

Problem 1.22

There is a marvelous problem, the Snowplow Problem of R. P. Agnew, which reads, “One day it started snowing at a heavy and steady rate. A snowplow started out at noon, going 2 miles the first hour and 1 mile the second hour. What time did it start snowing?” (*Answer: 11:23 A.M.*) We also recommend a more sophisticated variation by M. S. Klamkin called the Great Snowplow Chase: “One day it started snowing at a heavy and steady rate. Three identical snowplows started out at noon, 1 P.M., and 2 P.M. from the same place and all collided at the same time. What time did it start snowing?” (*Answer: 11:30 A.M.*)

Clue: The speed of the plow is inversely proportional to the height of the snow.