

# Equation of Tangent (Calculus Method)

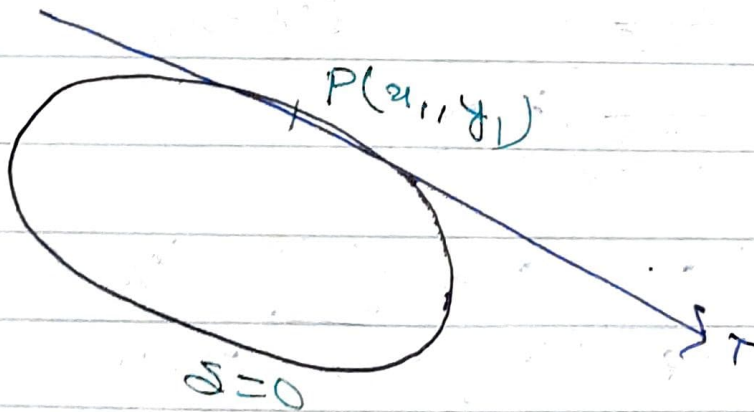
**THEOREM:**

To find the equation of a tangent to the conic

$$S = ax^2 + 2hxy + by^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c = 0$$

at the pt.  $(x_1, y_1)$

**Proof:**



Given equation of curve is

$$S \equiv ax^2 + 2hxy + by^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c = 0. \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

diff (1) partially w.r.t.  $x$  and  $y$ . we get

$$\frac{ds}{dx} = 2ax + 2y \frac{\partial(xy)}{\partial x} + b \frac{\partial(y^2)}{\partial x} + 2g \frac{\partial(c)}{\partial x}$$

$$= 2ax + 2y \frac{\partial(xy)}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(c)}{\partial x}$$

$$= 2ax + 2xy \frac{dx}{dx} + b \cdot 0 + 2 \cdot g \cdot 1 + 2f \cdot 0 + 0$$

$$= 2ax + 2xy + 2g$$

$$= 2(ax + xy + g)$$

$$\frac{ds}{dy} = a \frac{\partial(x^2)}{\partial y} + 2x \frac{\partial(xy)}{\partial y} + b \frac{\partial(y^2)}{\partial y} + 2g \frac{\partial(c)}{\partial y}$$

$$+ 2f \frac{\partial(f)}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial(c)}{\partial y}$$

$$= 2fx + 2by + 2f$$

$$= 2(fx + by + f)$$

Let PT be the tangent to the conic at any point P(x<sub>1</sub>, y<sub>1</sub>) then its eqn is

$$y - y_1 = \left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right)_{(x_1, y_1)} (x - x_1)$$

$$= - \left( \frac{\frac{\partial s}{\partial x}}{\frac{\partial s}{\partial y}} \right)_{(x_1, y_1)} (x - x_1)$$

$$= - \left\{ \frac{(2ax + 2y)}{(2fx + 2by + 2f)} \right\}_{(x_1, y_1)} (x - x_1)$$

$$= - \left( \frac{ax_1 + y_1}{fx_1 + by_1 + f} \right) \cdot (x - x_1)$$

$$2ax + 2y \frac{\partial(xy)}{\partial x} + b \frac{\partial(y^2)}{\partial x} + 2g \frac{\partial(c)}{\partial x} = 2(ax + xy + g)$$

$$\text{or, } 2yx_1 + by_1 + fy - 2x_1y_1 - by_1^2 - fy_1 = -ax_1 - 1kx_1 - 1ky_1 + 2ax_1y_1 + 2bx_1y_1 + 2cy_1$$

$$\text{or, } ax_1 + 2x_1y_1 + by_1 + 2x_1y_1 + 2bx_1y_1 + 2cy_1 = ax_1^2 + 2ax_1y_1 + 2bx_1y_1 + 2cy_1$$

or,  $ax_1 + 2x_1y_1 + by_1 + 2x_1y_1 + 2bx_1y_1 + 2cy_1$  both sides, we get

$$ax_1 + 2x_1y_1 + by_1 + 2x_1y_1 + 2bx_1y_1 + 2cy_1 = ax_1^2 + 2ax_1y_1 + 2bx_1y_1 + 2cy_1$$

$$\text{or, } ax_1 + 2x_1y_1 + by_1 + 2x_1y_1 + 2bx_1y_1 + 2cy_1 = ax_1^2 + 2ax_1y_1 + 2bx_1y_1 + 2cy_1$$

$$\therefore ax_1 + 2x_1y_1 + by_1 + 2x_1y_1 + 2bx_1y_1 + 2cy_1 = ax_1^2 + 2ax_1y_1 + 2bx_1y_1 + 2cy_1$$

