College algebra
Class notes


Building Quadratic Models and Regression (section 4.4)
We will see how some story problems result in a quadratic equation. We can use what we know about the graphs of parabolas ( $x$-intercepts, extrema, etc.) to answer questions. In this section, we also see how a calculator can be used to find the quadratic function that best fits a scatter plot.

## Quadratic Models:

expl 1: Marisol has 500 feet of track she will be using to make a rectangular remote-control car racetrack. She wants the area enclosed by the track to be the largest possible. What should the width and length be? Follow these steps.
a.) Solve the perimeter formula (of a rectangle) for the length, $l$. Finish this by letting $P$ be 500 feet.
b.) Express the area $A$ as a function of the width, w.
c.) Graph this area function. Think about various possibilities for width and length, and their areas, to determine an appropriate window.
d.) What should the width be to maximize the area inside the track? What is the maximum area? Include units.
expl 2: The price $p$, in dollars, and the quantity $x$ sold of a certain product are related by the following equation. Answer the questions that follow.
$x=-4 p+440$
$\circ$ Revenue, the total money they make, is price times quantity sold.
b.) Graph this revenue function on the window $[0,150] \times[0,15,000]$.
c.) Revenue is the money they make, so assume it to be non-negative. What is the domain of this function $R(p)$ ?
d.) Let's investigate the maximum point of this parabola.
i.) What price maximizes the revenue?
ii.) What is the maximum revenue?
iii.) How many units are sold at this price?
e.) If the company needs at least $\$ 10,000$ revenue for this product, what price range should they charge? Label this on the graph as well.

## Quadratic Regression Equations:



We studied regression before. We saw how the pattern of a scatter plot of points could be represented by a single linear equation. But not all scatter plots show a linear pattern. Look at the plots below. Draw in a curve (or line) that mimics the pattern of points.

expl 3a: The number of foreign adoptions in the U.S. has declined in recent years, as shown in the table to the right.
i.) Use your calculator to draw a scatter plot and then fit a quadratic function to this data. Let $x$ represent the number of years since 2000. Round your equations' coefficients to three decimal places.

ii.) Use the function from part $a$ to estimate the number of U.S. foreign adoptions in 2010.
expl 3b: Use the calculator to find the maximum for the quadratic regression equation. Write a sentence or two to give meaning to the $x$ and $y$ values of this point.
expl 3c: Use your regression equation to estimate the number of adoptions in the year 2050. Why does this value not make sense? (Using your regression equation to predict values well outside your original data set is called extrapolation and should not be done.)

Definition: Coefficient of Determination, $\boldsymbol{R}^{\mathbf{2}}$ :


The coefficient of determination is used similarly to the correlation coefficient seen with linear regression. When we try to fit various types of regression (quadratic, cubic, or quartic) to a set of data, the coefficient of determination will tell us which one gives us the best fit. The regression equation that gives us an $R^{2}$ value closest to 1 will be the one we choose to use.

## Worksheet: Quadratic (and higher order) Regression on Your Calculator (TI-82, 83, or 84):

This worksheet provides an example and step-by-step instructions for finding a quadratic, cubic, and quartic regression equations on your calculator. The higher degree regression equations are done similarly. On these problems, you will want to compare higher orders of regression to find which fits the data best. This is mentioned on the worksheet.


