

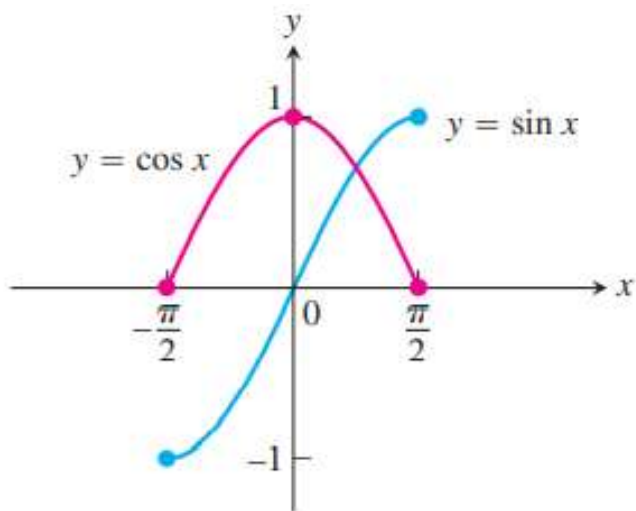
DEFINITIONS Let f be a function with domain D . Then f has an **absolute maximum** value on D at a point c if

$$f(x) \leq f(c) \quad \text{for all } x \text{ in } D$$

and an **absolute minimum** value on D at c if

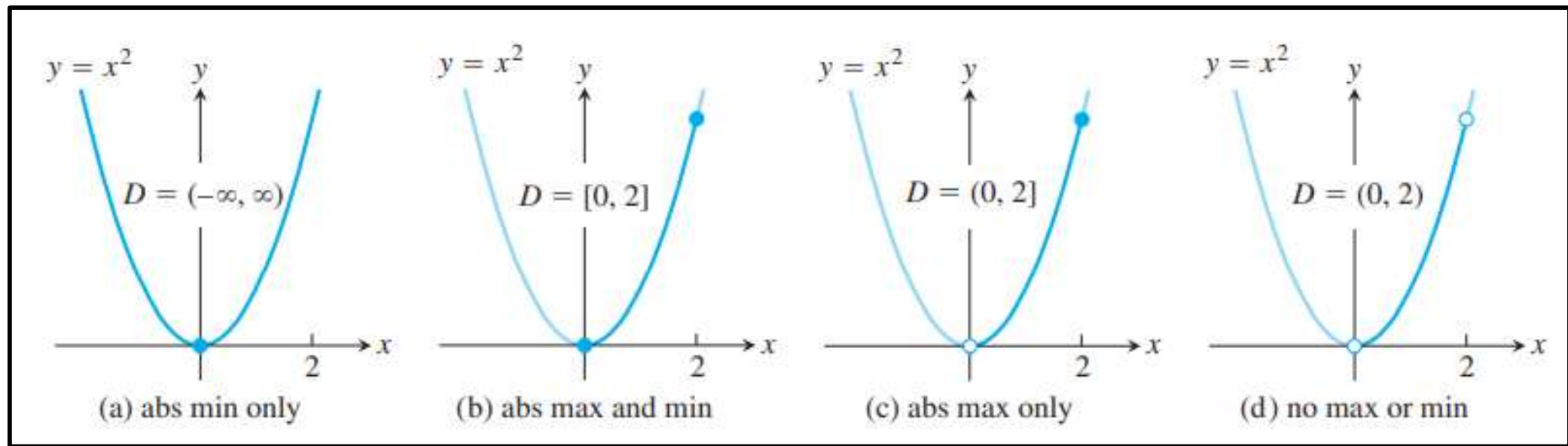
$$f(x) \geq f(c) \quad \text{for all } x \text{ in } D.$$

Maximum and minimum values are called **extreme values** of the function f . Absolute maxima or minima are also referred to as **global** maxima or minima.



Absolute extrema for the sine and cosine functions on $[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$. These values can depend on the domain of a function.

