

Quadratic Applications

Type 1 – Equation Given, then information required

Example 1: A watermelon launched from a catapult has a height given by the equation:

$$h(t) = -0.25t^2 + 30t$$

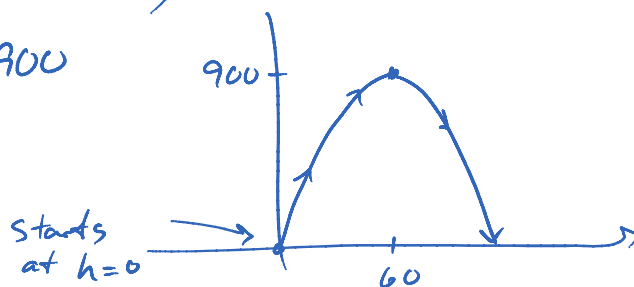
h = height in m

t = time in sec

$$h = -0.25(t^2 - 120t)$$

$$h = -0.25(t^2 - 120t + 3600 - 3600)$$

$$h = -0.25(t - 60)^2 + 900$$



- a. What is the maximum height the watermelon reaches? When?

900m after 60 sec.

- b. What is the height at 10 sec? 20 sec?

$$h(10) = -0.25(10)^2 + 30(10) = \underline{275m}$$

$$h(20) = 500m$$

- c. When does it hit the ground?

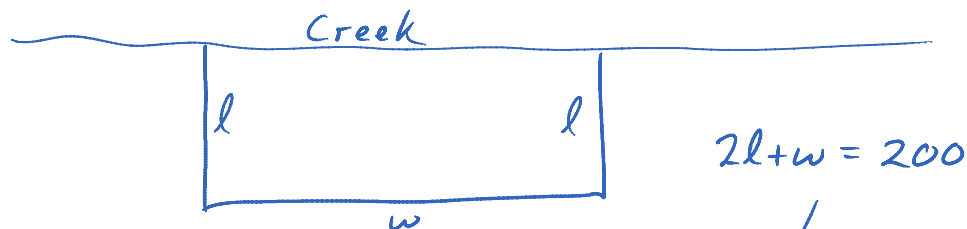
at 120 sec (symmetry of parabola, time up = time down)

- d. What is the difference if the equation is changed to $h(t) = -0.25t^2 + 30t + 100$?

Now starting at an initial height of 100m.

Type 2 – Min/Max problem - equation not given

Example 2: A rectangular area is to be fenced in beside a creek, but the fencing needs to be doubled along a perfectly straight creek. What is the maximum area fenced in with 200m of fencing?



$$\text{Area} = l \times w$$

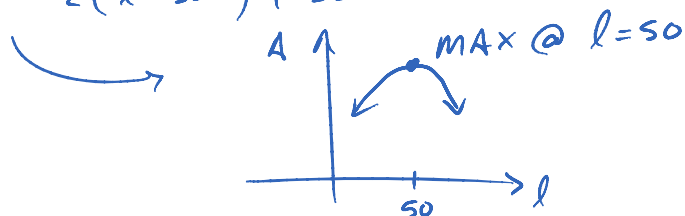
$$A = l(200 - 2l)$$

$$A = -2l^2 + 200l$$

$$A = -2(l^2 - 100l)$$

$$A = -2(l^2 - 100l + 2500 - 2500)$$

$$A = -2(l - 50)^2 + 5000$$



$\therefore$ Maximum occurs when $l = 50 \text{ m}$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore w &= 200 - 2(50) \\ &= 100 \text{ m} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Max Area} = 5000 \text{ m}^2$$

Example 3: At the last school dance, Student Council charged \$12 per ticket, and 400 students attended. They estimate that for every \$1 increase in cost, approximately 20 fewer students will attend. Find the ticket price that will result in the maximum revenue for the dance.

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Last Dance : } \text{Rev} &= (\text{price per ticket})(\# \text{ of tickets}) \\ &= (\$12)(400) \\ &= \underline{\underline{\$4800}}\end{aligned}$$

Let $x = \# \text{ of } \$1 \text{ increases in price.}$

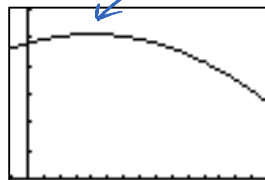
$$\begin{aligned}\text{Now, } \text{Rev} &= (\text{price})(\text{Number}) \\ &= (12 + 1x)(400 - 20x) \\ &= 4800 - 240x + 400x - 20x^2\end{aligned}$$

$$R = -20x^2 + 160x + 4800$$

Graph it'

max @ $x = 4$

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WINDOW
Xmin=-1
Xmax=15
Xscl=1
Ymin=0
Ymax=6000
Yscl=1000
Xres=1
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$\therefore 4$ cost increases!

Ticket price should be \$16, and Revenue will be \$5120