


Related Rates In class Examples:


1. A ladder 20 feet long leans against a vertical building. If the bottom of the ladder slides away from the building horizontally at a rate of 2 ft/sec, how fast is the ladder sliding down the building when the top of the ladder is 12 feet above the ground?



$x^2 + y^2 = 20^2$
 $\frac{dx}{dt} = 2 \text{ ft/sec}$
 $\frac{dy}{dt} = ?$ when $y = 12$
 $x^2 + 12^2 = 20^2$
 $x^2 = 16 \Rightarrow x = 16$
 $2x \frac{dx}{dt} + 2y \frac{dy}{dt} = 0$
 $2(16)(2) + 2(12) \frac{dy}{dt} = 0$
 $32 + 24 \frac{dy}{dt} = 0$
 $\frac{dy}{dt} = -\frac{8}{3} \text{ ft/sec}$


When the ladder is 12 ft above ground, the ladder is sliding down the building @ rate of $\frac{8}{3}$ ft/sec.

b) At what rate is the angle between the ladder and the wall changing when the ladder is 12 feet above the ground?



$\sin \theta = \frac{y}{20} = \frac{1}{20} y$
 $\cos \theta \cdot \frac{d\theta}{dt} = \frac{1}{20} \frac{dy}{dt}$
 when $y = 12$ ft, $x = 16$ ft
 $\frac{dy}{dt} = -\frac{8}{3} \text{ ft/sec}$
 $\left(\frac{12}{20}\right) \frac{d\theta}{dt} = \frac{1}{20} \left(-\frac{8}{3}\right)$
 $\frac{d\theta}{dt} = -\frac{1}{6} \text{ rad/sec}$

2. A water tank has the shape of an inverted right circular cone of altitude 12 feet and base radius 6 feet. If water is being pumped into the tank at a rate of 10 gal/min, approximate the rate at which the water level is rising when the water is 3 feet deep. (1 gal = 0.1337 ft³)

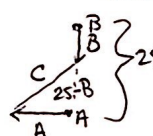


$\frac{dV}{dt} = 10 \text{ gal/min} = 1.337 \text{ ft}^3/\text{min}$
 $\frac{dh}{dt} = ?$ when $h = 3$ ft
 $\frac{6}{12} = \frac{r}{h} \Rightarrow r = \frac{1}{2}h$
 $\frac{dr}{dt} = ?$
 $\frac{dr}{dt} = .0946 \text{ ft/min}$
 $\frac{dr}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{dh}{dt}$
 $\frac{dh}{dt} = 2 \left(\frac{dr}{dt}\right) = 2(.0946) = .189 \text{ ft/min}$

When water is 3 ft deep, the water level is rising @ rate of .189 ft/min

The radius is increasing @ rate of .0946 ft/min when 3 ft deep water.

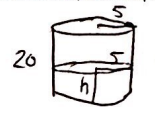
3. At 1:00 pm, ship A is 25 miles due south of ship B. If ship A is sailing west at a rate of 16 mph and ship B is sailing south at a rate of 20 mph, find the rate at which the distance between the ships is changing at 1:30 pm.



$\frac{dA}{dt} = 16 \text{ mph}$
 $\frac{dB}{dt} = 20 \text{ mph}$
 $\frac{dC}{dt} = ?$ when $t = \frac{1}{2} \text{ hr}$
 when $A = 8 \text{ mi}$
 $B = 10 \text{ mi}$
 $8^2 + 15^2 = C^2 \Rightarrow C = 17 \text{ mi}$
 $A^2 + (25-B)^2 = C^2$
 $2A \frac{dA}{dt} + 2(25-B) \left(-\frac{dB}{dt}\right) = 2C \frac{dC}{dt}$
 $2(8)(16) + 2(15)(-20) = 2(17) \frac{dC}{dt}$
 $256 - 600 = 34 \frac{dC}{dt}$
 $\frac{dC}{dt} = -10.1176 \text{ mph}$

The distance between the ships is decreasing at a rate of 10.1176 mph at 1:30 pm.

4. A right circular cylindrical container with a height of 20 ft and radius of 5 ft is being drained at the rate of 30 cubic ft per hour. At what rate is the depth of the liquid changing when it is half full?



$\frac{dV}{dt} = -30 \text{ ft}^3/\text{hr}$
 $\frac{dh}{dt} = ?$
 Note with a cylinder the radius is constant
 $V = \pi r^2 h$
 $V = 25\pi h$
 $\frac{dV}{dt} = 25\pi \frac{dh}{dt}$
 $-30 = 25\pi \frac{dh}{dt}$
 $\frac{dh}{dt} = \frac{-30}{25\pi} = -\frac{6}{5\pi} \text{ ft/hr}$
 The depth of water is decreasing at rate of $\frac{6}{5\pi}$ ft/hr when $\frac{1}{2}$ full.