- 7. [14 points] Suppose that the rate of electricity use, u(t), by a large calculus-problem producing factory is given, in megawatt-hours per day for the three months of summer, by the graph to the right. Time t is given in days from the beginning of the summer. As shown, the function u(t) is symmetric about the middle of summer, July 16, which falls 46 days from the beginning of the summer. Let M(T) be the average rate of electricity use of the factory over the course of the first T days of the summer.
 - (a) [6 points of 14] Write a formula for M(T) in terms of u(t).



Solution:

We know that the average value of a function f(x) over an interval $a \le x \le b$ is $\frac{1}{b-a} \int_a^b f(x) dx$, so the average energy consumption over the first T days is $M(T) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T u(t) dt$.

(b) [8 points of 14] Fill in the missing blanks of the following table of values of M(T). Show your work, so that it is clear how you obtained your answers.

T	23	46	69	92
M(T)	8			11

Solution:

The average electricity use for $0 \le t \le 23$ is 8, so, by symmetry, the average use for $69 \le t \le 92$ must also be 8. Let the average use for $23 \le t \le 46$ (or, again because of symmetry, $46 \le t \le 69$) be x. Then, if the average for the entire range $0 \le t \le 92$ is to be 11, we must have (2x + 16)/4 = 11, so x = 14. Then the values $M(46) = \frac{1}{2}(8 + 14) = 11$ and $M(69) = \frac{1}{3}(8 + 28) = 12$.

Alternately, we know that M(23) = 8, so $\frac{1}{23} \int_{0}^{23} u(t) dt = 8$. Thus $\int_{0}^{23} u(t) dt = 184 = \int_{69}^{92} u(t) dt$. Then $M(92) = 11 = \frac{1}{92} \int_{0}^{92} u(t) dt$, so $\int_{0}^{92} u(t) dt = 1012$. But $\int_{0}^{92} u(t) dt = \int_{0}^{23} u(t) dt + \int_{23}^{69} u(t) dt = 184 + \int_{23}^{69} u(t) dt + 184$. Thus $\int_{23}^{69} u(t) dt = 1012 - 368 = 644$, so $\int_{23}^{46} u(t) dt = \int_{46}^{69} u(t) dt = 322$. Thus $M(46) = \frac{1}{46} \int_{0}^{46} u(t) dt = \frac{1}{46} (184 + 322) = 11$, and $M(69) = \frac{1}{69} \int_{0}^{69} u(t) dt = \frac{1}{69} (\int_{0}^{23} u(t) dt + \int_{23}^{69} u(t) dt = \frac{1}{69} (\int_{0}^{23} u(t) dt + \int_{23}^{69} u(t) dt = \frac{1}{69} (184 + 644) = 12$.

It is also worth noting that we can deduce M(46) = 11 from the symmetry of the graph: the average for the two halves of the data must be equal.