

HOW TO FIND MAXIMA AND MINIMA

- 1) Given $f(x)$, we differentiate once to find $f'(x)$.
- 2) Set $f'(x)=0$ and solve for x . Using our above observation, the x values we find are the 'x-coordinates' of our maxima and minima.
- 3) Substitute these x -values back into $f(x)$. This gives the corresponding 'y-coordinates' of our maxima and minima.

Which of these points are maxima and which are minima?

Here we may apply a simple test. Assume we've found a stationary point (a,b) :

1. Differentiate $f'(x)$ once more to give $f''(x)$, the *second derivative*.
- 2) Calculate $f''(a)$.

If $f''(a) < 0$ then (a,b) is a local maximum.

If $f''(a) > 0$ then (a,b) is a local minimum.

Q/Find the stationary point of the function

$$y=x^2-2x+3$$

sol:

$$\text{If } y=x^2-2x+3 \text{ then}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x-2$$

and Now

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 2 > 0$$

Now,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x-2 = 0$$

so,

$$2x - 2 = 0$$

$$x = 1$$

The function has only one stationary point when $x = 1$ (and $y = 2$).

Since $d^2y/dx^2 = 2 > 0$ for all values of x , this stationary point is a local minimum.

Thus the function $y = x^2 - 2x + 3$ has a local minimum at the point $(1, 2)$.

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<https://www.emathhelp.net/en/calculators/calculus-1/critical-points-extrema-calculator/?f=x%5E2-2x%2B3&i=>