

Conic Assignment

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Problem: Find the equation of all lines having slope -1 that are tangents to the curve $y = \frac{1}{x-1}$, $x \neq 1$

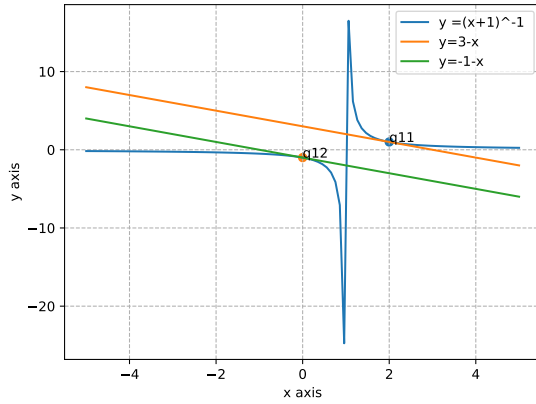


Fig 1. Curve

Construction

SOLUTION: The following python code is used for constructing conic with tangents.

https://github.com/AnushaJella/assignment_conic/blob/main/conic1.py

See Fig 1 for the input parameters in Table 1.

Symbol	Value	Description
\mathbf{x}	$[-5, 5, 100]$	to find \mathbf{y}

Table 1

Solution

The equation of a conic with directrix $\mathbf{n}^\top \mathbf{x} = c$, eccentricity e and focus \mathbf{F} is given by

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

where

$$\mathbf{V} = \|\mathbf{n}\|^2 \mathbf{I} - e^2 \mathbf{n} \mathbf{n}^\top, \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{u} = ce^2 \mathbf{n} - \|\mathbf{n}\|^2 \mathbf{F}, \quad (3)$$

$$f = \|\mathbf{n}\|^2 \|\mathbf{F}\|^2 - c^2 e^2 \quad (4)$$

Given,

$$\mathbf{V} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} f = -1, m = -1 \quad (5)$$

$$\mathbf{n} = \begin{pmatrix} -m \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{V}^{-1}(k_i \mathbf{n} - \mathbf{u}^\top)^\top$$

where,

$$k_i = \pm \sqrt{\frac{f_0}{\mathbf{n}^\top \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{n}}}$$

$$f_0 = f + \mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{u}$$

by substituting (5) in above equations we get $\mathbf{q} = (0, -1)$ and $(2, 1)$.

Then equation of tangent is:

$$(\mathbf{V} \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{u})^\top \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{u}^\top \mathbf{q} + f = 0 \quad (6)$$

here 2 lines are possible with slope -1 that are tangent to given line equation.

They are

$$\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} + 1 = 0$$

$$\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{y} - 3 = 0$$