

# AP Calculus BC Project Topic 2 4th Hour

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## Part 1: Introduction

Topic: Implicit Differentiation

Sources: AoPS Calculus Book, AoPS Calculus Lecture Problems, Demidovich Mathematical Analysis Book, Khan Academy, and Myself.

## Part 2: Problems

**Problem 1** Find the slope of the tangent line to the circle  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  at the point  $\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)$ .

*Source: Art of Problem Solving Calculus Book.*

**Problem 2** If  $y^3 + 4y + 4 = x^2$ , and both  $x$  and  $y$  are real numbers, what is the derivative of  $y$  at  $x = 2$ ?

*Source: I made it up.*

**Problem 3** Find  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  if  $x^2 + y = \ln(y^2 - 1)$ .

*Source: Art of Problem Solving Calculus Book.*

**Problem 4** Find the first derivative of  $\frac{y}{x} = \ln \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}$ .

*Source: Demidovich Mathematical Analysis Problems.*

**Problem 5** The graph of  $xy^4 + x^2y = 10$  has a horizontal tangent at the point  $(a, b)$ . What is the value of  $a^2b^4$ ?

*Source: Art of Problem Solving College Math Forum*

**Problem 6** Prove the derivative of  $y = a^x$  using implicit differentiation Hint: What if we take the  $\ln$  of both sides?

*Source: I made it up.*

**Problem 7** Find  $y'(2)$  if  $y = 5x^{2+3x+2xy}$ , and  $y(2) = -5$ .

*Source: Art of Problem Solving.*

**Problem 8** Let  $\beta$  be the dependent variable and let  $f(\alpha, \beta) = \sin \alpha \cos \alpha + \sin \beta \cos \beta = 0$ . Prove that

$$d\alpha = -d\beta.$$

*Source: I made it up.*

**Problem 9** There are 2 lines that are tangent to the ellipse  $3x^2 - 72x + y^2 + 26 = 0$ , and pass through the origin. Find the equation of the line with the smaller slope.

*Source: I made it up*

**Problem 10** 2 circles, have equations

$$y^2 + x^2 = 1.$$

and

$$y^2 + (x - 3)^2 = 4.$$

respectfully.

Find the equation of the line tangent to both circles.

*Source: Art of Problem Solving.*

**Problem 11** Find  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  if  $y^2 = \frac{x^3}{4-x}$ .

*Source: Khan Academy.*

**Problem 12** Find  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  at  $x = 1$  and  $y = 2$ , if  $8x^2y + 2\ln(xy) = 7$ .

*Source: Khan Academy.*

**Problem 13** Find  $\frac{d^3y}{dx^3}$  of  $x^2 + 6xy + y^2 = 4$  on the point  $(1, 5)$ .

*Source: I made it up.*

**Problem 14** Let  $g(x, y) = 1 + xy + (xy)^2 + (xy)^3 + \dots + (xy)^{100}$ . If  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -1$  for all real  $x$  and  $y$ , find  $g'(\frac{1}{2}, 2)$ .

*Source: I made it up.*

**Problem 15** Let  $y = f(x)$  be a function of  $x$  such that

$$x^2y^2 + x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0.$$

Prove that:

$$\frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-x^4}} + \frac{dy}{\sqrt{1-y^4}} = 0.$$

*Source: Art of Problem Solving College Math Forum.*

## Part 3: Solutions

**Solution for Problem 1** First let's find the expression for the slope, which is  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ .

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

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}.$$

Thus, the slope at  $\left(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\right)$  is  $-\frac{\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}}{\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}} = -1$ .

