

# Max-min problems or L30 optimization. 11/4/15

— Finding ~~cont~~<sup>bounded</sup> max. values  
on closed intervals.

— If the function is  
continuous, the max. exists.

— Max. occurs at  
a critical point or  
end point.

— List these numbers.

Evaluate  $f$  to choose larger  
value.

Finding extreme values  
on open intervals.  
-Special case.

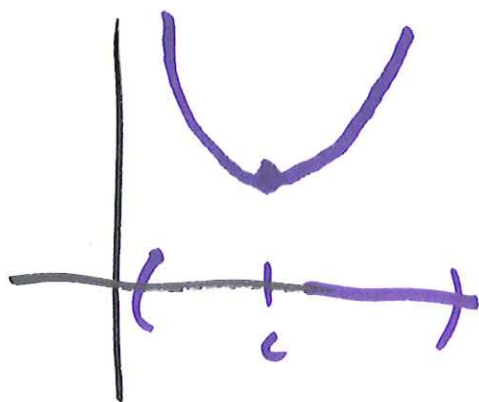
Suppose  $f$  is differentiable  
on an open interval  $I$

If  $c$  is in  $I$ ,

$$f'(x) < 0 \quad \text{for all } x < c$$

$$f'(x) > 0 \quad \text{for all } x > c$$

Then  $f$  has an  
absolute minimum  
at  $c$ .



1. Read the problem carefully, identify the quantity that we want to make as large or small as possible. This quantity is called the “objective function”.
2. Draw a diagram and introduce variables for all quantities from the problem.
3. Write an expression for the objective function. This expression may involve more than one variable.
4. Write the constraint equations. The constraint equation is an equation relating the quantities in the problem. Use the constraint equation to eliminate extra variables from our objective function.

5. Write clearly the function (of one variable) to be optimized and state the domain. The domain may be smaller than the natural domain where the function is defined. These restrictions on the domain may be stated in the problem or may arise because of geometric reality that a negative length is not likely to occur.
6. Find the extreme value of the objective function using one of the tests above. Explain why you know you have found the maximum.
7. Answer the question. Are you to give the location of the maximum, the extreme value, or do you need to compute additional quantities?

Optimization problem -

Find the smallest  $f$

$$f(x) = x + \frac{5}{x} \quad (x > 0) \\ \text{or } (0, \infty)$$

Compute  $f'(x) = 1 - \frac{5}{x^2}$

$$f'(x) > 0 \quad \text{if } \frac{5}{x^2} < 1$$

$$< 0 \quad \text{if } \frac{5}{x^2} > 1.$$

Solving  $\frac{5}{x^2} < 1$ , gives

$$x > \sqrt{5} \quad \text{or } \cancel{x < -\sqrt{5}}$$

Solving  $\frac{5}{x^2} > 1$  gives  $x < \sqrt{5}$ .

Example Suppose the product of two positive numbers is 5. Find the largest & smallest values for the sum.

Two numbers  $x, y$   
~~Constraint~~ Objective  
function is the sum.

$$x + y.$$

Constraint -  $xy = 5$  or

$$y = 5/x.$$

Eliminate  $y$ .

Objective becomes  $x + \frac{5}{x}$

Thus  $f$  has a ~~min~~  
absolute min. at  $x = \sqrt{5}$ .

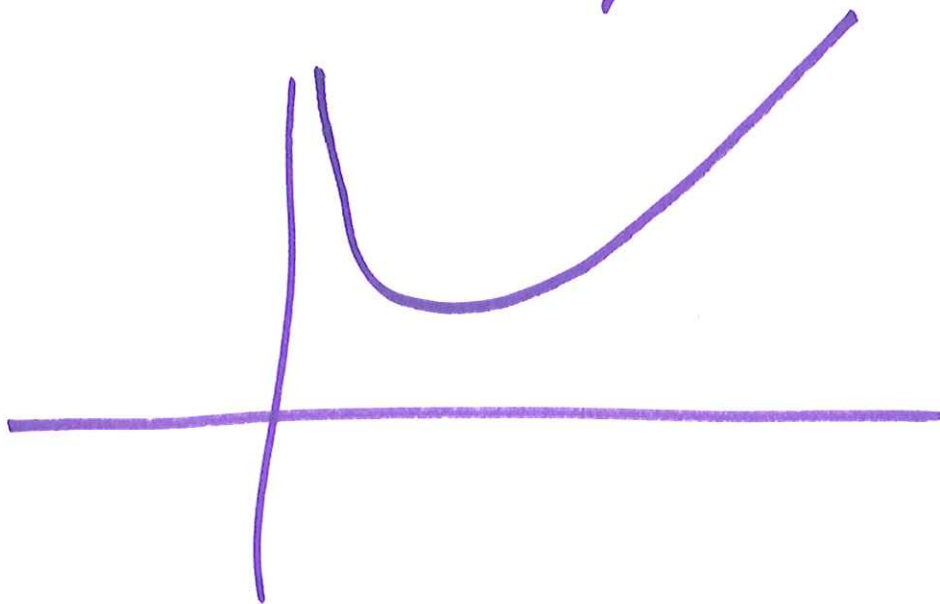
Smallest value for the  
sum is  $f(\sqrt{5}) = 2\sqrt{5}$ .

