

Implicit Differentiation

Graph $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ and estimate the slope of the tangent line at $x = 0$, and $x = \pm 5$.

When finding the derivative of NON-FUNCTIONS, it is **not** necessary to solve for y . In fact, sometimes it is impossible to solve for y though we can still find an expression for the derivative.

Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ if $y = x \bullet \sin^2 x$

We may only differentiate with respect to **one variable** (usually it has been " x "). So, when differentiating a variable other than x requires us to differentiate as a composite function using $\frac{dy}{dx}$ as the symbolic form for the derivative of the inner function.

Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ if $y = x \bullet y^2$ using the example above as a model.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x \bullet 2y \frac{dy}{dx} + y^2 \bullet 1$$

Now solve for $\frac{dy}{dx}$

Needed because I do not know what y is in terms of x so this is how we say the derivative of the inner function "in terms of x "

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

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

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y^2}{(1 - 2xy)}$$

Note: This derivative needs both an x and y coordinate to find a slope (for the tangent line) of the graph anywhere.

EX) Find the slope of the graph of $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ at $x = 3$ first by solving for y and using the chain rule and secondly by using implicit differentiation.

EX) Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for the equation $y^2 = 4x - 3x^2y - 6y$

Normal Line: Line **perpendicular** to the tangent line.

EX) Find the *equation* of the normal line to the graph of $x^2 + y^2 = 25$ at $x = 3$.

A derivative can be written in terms of ANY VARIABLE using substitution

Remember, $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ means the Second Derivative of y with respect to x

EX) If $y = 3x^4$ find $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ in terms of y .

$$y = 3x^4$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 12x^3$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 36x^2 \text{ (in terms of } x\text{)}$$

or

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 36\sqrt{\frac{y}{3}} \text{ (in terms of } y\text{)}$$

Original equation solved for " x^2 " and substituted in its place.

Substitution may also be needed when finding a second derivative implicitly.

EX) If $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x}{y}$, find $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$