

## 2.6

Implicit Differentiation

①

I We cannot always solve an equation for  $y$  so that we have  $y=f(x)$ .

Ex

$$x + y = (x^2 + y^2)^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{not easy to solve for } y$$

{ if we convert this to polar coordinates then the problem is tractable }

- We can still discover the rate of change of  $y$  with respect to  $x$  by using a method called implicit differentiation

## II Implicit Differentiation

EX Consider  $x + y^2 = 8$

- Take the derivative of both sides

$$\frac{d(x+y^2)}{dx} = \frac{d8}{dx}$$

$$\frac{dx}{dx} + \frac{dy^2}{dx} = 0$$

$$1 + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

Solve  
for  $y'$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-1}{2y}$$

{ but  $y = \pm\sqrt{8-x}$

Here we can solve for  $y$  <sup>FYI</sup>

$$\{ y^2 = 8-x \Rightarrow y = \pm\sqrt{8-x}$$

$$y' = \pm \frac{1}{2\sqrt{8-x}} (8-x)'$$

$$\left. y' = \frac{\pm 1}{2\sqrt{8-x}} \right\}$$

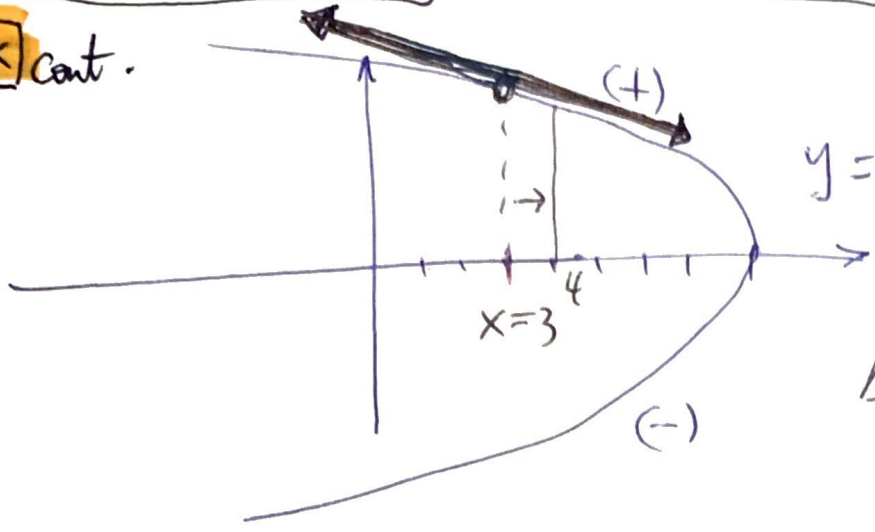
$$= \frac{\pm 1}{2\sqrt{8-x}}$$

For the curve  $x + y^2 = 8 \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\pm 1}{2\sqrt{8-x}}$

- So if we approx. the tangent line's slope by finite changes vs. infinitesimal changes
- we can vary  $\Delta x$  and use the rate of change to calculate  $\Delta y$  ...

Ex cont.

3



$$y = \pm \sqrt{8-x}$$

$$\Delta x = 4 - 3 = 1$$

If we move from 3 to 4 in  $x$ , how much, approximately, will  $\Delta y$  change?

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} \approx \frac{\mp 1}{2\sqrt{8-x}}$$