**Solution for Problem 2** First, we take the implicit derivative of our given function:

$$3y^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 4 \frac{dy}{dx} = 2x$$

Moving the variables, we get

$$\frac{dy}{dx} (3y^2 + 4) = 2x$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2x}{3y^2 + 4}.$$

The problem asks us to find the derivative at  $x = 2$ , so by plugging in the  $x$  value, we can find the  $y$  value and calculate the derivative.

$$y^3 + 4y + 4 = 2^2$$

$$y(y^2 + 4) = 0$$

We can see that  $y = 0$  or  $y^2 + 4 = 0$ , but since  $y$  is real,  $y$  must be equal to 0.

Thus, the derivative at  $x = 2$  is  $\frac{2 \cdot 2}{0 + 4} = \boxed{1}$ .

**Solution for Problem 3** Very straight-forward:

$$\begin{aligned}
 2x + \frac{dy}{dx} &= 2y \frac{dy}{dx} \cdot \frac{1}{y^2 - 1} \\
 \frac{dy}{dx} \left( 1 - \frac{2y}{y^2 - 1} \right) &= -2x \\
 \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{2x}{\frac{2y - y^2 + 1}{y^2 - 1}} \\
 &= \frac{2x(y^2 - 1)}{-y^2 + 2y + 1} \\
 &= \frac{2x - 2xy^2}{y^2 - 2y - 1}
 \end{aligned}$$

**Solution for Problem 4** Start with quotient rule:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{x \frac{dy}{dx} - y}{x^2} &= \left( 2x + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{2} (x^2 + y^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \\
 \frac{x \frac{dy}{dx} - y}{x^2} &= \frac{1}{2} \left( 2x + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{x^2 + y^2} \\
 x \frac{dy}{dx} - y &= \frac{x^2 \cdot 2x}{2(x^2 + y^2)} + \frac{x^2 \cdot 2y}{2(x^2 + y^2)} \frac{dy}{dx} \\
 \left( x - \frac{x^2 y}{x^2 + y^2} \right) \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{x^3}{x^2 + y^2} + y \\
 \boxed{\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x^3 + x^2 y + y^3}{x^3 + x y^2 - x^2 y}}
 \end{aligned}$$

**Solution for Problem 5** We start by finding  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  because that's the expression for the slope of a tangent line to the function.

$$y^4 + 4xy^3 \frac{dy}{dx} + 2xy + \frac{dy}{dx} x^2 = 0$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} (4xy^3 + x^2) = -y^4 - 2xy$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-y^4 - 2xy}{4xy^3 + x^2}$$

We need  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$ . Thus,

$$-y^4 - 2xy = 0$$

$$y^4 = 2xy$$

$$x = \frac{y^3}{2}$$

Plugging back into our original equation, we get:

$$\frac{y^3}{2} \cdot y^4 + \frac{y^6}{4} \cdot y = 10$$

$$3y^7 = 40$$

$$y = \sqrt[7]{\frac{40}{3}}$$

Now we can find the  $x$  value

$$x = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{40}{3} \right)^{\frac{3}{7}}$$

The problem asks for the  $x$  value squared times the  $y$  value to the power of 4.

$$\begin{aligned} a^2 b^4 &= \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{40}{3} \right)^{\frac{6}{7}} \cdot \left( \frac{40}{3} \right)^{\frac{4}{7}} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{40}{3} \right)^{\frac{10}{7}} \end{aligned}$$

**Solution for Problem 6** First, we take the  $\ln$  of both sides.

$$\ln y = \ln a^x$$

$$\ln y = x \ln a$$

Now we take the implicit differentiation:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} \frac{1}{y} = \ln a$$

Substitute  $y = a^x$  back in recursively:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} \frac{1}{a^x} = \ln a$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \ln a a^x.$$

**Solution for Problem 7** Very similar to the last problem, we start by taking the  $\ln$  on both sides.

$$\ln y = \ln 5x^{2+3x+2xy}$$

Applying 2 log identities, we get:

$$\ln y = \ln 5 + (2 + 3x + 2xy) \ln x$$

Now we take the implicit derivative

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{1}{y} &= \left( 3 + 2y + 2x \frac{dy}{dx} \right) \ln x + \frac{2 + 3x + 2xy}{x} \\ \frac{dy}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{y} - 2x \ln x \right) &= 3 \ln x + 2y \ln x + \frac{2 + 3x + 2xy}{x} \end{aligned}$$

