



PUTNAM EXAM SEMINAR
FALL 2013

QUIZ 8
NOVEMBER 20

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. For $x > 0$, find the minimum value of

$$\frac{(x + 1/x)^6 - (x^6 + 1/x^6) - 2}{(x + 1/x)^3 + (x^3 + 1/x^3)}.$$

[Putnam 1998, B1]