

## Lessons 24-26: Optimization

**Optimization Problems:** Often this includes finding the maximum or minimum value of some function.

- e.g. The minimum time to make a certain journey,
- The minimum cost for constructing some object,
- The maximum profit to gain for a business, and so on.

### How do we solve an optimization problem?

- Determine a function (**known as objective function**) that we need to maximize or minimize.
- Determine if there are some constraints on the variables. (The equations that describe the constraints are called **the constraint equations**.)
  - If there are constraint equations, rewrite the **objective function** as a function of only one variable.
- Then we can solve for absolute maximum or minimum like we did before.

↳ via the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Derivative Test

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## Recipe for Solving an Optimization Problem

**Step 1:** Identify what quantity you are trying to optimize.

**Step 2:** Draw a picture (if applicable), corresponding to the problem, and label it with your variables.

**Step 3:** Express the variable to be optimized as a function of the variables you used in Step 2.

**Step 4:** Find relations among the variables from Step 2 and express the variable to be optimized a function of just one of the variables from Step 2.

**Step 5:** Identify the domain for the function you found in Step 4.

**Step 6:** Find the absolute maximum of the variable to be optimized on this domain.

*m: n*

**Step 7:** Reread the question and be sure you have answered exactly what was asked.

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⑤ Be careful w/ ( ) or [ ]

e.g. No negatives for \$\$ or  
lengths

**Example 2:** Of all the numbers whose sum is 50, find the two that have the maximum product.

Let  $x$  and  $y$  be such #s.

① Product

② None

③  $P = xy$

④  $x + y = 50$

⑤ Domain  $x$  and  $y$ :  
 $(-\infty, \infty)$

⑥ Solve ④ for  $y$ .

$$y = 50 - x$$

Plug  $y$  into ③

$$\begin{aligned} P &= x(50 - x) \\ &= 50x - x^2 \end{aligned}$$

Take the derivative  
set  $= 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} P' &= 50 - 2x = 0 \\ x &= 25 \end{aligned}$$

Check that  $x = 25$   
gives abs max.

Since you have no  
endpts, use 2nd  
Derivatives.

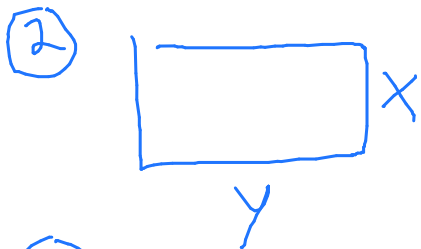
$$\begin{aligned} P'' &= -2 < 0 \\ &\Rightarrow \text{abs max} \end{aligned}$$

$$\textcircled{7} \quad x = 25$$

$$y = 50 - x = 25$$

**Example 3:** A carpenter is building a rectangular room with a fixed perimeter of 54 feet. What are the dimensions of the largest room that can be built? What is its area?

① Area  $A$



③  $A = xy$

④  $54 = P = 2x + 2y$   
 $27 = x + y$

⑤ Domain  $x$  and  $y$ :  $(0, 27)$

$x, y = 0 \Rightarrow$  no length

$$27 = 0 + y$$

$y = 27 \Rightarrow$  no width

⑥ Solve ④ for  $y$ .

$$y = 27 - x$$

Plug  $y$  into ③.

$$A = x(27 - x)$$
$$= 27x - x^2$$

Take derivative of

$A$  set  $= 0$ .

$$A' = 27 - 2x = 0$$

$$x = 27/2$$

$$A'' = -2 < 0 \Rightarrow \text{abs max}$$

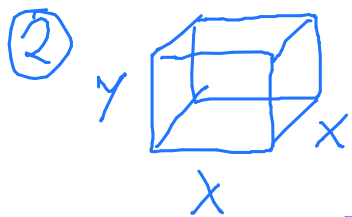
⑦  $x = 27/2$

$$y = 27/2$$

$$A = \frac{729}{4}$$

**Example 4:** An open-top box with a square base is to have a volume of 8 cubic feet. Find the dimensions of the box that can be made with the least amount of material.