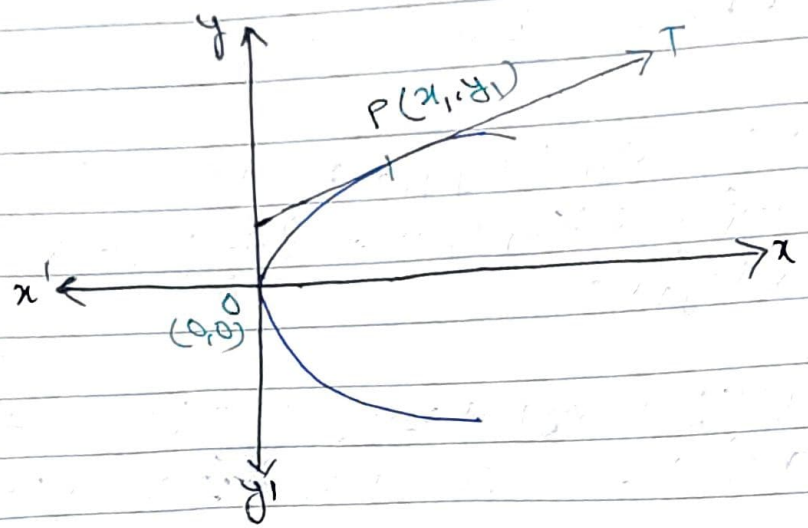
$\therefore$  The pt.  $(x_1, y_1)$  lies on the conic so it satisfies its equation i.e.  $ax_1^2 + 2ax_1y_1 + 2bx_1y_1 + 2cy_1 = 0$



### PARTICULAR CASES.

A) To find the eq<sup>n</sup> of tangent to the parabola  $y^2 = 4ax$  at any point  $(x_1, y_1)$

Proof:



given equation of parabola is

$$S \equiv y^2 = 4ax$$

$$S \equiv y^2 - 4ax = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

diff (1) partially w.r.t x & y we get

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial x} = -4a$$

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial y} = 2y$$

Let PT be the tangent to the parabola at any point P  $(x_1, y_1)$  then its eq<sup>n</sup> is

$$y - y_1 = \left( \frac{\partial S}{\partial y} \right)_{(x_1, y_1)} (x - x_1)$$

$$= - \left( \frac{\partial S}{\partial x} \right)_{(x_1, y_1)} (x - x_1)$$

$$= - \left( - \frac{2a}{2y_1} \right) (x - x_1)$$

$$= \frac{2a}{y_1} (x - x_1)$$

$$(y - y_1) y_1 = 2a(x - x_1)$$

$$\text{or, } yy_1 - y_1^2 = 2ax - 2ax_1$$

$$\text{or, } yy_1 = 2ax + y_1^2 - 2ax_1$$

$$\text{or, } yy_1 = 2ax + y_1^2 - 2ax_1 + 2ax_1 - 2ax_1$$

$$\text{or, } yy_1 = 2ax + y_1^2 + 4ax_1 - 2ax_1$$

[  $\therefore$  The pt.  $P(x_1, y_1)$  lies on the parabola so, it satisfies its eq<sup>n</sup> i.e.  $y_1^2 = 4ax_1$  ]

$$\therefore yy_1 = 2ax + 2ax_1$$

$$yy_1 = 2a(x + x_1)$$

Corollary.

