

Lectured By Dr. H. K. Yadav.
 Deptt. of Mathematics, Mandoor College, B.B.
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 Differential Calculus (Curvature)

Q.1 For the cardioid $r = a(1 - \cos\theta)$, prove that the chord of curvature through the pole is $\frac{4}{3}r$.

Soln We have, $r = a(1 - \cos\theta)$ ——— (I)

Differentiating w.r.t. to θ , we get
 $\frac{dr}{d\theta} = a \sin\theta$. ——— (II)

We know that

$$\tan\phi = r \frac{d\theta}{dr} = \frac{a(1 - \cos\theta)}{a \sin\theta} \quad [\text{from I and II}]$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan\phi = \frac{r \sin\theta}{r \sin\theta \cos\theta} = \tan\frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan\phi = \tan\frac{\theta}{2} \Rightarrow \phi = \frac{\theta}{2} \quad \text{————— (III)}$$

Also, we have $p = r \sin\phi = r \sin\frac{\theta}{2}$ [from III]

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow p &= r \sin\frac{\theta}{2} = r \sqrt{\frac{1 - \cos\theta}{2}} \\ &= r \sqrt{\frac{r}{2a}} \quad [\text{from (I)}] \\ p &= \frac{r^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\sqrt{2a}} \quad \text{————— IV} \end{aligned}$$

Differentiating w.r.t. r , we get

$$\frac{dp}{dr} = \frac{3}{2} \frac{r^{\frac{3}{2}-1}}{\sqrt{2a}} = \frac{3}{2} \frac{r^{\frac{1}{2}}}{\sqrt{2a}} \quad \text{————— V}$$

Hence, the chord of curvature through the pole $= 2p \frac{dr}{dp}$

$$= 2 \times \frac{r^{\frac{3}{2}}}{\sqrt{2a}} \times \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{\sqrt{2a}}{r^{\frac{1}{2}}} \quad [\text{from IV and V}]$$

$$= \frac{4}{3} r^{\frac{3}{2}-\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{4}{3} r$$

Proved.

Q.2. Find the chord of curvature through the pole of the Cardioid $r = a(1 + \cos \theta)$

Soln. We have $r = a(1 + \cos \theta)$ ————— (I)

Differentiating w.r.t. θ , we get

$$\frac{dr}{d\theta} = -a \sin \theta \text{ ————— (II)}$$

We know that $\tan \phi = r \frac{d\theta}{dr}$

$$\Rightarrow \tan \phi = \frac{a(1 + \cos \theta)}{a \sin \theta} \quad [\text{from I and II}]$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan \phi = -\frac{r \cos \frac{\theta}{2}}{r \sin \frac{\theta}{2}} = -\cot \frac{\theta}{2} = \tan \left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\theta}{2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan \phi = \tan \left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\theta}{2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi = \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\theta}{2}$$

Also, we have, $p = r \sin \phi = r \sin \left(\frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{\theta}{2} \right)$

$$\Rightarrow p = r \cos \frac{\theta}{2} = r \sqrt{\frac{1 + \cos \theta}{2}}$$

$$= r \sqrt{\frac{r}{2a}} \quad [\text{from I}]$$

$$\Rightarrow p = \frac{r^{3/2}}{\sqrt{2a}} \text{ ————— (III)}$$

Differentiating w.r.t. r , we get

$$\frac{dp}{dr} = \frac{3}{2} \frac{r^{3/2-1}}{\sqrt{2a}} = \frac{3}{2} \frac{r^{1/2}}{\sqrt{2a}} \text{ ————— (IV)}$$

Hence, chord of curvature through the pole

$$= 2p \frac{dr}{dp} = 2 \times \frac{r^{3/2}}{\sqrt{2a}} \times \frac{2}{3} \times \frac{\sqrt{2a}}{r^{1/2}} \quad [\text{from III and IV}]$$

$$= \frac{4}{3} r^{3/2-1/2} = \frac{4}{3} r$$

Solved.