

Week 11:  
Relative extrema, Higher derivatives, Curve sketching and  
Absolute extrema

11/3

### Group 1

Find all relative extrema for the following functions, as well as where each function is increasing and decreasing.

1.  $f(x) = 2x^3 - 3x^2 - 72x + 15$
2.  $f(x) = 6x^{2/3} - 4x$
3.  $f(x) = x^3e^x$

### Group 2

A study on optimizing revenue from a website considered dividing customers into two groups based on a value  $x$  between 0 and 1, where  $x$  measures the proportion of the total bandwidth requested by a customer. Customers with a request less than  $x$  were considered low revenue, and those above  $x$  high revenue. The expected revenue from the low revenue customers was described by

$$R(x) = Cx(1 - e^{-kx})$$

where  $C, k$  are positive constants.

- (a) Find  $R'(x)$  and use it to find value of  $x \in [0, 1]$  the revenue is increasing.
- (b) Find  $R''$  and find for which  $x \in [0, 1]$  the function is concave up.

### Group 3

Sketch the curve

$$f(x) = -2x^3 - 9x^2 + 108x - 10$$

## Group 4

A marshy region used for agricultural drainage has become contaminated with selenium. It has been determined that flushing the area with clean water will reduce the selenium for a while, but it will then begin to build up again. A biologist has found that the percent of selenium in the soil  $x$  months after the flushing begins is given by

$$f(x) = \frac{x^2 + 36}{2x}, 1 \leq x \leq 12$$

When will the selenium be reduced to a minimum? What is the minimum percent?

## Group 5

Find the absolute extrema if they exist, as well as all values of  $x$  where they occur, for each function, and specified domain.

- (a)  $f(x) = x^3 - 2x^2 - 15x + 10; x \in [-2, 10]$   
(b)  $f(x) = x + e^{-2x}; [-2, 3]$

## Extra Problems

1. Find the absolute extrema if they exist, as well as all values of  $x$  where they occur.

- (a)  $f(x) = 4x + \frac{54}{x^2} + 2, x > 0$   
(b)  $f(x) = x \ln x, x > 0$

2. Sketch the curve

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

3. Find the second derivative of the following functions:

- (a)  $f(x) = x^3 + 6x^2 - 9x - 8$   
(b)  $f(x) = (x^2 - 1)^2$   
(c)  $f(x) = 4x \ln x$   
(d)  $f(x) = x/e^x$