

In God We Trust.  
All others bring data.  
~ W. Edwards Deming

# New Elephant House

## Breakeven Analysis Project



Image credit:

<http://home.bt.com/news/news-extra/world-elephant-day-2015-brilliant-photos-of-adorable-baby-elephants-that-will-melt-your-heart-11363997459925>

Our engineering team has been asked by a local zoo to create a new viewing habitat for its baby elephants.

Write a breakeven analysis program so they can compare the possible options.

## Breakeven Analysis Project - 2

### Background

A local zoo, thanks to a new breeding program for endangered species, has successfully birthed two new, healthy elephants. The zoo will spend several years preparing these elephants to be released into the wild. While they are preparing these elephants for their eventual release, the zoo has noticed an increase in attention for these beautiful creatures. In order to expand revenue for their breeding program to include other endangered species, they have plans to create a new enclosure area so the elephants can play and grow, while visitors observe them. The zoo asks your company specifically to provide a program that can perform a breakeven analysis on the different materials and construction methods, and determine the expected return on investment. This analysis will aid in predicting what other species can be added using the profit from this new enclosure. Specifically, your program must consider construction costs (fixed costs), various operational costs (variable costs), and the revenue dependent on interest level of the public.

### Calculation Procedure for Construction (Fixed Cost)

The program that you create will perform a complete Breakeven Analysis for a **single construction option**. Your team then should be able to perform several complete Breakeven Analyses in order to provide the final financial benefits of a single construction option.

To begin, your team must calculate the total cost of construction for three different construction materials. The total construction cost will be the “fixed cost” of your analysis. To begin, there will be 3 construction materials to choose from and all the information MUST be contained within one 3 x 7 cell array. The cell array will be organized as below (**do NOT include the titles highlighted in gray**):

Material	Thickness of wall [in]	Material cost [\$/ft <sup>3</sup> ]	Miscellaneous Construction Materials [\$]	Labor Cost [\$/ (person week)]	Number of Laborers (people)	Number of weeks of construction
Concrete	14	32	93,000	900	5	4
Wood	21	55	110,000	800	13	10
Adobe	17	45	61,000	600	5	5

- The program should use a menu listing three material options: Concrete, Wood, or Adobe, pulled from the cell array. You may NOT hardcode or use an “if statement/switch statement” to retrieve these names. This menu should automatically change should the cell array be altered as to the number and types of materials.
- The program should set the total surface area of the wall to be 3000 square feet.
- The program should then calculate the total cost of construction considering all costs above, in appropriate units. You should use this total as your fixed cost.

**Note:** In all your calculations, your numbers should be able to automatically adjust should more materials be added to the cell array. No credit will be given to hardcoded values or the use of “if statements/switch statements” or the use of “loops.”

### Breakeven Analysis (Variable Costs and Revenue Details)

The program that you create will then perform the rest of the Breakeven Analysis for the **single construction option specified by the user**. Each option has a specific amount of variable costs that are listed later in this document (under the “Options to Consider” section). These variable costs should be entered as user-inputs rather than hardcoded or entered into the cell array above. They must be “free form” input by the user (should the costs change in the near future). The inputs are listed below:

- The program should now ask the user to enter the following information relating to the operational (variable) costs, operational schedule, and number of years for the analysis:
  - Energy cost [\$/week]
  - Labor cost [\$/week]
  - Landfill cost [\$/week]
  - Maintenance cost [\$/week]
  - Number of weeks per year the zoo will operate

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- Number of years the analysis should include (this is INDEPENDENT of the construction time. Your analysis at time zero should be OPENING DAY)
- The program should finally ask the user to enter the zoo's anticipated public interest and donations, which will be used to calculate revenue:
  - Price of admission per person [\$/person]
  - Number of people per week that will visit the zoo
  - Expected donations per week [\$/week]

### Breakeven Analysis (Process)

The program should conduct a breakeven analysis using these steps:

- Determine the total fixed costs in constructing the enclosure considering material costs, miscellaneous costs, and labor costs
- Determine the total variable cost of operating the enclosure per week.
- Determine the total cost to operate the entered construction option for the number of years requested by the user (the time does NOT include construction time).
  - The total cost vector should be calculated for the number of years requested, where each column is a year.
- Determine the total revenue for the number of years requested by the user.
  - The total revenue vector should be calculated for the number of years requested, where each column is a year.
  - The calculation should include the donations
- Determine the total profit for the number of years requested by the user.
  - The total profit vector should be calculated for the number of years requested, where each column is a year.

