

**Day 6 — Summary — Convexity, Inverse Function Theorem**

34. A function is convex if for all  $t \in (0, 1)$  and for all points  $a$  and  $b$ ,

$$f\left((1-t)a + tb\right) \leq (1-t)f(a) + tf(b).$$

It is strictly convex if this inequality is strict.

35. If  $f''(x) > 0$  in an interval, then  $f$  is strictly convex in the interval.

36. A continuous, strictly increasing function has an inverse that is continuous and strictly increasing.

37. A differentiable, strictly increasing function has an inverse that is differentiable and strictly increasing.  
The derivative of the inverse is the inverse of the derivative:

$$\frac{dy}{dx}(x) = \left(\frac{dx}{dy}(y)\right)^{-1}$$

Exercise 9

Find a function  $f \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R})$   
such that  $f \equiv 0$  outside of  $[-1, 1]$ .

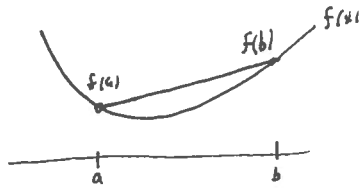
Draw it first.

Put it in form  $f(x) = e^{g(x)}$

Try to squish  $e^{-x^2}$  into something finite.

34) ~~2~~ ~~7~~)

$f$  is convex if it is below its secant line segments



$$f(\underbrace{(1-t)a + tb}_{\text{convex combination of } a \text{ \& } b}) \leq \underbrace{(1-t)f(a) + tf(b)}_{\text{convex combination of } f(a) \text{ \& } f(b)}$$

Strictly convex if strict inequality

Examples:

Convex on  $\mathbb{R}$   
Not strictly convex on  $\mathbb{R}$

$$f(x) = \text{~~ax+b~~ } ax + b$$

$$f(x) = |x|$$

Strictly convex

$$f(x) = x^2$$

Applications: - Convex optimization  $\min f(x)$  is "easy" if  $f$  is convex. Even if  $f$  isn't sm

- Note: all <sup>local</sup> minimizers are global

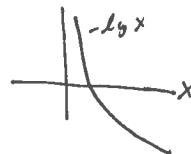
Cont. hint:



Application: Arithmetic-geometric mean

$$\frac{a+b}{2} \geq \sqrt{ab} \quad \text{for } a, b \geq 0$$

why?  $-\log(x)$  is convex



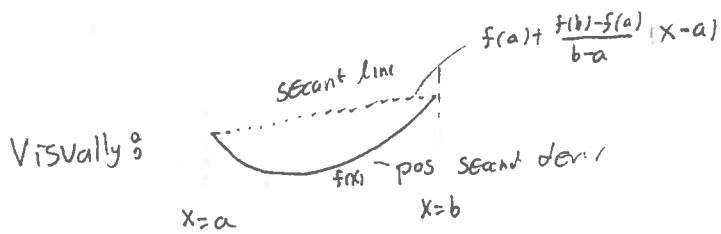
$$-\log\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right) \leq \frac{-\log a - \log b}{2} \quad \text{by convexity.}$$

$$\log\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right) \geq \frac{\log a + \log b}{2}$$

$$\frac{a+b}{2} \geq a^{1/2} b^{1/2}$$

Application: Jensen's inequality in probability.

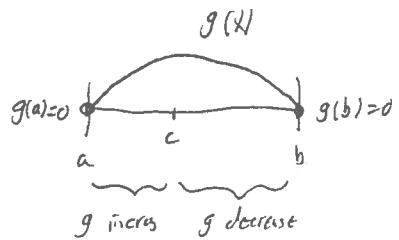
35) Theorem: If  $f'' > 0$  on  $[a, b]$ , then  $f$  convex on  $[a, b]$



Proof: Consider difference of secant line &  $f$

$$g(x) = f(a) + \frac{f(b)-f(a)}{b-a}(x-a) - f(x)$$

Show  $g' > 0$  for  $x \in (a, c)$   
 $g' < 0$  for  $x \in (c, b)$ .



Compute,  $g'(x) = \frac{f(b)-f(a)}{b-a} - f'(x)$

$$g'(x) = f'(c) - f'(x)$$

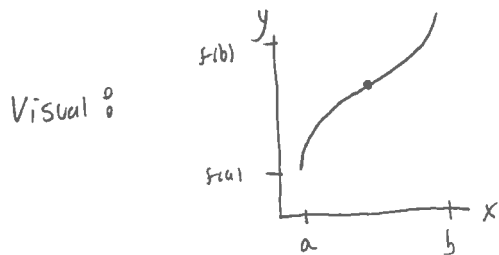
$$= f''(d)(c-x) \begin{cases} > 0 & \text{for } x > c \\ < 0 & \text{for } x < c \end{cases}$$

350)

Example of function that is strictly convex, yet  $f''$  is not always positive.

