

Parametric Equations and Calculus

If a smooth curve C is given by the equations $x = f(t)$ and $y = g(t)$, then

the slope of C at the point (x, y) is given by $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}}$ where $\frac{dx}{dt} \neq 0$, and

the second derivative is given by $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{dy}{dx} \right] = \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \left[\frac{dy}{dx} \right]}{\frac{dx}{dt}}$.