

SCHEME OF STUDYING FUNCTIONS FOR MONOTONICITY AND EXTREMUM

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Abstract:

The article discusses the scheme of studying a function for monotonicity and extremum

Keywords: scheme, study, function, monotonicity, extremum.

Introduction

Based on the formulated theorems of §§ 1–2, a function that is continuous on the interval (a, b) , except for perhaps a finite number of points, and has a finite number of critical points on this interval $f(x)$ can be investigated for monotonicity and extremum according to the following scheme:

- 1⁰. Find the domain of the function $f(x)$;
- 2⁰. Find the derivative $f'(x)$;
- 3⁰. Determine the critical points $f(x)$ belonging to the region function definitions;
- 4⁰. Using critical points, divide the domain of the function into non-intersecting intervals and determine the sign of the derivative on each interval $f'(x)$. If $f'(x) > 0$, then on the interval, the function $f(x)$ increases, but if $f'(x) < 0$, then the function $f(x)$ decreases;
- 5⁰. Designate critical points on the numerical axis designate critical points on the numerical axis and, based on the signs of the derivatives defined in point 4 $f'(x)$, when passing through these points, determine whether these points are points of the extremum of the function $f(x)$;
- 6⁰. Find the extrema of the function, if they exist.

Note 1. To determine the sign of the derivative $f'(x)$ on the interval in point 4, it is sufficient to determine the sign of the derivative $f'(x)$ at any arbitrary point of this interval that is convenient for identifying the sign of the derivative.

Remark 2. To determine the extremum point of the function $f(x)$ in point 5, one can use higher-order derivatives of the given functions within the framework of Theorem 5–6.

Example 1. Investigate the monotonicity and extremum of a function.

$$f(x) = 1 + x^2 - \frac{x^4}{2},$$

specified on the number axis.

Solution : Let's conduct research on the points of the proposed scheme:

- 1⁰. The given function is defined on the entire number axis.
- 2⁰. We determine the derivative of the given function:



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

3⁰. Let us determine the critical points of the given function, for which we first equate $f'(x)$ to zero, i.e.

$$2x - 2x^3 = 0$$

we find that the last equality holds at the points $x_1 = -1, x_2 = 0, x_3 = 1$. Therefore, the points x_1, x_2, x_3 are critical points of the given function. Since the function has finite derivatives on the number axis, it has no other critical points.

4⁰. Using the critical points found, we divide the domain of the function into non-intersecting intervals. $(-\infty, -1), (-1, 0), (0, 1), (1, +\infty)$. We select one point on each interval, in accordance with remark 1. Let these be the points $-2 \in (-\infty, -1), -\frac{1}{2} \in (-1, 0), \frac{1}{2} \in (0, 1), 2 \in (1, +\infty)$.

Let's determine the signs $f'(x)$ at these points:

$$f'(-2) = 2(-2)(1 - (-2)^2) = -4(-3) = 12 > 0 (" + ");$$

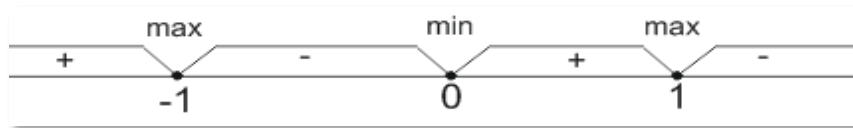
$$f'(-\frac{1}{2}) = 2(-\frac{1}{2})(1 - (-\frac{1}{2})^2) = -1(1 - \frac{1}{4}) = -\frac{3}{4} < 0 (" - ");$$

$$f'(\frac{1}{2}) = 2(\frac{1}{2})(1 - (\frac{1}{2})^2) = (1 - \frac{1}{4}) = \frac{3}{4} > 0 (" + ");$$

$$f'(2) = 2 \cdot 2(1 - (2)^2) = 4(-3) = -12 < 0 (" - ").$$

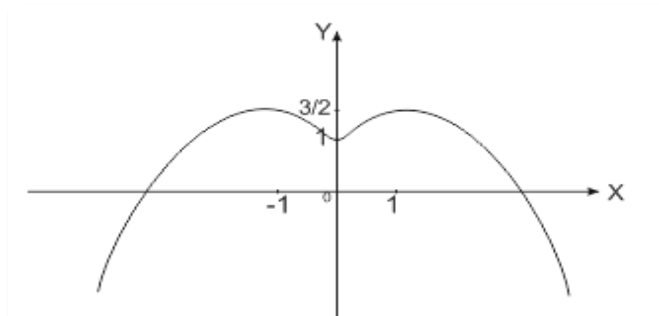
Therefore, on intervals $(-\infty, -1), (0, 1)$ the function $f(x)$ increases, on intervals $(-1, 0), (1, +\infty)$ decreases.

5⁰. Let us designate the critical points on the numerical axis using the derivative signs $f'(x)$ when passing through these critical points, and determine whether they are extremum points:



6⁰. Let's find the extrema of the function $f(x)$ by calculating the values of the function $f(x)$ at the maximum points -1 and 1, as well as the minimum 0:

$$f(-1) = \frac{3}{2}, f(1) = \frac{3}{2}, f(0) = 1.$$



Example 2. Investigate the function for monotonicity and extremum.

$$f(x) = \sin^2 x - 5\sin x + 6.$$

Solution : Let's conduct research on the points of the proposed scheme:

1⁰. The given function is defined on the entire number axis.

