

Implicit Differentiation and the Second Derivative

Calculate y'' using implicit differentiation; simplify as much as possible.

$$x^2 + 4y^2 = 1$$

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$$x^2 + 4y^2 = 1$$

$$x^2 = 1 - 4y^2$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} x^2 = \frac{d}{dx} (1 - 4y^2)$$

$$2x = 0 - 8y \frac{dy}{dx}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} &= -\frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{1 \cdot y - x \cdot \frac{dy}{dx}}{y^2} \right] \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{y + \frac{1}{4} \frac{x^2}{y}}{y^2} \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{\frac{4y^2 + x^2}{4y}}{y^2} \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{1}{4y^3} \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{16y^3} \end{aligned}$$

$$y^2 = \frac{1 - x^2}{4}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned} &= -\frac{1}{16y^3} \\ &= -\frac{1}{4y(1-x^2)} \\ &= \frac{1}{\mp 2\sqrt{1-x^2}(1-x^2)} \\ &= \mp \frac{1}{2(1-x^2)^{3/2}} \end{aligned}$$