

APPLICATIONS OF THE EXPONENTIAL AND LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS

- 2 Find the coordinates of the turning point of the curve $y = xe^{-0.5x}$ and state whether it is a maximum or minimum. Find the values of x for which:

(a) $y > 0$

(b) $\frac{dy}{dx} > 0$

$$f(x) = x e^{-0.5x} = u(x) v(x)$$

$$u(x) = x \quad u'(x) = 1$$

$$v(x) = e^{-0.5x} \quad v'(x) = -0.5 e^{-0.5x}$$

$$\text{So } f'(x) = e^{-0.5x} - x e^{-0.5x} \times 0.5 = e^{-0.5x} \left[1 - \frac{x}{2} \right]$$

$$f'(x) = 0 \text{ when } x = 2$$

$$\text{At } x = 2 \quad f(2) = 2 e^{-0.5 \times 2} = \frac{2}{e} \sim 0.74$$

For $x = 0$ $f(x) = 0$ So the point $\left(2, \frac{2}{e}\right)$ is a maximum.

a) $f(x) > 0$ for $x e^{-0.5x} > 0$ $e^x > 0$ so

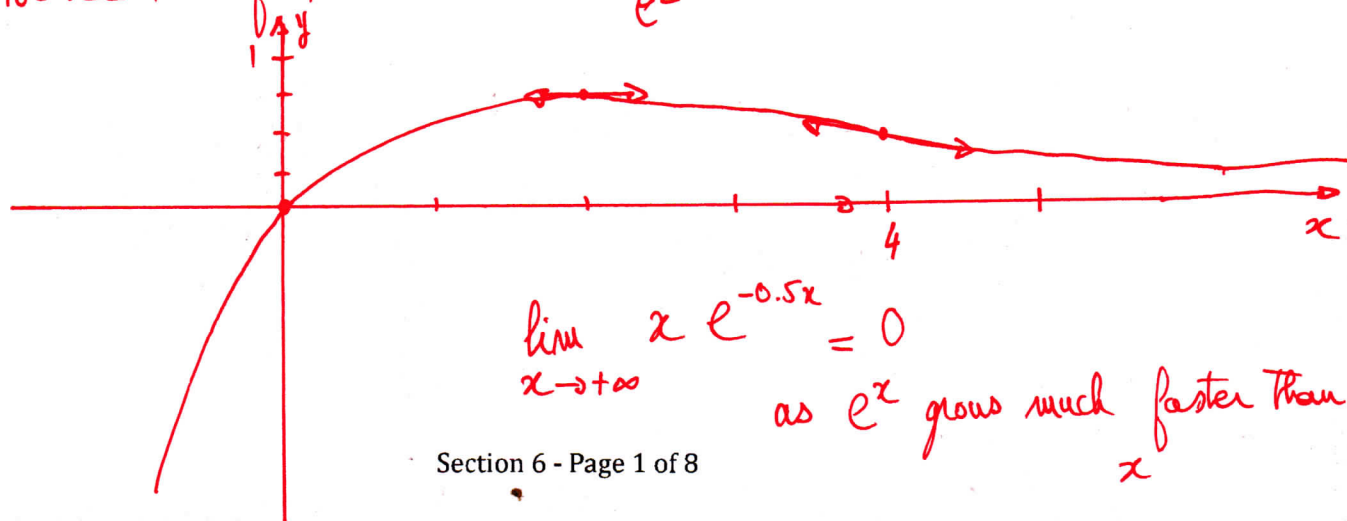
We must have $x > 0$ for $f(x)$ to be positive.

b) $f'(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow e^{-0.5x} \left[1 - \frac{x}{2} \right] > 0 \Leftrightarrow 1 - \frac{x}{2} > 0 \Leftrightarrow x < 2$

$$f''(x) = -0.5 e^{-0.5x} \left(1 - \frac{x}{2} \right) + \left(-\frac{1}{2} \right) e^{-0.5x} = e^{-0.5x} \left[-0.5 + \frac{x}{4} - 0.5 \right]$$

$$f''(x) = e^{-0.5x} \left[\frac{x}{4} - 1 \right] \text{ so } f''(x) = 0 \text{ for } x = 4 \text{ (inflection point)}$$

$$\text{For } x = 4 \quad f(4) = 4 e^{-0.5 \times 4} = \frac{4}{e^2} \sim 0.54$$



$$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} x e^{-0.5x} = 0$$

as e^x grows much faster than x

APPLICATIONS OF THE EXPONENTIAL AND LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS

3 Consider the function defined by the rule $f(x) = 3 - e^{-x}$, $x \geq 0$.

(a) Find the value of $f(0)$ and $f'(0)$.

(b) Show that $f'(x) > 0$ for all values of x in the domain.

(c) What is the value of $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} f(x)$?

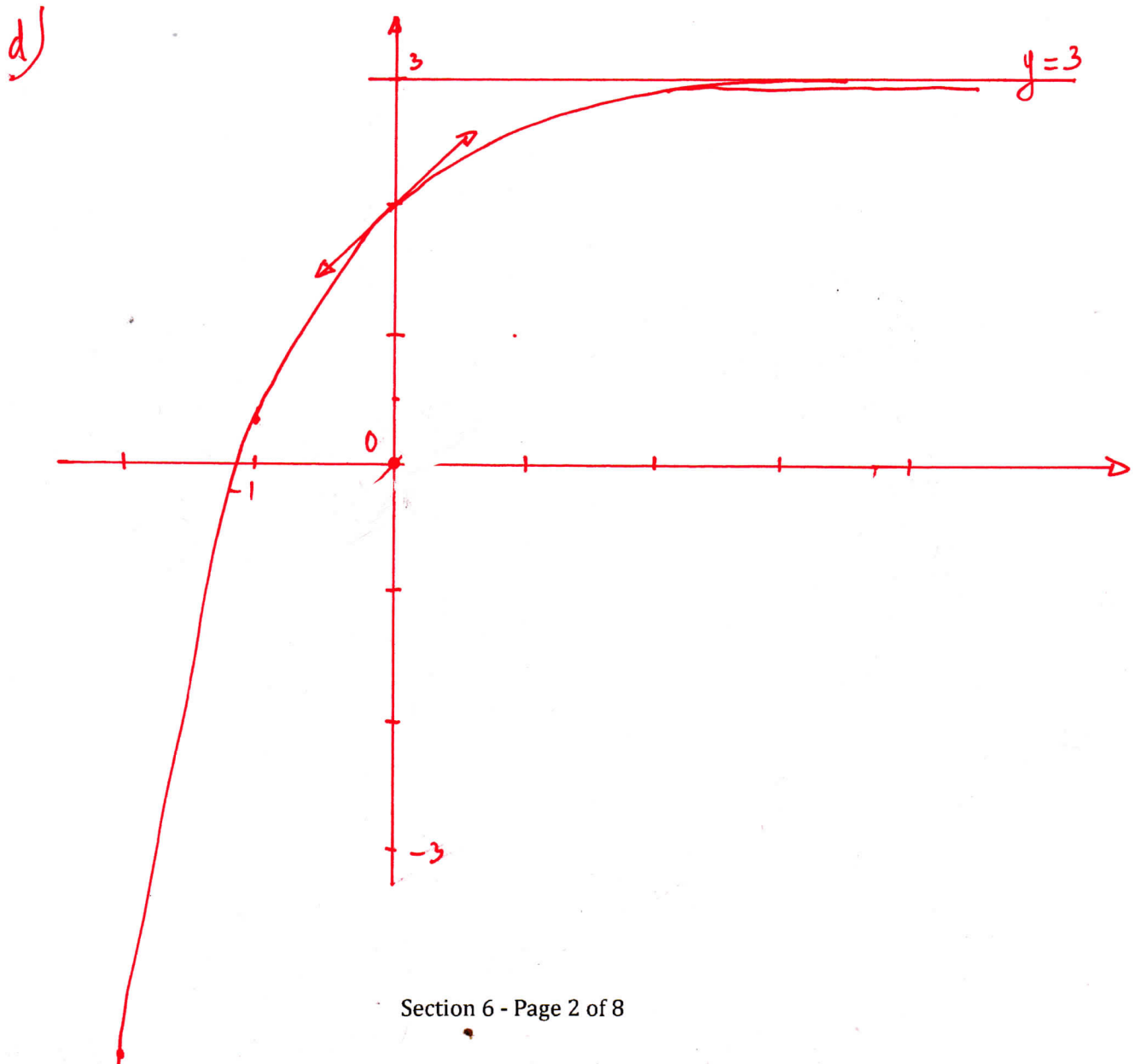
(d) Sketch the graph of $f(x)$.

