

Howard University Math Department

1. (20 points) Graph the function $y = \frac{1}{x^2+1}$. You must explain how you got the graph.

You must find the following:

- All the local maxima and minima and inflexion points.
- Where it is increasing, decreasing, concave up and concave down.

Solution:

We have, using chain rule, $y' = \frac{-1}{(x^2+1)^2}(2x)$. This is zero when numerator $-2x = 0$ which happens only at 0. It is defined everywhere because denominator is never zero because x^2+1 has no real zeroes. So 0 is the only critical point.

The second derivative is obtained using quotient rule and after simplifying it becomes $\frac{6x^4 + 4x^2 - 2}{(x^2+1)^4}$.

This is zero when the numerator is zero. The numerator is a quadratic function $6u^2 + 4u - 2 = 0$ if you set $u = x^2$. Dividing by 2 it becomes $3u^2 + u - 1 = 0 \implies (3u-1)(u+1) = 0$.

$u+1 = x^2+1$ gets cancelled by the denominator.

So the only zeroes are when $3u-1 = 3x^2-1 = 0 \implies x = \pm 1/\sqrt{3}$.

[The second derivative is a bit easier to find here if you write the first derivative as $(-2x)(x^2+1)^{-2}$ and use product rule to differentiate it].

These are the two inflexion points.

As x goes to plus or minus infinity the denominator goes to infinity and so the function goes to 0. So the graph is asymptotic to x -axis on both ends.

At the critical point $x = 0$ the second derivative is -2 so it is a local maximum.

Also the derivative is clearly negative on the negative side of the x -axis and positive on the positive side.

The second derivative is negative in the interval between the two inflexion points and positive outside it.

So it starts at 0 from negative infinity and slowly increases to 1 at $x = 0$. In between it changes from concave up to concave down at $-1/\sqrt{3}$. Then it changes from concave down to concave up again at $1/\sqrt{3}$. It decreases from 0 to infinity and goes to zero as x approaches positive infinity. We also see that $x = 0$ is the absolute maximum and the function equals 1 there.

2. (15 points) Show that $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x^2}{x} = 0$ using L'Hospital's rule.

Solution:

First we check that L'Hospital's rule applies. We have both $\sin x^2$ and x going to 0 as x goes to 0. Both functions are differentiable and derivative of denominator is not zero near 0. So it applies.

We get upon applying the rule, $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin x^2}{x} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\sin x^2)'}{(x)'} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{(\cos x^2)(2x)}{1} = \cos(0)(0) = 1 \times 0 = 0$.

3. (20 points) Find the dimensions of the rectangle that has the largest area among all the ones with perimeter $2L$. Your answer will be in terms of the variable number L .

First we need to find the function that is to be maximized.

Since it says "largest area" we maximize $A(x) = xy$ where x is the length and y is width.

[It will work if you choose x to be the width, as well].

We need to make $A(x)$ really a function of just x alone, and to do that we need to solve for y in terms of x .

Perimeter is constrained to be equal to $2L$, so we get $2x + 2y = 2L \implies y = L - x$.

Plugging this in, we get $A(x) = xy = x(L - x) = xL - x^2$.

This is defined everywhere. It is zero when $xL - x^2 = x(L - x) = 0 \implies x = 0$ or $x = L$.

So the boundary points are 0 and L because otherwise $A(x)$ will be negative and area cannot be negative.

Critical points: $A'(x) = 0 \implies L - 2x = 0 \implies x = L/2$.

Since the function is defined everywhere $L/2$ is the only critical point.

Checking for local max / min:

First try second derivative test.

$$A''(x) = -2.$$

This is negative always, so $L/2$ is a local maximum.

$$\text{At } x = L/2, y = L - x = L - (L/2) = L/2 \text{ and } A(x) = xy = (L/2)(L/2) = L^2/4.$$

Comparing the value at the critical point with the values at the boundaries 0 and L (both of which are 0) we get that the square with length and width equal to $L/2$ will have maximum area among all rectangles of perimeter $2L$.

4. (10 points extra credit) Approximate the area under $f(x) = x^2$ from $x = 0$ to $x = 1$ by using a Riemann sum on the left endpoints with 5 intervals of equal width. Compare it with actual value found using fundamental theorem of calculus (i.e, using antiderivative).

Solution:

The desired area is given by $\int_0^1 x^2 dx$

For the Riemann sum $n = 5$ and $\Delta x = (1 - 0)/5 = 0.2$.

The integral is approximated by

$$\sum_{k=0}^4 (1 + k(0.2))^2(0.2) = (0.2)(0^2 + 0.2^2 + 0.4^2 + 0.6^2 + 0.8^2) = (0.2)(1.2) = 0.24.$$

$$\text{Actual value is } \int_0^1 x^2 dx = \left[\frac{x^3}{3} \right]_0^1 = (1/3)(1^2 - 0^2) = 0.33$$

(The approximation will get better as we increase the number of intervals).

5. (15 points) Find the area under $y = \frac{x^2 + \sqrt{x} + 1}{x}$ from $x = 1$ to $x = 4$.

Solution: The area is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_1^4 \frac{x^2 + \sqrt{x} + 1}{x} dx &= \int_1^4 \frac{x^2}{x} dx + \int_1^4 \frac{\sqrt{x}}{x} dx + \int_1^4 \frac{1}{x} dx = \\ &= \int_1^4 x dx + \int_1^4 x^{-1/2} dx + \int_1^4 \frac{1}{x} dx = \left[x^2/2 + \frac{x^{-(1/2)+1}}{(-1/2)+1} + \ln x \right]_1^4 \\ &= \left[x^2/2 + \frac{x^{1/2}}{1/2} + \ln x \right]_1^4 = \left[4^2/2 + 2(4^{1/2}) + \ln 4 \right] - \left[1^2/2 + 2(1^{1/2}) + \ln 1 \right] \\ &= (8 + 4 + \ln 4) - (1/2 + 2 + 0) = 9.5 + \ln 4 = 9.5 + 1.386 = 10.886 \text{ approximately} \end{aligned}$$

6. (20 points) Integrate by substitution: $y = \int \frac{(\ln t)^2}{t} dt$.

Solution:

Let $u = \ln t$. Then $du = \frac{dt}{t}$.

Now we get the integral in terms of u by plugging in $u = \ln t$ and $du = \frac{dt}{t}$.

We get $y = \int u^2 du = \frac{u^3}{3} + C = \frac{(\ln t)^3}{3} + C$.

7. (10 points) Find the derivatives of the functions defined by

(a) $f(x) = \int_0^x \cos(e^t) dt$. (b) $f(x) = \int_x^1 \tan^{-1}(t^2) dt$.

Solution:

(a) Using fundamental theorem of calculus, the derivative is given by $f'(x) = \cos e^x$.

(b) First write the integral as $f(x) = -\int_1^x \tan^{-1}(t^2) dt$. Now using fundamental theorem we get $f'(x) = -\tan^{-1}(x^2)$.