

Key

1-3 Parametric Equations

Learning Goals:

- I can write and graph parametric equations.
- I can solve applications involving parametric equations.

Parametric equations for a curve are equations in which the x and y coordinates are both expressed in terms of a single variable, called the parameter, t . In “real-life” applications, t often represents time.

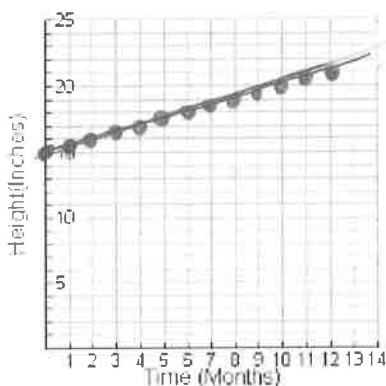
I. Consider the following scenario:

A puppy weighs 8 pounds and is 15 inches long at birth. For its first year of life, each month the puppy grows .5 inches and gains 3 pounds. Complete the following table:

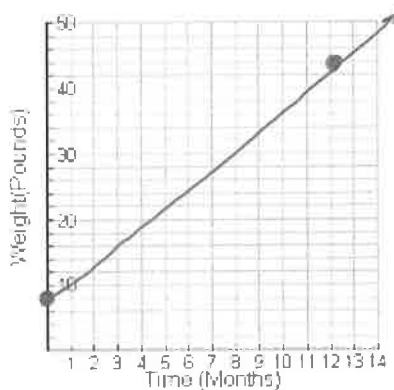
Time (months)	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Rules:
Height (in.)	15	15.5	16	16.5	17	17.5	18	18.5	19	19.5	20	20.5	21	$x(t) = 15 + 0.5t$
Weight (lbs.)	8	11	14	17	20	23	26	29	32	35	38	41	44	$y(t) = 8 + 3t$

A. Sketch the following graphs:

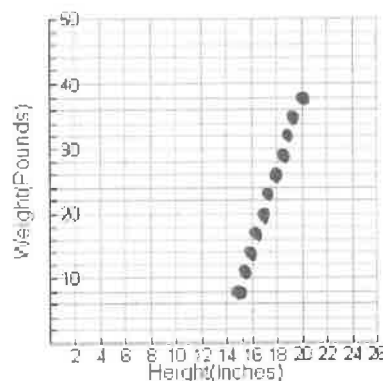
Time vs. Height



Time vs. Weight



Height vs. Weight



Parametric equations for this scenario:
$$\begin{cases} x(t) = 15 + 0.5t \\ y(t) = 8 + 3t \end{cases}$$

B. See if you can reproduce your *Height vs. Weight* graph on your calculator. Follow these tips

***You will receive a 1/2-sheet of paper showing you the finer points of graphing parametric equations on the TI-nspire. Please read the directions carefully.

Some things to consider

Menu-3-3

- Adjust your *window*. Use graph #3's axes as a guide.
- What will you enter for t minimum and maximum values? $0 \leq t \leq 12$
- What about your $tstep$? $\rightarrow tstep = 1$
- Not sure?
- Experiment

C. Both parametric equations can be combined into one rectangular equation (in terms of x & y only.) This is called **eliminating the parameter, t** . To do this, start by solving the x -equation for t . Substitute the expression for t into the y -equation & simplify. Show your work below. Test your new rectangular equation by graphing it.

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 15 + 0.5t \\ (x - 15) &= 0.5t \quad \cdot 2 \\ 2x - 30 &= t \\ y &= 8 + 3(2x - 30) \\ y &= 8 + 6x - 90 \\ y &= 6x - 82 \end{aligned}$$

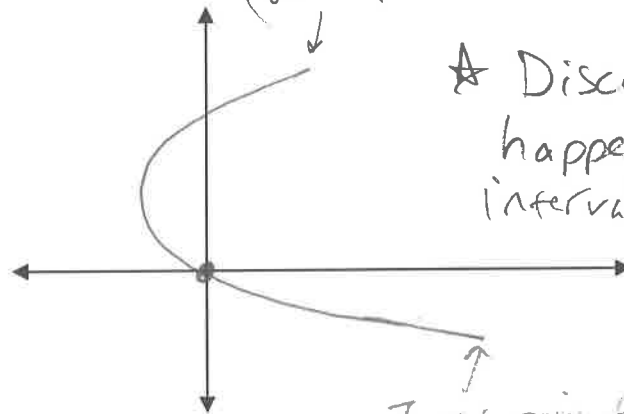
II. Applications:

A. Parametric equations enable us to graph a curve that may double back on itself or cross itself. Such a curve cannot be described by a function $y = f(x)$. The following examples are curves that are not functions in the rectangular system.

