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It costs 8 dollars to manufacture and distribute a backpack. If the backpacks sell at x dollars each, the number sold, n , is given by $n = \frac{3}{x-8} + 4(100-x)$. Find the selling price that will maximize profit.

The cost of producing n backpacks is $\$8n$.

The revenue from selling n backpacks is $\$nx$.

Thus, the profit from selling n backpacks is $P = \$nx - 8n$.

To optimize profit, first simplify $P(x)$.

$$\begin{aligned} P(x) &= nx - 8n \\ &= n(x - 8) \\ &= \left[\frac{3}{x-8} + 4(100-x) \right] (x-8) \\ &= 3 + 4(100-x)(x-8) \\ &= 3 + 400x - 3200 - 4x^2 + 32x \\ &= -4x^2 + 432x - 3197 \end{aligned}$$

Now, take the derivative of $P(x)$.

$$P'(x) = -8x + 432$$

Set the derivative equal to 0 and solve.

$$\begin{aligned} -8x + 432 &= 0 \\ x &= 54 \end{aligned}$$

The second derivative of $P(x)$, $P''(x) = -8$ is always negative. The price of $\$54$ maximizes profit.