Since the problem gave us  $y(2) = -5$ , they gave us the point  $(2, -5)$  and we plug that in to get  $y'(2)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} y'(2) &= \frac{-7 \ln 2 - 6}{-\frac{1}{5} - 4 \ln 2} \\ &= \boxed{\frac{35 \ln 2 + 30}{20 \ln 2 + 1}}. \end{aligned}$$



**Solution for Problem 8** We start by taking the implicit derivative of the given function:

$$-\cos \alpha \sin \alpha - \frac{d\beta}{d\alpha} \cos \beta \sin \beta = 0$$

$$\frac{d\beta}{d\alpha} = \frac{\cos \alpha \sin \alpha}{\cos \beta \sin \beta}.$$

If we look back to the original function, we see that  $\sin \alpha \cos \alpha = -\sin \beta \cos \beta$ ,

Thus,

$$\frac{d\beta}{d\alpha} = -1$$

$$d\beta = -d\alpha$$

$$\boxed{d\alpha = -d\beta}.$$

**Solution for Problem 9** We start by finding the expression for the slope of a tangent line to the ellipse.

$$6x - 72 + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{72 - 6x}{2y} = \frac{36 - 3x}{y}.$$

For a line to pass through the origin and have the slope  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ , it must be in the form:

$$y = \frac{36 - 3x}{y}x$$

Thus,

$$y^2 = 36x - 3x^2$$

Plugging back into the origin equation, we get:

$$3x^2 - 72x + 36x - 3x^2 + 26 = 0$$

$$-36x = -26$$

$$x = \frac{13}{18}.$$

Now we find  $y$

$$y^2 = 36 \cdot \frac{13}{18} - 3 \left( \frac{13}{18} \right)^2$$

$$y^2 = 26 - \frac{507}{324}$$

$$y = \sqrt{\frac{7917}{324}}$$

Therefore, our equation of the line is:

$$y = \frac{36 - \frac{13}{18}}{\sqrt{\frac{7917}{324}}} x$$

**Solution for Problem 10** First, we find the derivative expression for both circles.

Circle 1:

$$2y \frac{dy}{dx} + 2x = 0$$
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}.$$

Circle 2:

$$2y \frac{dy}{dx} + 2x - 6 = 0$$
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3 - x}{y}.$$

Now we set them equal since the problem states that there is a line tangent to both circles.

$$-\frac{x}{y} = \frac{3 - x}{y}.$$

Cross-multiplying, we get:

$$-xy = 3y - xy$$
$$3y = 0$$
$$y = 0.$$

Now we plug  $y$  back into any of the two circles to find  $x$ .

$$0^2 + x^2 = 1$$
$$x = \pm 1.$$

Now how do we determine which one is the real  $x$  value of their intersection? Since the circle equations are simple, we know that the second circle is located to the right of the first circle, which is centered at  $(0, 0)$ , so  $x$  has to be 1.

Thus,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{1}{0} = \infty$$

This doesn't mean it doesn't exist, it means that the slope is perfectly vertical.

Thus, the equation of the tangent line is:

$$\boxed{x = 1}$$

**Solution for Problem 11** Get rid of fractions:

$$\begin{aligned}
 y^2(4-x) &= x^3 \\
 4y^2 - xy^2 &= x^3 \\
 8y \frac{dy}{dx} - y^2 - 2xy \frac{dy}{dx} &= 3x^2 \\
 \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{3x^2 + y^2}{2xy - 8y}
 \end{aligned}$$

