

4.4 Optimization Problems

To solve optimization problems,

- ① Draw a picture, ID what we know, ID what we need to find.
- ② Write formula(s).
- ③ Express the quantity to be maximized/minimized as a function of one variable.
- ④ Find the interval for the variable (if necessary)
- ⑤ Find the max/min (DERIVE!)
- ⑥ Write the answer

Example 1:

Find the two positive numbers whose sum of the first and twice the second is 100 and the product is a maximum.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \textcircled{1} \quad & x \rightarrow 1^{\text{st}} \# \quad S = 100 \quad \text{max product} = ? \\
 & y \rightarrow 2^{\text{nd}} \# \quad x = ? \\
 & \qquad \qquad \qquad y = ?
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad S = x + 2y \quad P = xy$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad 100 = x + 2y \quad \begin{array}{l} P = xy \\ 100 - 2y = x \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} P(y) = (100 - 2y)y \\ P(y) = 100y - 2y^2 \end{array}$$

$$\textcircled{5} \quad \begin{array}{l} P'(y) = 100 - 4y \\ 0 = 100 - 4y \quad \text{crit \#s} \\ 4y = 100 \\ y = 25 \end{array}$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad \begin{array}{l} x > 0 \\ y > 0 \Rightarrow 100 - 2y > 0 \\ -2y > -100 \\ y < 50 \\ 0 < y < 50 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} P''(y) = -4 \\ P''(25) = -4, \\ \text{so } y = 25 \text{ is a max} \\ \text{b/c } P''(25) < 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 100 - 2y &= x \\
 100 - 2(25) &= x \\
 50 &= x
 \end{aligned}$$

The two positive #s are 25 and 50

Example 2:

Find the dimensions of a rectangle with a perimeter of 100m, whose area is as large as possible.

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \begin{array}{c} \boxed{} \\ x \end{array} \quad y \quad P = 100\text{m} \quad A_{\max} = ? \\ x = ? \\ y = ?$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad P = 2x + 2y \quad A = xy$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad 100 = 2x + 2y \quad A = xy \\ 100 - 2x = 2y \quad A(x) = x(50 - x) \\ 50 - x = y \quad = 50x - x^2$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad 0 < x < 50 \\ y > 0$$

$$\textcircled{5} \quad A'(x) = 50 - 2x \quad A''(x) = -2 \\ 0 = 50 - 2x \quad A''(25) = -2 \\ 25 = x \quad \text{so } x = 25 \text{ is a max}$$

cut # → The dimensions that give the greatest area are 25m × 25m

Example 3:

A manufacturer needs to design an open box with a square base and a surface area of 108 in². What dimensions will make a box with a maximum volume?

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \begin{array}{c} \boxed{} \\ x \end{array} \quad y \quad SA = 108\text{in}^2 \quad V_{\max} = ? \\ x = ? \\ y = ?$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad SA = x^2 + 4xy \quad V = l \cdot w \cdot h \\ V = x^2 y$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad 108 = x^2 + 4xy \quad V = x^2 y \\ 108 - x^2 = 4xy \quad V(x) = x^2 \left(\frac{108 - x^2}{4x} \right) \\ \frac{108 - x^2}{4x} = y \quad = \frac{108x^2 - x^4}{4x} \\ A(x) = 27x - \frac{1}{4}x^3$$

$$\textcircled{5} \quad V'(x) = 27 - \frac{3}{4}x^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{cut #} \\ 0 = 27 - \frac{3}{4}x^2 \\ \frac{3}{4}x^2 = 27 \\ x^2 = 36 \\ x = \pm 6 \quad \text{only } 6 \text{ b/c } x > 0 \\ V''(x) = -\frac{3}{2}x \\ V''(6) = -\frac{3}{2}(6) < 0 \\ \text{so } x = 6 \text{ is a max}$$

$$\textcircled{4} \quad x > 0 \\ y > 0 \rightarrow \frac{108 - x^2}{4x} > 0 \\ x < \sqrt{108}$$

The dimensions of the box that give a max volume are 6in × 6in × 3in