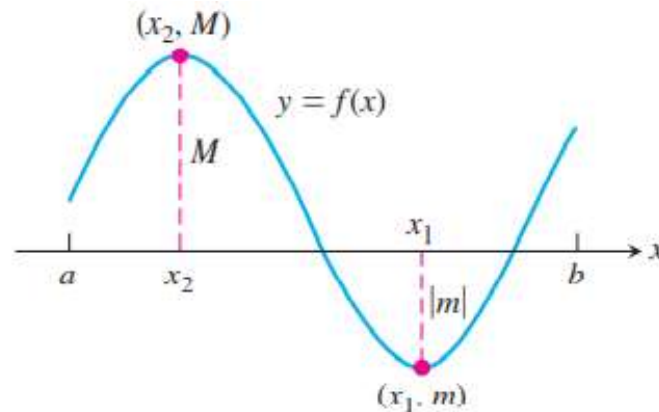
For example, on the closed interval $[-\pi/2, \pi/2]$ the function $f(x) = \cos x$ takes on an absolute maximum value of 1 (once) and an absolute minimum value of 0 (twice). On the same interval, the function $g(x) = \sin x$ takes on a maximum value of 1 and a minimum value of -1 .



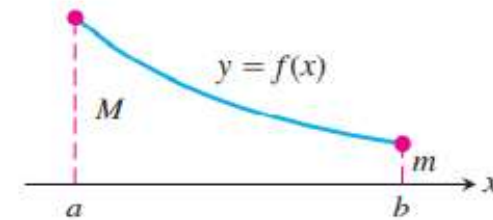
Notice that a function might not have a maximum or minimum if the domain is unbounded or fails to contain an endpoint.

Function rule	Domain D	Absolute extrema on D
(a) $y = x^2$	$(-\infty, \infty)$	No absolute maximum. Absolute minimum of 0 at $x = 0$.
(b) $y = x^2$	$[0, 2]$	Absolute maximum of 4 at $x = 2$. Absolute minimum of 0 at $x = 0$.
(c) $y = x^2$	$(0, 2]$	Absolute maximum of 4 at $x = 2$. No absolute minimum.
(d) $y = x^2$	$(0, 2)$	No absolute extrema.

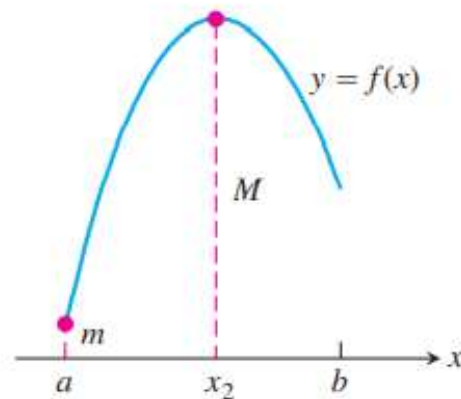
THEOREM —The Extreme Value Theorem If f is continuous on a closed interval $[a, b]$, then f attains both an absolute maximum value M and an absolute minimum value m in $[a, b]$. That is, there are numbers x_1 and x_2 in $[a, b]$ with $f(x_1) = m$, $f(x_2) = M$, and $m \leq f(x) \leq M$ for every other x in $[a, b]$.



