and $f'(c)$ are of the same sign. 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) . □

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Exercise 4.3.28(a)

Exercise 4.3.28(a). Find the sets on which the function $g(x) = x^4 - 4x^3 + 4x^2$ is increasing and decreasing. Use the critical points of g to make a table of the sign of g' using test values from the intervals on which g' has the same sign.

Solution. We have

$$g'(x) = 4x^3 - 12x^2 + 8x = 4x(x^2 - 3x + 2) = 4x(x - 1)(x - 2),$$

so the critical points of g are $x = 0$, $x = 1$, and $x = 2$ (where g' is 0).

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so the critical points of g are $x = 0$, $x = 1$, and $x = 2$ (where g' is 0). Since g' is a polynomial (and so is continuous by Theorem 2.5.A) then by the Intermediate Value Theorem (Theorem 2.11) the only way g' can change sign as x increases is for g' to take on the value 0. That is, g' has the same sign on the intervals $(-\infty, 0)$, $(0, 1)$, $(1, 2)$, and $(2, \infty)$. So we use test values from these intervals to determine the sign of g' throughout these intervals.

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Exercise 4.3.28(a) (continued 1)

Solution (continued). We have $g'(x) = 4x(x - 1)(x - 2)$. Consider:

interval	$(-\infty, 0)$	$(0, 1)$
test value k	-1	$1/2$
$g'(k)$	$4(-1)((-1) - 1)((-1) - 2)$	$4(1/2)((1/2) - 1)((1/2) - 2)$
$g'(x)$	$(-)(-)(-) = -$	$(+)(-)(-) = +$
$g(x)$	DEC	INC

interval	$(1, 2)$	$(2, \infty)$
test value k	$3/2$	4
$g'(k)$	$4(3/2)((3/2) - 1)((3/2) - 2)$	$4(4)((4) - 1)((4) - 2)$
$g'(x)$	$(+)(+)(-) = -$	$(+)(+)(+) = +$
$g(x)$	DEC	INC

So by Corollary 4.3 (The First Derivative Test for Increasing and Decreasing) g is increasing on $[0, 1] \cup [2, \infty)$ and g is

decreasing on $(-\infty, 0] \cup [1, 2]$.

Theorem 4.3.A

Theorem 4.3.A. 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 .

Proof. (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 $[a, c]$ by Corollary 4.3 (The First Derivative Test for Increasing and Decreasing).

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Proof (continued). If $x \in (c, b)$, then $f(c) < f(x)$ because $f' > 0$ implies that f is increasing on $[c, b]$ by Corollary 4.3. Therefore, $f(x) \geq f(c)$ for every $x \in (a, b)$. By definition, f has a local minimum at c . \square

(2) Since the sign of f' changes from positive to negative 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 increasing on $[a, c]$ by Corollary 4.3.

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Theorem 4.3.A (continued 2)

Theorem 4.3.A. First Derivative Test for Local Extrema.

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 .

Proof (continued). (3) We show this in the case that f' is positive on both sides of c , the case that f' is negative on both sides of c being similar. Then 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 increasing on $[a, c]$ by Corollary 4.3. If $y \in (c, b)$, then $f(c) < f(y)$ because $f' > 0$ implies that f is increasing on $[c, b]$ by Corollary 4.3. Therefore, $f(x) \leq f(c) \leq f(y)$ for every $x \in (a, c)$ and every $y \in (c, b)$. By definition, f has neither a local maximum nor a local minimum at c . □

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Exercise 4.3.28(b)

Exercise 4.3.28(b). Identify the local and absolute extreme values, if any, of $g(x) = x^4 - 4x^3 + 4x^2$.

Solution. From part (a) above, we have

interval	$(-\infty, 0)$	$(0, 1)$	$(1, 2)$	$(2, \infty)$
$g'(x)$	-	+	-	+
$g(x)$	DEC	INC	DEC	INC

So by Theorem 4.3.A (First Derivative Test for Local Extrema), g has a

local minimum at $x = 0$ of $g(0) = (0)^4 - 4(0)^3 + 4(0)^2 = 0$,

local minimum at $x = 2$ of $g(2) = (2)^4 - 4(2)^3 + 4(2)^2 = 0$, and

g has a local maximum at $x = 1$ of $g(1) = (1)^4 - 4(1)^3 + 4(1)^2 = 1$.

