

Let  $f(x) = \frac{\ln x}{x^2}$ .

1. Some basic properties of  $f$ :

(a) What is the domain of  $f$ ?

The domain of  $f$  is  $(0, \infty)$ .

(b) For what values of  $x$  is  $f(x) = 0$ ?

$$f(x) = 0 \Rightarrow \ln x = 0 \Rightarrow x = 1$$

(c) What is  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} f(x)$ ?

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

(d) What is  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)$ ? (Use l'Hôpital's rule.)

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln x}{x^2} \stackrel{\text{l'Hôpital}}{=} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1/x}{2x} = 0$$

2. Find the first and second derivatives of  $f$  with respect to  $x$ .

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

$$f''(x) = \frac{x^3(-2/x) - (1 - 2 \ln x)(3x^2)}{x^6} = \frac{-5 + 6 \ln x}{x^4}$$

3. What are the critical numbers of  $f$ ? Of  $f'$ ? [Recall that a critical number of a function  $g(x)$  is a value of  $x$  in the domain of  $g$  for which  $g'(x)$  is either zero or does not exist.]  
 $f'$  is defined on  $(0, \infty)$  and

$$f'(x) = 0 \Rightarrow 1 - 2 \ln x = 0 \Rightarrow x = e^{1/2}.$$

$f''$  is defined on  $(0, \infty)$  and

$$f''(x) = 0 \Rightarrow -5 + 6 \ln x = 0 \Rightarrow x = e^{5/6}.$$

4. List the intervals on which  $f$  is increasing/decreasing/concave up/concave down. [You may use either a number line or interval notation.]

Looking at the sign of the first derivative, we see that  $f$  is increasing on  $(0, e^{1/2})$  and decreasing on  $(e^{1/2}, \infty)$ .

Looking at the sign of the second derivative, we see that  $f$  is concave up on  $(e^{5/6}, \infty)$  and concave down on  $(0, e^{5/6})$ .

5. List any local extrema of  $f$  and the values of  $x$  at which they occur.

The function  $f$  has a local max of  $\frac{1}{2e}$  at  $x = e^{1/2}$  because  $f$  is increasing until  $x = e^{1/2}$  and decreasing afterwards.

6. List any inflection points for the graph of  $f$ .

The only inflection point is  $(e^{5/6}, \frac{5}{6e^{5/3}})$  where the concavity of the graph changes from concave down to concave up.

7. Sketch the graph of  $f$  using the above information, labeling local extrema and inflection points.