a) $f'(x) = e^{-x}$ $f(0) = 3 - e^0 = 2$ $f'(0) = e^0 = 1$

b) $e^{-x} > 0 \quad \therefore f'(x) > 0$
 $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}$

c) $\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} (3 - e^{-x}) = 3$

$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} f(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} (3 - e^{-x}) = -\infty$



APPLICATIONS OF THE EXPONENTIAL AND LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS

4 Consider the function defined by $f(x) = e^{-x^2}$ for all values of x .

(a) Find $f'(x)$.

(b) Find the values of x for which: (i) $f'(x) = 0$ (ii) $f'(x) > 0$ (iii) $f'(x) < 0$.

(c) Sketch the graph of the function.

a) $f(x) = e^{-x^2}$ $f'(x) = e^{-x^2} \times (-2x) = -2x e^{-x^2}$

b) i) $f'(x) = 0 \Leftrightarrow -2x e^{-x^2} = 0 \Rightarrow x = 0$ as $e^x \neq 0 \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$

ii) $f'(x) > 0 \Leftrightarrow -2x e^{-x^2} > 0 \Rightarrow 2x e^{-x^2} < 0 \Rightarrow x < 0$
as $e^x > 0 \forall x \in \mathbb{R}$

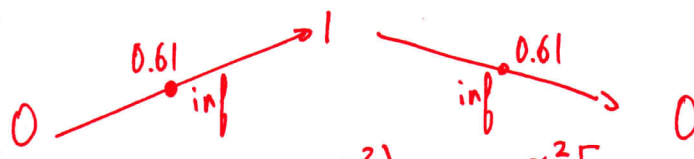
iii) $f'(x) < 0 \Rightarrow x > 0$

c)

x	$-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = -0.7$	0	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = 0.7$
$f'(x)$	+	0	-