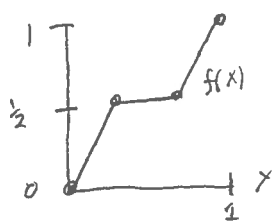
$$f(x) = x^4.$$

36) Theorem: If  $f \in C[a, b]$  is strictly increasing, then  $f^{-1}$  exists and is continuous  $C[f(a), f(b)]$  and strictly increasing



Meaning of  $f^{-1}$  :  $f^{-1}(y) = x$  such that  $f(x) = y$ .  
 For  $f^{-1}$  to be well defined, there has to be exactly one  $x$  such that  $f(x) = y \quad \forall y \in [f(a), f(b)]$

Nonexample :



$f(x)$  is increasing but not strictly.  
 $f^{-1}(y)$  is not well-defined because  $\exists$  many  $x$  such that  $f(x) = \frac{1}{2}$ .



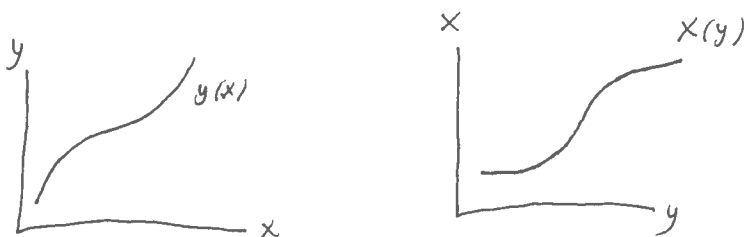
$f^{-1}(y)$  is not a function

### 37<sup>th</sup>) Inverse function Theorem

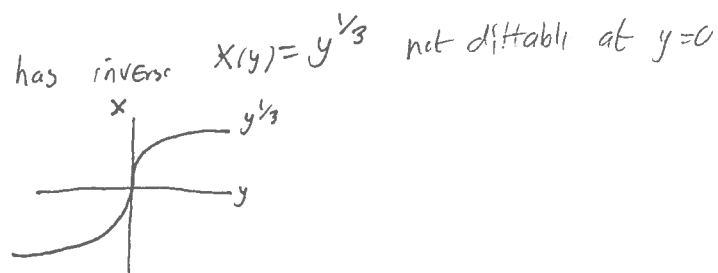
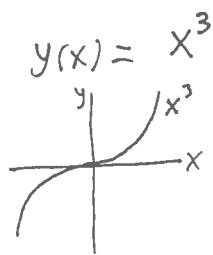
Idea: A differentiable function that <sup>has</sup> ~~is~~ ~~strictly increasing~~ positive derivative over a region has a differentiable inverse ~~that has~~ and deriv of inverse is inverse of derivative

Precise: If  $y(x)$  differentiable on  $[a, b]$ ,  $y'(x) > 0 \forall x \in [a, b]$  then  $\exists x(y)$  differentiable on  $[y(a), y(b)]$  with  $\frac{dx}{dy}(y) = \frac{1}{\frac{dy}{dx}(x)} = \frac{1}{\frac{dy(x)}{dx}}$

Visual:



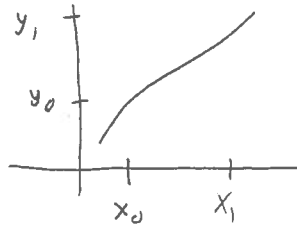
Why doesn't theorem assume that function is merely increasing? Such a function has a continuous inverse <sup>in a neighborhood</sup> but not a differentiable one.





Proof<sup>o</sup>

Let  $y_0 = y(x_0)$   
 $y_1 = y(x_1)$



Note<sup>o</sup>  $\frac{x(y_1) - x(y_0)}{y_1 - y_0} = \frac{x_1 - x_0}{y(x_1) - y(x_0)} = \frac{1}{\frac{y(x_1) - y(x_0)}{x_1 - x_0}}$

Because  $x(y)$  is continuous,

$$x'(y_0) = \lim_{y_1 \rightarrow y_0} \frac{x(y_1) - x(y_0)}{y_1 - y_0} = \lim_{x_1 \rightarrow x_0} \frac{x_1 - x_0}{y(x_1) - y(x_0)} = \frac{1}{y'(x_0)}$$