LECTURE NOTES: 4-1 MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM VALUES

MOTIVATING EXAMPLES



DEFINITIONS: Let f(x) be a function with domain D and let c be an x-value in D. Then the y-value f(c) is:

- 1. an absolute maximum if
- 2. an absolute minimum if
- 3. a local maximum if
- 4. a local minimum if

ARE WE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE?

1. What sort of *category* is a maximum (or minimum)? (Animal, vegetable, number, point, *x*-value, *y*-value, mineral...?)

2. Can function have more than ONE maximum (or minimum)?

3. Can a function have neither a maximum nor a minimum?

4. Looking at our earlier pictures, at what sort of places do maximums and minimums appear?

5. What happens if the graph is not continuous? Draw some pictures.

Definition: A **critical number** of a function f(x) is an _____-value c ______ such that either ______ (a) ____ or (b) ____.

Without using your calculator, for each function below:

- a) Sketch the graph.
- b) Find any critical points or explain why none exist.
- c) Identify any absolute and local maximum and maximum values of *f* and state where they occur. If none exist, state this explicitly.

1. $f(x) = 5 + 54x - 2x^3$

2. $g(x) = 1 + 5\cos x$

3. $h(x) = \ln x$ on (0, 5]

4. $f(x) = (x-1)^{2/3}$ (This one you may graph on a calculator *after* you have tried the technique called "thinking about it first.")