

Lesson 13

Read 3.5

Implicit differentiation

Recall $\frac{d}{dx}(\sin x)^2 = 2 \sin x \cos x$

In general

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

Curve defined implicitly

A curve is defined implicitly if it is defined by a formula of the form $F(x, y) = G(x, y)$.

An example of a curve defined implicitly is the circle of radius 1 defined by the formula $x^2 + y^2 = 1$.

We can think that the equation $F(x, y) = G(x, y)$ defines a function $y = y(x)$ even if we are not able to solve explicitly for y .

To find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ pretend we can solve for y and write

$F(x, y(x)) = G(x, y(x))$, then take the derivative with respect to x of both sides and solve for $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

The equation of the tangent line to the curve defined implicitly by

$F(x, y) = G(x, y)$ at $P = (x_0, y_0)$ on the curve is

$$y = y_0 + \frac{dy}{dx}(x_0)(x - x_0).$$

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

Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ by implicit differentiation if $\sqrt{xy} = 1 + x^2y$

Find the coordinates of all points P on the curve $x^2 + 2xy + y^3 = 0$ such that the tangent line to the curve at P is horizontal.

Given a curve C of equation $F(x, y) = G(x, y)$, to find all points on C with horizontal tangent first use implicit differentiation to calculate the derivative, say you found the formula $\frac{dy}{dx} = h(x, y)$, then solve the system,

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

$$h(x, y) = 0$$

If $h(x, y) = \frac{A(x, y)}{B(x, y)}$, to find all points on C with vertical tangent line solve the system

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

$$B(x, y) = 0$$

and check that for every solution (x_1, y_1) we have $A(x_1, y_1) \neq 0$ (if it is 0 we are not sure what is happening to the tangent)

The tangent line problem for P is not on the curve

To find the equation to the tangent line to the curve $F(x, y) = G(x, y)$ through a point $P = (x_0, y_0)$ NOT on the curve:

- ▶ Call $Q = (x, y)$ the unknown point of tangency on the curve.
- ▶ Write the equation of the slope of the tangent m in two different ways, set them equal $m = \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y-y_0}{x-x_0}$, and solve the system

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y - y_0}{x - x_0}$$

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

- ▶ If (x_1, y_1) is a solution you found, then a tangent line is $y = y_1 + \frac{dy}{dx}(x_1)(x - x_1)$

Find all tangents to the ellipse $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ through $P = (4, \frac{1}{4})$

Find y'' by implicit differentiation if $9x^2 + y^2 = 9$