

CURVES

LESSON 1

Q) What is a CURVE ?

A) A Curve Is a Graph That Changes Direction As You Move Along It. Unlike a Straight Line, It Does Not Have a Constant Slope, So The Steepness Is Different At Different Points. This Means The Rise Over Run Keeps Changing Instead of Staying The Same.

A Curve Represents Changing Rate of Change. At Some Points It May Be Steeper, And At Other Points It May Be Flatter. Because of This, You Cannot Describe a Curve With One Single Slope Like a Straight Line.

Instead, A Curve Is Described Using Many Small Slopes At Many Points, Which Leads To The Idea of The Derivative, Where You Measure The Slope At Exactly One Point On The Curve.

The Graph of a Straight Line Is Always Constant In Direction. It Has a Fixed Slope, Meaning The Rate of Change Between x and y Never Changes. No Matter Which Two Points You Pick On The Line, The Rise Over Run Stays The Same, So The Line Does Not Bend.

The Graph of a Curve Is Different Because Its Direction Keeps Changing. The Slope Is Not Constant—it Increases Or Decreases Depending On The Point You Look At. This Means The Rise Over Run Is Different At Different

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Locations On The Curve, So The Graph Bends Instead of Staying Straight.

A Straight Line Represents Constant Change, While a Curve Represents Changing Change. That Is Why Straight Lines Are Described With a Single Slope, But Curves Require Many Slopes, Which Leads To The Idea of The Derivative.

A Graph Is a Visual Way To Show The Relationship Between Two Variables, Usually x and y , On A Coordinate Plane. It Uses Points, Lines, Or Curves To Represent How One Value Changes Compared To Another.

The Three Main Forms of a Line Are:

Slope-Intercept Form:

$$y = mx + b$$

Where m Is The Slope And b Is The y -Intercept.

Point-Slope Form:

$$y_0 - y_1 = m (x_0 - x_1)$$

Where m Is The Slope And (x_1, y_1) Is a Point On The Line.

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Standard Form:

$$\mathbf{Ax + By = C}$$

Where A, B, And C Are Constants And The Equation Is Written In A Balanced Form.

These Three Forms Are Different Ways To Describe The Same Straight Line.

Q) Are There Similar Formulas to Describe a CURVE?

A) Yes—but Not In The Same Simple Way As Straight Lines.

A Straight Line Has Fixed Formulas Like $y = mx + b$, Because Its Slope Never Changes. A Curve Does Not Have One Fixed Slope, So It Cannot Be Fully Described With One Simple Equation Form In The Same “Three-Form System.”

Instead, Curves Are Described Using Functions And Calculus Tools, Such As:

1. General Function Form

$$\mathbf{y = f(x)}$$

This Means y Depends On x, But The Relationship Can Bend, Rise, Or Fall In Different Ways.

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2. Polynomial Form (Common Curves)

$$y = ax^2 + bx + c$$

This Creates A Parabola (A Curved Graph), Where The Slope Changes At Every Point.

3. Derivative (Slope Of A Curve)

$$f'(x) = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

This Gives The Instant Slope At Any Point On The Curve, Instead Of One Fixed Slope.

Key Idea

A Line Has One Slope, But A Curve Has Many Changing Slopes, So It Needs Functions To Describe The Shape And Derivatives To Describe The Slope At Each Point.

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In Short, A Line Has Fixed Forms, While A Curve Is Described Using Functions And Calculus, Not One Single Form.

The Extended Form of The Derivative Comes From Applying The Limit Definition To Different Situations, Not Just One Point.

1. Basic Extended (Definition Form)

$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

This Is The Most Important Extended Form. It Shows How Slope Is Found Using Two Nearby Points That Get Infinitely Close.

2. Two-Point (Difference Quotient Form)

$$f'(x) = \lim_{x_2 \rightarrow x_1} \frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1}$$

This Shows The Same Idea Using Two Separate Points Instead Of A Shift in h.

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3. Alternative Notation (Leibniz Form)

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x}$$

This Highlights That The Derivative Is The Instantaneous Rise Over Run.

Key Idea

The Extended Form Of The Derivative Means:
Take Rise Over Run, Then Shrink The Distance Between Points To Zero To Get The Exact Slope At A Point.

Q) Is The CIRCLE a CURVE ?

A) Yes, The Circle Is A Curve.

A Circle Is A Smooth, Continuous Shape Where Every Point Is The Same Distance From The Center.

Unlike A Straight Line, It Has No Constant Direction Or Constant Slope, So It Bends At Every Point.

Because The Circle Changes Direction Continuously, Its Slope Is Always Changing.

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In Fact, At Any Point On A Circle, You Can Find A Tangent Line, Which Has A Slope That Depends On That Exact Point.

In Simple Words, A Circle Is A Special Type Of Curve That Never Stays Straight And Always Bends Smoothly Around A Center Point.

Q) Can We Take the Derivative of a Circle ?

A) Yes, We Can Find The Derivative Of A Circle, But Not In The Simple Form $y = f(x)$ Without Extra Steps.

A Circle Is Written As An Equation Like:

$$X^2 + Y^2 = r^2$$

This Is Not Solved For y , So We Use Implicit Differentiation To Find The Derivative.

When We Differentiate Both Sides, We Get The Slope Of The Circle At Any Point:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$$

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This Means The Slope Depends On The Position On The Circle. At Every Point, The Tangent Line Has A Different Slope.

In Simple Words, Yes We Can Find The Derivative Of A Circle, And It Tells Us The Slope Of The Tangent Line At Any Point On The Circle, But The Slope Changes Everywhere Around The Shape.

Q) Can This Form be Extended in Regards to the Circle?

A) Yes, The Equation :

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$$

Can Be Extended And Interpreted More Deeply In Relation To Both The Circle And The Derivative Idea.

1. Extended Meaning On The Circle

For A Circle:

$$X^2 + Y^2 = r^2$$

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The Derivative Shows That At Every Point On The Circle, The Slope Of The Tangent Line Depends On The Position On The Curve.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$$

This Means The Slope Changes Everywhere Around The Circle. It Is Not Constant, But Always Depends On x And y.

2. Geometric Extension (Perpendicular Relationship)

The Radius From The Center Has Slope:

$$\frac{y}{x}$$

The Tangent Line Has Slope:

$$-\frac{x}{y}$$

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Their Product Equals:

$$\left(\frac{y}{x} \right) \left(-\frac{x}{y} \right) = -1$$

So The Radius And Tangent Are Perpendicular At Every Point.

3. Derivative Concept Extension

This Shows That A Derivative Is Not Just A Single Number, But A Rule That Gives The Slope At Every Point On A Curve. For A Circle, It Creates A Complete Pattern Of Changing Slopes Around The Shape.

In Simple Words

This Equation Extends The Derivative Idea By Showing That A Circle Has A Different Slope At Every Point, And That Each Slope Is Geometrically Linked To The Circle Itself.