

# 1 Optimization

This section discusses a basic application of calculus to answer questions which relate to the largest or smallest a function can be given some constraints.

For example,

Of all rectangles with perimeter 20, which has of the largest area?

The main tool is the extreme value theorem of Bolzano and Fermat's theorem about critical points: If the function  $f(x)$  is continuous on  $[a, b]$  and differentiable on  $(a, b)$ , then the extrema exist and must occur at either an end point or a critical point.

Though not all of our problems lend themselves to a description of a continuous function on a closed interval, if they do, we have an algorithmic prescription to find the absolute extrema of a function:

1. Find the critical points. For this we will can use a root-finding function like `find_zero`.
2. Evaluate the function values at the critical points and at the end points.
3. Identify the largest and smallest values.

With the computer we can take some shortcuts, as we will be able to graph our function to see where the extreme values will be.

## 1.1 Fixed perimeter and area

The simplest way to investigate the maximum or minimum value of a function over a closed interval is to just graph it and look.

We begin with the question of which rectangles of perimeter 20 have the largest area? The figure shows a few different rectangles with this perimeter and their respective areas.

XXX can not include 'gif' file here

The basic mathematical approach is to find a function of a single variable to maximize or minimize. In this case we have two variables describing a rectangle: a base  $b$  and height  $h$ . Our formulas are the area of a rectangle:

$$A = bh,$$

and the formula for the perimeter of a rectangle:

$$P = 2b + 2h = 20.$$

From this last one, we see that  $b$  can be no bigger than 10 and no smaller than 0 from the restriction put in place through the perimeter. Solving for  $h$  in terms of  $b$  then yields this restatement of the problem:

Maximize  $A(b) = b \cdot (10 - b)$  over the interval  $[0, 10]$ .

This is exactly the form needed to apply our theorem about the existence of extrema (a continuous function on a closed interval). Rather than solve analytically by taking a derivative, we simply graph to find the value:

```
using CalculusWithJulia # `ForwardDiff`, `Roots`, `SymPy`
using Plots
A(b) = b * (10 - b)
plot(A, 0, 10)
```

```
Plot{Plots.PlotlyBackend() n=1}
```

You should see the maximum occurs at  $b = 5$  by symmetry, so  $h = 5$  as well, and the maximum area is then 25. This gives the satisfying answer that among all rectangles of fixed perimeter, that with the largest area is a square. As well, this indicates a common result: there is often some underlying symmetry in the answer.

### 1.1.1 Exploiting polymorphism

Before moving on, let's see a slightly different way to do this problem with `Julia`, where we trade off some algebra for a bit of abstraction. This was discussed in the section on [functions](#). Let's first write area as a function of both base and height:

```
A(b, h) = b*h
```

```
A (generic function with 2 methods)
```

Here we write area, quite naturally, as a function of two variables.

Then from the constraint given by the perimeter being a fixed value we can solve for  $h$  in terms of  $b$ . We write this as a function:

```
h(b) = (20 - 2b) / 2
```

```
h (generic function with 1 method)
```

Then to get  $A(b)$  we simply need to substitute  $h(b)$  into our formula for the area,  $A$ . However, instead of doing the substitution ourselves using algebra we let `Julia` do it through composition of functions:

```
A(b) = A(b, h(b))
```

```
A (generic function with 2 methods)
```

From this we can solve graphically as before, or numerically. We search for zeros of the derivative:

```
find_zeros(A', 0, 10) # find_zeros in `Roots`,
```

```
1-element Array{Float64,1}:
 5.0
```

Look at the last definition of `A`. The function `A` appears on both sides, though on the left side with one argument and on the right with two. These are two "methods" of a *generic* function, `A`. Julia allows multiple definitions for the same name as long as the arguments (their number and type) can disambiguate which to use. In this instance, when one argument is passed in then the last definition is used (`A(b,h(b))`), whereas if two are passed in, then the method that multiplies both arguments is used. The advantage of multiple dispatch is illustrated: the same concept - area - has one function name, though there may be different ways to compute the area, so there is more than one implementation.

### 1.1.2 Norman Windows

Here is a similar, though more complicated, example where the analytic approach can be a bit more tedious, but the graphical one mostly satisfying, though we do use a numerical algorithm to find an exact final answer.

