Optimization:

We can use calculus in some settings to find "the best" option among many possibilities. Often best is formulated as biggest.

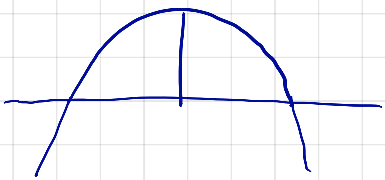
Suppose f is a function with domain $\mathbb{R}$, say.

If c is a point in $\mathbb{R}$ and if

$$f(c) \geq f(x) \text{ for all } x \in \mathbb{R}$$ we

say $f(c)$ is an absolute maximum value of f.

e.g.



$f(x) = 1 - x^2$ on $(-1, 1)$

$f(0) = 1$ is a maximum value for $f(x)$

If $f(x) = 5$ for all x, does f have a max value?

Where is the max achieved?

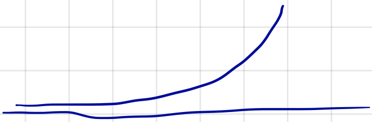
We have a similar concept for minimums.

$f(c)$ is an <u>absolute</u> <u>minimum</u> value if $f(c) \leq f(x)$ for all $x \in \mathbb{R}$

Note: f from the previous example does not have an absolute minimum.

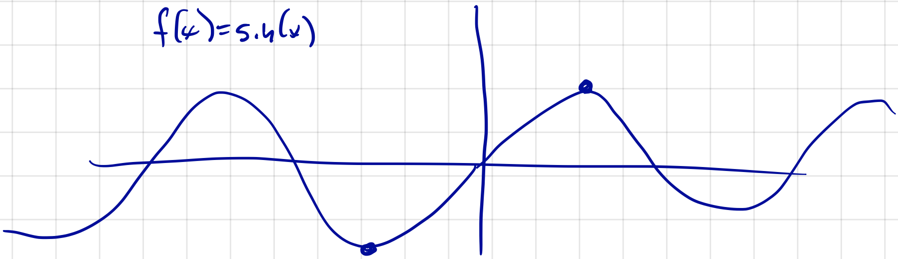
Functions need not have any absolute maximums or minimums.

e.g. $f(x) = e^x$



And they can have multiple:

$f(x) = \sin(x)$

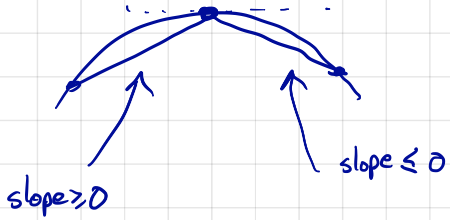


f attains its max at $c = \frac{\pi}{2} + k2\pi$

1 is a max value

-1 is a min value

What does calculus have to do with this?



intuitively, slope of tangent line there is 0.

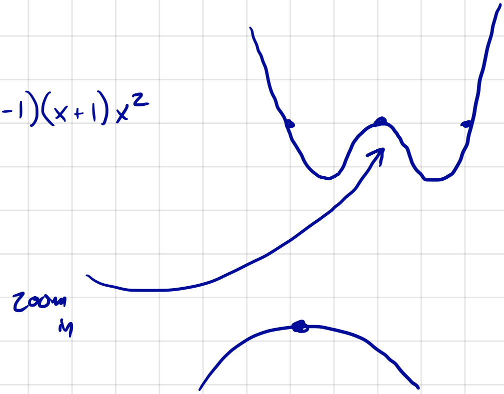
Fact: If the domain of f contains an interval around c,
and if f attains a max or min at c,
and if $f'(c)$ exists, then $f'(c)=0$.

Need all of these:

Both sides	Derivative exists
$f(x)=x$ on $[-1,1]$.	$f(x)=\lvert x\rvert$ on $[-1,1]$
Attains a max at $x=1$	Attains a min of 0 at $x=0$.
$f'(1)=1\neq 0$.	But $f'(0)$ does not exist.

Here's a more nuanced version of a maximum value:

$f(x) = (x-1)(x+1)x^2$



If x is "near" $c = 0$, $f(x) \leq f(c)$.

We say $f(c)$ is a <u>local</u> <u>maximum</u> <u>value</u> of f if

$f(x) \leq f(c)$ for x near c.

(And a similar definition for a local min.)

Typically, we don't want local min/maxs but

we need to be aware of them.

Fermat's Theorem

Fact: If the domain of f contains an interval around c,
and if f attains a max or min at c,
and if $f'(c)$ exists, then $f'(c) = 0$.

local

This gives you a way to look for maxima:

1) Spots where $f'(x) = 0$

2) Spots where $f'(x)$ does not exist

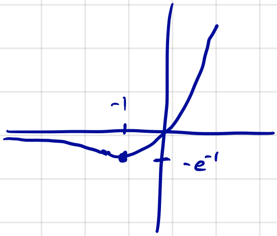
3) spots x where f is not defined on both sides of x.

It's gotta be one of these, if anywhere.

Def: we say c is a <u>critical point</u> for f

if $f'(c) = 0$ or $f'(c)$ DNE.

e.g. $f(x) = xe^x$



clearly doesn't have an absolute max.

Could have an absolute min. $f'(x) = e^x + xe^x = (1+x)e^x$

$f'(x) = 0$ at $x = -1$.

Indeed $f(-1) = -e^{-1}$ is a minimum value for f.

Now we have seen that functions need not have mins/maxes.

But: If f is continuous on $[a,b]$, a closed, bounded interval, then f achieves both a minimum and a maximum.

(Extreme Value Theorem)