

10.7.91

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Question

The point of intersection of the tangents at the ends of the latus rectum of the parabola $y^2 = 4x$ is

Solution: General Form of Conic

The general form of a conic section is:

$$\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{V} \mathbf{x} + 2\mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{x} + f = 0 \quad (1)$$

For the parabola $y^2 = 4x$, we can identify the matrices and vectors:

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (3)$$

$$f = 0 \quad (4)$$

Solution: Latus Rectum Endpoints

For a parabola $y^2 = 4ax$, the latus rectum endpoints are $(a, 2a)$ and $(a, -2a)$.

Given parabola is $y^2 = 4x$. Comparing with $y^2 = 4ax$, we find $4a = 4$, which means $a = 1$.

So, the endpoints of the latus rectum are:

$$\mathbf{q_1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{q_2} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (6)$$

Solution: Tangent Formula

The tangent at a point \mathbf{q} on the conic is given by the formula:

$$(\mathbf{V}\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{u})^\top \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{q} + f = 0 \quad (7)$$

Let's apply this for the first endpoint $\mathbf{q}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$.

Solution: Tangent at \mathbf{q}_1

For $\mathbf{q}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$:

$$\mathbf{V}\mathbf{q}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (8)$$

$$\mathbf{V}\mathbf{q}_1 + \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (9)$$

$$\mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{q}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = -2 \quad (10)$$

$$f = 0 \quad (11)$$

The tangent at \mathbf{q}_1 is:

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}^\top \mathbf{x} - 2 = 0 \quad (12)$$

$$-2x + 2y - 2 = 0 \quad (13)$$

Solution: Tangent at \mathbf{q}_2

For $\mathbf{q}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$:

$$\mathbf{V}\mathbf{q}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (15)$$

$$\mathbf{V}\mathbf{q}_2 + \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (16)$$

$$\mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{q}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} = -2 \quad (17)$$

$$f = 0 \quad (18)$$

The tangent at \mathbf{q}_2 is:

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}^\top \mathbf{x} - 2 = 0 \quad (19)$$

$$-2x - 2y - 2 = 0 \quad (20)$$

Solution: Intersection of Tangents

We solve the system of linear equations from ?? and ??:

$$y = x + 1$$

$$y = -x - 1$$

Equating the right-hand sides:

$$x + 1 = -x - 1$$

$$2x = -2$$

$$x = -1$$

Substitute $x = -1$ into the first equation:

$$y = (-1) + 1 = 0$$

Therefore, the point of intersection is $\begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

Solution: Final Answer

The point of intersection of the tangents at the ends of the latus rectum of the parabola $y^2 = 4x$ is $\boxed{(-1, 0)}$.

C Code

```
#include <stdio.h>

// Function to find the point of intersection of tangents at the
// ends of the latus rectum
// For  $y^2 = 4ax$ , the ends of the latus rectum are  $(a, 2a)$  and  $(a, -2a)$ 
// The tangents are:
// at  $(a, 2a)$ :  $y(2a) = 2a(x + a) \Rightarrow 2ay = 2ax + 2a^2 \Rightarrow y = x + a$ 
// at  $(a, -2a)$ :  $y(-2a) = 2a(x + a) \Rightarrow -2ay = 2ax + 2a^2 \Rightarrow -y = x + a \Rightarrow y = -x - a$ 
//  $x + a = -x - a \Rightarrow 2x = -2a \Rightarrow x = -a$ 
// Substitute  $x = -a$  into  $y = x + a \Rightarrow y = -a + a \Rightarrow y = 0$ 
void findIntersectionOfTangents(double a_param, double *
    intersect_x, double *intersect_y) {
    *intersect_x = -a_param;
    *intersect_y = 0.0;
}
```

Python Code through shared output

```
import ctypes
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# Load the shared library
lib_code = ctypes.CDLL(/Users/nishidkhandagre/matgeo/venv/bin/
                        code18.so)

# Define the argument types and return type for the C function
lib_code.findIntersectionOfTangents.argtypes = [
    ctypes.c_double, # a_param
    ctypes.POINTER(ctypes.c_double), # intersect_x
    ctypes.POINTER(ctypes.c_double) # intersect_y
]

lib_code.findIntersectionOfTangents.restype = None

# Given parabola:  $y^2 = 4x$ 
# Comparing with  $y^2 = 4ax$ , we get  $4a = 4$ , so  $a = 1$ 
a_value = 1.0
```

Python Code through shared output

```
# Create ctypes doubles to hold the results
intersect_x_result = ctypes.c_double()
intersect_y_result = ctypes.c_double()

# Call the C function to find the point of intersection
lib_code.findIntersectionOfTangents(
    a_value,
    ctypes.byref(intersect_x_result),
    ctypes.byref(intersect_y_result)
)

intersection_x = intersect_x_result.value
intersection_y = intersect_y_result.value

print(fFor the parabola  $y^2 = 4x$  (where  $a = \{a\_value\}$ ):)
print(fThe point of intersection of the tangents at the ends of
      the latus rectum is ({intersection_x:.2f}, {intersection_y:.2f}))
```

Python Code through shared output

```
# --- Plotting Section ---
# Generate points for the parabola  $y^2 = 4x$ 
y_parabola = np.linspace(-4, 4, 400)
x_parabola = (y_parabola**2) / 4

# Ends of the latus rectum
latus_rectum_end1_x, latus_rectum_end1_y = a_value, 2 * a_value
latus_rectum_end2_x, latus_rectum_end2_y = a_value, -2 * a_value

# Tangent equations derived from the problem ( $y = x + a$  and  $y = -x - a$ )
# For  $y = x + a$  (tangent at  $(a, 2a)$ )
x_tangent1 = np.linspace(-3, 3, 100)
y_tangent1 = x_tangent1 + a_value

# For  $y = -x - a$  (tangent at  $(a, -2a)$ )
x_tangent2 = np.linspace(-3, 3, 100)
y_tangent2 = -x_tangent2 - a_value
```

Python Code through shared output

```
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 8))

# Plot the parabola
plt.plot(x_parabola, y_parabola, 'b-', label='Parabola  $y^2 = 4x$ 
')

# Plot the focus
plt.scatter(a_value, 0, color='orange', s=100, zorder=5, label=f'
Focus ({a_value}, 0)')

plt.annotate(f'F({a_value},0)', (a_value, 0), textcoords=offset
points, xytext=(5,5), ha='left')

# Plot the latus rectum line
plt.plot([a_value, a_value], [-2*a_value, 2*a_value], 'k-', label
='Latus Rectum (x=1)')

# Plot the ends of the latus rectum
plt.scatter(latus_rectum_end1_x, latus_rectum_end1_y, color='red'
, s=100, zorder=5, label=f'End L ({latus_rectum_end1_x},{
latus_rectum_end1_y})')
```

Python Code through shared output

```
plt.annotate(f'L({latus_rectum_end1_x},{latus_rectum_end1_y})', (
    latus_rectum_end1_x, latus_rectum_end1_y), textcoords=offset
    points, xytext=(5,5), ha='left')
plt.scatter(latus_rectum_end2_x, latus_rectum_end2_y, color='red'
    , s=100, zorder=5, label=f'End L\' ({latus_rectum_end2_x},{
    latus_rectum_end2_y})')
plt.annotate(f'L\' ({latus_rectum_end2_x},{latus_rectum_end2_y})',
    (latus_rectum_end2_x, latus_rectum_end2_y), textcoords=
    offset points, xytext=(5,5), ha='right')

# Plot the tangents
plt.plot(x_tangent1, y_tangent1, 'g-', label=f'Tangent at L (y=x
    +{a_value})')
plt.plot(x_tangent2, y_tangent2, 'm-', label=f'Tangent at L\' (y
    =-x-{a_value})')
```