Let a "Norman" window consist of a rectangular window of top length  $x$  and side length  $y$  and a half circle on top. The goal is to maximize the area for a fixed value of the perimeter. Again, assume this perimeter is 20 units.

This figure shows two such windows, one with base length given by  $x = 4$ , the other with base length given by  $x = 3$ . The one with base length 4 seems to have much bigger area, what value of  $x$  will lead to the largest area?

```
Plot{Plots.PlotlyBackend() n=4}
```

For this problem, we have two equations.

The area is the area of the rectangle plus the area of the half circle ( $\pi r^2/2$  with  $r = x/2$ ).

$$A = xy + \pi(x/2)^2/2$$

In Julia this is

```
A(x, y) = x*y + pi*(x/2)^2 / 2
```

```
A (generic function with 2 methods)
```

The perimeter consists of 3 sides of the rectangle and the perimeter of half a circle ( $\pi r$ , with  $r = x/2$ ):

$$P = 2y + x + \pi(x/2) = 20$$

We solve for  $y$  in the first with  $y = (20 - x - \pi(x/2))/2$  so that in `julia` we have:

```
| y(x) = (20 - x - pi * x/2) / 2
```

```
| y (generic function with 1 method)
```

And then we substitute in  $y(x)$  for  $y$  in the area formula through:

```
| A(x) = A(x, y(x))
```

```
| A (generic function with 2 methods)
```

Of course both  $x$  and  $y$  are non-negative. The latter forces  $x$  to be no more than  $x = 20/(1 + \pi/2)$ .

This leaves us the calculus problem of finding an absolute maximum of a continuous function over the closed interval  $[0, 20/(1 + \pi/2)]$ . Our theorem tells us this maximum must occur, we now proceed to find it.

We begin by simply graphing and estimating the values of the maximum and where it occurs.

```
| plot(A, 0, 20/(1+pi/2))
```

```
| Plot{Plots.PlotlyBackend() n=1}
```

The naked eye sees that maximum value is somewhere around 27 and occurs at  $x \approx 5.6$ . Clearly from the graph, we know the maximum value happens at the critical point and there is only one such critical point.

As reading the maximum from the graph is more difficult than reading a 0 of a function, we plot the derivative using our approximate derivative.

```
| plot(A', 5.5, 5.7)
```

```
| Plot{Plots.PlotlyBackend() n=1}
```

We confirm that the critical point is around 5.6.

(As a reminder, the notation  $A'$  is defined in `CalculusWithJulia` through `Base.adjoint(f::Function)=float(x)).`)

**Using `find_zero` to locate critical points.** Rather than zoom in graphically, we now use a root-finding algorithm, to find a more precise value. We know that the maximum will occur at a critical point, a zero of the derivative. The `find_zero` function from the `Roots` package provides a non-linear root-finding algorithm based on the bisection method. The only thing to keep track of is that solving  $f'(x) = 0$  means we use the derivative and not the original function.

We see from the graph that  $[0, 20/(1 + \pi/2)]$  will provide a bracket, as there is only one relative maximum:

```
| x = find_zero(A', (0, 20/(1+pi/2)))
```

```
5.600991535115574
```

The value `x` is the critical point, and in this case gives the position of the value that will maximize the function. This value is sometimes referred to as the *argmax*, or argument which maximizes the function. The value and maximum area is then given by:

```
| (x, A(x))
```

```
| (5.600991535115574, 28.004957675577867)
```

(Compare this answer to the previous, is the square the figure of greatest area for a fixed perimeter, or just the figure amongst all rectangles? See [Isoperimetric inequality](#) for an answer.)

**A symbolic approach** We could also do the above problem symbolically with the aid of `SymPy`. Here are the steps:

```
| @vars width height real=true
Area = width * height + pi * (width/2)^2 / 2
Perim = 2*height + width + pi * width/2
h0 = solve(Perim - 20, height)[1]
Area = Area(height=> h0)
w0 = solve(diff(Area,width), width)[1]
```

$$\frac{40}{\pi + 4}$$

We know that `w0` is the maximum in this example from our previous work. We shall see soon, that just knowing that the second derivative is negative at `w0` would suffice to know this. Here we check that condition:

```
| diff(Area, width, width)(width => 40)
```

$$-\left(\frac{\pi}{4} + 1\right)$$

As an aside, compare the steps involved above for a symbolic solution to those of previous work for a numeric solution:

```
A(w, h) = w*h + pi*(w/2)^2 / 2
h(w)    = (20 - w - pi * w/2) / 2
A(w)    = A(w, h(w))
find_zero(A', (0, 20/(1+pi/2))) # 40 / (pi + 4)

5 . 6 0 0 9 9 1 5 3 5 1 1 5 5 7 4
```

They are similar, except we solved for  $h_0$  symbolically, rather than by hand, when we solved for  $h(w)$ .

