

# Implicit differentiation

Consider the equation  $y = x^2$ , then  $y' = 2x$ .

Consider the eq.  $y = (x^2+1)^3$ , then  $y' = 3(x^2+1)^2 (2x)$ .

But how about the eq.  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  or eq.  $\cos(x+y) = 1$ ?  
How can we find  $y'$  in this case?

Def. Given the equation  $F(x,y) = 0$ . The process of differentiating both sides of this equation with respect to  $x$  and then solving for  $y'(x)$  is called implicit differentiation.

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Remark:  $\frac{d}{dx}(x) = 1$ .

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^2) = 2x.$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^3) = 3x^2.$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(y) = y'.$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(y^2) = 2yy'.$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(y^3) = 3y^2y'.$$

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$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^2y^2) = x^2 \frac{d}{dx}(y^2) + y^2 \frac{d}{dx}(x^2) = x^2(2yy') + y^2(2x).$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \cos(x+y) = -\sin(x+y) \frac{d}{dx}(x+y) = -(\sin(x+y))(1+y').$$

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Ex. Use the implicit differentiation to find  $dy/dx$  for

$$(1) x^2 + y^2 = 4.$$

Soln.  $\frac{d}{dx}(x^2 + y^2) = \frac{d}{dx}(4)$ , then  $2x + 2yy' = 0$ ,  
and hence  ~~$2yy' = -2x$~~ .

Thus  $y' = -x/y$ .

$$(2) x^4 - 4x^3y + y^4 = 1.$$

Soln.  $\frac{d}{dx}(x^4 - 4x^3y + y^4) = \frac{d}{dx}(1)$ ,

then  $4x^3 - \frac{d}{dx}(4x^3y) + 4y^3y' = 0$ .

Now,  $\frac{d}{dx}(4x^3y) = 4x^3y' + y(12x^2)$ .

Then  $4x^3 - 4x^3y' - 12x^2y + 4y^3y' = 0$ .

Thus,  $y' = \frac{12x^2y - 4x^3}{4y^3 - 4x^3} = \frac{3x^2y - x^3}{y^3 - x^3}$ .

For instance, the slope at the point  $(1, 0)$  is

$$\left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{\substack{x=1 \\ y=0}} = \frac{0-1}{0-1} = 1.$$

$$(2) \sin(x+y) = xy.$$

$$\text{Soln. } \frac{d}{dx} \sin(x+y) = \frac{d}{dx} (xy),$$

$$\text{then } \cos(x+y) [1+y'] = xy' + y.$$

This implies that  $\cos(x+y)y' - xy' = y - \cos(x+y)$ .

$$\text{Thus, } y' = \frac{y - \cos(x+y)}{\cos(x+y) - x}.$$

$$(4) \sin(x-y) = (2x+1)^3 y. \quad \underline{\text{Exc.}}$$

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Ex. Find the equation of the tangent line at the indicated point.

$$(1) x^2 + xy + 2y^2 = 28 \text{ at } (-2, -3).$$

Soln. The eq. of the tangent line at  $(-2, -3)$  is  $y - y(-2) = y'(-2)(x - (-2))$ .

Now  $y(-2) = -3$ , then  $y - (-3) = y'(-2)(x + 2)$ .

Want:  $y'(-2)$ .

Diff. both sides of the original eq. w.r.t.  $x$   
to get  $2x + xy' + y + 4yy' = 0$ .

Then  $y' = -\frac{2x+y}{x+4y}$ .

Thus  $y'(-2) = -\frac{2(-2)+(-3)}{(-2)+4(-3)} = \frac{-7}{14} = -\frac{1}{2}$ .

Therefore the eq. of the tangent line is

$$y+3 = -\frac{1}{2}(x+2).$$

(2)  $x^2y^2 - 2x = 4 - 4y$  at  $(2, -2)$ .

↳ FINAL ANS.  $y+2 = \frac{7}{6}(x-2)$ .

Exc.

(3)  $\tan^{-1}(xy) = x$  at  $(1, \pi/4)$ .

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Ex. Use the implicit differentiation to express  $d^2y/dx^2$   
in terms of  $x$  and  $y$ , for

(1)  $y^3 - x^2 = 4$ .

Soln.  $\frac{d}{dx}(y^3 - x^2) = \frac{d}{dx}(4)$ , then  $3y^2y' - 2x = 0$  — (\*)

This implies that  $y' = \frac{2x}{3y^2}$ .

To find  $y''$ , we diff. both sides of Eq. (\*)

w.r.t.  $x$  to obtain  $\frac{d}{dx}(3y^2y' - 2x) = \frac{d}{dx}(0)$ .

Then  $\frac{d}{dx}(3y^2y') - 2 = 0$ .

Now  $\frac{d}{dx}(3y^2y') = 3y^2y'' + y'6yy' = 3y^2y'' + 6y(y')^2$ .

Thus,  $3y^2y'' + 6y(y')^2 - 2 = 0$ .

It follows that  $y'' = \frac{2 - 6y(y')^2}{3y^2}$ . But  $y' = \frac{2x}{3y^2}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } y'' &= \frac{2 - 6y(2x/3y^2)^2}{3y^2} = \frac{(2 - 6y(\frac{4x^2}{9y^4}))}{(3y^2)} \times \frac{3y^2}{3y^2} \\ &= \frac{6y^3 - 8x^2}{9y^5}. \end{aligned}$$

Or, as  $y' = 2x/3y^2$ , we have  $y'' = \frac{3y^2(2) - 2x(6yy')}{(3y^2)^2}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } y'' &= \frac{6y^2 - 12xy(y')}{9y^4} = \frac{6y^2 - 12xy(\frac{2x}{3y^2})}{9y^4} \\ &= \frac{6y^2 - (\frac{8x^2}{y})}{9y^4} = \frac{6y^3 - 8x^2}{9y^5}. \end{aligned}$$

$$(2) x^2 y^2 - 2x = 4 - 4y. \quad \underline{\underline{\text{Exc.}}}$$

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Ex. Find the point(s) on the curve  $x^2 + 2y^2 = 1$  where the tangent line has slope 1.

Soln.  $x^2 + 2y^2 = 1$ , then  $2x + 4y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$ .

$$\text{Thus, } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-2x}{4y} = \frac{-x}{2y}.$$

We are looking for the point(s)  $(x, y)$  where the tangent line has slope 1, that is, when  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-x}{2y} = 1$ .

Then  $x = -2y$ . But the curve is  $x^2 + 2y^2 = 1$ .

It follows that  $(-2y)^2 + 2y^2 = 1$ ,

$$4y^2 + 2y^2 = 1,$$

$$6y^2 = 1,$$

$$y = \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}},$$

$$x = \mp \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}.$$

Thus, the points are  $\left(\frac{-2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\right)$  and  $\left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{6}}, \frac{-1}{\sqrt{6}}\right)$ .

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- The University of Jordan الجامعة الأردنية
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References: See the course website

<http://sites.ju.edu.jo/sites/Alzalg/Pages/101.aspx>

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