

Implicit Differentiation

Starter

1. (Review of last lesson)

For the curve $y = \frac{2x}{\cos x}$, find the exact value of $\frac{dy}{dx}$ when $x = \frac{\pi}{3}$.

Working:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2 \cos x + 2x \sin x}{\cos^2 x}$$

When $x = \frac{\pi}{3}$, $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2 \cos \frac{\pi}{3} + 2 \times \frac{\pi}{3} \sin \frac{\pi}{3}}{\cos^2 \frac{\pi}{3}}$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2 \times \frac{1}{2} + 2 \times \frac{\pi}{3} \times \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}}{\frac{1}{4}}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 4 + \frac{4\pi\sqrt{3}}{3}$$

2. Find: (a) $\frac{d(x^2)}{dx}$ (b) $\frac{d(e^{7 \cos 3x})}{dx}$ (c) $\frac{d(\ln \sin 3x)}{dx}$

Working:

(a) $2x$

(b) $-21 \sin 3x e^{7 \cos 3x}$

(c) $\frac{3 \cos 3x}{\sin 3x}$

3. State the derivative of $y = [f(x)]^n$.

Working: $\frac{dy}{dx} = n f'(x) \times [f(x)]^{n-1}$

E.g. 1 Differentiate $y^2 = x$ with respect to x

Hint: Let $u = y^2$...

Working: Let $u = y^2$

Differentiating this equation w.r.t y gives $\frac{du}{dy} = 2y$

i.e. $\frac{dy}{du} = \frac{1}{2y}$

Replacing y^2 by u in the original equation gives $u = x$

So $\frac{du}{dx} = 1$

Substituting into the chain rule gives: $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{du}{dx} \times \frac{dy}{du} = 1 \times \frac{1}{2y}$

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

i.e. $\frac{d(y^2)}{dx} = 2y \frac{dy}{dx}$

E.g. 2 Differentiate $f(y) = x$ with respect to x

Working: Let $u = f(y)$ so $\frac{du}{dy} = f'(y)$ and $\frac{dy}{du} = \frac{1}{f'(y)}$
 $u = x$ so $\frac{du}{dx} = 1$
 Chain rule: $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dx}{du} \times \frac{du}{dy} = 1 \times \frac{1}{f'(y)}$ so $f'(y) \frac{dy}{dx} = 1$

E.g. 3 Differentiate these functions with respect to x

- (a) $7y^3$ (b) y^4 (c) e^y (d) $\sin 4y$

Working:

(a) $21y^2 \dots$ *differentiate the function of y with respect to y*
 $21y^2 \frac{dy}{dx}$ *multiply the result by $\frac{dy}{dx}$*

(b) $4y^3 \dots$ *differentiate the function of y with respect to y*
 $4y^3 \frac{dy}{dx}$ *multiply the result by $\frac{dy}{dx}$*

(c) $e^y \dots$ *differentiate the function of y with respect to y*
 $e^y \frac{dy}{dx}$ *multiply the result by $\frac{dy}{dx}$*

(d) $4 \cos 4y \dots$ *differentiate the function of y with respect to y*
 $4 \cos 4y \frac{dy}{dx}$ *multiply the result by $\frac{dy}{dx}$*

E.g. 4 Differentiate $y + 3y^2 - 7x = 9$.

Working: $\frac{dy}{dx} + 6y \frac{dy}{dx} - 7 = 0$ *differentiate each term individually*
 $\frac{dy}{dx} (1 + 6y) - 7 = 0$ *factorise out the $\frac{dy}{dx}$*
 $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{7}{6y + 1}$ *rearrange*

E.g. 5 Find: (a) $\frac{d(x^2y)}{dx}$ (b) $\frac{d(4x^3 \sin y)}{dx}$ (c) $\frac{d(e^{3y} \tan 5x)}{dx}$

Working: (a) $\frac{d(x^2y)}{dx} = 2xy + x^2 \frac{dy}{dx}$ *product rule*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(b)} \quad \frac{d(4x^3 \sin y)}{dx} &= 12x^2 \sin y + 4x^3 \cos y \frac{dy}{dx} && \text{product rule} \\ &= 4x^2 \left(3 \sin y + x \cos y \frac{dy}{dx} \right) && \text{factorise} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(c)} \quad \frac{d(e^{3y} \tan 5x)}{dx} &= 3e^{3y} \frac{dy}{dx} \tan 5x + 5e^{3y} \sec^2 5x && \text{product rule} \\ &= e^{3y} \left(3 \tan 5x \frac{dy}{dx} + 5 \sec^2 5x \right) && \text{factorise} \end{aligned}$$

E.g. 6 Find the coordinates of the stationary point(s) of the graph $y^2 = 18x^3 - 6xy$.

Working:

$$\begin{aligned} 2y \frac{dy}{dx} &= 54x^2 - 6y - 6x \frac{dy}{dx} && \text{differentiate with respect to } x \\ \frac{dy}{dx}(2y + 6x) &= 2(27x^2 - 3y) && \text{factorise} \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{27x^2 - 3y}{y + 3x} && \text{rearrange} \end{aligned}$$

A stationary point occurs when $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$ so $\frac{27x^2 - 3y}{y + 3x} = 0$

i.e. $27x^2 - 3y = 0$ so $y = 9x^2$ *numerator equals zero*

Substitute into the original equation:

$$81x^4 + 36x^3 = 0$$

$$9x^3(9x + 4) = 0$$

$$\text{So } x = 0 \text{ or } x = \frac{-4}{9}$$

Coordinates are (0, 0) and $\left(-\frac{4}{9}, \frac{16}{9} \right)$ *Sub. into original equation*

Video: [Derivatives of implicit functions](#)

[Derivatives of implicit functions EQ](#)

[Solutions to Starter and E.g.s](#)

Exercise

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