## 1.2 Trigonometry

Many maximization and minimization problems involve triangles, which in turn use trigonometry in their description. Here is an example, the "ladder corner problem." (There are many other [ladder](#) problems.)

A ladder is to be moved through a two-dimensional hallway which has a bend and gets narrower after the bend. The hallway is 8 feet wide then 5 feet wide. What is the longest such ladder that can be navigated around the corner?

The figure shows a ladder of length  $l_1 + l_2$  that got stuck - it was too long.

```
Plot{Plots.PlotlyBackend() n=5}
```

We approach this problem in reverse. It is easy to see when a ladder is too long. It gets stuck at some angle  $\theta$ . So for each  $\theta$  we find that ladder length that is just too long. Then we find the minimum length of all these ladders that are too long. If a ladder is this length or more it will get stuck for some angle. However, if it is less than this length it will not get stuck. So to maximize a ladder length, we minimize a different function. Neat.

Now, to find the length  $l = l_1 + l_2$  as a function of  $\theta$ .

We need to brush off our trigonometry, in particular right triangle trigonometry. We see from the figure that  $l_1$  is the hypotenuse of a right triangle with opposite side 8 and  $l_2$  is the hypotenuse of a right triangle with adjacent side 5. So,  $8/l_1 = \sin \theta$  and  $5/l_2 = \cos \theta$ .

That is, we have

```
l(l1, l2) = l1 + l2
l1(t) = 8/sin(t)
l2(t) = 5/cos(t)

l(t) = l(l1(t), l2(t)) # or simply l(t) = 8/sin(t) + 5/cos(t)
```

```
l (generic function with 2 methods)
```

Our goal is to minimize this function for all angles between 0 and 90 degrees, or 0 and  $\pi/2$  radians.

This is not a continuous function on a closed interval - it is undefined at the endpoints. That being said, a quick plot will convince us that the minimum occurs at a critical point and there is only one critical point in  $(0, \pi/2)$ .

```
delta = 0.2
plot(1, delta, pi/2 - delta)
```

```
Plot{Plots.PlotlyBackend() n=1}
```

The minimum occurs between 0.5 and 1.0 radians, a bracket for the derivative:

```
x = find_zero(l', (0.5, 1.0))
```

```
0 . 8 6 3 4 1 3 6 0 5 2 5 1 7 8 0 9
```

So the minimum of the function  $l$  is

```
l(x)
```

```
1 8 . 2 1 9 5 3 3 6 9 9 7 0 8 6 5 6
```

That is, any ladder less than this length can get around the hallway.

### 1.3 Rate times time

Ethan Hunt, a top secret spy, has a mission to chase a bad guy. Here is what we know:

- Ethan likes to run. He can run at 10 miles per hour.
- He can drive a car - usually some concept car by BMW - at 30 miles per hour, but only on the road.

For his mission, he needs to go 10 miles west and 5 miles north. He can do this by:

- just driving 10 miles west then 5 miles north, or
- just running the diagonal distance, or
- driving  $0 < x < 10$  miles west, then running on the diagonal

A quick analysis says:

- It would take  $(10 + 5)/30$  hours to just drive
- It would take  $\sqrt{10^2 + 5^2}/10$  hours to just run

Now, if he drives  $x$  miles west ( $0 < x < 10$ ) he would run an amount given by the hypotenuse of a triangle with lengths 5 and  $10 - x$ . His time driving would be  $x/30$  and his time running would be  $\sqrt{5^2 + (10 - x)^2}/10$  for a total of:

$$T(x) = x/30 + \sqrt{5^2 + (10 - x)^2}/10, \quad 0 < x < 10$$

With the endpoints given by  $T(0) = \sqrt{10^2 + 5^2}/10$  and  $T(10) = (10 + 5)/30$ .

