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MATH 102

AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

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Find the equation of the tangent at the point $(5, 1)$ on the circle
 $x^2 + y^2 - 5x - y + 4 = 0$

Solution

Given $x^2 + y^2 - 5x - y + 4 = 0$ to be compared
Equation of a circle $(x - a)^2 + (y - b)^2 = r^2$

$x^2 - 5x + y^2 - y + 4 = 0$ by factoring

$$\left(\frac{x-5}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{25}{4} + \left(\frac{y-1}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{4} + 4 = 0$$

Collect like terms

$$\left(\frac{x-5}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y-1}{2}\right)^2 - \frac{5}{2} = 0$$

$$\left(\frac{x-5}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y-1}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{5}{2}$$

The centre of the circle is $\left(\frac{5}{2}, \frac{1}{2}\right)$ and radius is $\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}$
 $P = (5, 1)$

$$\text{Gradient (C)} = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{0 - \frac{5}{2}}{1 - \frac{1}{2}} = -\frac{5}{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\text{Gradient (m) of } C_0 = -\frac{1}{-5} = \frac{1}{5}$$

Since they are perpendicular, i.e. at 90° , gradient of
the tangent = $\frac{1}{5}$

Equation of the tangent therefore =

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

$$y - 1 = \frac{1}{5}(x - 5)$$

$$y = \frac{x}{5} + \frac{4}{5}$$

2. Find the equation of the tangent at the point $(1, 2)$ on the circle $x^2 + y^2 - 12x - 12y + 47 = 0$

Solution

Given Equation $x^2 + y^2 - 12x - 12y + 47 = 0$

Rearranging

$$x^2 - 12x + y^2 - 12y + 47 = 0$$

Completing the square

$$(x-6)^2 + (y-6)^2 - 25 = 0$$

$$(x-6)^2 + (y-6)^2 = 25$$

$$(x-6)^2 + (y-6)^2 = 5^2$$

Centre of circle = $(h, k) = (6, 6)$ and radius = 5

$$\text{Gradient of } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{6 - 2}{6 - 1} = \frac{4}{5}$$

These are perpendicular
Gradient of tangent = $-\frac{5}{4}$

$$\text{Equation of tangent } = y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

$$y - 2 = -\frac{5}{4}(x - 1)$$

$$y = -\frac{5}{4}x + \frac{5}{4} + 2$$

3. Find the equation of the tangent at the point $(4, 2)$ on the circle $x^2 + y^2 - 8x + 4y + 4 = 0$

$$x^2 + y^2 - 8x + 4y + 4 = 0 \quad \dots \text{Equation (1)}$$

$$(x-4)^2 - 16 + (y+2)^2 - 4 + 4 = 0$$

$$(x-4)^2 + (y+2)^2 = 20$$

$$(h, k) = (-4, -2) \quad r = \sqrt{20}$$

Gradient of $CP = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} = \frac{2 - (-2)}{4 - (-4)} = \frac{4}{8} = \frac{1}{2}$

The gradient of the tangent = $-\frac{2}{1} = -2$

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1)$$

$$= y - 2 = -2(x - 4)$$

$$y = -2x + 8 + 2$$