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Largest value?

Finding max. value?

$$f(x) = x + \frac{5}{x} \text{ on } (0, \infty)$$

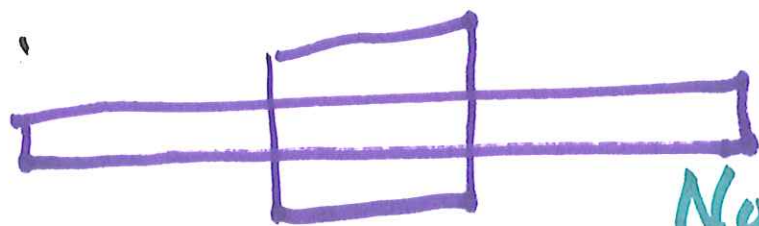


No max.

Find the largest  
value of  $xy$  if  $x+y=5$ .  
 $x \geq 0$  &  $y \geq 0$

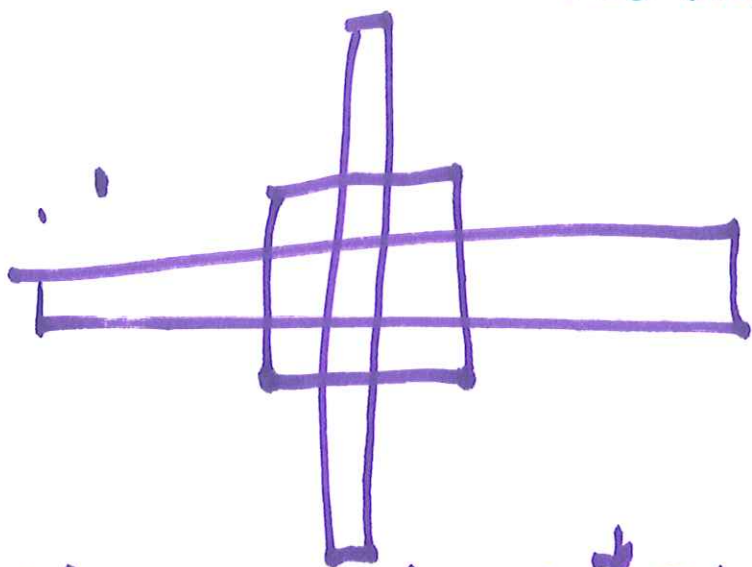
~~Find~~  ~~$xy$~~   $x+y=5$ .  
 $y=5-x$ . max. value  
of  $xy = x(5-x)$ ,  
 $x$  is in  $[0, 5]$ .

A.



No max perimeter

B.



- min. perimeter at a square.

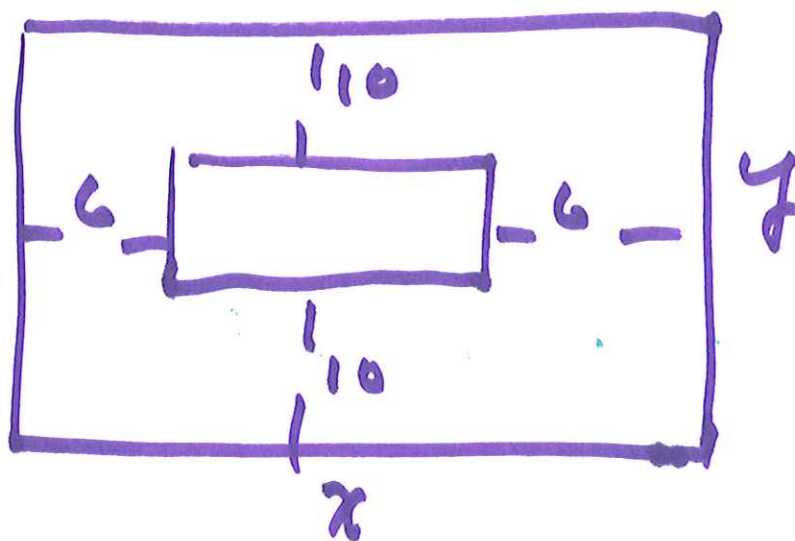
C. - Max. area a square



D.

4

*Example.* A rectangular poster has area of  $6000 \text{ cm}^2$ . The poster is to consist of a rectangular printed area in the center with 10 cm margins top and bottom and 6 cm margins left and right. Find the dimensions of the poster with the largest printed area.



$$xy = 6000$$

~~Area is~~ printed area is

$$(x-12)(y-20)$$

$$\text{Set } y = \frac{6000}{x}.$$

Goal is to max.

$$f(x) = (x-12) \left( \frac{6000}{x} - 20 \right)$$

On domain. for  $x \geq 12$

Also we need  $y \geq 20$

$$\frac{6000}{x} \geq 20, \quad x \leq 300.$$

Domain is  $[12, 300]$ .

$$f(x) = 6000 - \frac{72,000}{x} + 240.$$

$-20x$

$$f'(x) = \frac{72,000}{x^2} - 20.$$

$$f'(x) = 0 \text{ at } 60.$$

Crtd. # at 60

Endpoints  $\gamma$  12 to 300

$x$	$f(x)$	
12	0	
60	3840	$\leftarrow$ Max.
300	0	