

**MASSACHUSETTS MATHEMATICS LEAGUE
CONTEST 5 - FEBRUARY 2017 SOLUTION KEY**

Team Round - continued

- D) Note: \$1 increase in ticket price produces a 4% decrease in sales; \$1 decrease in ticket price produces a 10% increase in ticket sales.

Solution #1 (strictly arithmetic):

@ 7.50 160 tickets are sold $\Rightarrow R = \$1200$

For cheaper ticket prices, we fill more seats, *but make less money*.

[6.50(180) = 1170, 5.50(200) = 1100]

For more expensive tickets, we fill fewer seats, *but make more money (up to a point!)*.

@ 8.50 200(.76) = 152 tickets are sold $\Rightarrow R = \$1292$

@ 10.50 200(.68) = 136 tickets are sold $\Rightarrow R = \$1428$

@ 12.50 200(.60) = 120 tickets are sold $\Rightarrow R = \$1500$

Increases are slowing down!!

@ 13.50 200(.56) = 112 tickets are sold $\Rightarrow R = \$1512$

@ 14.50 200(.52) = 104 tickets are sold $\Rightarrow R = \$1508$

This suggests that T is around \$13.50, but more fine tuning (in 25¢ increments) might produce a larger value of R .

Rather than brute forcing \$13.25 and \$13.75, let's consider an algebraic approach.

Solution #2 (algebraic):

Assuming each \$1 increase produces a 4% decrease in sales.

$$R = (7.5 + n)(0.8 - 0.04n)200 = (15 + 2n)(80 - 4n) = -8n^2 + 100n + 1200$$

$$\Leftrightarrow R = -8 \left(n^2 - \frac{25}{2}n + \left(\frac{25}{4} \right)^2 \right) + 1200 + 8 \left(\frac{25}{4} \right)^2 = -8 \left(n - \frac{25}{4} \right)^2 + 1512.50$$

$$\Leftrightarrow n = \frac{25}{4} \text{ produces the maximum ticket sales of } R = \$1512.50$$

$$n = \frac{25}{4} \Rightarrow T = \$7.50 + \$6.25 = \$13.75.$$

Thus, $(T, R) = (\underline{13.75}, \underline{1512.50})$.

