

Section 3.2: Implicit Differentiation; Derivatives of the Inverse Trigonometric Functions

The chain rule states that for a differentiable composition $f(g(x))$

$$\frac{d}{dx} f(g(x)) = f'(g(x))g'(x)$$

For $y = f(u)$ and $u = g(x)$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{du} \frac{du}{dx}$$

Example

Assume f is a differentiable function of x . Find an expression for the derivative:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dx} (f(x))^2 &= 2(f(x)) f'(x) \\ &= 2f(x) f'(x)\end{aligned}$$

Chain rule
 $u = f(x)$, $\frac{du}{dx} = f'(x)$
 $\frac{d}{du} u^2 = 2u$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \tan(f(x)) = \sec^2(f(x)) \cdot f'(x)$$

Here
 $\frac{d}{du} \tan u = \sec^2 u$

Example

Suppose we know that $y = f(x)$ for some differentiable function (but we don't know exactly what f is). Find an expression for the derivative.

$$\frac{d}{dx} y^2 = 2y \frac{dy}{dx}$$

We do the same,
except express
 $f'(x)$ as $\frac{dy}{dx}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} x^2 y^2 &= \overset{f'}{2x} \overset{g}{y^2} + \overset{f}{x^2} \overset{g'}{(2y) \frac{dy}{dx}} \\ &= 2x y^2 + 2x^2 y \frac{dy}{dx} \end{aligned}$$

We need the product
rule for the product
 x^2 times y^2

Question

If y is some function of x (but we don't know the specifics), then

$$\frac{d}{dx}y^3 =$$

(a) $\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^3$

(b) $3y^2 \frac{dy}{dx}$

(c) $3\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2$

Let's Double Check with an Example:

Let $y = x^2$ so that $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x$ and $y^3 = x^6$.

Compute with the power rule $\frac{d}{dx}y^3 = \frac{d}{dx}x^6 = 6x^5$

Now take a moment and compute each of

(a) $\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^3 = (2x)^3 = 8x^3$

(b) $3y^2 \frac{dy}{dx} = 3(x^2)^2 (2x) = 6x^4 \cdot x = 6x^5$

(c) $3\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 = 3(2x)^2 = 3(4x^2) = 12x^2$

Match!

Implicitly defined functions

A relation—an equation involving two variables x and y —such as

$$x^2 + y^2 = 16 \quad \text{or} \quad (x^2 + y^2)^3 = x^2$$

implies that y is defined to be one or more functions of x .

The first gives 2 functions:

