



PUTNAM EXAM SEMINAR
FALL 2012

ASSIGNMENT 9
DUE OCTOBER 29

Exercise 1. Find the maximum value of $f(x) = x^3 - 3x$ on the set of all real numbers x satisfying $x^4 + 36 \leq 13x^2$. [Putnam 1986, A1]

Exercise 2. Find the least number A such that for any two squares of combined area 1, a rectangle of area A exists such that the two squares can be packed in the rectangle (without interior overlap). You may assume that the sides of the squares are parallel to the sides of the rectangle. [Putnam 1996, A1]