

23.8 Implicit Differentiation

y is an explicit function of x means
we have solved for y

e.g. $y = \frac{x-1}{x+1}$

Otherwise y is an implicit function of x

e.g. $x^2 + y^2 = 1$

$$5x - 3x^2y = \frac{4}{y}$$

Can be difficult/impossible to solve for y

Ex: y is an implicit function of x
(y depends on x)

Find:

a) $\frac{d}{dx} [4x^2] = 8x$

b) $\frac{d}{dx} [4y^2] = 8y \frac{dy}{dx}$ Chain Rule

Multiply by $\frac{dy}{dx}$ when differentiating a
 y -term

$$c) \frac{d}{dx} [x^3 - 2y^2 + y] = 3x^2 - 4y \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{dy}{dx}$$

$$\begin{aligned} d) \frac{d}{dx} [9xy] &= \frac{d}{dx} [(9x)y] \\ &= 9x \frac{dy}{dx} + y \cdot 9 \quad \text{Product Rule} \\ &= 9x \frac{dy}{dx} + 9y \end{aligned}$$

Main idea: Can find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ without
Solving for y first

Ex: Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ @ $(x,y) = (0, 2)$

for $5x - 3x^2y + y^2 = 4$

1) Take $\frac{d}{dx}$ of both sides =

$$5 + \frac{d}{dx} [(-3x^2)y] + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

$$5 - 3x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} - 6xy + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

2) Solve for $\frac{dy}{dx}$

$$-3x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = -5 + 6xy$$

$$(-3x^2 + 2y) \frac{dy}{dx} = -5 + 6xy$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-5 + 6xy}{-3x^2 + 2y}$$

$$\left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{(0,2)} = \frac{-5}{4}$$

$(0,2) \rightarrow$

Ex: Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ given

$$4x^3y + (y^3 + x)^4 = 16$$

$$(4x^3)y + (y^3 + x)^4 = 16$$

1) Take $\frac{d}{dx}$

$$\underbrace{4x^3 \frac{dy}{dx} + 12x^2 y}_{\text{Product}} + \underbrace{4(y^3 + x)^3 \left(3y^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 1 \right)}_{\text{chain}} = 0$$

2) Solve for $\frac{dy}{dx}$

Separate $\frac{dy}{dx}$ terms from non- $\frac{dy}{dx}$ terms

$$4x^3 \frac{dy}{dx} + 12x^2 y + 12y^2 (y^3 + x)^3 \frac{dy}{dx} + 4(y^3 + x)^3 = 0$$

$$4x^3 \frac{dy}{dx} + 12y^2 (y^3 + x)^3 \frac{dy}{dx} = -12x^2 y - 4(y^3 + x)^3$$

$$[4x^3 + 12y^2 (y^3 + x)^3] \frac{dy}{dx} = -12x^2 y - 4(y^3 + x)^3$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-12x^2 y - 4(y^3 + x)^3}{4x^3 + 12y^2 (y^3 + x)^3}$$

Ex: Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ given $x + \sqrt{x}y = \sqrt{y}$

$$x + x^{1/2}y = y^{1/2}$$

1) Take $\frac{d}{dx}$

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

2) Solve for $\frac{dy}{dx}$

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

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-1 - \frac{1}{2}x^{-1/2}y}{x^{1/2} - \frac{1}{2}y^{-1/2}} \cdot \frac{2x^{1/2}y^{1/2}}{2x^{1/2}y^{1/2}}$$

Simplify: clear fractions and negative exponents

$$= \frac{-2x^{1/2}y^{1/2} - y^{3/2}}{2xy^{1/2} - x^{1/2}}$$

OR (mult. by $\frac{-1}{-1}$)

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2x^{1/2}y^{1/2} + y^{3/2}}{-2xy^{1/2} + x^{1/2}}$$

Ex: Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ given $x = \frac{x-y}{x+y}$

1) Take $\frac{d}{dx}$

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

2) Solve for $\frac{dy}{dx}$

Mult. by $(x+y)^2$

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

Separate $\frac{dy}{dx}$ terms from non- $\frac{dy}{dx}$

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

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

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

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