

Calculus with Parametric equations

Let C be a parametric curve described by the parametric equations $x = f(t), y = g(t)$. If the function f and g are differentiable and y is also a differentiable function of x , the three derivatives $\frac{dy}{dx}$, $\frac{dy}{dt}$ and $\frac{dx}{dt}$ are related by the Chain rule:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt}$$

using this we can obtain the formula to compute $\frac{dy}{dx}$ from $\frac{dx}{dt}$ and $\frac{dy}{dt}$:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} \quad \text{if} \quad \frac{dx}{dt} \neq 0$$

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- ▶ The value of $\frac{dy}{dx}$ gives the slope of a tangent to the curve at any given point. This sometimes helps us to draw the graph of the curve.
- ▶ The curve has a **horizontal tangent** when $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$, and has a **vertical tangent** when $\frac{dy}{dx} = \infty$.
- ▶ The second derivative $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ can also be obtained from $\frac{dy}{dx}$ and $\frac{dx}{dt}$. Indeed,

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right) = \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right)}{\frac{dx}{dt}} \quad \text{if} \quad \frac{dx}{dt} \neq 0$$

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 $P = (4 + 4, -8 + 6) = (8, -2)$.

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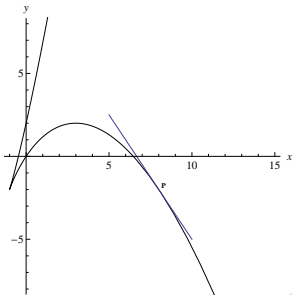
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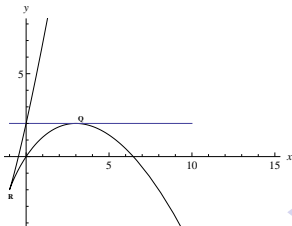
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- ▶ When $t = 1$, we have $\frac{dx}{dt} = 2t - 2 = 0$ and there is not a well defined tangent. If the curve describes the motion of a particle, this is a point where the particle has stooped. In this case, we see that the corresponding point on the curve is $R = (-1, -2)$ and the curve has a cusp(sharp point).

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Example 1 (c) Does the parametric curve given below have a vertical tangent?

$$x = t^2 - 2t \quad y = t^3 - 3t$$

(d) Use the second derivative to determine where the graph is concave up and concave down.

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- ▶ Therefore $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{3}{2}(t+1)\right)}{2t-2} = \frac{3}{4(t-1)}$

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- ▶ We see that $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} > 0$ if $t > 1$ and $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} < 0$ if $t < 1$.

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- ▶ We see that $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} > 0$ if $t > 1$ and $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} < 0$ if $t < 1$.
- ▶ Therefore the graph is concave down if $t < 1$ and concave up if $t > 1$. (when $t = 1$, the point on the curve is at the cusp).

Example 2

Consider the curve \mathcal{C} defined by the parametric equations

$$x = t \cos t \quad y = t \sin t \quad -\pi \leq t \leq \pi$$

Find the equations of both tangents to \mathcal{C} at $(0, \frac{\pi}{2})$

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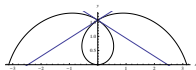
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- ▶ The equations of the tangents are given by $y - \frac{\pi}{2} = \frac{-2}{\pi}x$ and $y - \frac{\pi}{2} = \frac{2}{\pi}x$.



Area under a curve

Recall that the area under the curve $y = F(x)$ where $a \leq x \leq b$ and $F(x) > 0$ is given by

$$\int_a^b F(x) dx$$

If **this curve (of form $y = F(x)$, $F(x) > 0$, $a \leq x \leq b$)** can be traced out **once** by parametric equations $x = f(t)$ and $y = g(t)$, $\alpha \leq t \leq \beta$ then we can calculate the area under the curve by computing the integral:

$$\left| \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} g(t)f'(t) dt \right| = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} g(t)f'(t) dt \quad \text{or} \quad \int_{\beta}^{\alpha} g(t)f'(t) dt$$

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- ▶ The graph of this curve is a quarter ellipse, starting at $(2, 0)$ and moving counterclockwise to the point $(0, 3)$.

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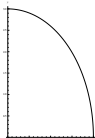
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▶ Therefore the area under the curve is $\frac{3\pi}{2}$.



Arc Length: Length of a curve

If a curve \mathcal{C} is given by parametric equations $x = f(t)$, $y = g(t)$, $\alpha \leq t \leq \beta$, where the derivatives of f and g are continuous in the interval $\alpha \leq t \leq \beta$ and \mathcal{C} is traversed exactly once as t increases from α to β , then we can compute the length of the curve with the following integral:

$$L = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \sqrt{(x'(t))^2 + (y'(t))^2} dt$$

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- ▶ If the curve is of the form $y = F(x)$, $a \leq x \leq b$, this formula can be derived from our previous formula

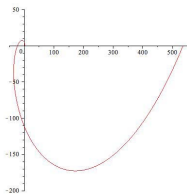
$$L = \int_a^b \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2} dx$$

using the reverse substitution, $x = f(t)$, giving $\frac{dx}{dt} = f'(t)$.

Example

Example Find the arc length of the spiral defined by

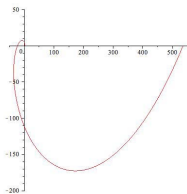
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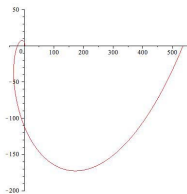


► $x'(t) = e^t \cos t - e^t \sin t, \quad y'(t) = e^t \sin t + e^t \cos t.$

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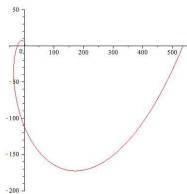


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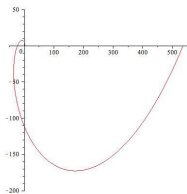


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- ▶ $= \int_0^{2\pi} e^t \sqrt{2} dt = \sqrt{2} e^t \Big|_0^{2\pi} = \sqrt{2}(e^{2\pi} - 1)$.

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Do you see any problems?

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- ▶ $= 2 \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{1} dt = 4\pi$
- ▶ The problem is that this parametric curve traces out the circle twice, so we get twice the circumference of the circle as our answer.