

Answer on Question #50547 – Math - Differential Calculus | Equations

sketch the curve $x^3 - x^2 - 6x$

Solution.

$$y = x^3 - x^2 - 6x$$

1) **Domain:** $-\infty < x < \infty$.

2) **Range:** $-\infty < y < \infty$. Note that $y \rightarrow \infty$ as $x \rightarrow \infty$, $y \rightarrow -\infty$ as $x \rightarrow -\infty$

3) **Intercepts:**

x-intercepts: $y = 0 \rightarrow x^3 - x^2 - 6x = 0 \rightarrow x(x^2 - x - 6) = 0 \rightarrow x(x - 3)(x + 2) = 0 \rightarrow x = 0, x = 3, x = -2$, hence $(0, 0)$, $(-2, 0)$, $(3, 0)$ are *x-intercepts*

y-intercept: $x = 0 \rightarrow y(0) = 0^3 - 0^2 - 6 \cdot 0 = 0$, hence

$(0, 0)$ is *y-intercept*.

4) **Symmetry:** $y(x)$ is neither even nor odd function,

because $y(-x) \neq -y(x)$, $y(-x) \neq y(x)$

5) **Asymptotes:** there are no asymptotes.

6) **Local extrema:** $y' = 0 \rightarrow 3x^2 - 2x - 6 = 0 \rightarrow x = \frac{1-\sqrt{19}}{3}$, or $x = \frac{1+\sqrt{19}}{3}$.

$\left(\frac{1-\sqrt{19}}{3}, \frac{38\sqrt{19}-56}{27}\right)$ – local maximum;

$\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{19}}{3}, \frac{-38\sqrt{19}-56}{27}\right)$ – local minimum;

7) **Intervals of increase and decrease:**

increasing on $(-\infty, \frac{1-\sqrt{19}}{3})$ and on $(\frac{1+\sqrt{19}}{3}, \infty)$;

decreasing on $\left(\frac{1-\sqrt{19}}{3}, \frac{1+\sqrt{19}}{3}\right)$;

8) Concavity and points of inflection:

$$y''(x) = 0 \rightarrow 6x - 2 = 0 \rightarrow x = \frac{1}{3};$$

concave downward on $\left(-\infty, \frac{1}{3}\right)$, **concave upward on** $\left(\frac{1}{3}, \infty\right)$;

point of inflection is $\left(\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{19}{3}\right)$.

Graph of y as function of x is shown below:

