

**Optimization Problems**

Notes

Pre Calc II

EX 1: A yard is to be enclosed with one side along a building, so it only requires 3 sides of fencing. What is the largest area you can enclose with 1200 feet of fencing?

*Maximization:*

$$A = xy$$

*Secondary:*

$$2x + y = 1200$$

$$\rightarrow y = 1200 - 2x$$

$$A(x) = x(1200 - 2x)$$

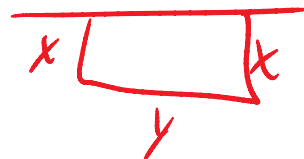
$$A(x) = 1200x - 2x^2$$

$$A'(x) = 1200 - 4x$$

$$1200 - 4x = 0$$

$$x = 300 \text{ ft}$$

$$y = 1200 - 2(300) = 600 \text{ ft}$$



$$\text{Area} = 300 \text{ ft} \cdot 600 \text{ ft}$$

$$\boxed{\text{Area} = 180,000 \text{ ft}^2}$$

EX 2: Suppose you want to enclose a 5000 square foot yard. What is the least amount of fencing you can use?

*Minimization:*

$$P = 2x + 2y$$

*Secondary:*

$$5000 = xy$$

$$\rightarrow y = \frac{5000}{x}$$

$$P(x) = 2x + 2\left(\frac{5000}{x}\right)$$

$$P(x) = 2x + \frac{10,000}{x}$$

$$P(x) = 2x + 10,000x^{-1}$$

$$P'(x) = 2 - 10,000x^{-2}$$

$$P'(x) = 2 - \frac{10,000}{x^2}$$

$$2 - \frac{10,000}{x^2} = 0$$

$$2x^2 = 10,000$$

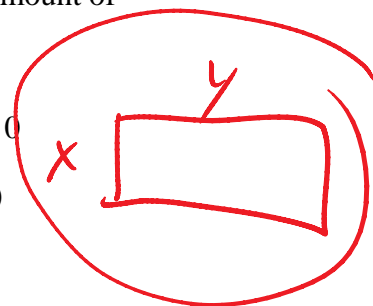
$$x^2 = 5,000$$

$$x \approx 70.71 \text{ yd}$$

$$y \approx \frac{5,000}{70.71} \approx 70.71$$


$$P \approx 2(70.71) + 2(70.71)$$

$$\boxed{P \approx 282.84 \text{ yd}}$$



EX 3: A long rectangular sheet of metal 12 inches wide is to be made into a rain gutter by turning up two sides so they are perpendicular to the sheet. How many inches should be turned up to give the gutter its greatest capacity?

$$A = xy \quad 2x + y = 12$$

$$y = 12 - 2x$$


$$A = x(12 - 2x)$$

$$A = 12x - 2x^2$$

$$A'(x) = 12 - 4x$$

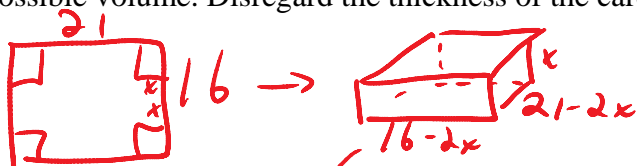
$$0 = 12 - 4x$$

$$3 = x$$

$$y = 6$$

$$A(3) = 18$$

EX 4: An open box with a rectangular base is to be constructed from a rectangular piece of cardboard 16" wide and 21" long by cutting a square from each corner and then bending up the resulting sides. Find the size of the corner square that will produce a box having the largest possible volume. Disregard the thickness of the cardboard.



$$x = 3, \quad \cancel{x = 3},$$

$$x = 3'' \quad V(3) = 450$$

$$V(x) = x(16 - 2x)(21 - 2x)$$

$$V(x) = 4x^3 - 74x^2 + 336x$$

$$V'(x) = (12x^2 - 148x + 336)$$

$$0 = 12x^2 - 148x + 336$$

$$0 = 3x^2 - 37x + 84$$

$$0 = (3x - 28)(x - 3)$$

EX 5: Find the dimensions that will make a can that holds 1000 cubic centimeters (1 liter) and uses the least amount of material.



$$A = 2\pi r h + 2\pi r^2$$

$$1000 = \pi r^2 h$$

$$\frac{1000}{\pi r^2} = h$$

$$A(r) = 2\pi r \left( \frac{1000}{\pi r^2} \right) + 2\pi r^2$$

$$A(r) = \frac{2000}{r} + 2\pi r^2$$

$$A(r) = 2000r^{-1} + 2\pi r^2$$

$$A'(r) = -2000r^{-2} + 4\pi r$$

$$r^2 \left( 0 = \frac{-2000}{r^2} + 4\pi r \right)$$

$$0 = -2000 + 4\pi r^3$$

$$r = \sqrt[3]{\frac{2000}{4\pi}}$$

EX 6: Find two non-negative numbers who sum is 16 and whose product is as large as possible.

$$P = xy$$

$$x + y = 16$$

$$y = 16 - x$$

$$P(x) = x(16 - x)$$

$$p(x) = 16x - x^2$$

$$p'(x) = 16 - 2x$$

$$0 = 16 - 2x$$

$$8 = x$$

$$(8, 8)$$