The program should now determine the breakeven point in months. This should be accomplished by creating a mathematical formula to express the breakeven point as a function of cost.

The program should also, at the request of the zoo, determine how much of a one-time donation it would take to "breakeven" at the end of 6 months. You may assume that none of the given options will break even in less than 6 months.

### Summary of Results

In the program, first, summarize the results in a manner similar to the following in the Command Window:

```
Material: Concrete
  Operating ## weeks per year will generate per year:
    Revenue:      $####
    Cost:         $####
  The breakeven time is ##.## months
  The total profit after ## years is $#.###e+##.
```

The operating weeks, revenue, cost, and years should be displayed with no decimal places, the breakeven time should be displayed with two decimals, and the total profit should be displayed in exponential notation with three decimal places. The material name should change according to the user's material choice. In addition, the lines should be shown using tabs to indent from the left margin as shown.

Second, a statement, such as bolded below, should summarize your program's findings for the amount of the one-time donation necessary to breakeven in six months.

**It will take a one-time donation of \$#####.## to breakeven in six months.**

Finally, your program should create two figures:

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- The program should generate a proper plot with the number of years on the abscissa, and the revenue and total cost on the ordinate for the construction option. This figure should also include a large point on the line to indicate the found breakeven point.
- The program should generate an additional proper plot (in a separate figure window) to display the profit of the construction choice with respect to time in years. This figure should also include a large point on the line to indicate the found breakeven point.

### Options to Evaluate

The zoo has asked that you consider running your analysis for at least 5 years. For each construction cost, the user should be able to choose the material from a menu then manually enter all other inputs.

First, the concrete has several advantages and some disadvantages. Concrete is the least expensive material with a moderate operating cost. It saves on energy costs due to its ability to insulate. However, it is also the least aesthetically appealing material and does not keep with the theme of the zoo. Because of this, fewer people will visit the enclosure, the price per ticket must be decreased, and the amount of donations will decrease. The particular details are as follows:

- Name: Concrete
- Energy Cost: \$5,000/week
- Operational Labor Cost: \$4,000/week
- Maintenance Cost: \$3,000/week
- Landfill Cost: \$3,000/week
- Number of weeks per year: 50
- Number of years for analysis: 5
- Admission Price: \$2/person
- Number of People: 9,000/week
- Donations per week: \$400/week

Second, the wood has several advantages and some disadvantages as well. Wood keeps well with the theme of the zoo and is very attractive. Therefore, more people will want to see the enclosure at an even higher price and will be more prone to donate even more to help with the research. However, it is also the most expensive material and has a higher maintenance cost and energy cost. The particular details are as follows:

- Name: Wood
- Energy Cost: \$10,000/week
- Operational Labor Cost: \$6,000/week
- Maintenance Cost: \$20,000/week
- Landfill Cost: \$3,000/week
- Number of weeks per year: 50
- Number of years for analysis: 5
- Admission Price: \$3/person
- Number of People: 17,500/week
- Donations per week: \$1,000/week

Finally, the adobe strikes a compromise between the other two materials. Adobe can be used to imitate wood and therefore attract more people at a higher price than concrete (though not as much as wood). It also is cheaper in material and maintenance cost wood (though not as good as concrete). The particular details are as follows:

- Name: Adobe
- Energy Cost: \$6,000/week
- Operational Labor Cost: \$4,000/week
- Maintenance Cost: \$5,000/week

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- Landfill Cost: \$3,000/week
- Number of weeks per year: 50
- Number of years for analysis: 5
- Admission Price: \$2/person
- Number of People: 13,000/week
- Donations per week: \$650/week

### Project Submission

#### Code

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Name the .m file **P1\_TeamNumber.m**.. Your **TeamNumber** is your three-digit section number and your two-digit team number.

The code will be graded for documentation (PLEASE include comments!), neatness, organization, unit consistency, proper plot rules, analysis limits, and ability to handle input value fluctuations. It should follow all proper coding rules, containing header information required in every .m file INCLUDING TEAM MEMBER NAMES.

**NOTE: Only ONE member from team is to upload your code. Only one person's submission will be considered. The coinciding grade will be applied to all team members.**