

① Consider the parabola

$$y = \frac{x^2}{4} - 1$$

Find  $\vec{T}$ ,  $\vec{N}$ ,  $\kappa$ ,  $f$  at  $(2, 0)$ . Sketch the osculating circle at this point.

$y = \frac{x^2}{4} - 1$  we can use the parametrization  
 $\vec{r}(t) = (t, \frac{t^2}{4} - 1)$

For the point  $(2, 0)$  we have  $t = 2$

• First derivative:

$$\vec{r}'(t) = (1, \frac{t}{2}) \quad \text{at } (2, 0) \Rightarrow \vec{r}'(2) = (1, 1)$$

• The unit tangent vector  $\vec{T}$

$$\vec{T}(t) = \frac{\vec{r}'(t)}{\|\vec{r}'(t)\|}; \quad \|\vec{r}'(t)\| = \sqrt{1^2 + (\frac{t}{2})^2} = \sqrt{1 + \frac{t^2}{4}} =$$

$$= \frac{\sqrt{4+t^2}}{2} = \frac{\sqrt{4+t^2}}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{T}(t) = \left( \frac{1}{\frac{\sqrt{4+t^2}}{2}}, \frac{\frac{t}{2}}{\frac{\sqrt{4+t^2}}{2}} \right) = \left( \frac{2}{\sqrt{4+t^2}}, \frac{t}{\sqrt{4+t^2}} \right)$$

$$\vec{T}(2) = \left( \frac{2}{\sqrt{4+4}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{4+4}} \right) = \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$$

• The normal vector  $\vec{N}$ :

$$\vec{N}(t) = \frac{\vec{T}'(t)}{\|\vec{T}'(t)\|}$$

We need to compute  $\vec{T}'(t)$ . Let's denote

$$\vec{T}(t) = (\vec{T}_1(t), \vec{T}_2(t)):$$

$$\vec{T}_1(t) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4+t^2}}, \quad \vec{T}_2(t) = \frac{t}{\sqrt{4+t^2}}$$



Compute the derivative of  $T_1(t)$  and  $T_2(t)$

$$\vec{T}_1'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{2}{\sqrt{4+t^2}} \right) = \frac{2 \cdot (-\frac{1}{2}) \cdot 2t}{(4+t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = - \frac{2t}{(4+t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$\vec{T}_2'(t) = \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{t}{\sqrt{4+t^2}} \right) = \frac{4}{(4+t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\vec{T}'(t) = \left( -\frac{2t}{(4+t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}, \frac{4}{(4+t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \right)$$

Compute the magnitude of  $\vec{T}'(t)$ :

$$\|\vec{T}'(t)\| = \sqrt{\left(-\frac{2t}{(4+t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{4}{(4+t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}\right)^2} = \frac{\sqrt{4t^2+16}}{(4+t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \frac{2}{4+t^2}$$

So,  $\vec{N}(t)$  is:

$$\vec{N}(t) = \frac{1}{\|\vec{T}'(t)\|} \vec{T}'(t) = \left( -\frac{t}{\sqrt{4+t^2}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{4+t^2}} \right)$$

$$\vec{N}(2) = \left( -\frac{2}{\sqrt{4+4}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{4+4}} \right) = \left( -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right)$$

• Curvature  $K$

$$K(t) = \frac{\|\vec{T}'(t)\|}{\|\vec{r}'(t)\|} \quad ; \text{ we have: } \|\vec{T}'(t)\| = \frac{2}{4+t^2}$$

$$\|\vec{r}'(t)\| = \frac{\sqrt{4+t^2}}{2}$$

$$\text{Thus, } K(t) = \frac{2}{(4+t^2) \cdot \frac{\sqrt{4+t^2}}{2}} = \frac{4}{(4+t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$K(2) = \frac{4}{(4+4)^{\frac{3}{2}}} = \frac{4}{8\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}$$



• Radius of Curvature  $\rho$

$$\rho(t) = \frac{1}{K(t)} = \frac{(4+t^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{4}$$

$$\rho(2) = \frac{(4+4)^{\frac{3}{2}}}{4} = \frac{8\sqrt{2}}{4} = \cancel{2\sqrt{2}} \quad 2\sqrt{2}$$

Osculating Circle:

The center of the osculating circle at  $(2,0)$  can be found by moving a distance  $\rho(2)$  in the direction of the normal vector from the point  $(2,0)$

Center of Osc. Circle =

$$\begin{aligned} &= (2,0) + \rho(2) \cdot N(2) = (2,0) + 2\sqrt{2} \left( -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = \\ &= (2,0) + (-2,2) = (0,2) \Rightarrow \text{osc circle centered at} \\ &\quad (0,2) \text{ of radius } 2\sqrt{2} \end{aligned}$$