Now we take the implicit derivative again to find the 2nd derivative:

$$\begin{aligned}
 8 \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{dy}{dx} + 8y \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2y \frac{dy}{dx} - \left( 2y + 2x \frac{dy}{dx} \right) \frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} 2xy &= 0 \\
 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} (8y - 2xy) &= 6x - 8 \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} + 2x \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 \\
 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} &= \frac{6x + (2x - 8) \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 + 4y \frac{dy}{dx}}{8y - 2xy} \\
 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} &= \frac{6x + (2x - 8) \left( \frac{3x^2 + y^2}{2xy - 8y} \right)^2 + 4y \frac{3x^2 + y^2}{2xy - 8y}}{8y - 2xy}
 \end{aligned}$$

**Solution for Problem 12**

$$\begin{aligned}
 16xy + 8x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 2 \left( y + x \frac{dy}{dx} \right) \frac{1}{xy} &= 0 \\
 16y + 16y \frac{dy}{dx} + 16x \frac{dy}{dx} + 8x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2x^{-2} - 2y^{-2} \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y^{-1} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} &= 0 \\
 \frac{dy}{dx} \left( \frac{2}{y} + 8x^2 \right) &= -16xy - \frac{2}{x} \\
 \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{-16xy - \frac{2}{x}}{8x^2 + \frac{2}{y}}
 \end{aligned}$$

So our first derivative is:

$$= -\frac{8x^2y^2 + y}{4x^2y + x}$$

Now let us find the second derivative:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} (8x^2 + 2y^{-1}) &= -16y - 16x \frac{dy}{dx} = 16x \frac{dy}{dx} + 2x^{-2} + 2y^{-2} \frac{dy}{dx} \\
\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} &= \frac{2x^{-2} - 16y + (2y^{-2} - 32x) \frac{dy}{dx}}{8x^2 + 2y^{-1}} \\
&= \frac{\frac{2}{x} - 16y - \frac{8x^2y^2+y}{4x^2y+x} \left( \frac{2}{y} - 32x \right)}{8x^2 + \frac{2}{y}} \\
&= \frac{2 - 32 - \frac{34}{9} \cdot (-31)}{9} \\
&= \frac{-270 + 34 \cdot 31}{81} = \boxed{\frac{784}{81}}.
\end{aligned}$$

**Solution for Problem 13** Finding the first derivative: //

$$\begin{aligned}
2x + 6y + 6x \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} &= 0 \\
\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{-2x - 6y}{6x + 2y} \\
\frac{dy}{dx} &= -\frac{x + 3y}{3x + y} \\
\frac{dy}{dx} &= -2.
\end{aligned}$$

Now we find the second derivative:

$$2 + 6 \frac{dy}{dx} + 6 \frac{dy}{dx} + 6x \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2 \frac{dy}{dx} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 0$$

We will use the above expression to find the third derivative

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} (6x + 2y) &= -2 \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 - 12 \frac{dy}{dx} - 2 \\
\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} &= -\frac{2 \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 + 12 \frac{dy}{dx} + 2}{6x + 2y} \\
\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} &= -\frac{8 - 24 + 2}{6 + 10} = \frac{14}{16} = \frac{7}{8}.
\end{aligned}$$

Now let's find the third derivative:

$$6 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 6 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 6 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 6x \frac{d^3y}{dx^3} + 2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \frac{dy}{dx} + 2 \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2 \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2y \frac{d^3y}{dx^3} = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} (6x + 2y) &= -18 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 6 \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \\
\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} &= -\frac{9 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 3 \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}{3x + 1} \\
\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} &= -\frac{9 \cdot \frac{7}{8} + 3 \cdot (-2) \cdot \frac{7}{8}}{3 + 1} \\
&= -\frac{\frac{21}{8}}{4} = \boxed{-\frac{21}{32}}.
\end{aligned}$$

**Solution for Problem 14** This one is a really weird problem, but don't give up after just looking at it, give it a try, and find a pattern!