Let's plot  $T(x)$  over the interval  $(0, 10)$  and look:

```
| T(x) = x/30 + sqrt(5^2 + (10-x)^2)/10
```

```
| T (generic function with 1 method)
```

```
| plot(T, 0, 10)
```

```
| Plot{Plots.PlotlyBackend() n=1}
```

The minimum happens way out near 8. We zoom in a bit:

```
| plot(T, 7, 9)
```

```
| Plot{Plots.PlotlyBackend() n=1}
```

It appears to be around 8.3. We now use `find_zero` to refine our guess at the critical point using  $[7, 9]$  as a bracket:

```
| x = find_zero(T', (7, 9))
```

```
8 . 2 3 2 2 3 3 0 4 7 0 3 3 6 3 1
```

Okay, got it. Around 8.23. So is our minimum time

```
| T(x)
```

```
0 . 8 0 4 7 3 7 8 5 4 1 2 4 3 6 5
```

We know this is a relative minimum, but not that it is the global minimum over the closed time interval. For that we must also check the endpoints:

```
| sqrt(10^2 + 5^2)/10, T(x), (10+5)/30
```

```
| (1.118033988749895, 0.804737854124365, 0.5)
```



Ahh, we see that  $T(x)$  is not continuous on  $[0, 10]$ , as it jumps at  $x = 10$  down to an even smaller amount of  $1/2$ . It may not look as impressive as a miles-long sprint, but Mr. Hunt is advised by Benji to drive the whole way.

## 1.4 Rate times time ... the origin story

XXX can not include ‘gif’ file here

The last example is a modern day illustration of a problem of calculus dating back to l’Hospital. His parameterization is a bit different. Let’s change his by taking two points  $(0, a)$  and  $(L, -b)$ , with  $a, b, L$  positive values. Above the  $x$  axis travel happens at rate  $r_0$ , and below, travel happens at rate  $r_1$ , again, both positive. What value  $x$  in  $[0, L]$  will minimize the total travel time?

We approach this symbolically with SymPy:

```
@vars a b L x r0 r1 positive=true
d0 = sqrt(x^2 + a^2)
d1 = sqrt((L-x)^2 + b^2)
t = d0/r0 + d1/r1    # time = distance/rate
dt = diff(t, x)      # look for critical points
```

$$\frac{-L + x}{r_1 \sqrt{b^2 + (L - x)^2}} + \frac{x}{r_0 \sqrt{a^2 + x^2}}$$

The answer will occur at a critical point or an endpoint, either  $x = 0$  or  $x = L$ .

The structure of `dt` is too complicated for simply calling `solve` to find the critical points. Instead we help SymPy out a bit. We are solving an equation of the form  $a/b + c/d = 0$ . These solutions will also be solutions of  $(a/b)^2 - (c/d)^2 = 0$  or even  $a^2d^2 - c^2b^2 = 0$ . This follows as solutions to  $u + v = 0$ , also solve  $(u + v) \cdot (u - v) = 0$ , or  $u^2 - v^2 = 0$ . Setting  $u = a/b$  and  $v = c/d$  completes the comparison.

We can get these terms -  $a$ ,  $b$ ,  $c$ , and  $d$  - as follows:

```
t1, t2 = SymPy.Introspection.args(dt) # args finds arguments to the outer function (+
in this case)
```

```
(x/(r0*sqrt(a^2 + x^2)), (-L + x)/(r1*sqrt(b^2 + (L - x)^2)))
```

The equivalent of  $a^2d^2 - c^2b^2$  is found using `numer` and `denom` to access the numerator and denominator of the fractions:

```
ex = numer(t1^2)*denom(t2^2) - denom(t1^2)*numer(t2^2)
```

$$-r_0^2(-L + x)^2(a^2 + x^2) + r_1^2x^2(b^2 + (L - x)^2)$$

This is a polynomial in the  $x$  variable of degree 4:

```
| sympy.Poly(ex, x).coeffs() # a0 + a1·x + a2·x^2 + a3·x^3 + a4·x^4
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} -r_0^2 + r_1^2 \\ 2Lr_0^2 - 2Lr_1^2 \\ -L^2r_0^2 + L^2r_1^2 - a^2r_0^2 + b^2r_1^2 \\ 2La^2r_0^2 \\ -L^2a^2r_0^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Fourth degree polynomials can be solved. The critical points of the original equation will be among the 4 solutions given. However, the result is complicated. The [article](#) from which the figure came states that "In today's textbooks the problem, usually involving a river, involves walking along one bank and then swimming across; this corresponds to setting  $g = 0$  in l'Hospital's example, and leads to a quadratic equation." Let's see that case, which we can get in our notation by taking  $b = 0$ :

