

20th lesson

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Theory

Definition 1. We say that a function f is

- *convex* on an interval I if

$$f(\lambda x_1 + (1 - \lambda)x_2) \leq \lambda f(x_1) + (1 - \lambda)f(x_2),$$

for each $x_1, x_2 \in I$ and each $\lambda \in [0, 1]$.

- *concave* on an interval I if

$$f(\lambda x_1 + (1 - \lambda)x_2) \geq \lambda f(x_1) + (1 - \lambda)f(x_2),$$

for each $x_1, x_2 \in I$ and each $\lambda \in [0, 1]$.

Theorem 2 (Second derivative and convexity). Let I be an open interval and f has a finite second derivative on I .

- (i) if $f''(x) \geq 0$ for every $x \in I$, then f is **convex** on I ;
- (ii) if $f''(x) \leq 0$ for every $x \in I$, then f is **concave** on I .

Theorem 3. Let $a \in \mathbb{R}$ be an inflection point of a function f . Then $f''(a)$ either does not exist or equals zero.

Theorem 4. Suppose that a function f has a continuous first derivative on an interval (a, b) and $z \in (a, b)$. Suppose further that

- $\forall x \in (a, z) : f''(x) > 0$,
- $\forall x \in (z, b) : f''(x) < 0$.

Then z is an inflection point of f .

Theorem 5. A function f has an asymptote at ∞ given by the affine function $x \mapsto kx + q$ if and only if

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{f(x)}{x} = k \in \mathbb{R} \quad \text{and} \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (f(x) - kx) = q \in \mathbb{R}.$$

