

8) $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2x-1}}$

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Is $f(x)$ concave or convex on its domain?

• Firstly, let's calculate the domain of $f(x)$.

• we know that $\frac{a}{b}$ is not well defined when $b=0$

• We know that $\sqrt{2x-1}$ is not defined in the real numbers when $2x-1 \leq 0$

hence, to find the domain of $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2x-1}}$, we just need to find

$2x-1 < 0$, and exclude those numbers from the domain.

$$\rightarrow 2x-1 < 0 \Rightarrow 2x < 1 \Rightarrow \boxed{x < 1/2}$$

Hence, when $x < 1/2$, $2(x) < 1 \Rightarrow 2x-1 < 0 \Rightarrow \sqrt{2x-1} \nexists$.

also, when $x = 1/2$, $2(x) = 2(1/2) = 1 \Rightarrow 2x-1 = 0 \Rightarrow \sqrt{2x-1} = \sqrt{0} = 0$.

Hence, $\sqrt{2x-1}$ when $x = 1/2$ is 0 and, hence, $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2x-1}}$ is not well defined

Thus, the domain of $f(x)$ is $D_f = (1/2, \infty)$

• Now, let's find the second derivative in order to test for concavity / convexity.

Step 1: $f'(x) = (-1/2) \cdot (2x-1)^{-3/2} \cdot 2$

Step 2: $f''(x) = (-1/2) \cdot (-3/2) \cdot (2x-1)^{-5/2} \cdot 2 \cdot 2$

As $(-1/2) \cdot (-3/2) \cdot 2 \cdot 2 = (\frac{3}{1}) \cdot 4 = 3$, then:

$$f''(x) = 3 \cdot (2x-1)^{-5/2}$$

Step 3: plug $x = 1/2$ to get: $f''(x=1/2) = 3(2(1/2)-1)^{-5/2} = 0$.

As $x > 1/2 \Rightarrow 3 \cdot (2(>1/2)-1)^{-5/2} = 3 \cdot (>0)^{-5/2} > 0$

Hence, $f''(x) > 0$ in D_f and the function is convex