```
| q = ex(b=>0)
| factor(q)
```

$$-(-L + x)^2 (a^2r_0^2 + r_0^2x^2 - r_1^2x^2)$$

We see two terms: one with  $x = L$  and another quadratic. For the simple case  $r_0 = r_1$ , a straight line is the best solution, and this corresponds to  $L = 0$ , which is clear from the formula above, as we only have one solution to the following:

```
| solve(q(r1=>r0), x)
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} L \end{bmatrix}$$

Well, not so fast. We need to check the other endpoint,  $x = 0$ :

```
| ta = t(b=>0, r1=>r0)
| ta(x=>0), ta(x=>L)
```

```
| (L/r0 + a/r0, sqrt(L^2 + a^2)/r0)
```

The value at  $x = L$  is smaller, as  $L^2 + a^2 \leq (L + a)^2$ .

Now, if, say, travel above the line is half as slow as travel along, then  $2r_0 = r_1$ , and the critical points will be:

```
| out = solve(q(r1 => 2r0), x)
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} L \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}a}{3} \end{bmatrix}$$

It is hard to tell which would minimize time without more work. To check a case ( $a = 1, L = 2, r_0 = 1$ ) we might have

```
| t(r1 =>2r0, b=>0, x=>out[1], a=>1, L=>2, r0 => 1) # for x=L
```

$$\sqrt{5}$$

Compared to the smaller ( $x = \sqrt{3}a/3$ ):

```
| t(r1 =>2r0, b=>0, x=>out[2], a=>1, L=>2, r0 => 1)
```

$$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} + 1$$

What about  $x = 0$ ?

```
| t(r1 =>2r0, b=>0, x=>0, a=>1, L=>2, r0 => 1)
```

$$2$$

The value of  $x = \sqrt{3}a/3$  minimizes time The traveler in this case is advised to head to the  $x$  axis at  $x = \sqrt{3}a/3$  and then travel along the  $x$  axis.

Will this approach always be true? Consider different parameters, say we switch the values of  $a$  and  $L$  so  $a > L$ :

```
| pts = [0, out...]
| vals = N.([t(r1 =>2r0, b=>0, x=>u, a=>2, L=>1, r0 => 1) for u in pts])
| [pts vals]
```

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2.236067977499789696409173668731276235440618359611525724270897245410520925638 \\ L & 2.386751345948128822545743902509787278238008756350634380093011632419888361515 \\ \frac{\sqrt{3}a}{3} & 2.386751345948128822545743902509787278238008756350634380093011632419888361515 \end{bmatrix}$$

Here traveling directly to the point  $(L, 0)$  is fastest. Though travel is slower, the route is more direct and there is no time saved by taking the longer route with faster travel for part of it.

## 1.5 Unbounded domains

Maximize the function  $xe^{-(1/2)x^2}$  over the interval  $[0, \infty)$ .

Here the extreme value theorem doesn't technically apply, as we don't have a closed interval. However, if we can eliminate the endpoints as candidates, then we should be able to convince ourselves the maximum must occur at a critical point of  $f(x)$ . (If not, then convince yourself for all sufficiently large  $M$  the maximum over  $[0, M]$  occurs at a critical point, not an endpoint. Then let  $M$  go to infinity.)

So to approach this problem we first graph it over a wide interval.

```
| f(x) = x * exp(-x^2)
| plot(f, 0, 100)
```

```
| Plot{Plots.PlotlyBackend() n=1}
```

Clearly the action is nearer to 1 than 100. We try graphing the derivative near that area:

```
| plot(f', 0, 5)
```

```
| Plot{Plots.PlotlyBackend() n=1}
```

This shows the value of interest near 0.7. We use `find_zero` with  $[0, 1]$  as a bracket