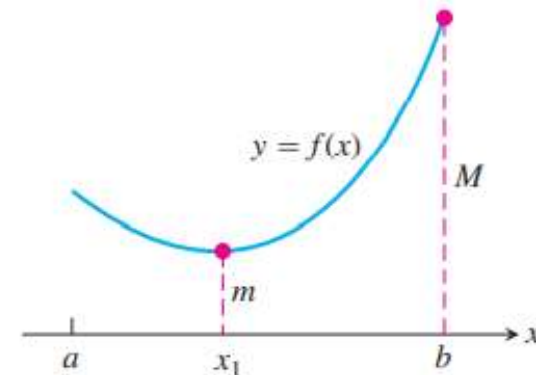
Maximum and minimum at interior points



Maximum and minimum at endpoints



Maximum at interior point, minimum at endpoint

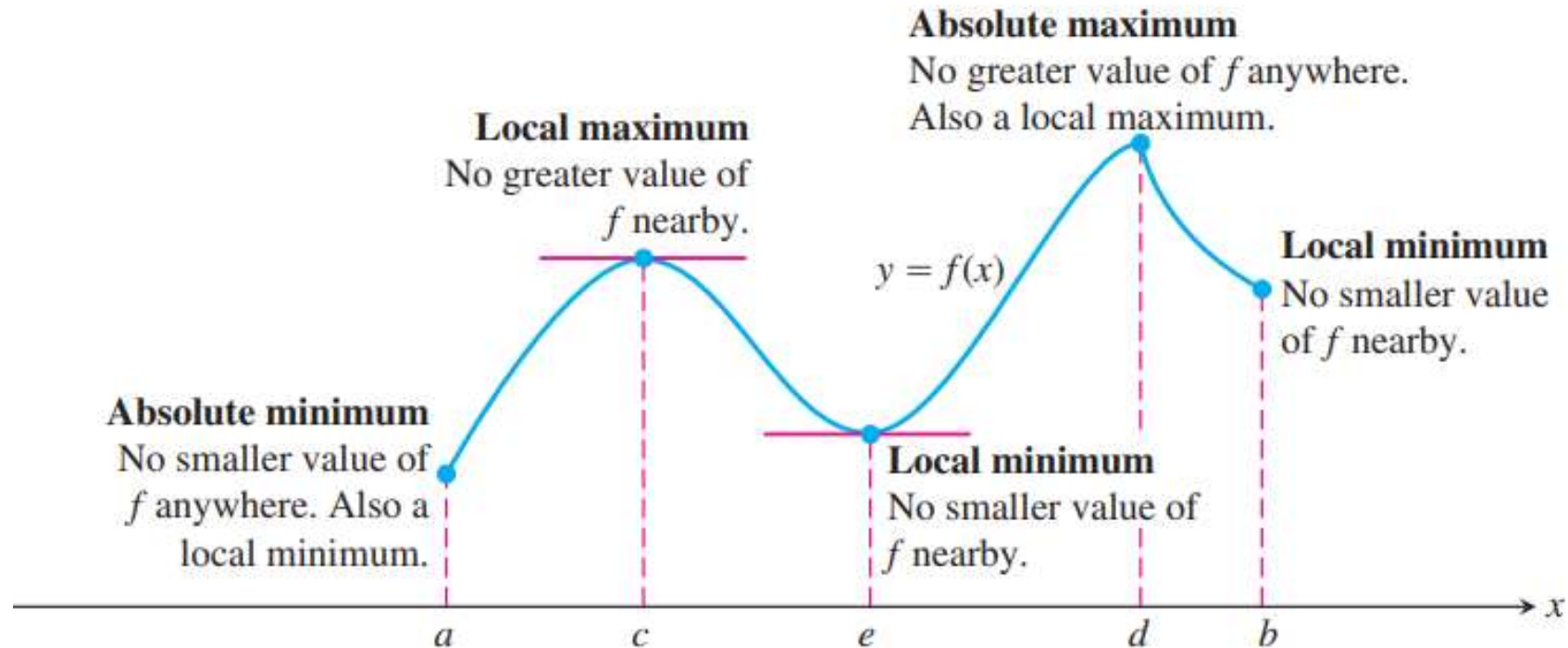


Minimum at interior point, maximum at endpoint

Local (Relative) Extreme Values

DEFINITIONS A function f has a **local maximum** value at a point c within its domain D if $f(x) \leq f(c)$ for all $x \in D$ lying in some open interval containing c .

A function f has a **local minimum** value at a point c within its domain D if $f(x) \geq f(c)$ for all $x \in D$ lying in some open interval containing c .



THEOREM —The First Derivative Theorem for Local Extreme Values If f has a local maximum or minimum value at an interior point c of its domain, and if f' is defined at c , then

$$f'(c) = 0.$$

DEFINITION An interior point of the domain of a function f where f' is zero or undefined is a **critical point** of f .

How to Find the Absolute Extrema of a Continuous Function f on a Finite Closed Interval

1. Evaluate f at all critical points and endpoints.
2. Take the largest and smallest of these values.

EXAMPLE Find the absolute maximum and minimum values of $f(x) = x^2$ on $[-2, 1]$.

Solution The function is differentiable over its entire domain, so the only critical point is where $f'(x) = 2x = 0$, namely $x = 0$. We need to check the function's values at $x = 0$ and at the endpoints $x = -2$ and $x = 1$:

$$\text{Critical point value: } f(0) = 0$$

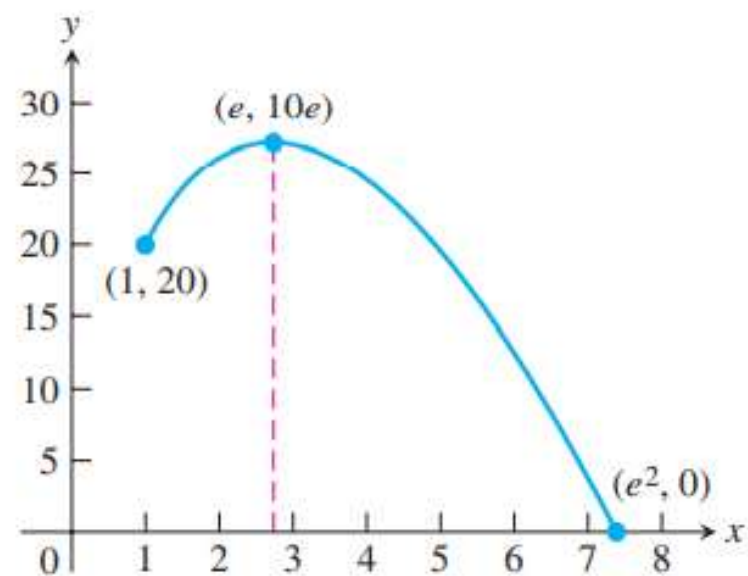
$$\text{Endpoint values: } f(-2) = 4$$

$$f(1) = 1$$

The function has an absolute maximum value of 4 at $x = -2$ and an absolute minimum value of 0 at $x = 0$.

EXAMPLE Find the absolute maximum and minimum values of $f(x) = 10x(2 - \ln x)$ on the interval $[1, e^2]$.

EXAMPLE Find the absolute maximum and minimum values of $f(x) = x^{2/3}$ on the interval $[-2, 3]$.



EXAMPLE Find the absolute maximum and minimum values of $f(x) = x^{2/3}$ on the interval $[-2, 3]$.

Solution We evaluate the function at the critical points and endpoints and take the largest and smallest of the resulting values.

The first derivative

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

has no zeros but is undefined at the interior point $x = 0$. The values of f at this one critical point and at the endpoints are

Critical point value: $f(0) = 0$

Endpoint values: $f(-2) = (-2)^{2/3} = \sqrt[3]{4}$

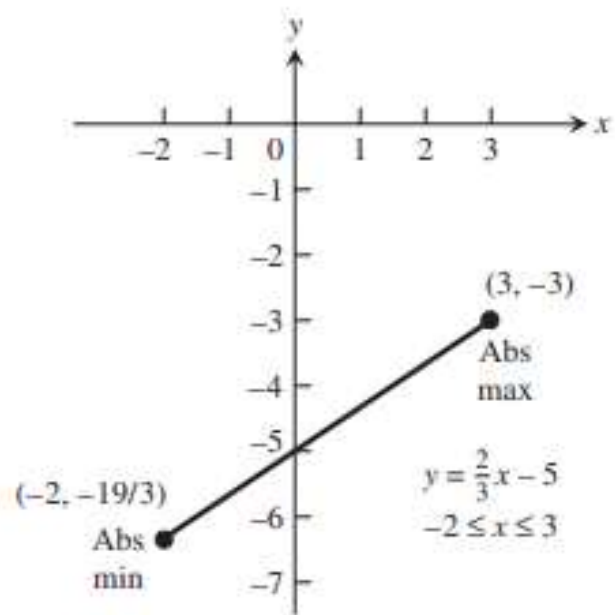
$$f(3) = (3)^{2/3} = \sqrt[3]{9}.$$

the function's absolute maximum value is $\sqrt[3]{9} \approx 2.08$, and it

The absolute minimum value is 0, and it occurs at the

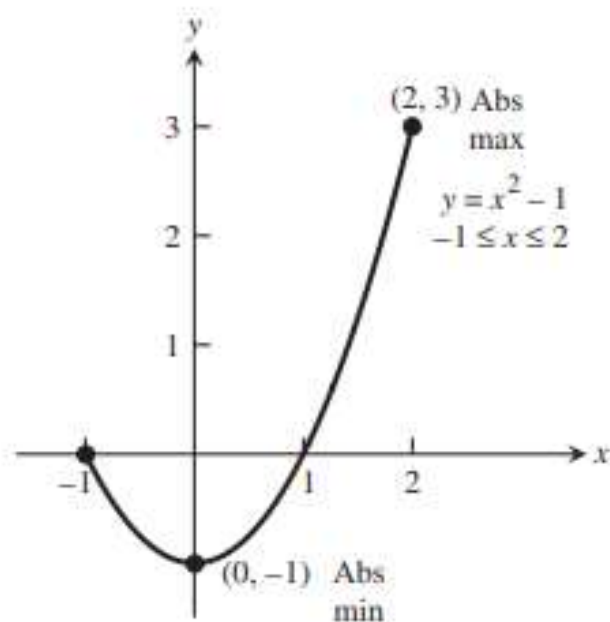
1) $f(x) = \frac{2}{3}x - 5, \quad -2 \leq x \leq 3$

