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Instructor: UVIC Math
Course: MATH 100 (A01, A02, A03) Fall **Assignment:** Assignment 8
 2021

Find the smallest perimeter and the dimensions for a rectangle with an area of 121 in^2 .

With ℓ representing the length and w representing the width of a rectangle, the perimeter, P , and area, A , are $P = 2\ell + 2w$ and $A = \ell w$.

Substitute 121 for A , and solve for the variable ℓ .

$$\ell = \frac{A}{w} = \frac{121}{w}$$

Substitute the expression for ℓ into the formula for perimeter.

$$P = 2\frac{121}{w} + 2w$$

Find the derivative with respect to w .

$$\frac{dP}{dw} = -\frac{242}{w^2} + 2$$

Set the derivative equal to zero, and solve.

$$-\frac{242}{w^2} + 2 = 0$$

$$w = \pm 11$$

Since a rectangle dimension cannot be negative, discard -11 and test 11 .

The second derivative of the perimeter function $P = \frac{242}{w} + 2w$ is $\frac{d^2P}{dw^2} = \frac{484}{w^3}$.

Since $\frac{484}{w^3} > 0$ when w is positive, the perimeter $\frac{242}{w} + 2w$ for $w = 11$ is the smallest perimeter.

Substituting $w = 11$ into the area formula, $121 = \ell w$, the length is 11 in .

The smallest perimeter is $2(11) + 2(11) = 44 \text{ in}$.

The dimensions of the rectangle of smallest perimeter with area 121 in^2 are 11 in by 11 in .