① Surface Area



③  $SA = x^2 + 4xy$

④  $8 = V = x^2y$

⑤ Domain x and y:  
 $(0, \infty)$

⑥ Solve ④ for y.  
 $y = \frac{8}{x^2}$

Plug y into ③.

$$SA = x^2 + 4x \left( \frac{8}{x^2} \right)$$

$$= x^2 + \frac{32}{x}$$

$$= x^2 + 32x^{-1}$$

Take derivative of SA set = 0.

$$(SA)' = 2x - 32x^{-2} = 0$$

$$2x - \frac{32}{x^2} = 0$$

$$\frac{2x}{1} = \frac{32}{x^2}$$

$$2x^3 = 32$$

$$x^3 = 16$$

$$x = 2 \cdot \sqrt[3]{2}$$

Check abs min

$$(SA)'' = 2 - 32(-2)x^{-3}$$

$$= 2 + \frac{64}{x^3}$$

$$(SA)''(2 \cdot \sqrt[3]{2}) = 2 + \frac{64}{16} > 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  abs min

⑦  $x = 2 \cdot \sqrt[3]{2}$

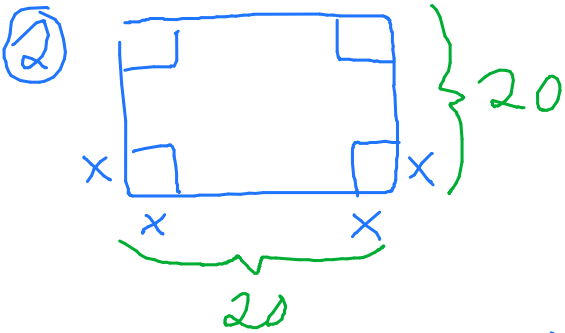
$$y = \frac{8}{(2 \cdot \sqrt[3]{2})^2} = \sqrt[3]{2}$$

$$2 \cdot \sqrt[3]{2} \times 2 \cdot \sqrt[3]{2} \times \sqrt[3]{2}$$

l                      w                      h

**Example 1:** From a thin piece of cardboard 20 in by 20 in, square corners are cut out so that the sides can be folded up to make a box. What dimensions will yield a box of maximum volume? What is the maximum volume?

① Volume



③  $V = x(20-2x)^2$

④ No constraints

⑤ Domain of  $x$ :  $(0, 10)$

$x=0 \Rightarrow$  no height  
 $20-2x=0 \Rightarrow$  no width  
 $x=10$

⑥  $V = x(400 - 80x + 4x^2)$   
 $= 400x - 80x^2 + 4x^3$   
 $V' = 400 - 160x + 12x^2 = 0$   
 $4(100 - 40x + 3x^2) = 0$   
 $4(10 - 3x)(10 - x) = 0$   
 $x = \frac{10}{3}, 10$   
 by ⑤

$V'' = -160 + 24x$

$V''(\frac{10}{3}) = -80 < 0 \Rightarrow$  abs max

⑦  $x = 10/3$   
 $20 - 2x = 40/3$

Dimensions

$\frac{10}{3} \times \frac{40}{3} \times \frac{40}{3}$

Volume =  $\frac{1600}{27}$

**HW 24.6:** You are designing a paper with an area of  $400 \text{ cm}^2$  to contain a printing area in the middle and have the margins of 2 cm at the top and bottom and 4 cm on each side. Find the largest possible printing area.

**Example 5:** A Norman window is constructed by adjoining a semicircle to the top of an ordinary rectangular window. Find the dimensions of a Norman window of maximum area if the total perimeter is 10 feet.



**Example 6:** A rectangular box is to have a square base and a volume of  $800 \text{ ft}^3$ . If the material for the base costs \$2 per square foot, the material for the sides costs \$4 per square foot, and the material for the top costs \$1 per square foot, determine the minimum cost for constructing such a box.

**Example 7:** A company's marketing department has determined that if their product is sold at the price of  $p$  dollars per unit, they can sell  $q = 2400 - 200p$  units. Each unit costs \$5 to make.

1. What price,  $p$ , should the company charge to maximize their revenue?

**Example 7:** A company's marketing department has determined that if their product is sold at the price of  $p$  dollars per unit, they can sell  $q = 2400 - 200p$  units. Each unit costs \$5 to make.

2. What price,  $p$ , should the company charge to maximize their profit?

**Example 8:** Find the point on the graph of  $f(x) = 2x + 4$  that is the closest to the point  $(1,3)$ .

**HW 25.4:** For a cylinder with a surface area of 20, what is the maximum volume that it can have? Recall that the volume of a cylinder is  $\pi r^2 h$  and the surface area is  $2\pi r h + 2\pi r^2$  where  $r$  is the radius and  $h$  is the height.

**HW 26.1:** A rectangular recreational field needs to be built outside of a gymnasium. Three walls of fencing are needed and the fourth wall is to be a wall of the gymnasium itself. The ideal area for such a field is exactly  $490000ft^2$ . In order to minimize costs, it is necessary to construct the fencing using the least amount of material possible. Assuming that the material used in the fencing costs \$25/ft, what is the least amount of money needed to build this fence of ideal area?