

Advanced Challenge Level 2 Problem #22

Consider the situation described as follows.

Function f is defined by the equation $f(x) = 1/x^2$. Line s is the line tangent to the graph of f at the point $P(w, 1/w^2)$. Point Q is the perpendicular projection of point P into the x -axis. In other words, point Q has coordinates $(w, 0)$. Point R , with coordinates $(k, 0)$, is the point where line s intersects the x -axis.

Answer the following. Make sure you show your entire process neatly organized.

1. Graph f .
2. Find the value of k when $w = 3$.
3. Express k in terms of w , if $w > 0$.
4. Suppose that w is increasing at a constant rate of 7 units per second. How fast is k changing the instant that $w = 5$?
5. How fast is the area of triangle PQR changing at the same instant?