



ATOMIC ENERGY EDUCATION SOCIETY

(An autonomous body under Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India)

Chapter 6. Application Of Derivatives

Module-2 e-content

Tangents And Normals

Recall in class XI we learned that $\frac{dy}{dx}$ (if it exists) geometrically it represents the slope of the tangent to the curve y = f(x)y = f(x) at any point P(x, y).



Thus, if $\theta \neq \frac{\pi}{2}$ is the angle which the tangent to the curve at P makes with the positive direction of x-axis, then the slope of the tangent to the curve y = f(x) at the point P=tan $\theta = \frac{dy}{dx}$ at P.

If the tangent to the curve y = f(x) at the point P(x, y) is parallel to the x-axis, then $\theta = 0$.

$$\Rightarrow \tan \theta = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} \text{ at } P = 0$$

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If the tangent to the curve y = f(x) at the point P(x, y) is parallel to the y-axis, then $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

$$\Rightarrow \cot \theta = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dy} at P = 0$$

Further, if the tangent at P is not parallel to X-axis i.e $\theta \neq 0$ *i.e* $\tan \theta \neq \frac{dy}{dx}$ *at* $P \neq 0$, then the Slope of normal to the curve at $P = -\frac{1}{\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)_{P}}$

(The normal is perpendicular to the tangent) The gradient of a curve at a point is defined as the slope of the tangent to the curve at that point.

To find the equation of the tangent to the curve y = f(x)at a given point

- The given curve is y = f(x)
- Let $P(x_1, y_1)$ be any point on the curve y = f(x), then the slope of the tangent to the curve y = f(x) at the point $P(x_1, y_1)$ is the value of $\frac{dy}{dx}$ at P.
- So, the slope of the tangent to the curve y = f(x) at P is $\frac{dy}{dx}$ at (x_1, y_1)
- Therefore, by coordinate geometry, the equation of the tangent to the given curve y = f(x) at the point $P(x_1, y_1)$ is

$$y - y_1 = \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)_{(x_1, y_1)} (x - x_1).$$

• Remark:- If $\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)_{(x_1,y_1)}$ does not exist, then the tangent at P is parallel to y-axis and its equation is $x = x_1$

Procedure to find the equation of the tangent to the curve y = f(x) at the given point $P(x_1, y_1)$:-

• Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ from the given equation y = f(x).

• Find the value of $\frac{dy}{dx}$ at the given point $P(x_1, y_1)$, let $m = \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)_{(x_1, y_1)}$.

• The equation of the required tangent is $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$.

To find the equation of the normal to the curve y = f(x)at a given point:-

- The given curve is y = f(x)
- Let $P(x_1, y_1)$ be any point on the curve y = f(x), then the slope of the tangent to the curve y = f(x) at the point $P(x_1, y_1)$ is the value of $\frac{dy}{dx}$ at *P*.
- So, the slope of the normal to the curve y = f(x) at P is $P = -\frac{1}{\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)}$
- Therefore, by coordinate geometry, the equation of the tangent to the given curve y = f(x) at the point $P(x_1, y_1)$ is

$$y - y_1 = -\frac{1}{\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)_P}(x - x_1)$$

• Remark:- If $\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)_{(x_1,y_1)} = 0$, then the equation of the normal at P is $x = x_1$ and if $\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)_{(x_1,y_1)}$ does not exist, then the equation of the normal at P is $y = y_1$.

Procedure to find the equation of the normal to the curve y = f(x) at the given point $P(x_1, y_1)$:-

- Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ from the given equation y = f(x).
- Find the value of $\frac{dy}{dx}$ at the given point $P(x_1, y_1)$.
- If m is the slope of the normal to the given curve at P, then

• $m = -\frac{1}{\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)_{(x_1,y_1)}}$

• The equation of the required normal is $y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$.

Angle of intersection of two curves:-

- The angle of intersection of two curves is the angle between the tangents to the curves at their point of intersection.
- Let y = f(x) and y = g(x) be the two given curves and P be a point of intersection of these two curves. Let m₁, m₂ be the slopes of the tangents at P to the two curves. If θ be the (acute) angle of intersection of the two curves at P, then

$$\tan \theta = \left| \frac{m_1 - m_2}{1 + m_1 m_2} \right|$$

- In particular:-
- If $m_1m_2 = -1$, the curves are said to cut orthogonally.
- If $m_1 = m_2$, the curves touch each other.

