

Lecture Notes:

- Parametric equations express both x and y coordinates as a function of a third parameter, often called t . One way to interpret this is to think of t as “time” where $x(t)$ is the x -coordinate of a moving point at time t and $y(t)$ is the y -coordinate of the point at the same time.

In each of the following examples, draw the start/end points and the direction of motion.

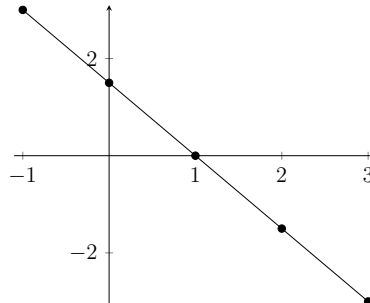
Example 1:

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = 1 + 2t \\ y(t) = -3t \end{cases}$$

$$-1 \leq t \leq 1$$

or, $\langle 1 + 2t, -3t \rangle$

t	x(t)	y(t)
-1	-1	3
-1/2	0	3/2
0	1	0
1/2	2	-3/2
1	3	-3



To graph, we can also eliminate the parameter t by solving for t in terms of one of the other variables and substituting.

$$\frac{x - 1}{2} = t$$

$$y = -3t = -3 \left(\frac{x - 1}{2} \right) = -\frac{3}{2}x + \frac{3}{2}$$

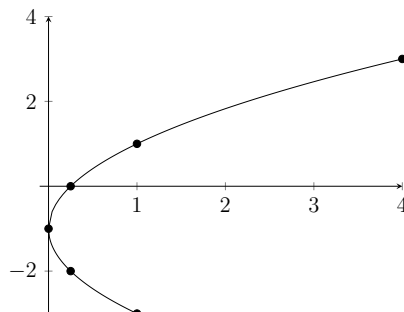
Example 2:

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = t^2 \\ y(t) = 2t - 1 \end{cases}$$

$$-1 \leq t \leq 2$$

or, $\langle t^2, 2t - 1 \rangle$

t	x(t)	y(t)
-1	1	-3
-1/2	1/4	-2
0	0	-1
1/2	1/4	0
1	1	1
3/2	9/4	2
2	4	3



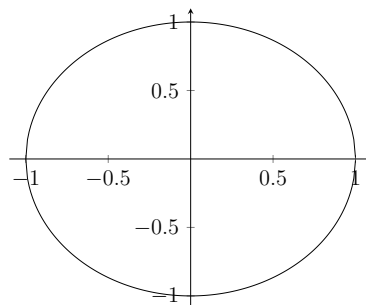
To eliminate the parameter: $t = \frac{y + 1}{2}$, so $x = \left(\frac{y + 1}{2} \right)^2$.

Example 3:

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = \cos(t) \\ y(t) = \sin(t) \end{cases}$$

$$0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$$

or, $\langle \cos(t), \sin(t) \rangle$



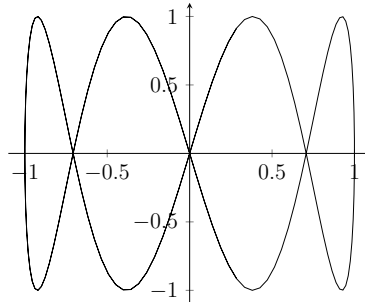
Something to point out: If we have $\pi \leq t \leq 3\pi$, we have the same circle but with a different start/end point. If we have $0 \leq t \leq 4\pi$, we go around the circle twice.

We can't eliminate the parameter, since arcsin and arccos have limited range, so we won't recover all values of t . (Also this curve is neither a function of x nor a function of y .)

Example 4:

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = \cos(t) \\ y(t) = \sin(4t) \\ 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi \end{cases}$$

or, $\langle \cos(t), \sin(4t) \rangle$



Since $\sin(4t)$ completes 4 periods in $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$ and $\cos(t)$ completes 1 period in $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$, we see that as the x -values cycle 1, 0, -1, 0, 1, the y values cycle 0, 1, 0, -1, 0 four times.

I might hook my computer up to the projector and show this on Desmos.

- If we're thinking of parametric equations as the movement of a point over time, we can expand our idea to include movement in 3D space. In order to do this, we need to be able to graph in 3D space!

- Draw a 3-axis graph and draw some points. (E.G. $(0, 0, 0)$, $(0, 0, 2)$, $(0, 2, 1)$, $(1, 0, 1)$, $(-1, 2, 3)$.)

