

3.6: Implicit differentiation

EXAMPLE 1. Find y' if the $y = y(x)$ satisfies the equation $xy = 5$ for all values of x in its domain and evaluate $y'(5)$.

Solution 1 (by explicit differentiation):

Solution 2 (by implicit differentiation):

EXAMPLE 2. (a) If $x^2 + y^2 = 16$ find $\frac{dy}{dx}$.

(b) Find the equation of the tangent line to $x^2 + y^2 = 16$ at the point $(2, 2\sqrt{3})$.

EXAMPLE 3. Find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ for the following:

(a) $4x^3 + 2y^2 = 4xy^5 + y$

(b) $x^3 - \cot(xy^2) = x \cos y$

(c) $(x^2 + y^2)^5 = x^2y^3$

DEFINITION 4. Two curves are said to be **orthogonal** if at the point(s) of their intersection, their tangent lines are orthogonal(perpendicular). In this case we also say that the angle between these curves is $\frac{\pi}{2}$.

Illustration: Consider two families of curves:

$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2, \quad y = kx,$$

where r and k are real parameters.

EXAMPLE 5. Are these curves orthogonal?

$$x^2 - y^2 = 5, \quad 4x^2 + 9y^2 = 72$$

EXAMPLE 6. Find the equations of both the tangent lines to the ellipse $x^2 + 4y^2 = 36$ that pass through the point $(12, 3)$.