

1. UF wants to determine the number of fan cutouts they should offer for current football season. The cost per unit to produce  $x$  hundred cutouts is  $C(x) = x^3 + 3x^2 - 9x + 2025$  dollars per cutout for  $x > 0$ . How many cutouts should they produce to minimize the cost?

*Xingjian's Solution:*

This question asks us to find the cutout that minimizes the cost. In mathematical terms, we are looking for the minimum value of  $C(x)$ . To find this minimum, we take the derivative of  $C(x)$  and set it equal to zero to locate any critical points. Start by computing the derivative:

$$C'(x) = 3x^2 + 6x - 9.$$

Then set  $C'(x) = 0$ , we can get:

$$3x^2 + 6x - 9 = 3(x^2 + 2x - 3) = 3(x + 3)(x - 1) = 0.$$

Basically, you will get two values for  $x = -3$  and  $x = 1$ , However, since we are only considering positive values of  $x$ , we discard  $x = -3$ . Therefore, the value that minimizes the cost occurs at: 100 cutouts.

2. Suppose  $f(x) = \sqrt{e^{2x}}$ , compute the value of  $f'(0)$ .

*Xingjian's Solution:* We have two ways to solve this problem.

**Method 1:**

Since  $f(x) = \sqrt{e^{2x}} = e^{(2x)^{1/2}} = e^x$ ,  $f'(x) = e^x$ . Thus,  $f'(0) = e^0 = 1$ . In this method, we avoid using the chain rule altogether. This is a clever trick that simplifies the computation.

**Method 2:**

We can use regular chain rule to solve it. Let  $g(x) = e^{2x}$

$$f(x) = \sqrt{g(x)}$$

By chain rule: we know

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{g(x)}} g'(x).$$

Since  $(g(x))' = (e^{2x})' = 2e^{2x}$ . (You can use chain rule or product rule for I said before.) Then,

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{e^{2x}}} 2e^{2x} = \sqrt{e^{2x}}.$$

Thus,  $f'(0) = \sqrt{e^0} = \sqrt{1} = 1$ .

3. Suppose  $f(x) = \sin(\tan(x))$ , compute the value of  $f'(0)$ .

*Xingjian's Solution:* by using chain rule again. Let  $u(x) = \tan(x)$

$$f'(x) = (\cos(u(x)))' u'(x)$$

Here  $u'(x) = \sec^2(x)$ , thus

$$f'(x) = (\cos(\tan(x))) \sec^2(x).$$

Thus we can directly plug in  $x = 0$ .

$$f'(0) = \cos(\tan(0)) \sec^2(0) = \cos(0) \frac{1}{\cos^2(0)} = 1 \times 1 = 1.$$

Thus

$$\boxed{f'(0) = 1}.$$

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