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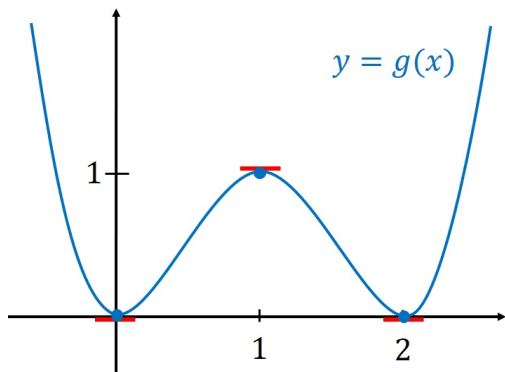
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Exercise 4.3.28(b) (continued)

Solution (continued). Plotting the points of local extreme values, the critical points, and the increasing/decreasing information, we can get a good idea of the shape of the graph of $y = g(x) = x^4 - 4x^3 + 4x^2$:



Exercise 4.3.14

Exercise 4.3.14. Consider function f defined on $[a, b] = [0, 2\pi]$ with derivative $f'(x) = (\sin x + \cos x)(\sin x - \cos x)$. **(a)** What are the critical points? **(b)** On what sets is f increasing or decreasing? **(c)** At what points, if any, does f assume local maximum and minimum values?

Solution. First, $f'(x) = \sin^2 x - \cos^2 x$ and so
 $f'(x) = -(\cos^2 x - \sin^2 x) = -\cos 2x$ by the double angle formula.

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$$x = \pi/4, x = 3\pi/4, x = 5\pi/4, \text{ and } x = 7\pi/4.$$

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(b) As in Exercise 4.3.28(a) above, we use the critical points in $[0, 2\pi]$ to determine the intervals in $[0, 2\pi]$ on which the sign of f' is constant: $[0, \pi/4)$, $(\pi/4, 3\pi/4)$, $(3\pi/4, 5\pi/4)$, $(5\pi/4, 7\pi/4)$, and $(7\pi/4, 2\pi]$.

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Exercise 4.3.14 (continued 1)

Solution (continued). We have $f'(x) = -\cos 2x$, so:

interval	$[0, \pi/4)$	$(\pi/4, 3\pi/4)$	$(3\pi/4, 5\pi/4)$
test value k	0	$\pi/2$	π
$f'(k)$	$-\cos(2(0))$ $= -1$	$-\cos(2(\pi/2))$ $= 1$	$-\cos(2(\pi))$ $= -1$
$f'(x)$	-	+	-
$f(x)$	DEC	INC	DEC

interval	$(5\pi/4, 7\pi/4)$	$(7\pi/4, 2\pi]$
test value k	$3\pi/2$	2π
$f'(k)$	$-\cos(2(3\pi/2))$ $= 1$	$-\cos(2(2\pi))$ $= -1$
$f'(x)$	+	-
$f(x)$	INC	DEC

So f is increasing on $[\pi/4, 3\pi/4] \cup [5\pi/4, 7\pi/4]$, and f is decreasing on $[0, \pi/4] \cup [3\pi/4, 5\pi/4] \cup [7\pi/4, 2\pi]$.

Exercise 4.3.14 (continued 2)

Exercise 4.3.14. Consider $f(x) = (\sin x + \cos x)(\sin x - \cos x)$ on $[a, b] = [0, 2\pi]$. **(c)** At what points, if any, does f assume local maximum and minimum values?

Solution (continued). ... So f is

increasing on $[\pi/4, 3\pi/4] \cup [5\pi/4, 7\pi/4]$, and f is

decreasing on $[0, \pi/4] \cup [3\pi/4, 5\pi/4] \cup [7\pi/4, 2\pi]$.

(c) By Theorem 4.3.A (“First Derivative Test for Local Extrema”), f has a local maximum at $x = 3\pi/4$ and $x = 7\pi/4$, and f has a

local minimum at $x = \pi/4$ and $x = 5\pi/4$. Since f decreases on $[0, \pi/4]$

then f has a local maximum at $x = 0$, and since f is decreasing on

$[7\pi/4, 2\pi]$ then f has a local minimum at $x = 2\pi$. \square

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Exercise 4.3.38

Exercise 4.3.38. (a) Find the sets on which the function $g(x) = x^{2/3}(x + 5)$ is increasing and decreasing. Use the critical points of g to make a table of the sign of g' using test values from the intervals on which g' has the same sign. (b) Identify the local and absolute extreme values of g , if any.

