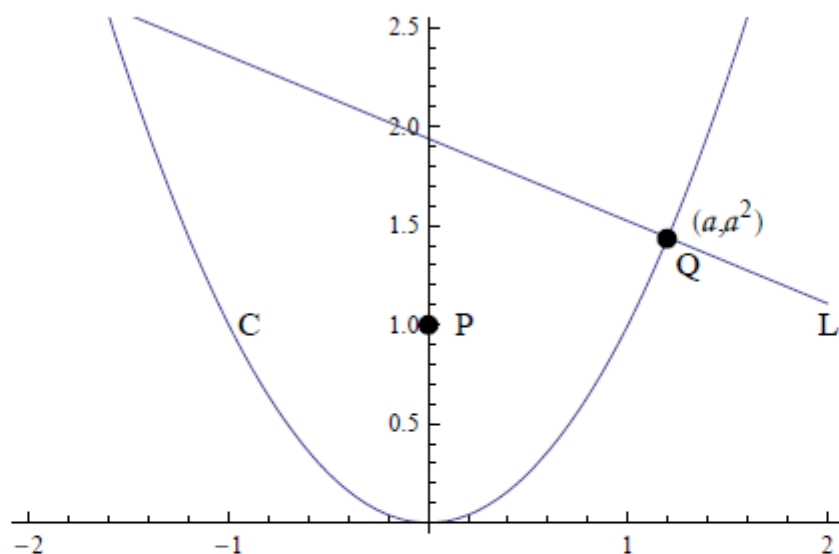


As shown in the diagram below:  $C$  is the parabola with equation  $y = x^2$ ;  $P$  is the point  $(0, 1)$ ;  $Q$  is the point  $(a, a^2)$  on  $C$ ;  $L$  is the normal to  $C$  which passes through  $Q$ .



- (i) Find the equation of  $L$ .
- (ii) For what values of  $a$  does  $L$  pass through  $P$ ?
- (iii) Determine  $|QP|^2$  as a function of  $a$ , where  $|QP|$  denotes the distance from  $P$  to  $Q$ .
- (iv) Find the values of  $a$  for which  $|QP|$  is smallest.
- (v) Find a point  $R$ , in the  $xy$ -plane but not on  $C$ , such that  $|RQ|$  is smallest for a unique value of  $a$ . Briefly justify your answer.