

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 $\frac{dy}{dx}$ if

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

EXAMPLE 4. Regard y as the independent variable and x as the dependent variable and use implicit differentiation to find $\frac{dx}{dy}$, if

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

DEFINITION 5. *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.