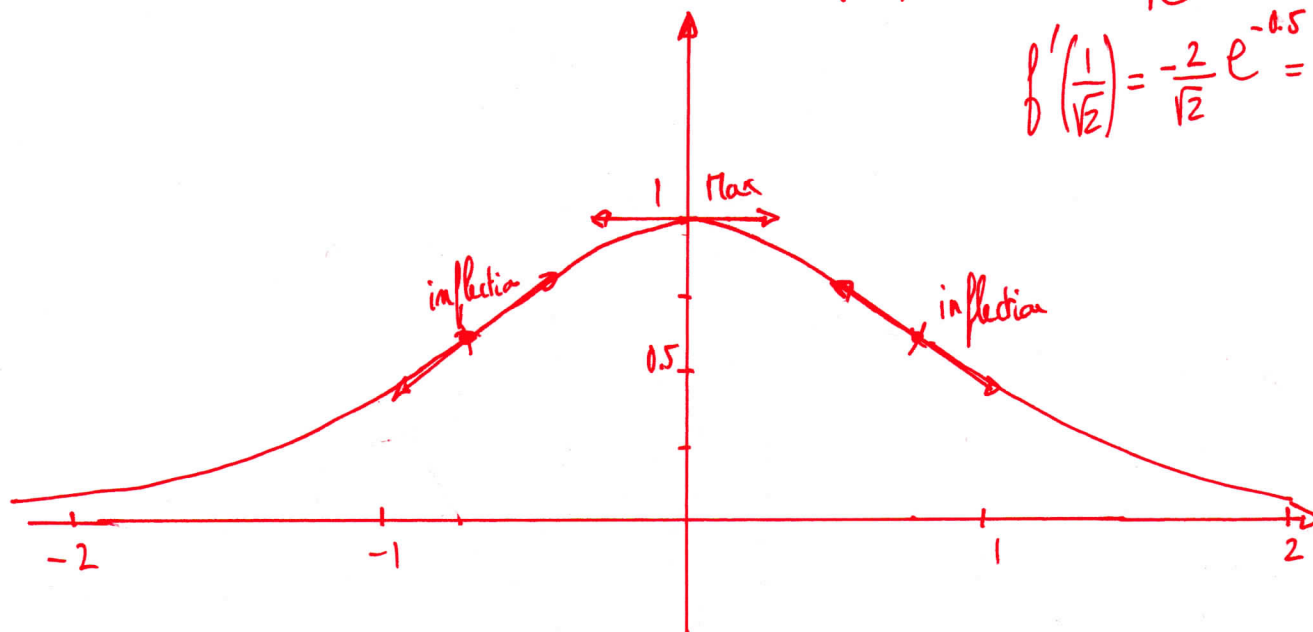
$\lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} e^{-x^2} = 0$
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} e^{-x^2} = 0$

Shape



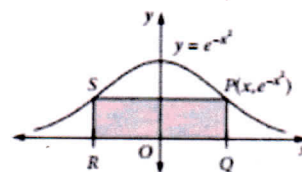
$f''(x) = -2 e^{-x^2} - 2x (-2x e^{-x^2}) = e^{-x^2} [-2 + 4x^2] = 2e^{-x^2} [2x^2 - 1]$
So $f''(x) = 0$ for $x = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ $f\left(\pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) = e^{-1/2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{e}} \approx 0.61$

$f'\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) = \frac{-2}{\sqrt{2}} e^{-0.5} = \frac{-2}{\sqrt{2}e} \approx -0.85$



APPLICATIONS OF THE EXPONENTIAL AND LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS

- 8 The rectangle PQRS has two vertices on the x-axis and two on the curve $y = e^{-x^2}$, as shown in the diagram. Find:



- (a) the value of x for which the rectangle has a maximum area
(b) the maximum area of the rectangle.

$$a) \text{ Area} = 2x \times e^{-x^2} = f(x)$$

$$f'(x) = 2e^{-x^2} + 2x e^{-x^2} \times (-2x) = 2e^{-x^2} [1 - 2x^2]$$

So PQRS is maximum^{at} when $f'(x) = 0$, i.e. $x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

$$b) \text{ for } x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \text{Area} = 2 \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{-1/2} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}e} \text{ units}^2$$

$$\left(\text{or } \frac{\sqrt{2}}{e} \text{ units}^2 \right)$$

⑩ {As $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} 2xe^{-x^2} = 0$ we know it has to be a maximum
(it cannot be a minimum)}

APPLICATIONS OF THE EXPONENTIAL AND LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS

- 9 Find the coordinates of any maximum or minimum turning points on the curve $y = \frac{\ln x}{x}$. *x cannot be negative*

$$f(x) = \frac{\ln x}{x} = \frac{u(x)}{v(x)}$$

$$u(x) = \ln x$$

$$u'(x) = 1/x$$

$$v(x) = x$$

$$v'(x) = 1$$

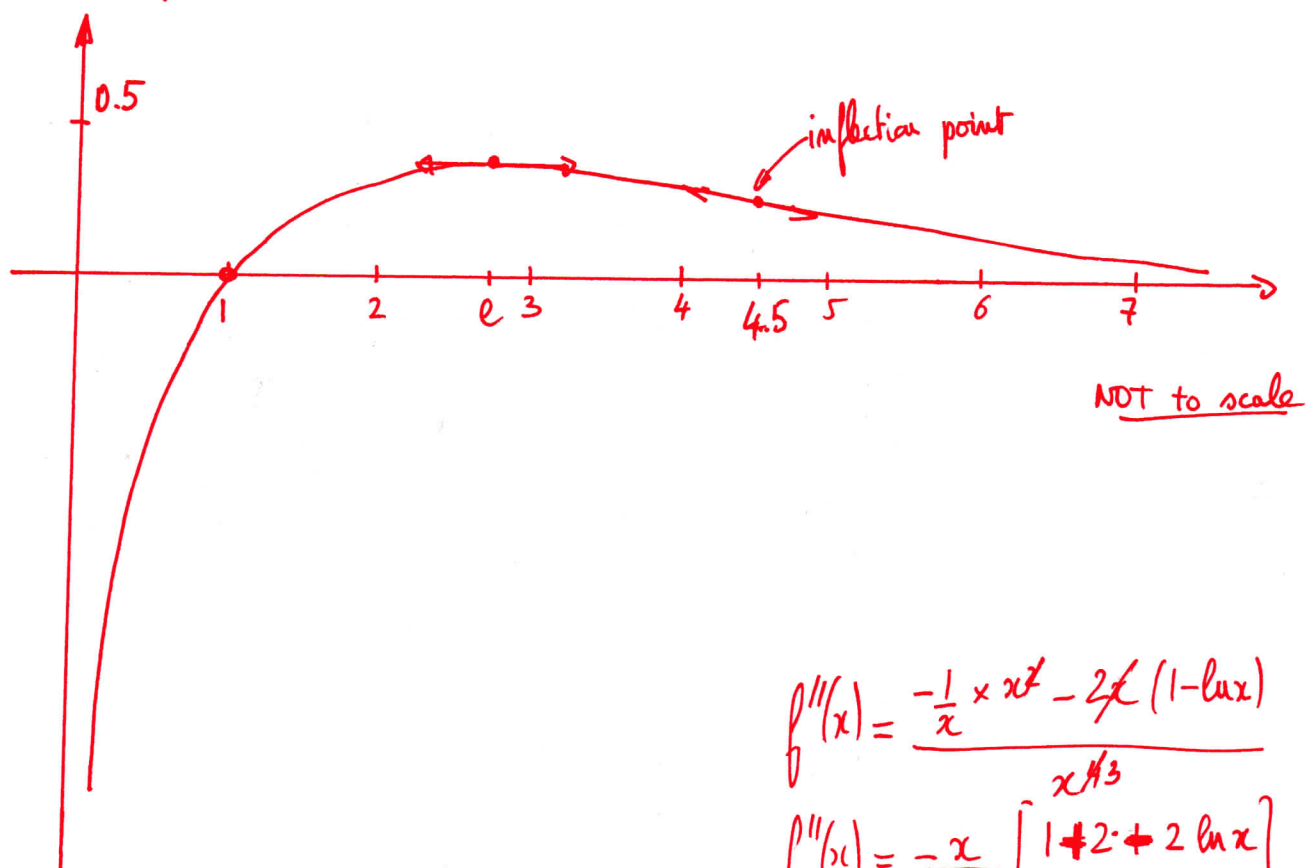
$$\text{So } f'(x) = \frac{1 - \ln x}{x^2}$$

$$f'(x) = 0 \text{ for } x = e$$

When $x = e$ $f(e) = \frac{1}{e} \approx 0.37$ so $(e, \frac{1}{e})$ is the turning point

