Exercise 2

For the following exercises, sketch the curves below by eliminating the parameter t. Give the orientation of the curve.

 $x = \cos(t), \ y = \sin(t), \ (0, 2\pi]$

Solution

In order to eliminate t, square both sides of each equation

$$x^2 = \cos^2 t, \quad y^2 = \sin^2 t$$

and then add the respective sides together.

$$x^2 + y^2 = \cos^2 t + \sin^2 t$$
$$= 1$$

The graph is of a circle centered at the origin with radius 1. Plugging in t = 0 gives x = 1 and y = 0, and plugging in $t = \pi/2$ gives x = 0 and y = 1. The orientation therefore goes counterclockwise.

