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3 Topic: 5.2

Extreme Value Theorem, Global Versus Local Extrema, and Critical Points

Learning Objective FUN-1.C: Justify conclusions about functions by applying the Extreme Value Theorem

The Extreme Value Theorem

If f is continuous on a closed interval [a, b], then f has BOTH a maximum and a minimum on the interval.

Definition of Critical Numbers

Let f be defined at c. If f'(c) = 0 or if f is not differentiable at c, then c is a critical number of f.

Definition of Relative Extrema

Let f be a function whose second derivative exists on an open interval I.

1. If there is an open interval containing c on which f(c) is a maximum, then f(c) is called a **relative maximum** of f.

2. If there is an open interval containing c on which f(c) is a minimum, then f(c) is called a **relative minimum** of f.

The plural of relative maximum is relative maxima, and the plural of relative minimum is relative minima.



Below are two examples of a critical number, *c* of function *f*.

Relative Extrema Occur Only at Critical Numbers

If *f* has a relative minimum or relative maximum at *x*= *c*, then *c* is a critical number of *f*.