

2.6.9 a,b

Exercice 2.6.9 a,b A rectangle is inscribed in a circle of radius 2. Let $P = (x, y)$ be the point in quadrant I that is a vertex of the rectangle on the circle:

(a) Express the area A of the rectangle as a function of x .

(b) Express the perimeter p of the rectangle as a function of x .

Solution

(a) The area of a rectangle of width w and height h is $A = wh$. We see from the picture that $w = 2x$ and $h = 2y$. Therefore $A = (2x)(2y) = 4xy$. Now point (x, y) lies on the circle of center $(0, 0)$ and radius $r = 2$, so $x^2 + y^2 = 2^2 = 4$; or $y = \sqrt{4-x^2}$ (notice that $y > 0$ since (x, y) is in the first quadrant), so we take the "positive square root". Hence $A = 4x\sqrt{4-x^2}$.

(b) The perimeter of a rectangle of width w and height h is $p = 2w + 2h$. Since $w = 2x$ and $h = 2y$, we have $p = 2(2x) + 2(2y) = 4x + 4y$. Since $y = \sqrt{4-x^2}$, then
$$p = 4x + 4\sqrt{4-x^2}.$$
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