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Question: What is the relationship between average cost and average product? Also, what is the relationship between marginal cost and marginal product? Show graphically.

Answer: We know,

$$AC = TC / Q \text{ ————— (i)}$$

$$AP = Q / N$$

$$\Rightarrow N / Q = 1 / AP \text{ ————— (ii)}$$

$$TVC = N P_c \text{ ————— (iii)}$$

Here,

AC = Average cost

AP = Average product

TC = Total cost

Q = Total product / Quantity / Output

N = Number of units of variable input

TVC = Total variable cost

P_c = Price per unit

In the long run,

$$AC = AVC$$

$$= TVC / Q$$

$$= N P_c / Q \text{ [Using (iii)]}$$

$$= P_c / AP \text{ [Using (ii)]}$$

Here,

AVC = Average variable cost

Now,

$$MC = \frac{d(TVC)}{dQ}$$

$$= \frac{d(N P_c)}{dQ} \text{ [Using (iii)]}$$

$$= P_c \frac{dN}{dQ}$$

$$= \frac{P_c}{\frac{dQ}{dN}}$$

$$= \frac{P_c}{MP} \text{ [Using (ii)]}$$

Here,

MC = Marginal Cost

MP = Marginal Product

Therefore we can conclude that cost and product are inversely proportional to each other.