If we were to take the implicit derivative of the first 3 terms, we would get

$$0 + y + x \frac{dy}{dx} + 2xy \left( y + x \frac{dy}{dx} \right).$$

Since the problem gave us  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -1$ , plugging it in would leave us with:

$$y - x + 2xy(y - x).$$

Notice that if we were to continue writing down terms, we would have a general structure of:

$$n(xy)^{n-1}(y - x)$$

for each term. Also, the problem wanted us to find the derivative at  $x = \frac{1}{2}$  and  $y = 2$ , which luckily for us, makes  $xy = 1$ . Using this, we get:

$$\begin{aligned}
&y - x + y - x + y - x + \dots \\
&= 2 - \frac{1}{2} + 2 - \frac{1}{2} + 2 - \frac{1}{2} + \dots
\end{aligned}$$

With 99 terms in total.

$$\text{Thus, we have } 2 \cdot 99 - \frac{1}{2} \cdot 99 = \boxed{\frac{297}{2}}.$$

**Solution for Problem 15** Since nobody posted any solutions, the approach I thought of was pretty straightforward. So our goal is to prove that  $\frac{dx}{\sqrt{1-x^4}} + \frac{dy}{\sqrt{1-y^4}} = 0$  is true. Notice that we have to get  $1 - x^4$  and  $1 - y^4$  somehow.

Let's start by finding  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  of our given function,  $f(x) = x^2y^2 + x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0$ .  
Using implicit differentiation, we get the following:

$$\begin{aligned} 2xy^2 + 2y\frac{dy}{dx}x^2 + 2x + 2y\frac{dy}{dx} &= 0 \\ \frac{dy}{dx}(2x^2y + 2y) &= -2xy^2 - 2x \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= -\frac{2xy^2 + 2x}{2x^2y + 2y}. \end{aligned}$$

Factoring out  $2x$  and  $2y$  on the numerator and denominator respectfully, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= -\frac{2x(y^2 + 1)}{2y(x^2 + 1)} \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= -\frac{x(y^2 + 1)}{y(x^2 + 1)}. \end{aligned}$$

We see that the numerator and denominator are nearly symmetrical with the  $x$  swapped with  $y$ . So how do we get  $1 - x^4$ ? If we find out how to get that, then we could do the same thing to get  $1 - y^4$  because of symmetry.

This is where the hardest part of the problem comes into play.  
First, from our original equation, notice that

$$x^2y^2 + x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0$$

can be turned into

$$x^2(y^2 + 1) = 1 - y^2.$$

by factoring the  $x^2$  and moving the rest to the right-hand side.

Thus, we can square both sides to get

$$\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 = \frac{x^2(y^2 + 1)^2}{y^2(x^2 + 1)^2}.$$

Thus using symmetry (we could also factor  $y^2$  out), our equation becomes:

$$\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 = \frac{x^2(y^2 + 1)^2}{y^2(x^2 + 1)^2} = \frac{x^2(y^2 + 1)(y^2 + 1)}{y^2(x^2 + 1)(x^2 + 1)} = \frac{(1 - y^2)(y^2 + 1)}{(1 - x^2)(x^2 + 1)}$$

Because  $(a^2 + b^2)(a^2 - b^2) = a^4 - b^4$  we get

$$\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 = \frac{1 - y^4}{1 - x^4}.$$

Now we could take the square root of both sides.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{\sqrt{1 - y^4}}{\sqrt{1 - x^4}}.$$

Note that there has to be a negative there because when we squared both sides, there was also a negative there.

Cross-multiplying, we get

$$\begin{aligned} dy\sqrt{1 - x^4} &= -dx\sqrt{1 - y^4} \\ dx\sqrt{1 - y^4} + dy\sqrt{1 - x^4} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we divide both sides by  $\sqrt{1 - x^4}\sqrt{1 - y^4}$  and get

$$\boxed{\frac{dx}{\sqrt{1 - x^4}} + \frac{dy}{\sqrt{1 - y^4}} = 0}.$$

And we are done with our proof.