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$$4. \quad \text{For } a \in \mathbb{R}, \frac{d}{dx} [x^n + a] = \frac{d}{dx} x^n + \frac{d}{dx} a = nx^{n-1} + 0 = nx^{n-1}.$$



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- ▶ You choose the value of variables to maximise/minimise a function.
- ▶ **Toolkit:** take first derivatives, set them to zero, solve for the variable(s).
- ▶ *Constrained* optimisation problems involve additional conditions to satisfy for the solution.