$f'(x) > 0$ for $x < e$ and $f'(x) < 0$ for $x > e$

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



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

$$f''(x) = \frac{-x}{x^4} [1 + 2 + 2 \ln x]$$

$$f''(x) = -\frac{1}{x^3} [3 + 2 \ln x]$$

$$\text{So } f''(x) = 0 \text{ for } \ln x = +\frac{3}{2}$$

$$x = e^{+3/2} \approx 4.5$$

APPLICATIONS OF THE EXPONENTIAL AND LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS

12 (a) Find all values of x between 0 and 2π for which $\log_e(\sin x)$ is defined.

(b) Find the maximum value of $\log_e(\sin x)$ and when it occurs.

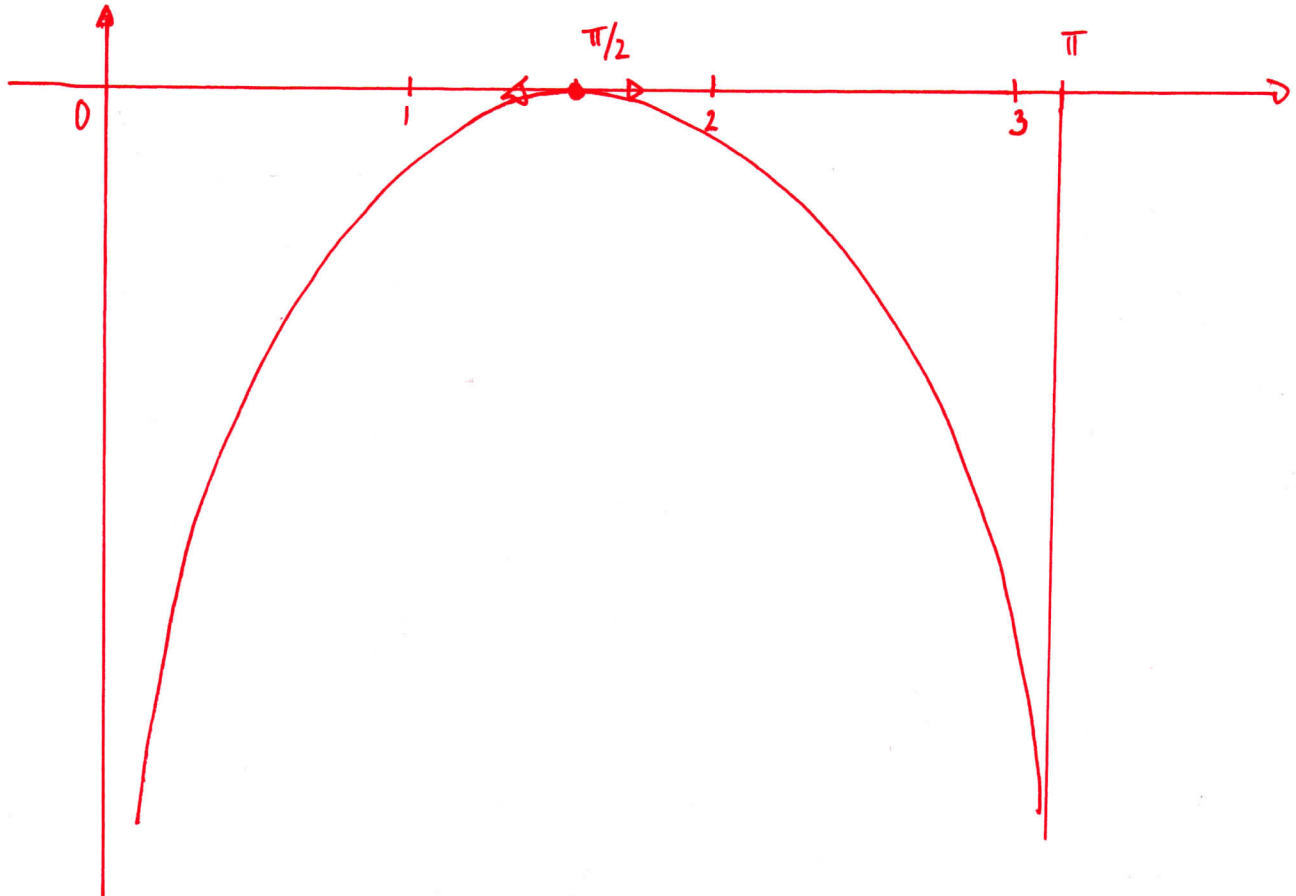
a) $f(x) = \ln(\sin x)$ $\ln x$ can only exist for positive values of x
 So $\sin x$ must be positive - so $0 < x < \pi$

