

Famous farmer & fence problem



Have 100 ft. of fence
Q: how to build rectangular
enclosure w/ maximum
area?

More precisely, what are the dimensions of rectangle
w/ maximum area such that perimeter (along 3 sides)
is exactly 100?

Strategy: Write Area as a function of something.
then do what we need to do

take derivative
make sign chart \rightsquigarrow sketch \rightsquigarrow ?

A diagram of a rectangle with width w and length l . The bottom side is on a horizontal line. To the right of the diagram, the area formula $A = lw$ is written. Below it, the perimeter equation $2l + w = 100$ is written, with a bracket indicating it applies to the rectangle. Below that, the width is expressed as $w = 100 - 2l$. A curved arrow points from this equation down to the area function below.

$$A(l) = l(100 - 2l)$$
$$= 100l - 2l^2$$

$A'(l) = 100 - 4l$ crit pt @ $l = 25$
 $A'(l) = 0$ \swarrow

$\leftarrow \begin{array}{c} + \\ | \\ \hline 25 \\ | \\ - \end{array} \rightarrow A'(l)$

so clear that maximum value occurs at $l = 25$

$A''(l) = -4 \Rightarrow$ function is always concave down.

thought experiment: pretend that we only knew $A'(25) = 0$, $A''(l)$ negative always.

can reconstruct sign chart

$\leftarrow \begin{array}{c} + \\ | \\ \hline 0 \\ | \\ - \end{array} \rightarrow A'(l)$
 $A'(25) = 0$

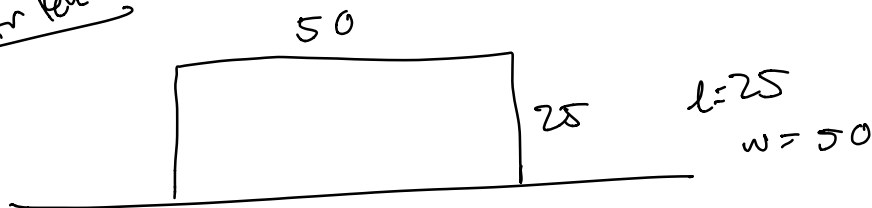
slopes always become more neg.

Summary:

2nd derivative test: if $f'(a) = 0$ and $f''(a) > 0$ then a is a local min \cup

• if $f'(a) = 0$ and $f''(a) < 0$ then a is a local max \cap

Answer for fence



Variation Suppose the farmer is legally obligated to use all fencing, but because of a bad insurance policy, doesn't want to keep any animals.
 Q: how can farmer minimize area & still use all fencing?

Need to use: DOMAIN!

$$A(l) = l(100 - 2l) \\ = lw$$

$$w = 100 - 2l$$

$$0 \leq l \leq 100 ?$$

$$0 \leq l \leq 50$$

$$0 \leq l$$

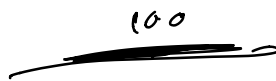
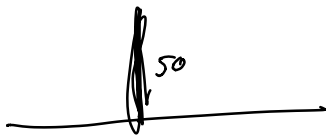
$$0 \leq w = 100 - 2l$$

$$0 \leq 100 - 2l$$

$$2l \leq 100$$

$$l \leq 50$$

(or $0 < l < 50$)
 philosophy \Rightarrow we will ignore it.



The great thing about closed intervals as domains:

Theorem (Extreme Value)

If $f(x)$ is a continuous function whose domain is a closed interval then

- $f(x)$ always attains both its minimum & maximum values
- these always arise either at crit. pts or end pts.



Strategy: to find extreme values, find all crit pts
 & plug crit pts & end pts into function
 - biggest is max
 - smallest is min.

Ex: $f(x) = (\sqrt[3]{x})^2 + 1$ for x in $[-1, 8]$
 is continuous everywhere and so also, here

crit pts: $f'(x) = 0$ or not defined $f(x) = x^{2/3} + 1$

$$\frac{2}{3} \frac{1}{\sqrt[3]{x}} = \frac{2}{3} x^{-1/3} = f'(x)$$

near ∞ , but not defined at $x=0$

crit pt @ $x=0$ endpts $-1, 8$

$$f(0) = (\sqrt[3]{0})^2 + 1 = 1 \leftarrow \text{min}$$

$$f(-1) = (\sqrt[3]{-1})^2 + 1 = 2$$

$$f(8) = (\sqrt[3]{8})^2 + 1 = 2^2 + 1 = 5 \leftarrow \text{max.}$$

Ex: $f(x) = \frac{x+1}{x-1}$ x in $[2, 3]$

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

crit pts: none.
 $f' < 0$ → max at 2 min at 3