

Math 1023, DARPA Balloon Contest Project

Read the NBC News Article “Balloon Hunt Nets \$40,000 for MIT-Led Team” at:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna34303629> .

Work in groups to discuss and answer the questions below. Submit a single PDF file with your group’s answers.

Do not forget to put your name(s) in the filename as well as in your document.

(Ex: Smith_Jones_lab3.pdf)

1. Using concepts from calculus, explain the central concept underlying the MIT team’s strategy.
2. The MIT team knew that the \$40,000 prize would be sufficient to pay their promised expenses if they won the contest. Show why this is true mathematically.
3. Why did the MIT team’s approach work so effectively?