

# U9D7\_T\_Optimization of a Square Based Prism

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 12:47 PM



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MPM1D1 U9D7 (9.3/9.4)

## Optimization of a Square Based Prism

**Investigation A:** How can you compare the surface areas of square-based prisms with the same volume?

- Use 16 interlocking cubes to build as many different square-based prisms as possible with a volume of 16 cubic units.
- Calculate the surface area of each prism. Record your results in a table.

Length	Width	Height	Volume	Surface Area
1	1	16	$16 \text{ u}^3$	$66 \text{ u}^2$
2	2	4	$16 \text{ u}^3$	$40 \text{ u}^2$
4	4	1	$16 \text{ u}^3$	$48 \text{ u}^2$

$16 \times 4 + 1 \times 2$   
 $8 \times 4 + 4 \times 2$   
 $16 \times 2 + 4 \times 4$

- What are the dimensions of the square-based prism that has the minimum, or optimal, surface area?

2 units x 2 units x 4 units

- Describe the shape of this prism compared to the other prisms.

Closest to a cube.

- Predict the dimensions of the square-based prism with minimum surface area if you use:

a) 27 cubes

$3 \times 3 \times 3$

b) 64 cubes

$4 \times 4 \times 4$

c) 125 cubes

$5 \times 5 \times 5$

- REFLECT:** Summarize your findings.

- Do any relationships exist between the length, width, and height of a square-based prism with minimum surface area for a given volume?

$length = width = height$



b) What is the ideal shape for minimizing the surface area of a square-based prism when given a fixed volume? A cube.

c) How can you predict the dimensions of a square-based prism with minimum surface area if you know the volume?

Take the cubed root.  $V = x^3$  So,  $x = \sqrt[3]{V}$   
 $x$  is the cubed root of the volume.

EX. 1. Cardboard Box Dimensions.

a) The Pop-a-Lot popcorn company ships kernels of popcorn to movie theatres in large cardboard boxes with a volume of 500,000  $\text{cm}^3$ . Determine the dimensions of the square-based prism box, to the nearest tenth of a centimeter, they will require the least amount of cardboard.

$$x = \sqrt[3]{500000}$$

$$\text{So, } x = 79.37\dots$$

$$x \doteq 79.4$$

$\therefore$  a cube with all dimensions 79.4 cm minimizes the surface area.

b) Find the amount of cardboard required to make this box, to the nearest tenth of a square metre. Describe any assumptions you have made.

$$A_{\text{total}} = 6 \text{ square sides}$$

$$= 6x^2$$

$$= 6(79.4)^2$$

$$= 37826.16\dots$$

$$\doteq 37826.2$$

Assumption: no extra material needed for seams.

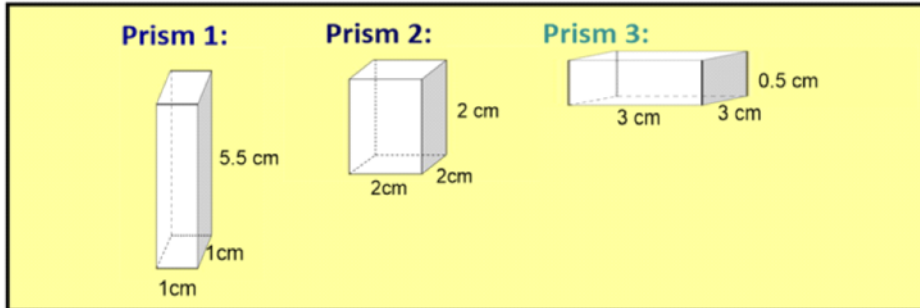


6 sides all sides are  $x$  by  $x$

$\therefore$  the minimum amount of cardboard is  $37826.2 \text{ cm}^2$ .

**Investigation B: How can you compare the volumes of square-based prisms with the same surface area?**

1. Each of the square-based prisms below has a surface area of  $24 \text{ cm}^2$ . Calculate the area of the base and the volume of each prism. Record your data in the table.



Prism Number	Side length of base (cm) $b$	Area of base ( $\text{cm}^2$ ) $b^2$	Surface area ( $\text{cm}^2$ ) $4bh + 2b^2$	Height (cm) $h$	Volume ( $\text{cm}^3$ ) $b^2h$
1	1	1	24	5.5	5.5
2	2	4	24	2	8
3	3	9	24	0.5	4.5

2. What are the dimensions of the square-based prism that has the maximum, or optimal, volume?

$2 \text{ cm} \times 2 \text{ cm} \times 2 \text{ cm}$

3. Describe the shape of this prism compared to the other prisms.

A cube

4. Predict the dimensions of the square-based prism with maximum volume if the surface area is  $54 \text{ cm}^2$ .

$$A = 6x^2$$

$$6x^2 = 54$$

$$x^2 = 9$$

$$x = \sqrt{9}$$

$$\boxed{x = 3} \text{ OR } \cancel{x = -3}$$

$$\div 6$$

$$\div \sqrt{\quad}$$

$\therefore$  the optimal prism is  $2 \text{ cm} \times 2 \text{ cm} \times 2 \text{ cm}$

5. **REFLECT:** Summarize your findings.

- a) Do any relationships exist between the length, width, and height of a square-based prism with maximum volume for a given surface area?

length = width = height

- b) What is the ideal shape for maximizing the volume of a square-based prism when given a fixed surface area?

A CUBE

- c) How can you predict the dimensions of a square-based prism with maximum volume if you know the surface area?

\*  $6x^2 = A_{\text{TOTAL}}$ , solve for  $x$  \*

$$x^2 = \frac{A_{\text{TOTAL}}}{6}$$

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{A_{\text{TOTAL}}}{6}}$$

OR  ~~$x = \sqrt{\frac{A_{\text{TOTAL}}}{6}}$~~

Pg 495 #2, 3, 5a, 7 & Pg 501 #2, 3, 6, 7

**EX. 2.** Maximize the Volume of a Square-Based Prism

a) Determine the dimensions of the square-based prism with maximum volume that can be formed using 5400 cm<sup>2</sup> of cardboard.

$$\div 6 \downarrow \quad 6x^2 = 5400$$

$$\sqrt{\phantom{x}} \downarrow \quad x^2 = 900$$

$$\sqrt{\phantom{x}} \downarrow \quad x = 30$$

$\therefore$  the optimal box is 30 cm x 30 cm x 30 cm.

OR ~~30~~

b) What is the volume of the prism?

$$V = x^3$$

$$V = 30^3$$

$$V = 27000$$

$\therefore$  the volume is 27000 cm<sup>3</sup>.

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \overline{) 72} \\ \underline{2} \phantom{0} \\ 36 \\ 2 \overline{) 36} \\ \underline{2} \phantom{0} \\ 18 \\ 2 \overline{) 18} \\ \underline{2} \phantom{0} \\ 9 \\ 3 \overline{) 9} \\ \underline{3} \\ 0 \end{array}$$

$$72 = 2^3 3^2 \quad \text{Prime Factorization}$$

$$\textcircled{6 \times 6 \times 2} \quad 2 \times 2 \times 18$$

Pg 495 #2, 3, 5a, 7 & Pg 501 #2, 3, 6, 7