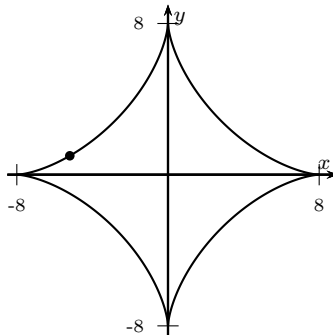


Calculus I, Section 3.5, #30  
Implicit Differentiation

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Use implicit differentiation to find an equation of the tangent line to the curve at the given point.<sup>1</sup>

$$x^{2/3} + y^{2/3} = 4, \quad (-3\sqrt{3}, 1), \quad (\text{astroid})$$



To write the equation of the tangent line at the given point, we need the slope,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} [x^{2/3} + y^{2/3}] &= \frac{d}{dx} [4] \\ \frac{d}{dx} [x^{2/3}] + \frac{d}{dx} [y^{2/3}] &= \frac{d}{dx} [4] \\ \frac{2}{3}x^{-1/3} + \frac{2}{3}y^{-1/3} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} &= 0 \\ \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{2}{3}x^{-1/3} + \frac{2}{3}y^{-1/3} \frac{dy}{dx} \right) &= \frac{3}{2} \cdot 0 \\ x^{-1/3} + y^{-1/3} \frac{dy}{dx} &= 0 \\ y^{-1/3} \frac{dy}{dx} &= -x^{-1/3} \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{-x^{-1/3}}{y^{-1/3}} \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= -\frac{y^{1/3}}{x^{1/3}} \end{aligned}$$

Substituting the given values,  $x = -3\sqrt{3}$  and  $y = 1$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} \left. \frac{dy}{dx} \right|_{(-3\sqrt{3}, 1)} &= -\frac{(1)^{1/3}}{(-3\sqrt{3})^{1/3}} \\ &= -\frac{1}{(-1 \cdot 3 \cdot 3^{1/2})^{1/3}} \\ &= -\frac{1}{(-1)^{1/3} \cdot (3)^{1/3} \cdot (3^{1/2})^{1/3}} \\ &= -\frac{1}{-1 \cdot (3)^{1/3} \cdot 3^{1/6}} \\ &= \frac{1}{3^{1/2}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \end{aligned}$$

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<sup>1</sup>Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 215, #30.

## Calculus I

### Implicit Differentiation

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Using point-slope form for the equation of a line, we get

$$y - 1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( x - (-3\sqrt{3}) \right)$$
$$y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}x + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \left( 3\sqrt{3} \right) + 1$$
$$y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}x + 4$$

Just for kicks, here's the graph with the tangent line.