```
| x = find_zero(f', (0, 1))
```

```
0 . 7 0 7 1 0 6 7 8 1 1 8 6 5 4 7 6
```

The maximum is then at

```
| f(x)
```

```
0 . 4 2 8 8 8 1 9 4 2 4 8 0 3 5 3 3 3
```

### 1.5.1 Minimize the surface area of a can

For a more applied problem of this type (infinite domain), consider a can of some soft drink that is to contain 355ml which is 355 cubic centimeters. We use metric units, as the relationship between volume (cubic centimeters) and fluid amount (ml) is clear. A can to hold this amount is produced in the shape of cylinder with radius  $r$  and height  $h$ . The materials involved give the surface area, which would be:

$$SA = h \cdot 2\pi r + 2 \cdot \pi r^2$$

The volume satisfies:

$$V = 355 = h \cdot \pi r^2$$

Find the values of  $r$  and  $h$  which minimize the surface area.

First the surface area in both variables is given by

```
| SA(h, r) = h * 2pi * r + 2pi * r^2
```

```
| SA (generic function with 1 method)
```

Solving from the constraint on the volume for  $h$  in terms of  $r$  yields:

```
| h(r) = 355 / (pi * r^2)
```

```
| h (generic function with 1 method)
```

Composing gives a function of  $r$  alone:

```
| SA(r) = SA(h(r), r)
```

```
| SA (generic function with 2 methods)
```

This is minimized subject to the constraint that  $r \geq 0$ . A quick glance shows that as  $r$  gets close to 0, the can must get infinitely tall to contain that fixed volume, and would have infinite surface area as the  $1/r^2$  in the first term implies. On the other hand, as  $r$  goes to infinity, the height must go to 0 to make a really flat can. Again, we would have infinite surface area, as the  $r^2$  term at the end indicates. With this observation, we can rule out the endpoints as possible minima, so any minima must occur at a critical point.

We start by making a graph, making an educated guess that the answer is somewhere near a real life answer, or around 3-5 cms in radius:

```
| plot(SA, 2, 10)
```

```
| Plot{Plots.PlotlyBackend() n=1}
```

The minimum looks to be around 4cm and is clearly between 3 and 5. We can use `find_zero` to zero in on the value of the critical point:

```
| r0 = find_zero(SA', (3, 5))
```

```
3 . 8 3 7 2 1 5 2 4 8 0 1 5 6 7 3 4
```

Okay, 3.837... is our computation for  $r$ . To get  $h$ , we use:

|h(r0)

7 . 6 7 4 4 3 0 4 9 6 0 3 1 3 4 5

This produces a can which is about square in profile. This is not how most cans look though. Perhaps our model is too simple, or the cans are optimized for some other purpose than minimizing materials.

## 1.6 Questions

⊗ Question

A geometric figure has area given in terms of two measurements by  $A = \pi ab$  and perimeter  $P = \pi(a + b)$ . If the perimeter is fixed to be 20 units long, what is the maximal area the figure can be?

⊗ Question

A geometric figure has area given in terms of two measurements by  $A = \pi ab$  and perimeter  $P = \pi \cdot \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}/2$ . If the perimeter is 20 units long, what is the maximal area?

⊗ Question

A rancher with 10 meters of fence wishes to make a pen adjacent to an existing fence. The pen will be a rectangle with one edge using the existing fence. Say that has length  $x$ , then  $10 = 2y + x$ , with  $y$  the other dimension of the pen. What is the maximum area that can be made?

Is there "symmetry" in the answer between  $x$  and  $y$ ?

1. Yes
2. No

What if you were to do two pens like this back to back, then the answer would involve a rectangle. Is there symmetry in the answer now?

1. Yes
2. No

⊗ Question

A rectangle of sides  $w$  and  $h$  has fixed area 20. What is the *smallest* perimeter it can have?

⊗ Question

A rectangle of sides  $w$  and  $h$  has fixed area 20. What is the *largest* perimeter it can have?

1. It is also 20
2. It can be infinite
- 3.

17.888

⊗ Question

A rain gutter is constructed from a 30" wide sheet of tin by bending it into thirds. If the sides are bent 90 degrees, then the cross-sectional area would be  $100 = 10^2$ . This is not the largest possible amount. For example, if the sides are bent by 45 degrees, the cross sectional area is:

1 2 0 . 7 1 0 6 7 8 1 1 8 6 5 4 7 4

Find a value in degrees that gives the maximum. (The first task is to write the area in terms of  $\theta$ .)

⊗ Question Non-Norman windows

Suppose our new "Norman" window has half circular tops at the top and bottom? If the perimeter is fixed at 20 and the dimensions of the rectangle are  $x$  for the width and  $y$  for the height.

What is the value of  $y$  that maximizes the area?

⊗ Question (Thanks <https://www.math.ucdavis.edu/~kouba>)

A movie screen projects on a wall 20 feet high beginning 10 feet above the floor. This figure shows  $\theta$  for  $x = 30$ :