Python Code through shared output

```
# Plot the intersection point
plt.scatter(intersection_x, intersection_y, color='purple', s
            =100, zorder=6, label=f'Intersection ({intersection_x:.2f},{
            intersection_y:.2f})')
plt.annotate(f'P({intersection_x:.2f},{intersection_y:.2f})', (
            intersection_x, intersection_y), textcoords=offset points,
            xytext=(10, -15), ha='left', color='purple', fontsize=12)
plt.xlim(-3, 6)
plt.ylim(-4, 4)
plt.gca().set_aspect('equal', adjustable='box')
plt.xlabel('X-axis')
plt.ylabel('Y-axis')
plt.title('Parabola, Latus Rectum, Tangents, and Intersection
            Point')
plt.grid(True)
plt.legend()
plt.axhline(0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
plt.axvline(0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
plt.show()
```


Python Code : Direct

```
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

def find_intersection_of_tangents_at_latus_rectum_ends(a_param):
    #the ends of the latus rectum are:
    # L1 = (a, 2a)
    # L2 = (a, -2a)
    # 2. Determine the equations of the tangents at these points
    # The general equation of a tangent to  $y^2 = 4ax$  at a point (
        x1, y1) is:
    #  $y * y1 = 2a * (x + x1)$ 
    # Tangent at L1 (a, 2a):
    #  $y * (2a) = 2a * (x + a)$ 
    #  $y = x + a$  (Equation for Tangent 1)

    # Tangent at L2 (a, -2a):
    #  $y * (-2a) = 2a * (x + a)$ 
    #  $y = -x - a$  (Equation for Tangent 2)
```

Python Code : Direct

```
# Solving the system:
#  $x + a = -x - a$ 
#  $x = -a$ 

# Substitute  $x = -a$ 
#  $y = (-a) + a$ 
#  $y = 0$ 

x_intersect = -a_param
y_intersect = 0.0
return x_intersect, y_intersect

# --- Main execution and plotting ---
# Given parabola:  $y^2 = 4x$ 
#  $4a = 4 \Rightarrow a = 1$ 
a_value = 1.0
```

Python Code : Direct

```
# Calculate the intersection point using the Python function
intersection_x, intersection_y =
    find_intersection_of_tangents_at_latus_rectum_ends(a_value)

print(fFor the parabola  $y^2 = 4x$  (where  $a = \{a\_value\}$ ):)
print(fThe point of intersection of the tangents at the ends of
    the latus rectum is ( $\{intersection\_x:.2f\}$ ,  $\{intersection\_y:.2f\}$ ))

# --- Plotting Section ---
plt.figure(figsize=(10, 8))

# 1. Plot the parabola  $y^2 = 4x$ 
y_parabola = np.linspace(-4, 4, 400)
x_parabola = (y_parabola**2) / (4 * a_value)
plt.plot(x_parabola, y_parabola, 'b-', label=f'Parabola  $y^2 = 4x$ ')
```

2. Plot the focus

```
focus_x, focus_y = a_value, 0
plt.scatter(focus_x, focus_y, color='orange', s=100, zorder=5,
            label=f'Focus ({focus_x}, {focus_y})')
plt.annotate(f'F({focus_x},{focus_y})', (focus_x, focus_y),
            textcoords=offset points, xytext=(5,5), ha='left')
```

3. Plot the latus rectum line

```
latus_rectum_x_val = a_value
latus_rectum_y_min, latus_rectum_y_max = -2 * a_value, 2 *
    a_value
plt.plot([latus_rectum_x_val, latus_rectum_x_val], [
    latus_rectum_y_min, latus_rectum_y_max], 'k-', label='Latus
    Rectum (x=1)')
```