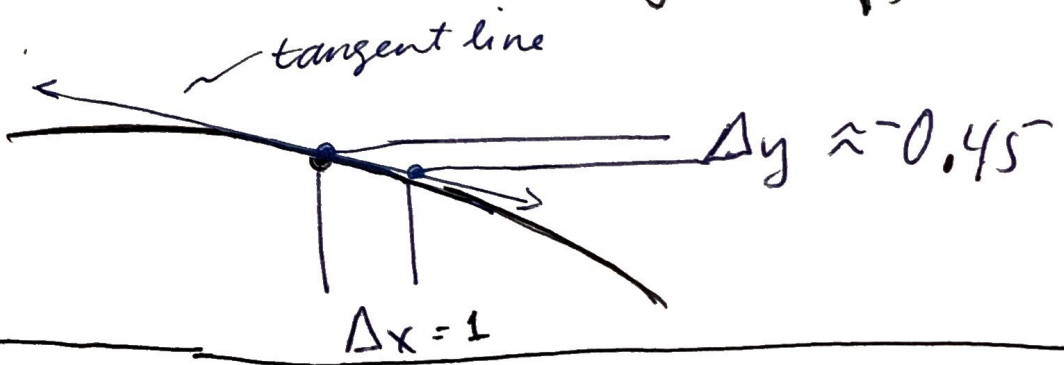
Top branch

@  $x=3$   $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} \approx \frac{\mp 1}{2\sqrt{8-3}}$  or  $\frac{-1}{2\sqrt{5}}$

$$\Delta y \approx \left(\frac{-1}{2\sqrt{5}}\right) \Delta x$$

Ex

If  $\Delta x = 1$  we have  $\Delta y \approx \frac{-1}{2\sqrt{5}}(1) \approx -0.45$



Find the eqn of the tangent line 4  
 to the curve  $y^2(y^2 - 4) = x^2(x^2 - 5)$   
 at the point  $(x, y) = (0, -2)$

Test:  $(-2)^2 \underbrace{((-2)^2 - 4)}_0 \stackrel{?}{=} 0^2 \cdot (0^2 - 5) \stackrel{?}{=} 0$   
 = 0      yes

Differentiate both sides of the eqn:  
 1<sup>st</sup> multiply the  $y^2$  through on the LHS. ditto on R  
 $y^4 - 4y^2 = x^4 - 5x^2$  on R  
{to avoid product

• Now Diff' t both sides

$$4y^3 \frac{dy}{dx} - 8y \frac{dy}{dx} = 4x^3 \frac{dx}{dx} - 5 \cdot 2x \frac{dx}{dx}$$

• Solve for  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ :  $\frac{dy}{dx} [4y^3 - 8y] = 4x^3 - 10x$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{4x^3 - 10x}{4y^3 - 8y}$$

This is an implicit function:  
 $\frac{dy}{dx} = F(x, y)$

BTW: 2.74 functions are  $= f(x)$

EX

Cont. Now evaluate the slope at the

given pt:  $\left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{(0, -2)} = \left. \left( \frac{4x^3 - 10x}{4y^3 - 8y} \right) \right|_{(0, -2)}$

$\swarrow$  x  
 $\swarrow$  y

$$= \frac{4 \cdot 0^3 - 10 \cdot 0}{4(-2)^3 - 8(-2)}$$

$$= \frac{0}{-32 + 16}$$

$$= \frac{0}{-16}$$

$$= \boxed{0}$$

• eqn of tangent line at (0, -2) is

Form  $y = mx + b$

Point  $y = (0)x + b$

Solve  $-2 = (0)(0) + b \rightarrow b = -2$

Final  $y = 0x - 2$

$\boxed{y = -2}$

• Go to desmos.com and enter the implicit eqn and check the tangent at  $x=0, y=-2$

EX

Use implicit diff'n on  $x^2 + xy = 10$  to find  $y'(2)$

(i) @  $x=2$  what is  $y$ ?  $(x,y) = (2, ?)$   
 $2^2 + 2 \cdot y = 10 \rightarrow y=3$   $= (2, 3)$

(ii) Implicit diff'n  $\rightarrow$  solve for  $\frac{dy}{dx}$   
 $2x + (x'y + xy') = 10 \rightarrow 2x + 1 \cdot y + x \cdot y' = 0$

(iii) plug in  $(x,y)$  @ point  $(2,3)$ :  
 $y' = \frac{-2x - y}{x}$   
 $y' \Big|_{(2,3)} = -2 - \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) = -\frac{4}{2} - \frac{3}{2} = \frac{-7}{2}$   
 $y' = -2 - \frac{y}{x}$

(iv) Form the eqn of tan line:  
 $y = mx + b$

Form  $y = -\frac{7}{2}x + b$

point  $3 = -\frac{7}{2}(2) + b$

solve  $3 = -7 + b \rightarrow b = 10$

Ans:  $y = -\frac{7}{2}x + 10$