$$y^2 = 16 - x^2 \Rightarrow y = \sqrt{16 - x^2} \quad \text{or}$$

$$y = -\sqrt{16 - x^2}$$

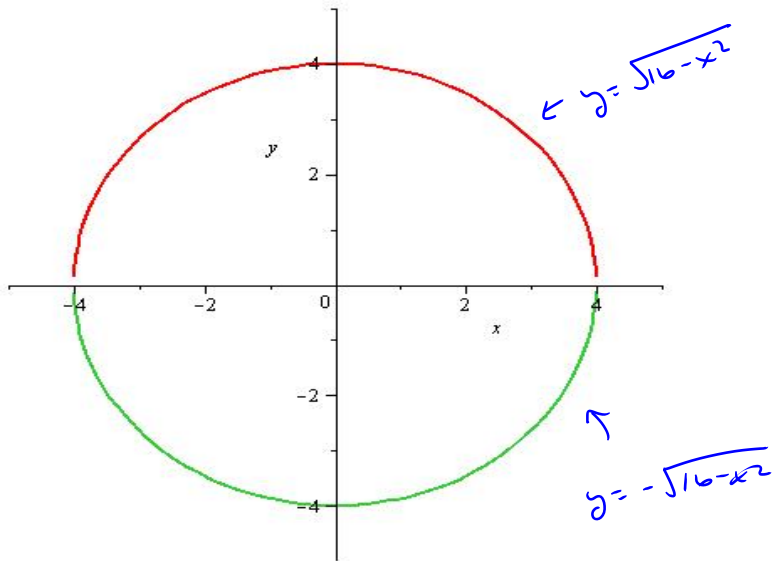


Figure: $x^2 + y^2 = 16$

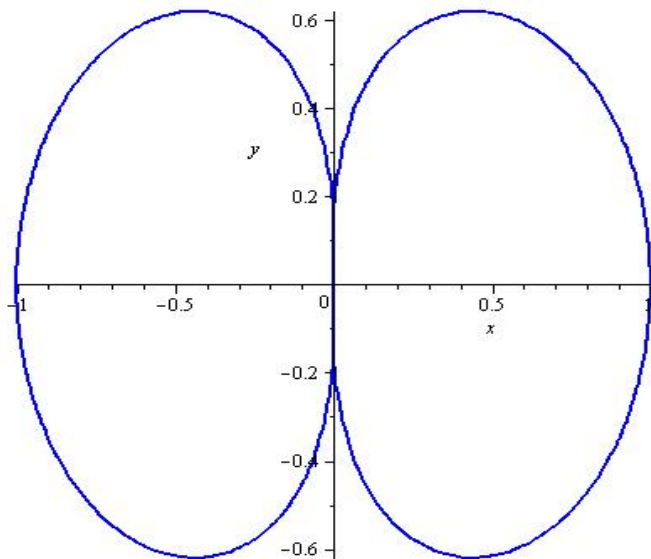


Figure: $(x^2 + y^2)^3 = x^2$

Explicit -vs- Implicit

A function is defined **explicitly** when given in the form

$$y = f(x).$$

e.g. $y = \tan x$ or $y = e^x$ or

$$y = x^3 + x e^x$$

A function is defined *implicitly* when it is given as a relation

$$F(x, y) = C,$$

for constant C .

e.g. $x^2 + y^2 = 16$ or $x e^y + y e^x = 0$

Implicit Differentiation

Since $x^2 + y^2 = 16$ implies that y is a function of x , we can consider its derivative.

$$\text{Find } \frac{dy}{dx} \text{ given } x^2 + y^2 = 16.$$

Take $\frac{d}{dx}$ of both sides:

$$\frac{d}{dx} (x^2 + y^2) = \frac{d}{dx} (16)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} x^2 + \frac{d}{dx} y^2 = \frac{d}{dx} 16 = 0$$

$$2x + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = -2x$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-2x}{2y} \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-x}{y}$$

Show that the same result is obtained knowing

$$y = \sqrt{16 - x^2} \quad \text{or} \quad y = -\sqrt{16 - x^2}.$$

I'll do the 2nd one, the first is left as an exercise.

We need: $\frac{d}{dx} \sqrt{x} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$

Let $y = -\sqrt{16 - x^2}$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = - \left(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{16 - x^2}} \right) \cdot (0 - 2x)$$

Chain rule ↗

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = - \frac{-2x}{2\sqrt{16-x^2}} = - \frac{-x}{\sqrt{16-x^2}}$$

$$= - \frac{x}{-\sqrt{16-x^2}}$$

But

$$y = -\sqrt{16-x^2}$$

$$= - \frac{x}{-2} \quad \text{as expected,}$$

Example

Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ given $x^2 - 3xy + y^2 = y$.

product
↓

$$\frac{d}{dx} (x^2 - 3xy + y^2) = \frac{d}{dx} y$$

$$2x - 3(1 \cdot y + x \cdot \frac{dy}{dx}) + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

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

Solve
for $\frac{dy}{dx}$

$$2y \frac{dy}{dx} - 3x \frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{dy}{dx} = 3y - 2x$$

$$(2y - 3x - 1) \frac{dy}{dx} = 3y - 2x$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3y - 2x}{2y - 3x - 1}}$$

Finding a Derivative Using Implicit Differentiation:

- ▶ Take the derivative of both sides of an equation with respect to the independent variable.
- ▶ Use all necessary rules for differentiating powers, products, quotients, trig functions, exponentials, compositions, etc.
- ▶ Remember the chain rule for each term involving the dependent variable (e.g. mult. by $\frac{dy}{dx}$ as required).
- ▶ Use necessary algebra to isolate the desired derivative $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

Example

Find $\frac{dS}{dr}$.

