

# IMPLICIT DIFFERENTIATION

October 14

Motivation & Goal of implicit differentiation  
be able to find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  even when it's not obvious how  $y$  is a function of  $x$ .

Here, it's obvious how  $y$  is a function of  $x$  -

$$y = \sin x$$

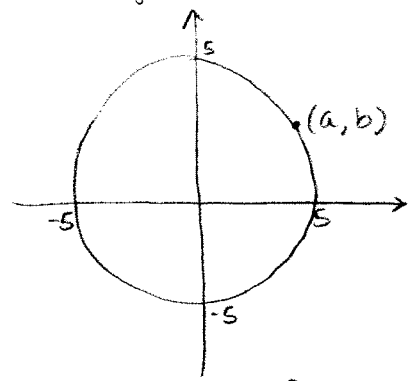
Here, it's less obvious -

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

↳ this equation is said to define  $y$  as a function of  $x$  implicitly

Fact: any equation with  $y$ 's &  $x$ 's defines an implicit function

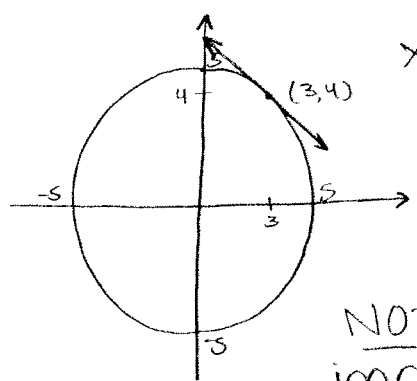
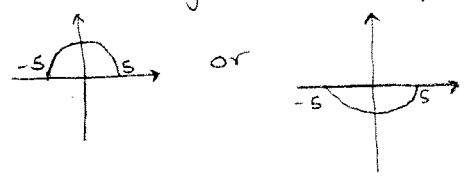
Ex.  $x^2 + y^2 = 25$



$a^2 + b^2 = 25$   
 $(c, d) \quad c^2 + d^2 \neq 25$

$y$  is an implicit function of  $x$  in this case. We could solve for  $y$  and get 2 explicit functions:

$$y = \sqrt{25 - x^2}$$
$$y = -\sqrt{25 - x^2}$$



$$x^2 + y^2 = 25$$

Exercise: Find the slope of the tangent line to the circle at  $(3, 4)$ .

NOTE - just because  $y$  is defined implicitly, doesn't mean that  $y$  is

So, it makes sense to ask what  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  is.

Solution:  $x^2 + y^2 = 25$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^2 + y^2) = \frac{d}{dx}(25)$$

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

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

$$\frac{d}{dx}(y^2) = 2y \frac{dy}{dx} \quad \text{because of the chain rule \& y is a function of x}$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} (y^2) \\ \downarrow \\ \frac{d}{dx}(f(x))^2 = 2 f(x) \cdot f'(x) \end{array} \right]$$

So,

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

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

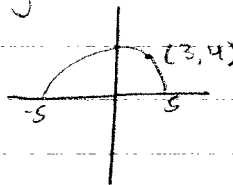
$$\boxed{\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}}$$

$$\left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{(3,4)} = -\frac{(3)}{4} =$$

$$\boxed{-\frac{3}{4}}$$

Not that you want to do this, but you could have solved for y and just taken

$$\frac{d}{dx} : y = \sqrt{25 - x^2}$$



$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-2x}{2\sqrt{25-x^2}}$$

$$\frac{-x}{\sqrt{25-x^2}} \quad \left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_3 = \frac{-3}{\sqrt{25-9}} = \frac{-3}{4}$$

But! Try to solve for y:

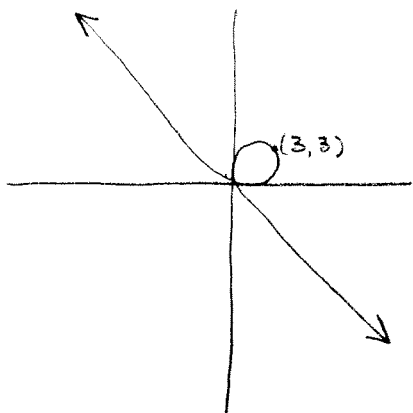
$$x^3 + y^3 = bxy$$

(don't try this.)

Example:

$$x^3 + y^3 = bxy$$

Find the slope at (3,3)



$$x^3 + y^3 = bxy$$

↓  $\frac{d}{dx}$

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

product rule (bx)(y)

$$3x^2 + 3y^2 \frac{dy}{dx} = bx \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} + by$$

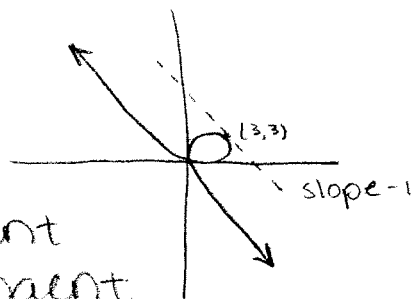
$$3y^2 \frac{dy}{dx} - bx \frac{dy}{dx} = by - 3x^2$$

$$(3y^2 - bx) \frac{dy}{dx} = by - 3x^2$$

\* you can write  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  as  $y'$  or  $dy$

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

$$\left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{(3,3)} = \frac{b(3) - 3(9)}{3 \cdot 9 - b \cdot 3} = -1$$



Q: where in the first quadrant ( $x > 0$  &  $y > 0$ ), is the tangent line horizontal?

A:  $\frac{dy}{dx} \stackrel{\text{set}}{=} 0$  and find  $(x,y)$  that satisfies that

$$0 = \frac{by - 3x^2}{3y^2 - bx}$$

This means  $by - 3x^2 = 0$

$$by = 3x^2$$

$y = \frac{x^2}{2}$  ←  $x$  must satisfy this

$$x^3 + y^3 = bxy$$

Substitute  $x^3 + \left(\frac{x^2}{2}\right)^3 = bx\left(\frac{x^2}{2}\right)$

$$x^3 + \frac{x^6}{8} = 3x^3$$

$$\frac{x^6}{8} = 2x^3 \quad x^6 = 16x^3$$

$$x^3 = 16$$
  
$$x = \sqrt[3]{16}$$

b/c  $x=0$  is not in the first quadrant, we can disregard that solution and

$$y = \frac{x^2}{2} = \frac{(3\sqrt{16})^2}{2}$$

So the answer is:

$$\sqrt[3]{16}, \frac{(\sqrt[3]{16})^2}{2}$$

find  $\frac{d}{dx} \sin(x+y) = y^2 \cos x$  find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$   
 $\cos(x+y) \cdot (1 + \frac{dy}{dx}) = -y^2 \sin x + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} \cos x$   
 $\downarrow$  exercise (solve for  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ )

$$A: \frac{\cos(x+y) + y^2 \sin x}{2y \cos x - \cos(x+y)}$$

example problem -

find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  by implicit differentiation -

$$2x^3 + x^2 y - xy^3 = 2$$

$$6x^2 + x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + y - x \cdot 3y^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + y^3 = 0$$

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

$$(x^2 - 3xy^2) \frac{dy}{dx} = -6x^2 - y^3$$

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