

Optimization (Not in textbook)

Let's use the techniques of §7.2 to solve some real world problems! ~

Ex: A farmer has 800m of fencing to build a pen. The pen is rectangular and one side is against a river (and hence doesn't require fencing). What dimensions of the pen enclose the largest area?

Steps for solving optimization problems

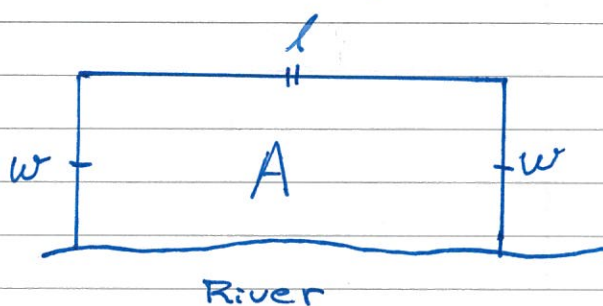
(1) Draw a picture if possible

Use variables to represent any relevant quantities. ~

(2) Identify the quantity to be maximized/minimized and find expression for it.

Write down any other conditions given in the question. ~

Solution to the above example.



l = length of pen
 w = width of pen.
 A = area of pen

We're asked to maximize A .

Expression: $A = l \cdot w$.

Other conditions: $l + 2w = 800$.

(3) Use the equations in (2) to express the target function as a function with only 1 variable.

Since $l + 2w = 800$, we have that $l = 800 - 2w$.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Thus, } A &= l \cdot w \\ &= (800 - 2w) \cdot w \\ &= 800w - 2w^2\end{aligned}$$

(4) Determine the domain of that variable.

The pen could have "no length" so $l = 0$. In this case, $2w = 800$, so $w = 400$.

(check for any extreme situations)

The other extreme is a pen with "no width", so $w = 0$.

Thus, domain is $0 \leq w \leq 400$.

(5) Maximize or minimize the target function on this domain.

We're maximizing $A = 800w - 2w^2$ on $[0, 400]$.

(ie, find global extrema!)

$$A' = 800 - 4w \Rightarrow \text{derivative exists everywhere}$$

$$\begin{aligned}A' = 0 &\Rightarrow 800 = 4w \\ &\Rightarrow w = \frac{800}{4} = 200.\end{aligned}$$

Our only critical point is $w = 200$.

$$A(0) = 0$$

$$A(200) = 80000 \leftarrow \text{global max.}$$

$$A(400) = 0$$

Finally, provide a concluding sentence stating exactly what was asked.

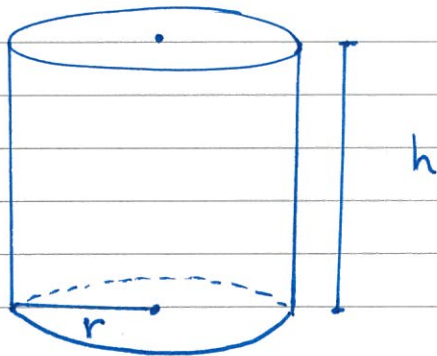
Area is maximized when $w = 200\text{m}$ and $l = 800 - 2w = 400\text{m}$.

Ex: Suppose we have 300 cm^2 of tin and wish to make the largest cylindrical can possible. What should the dimensions of the can be? How much liquid could the can hold?

Solution: Follow the 5 steps as before.

(1) Here's a picture of the situation.

h = height of can,
 r = radius of the base,
 V = volume of can.



(2) We're maximizing the volume

$$V = \pi \cdot r^2 \cdot h$$

Other constraints: $\pi r^2 + \pi r^2 + 2\pi r \cdot h = 300$

↑ ↑ ↑
area of top area of bottom area of side

$$\Rightarrow 2\pi r^2 + 2\pi r h = 300$$

(3) From $2\pi r^2 + 2\pi r h = 300$, we get

$$2\pi r h = 300 - 2\pi r^2 \Rightarrow h = \frac{300 - 2\pi r^2}{2\pi r}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So, } V &= \pi r^2 h \\ &= \pi r^2 \left(\frac{300 - 2\pi r^2}{2\pi r} \right) \\ &= 150r - \pi r^3 \end{aligned}$$

(now it's a function of 1 variable!)

(4) What is the domain of this function?

Clearly $r \geq 0$. The other extreme is when the can has "no height", so its area is $2\pi r^2$.

$$\text{We then have } 2\pi r^2 \leq 300 \Rightarrow r^2 \leq \frac{300}{2\pi} = \frac{150}{\pi}$$

$$\Rightarrow r \leq \sqrt{\frac{150}{\pi}}$$

The domain is $[0, \sqrt{\frac{150}{\pi}}]$.

(5) We're maximizing $V = 150r - \pi r^3$ on $[0, \sqrt{\frac{150}{\pi}}]$.

$$V' = 150 - 3\pi r^2 \Rightarrow \text{derivative exists everywhere.}$$

$$V' = 0 \Rightarrow 150 = 3\pi r^2$$

$$\Rightarrow r^2 = \frac{150}{3\pi} = \frac{50}{\pi}$$

$$\Rightarrow r = \sqrt{\frac{50}{\pi}} \quad (\text{This is our only critical point.})$$

$$\text{Finally, } V(0) = 0$$

$$V\left(\sqrt{\frac{50}{\pi}}\right) \approx 398.9 \quad \leftarrow \text{global max.}$$

$$V\left(\sqrt{\frac{150}{\pi}}\right) = 0$$

The volume of the largest can is $\approx 398.9 \text{ cm}^3$.

It occurs when $r = \sqrt{\frac{50}{\pi}} \text{ cm}$ and $h = \frac{300 - 2\pi r^2}{2\pi r} \approx 7.98 \text{ cm}$.