$\hookrightarrow$  The eq<sup>n</sup> of tangent to the parabola  $y^2 = 4ax$  at any point  $(at^2, 2at)$  is

$$yy_1 = 2a(x + x_1)$$

$$y \cdot 2at = 2a(x + at^2)$$

$$yt = x + at^2$$

$\hookrightarrow$  The eq<sup>n</sup> of tangent to the parabola  $y^2 = 4ax$  at any pt.  $(\frac{a}{m^2}, \frac{2a}{m})$  is

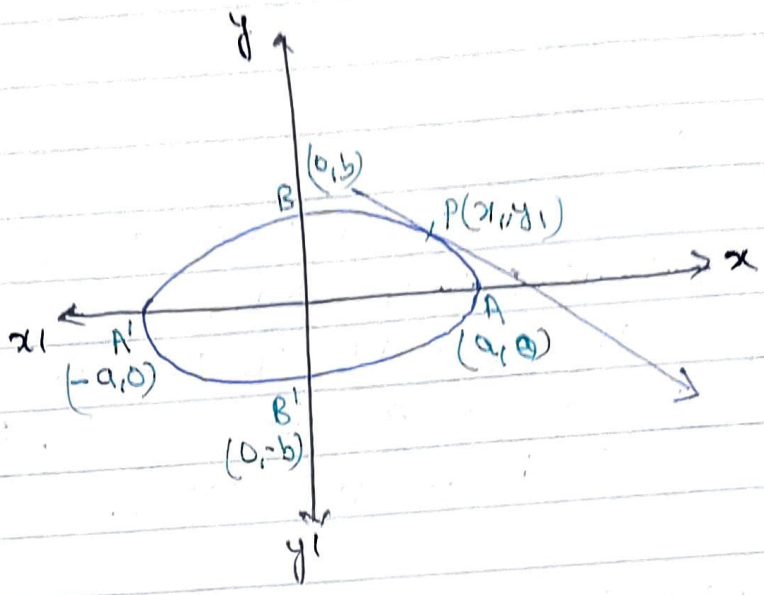
$$y \cdot \frac{2a}{m} = 2a \left( x + \frac{a}{m^2} \right)$$

$$\frac{y}{m} = x + \frac{a}{m^2}$$

$$my = m^2x + a$$

B) To find the equation of tangent to the ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$  at any point  $(x_1, y_1)$

Proof:



given equation of ellipse is

$$S \equiv \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$$

$$S \equiv \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} - 1 = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

diff (1) partially w.r.t. x and y we get

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial x} = \frac{2x}{a^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial y} = \frac{2y}{b^2}$$

Let PT be the tangent to the ellipse at any point  $P(x_1, y_1)$  then its eqn is

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



$$y - y_1 = \left( \begin{array}{c} -\frac{2x}{a^2} \\ \frac{2y}{b^2} \end{array} \right) (x - x_1) \quad (1)$$

$$= - \left\{ \frac{2x_1/a^2}{2y_1/b^2} \right\} (x - x_1) (x_1, y_1)$$

$$= - \frac{b^2}{a^2} \frac{x_1}{y_1} (x - x_1)$$

$$\text{or } \frac{(y - y_1) y_1}{b^2} = - \frac{x_1 (x - x_1)}{a^2}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{y_1 y - y_1^2}{b^2} = - \frac{x x_1 + x_1^2}{a^2}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{y y_1}{b^2} - \frac{y_1^2}{b^2} = - \frac{x x_1}{a^2} + \frac{x_1^2}{a^2}$$

$$\text{or } \frac{y y_1}{b^2} + \frac{x x_1}{a^2} = \frac{x_1^2}{a^2} + \frac{y_1^2}{b^2}$$

$$\therefore \boxed{\frac{x x_1}{a^2} + \frac{y y_1}{b^2} = 1}$$

$\therefore$  the pt  $P(x_1, y_1)$  lies on the ellipse, so it satisfies its eqn i.e.  $\frac{x_1^2}{a^2} + \frac{y_1^2}{b^2} = 1$

Corollary.

The eqn of tangent to the ellipse

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1 \text{ at any pt } (a \cos \phi, b \sin \phi) \text{ is}$$

$$\frac{x \cdot a \cos \phi}{a^2} + \frac{y \cdot b \sin \phi}{b^2} = 1$$

$$\therefore \boxed{\frac{x \cos \phi}{a} + \frac{y \sin \phi}{b} = 1}$$