```
|Plot{Plots.PlotlyBackend() n=3}
```

What value of  $x$  gives the largest angle  $\theta$ ? (In degrees.)

⊗ Question

A maximum likelihood estimator is a value derived by maximizing a function. For example, if

```
|Likhood(t) = t^3 * exp(-3t) * exp(-2t) * exp(-4t) ## 0 <= t <= 10
```

```
|Likhood (generic function with 1 method)
```

Then  $Likhood(t)$  is continuous and has single peak, so the maximum occurs at the lone critical point. It turns out that this problem is bit sensitive to an initial condition, so we bracket

```
|x = find_zero(Likhood', (0.1, 0.5))
```

0 . 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Now if  $Likhood(t) = \exp(-3t) \cdot \exp(-2t) \cdot \exp(-4t)$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 10$ , by graphing, explain why the same approach won't work:

1. It does work and the answer is  $x = 2.27...$
2.  $Likhood(t)$  is not continuous on 0 to 10
3.  $Likhood(t)$  takes its maximum at a boundary point - not a critical point

**Question** Let  $x_1, x_2, x_n$  be a set of unspecified numbers in a data set. Form the expression  $s(x) = (x - x_1)^2 + \cdots (x - x_n)^2$ . What is the smallest this can be (in  $x$ )?

We approach this using SymPy and  $n = 10$

```
using SymPy
n = 10
@vars s
xs = [symbols("x%i") for i in 1:n]
s(x) = sum((x-xs[i])^2 for i in 1:n)
cps = solve(diff(s(x), x), x)
```

Run the above code. Based on the critical points found, what do you guess will be the minimum value in terms of the values  $x_1, x_2, \dots$ ?

1. The median, or middle number, of the values
2. The square roots of the values squared,  $(x_1^2 + \cdots x_n^2)^2$
3. The mean, or average, of the values

⊗ Question

Minimize the function  $f(x) = 2x + 3/x$  over  $(0, \infty)$ .

⊗ Question

Of all rectangles of area 4, find the one with smallest perimeter. What is the perimeter?

⊗ Question

A running track is in the shape of two straight aways and two half circles. The total distance (perimeter) is 400 meters. Suppose  $w$  is the width (twice the radius of the circles) and  $h$  is the height. What dimensions minimize the sum  $w + h$ ?

You have  $P(w, h) = 2\pi \cdot (w/2) + 2 \cdot (h - w)$ .

⊗ Question

A cell phone manufacturer wishes to make a rectangular phone with total surface area of  $12,000 \text{ mm}^2$  and maximal screen area. The screen is surrounded by bezels with sizes of  $8 \text{ mm}$  on the long sides and  $32 \text{ mm}$  on the short sides. (So, for example, the screen width is shorter by  $2 \cdot 8 \text{ mm}$  than the phone width.)

What are the dimensions (width and height) that allow the maximum screen area?

The width is:

The height is?

⊗ Question

Find the value  $x > 0$  which minimizes the distance from the graph of  $f(x) = \log_e(x) - x$  to the origin  $(0, 0)$ .

```
|Plot{Plots.PlotlyBackend() n=5}
```

⊗ Question



XXX can not include 'gif' file here

The figure above poses a problem about cones in spheres, which can be reduced to a two-dimensional problem. Take a sphere of radius  $r = 1$ , and imagine a secant line of length  $l$  connecting  $(-r, 0)$  to another point  $(x, y)$  with  $y > 0$ . Rotating that line around the  $x$  axis produces a cone and its lateral surface is given by  $SA = \pi \cdot y \cdot l$ . Write  $SA$  as a function of  $x$  and solve.

The largest lateral surface area is:

The surface area of a sphere of radius 1 is  $4\pi r^2 = 4\pi$ . This is how many times greater than that of the largest cone?

1. exactly  $\pi$  times
2. about the same
3. exactly four times
4. about 2.6 times as big