2⁰. We determine the derivative of the given function:

$$f'(x) = 2\sin x \cos x - 5\cos x = \cos x(2\sin x - 5).$$

3⁰. We determine the critical points of the given function by equating the derivative to zero



and taking into account that $2\sin x - 5 < 0$, then

$$\cos x(2\sin x - 5) = 0 \text{ at } x_k = \frac{\pi}{2}(2k + 1), k = 0; \pm 1; \pm 2; \pm 3; \dots$$

($x_k = \frac{\pi}{2}(2k + 1), k = 0; \pm 1; \pm 2; \pm 3; \dots$ - critical points of the function $f(x)$).

4⁰. Using critical points, $x_k = \frac{\pi}{2}(2k + 1), k = 0; \pm 1; \pm 2; \pm 3; \dots$ we divide the domain of the function into non-intersecting intervals $(\frac{\pi}{2}(2k + 1), \frac{\pi}{2}(2k + 3), k = 0; \pm 1; \pm 2; \pm 3; \dots$. For values x from intervals $(-\frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi, \frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi), n = 0; \pm 1; \pm 2; \pm 3; \dots$ the inequality holds $f'(x) < 0$, i.e.

$$\cos x(2\sin x - 5) < 0.$$

For values of x from intervals $(\frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi, \frac{3\pi}{2} + 2n\pi), n = 0; \pm 1; \pm 2; \pm 3; \dots$ the inequality $f'(x) < 0$ holds. That is,

$$\cos x(2\sin x - 5) > 0.$$

Therefore, on intervals $(-\frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi, \frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi), n = 0; \pm 1; \pm 2; \pm 3; \dots$ the function $f(x)$ decreases, and on intervals

$(\frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi, \frac{3\pi}{2} + 2n\pi), n = 0; \pm 1; \pm 2; \pm 3; \dots$ is increasing.

5⁰. Let us designate the critical points on the number axis and, using the signs of the derivative $f'(x)$ when passing through these critical points, determine whether they are extremum points.

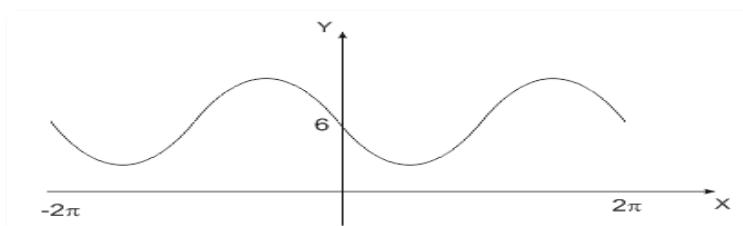


6⁰. Let's find the extrema of the function $f(x)$ by calculating the values of the function $f(x)$ at the points of maximum and minimum.

$$f\left(-\frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi\right) = \sin^2\left(-\frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi\right) - 5\sin\left(-\frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi\right) + 6 = 1 + 5 + 6 = 12,$$

$$f\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi\right) = \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi\right) - 5\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2} + 2n\pi\right) + 6 = 1 - 5 + 6 = 2,$$

$$n = 0; \pm 1; \pm 2; \pm 3; \dots$$



Example 3. Investigate the monotonicity and extremum of a function.

$$f(x) = x\sqrt{1 - x^2}.$$

Solution : Let's conduct research on the points of the proposed scheme:

1⁰. The given function is defined on the segment $[-1, 1]$.

2⁰. We determine the derivative of the given function:

$$f'(x) = \sqrt{1 - x^2} + \frac{x(-2x)}{2\sqrt{1 - x^2}} = \frac{1 - 2x^2}{\sqrt{1 - x^2}}, (x \in (-1, 1)).$$

3⁰. The critical points of a function $f(x)$ from its domain of definition are the points $x_1 = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$,

$x_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$, since



$$f'(x_1) = f'(x_2) = 0.$$

4^o. Using the critical points found, we divide the domain of the function into non-intersecting intervals $(-1, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}), (-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}), (\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 1)$. At $x \in (-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}})$ the inequality is true $f'(x) > 0$. When $x \in (-1, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}) \cup (\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 1)$ the inequality $f'(x) < 0$ is true

Therefore, on the interval $(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}})$ the function increases, $f(x)$ decreases over intervals $(-1, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}), (\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 1)$

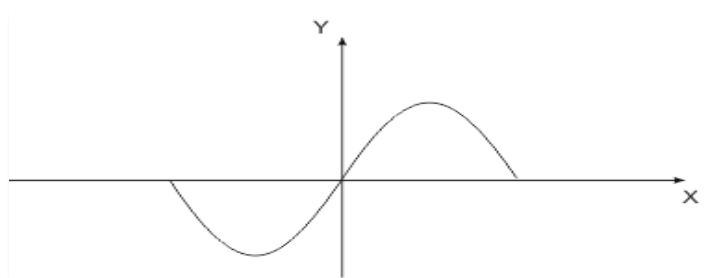
5^o. Let us designate the critical points on the number axis and, using the signs of the derivative $f'(x)$ when passing through these critical points, determine whether they are extremum points.



6^o. Let's find the extrema of the function $f(x)$ by calculating the values of the function $f(x)$ at the point of maximum $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$, as well as minimum $-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$:

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

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



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