

SECTION 7.2: CALCULUS OF PARAMETRIC CURVES

(1) Translating Calculus Ideas to Parametric Curves

Suppose you are given a curve defined as $x(t)$ and $y(t)$:

(a) $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}}$

(b) $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{dy}{dx} \right]}{\frac{dx}{dt}}$

(c) area under curve

$$A = \int_a^b f(x) dx = \int_a^b y dx = \int_{t=a}^{t=b} y(t) \cdot x'(t) dt$$

(d) arc length

$$L = \int_{t=a}^{t=b} \sqrt{(x'(t))^2 + (y'(t))^2} dt$$

See last page for explanation

(2) Given the parametric equations $x(t) = t^3 + 1$, $y(t) = 2t - t^2$, answer the following questions without eliminating the parameter.

(a) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ and $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$.

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 3t^2, \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = 2 - 2t; \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy/dt}{dx/dt} = \frac{2-2t}{3t^2} = \frac{2}{3} (t^{-2} - t^{-1})$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{dy}{dx} \right] = \frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{2}{3} (t^{-2} - t^{-1}) \right] = \frac{2}{3} (-2t^{-3} + t^{-2})$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{dy}{dx} \right]}{\frac{dx}{dt}} = \frac{\frac{2}{3} (-2t^{-3} + t^{-2})}{3t^2} = \frac{2}{9} (-2t^{-5} + t^{-4})$$

$$x(t) = t^3 + 1, \quad y(t) = 2t - t^2$$

(b) Write the equation of the tangent line to the curve at $t = 1$.

$$x(1) = 2, \quad y(1) = 2 - 1 = 1 \quad \text{point } (2, 1)$$

$$\boxed{y = 1}$$

$$\text{Slope } \left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{t=1} = \frac{2}{3} \left(\frac{1}{1^2} - \frac{1}{1} \right) = 0$$

(c) Is the curve concave up or concave down at $t = 1$?

$$\left. \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \right|_{t=1} = \frac{2}{9} \left(\frac{-2}{1^5} + \frac{1}{1^4} \right) = \frac{2}{9} (-1) = \frac{-2}{9} < 0$$

$\boxed{\text{concave down}}$

(d) Determine the area below the curve and above the x -axis.

$$y = 0 \quad \text{when } t = 0 \text{ and } t = 2.$$

$$A = \int_0^2 y \, dx = \int_0^2 (2t - t^2)(3t^2) \, dt = \int_0^2 (6t^3 - 3t^4) \, dt$$

$$= \left[\frac{6}{4} t^4 - \frac{3}{5} t^5 \right]_0^2 = \frac{6}{4} 2^4 - \frac{3}{5} 2^5 = 24 - \frac{96}{5} = \frac{24}{5}$$

(3) Determine the arc length of the cycloid $x(\theta) = \theta - \sin(\theta)$ and $y(\theta) = 1 - \cos(\theta)$ from $t = 0$ to $t = 2\pi$.

$$\bullet \frac{dx}{d\theta} = 1 - \cos(\theta), \quad \frac{dy}{d\theta} = \sin \theta$$

$$\bullet L = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{d\theta}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{d\theta}\right)^2} \, d\theta$$

$$\bullet \left(\frac{dx}{d\theta}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{d\theta}\right)^2 = (1 - \cos \theta)^2 + \sin^2 \theta$$

$$= 2 \int_0^{2\pi} \left| \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \right| \, d\theta$$

$$= 1 - 2\cos \theta + \cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta$$

$$= 2 - 2\cos \theta.$$

$$= 2 \int_0^{2\pi} \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \, d\theta = -4 \cos\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \Big|_0^{2\pi}$$

$$\bullet \sqrt{2 - 2\cos \theta} = \sqrt{4\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}\cos\left(2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)\right)\right)}$$

$$= 2 \sqrt{\sin^2\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)} = 2 \left| \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \right|$$

$$\uparrow \text{use: } \sin^2 x = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cos(2x)$$

$$= -4 \left(\cos(\pi) - \cos(0) \right) = -4(-1-1)$$

$$= 8$$

1.a

Chain Rule: if $z = f(w)$, $w = g(v)$

$$\text{then } \frac{dz}{dv} = \frac{dz}{dw} \cdot \frac{dw}{dv}$$

Suppose $y = f(x)$, $x = g(t)$, then

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

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

1b

Suppose we have $\frac{dy}{dx}$ and want $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$,

then use $\frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{dy}{dx} \right] = \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{dy}{dx} \right]}{\frac{dx}{dt}}$

1c

If $y \geq 0$ and $x' \geq 0$ on $t = \alpha$ to $t = \beta$,

then area between y and x -axis is

$$A = \int_a^b y \, dx = \int_{t=\alpha}^{t=\beta} y(t) x'(t) \, dt$$

1d

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

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