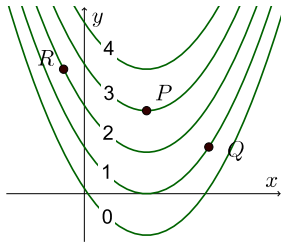


Question

The figure shows the level curves of a function $f(x, y)$. Rank the values of f_x at the points P, Q, R .



- A. $f_x(Q) < f_x(P) < f_x(R)$
- B. $f_x(R) < f_x(P) < f_x(Q)$
- C. $f_x(Q) < f_x(R) < f_x(P)$
- D. $f_x(P) < f_x(Q) < f_x(R)$