

03.05 Implicit Differentiation

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Lecture: Section 3.5: Implicit Differentiation

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Today's Goal: Find derivatives when a function isn't given as just $f(x) = \dots$

Logistics: We will start and finish this section today, Friday. We also have a check-in in the last five minutes.

Warm-Up 1.1 Find $f'(\pi)$ for $f(x) = (\sin^2(x) - x) \cdot (\cos(x) + 2)$.

(A) 0

(B) 1

(C) -1

(D) $1 - \pi$


(E) None of the above

$$f'(x) = (2\sin x \cos x - 1)(\cos x + 2) + (\sin^2 x - x)(-\sin x)$$

$$f'(\pi) = (2 \cdot 0 \cdot (-1) - 1)(-1 + 2) + (0^2 - \pi)(-1)$$

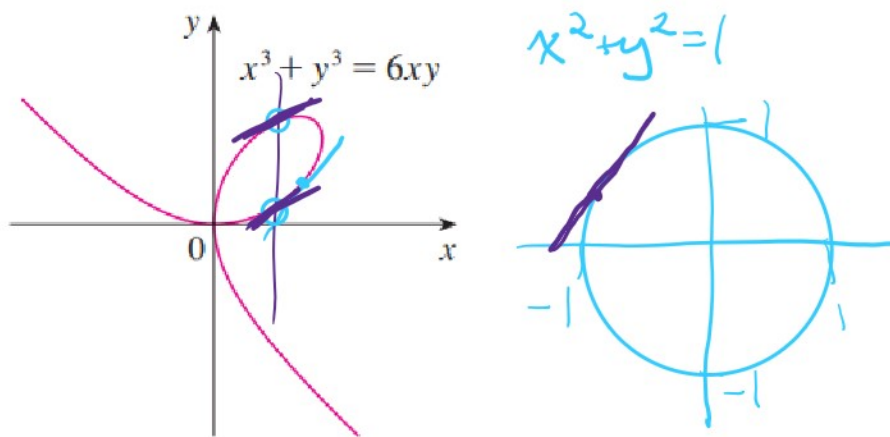
$$= -1 \cdot 1 = -1$$

$$\begin{aligned} (fg)'(x) &= f'(x) \cdot g(x) + f(x) \cdot g'(x) \\ (f \circ g)'(x) &= f'(g(x)) \cdot g'(x) \end{aligned}$$



1.1 Implicit Differentiation

So far, we have been given an **explicit** function $f(x)$ or y where one side of the equation is written totally in terms of x . For example, we see things like $f(x) = x^2 - 2$, not ones with x 's and y 's on both sides of the equation, like $x^3 + y^3 = 6xy$, for example.



However, functions like $x^3 + y^3 = 6xy$ are important (this one is called the Folium of Descartes), and we would still like to be able to find slopes of tangent lines!

Key technique: Think of *applying the derivative* to both sides of an equation. For example, if we start with a function we know:

$$y = x^2 + 1$$

we can apply the derivative to both sides of the equation as such:

$$\frac{d}{dx}(y) = \frac{d}{dx}(x^2 + 1)$$

and simplify using our knowledge of derivatives to get an expression for $\frac{dy}{dx}$:

$$(y' =) \frac{dy}{dx} = 2x$$

Apply this same technique to an implicit equation, just be sure to *treat y as a function of x* , instead of just another variable. Let's start with the folium of Descartes:

$$x^3 + y^3 - 6xy$$

y is a function of x :
 $f(x), y(x)$

Begin by *applying the derivative* to both sides of the equation, and we'll see how to interpret this as we go:

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^3 + y^3) = \frac{d}{dx}(6xy) \quad \leftarrow \text{product rule}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^3) + \frac{d}{dx}(y^3) = \frac{d}{dx}(6x \cdot y) + 6x \cdot \frac{d}{dx}(y)$$

$$3x^2 + 3y^2 \cdot y' = 6y + 6xy'$$

$$3x^2 + 3y^2 y' = 6y + 6xy'$$

$$3y^2 y' - 6xy' = 6y - 3x^2$$

$$y'(3y^2 - 6x) = 6y - 3x^2$$

$$y' = \frac{6y - 3x^2}{3y^2 - 6x}$$

This derivative depends on both x and y !

Example 1.2 (An example we can visualize!) (a) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for $x^2 + y^2 = 25$.

