

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

A relation—an equation involving two variables  $x$  and  $y$ ,  
 $F(x, y) = C$ —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  $x$ .

Given a relation, we can try to determine the derivative  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .

## 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  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .

$$y 2^x + x 2^y = 1$$

Recall

$$\frac{d}{dx} 2^x = 2^x \ln 2$$

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

$\uparrow$        $\uparrow$   
products

$$\left( \frac{d}{dx} y \right) 2^x + y \left( \frac{d}{dx} 2^x \right) + \left( \frac{d}{dx} x \right) 2^y + x \left( \frac{d}{dx} 2^y \right) = 0$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} 2^x + y 2^x \ln 2 + 1 \cdot 2^y + x 2^y \ln 2 \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

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

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

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

## Question

Find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .

$$e^y = xy$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^y = \frac{d}{dx}(xy)$$

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

$$e^y \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} = 1 \cdot y + x \cdot \frac{dy}{dx}$$

(b)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{e^y}{x}$

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

(c)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x}{e^y}$

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

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

## Example

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

Note  $(3, 3)$  is on the curve since  $3^3 + 3^3 = 54 = 6(3)(3)$ .

We need a point and a slope. The point  $(3, 3)$  is given.

The slope  $m_{\text{tan}} = \frac{dy}{dx} @ (3, 3)$ .

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

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

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

Let's divide  
by 3

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

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

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

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

The slope is the value of  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  when  $x=3$  and  $y=3$ .