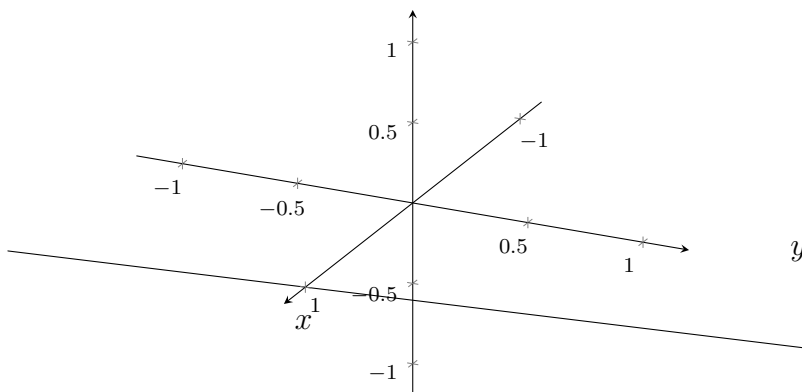
Example 1:

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = 1 + 2t \\ y(t) = -3t \\ z(t) = t \\ -1 \leq t \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

or, $\langle 1 + 2t, -3t, t \rangle$

t	x(t)	y(t)	z(t)
-1	-1	3	-1
-1/2	0	3/2	-1/2
0	1	0	0
1/2	2	-3/2	1/2
1	3	-3	1

z



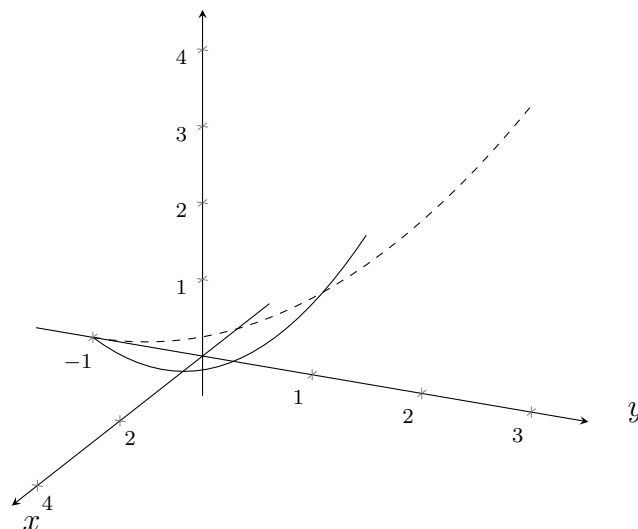
Example 2:

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = 2t \\ y(t) = 2t - 1 \\ z(t) = t^2 \end{cases}$$

$$0 \leq t \leq 2$$

or, $\langle 2t, 2t - 1, t^2 \rangle$

t	x(t)	y(t)	z(t)
0	0	-1	0
1/2	1	0	1/4
1	2	1	1
3/2	3	2	9/4
2	4	3	4



This is a good example to talk about traces—they've seen $y(t) = 2t - 1, z(t) = t^2$ as $x(t), y(t)$ in Example 2 of the previous section, so they can recognize that trace in the y-z plane.

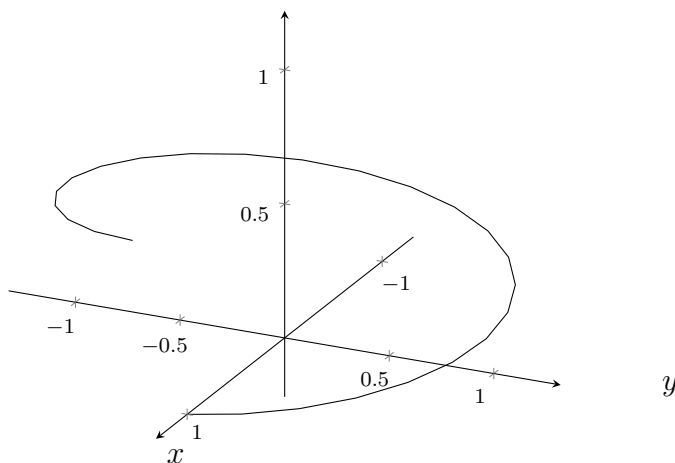
z

Example 3:

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = \cos(t) \\ y(t) = \sin(t) \\ z(t) = t \end{cases}$$

$$0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$$

or, $\langle \cos(t), \sin(t), t \rangle$

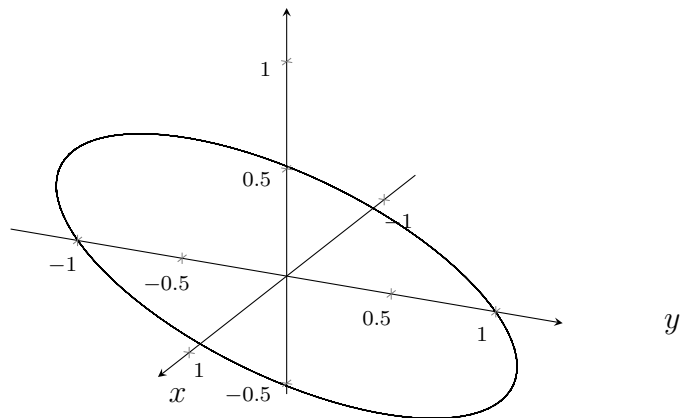


Example 4:

$$- \begin{cases} x(t) = \cos(t) \\ y(t) = \sin(t) \\ z(t) = \cos(t) \\ 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi \end{cases}$$

or,

$$\langle \cos(t), \sin(t), \cos(t) \rangle$$



- They can now attempt the matching activity. I would plan on presenting or having someone present the “pringle”.