Solution. First,

$$g'(x) = [(2/3)x^{-1/3}](x + 5) + (x^{2/3})[1] = \frac{2(x + 5)}{3x^{1/3}} + \frac{3x}{3x^{1/3}} = \frac{5x + 10}{3x^{1/3}}.$$

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(a) For the critical points, since $g'(x) = \frac{5x + 10}{3x^{1/3}}$ then $x = -2$ is a critical point since $g'(-2) = 0$ and $x = 0$ is a critical point since g' is not defined at $x = 0$. As in Exercise 4.3.28(a) above, we see that the sign of g' is the same throughout each of the intervals $(-\infty, -2)$, $(-2, 0)$, and $(0, \infty)$. So we consider: ...

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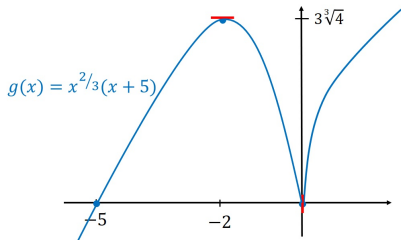
Solution (continued). So we consider:

interval	$(-\infty, -2)$	$(-2, 0)$	$(0, \infty)$
test value k	-3	-1	1
$g'(k)$	$\frac{5(-3)+10}{3(-3)^{1/3}}$ $= (-5/3)(1/(-3)^{1/3})$	$\frac{5(-1)+10}{3(-1)^{1/3}}$ $= (5/3)(1/(-1)^{1/3})$	$\frac{5(1)+10}{3(1)^{1/3}}$ $= 5$
$g'(x)$	$+$	$-$	$+$
$g(x)$	INC	DEC	INC

So g is $\text{increasing on } (-\infty, -2] \cup [0, \infty)$, and g is $\text{decreasing on } [-2, 0]$.

Exercise 4.3.38 (continued 2)

Solution (continued). (b) By Theorem 4.3.A (“First Derivative Test for Local Extrema”), g has a local maximum at $x = -2$ (of $g(-2) = (-2)^{2/3}((-2) + 5) = 3\sqrt[3]{4}$), and g has a local minimum at $x = 0$ (of $g(0) = (0)^{2/3}((0) + 5) = 0$). Now $g(x) = x^{2/3}(x + 5)$ can be made arbitrarily large and positive by making x large and positive, and $g(x) = x^{2/3}(x + 5)$ can be made arbitrarily large and negative by making x large and negative. So g has no absolute extrema. \square



\square

Exercise 4.3.44

Exercise 4.3.44. (a) Find the open intervals on which the function $f(x) = x^2 \ln x$ is increasing and decreasing. Use the critical points of f to make a table of the sign of f' using test values from the intervals on which f' has the same sign. (b) Identify the local and absolute extreme values of f , if any.

Solution. First, notice that the domain of f is $(0, \infty)$ and $f'(x) = [2x](\ln x) + (x^2)[1/x] = x(1 + 2 \ln x)$.

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Exercise 4.3.44 (continued)

Solution (continued).

interval	$(0, e^{-1/2})$	$(e^{-1/2}, \infty)$
test value k	$e^{-3/4}$	1
$f'(k)$	$(e^{-3/4})(1 + 2 \ln(e^{-3/4}))$ $e^{-3/4}(1 - 3/2)$	$(1)(1 + 2 \ln(1))$ 1
$f'(x)$	-	+
$f(x)$	DEC	INC

So f is $\text{increasing on } (e^{-1/2}, \infty)$, and f is $\text{decreasing on } (0, e^{-1/2})$.

Exercise 4.3.44 (continued)

Solution (continued).

interval	$(0, e^{-1/2})$	$(e^{-1/2}, \infty)$
test value k	$e^{-3/4}$	1
$f'(k)$	$(e^{-3/4})(1 + 2 \ln(e^{-3/4}))$ $e^{-3/4}(1 - 3/2)$	$(1)(1 + 2 \ln(1))$ 1
$f'(x)$	-	+
$f(x)$	DEC	INC

So f is increasing on $(e^{-1/2}, \infty)$, and f is decreasing on $(0, e^{-1/2})$.

(b) By Theorem 4.3.A (“First Derivative Test for Local Extrema”), f has a local minimum at $x = e^{-1/2}$ (of $f(e^{-1/2}) = (e^{-1/2})^2 \ln e^{-1/2} = e^{-1}(-1/2) = -1/(2e)$). \square

Exercise 4.3.44 (continued)

Solution (continued).

interval	$(0, e^{-1/2})$	$(e^{-1/2}, \infty)$
test value k	$e^{-3/4}$	1
$f'(k)$	$(e^{-3/4})(1 + 2 \ln(e^{-3/4}))$ $e^{-3/4}(1 - 3/2)$	$(1)(1 + 2 \ln(1))$ 1
$f'(x)$	-	+
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So f is increasing on $(e^{-1/2}, \infty)$, and f is decreasing on $(0, e^{-1/2})$.

