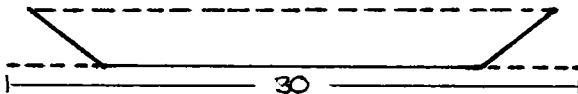


What is the largest 'topless' trapezoid that can be made by folding up the ends of a 30 in length of wire?

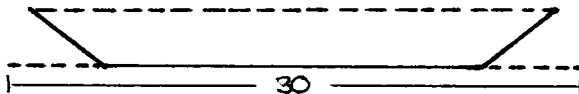
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Trying to maximise area

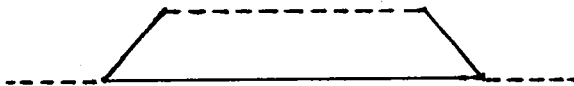


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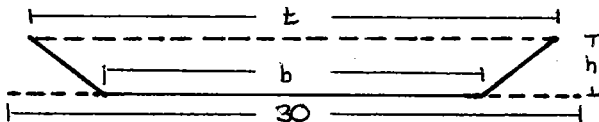
Why not like this?



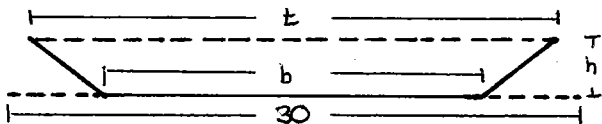
Area of a trapezoid:

$$A = \frac{1}{2}(t + b)h$$

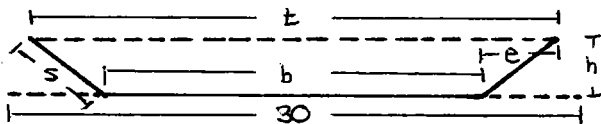
t and b are length of top and bottom, and h is the height (in inches)



Three input variables, t , b , h



Three input variables, t , b , h , plus two more, s and e :

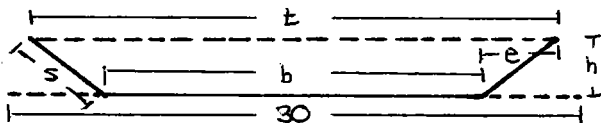


$$b + 2s = 30 \Rightarrow b = 30 - 2s$$

By Pythagorean theorem,

$$s^2 = h^2 + e^2 \Rightarrow e = \sqrt{s^2 - h^2}$$

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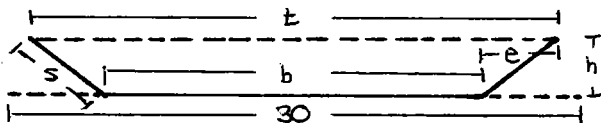
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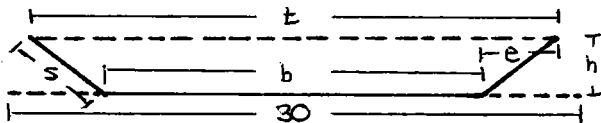
$$t = b + 2e = 30 - 2s + 2\sqrt{s^2 - h^2}.$$

Three input variables, t , b , h , plus two more, s and e :



$$b = 30 - 2s \quad \text{and} \quad t = 30 - 2s + 2\sqrt{s^2 - h^2}$$

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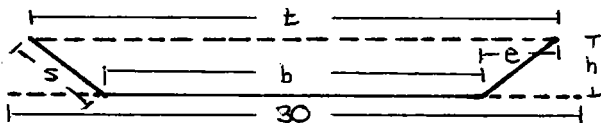


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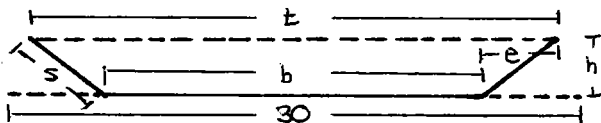


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$$\begin{aligned} A &= \frac{1}{2} \left((30 - 2s + 2\sqrt{s^2 - h^2}) + (30 - 2s) \right) h \\ &= (30 - 2s + \sqrt{s^2 - h^2}) h \end{aligned}$$

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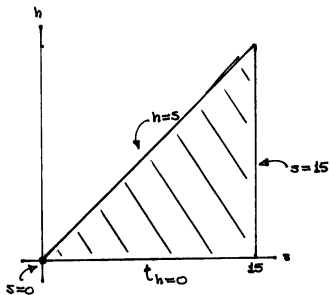
Domain is (s, h) with $0 \leq s \leq 15$ and $0 \leq h \leq s$

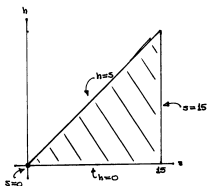
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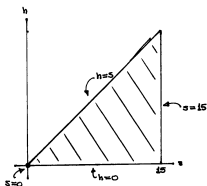
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Interior of the domain is where all inequalities are strict:

$$0 < s < 15 \quad \text{and} \quad 0 < h < s.$$



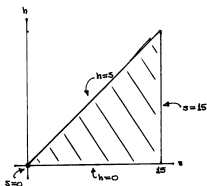
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(or ∇A is undefined)



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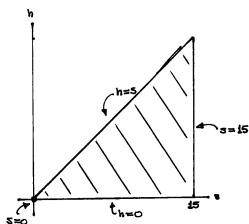
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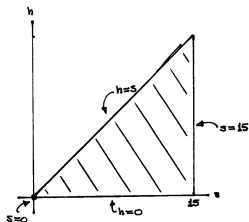
(or ∇A is undefined)

Be careful! There are solutions not in the interior of the domain



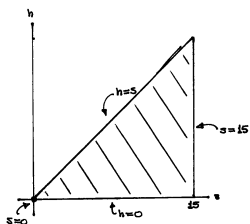
Boundary is where we have equality:

- $s = 0$ and $0 \leq h \leq s$



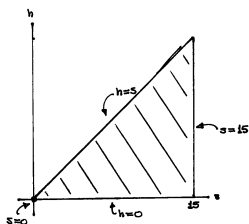
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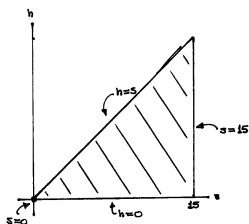
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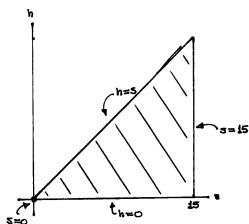
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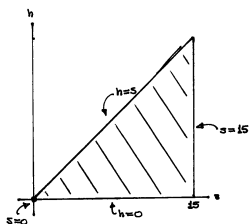
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- $0 \leq s \leq 15$ and $h = s$

Treat each case separately

When $s = 0$, the only possibility is $h = 0$, so add $(0, 0)$ to the list

Treat each case separately

When $s = 15$:

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When $s = 15$:

$$A = (30 - 2s + \sqrt{s^2 - h^2})h$$

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Domain is $0 \leq h \leq s$.

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One critical point $(s, h) = (15, h)$ with $0 < h < 15$ (where?)

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Domain is $0 \leq h \leq 15$.

One critical point $(s, h) = (15, h)$ with $0 < h < 15$ (where?)

Endpoints $(s, h) = (15, 0)$ and $(s, h) = (15, 15)$

List so far:

- Interior critical point

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- ...

Plug all points (s, h) into A :

s	h	A
0	0	0
15	0	0
15	15	0
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots

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s	h	A
0	0	0
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The biggest are the absolute maxima

Plug all points (s, h) into A :

s	h	A
0	0	0
15	0	0
15	15	0
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots

The biggest are the absolute maxima; no need for derivative tests