Example:-1. Find the point at which the tangent to the curve $y = \sqrt{4x - 3} - 1$ has its slope $\frac{2}{3}$.

- Solution:- Let $P(x_1, y_1)$ be the required point.
- Given curve is $y = \sqrt{4x 3} 1$ (i)
- Differentiating (i) w.r.t.x, we get $\frac{dy}{dx} = (4x 3)^{\frac{-1}{2}} \cdot 4 = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4x-3}}$.
- \therefore The slope of the tangent at $P = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4x_1 3}}$.
- According to given, $\frac{2}{\sqrt{4x_1-3}} = \frac{2}{3} \Rightarrow \sqrt{4x_1-3} = 3$
- $\Rightarrow 4x_1 3 = 9, \Rightarrow x_1 = 3$
- As $P(x_1, y_1)$ lies on (i), $y_1 = \sqrt{4x_1 3} 1$
- $\Rightarrow \sqrt{4.3 3} 1 = \sqrt{9} 1 = 2$
- Hence, the required point is (3, 2).

Example.2 Find the equations of the tangent and normal to the curve $16x^2 + 9y^2 = 145 at (x_1, y_1)$, where $x_1 = 2 and y_1 > 0$.

- Solution:- The given curve is $16x^2 + 9y^2 = 145$ (i)
- Since (x_1, y_1) where $x_1 = 2, y_1 > 0$ lies on the curve (i), we get
- $16.2^2 + 9y_1^2 = 145 \Rightarrow 9y_1^2 = 145 64 \Rightarrow 9y_1^2 = 81$
- $\Rightarrow y_1^2 = 9 \Rightarrow y_1 = 3, -3 \text{ but } y_1 > 0 \Rightarrow y_1 = 3.$
- Therefore, the point (x_1, y_1) is (2,3).
- Differentiating (i) w.r.t.x, we get $16.2x + 9.2y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{16x}{9y}$,
- \therefore The slope of the tangent to the curve (i) at the point $(2,3) = -\frac{16.2}{93} = -\frac{32}{27}$.

 \therefore The equation of the tangent to the curve at (2, 3) is

$$y-3 = -\frac{32}{27}(x-2)$$
 or $32x + 27y = 145$.

The slope of the normal to the given curve at the point (2, 3) is $\frac{27}{32}$ $(m_2 = -\frac{1}{m_1})$

 \therefore The equation of the normal to the curve at (2,3) is

 $y-3 = \frac{27}{32}(x-2)$ or 27x - 32y + 42 = 0.

Example 3. Find all points on the curve $y = 4x^3 - 2x^5$ at which the tangents pass through origin.

• Solution:- The given curve is $y = 4x^3 - 2x^5$ (i)

• Let $P(x_1, y_1)$ be a point on the curve (i) at which the tangent to it pass through origin.

- Differentiating (i) w.r.t.x, we get, • $\frac{dy}{dx} = 4.3x^2 - 2.5x^4 = 12x^2 - 10x^4$
- The slope of tangent to (i) at $P(x_1, y_1) = 12x_1^2 10x_1^4$
- The equation of tangent to the curve at (x_1, y_1) is

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$$y - y_1 = (12x_1^2 - 10x_1^4) (x - x_1)$$

- As it passes through origin (0, 0)
- $0 y_1 = (12x_1^2 10x_1^4)(0 x_1)$
- $\Rightarrow y_1 = x_1(12x_1^2 10x_1^4)....(ii)$
- As the given curve passes through
- $P(x_1, y_1), y_1 = 4x_1^3 2x_1^5$(iii)
- From (ii) and (iii), we get
- $4x_1^3 2x_1^5 = 12x_1^3 10x_1^5 \Rightarrow 8x_1^5 8x_1^3 = 0$
- $\Rightarrow x_1^3(x_1^2 1) = 0 \Rightarrow x_1 = 0, 1, -1$
- When $x_1 = 0, y_1 = 0$; when $x_1 = 1, y_1 = 2$; when
- $x_1 = -1, y_1 = -2$
- Hence, the required points are (0,0), (1,2), (-1,-2).

THANK YOU

Prepared by Danavath Krishna PGT,AECS-1, JADUGUDA