b) $f'(x) = \frac{1}{\sin x} \times \cos x = \cot x$

$\cot(x) = 0$ for $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$

At $x = \frac{\pi}{2}$ $f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \ln\left(\sin\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \ln 1 = 0$

$f'(x) > 0$ for $0 < x < \frac{\pi}{2}$ $f'(x) < 0$ for $\frac{\pi}{2} < x < \pi$
 $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0^+} \ln(\sin x) = -\infty$ and $\lim_{x \rightarrow \pi^-} \ln(\sin x) = -\infty$



APPLICATIONS OF THE EXPONENTIAL AND LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS

14 When a uniform chain is suspended at two fixed points, it hangs in a catenary whose equation is

$$y = \frac{1}{2a}(e^{ax} + e^{-ax})$$

(a) Sketch the curve when $a = 0.5$ and the fixed points are at the same horizontal level and 8 units apart.

(b) Find the sag at the centre.

(c) Find the angle of inclination of the chain at the supports.

a) For $a = 0.5$ $f(x) = e^{0.5x} + e^{-0.5x}$ which is an even function

At $x = 4$ $f(4) = e^2 + e^{-2} \approx 7.5$ and $f(-4) = e^{-2} + e^2 = f(4)$

at $x = 0$ $f(0) = 1 + 1 = 2$

