

5. (14 points) A family of functions is given by  $r(x) = \frac{a}{x}e^{bx}$  for  $a, b$ , and  $x > 0$ .

(a) For what values of  $a$  and  $b$  does the graph of  $r$  have a local minimum at the point  $(4, 5)$ ? Show your work and **all supporting evidence** that your function satisfies the given properties.

We begin by computing  $r'(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{By the product rule, } r'(x) &= \frac{ab}{x}e^{bx} + \frac{-a}{x^2}e^{bx} \\ &= \frac{a}{x}e^{bx}\left(b - \frac{1}{x}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Now, the local minimum of  $r$  will occur when the derivative is equal to zero. So we set  $r'(4)$  equal to zero:  $0 = \frac{a}{4}e^{4b}\left(b - \frac{1}{4}\right)$ . Since  $\frac{a}{4}e^{4b} > 0$  for all values of  $a > 0$  and  $b > 0$ , we can just set  $\left(b - \frac{1}{4}\right) = 0$ . Doing so yields  $b = \frac{1}{4}$ .

Now, we must find  $a$ . We are given that the point  $(4, 5)$  is on the graph of  $r$ . So we plug in  $x = 4$  and  $b = \frac{1}{4}$  into the equation for  $r$  and set it equal to 5:

$$5 = \frac{a}{4}e^{\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^4}.$$

Solve for  $a$  to get that  $a = \frac{20}{e}$ .

We must now check to make sure that these values of  $a$  and  $b$  do indeed make the graph of  $r$  have a local minimum at the point  $(4, 5)$ . To check this, we compute the second derivative of  $r$ , plug in our values for  $a$  and  $b$ , and then plug in  $x = 4$ . This will tell us the concavity of the graph of  $r$  at  $(4, 5)$ , which will in turn, tell us whether we have a local maximum or a local minimum.

$$\begin{aligned} r''(x) &= \frac{20}{x}e^{\frac{1}{4}x}\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{x}\right)\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{x}\right) + \frac{20}{x}e^{\frac{1}{4}x}\left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right) \\ &= \frac{20}{ex}e^{\frac{1}{4}x}\left(\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\frac{20}{ex}e^{\frac{1}{4}x} > 0$  for  $x > 0$ , it suffices to look at the sign of  $\left(\left(\frac{1}{4} - x\right)^2 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right)$ . Plugging in  $x = 4$  here gives  $\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{4^2} > 0$ . Thus we have that the graph of  $r$  is concave up at  $x = 4$  and our values of  $a$  and  $b$  do indeed make  $r$  have a local minimum at  $x = 4$ .

(b) Write an explicit formula for  $r(x)$ . Circle your answer.

$$\text{From (a), we know that } r(x) = \frac{20}{ex}e^{\frac{x}{4}} = \frac{20}{x}e^{\left(\frac{x}{4}-1\right)}.$$

(c) Is the graph of  $r$  concave up or down for  $x > 0$ ? Explain using arguments based on calculus—not only from a graph.

From (a), we know that  $r''(x) = \frac{a}{x}e^{bx}\left(\left(b - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right)$ . Since  $a > 0$ ,  $b > 0$ , and  $x > 0$ , we know that  $\frac{a}{x}e^{bx} > 0$ . So it suffices to check the sign of  $\left(\left(b - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{x^2}\right)$ .  $\left(b - \frac{1}{x}\right)^2 > 0$  for all  $x > 0$  and  $\frac{1}{x^2} > 0$  for all  $x > 0$ . So putting these pieces together, we see that  $r''(x) > 0$  for all  $x > 0$  and thus the graph of  $r$  is concave up for  $x > 0$ .