



4. Sketch the graph of  $y = f(x) = \frac{\ln x}{x}$ . [30]

- (a) Find the domain, range, asymptotes.  
 (b) Find the intervals where  $f$  is increasing or decreasing.  
 (c) Find the intervals where  $f$  is concave up or concave down.  
 (d) Find the  $(x, y)$ -coordinates of all local minima, local maxima, inflexion points,  $x$ - and  $y$ -intercepts, and indicate them on the graph.

**Solution:** (a) **Domain:**  $D_f = (0, \infty)$ , since  $\ln x$  is defined for  $x > 0$  only.

**Vertical asymptote** can be  $x = 0$  only, since  $f$  is continuous everywhere on its domain. Test:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\ln x}{x} = \frac{-\infty}{0^+} = (-\infty)\infty = -\infty,$$

so  $x = 0$  is really the **vertical asymptote such that  $y \rightarrow -\infty$  as  $x \rightarrow 0^+$** . (Thus the graph approaches this asymptote from right as  $y \rightarrow -\infty$ .)

**Horizontal asymptote:**

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln x}{x} = \frac{\infty}{\infty} = \frac{1}{\infty} = 0^+,$$

since “in a battle between a logarithm and a polynomial, the polynomial always wins”; so  $y = 0$  is a **horizontal asymptote such that  $y \rightarrow 0^+$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$** . (Thus the graph approaches this asymptote from above as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ .)

**Slant asymptotes:** none.

**Now draw a small part of the graph near each asymptote!**

(b) 
$$f'(x) = \frac{\frac{1}{x}x - \ln x}{x^2} = \frac{1 - \ln x}{x^2},$$

the 1<sup>st</sup> derivative test:

$x$	$(0, e)$	$(e, \infty)$	$\Rightarrow$ <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">local max at <math>x = e</math></span>
$f'(x)$	+	-	
$f$	↗	↘	

(c) 
$$f''(x) = \frac{-\frac{1}{x}x^2 - 2x(1 - \ln x)}{x^4} = \frac{-x - 2x + 2x \ln x}{x^4} = \frac{-3 + 2 \ln x}{x^3},$$

the 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative test:

$x$	$(0, e^{3/2})$	$(e^{3/2}, \infty)$	$\Rightarrow$ <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">inflexion point at <math>x = e^{3/2}</math></span>
$f''(x)$	-	+	
$f$	∩	∪	

(d) **local minima:** none, **local maximum:**  $(e, \frac{1}{e})$  (by part (b));

**inflexion point:**  $(e^{3/2}, \frac{3}{2e^{3/2}})$  (by part (c));

**$x$ -intercept:**  $(1, 0)$  (by solving equation  $f(x) = 0$  for  $x$ );

**$y$ -intercepts:** none (since  $x = 0$  does not belong the domain).

**Sketching the graph:** Indicate the intercepts and the points of local maxima and minima, and join them, by monotone curves, with the parts of the graph (drawn in part (a)) near the asymptotes. **Make sure that no additional intercepts appear, and the intervals where  $f$  is increasing or decreasing are exactly those found in part (b)!** Indicate the inflexion points on the graph.

(a) **Range:** By part (b),  $f$  is increasing on  $(0, e]$  from  $-\infty$  up to  $\frac{1}{e}$ , and decreasing on  $[e, \infty)$  from  $\frac{1}{e}$  up to 0 (see also part (a)). So, the range is  $R_f = (-\infty, \frac{1}{e}]$ . (This can also be seen from the graph.)

5. (a) Approximate  $\sqrt{27}$  using linearization. [20]

(b) Determine the sign of the Error, and estimate its size.  
Is this estimate an overestimate or underestimate?

**Solution:** Since  $\sqrt{25} = 5$ , it is useful to approximate the function  $y = f(x) = \sqrt{x}$  near the point  $a = 25$ . Let us approximate the graph of  $y = f(x)$  by its tangent line at the point  $(a, f(a)) = (25, 5)$ . We need two derivatives of  $f$ :

$$f(x) = \sqrt{x}, \quad f'(x) = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}, \quad f''(x) = -\frac{1}{4\sqrt{x^3}}.$$

The tangent line at the point  $(25, 5)$  has slope  $m = f'(25) = \frac{1}{10}$ . The equation of the line having slope  $m = \frac{1}{10}$  and going through the point  $(25, 5)$  is

$$y = 5 + m \cdot (x - 25), \quad y = 5 + \frac{x - 25}{10}.$$

The function  $L(x) = 5 + \frac{x-25}{10}$  on the right hand side of this equation is called the **linearization of  $f$  at the point  $a$** . We have

$$\sqrt{27} = f(27) \approx L(27) = 5 + \frac{2}{10} = 5.2$$

(b) The Error  $E(x) = f(x) - L(x)$  of the linear approximation has the following form:

$$E(x) = \frac{f''(c)}{2}(x - a)^2 \quad \text{for some } c \in (a, x).$$

(Here we used that  $a = 25 < 27 = x$ .) Therefore

$$E(27) = \frac{f''(c)}{2}2^2 = -\frac{1}{2c^{3/2}} \quad \text{for some } c \in (25, 27),$$

so  $E(27) < 0$ . Since  $(\text{ERROR}) = (\text{TRUE VALUE}) - (\text{APPROXIMATION}) < 0$ , our approximation 5.2 is an **overestimate** for  $\sqrt{27}$ .

Let us estimate the **absolute value of the Error**, using the inequality  $25 < c < 27$ :

$$|E(27)| = \frac{1}{2c^{3/2}} < \frac{1}{2 \cdot 25^{3/2}} = \frac{1}{2 \cdot 5^3} = \frac{1}{250} = 0.004$$

**Answer:**  $\sqrt{27} \approx 5.2$ ,  $E(27) < 0$ ,  $|E(27)| < .004$ , an overestimate.