

Calculus II, Section 10.2, #6
Calculus with Parametric Curves

Find an equation of the tangent line to the curve at the point corresponding to the given value of the parameter.¹

$$x = e^t \sin(\pi t), \quad y = e^{2t}; \quad t = 0$$

To write the equation of the tangent line (indeed, any line) we need the slope of the line and a point on the line.

The point on the line is given by

$$\begin{aligned} x(0) &= e^0 \sin(\pi \cdot 0) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} y(0) &= e^{2 \cdot 0} \\ &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

So the point on the line is (0,1).

To find the slope, we compute the derivative, and then evaluate at $t = 0$.

$$x = e^t \sin(\pi t) \qquad y = e^{2t}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt} &= e^t \cdot \cos(\pi t) \cdot \pi + \sin(\pi t) \cdot e^t & \frac{dy}{dt} &= e^{2t} \cdot 2 \\ &= e^t (\pi \cos(\pi t) + \sin(\pi t)) & &= 2e^{2t} \end{aligned}$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} \\ &= \frac{2e^{2t}}{e^t (\pi \cos(\pi t) + \sin(\pi t))} \\ &= \frac{2e^t}{\pi \cos(\pi t) + \sin(\pi t)} \end{aligned}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} \left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{t=0} &= \frac{2e^0}{\pi \cos(\pi \cdot 0) + \sin(\pi \cdot 0)} \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \end{aligned}$$

Using point-slope form for the equation of a line, we get

$$y - 1 = \frac{2}{\pi} (x - 0)$$

or

$$y = \frac{2}{\pi} x + 1$$

¹Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 655, #6.