4. Plot the ends of the latus rectum

```
latus_rectum_end1 = (a_value, 2 * a_value)
```

```
latus_rectum_end2 = (a_value, -2 * a_value)
```

```
plt.scatter(latus_rectum_end1[0], latus_rectum_end1[1], color='red', s=100, zorder=5, label=f'End L ({latus_rectum_end1[0]}, {latus_rectum_end1[1]})')
```

```
plt.annotate(f'L ({latus_rectum_end1[0]}, {latus_rectum_end1[1]})', latus_rectum_end1, textcoords=offset points, xytext=(5,5), ha='left')
```

```
plt.scatter(latus_rectum_end2[0], latus_rectum_end2[1], color='red', s=100, zorder=5, label=f'End L\ ' ({latus_rectum_end2[0]}, {latus_rectum_end2[1]})')
```

```
plt.annotate(f'L\ ' ({latus_rectum_end2[0]}, {latus_rectum_end2[1]})', latus_rectum_end2, textcoords=offset points, xytext=(5,-5), ha='right')
```

Python Code : Direct

5. Plot the tangents

```
x_tangent_range = np.linspace(-3, 3, 100)
y_tangent1 = x_tangent_range + a_value
y_tangent2 = -x_tangent_range - a_value

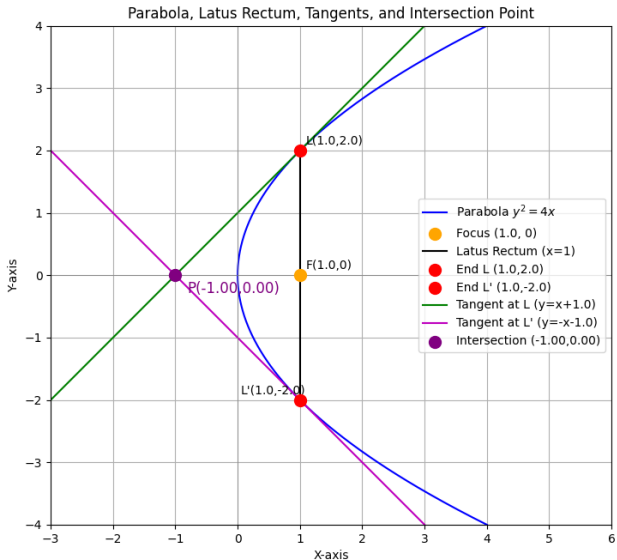
plt.plot(x_tangent_range, y_tangent1, 'g-', label=f'Tangent at L
(y=x+{a_value})')
plt.plot(x_tangent_range, y_tangent2, 'm-', label=f'Tangent at L
\' (y=-x-{a_value})')
```

6. Plot the intersection point

```
plt.scatter(intersection_x, intersection_y, color='purple', s
=100, zorder=6, label=f'Intersection ({intersection_x:.2f},{
intersection_y:.2f})')
plt.annotate(f'P({intersection_x:.2f},{intersection_y:.2f})', (
intersection_x, intersection_y), textcoords=offset points,
xytext=(10, -15), ha='left', color='purple', fontsize=12)
```

Python Code : Direct

```
# --- Plot Aesthetics ---
plt.xlim(-3, 6)
plt.ylim(-4, 4)
plt.gca().set_aspect('equal', adjustable='box')
plt.xlabel('X-axis')
plt.ylabel('Y-axis')
plt.title('Parabola, Latus Rectum, Tangents, and Intersection
          Point')
plt.grid(True)
plt.legend()
plt.axhline(0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
plt.axvline(0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
plt.show()
```



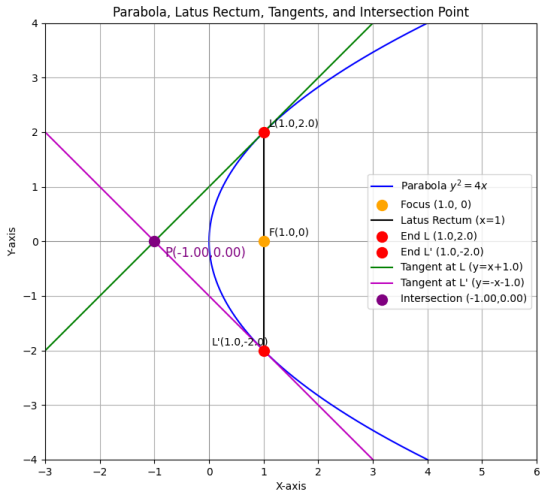


Figure: