

Problem Statement

A piece of wire 180 inches long is bent into the shape of an isosceles trapezoid whose base angles are $\pi/3$ radians.



- a) Suppose x is the length of the longer base of the trapezoid and y is the length of one of the slanted sides. Label the lengths of all sides in terms of x and y and deduce a relationship between x and y .
- b) Find a formula for the area A of the trapezoid as a function of the single variable x .
- c) Use your calculator to graph the function $A = A(x)$. Are there any upper or lower bounds between which the value of x must lie? If so, decide what happens to A as x approaches those bounds, and explain by drawing pictures of the trapezoid in those cases.