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Exercise 4.3.58

Exercise 4.3.58. Consider $g(x) = \frac{x^2}{4 - x^2}$ on $(-2, 1]$. **(a)** Identify the local extreme values of g and say where they occur. **(b)** Which of the extreme values, if any, are absolute?

Solution. Notice that g is a rational function and, by Dr. Bob's Infinite Limits Theorem, g has a vertical asymptote at $x = -2$. Now

$g'(x) = \frac{[2x](4 - x^2) - (x^2)[-2x]}{(4 - x^2)^2} = \frac{8x}{(4 - x^2)^2}$, and $x = 0$ is a critical point of g since $g'(0) = 0$ (notice that there are no other critical points of g).

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Exercise 4.3.58 (continued 1)

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Solution (continued). **(a)** We partition the interval $(-2, 1]$ by removing the critical point $x = 0$ and consider: ...

interval	$(-2, 0)$	$(0, 1]$
test value k	-1	1
$g'(k)$	$(8(-1))/(4 - (-1)^2)^2 = -8/9$	$(8(1))/(4 - (1)^2)^2 = 8/9$
$g'(x)$	$-$	$+$
$g(x)$	DEC	INC

By Theorem 4.3.A (“First Derivative Test for Local Extrema”), g has a local minimum at $x = 0$ of $g(0) = 0$. Since g is increasing on $[0, 1]$, then g has a local maximum at $x = 1$ of $g(1) = (1)^2/(4 - (1)^2) = 1/3$.

Exercise 4.3.58 (continued 2)

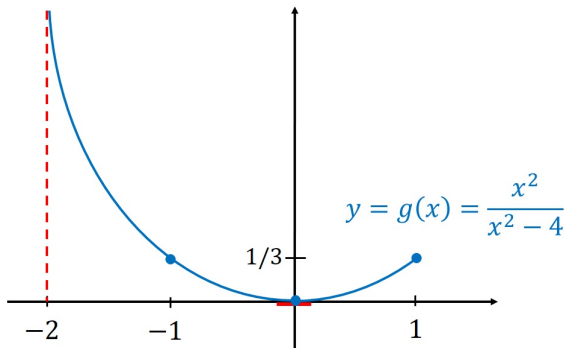
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Solution (continued). **(b)** Notice that since g has a vertical asymptote at $x = -2$ and g is decreasing on $(-2, 0)$, then we must have $\lim_{x \rightarrow -2^+} g(x) = \infty$ and so g has no absolute maximum. Since g has a local minimum at $x = 0$ of $g(0) = 0$, g is decreasing on $(-2, 0]$, and g is increasing on $[0, 1]$, then g has an absolute minimum at $x = 0$ of $g(0) = 0$.

Exercise 4.3.58 (continued 3)

Solution (continued). Plotting the points of local extreme values, the critical point, the vertical asymptote, and the increasing/decreasing information, we can get a good idea of the shape of the graph of

$$y = g(x) = \frac{x^2}{4 - x^2} \text{ on } (-2, 1]:$$



Exercise 4.3.72

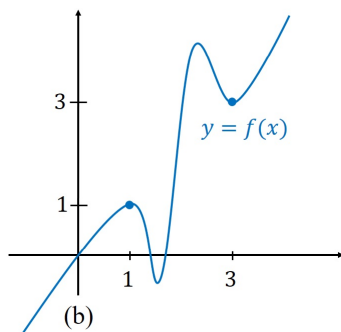
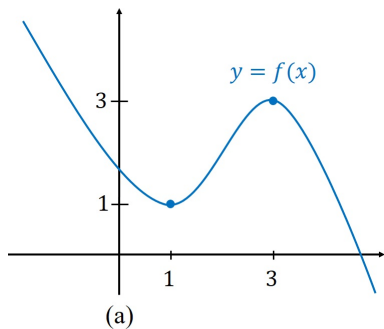
Exercise 4.3.72. Sketch the graph of a differentiable function $y = f(x)$ that has **(a)** a local minimum at $(1, 1)$ and a local maximum at $(3, 3)$; **(b)** a local maximum at $(1, 1)$ and a local minimum at $(3, 3)$; **(c)** local maxima at $(1, 1)$ and $(3, 3)$; **(d)** local minima at $(1, 1)$ and $(3, 3)$.

Solution. We try to make $y = f(x)$ simple by minimizing the number of critical points.

