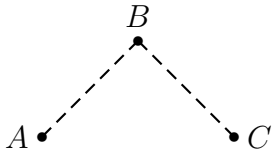
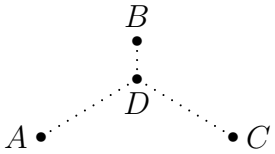
Douglass Houghton Workshop, Section 1, Mon 11/03/25

Worksheet Once More, Unto the Breach, Dear Friends

1. The three cities in the pictures below are at the corners of a 45°-45°-90° triangle whose legs are 50 miles long. The three mayors, working together, would like to build roads between them in such a way that there is a way to get from any one city to any other city.





(Say, A is Ann Arbor, B is Flint, and C is Port Huron.) The first, simple proposal (on the left) is to build a road from A to B and another from B to C. That would certainly work. But roads are expensive, and one of the mayors (who, luckily, studied calculus) proposes building roads from A and C to a point D just south of B, then building a road north from there to B.

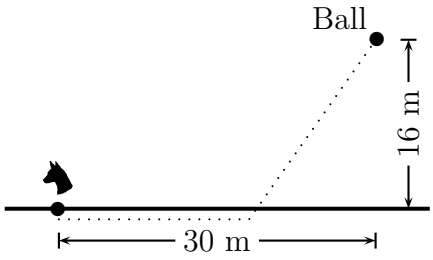
   (a) Let x be the length of the north-south road in the second proposal. What does it mean if $x = 0$?

   (b) Calculate the total length of the new network in terms of x. Hint: "Law of cosines".

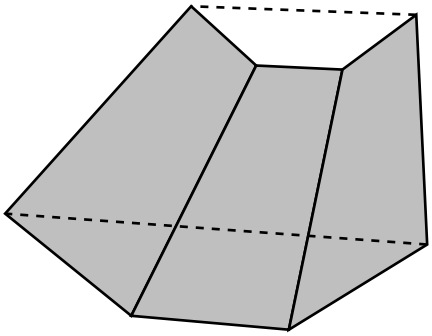
   (c) Can you find a value of x which will produce a shorter network than the simple proposal?

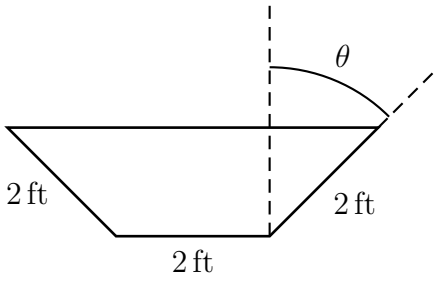
2. Suppose Gianna is walking along the shore of Kent Lake in Island State Park, with her dog Bentley. Gianna throws a ball 30 meters down the beach and 16 meters out into the water.

   Bentley, being practical, wants to get to the ball as quickly as possible. The thing is that he can run faster than he can swim; his running speed on the beach is 9 meters per second, and he can swim 3 meters per second. How should Bentley (who has an intuitive notion of calculus) get to the ball?



3. A trough, as shown below, is to be made with a base that is 2 feet wide and 10 feet long. The sides of the trough are also 2 feet wide by 10 feet long, and are to be placed so they make an angle θ with the vertical.





(a) What is the area, in terms of θ, of a cross section of the trough perpendicular to its long side? What is the volume of the trough?

(b) What angle θ will give the trough the largest volume, and what is that volume? [Hint: you can always replace $\cos^2(\theta)$ with $1 - \sin^2(\theta)$.]

4. (This problem appeared on a Winter 2007 Math 115 exam) Suppose f and g are differentiable functions with values given by the table below.

x	$f(x)$	$g(x)$	$f'(x)$	$g'(x)$
1	2	9	-3	7
3	4	11	15	-19

(a) If $h(x) = f(x)g(x)$, find $h'(3)$.

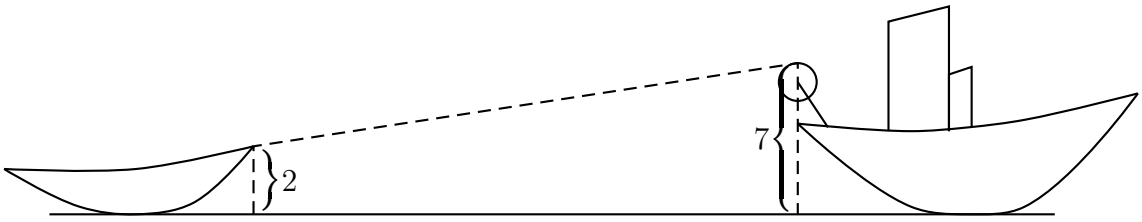
(b) If $j(x) = \dfrac{(g(x))^3}{f(x)}$, find $j'(1)$.

(c) If $d(x) = x \ln\left(e^{f(x)}\right)$, find $d'(3)$.

(d) If $t(x) = \cos(g(x))$, find $t'(1)$.

5. (Adapted from a Fall, 2006 Math 115 Final Exam.) Elijah is sailing his Flying Scot dinghy on Lake Michigan with his Dad. Unfortunately the wind has died around sunset, and it's important that they get home in time for dinner, so Elijah hails a passing tugboat to give the boat a tow.

The tugboat captain throws Elijah a line, and he attaches it to his boat 2 meters above the water line. The other end of the cable is attached to a wheel of radius 0.5 meters sitting on the back of the tugboat. The top of the wheel is 7 meters above the water, and turns at a constant rate of 1 revolution per second. [See the figure below—not drawn to scale.]



(a) At what rate is the length of the cable between the two boats changing?

(b) How fast is Elijah's boat being pulled forward when it is 10 meters away from the tugboat?