

"If people sat outside and looked at the stars each night, I'll bet they'd live a lot differently."

CALVIN (BILL WATTERSON)

1. For the parametrically defined curve $\begin{cases} x = 3t \\ y = 9t^2 + t \end{cases} \quad -\infty < t < \infty$, eliminate the parameter t . Sketch the resulting curve in the xy cartesian coordinate system.

Solution: Solving $x = 3t$ for t yields $t = x/3$. Substituting this into $y = 9t^2 + t$ gives $y = x^2 + x/3$. The graph is an upward facing parabola with vertex $(x = -\frac{1}{6}, y = -\frac{1}{36})$ and x-intercepts $x = -\frac{1}{3}$ and $x = 0$.

2. For the parametrically defined curve $\begin{cases} x = 3 \cos(t) \\ y = 9 \sin(t) \end{cases} \quad 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$, eliminate the parameter t . Sketch the resulting curve in the xy cartesian coordinate system.

Solution: $(x/3)^2 + (y/9)^2 = 1$. The graph is an ellipse with vertices $(x = -3, y = 0)$, $(x = 3, y = 0)$, $(x = 0, y = -9)$, and $(x = 0, y = 9)$.

3. For the parametrically defined curve $\begin{cases} x = -\sqrt{1+t} \\ y = \sqrt{3t} \end{cases} \quad 0 \leq t < \infty$, find the numerical values of $\left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{t=3}$ and $\left. \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \right|_{t=3}$.

Solution: When I make cornbread, I like to gather all my ingredients before I start combining and mixing them. The same is true for math. Before we start,

let's gather our four ingredients; we have

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dt}\bigg|_{t=3} &= \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{t}}\bigg|_{t=3} = \frac{1}{2}, \\ \frac{d^2y}{dt^2}\bigg|_{t=3} &= -\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{4t^{\frac{3}{2}}}\right)\bigg|_{t=3} = -\frac{1}{12}, \\ \frac{dx}{dt}\bigg|_{t=3} &= -\left(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{t+1}}\right)\bigg|_{t=3} = -\frac{1}{4}, \\ \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}\bigg|_{t=3} &= \frac{1}{4(t+1)^{\frac{3}{2}}}\bigg|_{t=3} = \frac{1}{32}.\end{aligned}$$

We're now ready to make cornbread:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx}\bigg|_{t=3} &= \frac{\frac{1}{2}}{-\frac{1}{4}} = -2, \\ \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}\bigg|_{t=3} &= \frac{\left(-\frac{1}{4}\right) \times \left(-\frac{1}{12}\right) - \frac{1}{32} \times \frac{1}{2}}{\left(-\frac{1}{4}\right)^3} = -\frac{1}{3}\end{aligned}$$

If you are unlike me (the laziest boy in Buffalo County), you might like to calculate $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ fully symbolically, simplify it, and last paste in the given value of t . But that's the long row to hoe and it's terribly error prone too. I think that finding the numeric values of all needed derivatives with respect to t is better than finding symbolic values for the x derivatives and then pasting in the given value for t .

4. Represent the arc length of the polar curve $r = a(1 - \sin(\theta))$ as a definite integral. Here a is a positive real number.

Solution: A quick Desmos picture shows that the parameter space is $[0, 2\pi]$. The integrand is the square root of $r^2 + \left(\frac{dr}{d\theta}\right)^2$. Specifically

$$r^2 + \left(\frac{dr}{d\theta}\right)^2 = a^2(1 - \sin(\theta))^2 + a^2 \cos(\theta)^2 = 2a^2(1 - \sin(\theta)). \quad (1)$$

$$\sqrt{2} |a| \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{1 - \sin(\theta)} d\theta. \quad (2)$$

5. Find all points on the polar curve $r = 3 - 2\sin(\theta)$ that have a horizontal tangent line.

Solution: $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}, \theta = \arcsin\left(\frac{3}{4}\right), \theta = \pi - \arcsin\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)$

6. Find area of the region bounded by the polar curve $r = 3 - 2\sin(\theta)$

Solution: A quick Desmos picture shows that the parameter space is $[0, 2\pi]$. $\frac{11}{2}\pi$.

7. Find the area bounded by the polar curve $r = \cos(4\theta)$

Solution: A quick Desmos picture shows that the parameter space is $[0, 2\pi]$ and the curve looks like an eight petal flower. (The chocolate flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*) has eight petals). So $\frac{\pi}{2}$