$\frac{dS}{dr}$ S -dependent, r -independent

$$e^{Sr} + S = r^2 + 2$$

$$\frac{d}{dr} (e^{Sr} + S) = \frac{d}{dr} (r^2 + 2)$$

$$e^{Sr} \frac{d}{dr} (Sr) + \frac{dS}{dr} = 2r$$

product

$$e^{Sr} \left(\frac{dS}{dr} r + S \cdot 1 \right) + \frac{dS}{dr} = 2r$$

$$r e^{Sr} \frac{dS}{dr} + S e^{Sr} + \frac{dS}{dr} = 2r$$

$$r e^{sr} \frac{ds}{dr} + \frac{ds}{dr} = 2r - S e^{sr}$$

$$(r e^{sr} + 1) \frac{ds}{dr} = 2r - S e^{sr}$$

$$\frac{ds}{dr} = \frac{2r - S e^{sr}}{r e^{sr} + 1}$$

Example

Find the equation of the line tangent to the graph of $x^3 + y^3 = 6xy$ at the point $(3, 3)$.

$\frac{dy}{dx}$ still gives the slope of the tangent line. So we find $\frac{dy}{dx}$:

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

product

$$3x^2 + 3y^2 \frac{dy}{dx} = 6 \left(1 \cdot y + x \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} \right)$$

$$3x^2 + 3y^2 \frac{dy}{dx} = 6y + 6x \frac{dy}{dx}$$

Divide by 3, collect $\frac{dy}{dx}$

$$y^2 \frac{dy}{dx} - 2x \frac{dy}{dx} = 2y - x^2$$

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

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2y - x^2}{y^2 - 2x}$$

We need the slope @ (3,3). So we set $x=3$ and $y=3$

$$m_{\text{tan}} = \frac{2 \cdot 3 - 3^2}{3^2 - 2 \cdot 3} = \frac{6 - 9}{9 - 6} = -1$$

point $(3,3)$ and slope -1

$$y-3 = -1(x-3)$$

$$y = -x + 3 + 3$$

$$y = -x + 6$$

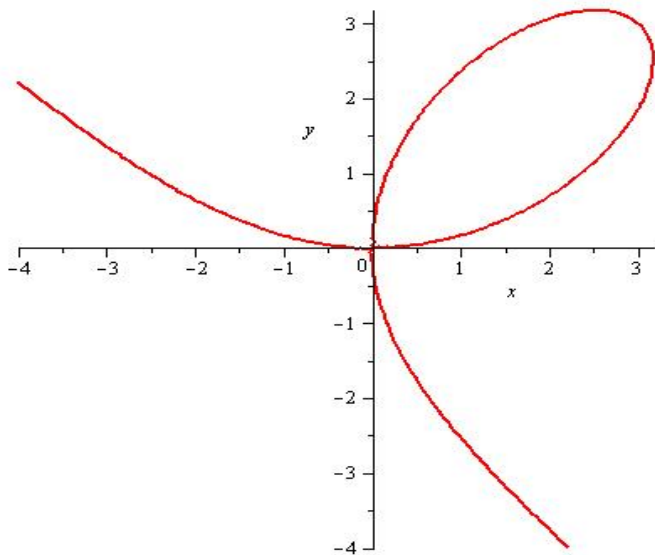


Figure: Folium of Descartes $x^3 + y^3 = 6xy$

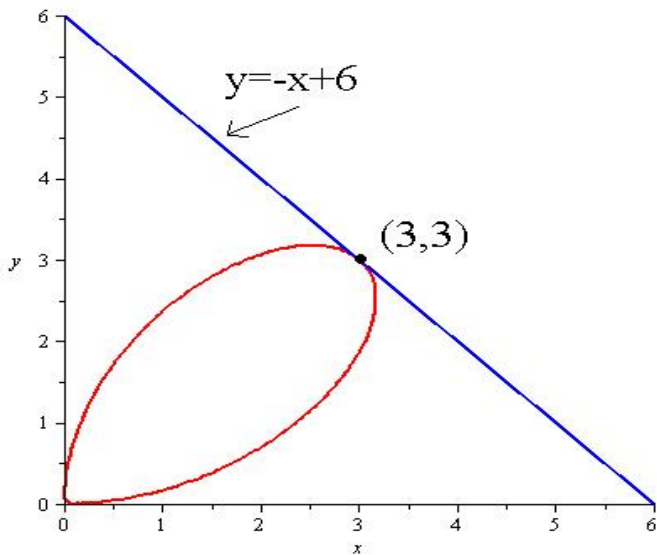


Figure: Folium of Descartes with tangent line at (3,3)