

10.2 Parametric Curves.

f, g differentiable, want to find tangent line at a point on curve $x = f(t)$, $y = g(t)$, y also differentiable function of x . Then by the chain rule,

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

If $\frac{dx}{dt} \neq 0$, we can solve to get $\boxed{\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/dt}{dx/dt}}.$

From this equation, it follows that

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right) = \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right)}{dx/dt}.$$

Warning! $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \neq \frac{\frac{d^2y}{dt^2}}{\frac{d^2x}{dt^2}}$.

Ex1 $x = t \sin t$, $y = t^2 + t$

Then $\frac{dy}{dt} = 2t+1$, $\frac{dx}{dt} = t \cos t + \sin t$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2t+1}{t \cos t + \sin t}}$$

Ex2 Find equation of tangent line at $t=0$

for $x = e^t \sin \pi t$, $y = e^{2t}$ $\rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2e^{2t}}{\pi e^t \cos \pi t + e^t \sin \pi t}$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 2e^{2t}$$

$$\text{at } t=0, \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{2}{\pi}$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \pi e^t \cos \pi t + e^t \sin \pi t$$

When $t=0$, $x = e^0 \sin 0 = 0$, $y = e^{2 \cdot 0} = 1$

So tangent line is given by $y = \frac{2}{\pi}(x-0) + 1$
 $= \frac{2}{\pi} + 1$

Ex3 Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$, $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$. For what t is curve concave up?

$$x = t^2 + 1, \quad y = e^t - 1$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = e^t, \quad \frac{dx}{dt} = 2t \rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{e^t}{2t}$$

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

$$\text{Setting } \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 0, \quad -2t^{-3}e^t + 2e^t \cdot t^{-2} = 0$$

$$\cancel{-2e^t} + \cancel{2te^t} = 0$$

$$\cancel{2e^t(-1+t)} = 0$$

$$\underline{\underline{+t=1}}$$

$$\text{P} \quad t^{-3}e^t(-1+t) = 0 \Rightarrow t=1$$

Plugging in $t=2$, get $-2^{-3}e^2 + e^2 \cdot 2^{-2} = 2^{-3}e^2(-1+2) > 0$

\Rightarrow concave up on $(+1, \infty)$

Arc length

From chapter 8, we know that if a curve C is given by $y = f(x)$ and $f'(x)$ is continuous, $a \leq x \leq b$, then

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

If we can parametrize C by $x = f(t)$, $y = g(t)$ for $\alpha \leq t \leq \beta$ with $\frac{dx}{dt} > 0$, then since $f(\alpha) = a$, $f(\beta) = b$, we have

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

$$\boxed{L = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt}$$

Ex 4 Find the exact length

$$x = 1 + 3t^2, \quad y = 4 + 2t^3, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1.$$

$$\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 = (6t)^2 = 36t^2, \quad \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2 = (6t^2)^2 = 36t^4$$

$$L = \int_0^1 \sqrt{36t^2 + 36t^4} dt = 6 \int_0^1 t \sqrt{1 + t^2} dt \quad \begin{aligned} u &= 1+t^2 \\ du &= 2t dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 3 \int_1^2 u^{1/2} du = 3 \left(\frac{2}{3} u^{3/2} \right) \Big|_1^2 \\ &= 2 \cdot (2^{3/2} - 1) \end{aligned}$$

Ex 5 Find the distance traveled by particle with position (x, y) as t varies. Compare with length of curve.

$$x = \sin^2 t, \quad y = \cos^2 t, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 3\pi.$$

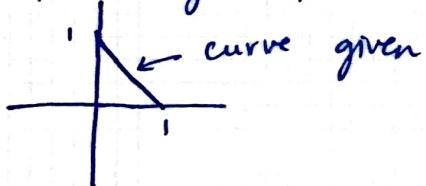
$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 2 \sin t \cos t, \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = -2 \cos t \sin t$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\frac{dx}{dt})^2 + (\frac{dy}{dt})^2 &= 4 \sin^2 t \cos^2 t + 4 \sin^2 t \cos^2 t \\ &= 8 \sin^2 t \cos^2 t \\ &= 2 \sin^2(2t) \end{aligned}$$

So the distance traveled is given by

$$\begin{aligned} D &= \int_0^{3\pi} \sqrt{2} |\sin(2t)| dt \\ &= 6\sqrt{2} \int_0^{\pi/2} \sin(2t) dt \\ &= 6\sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

To find length of curve, notice that $x, y \geq 0$ and $x+y=1$.



Whole curve is traversed as t goes from 0 to $\frac{\pi}{2}$,

$$\text{So } L = \int_0^{\pi/2} \sqrt{2} \sin(2t) dt = \sqrt{2}.$$

