

Problem of the Week

Problem D and Solution

Cutting the Corner

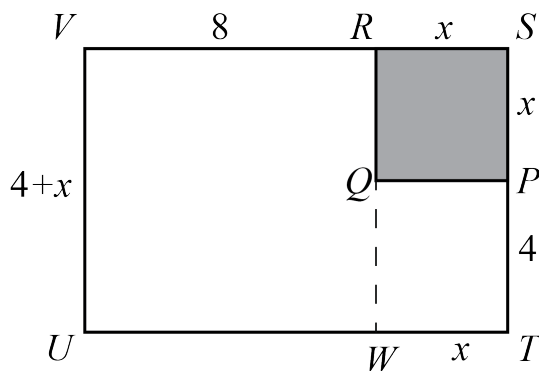
Problem

Rectangle $STUV$ has P on ST , R on SV , and Q inside the rectangle such that $PQRS$ is a square. When square $PQRS$ is removed from rectangle $STUV$, the remaining shape has an area of 92 m^2 .

If $PT = 4 \text{ m}$ and $RV = 8 \text{ m}$, what is the area of rectangle $STUV$?

Solution

Let x represent the side length of square $PQRS$. In the diagram, extend RQ to intersect TU at W . This creates rectangle $PTWQ$ and rectangle $RWUV$. Also, $UV = PT + SP = (4 + x) \text{ m}$ and $TW = RS = x \text{ m}$.



We are given that $\text{area } PTWQ + \text{area } RWUV = 92 \text{ m}^2$. That is,

$$PT \times TW + RV \times UV = 92$$

$$4x + 8(4 + x) = 92$$

$$4x + 32 + 8x = 92$$

$$12x + 32 = 92$$

$$12x = 60$$

$$x = 5$$

Thus, $x = 5 \text{ m}$, and so $SV = 8 + x = 13 \text{ m}$, and $UV = 4 + x = 9 \text{ m}$.

Therefore, the area of rectangle $STUV$ is $SV \times UV = 13 \times 9 = 117 \text{ m}^2$.