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

we have slope  $m_{\text{tan}} = -1$  point  $(x_1, y_1) = (3, 3)$

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

$$y = -x + 3 + 3 \Rightarrow$$

$$y = -x + 6$$

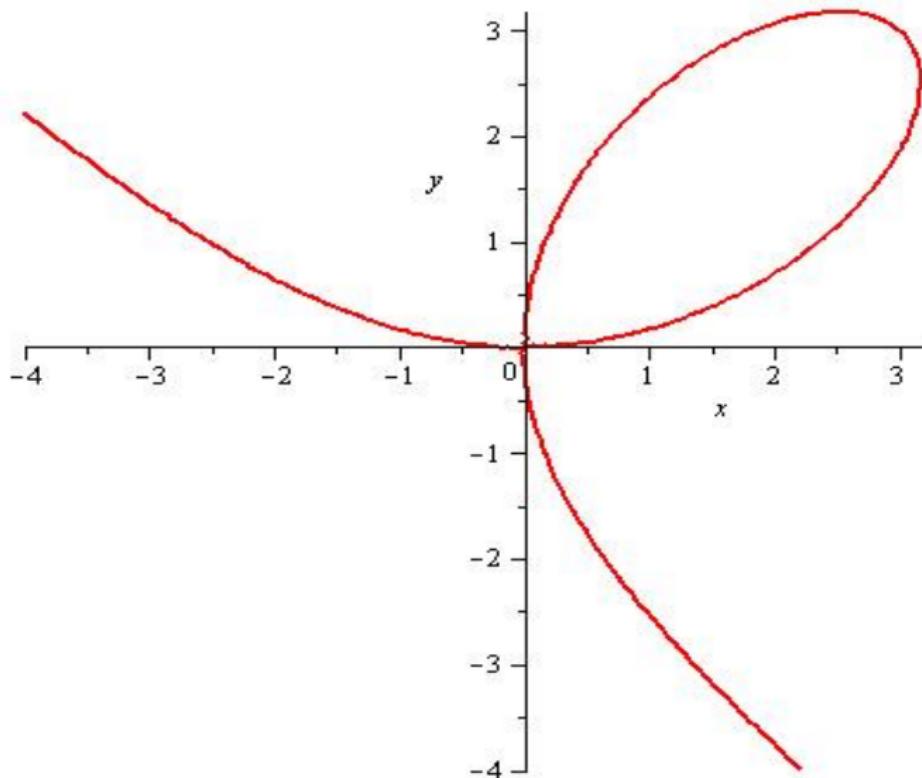


Figure: Folium of Descartes  $x^3 + y^3 = 6xy$

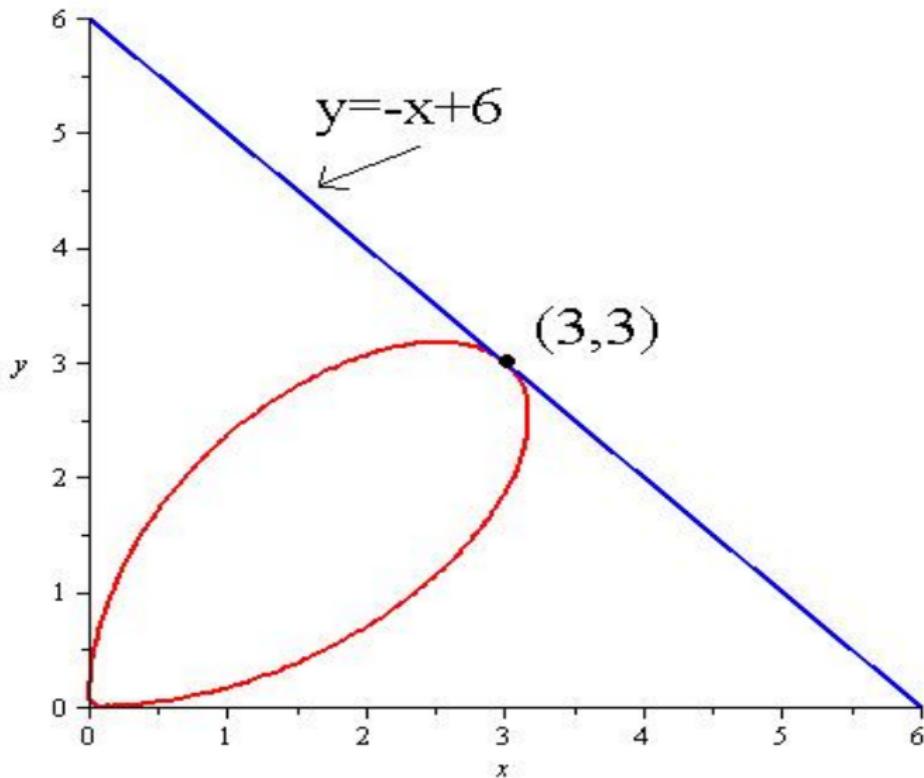


Figure: Folium of Descartes with tangent line at (3, 3)

## Question

Find the equation of the line tangent to the graph of  $y^2 + y + x^2 = 6$  at the point  $(2, 1)$ .

(a)  $y = -6x + 13$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-2x}{2y+1} \quad m = \frac{-2 \cdot 2}{2 \cdot 1 + 1} = \frac{-4}{3}$$

(b)  $y = -x + 3$

(c)  $y = -\frac{4}{3}x + \frac{11}{3}$

$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1) \quad \text{for slope } m \\ \text{point } (x_1, y_1)$$

(d)  $y = -\frac{5}{2}x + 6$

$$y - 1 = -\frac{4}{3}(x - 2) \Rightarrow y = \frac{4}{3}x + \frac{11}{3}$$

## The Power Rule: Rational Exponents

Let  $y = x^{p/q}$  where  $p$  and  $q$  are integers. This can be written implicitly as

$$y^q = x^p.$$

Find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .

Using implicit differentiation

$$\frac{d}{dx} y^q = \frac{d}{dx} x^p$$

$$q y^{q-1} \frac{dy}{dx} = p x^{p-1}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{p x^{p-1}}{q y^{q-1}}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{p}{q} \cdot \frac{x^p \cdot x^{-1}}{y^q \cdot y^{-1}}$$

$$= \frac{p}{q} \cdot \frac{x^p}{y^q} \cdot x^{-1} \cdot y$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{p}{q} \cdot 1 \cdot x^{-1} \cdot x^{\frac{p}{q}-1}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{p}{q} x^{\frac{p}{q}-1}$$

Note  $x^p = y^q \Rightarrow \frac{x^p}{y^q} = 1$

and  $y = x^{\frac{p}{q}}$

This turns out to  
be the same  
power rule!

## The Power Rule: Rational Exponents

**Theorem:** If  $r$  is any rational number, then when  $x^r$  is defined, the function  $y = x^r$  is differentiable and

$$\frac{d}{dx} x^r = rx^{r-1}$$

for all  $x$  such that  $x^{r-1}$  is defined.

For example  $\frac{d}{dx} \sqrt{x} = \frac{d}{dx} x^{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{2} x^{\frac{1}{2}-1} = \frac{1}{2} x^{-\frac{1}{2}}$

$$= \frac{1}{2x^{\frac{1}{2}}} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{x}}$$

# Examples

Evaluate

$$(a) \frac{d}{dx} \sqrt[4]{x} = \frac{d}{dx} x^{\frac{1}{4}} = \frac{1}{4} x^{\frac{1}{4}-1} = \frac{1}{4} x^{-\frac{3}{4}} = \frac{1}{4 x^{\frac{3}{4}}} = \frac{1}{4 \sqrt[4]{x^3}}$$

$$(b) \frac{d}{dv} \csc(\sqrt{v}) = -\csc(\sqrt{v}) \cot(\sqrt{v}) \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{v}} = \frac{-\csc(\sqrt{v}) \cot(\sqrt{v})}{2\sqrt{v}}$$

↑  
outside  
↑  
root is  
inside

~~~~~  
derivative  
of outside

↑  
derivative of  
inside

## Question

Find  $f'(x)$  where  $f(x) = \sqrt[3]{2x}$ .

$$f(x) = (2x)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

(a)  $f'(x) = \frac{1}{3}(2x)^{-2/3}$

$$f'(x) = \frac{1}{3}(2x)^{-2/3} \cdot (2)$$

(b)  $f'(x) = \frac{2}{3}x^{-1/3}$

$$= \frac{2}{3}(2x)^{-2/3}$$

$$= \frac{2}{3(2x)^{2/3}} = \frac{2}{3\sqrt[3]{(2x)^2}}$$

(c)  $f'(x) = \frac{2}{3\sqrt[3]{4x^2}}$

$$= \frac{2}{3\sqrt[3]{4x^2}}$$

(d)  $f'(x) = \frac{2}{3}(x)^{-2/3}$