

§10-2 Curves Defined by Parametric Equation

$$x = f(t), \quad y = g(t)$$

1. Tangents :

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

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

2. Areas :

$$A = \int_a^b y dx = \int_a^\beta g(t) f'(t) dt .$$

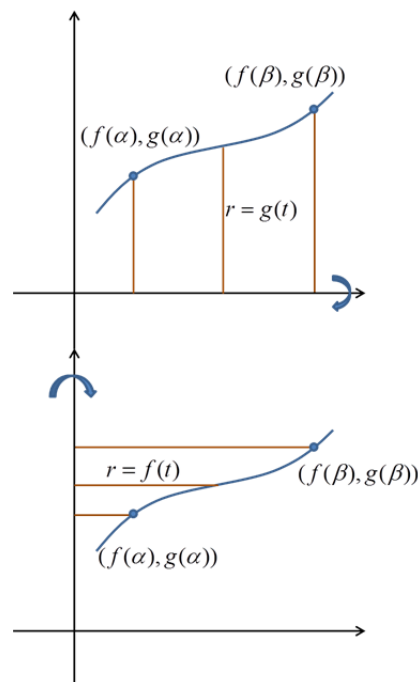
3. Arc Length :

$$L = \int_a^b ds = \int_a^\beta \sqrt{(dx)^2 + (dy)^2} = \int_a^\beta \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt .$$

4. Surface Area :

$$S = \int_a^b 2\pi r ds$$

$$= \begin{cases} 2\pi \int_a^\beta g(t) \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt \\ 2\pi \int_a^\beta f(t) \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt \end{cases}$$



Example 1 :

Given $x = t^2$, $y = t^3 - 3t$, $t \in R$. Find the equations of the tangents to the above curve at $(3, 0)$.

Solution :

$$\begin{aligned}t^3 - 3t &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow t &= 0 \text{ (不合) or } \pm\sqrt{3} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{3t^2 - 3}{2t} = \frac{6}{2(\pm\sqrt{3})} = \pm\sqrt{3} \\ \Rightarrow \text{Two tangents : } &y = \sqrt{3}(x - 3) \text{ and } y = -\sqrt{3}(x - 3).\end{aligned}$$

Example 2 :

Find the tangents to the cycloid $x = r(\theta - \sin \theta)$, $y = r(1 - \cos \theta)$ at $\theta = \frac{\pi}{3}$.

Solution :

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{\sin \theta}{1 - \cos \theta} \Big|_{\theta = \frac{\pi}{3}} = \sqrt{3} \\ x &= r\left(\frac{\pi}{3} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right), y = \frac{r}{2} \\ \Rightarrow \text{The tangent : } &\sqrt{3}x - y = r\left(\frac{\pi}{\sqrt{3}} - 2\right).\end{aligned}$$

Example 3 :

Let $x = r(\theta - \sin \theta)$, $y = r(1 - \cos \theta)$. Find $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$.

Solution :

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\sin \theta}{1 - \cos \theta}$$

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

$$= \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right)}{\frac{dx}{dt}}$$

$$= \frac{\cos \theta (1 - \cos \theta) - \sin^2 \theta}{r(1 - \cos \theta)^3}$$

$$= \frac{\cos \theta - 1}{r(1 - \cos \theta)^3}.$$

Example 4 :

Find the area and arc length under one arch of the cycloid

$$x = r(\theta - \sin \theta), y = r(1 - \cos \theta). (0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi)$$

Solution :

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \int_0^{2\pi} r^2 (1 - \cos \theta)(1 - \cos \theta) d\theta \\ &= r^2 \int_0^{2\pi} 1 - 2\cos \theta + \cos^2 \theta d\theta = 3\pi r^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} L &= r \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{(1 - \cos \theta)^2 + \sin^2 \theta} d\theta \\ &= r \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{2 - 2\cos \theta} d\theta \\ &= 2r \int_0^{2\pi} \sin \frac{\theta}{2} d\theta \\ &= 8r. \end{aligned}$$

Example 5 :

Show that the surface area of a sphere of radius r is $4\pi r^2$.

Solution :

$$S = \int 2\pi r ds = 2\pi \int_0^\pi r^2 \sin \theta d\theta = 4\pi r^2.$$