

Formal minimization, maximization.

You have some function  $f(x)$   
of a real variable.

Maybe it only makes sense  
for  $x$  in some interval

Say:

$$-1 \leq x \leq 1.$$

& Say  $f$ 's derivatives  
all exist & even its  
2<sup>nd</sup> derivatives

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How do you find the  
minimizer(s)?

The maximum value, & max. point?

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Example: Minimize  $f(x) = x^3 - x$

of over the interval

$$[-1, 1] = \{x : -1 \leq x \leq 1\}$$

Tasks: [2]  
Compute:  $f(+1)$   $\swarrow$  endpoint values  
 $f(-1)$   $\swarrow$

& ~~Solve~~ Solve  $f'(x) = 0$ .

- check if any of these solutions lie in  $[-1, 1]$ .

$$f(1) = ? \quad 1^3 - 1$$

$$f(-1) = ?$$

Note:  $f(-x) = -f(x)$   $\swarrow$   $f(-1) = 0 = -f(1)$

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 - 1.$$

done!  $\uparrow$  quiz!

we value in  $[-1, 1]$ , ?

yes!  $\sqrt{3} > 1$  so  $-1 < \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} < 0 < \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} < 1$ .

$$f\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^3 - \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) \stackrel{?}{<} 0!$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^2 - 1 \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( \frac{1}{3} - 1 \right) = \frac{-2}{3\sqrt{3}}.$$

0. Problem. Quiz 2'  
answers

~~Minimize  $f(x) = x^3 - x$   
on  $-1 \leq x \leq 1$ .~~

~~graph:  $f(1) = 1^3 - 1 = 0$   
 $f(-1) = (-1)^3 - 1 = -2$   
 $f(0) = 0$~~

From Quiz

~~\_\_\_\_\_ x~~

$$f'(x) = 3x^2 - 1$$

$$f'(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow 3x^2 = 1$$

$$x = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

$\sqrt{3} > 1$  so

$$-1 \leq \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \leq 1.$$

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) &= \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^3 - \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left(\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)^2 - 1\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left(\frac{1}{3} - 1\right) = -\frac{2}{3\sqrt{3}}. \end{aligned}$$

$$f\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = -f\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right)$$

since  $f$  is odd.

$$\text{so } f\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) = \frac{2}{3\sqrt{3}}.$$

Tabulate values

	Extreme points	Extreme values
endpts.	$\begin{cases} -1 \\ 1 \end{cases}$	$\begin{matrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{matrix}$
crit. pts.	$\begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \end{cases}$	$\begin{matrix} -\frac{2}{3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ +\frac{2}{3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \end{matrix}$

Which one of these is the minimum value.

Which?

~~(-1)~~, occurs when  $x = -1$ .

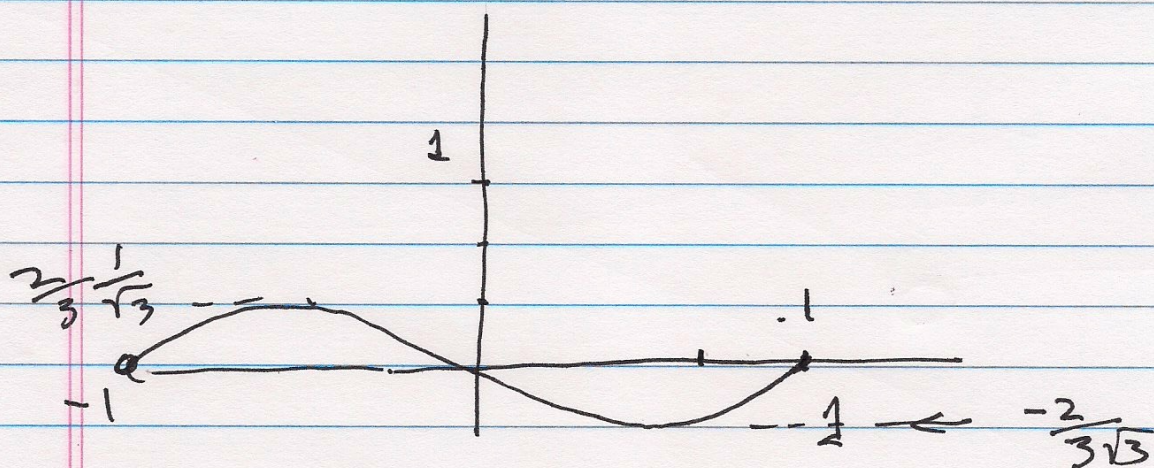
What if I changed the problem to maximize  $f$  over  $[-1, 1]$ .

(Value:  $\frac{2}{3\sqrt{3}}$ ; Maximizer:  $x = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$ .

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Min: occurs when  $x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \approx \frac{1}{1.7} \approx$

Min value  $\boxed{-\frac{2}{3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}} \approx -\frac{2}{3} \frac{1}{1.7} \approx -\frac{2}{6}$ .