(b) Use the expression in part (a) to get the equation of a tangent line to the graph at the point $(-3, 4)$.

need slope and point we have the point ✓

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{a) } \frac{d}{dx}(x^2 + y^2) &= \frac{d}{dx}(25) & \text{b) slope} &= y' \text{ @ } (-3, 4): \\
 2x + 2yy' &= 0 & y' &= \frac{-(-3)}{4} = \frac{3}{4} \\
 y' &= \frac{-2x}{2y} & & \\
 y' &= \frac{-x}{y} & & \\
 & & & \boxed{y - 4 = \frac{3}{4}(x + 3)}
 \end{aligned}$$

Example 1.3 Find y' if $\sin(x - y) = \frac{\cos(x)}{x^2 + y^2 + 1}$

chain rule quotient rule, chain rule for "y"

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{d}{dx}(\sin(x - y)) &= \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{\cos(x)}{x^2 + y^2 + 1}\right) \\
 \cos(x - y)(1 - y') &= \frac{(x^2 + y^2 + 1)(-\sin(x)) - \cos(x)(2x + 2yy')}{(x^2 + y^2 + 1)^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Need to get y' 's to same side of equation:

$$(x^2 + y^2 + 1)^2 \cos(x - y)(1 - y') = (x^2 + y^2 + 1)(-\sin(x)) - \cos(x)(2x + 2yy')$$

distribute:

$$(x^2 + y^2 + 1)^2 \cos(x - y) - y'(x^2 + y^2 + 1)^2 \cos(x - y) = (x^2 + y^2 + 1)(-\sin(x)) - 2x \cos(x) - 2yy' \cos(x)$$

move y' stuff to left, other terms to right side:

$$2yy' \cos(x) - y'(x^2 + y^2 + 1)^2 \cos(x - y) = (x^2 + y^2 + 1)(-\sin(x)) - (x^2 + y^2 + 1)^2 \cos(x - y)$$

Factor + solve for y' :

$$\begin{aligned}
 y'(2y \cos(x) - (x^2 + y^2 + 1)^2 \cos(x - y)) &= \text{RHS} \\
 \rightarrow y' &= \frac{(x^2 + y^2 + 1)(-\sin(x)) - (x^2 + y^2 + 1)^2 \cos(x - y)}{2y \cos(x) - (x^2 + y^2 + 1)^2 \cos(x - y)}
 \end{aligned}$$

phew!

$$x^{1/4} - y^{1/4} = 12$$

Example 1.4 Find y'' if $\sqrt[4]{x} - \sqrt[4]{y} = 12$.

Apply $\frac{d}{dx}$ to both sides

$$\frac{1}{4}x^{-3/4} - \frac{1}{4}y^{-3/4} \cdot y' = 0$$

Solve for y' :

$$y' = \frac{x^{-3/4}}{y^{-3/4}}$$

$$y' = \frac{\sqrt[4]{y^3}}{\sqrt[4]{x^3}}$$

apply $\frac{d}{dx}$ to both sides:

$$\frac{d}{dx}(y') = \frac{d}{dx}\left(\frac{y^{3/4}}{x^{3/4}}\right)$$

$$y'' = \frac{x^{3/4} \cdot \left(\frac{3}{4}y^{-1/4} \cdot y'\right) - y^{3/4} \cdot \frac{3}{4}x^{-7/4}}{(x^{3/4})^2}$$

$$y'' = \frac{3x^{3/4} \cdot \frac{3}{4}y^{-1/4} \cdot y' - \frac{3y^{3/4}}{4x^{7/4}}}{x^{3/2}}$$

cancel!

$$y'' = \frac{\frac{3\sqrt[4]{x^3}}{4\sqrt[4]{y}} \cdot \frac{3}{4} - \frac{3\sqrt[4]{y^3}}{4\sqrt[4]{x^3}}}{x^{3/2}} \Rightarrow y'' = \frac{\frac{3}{4}\sqrt[4]{y} - \frac{3\sqrt[4]{y^3}}{4\sqrt[4]{x^3}}}{x\sqrt{x}}$$

Example 1.5 Find equations of both the tangent lines to the ellipse $x^2 + 4y^2 = 36$ that pass through the point $(12, 3)$. $x = 4$

Apply $\frac{d}{dx}$ to both sides:

$$2x + 8yy' = 0$$

$$y' = \frac{-2x}{8y}$$

$$y' = \frac{-x}{4y}$$

$x=4$ corresponds to two points:

$$4^2 + 4y^2 = 36$$

$$16 + 4y^2 = 36$$

$$4y^2 = 20$$

$$y^2 = 5$$

$$y = \pm\sqrt{5}$$

First point: $(4, \sqrt{5})$:

$$y' = \frac{-4}{4\sqrt{5}} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} = -\frac{\sqrt{5}}{5}$$

Tangent line:

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

Second point: $(4, -\sqrt{5})$:

$$y' = \frac{-4}{-4\sqrt{5}} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{5}$$

Tangent line:

$$y + \sqrt{5} = \frac{\sqrt{5}}{5}(x - 4)$$