Absolute maximum: -3 ;
absolute minimum: $-19/3$



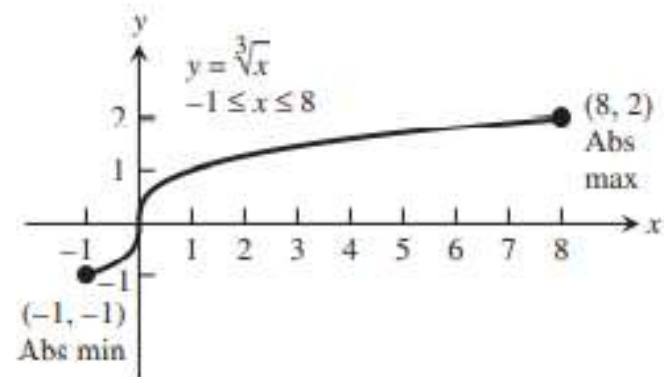
2) $f(x) = x^2 - 1, \quad -1 \leq x \leq 2$

Absolute maximum: 3 ;
absolute minimum: -1



3) $h(x) = \sqrt[3]{x}, \quad -1 \leq x \leq 8$

Absolute maximum: 2;
absolute minimum: -1



Increasing Functions and Decreasing Functions

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 $[a, b]$.

EXAMPLE 1 Find the critical points of $f(x) = x^3 - 12x - 5$ and identify the 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 nonoverlapping 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.

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

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 .

EXAMPLE Find the critical points of

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

Identify the 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 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

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

Mean Value Theorem tells us 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 $[1, \infty)$.

EXAMPLE Find the critical points of

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

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

The zeros $x = -3$ and $x = 1$ partition the x -axis into 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 $(-3, 1)$.
the graph.

THEOREM —Second Derivative Test for Local Extrema Suppose f'' is continuous on an open interval that contains $x = c$.

1. If $f'(c) = 0$ and $f''(c) < 0$, then f has a local maximum at $x = c$.
2. If $f'(c) = 0$ and $f''(c) > 0$, then f has a local minimum at $x = c$.
3. If $f'(c) = 0$ and $f''(c) = 0$, then the test fails. The function f may have a local maximum, a local minimum, or neither.

EXAMPLE

- (a) Identify where the extrema of f occur.
(b) Find the intervals on which f is increasing and the intervals on which f is decreasing.

where $f(x) = x^4 - 4x^3 + 10$

Solution The function f is continuous since $f'(x) = 4x^3 - 12x^2$ exists. The domain of f is $(-\infty, \infty)$, and the domain of f' is also $(-\infty, \infty)$. Thus, the critical points of f occur only at the zeros of f' . Since

$$f'(x) = 4x^3 - 12x^2 = 4x^2(x - 3),$$

the first derivative is zero at $x = 0$ and $x = 3$. We use these critical points to define intervals where f is increasing or decreasing.

Interval	$x < 0$	$0 < x < 3$	$3 < x$
Sign of f'	-	-	+
Behavior of f	decreasing	decreasing	increasing

by second derivative test

$$f''(x) = 12x^2 - 24x$$

$$f''(0) = 0 \text{ (No conclusion)}$$

$$f''(3) = \text{positive (minimum)}$$

- (a) Using the First Derivative Test for local extrema and the table above, we see that there is no extremum at $x = 0$ and a local minimum at $x = 3$.
(b) Using the table above, we see that f is decreasing on $(-\infty, 0]$ and $[0, 3]$, and increasing on $[3, \infty)$.

EXAMPLE Find extrema values of $f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 4}{2x}$.

The critical points occur at $x = \pm 2$ where $f'(x) = 0$. Since $f''(-2) < 0$ and $f''(2) > 0$, we see from the Second Derivative Test that a relative maximum occurs at $x = -2$ with $f(-2) = -2$, and a relative minimum occurs at $x = 2$ with $f(2) = 2$.