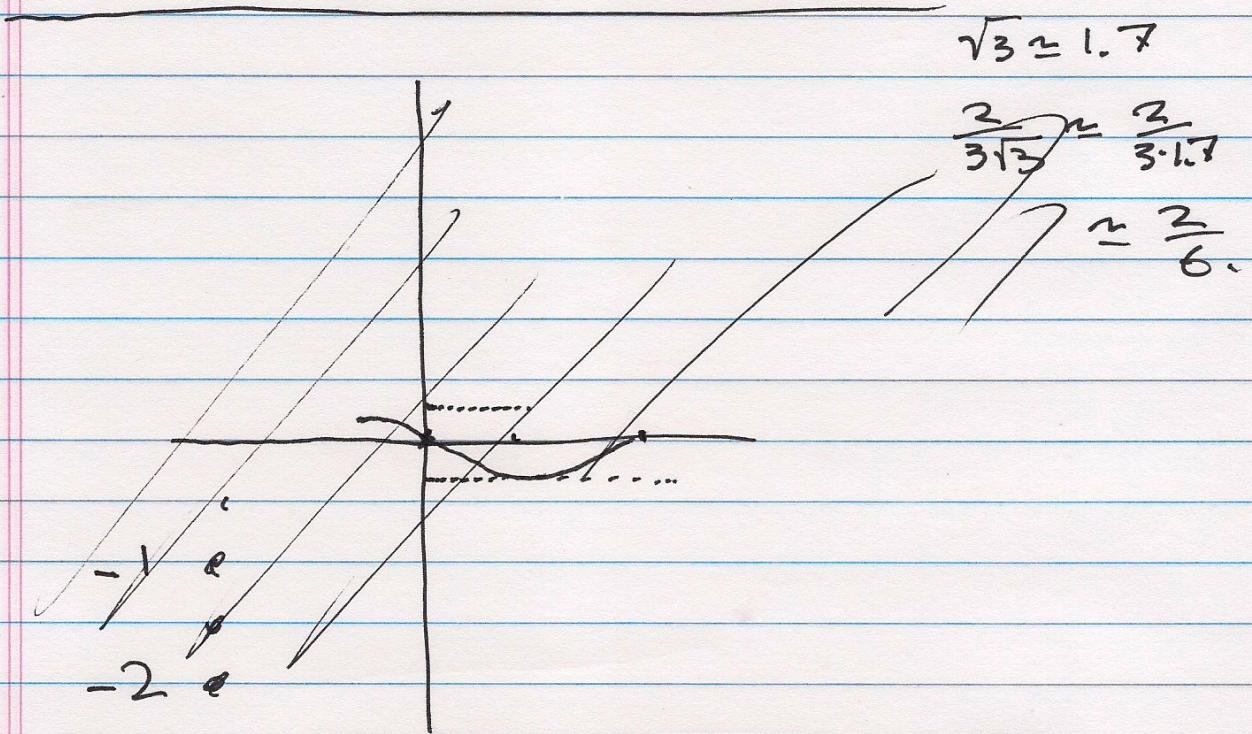
What if I ask you  
to minimize  $f(x)$  for  $-1 \leq x \leq 0$  ?

For  $-2 \leq x \leq 1$  ?

4b ~~332~~

\*This algorithm works

for the HLWs of 4.2



Try for  
 $f(x) = 5 - 2x$   
 $0 \leq x \leq 4$

In class

Definition If  $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is a real valued function  
some set

then a minimizer for  $f$  is a point

$$\sigma_0 \in \Omega \quad \text{s.t.}$$

$$\forall \sigma \in \Omega \quad f(\sigma_0) \leq f(\sigma)$$

minimum value

We call  $\sigma_0$  a "minimizer"

Why  $\Omega$ ? why not  $\mathbb{R}$ ?

- Could be: ~~cars~~ Set of cars, stocks
- cars in used car lot.
- water molecules in a tea pot.

The value  $f(\sigma_0)$  is called the minimum value

5.

How to define  
"maximizer" &  
maximum value?!

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Our problems  $\Omega \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ .

But some  $\Omega$ 's better  
than others.

Eg ~~if~~ Consider  $\Omega = \mathbb{R}$ .  
&  
 $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$   
by  $f(x) = e^x$ .



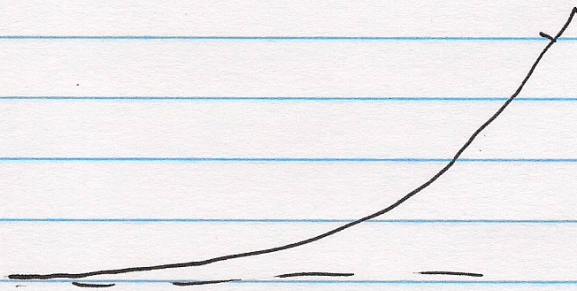
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Example:

$$f(x) = e^x, \quad -\infty < x < \infty$$

Min?

Max?



There is a limit or an  
"infimum":

$$\text{"Min"} = 0 = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} e^x$$

$$\text{"Max"} = +\infty = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} e^x$$

But it is never reached,

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Exer Find a nice

$$f: (0, 1) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

with no minimum.

Give no class;  $(0, 1) = \{x: 0 < x < 1\}$   
 $\uparrow$   
 $!$

The good  $\Omega$ 's.

closed bounded intervals:

$$[a, b] = \{x: a \leq x \leq b\}$$

where  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$  are finite #s  
 (Not  $\infty$ )

Thm: If  $\Omega$  is a closed  
 bounded interval &  
 $f: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is continuous

then  $f$  achieves its min. &  
 max on  $\Omega$ . i.e.  
 $x_{\min}$ , &  $x_{\max}$  exist.

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This Theorem is a  
license to find minimizes  
& max's

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boundary  
mins. Algorithm, when  $f$ 's  
derivatives exist.

$$\Omega = [a, b]$$

1) check values of  $f(a)$   
 $f(b)$

interior  
mins. { 2) compute  $f'(x)$   
& solve  $f'(x) = 0, x \in \Omega$ .

3) at all the values of 2,  
compute  $f(x)$ ,

4) Compare all these values.  
find the minimum.

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Variant.

Replace 3) with.

3'): At each of these  
x's, compute  $f''(x)$   
if  $f''(x) < 0$  at one  
of these solutions throw it  
out: it is a local  
max.

Otherwise keep it.