

Calculus I, Section 3.5, #18
Implicit Differentiation

Find dy/dx by implicit differentiation.¹

$$x \sin(y) + y \sin(x) = 1$$

For the given equation, it is impossible to solve explicitly for y .² Since we are asked to find dy/dx , we treat y as a function of x . This means whenever we take the derivative of y , we apply chain rule and multiply by the derivative of y with respect to x , dy/dx .

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x \sin(y) + y \sin(x)] = \frac{d}{dx} [1]$$
$$\underbrace{\frac{d}{dx} [x \sin(y)]}_{\text{product rule}} + \underbrace{\frac{d}{dx} [y \sin(x)]}_{\text{product rule}} = \frac{d}{dx} [1]$$

Now we apply product rule

$$x \cdot \cos(y) \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} + \sin(y) \cdot 1 + y \cdot \cos(x) + \sin(x) \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$
$$x \cos(y) \frac{dy}{dx} + \sin(x) \frac{dy}{dx} = -\sin(y) - y \cos(x)$$
$$(x \cos(y) + \sin(x)) \frac{dy}{dx} = -\sin(y) - y \cos(x)$$
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-\sin(y) - y \cos(x)}{(x \cos(y) + \sin(x))}$$

or

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{\sin(y) + y \cos(x)}{x \cos(y) + \sin(x)}$$

¹Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 215, #18.

²Every time we try to get the y out of $\sin(y)$ with inverse sine, the “free” y would then be inside an inverse sine. Then to get that y out of the inverse sine, we apply the sine function, and we’re right back where we started.