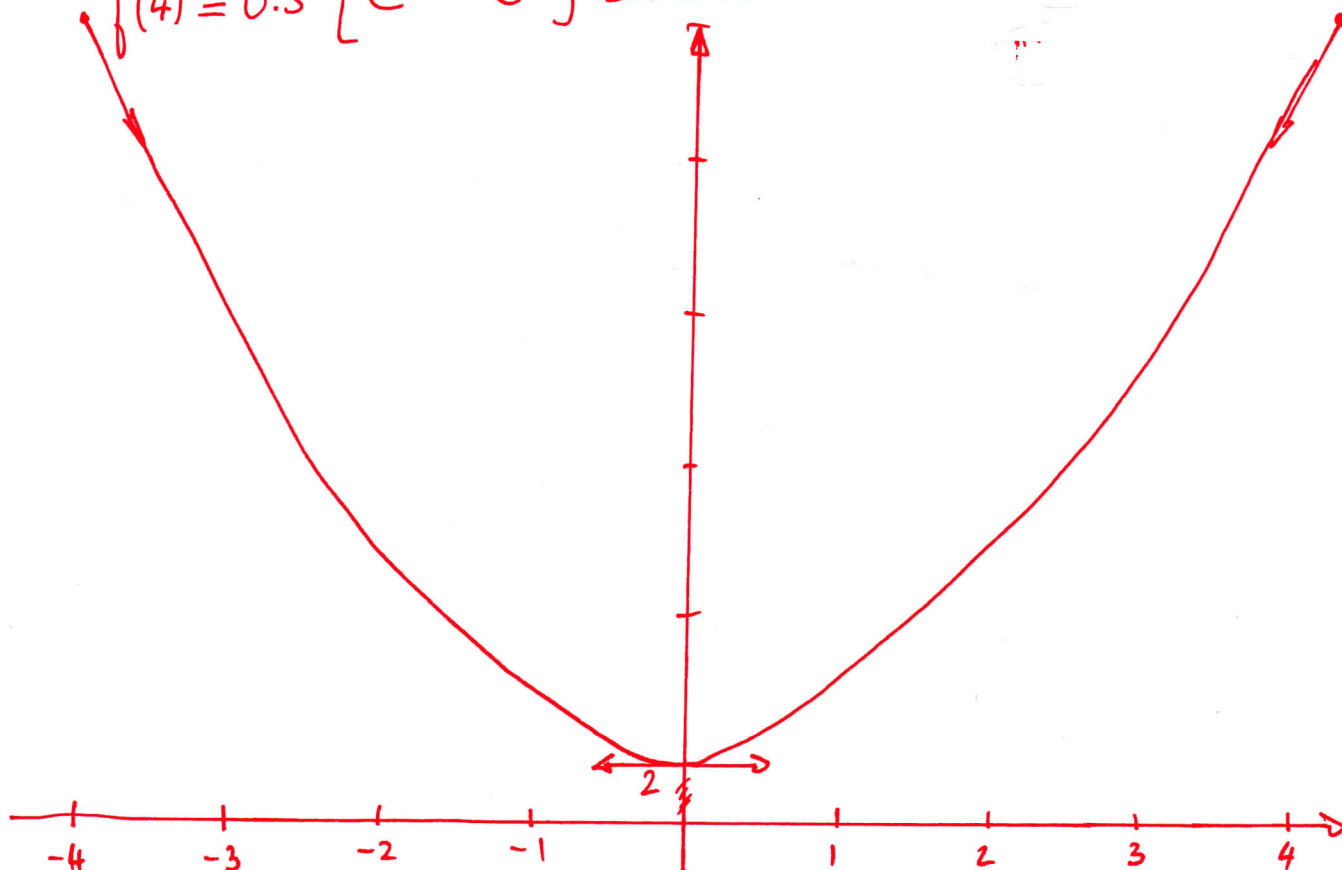
b) So the sag in the centre is $(e^2 + e^{-2} - 2)$

c) $f'(x) = 0.5 e^{0.5x} - 0.5 e^{-0.5x}$
 $f'(x) = 0.5 [e^{0.5x} - e^{-0.5x}]$

$f'(x) = 0$ for $x = 0$

At $x = \pm 4$ $f'(-4) = 0.5 (e^{-2} - e^{+2}) \approx -3.6$

$f'(4) = 0.5 [e^2 - e^{-2}] \approx 3.6$



APPLICATIONS OF THE EXPONENTIAL AND LOGARITHMIC FUNCTIONS

15 $f(x)$ is defined as $f(x) = e^{-x} \cos x$ in the domain $[0, \pi]$.

(a) Find $f(0)$, $f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)$ and $f(\pi)$.

(b) Find $f'(x)$.

(c) Evaluate $f'(0)$ and $f'\left(\frac{3\pi}{4}\right)$.

(d) Sketch the graph of $y = f(x)$.

a) $f(0) = 1 \times 1 = 1$ $f\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = e^{-\pi/2} \times 0 = 0$ $f(\pi) = e^{-\pi} \times (-1) = -e^{-\pi}$

b) $f'(x) = -e^{-x} \cos x - \sin x e^{-x} = -e^{-x}(\cos x + \sin x)$

c) $f'(0) = -1 \times (1 + 0) = -1$

$f'\left(\frac{3\pi}{4}\right) = -e^{-3\pi/4} \left(\underbrace{\cos \frac{3\pi}{4} + \sin \frac{3\pi}{4}}_{=0} \right) = 0$ $f\left(\frac{3\pi}{4}\right) = e^{-3\pi/4} \times \left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)$