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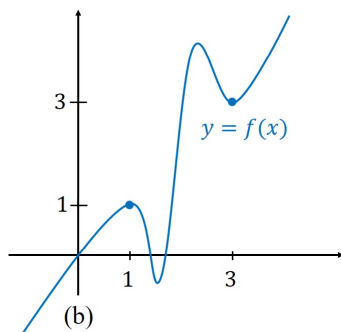
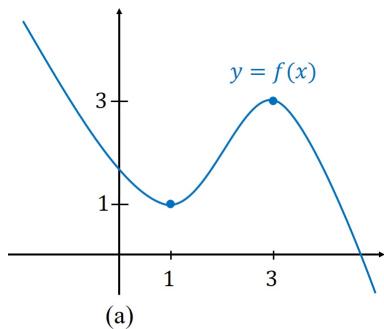
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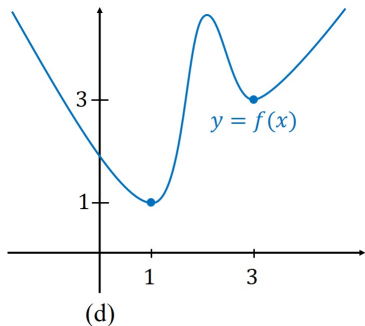
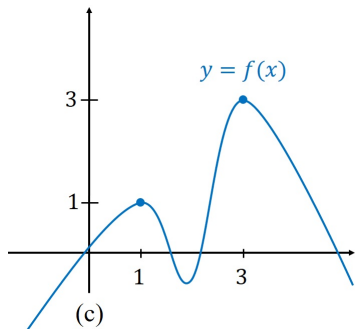
Solution. We try to make $y = f(x)$ simple by minimizing the number of critical points.



Exercise 4.3.72 (continued)

Exercise 4.3.72. Sketch the graph of a differentiable function $y = f(x)$ that has **(c)** local maxima at $(1, 1)$ and $(3, 3)$; **(d)** local minima at $(1, 1)$ and $(3, 3)$.

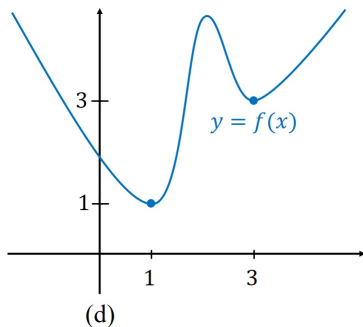
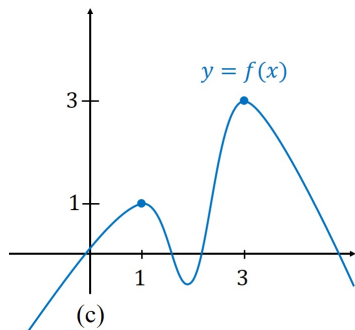
Solution(continued). We try to make $y = f(x)$ simple by minimizing the number of critical points.



Exercise 4.3.72 (continued)

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Solution(continued). We try to make $y = f(x)$ simple by minimizing the number of critical points.



Exercise 4.3.80

- Exercise 4.3.80.** (a) Prove that $f(x) = x - \ln x$ is increasing for $x > 1$.
(b) Using part (a), show that $\ln x < x$ if $x > 1$.

Solution. Notice that the domain of f is $(0, \infty)$. We have $f'(x) = 1 - 1/x = (x - 1)/x$, so $x = 1$ is a critical point of f since $f'(1) = 0$.

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(a) We partition the domain $(0, \infty)$ by removing the critical point $x = 1$ and consider:

interval	$(0, 1)$	$(1, \infty)$
test value k	$1/2$	2
$g'(k)$	$((1/2) - 1)/(1/2) = -1$	$((2) - 1)/(2) = 1/2$
$g'(x)$	$-$	$+$
$g(x)$	DEC	INC

So f is increasing on $[1, \infty)$ (in particular, for $x > 1$), as claimed; we are using a version of Corollary 4.3, “The First Derivative Test for Increasing and Decreasing” here. \square

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Solution (continued). So f is increasing on $[1, \infty)$ (in particular, for $x > 1$), as claimed; we are using a version of Corollary 4.3, “The First Derivative Test for Increasing and Decreasing” here. \square

(b) Since $f(1) = (1) - \ln(1) = 1 - 0 = 1$ and $f(x) = x - \ln x$ is increasing on $[1, \infty)$, then we have $f(x) = x - \ln x \geq 1$ for $x > 1$. That is, $x \geq \ln x + 1 > \ln x$ for $x > 1$, as claimed. \square

Exercise 4.3.80 (continued)

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