1. Graph the curve defined by the following set of equations over the interval $-2 \leq t \leq 5$ in your calculator. Make a sketch of the graph. t -Step = 1

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = t^2 - 4t \\ y(t) = 3t \end{cases}$$

Window:
 $X_{\min} = -5$
 $X_{\max} = 20$
 $Y_{\min} = -8$
 $Y_{\max} = 20$



★ Discuss what happens when changing intervals & t step ★

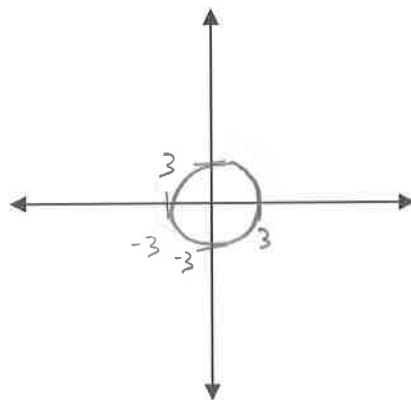
Initial point of graph (initial point - calculus)

2. Make sure your calculator is in radians. Graph the curve defined by the set of equations to the right over the interval $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$. Use a t step of $\pi/6$. Make a sketch of the graph.

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = 3 \cos t \\ y(t) = 3 \sin t \end{cases}$$

$$X: -5 \text{ to } 5$$

$$Y: -5 \text{ to } 5$$



Try zooming in/out to get a good window

What equations would yield the *unit circle*? What t step would you use?

$$X(t) = \cos t$$

$$Y(t) = \sin t$$

3. Here is another interesting example. Change the t_{\max} to 12π then graph. Adjust the window so you can see the full curve.

$$\begin{cases} x(t) = 11 \cos t - 6 \cos\left(\frac{11}{6}t\right) \\ y(t) = 11 \sin t - 6 \sin\left(\frac{11}{6}t\right) \end{cases}$$

Crazy awesome graph!

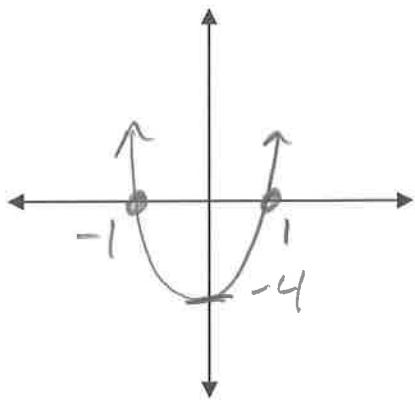
Can zoom out if necessary

B. Eliminating the Parameter

Sketch the curve represented by the parametric equations

$$\begin{cases} x = \frac{t}{2} \\ y = t^2 - 4 \end{cases}$$

Copy the sketch below.



t interval: $-5 \leq t \leq 5$
t step: 1

It looks very similar to another graph in rectangular form. To find that equation, do the following.

- In one of the equations, solve for t . You decide which one looks easier.
- Substitute that value for t into the other equation and solve.

$$\begin{aligned} x = \frac{t}{2} &\rightarrow 2x = t \\ &\downarrow \\ y &= (2x)^2 - 4 \\ &= 4x^2 - 4 = 4(x^2 - 1) = 4(x+1)(x-1) \end{aligned}$$

Practice: Sketch the curve represented by the equations below by eliminating the parameter and adjusting the domain of the resulting rectangular equation.

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{cases} x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{t+1}} \\ y = \frac{t}{t+1} \end{cases} &\rightarrow x^2 = \frac{1}{t+1} \\ &x^2(t+1) = 1 \\ &t+1 = \frac{1}{x^2} \\ &t = \frac{1}{x^2} - 1 \end{aligned} \quad \rightarrow \quad \begin{aligned} y &= \frac{\frac{1}{x^2} - 1}{\left(\frac{1}{x^2} - 1\right) + 1} \\ y &= \frac{\frac{1}{x^2} - 1}{\frac{1}{x^2}} \\ y &= \left(\frac{1}{x^2} - 1\right) \cdot \frac{x^2}{1} \\ y &= 1 - x^2 = -(-1 + x^2) = -(x^2 - 1) \\ &= -(x+1)(x-1) \end{aligned}$$

1-3 Parametric Equations Practice

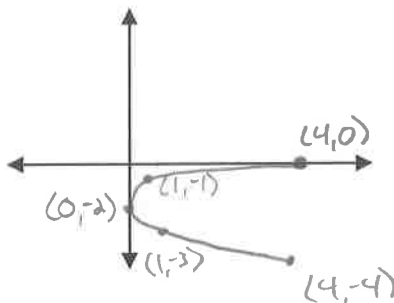
1. Make a table of values for the curve defined by the following

set of equations over the interval $-2 \leq t \leq 2$.

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

Sketch a graph of the curve.

t	x	y
-2	4	-4
-1	1	-3
0	0	-2
1	1	-1
2	4	0



No arrows
due to the
interval (NOT continuous)

Write the parametric equations below as a single equation in x and y by eliminating the parameter, t . Check your result by showing that its graph and the graph of the parametric equations are the same.

2.
$$\begin{cases} x = 3 - 2t \\ y = 2 + 3t \end{cases}$$

$$x - 3 = -2t$$

$$\frac{x - 3}{-2} = t$$

$$\frac{-x + 3}{2} = t$$

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

$$y = 2 + \frac{-3x + 9}{2}$$

$$y = 2 + \frac{-3x}{2} + 4.5$$

$$y = 6.5 - 1.5x \quad \checkmark$$

3.
$$\begin{cases} x = t + 2 \\ y = t^2 - 3t \end{cases}$$

$$t = x - 2$$

$$y = (x - 2)^2 - 3(x - 2)$$

$$y = x^2 - 4x + 4 - 3x + 6$$

$$y = x^2 - 7x + 10 = (x - 5)(x - 2) \quad \checkmark$$