

THE IMPLICIT FUNCTION THEOREM

I

When solving an equation, there are often multiple variables, and we want to solve for one of them.

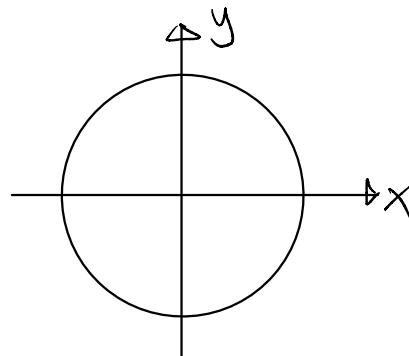
Example

Solve the equation $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ for y as a function of x .

Rewrite the eq. as $F(x, y) = 0$, where

$F(x, y) = x^2 + y^2 - 1$. We want to find some $G_1 = G_1(x)$ such that

$$F(x, G_1(x)) = 0 \quad \forall x$$



When solving an equation, there are often multiple variables, and we want to solve for one of them.

Example

Solve the equation $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ for y as a function of x .

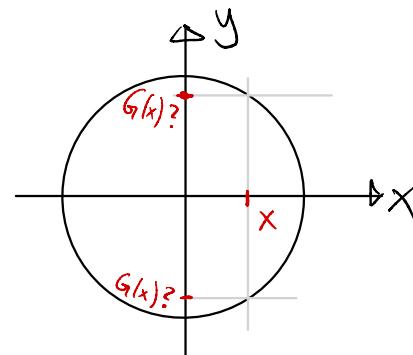
Rewrite the eq. as $F(x, y) = 0$, where

$F(x, y) = x^2 + y^2 - 1$. We want to find some $G = G(x)$ such that

$$F(x, G(x)) = 0 \quad \forall x$$

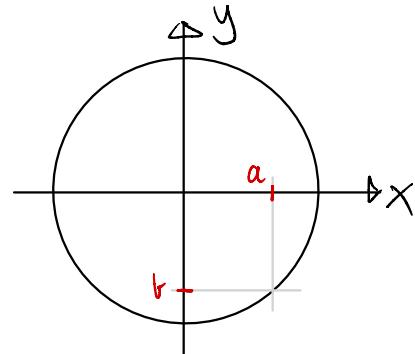
• It is clear that G cannot be unique!

• We need to specify which part of the solution set we want to solve for.



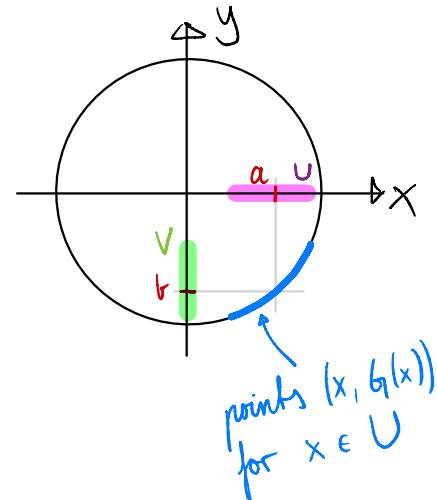
Let us fix a point (a, b) in the solution set: $F(a, b) = 0$.

Can we solve for y in a neighborhood of (a, b) ?



Let us fix a point (a, b) in the solution set: $F(a, b) = 0$.

Can we solve for y in a neighborhood of (a, b) ?



We want to find $G: U \rightarrow V$ such that

$$F(x, G(x)) = 0 \quad \forall x \in U$$

where U is a neighbourhood of a and V of b .

We want to find $G: U \rightarrow V$ such that

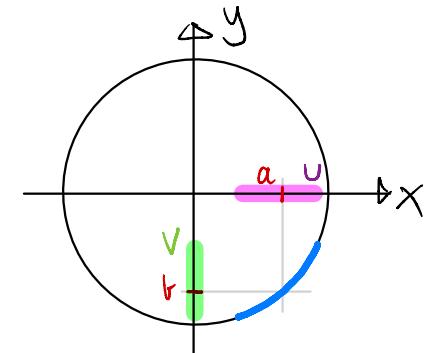
$$(*) \quad F(x, G(x)) = 0 \quad \forall x \in U$$

where U is a neighbourhood of a and V of b .

Differentiate $(*)$ with respect to x :

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}(x, G(x)) + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y}(x, G(x)) G'(x) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow G'(x) = - \frac{\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}(x, G(x))}{\frac{\partial F}{\partial y}(x, G(x))}$$



$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y}$ must be nonzero at $(x, G(x))$ for all $x \in U$!

Generalize now to $F: X \times Y \rightarrow Z$: For some point $(a, b) \in X \times Y$ where $F(a, b) = 0$, we try to find nbd. U of a and V of b and some $G: U \rightarrow V$ s.t.

$$F(x, G(x)) = 0 \quad \forall x \in U.$$

Differentiate w.r.t. x :

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \frac{\partial F}{\partial x}(x, G(x)) + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y}(x, G(x)) \circ G'(x) \\ \Rightarrow G'(x) &= - \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial y}(x, G(x)) \right)^{-1} \circ \frac{\partial F}{\partial x}(x, G(x)). \end{aligned}$$

$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y}(x, G(x))$ must be invertible for all $x \in U$!

QUESTIONS ?
COMMENTS ?

Next video: The implicit function theorem