

§12.5&6 Absolute Maxima and Minima and Maximizing Profit

The student will learn about:

•absolute maxima,

•absolute minima, and

•Application to Maximizing profit: Profit is maximized when marginal revenue equals marginal cost.

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Steps in finding absolute maximum and minimum values

Definition. The values of x in the domain of f where f'(x) = 0 or where f'(x) does not exist are called the <u>critical values</u> of f.

Theorem 2. Absolute extrema (if they exist) must always occur at critical values of the derivative or at end points.

- a. Check to make sure f is continuous over [a, b].
- b. Find the critical values of f in the interval [a, b].
- c. Evaluate *f* at the end points *a* and *b* and at the critical values found in step *b*.
- d. The absolute maximum of f(x) on [a, b] is the largest of the values found in step c. 7



Maximize Revenue

An office supply company sells *x* mechanical pencils per year at \$*p* per pencil. The price demand equation for these pencils is p = 10 - .001x.

What price should the company charge for these pencils to maximize their revenue? What is the maximum revenue?

Maximize Profit

An office supply company sells *x* mechanical pencils per year at \$*p* per pencil. The price demand equation for these pencils is p = 10 - .001x. Suppose further that the total annual cost of manufactureing *x* mechanical pencils is C(x) = 5000 + 2x.

What is the company's maximum profit?

What should the company charge for each pencil and how many pencils should be produced?

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