

(3) Algebra - Representation and Evaluation

An example how we **represent** an economic scenario in a mathematical model:



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An example how we **represent** an economic scenario in a mathematical model:

- You are planning to grow potatoes; each pound requires 0.1 sqft of land.
- You can only rent “square” shaped farmland at the rental price \$3 per sqft.
- You also need a fence around your land and the fence costs \$8 per ft (\$8/ft)
- You can sell your potatoes at the supermarket, but you must pay \$100 for the space (independent of the pounds of potatoes you put on the shelves).
- Suppose you are planning to produce $q \geq 0$ pounds of potatoes.



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each **pound** requires **0.1 sqft of land.**

“square” shaped farmland at the rental price \$3 per sqft.

The fence around your land costs **\$8 per ft** (\$8/ft)

You must pay **\$100** for the space in the supermarket

a) How much would the land rental cost (in terms of q)? How much would the required fence cost? As these depend on the target quantity q pounds of potatoes, the sum is called the *total variable cost* of producing and selling

q pounds of potatoes **TVC(q)**.

q pounds of potatoes $TVC(q)$.
 $TVC(q) = \underbrace{3 \cdot 0.1 \cdot q}_{\text{rental cost}} + \underbrace{8 \cdot 4 \sqrt{0.1q}}_{\text{fence cost}}$



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b) Together with the supermarket space cost of \$100 flat (it doesn't depend on the quantity q); hence it is called the total fixed cost, **TFC**), what is the *total cost* of producing and selling **q** pounds of potatoes **TC(q)**?

$$TFC = 100$$

$$TC(q) = TFC + TVC(q)$$

$$= 100 + 0.3q + 32\sqrt{0.1q}$$



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You must pay **\$100** for the space in the supermarket

c) If you can sell your potatoes at \$2 per pound, what is your revenues minus costs (=net profits) if you produce and sell q pounds?

$$\begin{aligned}\text{profits}(q) &= TR(q) - TC(q) \\ &= 2 \cdot q - (100 + 0.3q + 32\sqrt{0.1q})\end{aligned}$$



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- **REMINDER:** Do not forget nonnegativity constraints: that is , $q < 0$ doesn't make sense!



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- There can be more than one “variable” (in addition to q , there might be the possibility of producing t pounds of tomatoes.)



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- **REMINDER:** Do not forget nonnegativity constraints: that is , $q < 0$ doesn't make sense!
- There can be more than one “variable” (in addition to q , there might be the possibility of producing t pounds of tomatoes.)
- Suppose each apple costs \$2 and each orange costs \$3,
if you buy x apples and y oranges, how much do you have to pay?

ANSWER: $Total\ Payment(x,y) = 2 \cdot x + 3 \cdot y$



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- Evaluation means “plugging in” values for the variables:
- In the apples/oranges example, 4 apples and 7 oranges cost

$$\text{Total Payments (4,7)} = \underline{4 \cdot 2 + 7 \cdot 3} = \underline{29}$$



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- $$\text{TVC}(q) = 0.3q + 32\sqrt{0.1 \cdot q}$$

$$\text{TVC}(1000) = 0.3 \cdot 1000 + 32\sqrt{0.1 \cdot 1000} = \$620$$



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- $$TC(q) = 100 + 0.3q + 32\sqrt{0.1 \cdot q}$$

$$TC(1000) = 100 + 620 = 720$$



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- Evaluation means “plugging in” the number of pounds (say, $q = 1000$) and calculate the value of the expression;

- $$\text{Profits}(q) = 2q - (100 + 0.3q + 32\sqrt{0.1 \cdot q})$$
$$\text{Profits}(1000) = 1000 \cdot 2 - (720) = \$1,280.$$



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$$\text{Profits}(1000) = 1000 \cdot 2 - (720) = \$1,280.$$

If we consider alternative values for q ;

$$q = 640 \rightarrow \text{Profits}(640)$$

$$= 640 \cdot 2 - (100 + 0.3 \cdot 640 + 32\sqrt{0.1 \cdot 640}) = \$732.$$

$$q = 1,210 \rightarrow \text{Profits}(1210) = 1000 \cdot 2 - (720) = \$1,605.$$



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