

### High Order Derivatives

If the derivative  $f'$  of a function  $f$  is differentiable, then the derivative of  $f'$  is the second derivative of  $f$  represented by  $f''$  (read as  $f$  double prime). You can continue to differentiate  $f$  as long as there is differentiability.

$f'(x)$	$f''(x)$	$f'''(x)$	$f^{(4)}(x)$	...
$dy/dx$	$d^2y/dx^2$	$d^3y/dx^3$	$d^4y/dx^4$	...
$y'$	$y''$	$y'''$	$y^{(4)}$	...
$D_x(y)$	$D_x^2(y)$	$D_x^3(y)$	$D_x^4(y)$	...

Note that  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) = \frac{dy'}{dx}$

**Example 1:** If  $y = 5x^3 + 7x - 10$ , find the first four derivatives.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 15x^2 + 7$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 30x$$

$$\frac{d^3y}{dx^3} = 30$$

$$\frac{d^4y}{dx^4} = 0$$

$y^{(n)} = f(x)$ 型微分方程

$$y^{(n-1)} = \int f(x) + C_1$$

$$y^{(n-2)} = \int \left[ \int f(x) + C_1 \right] dx + C_2$$

**Example 2:** Find the general solution of  $y''' = e^{2x} - \cos x$ .

$$y'' = \frac{1}{2}e^{2x} - \sin x + C$$

$$y' = \frac{1}{4}e^{2x} + \cos x + Cx + C_2$$

$$y = \frac{1}{8}e^{2x} + \sin x + C_1x^2 + C_2x + C_3 \quad \left( C_1 = \frac{C}{2} \right)$$

**Example 3:** 质量为  $m$  的指点受力  $F$  的作用沿  $Ox$  轴做直线运动. 设力  $F = F(t)$  在开始时刻  $t = 0$  时  $F(0) = F_0$ , 随着时间  $t$  的增大, 力  $F$  均匀的减小, 指导  $t = T$  时,  $F(T) = 0$ . 如果开始时质点位于原点, 且初速度为 0, 求指点的运动规律。

$$\begin{cases} t = 0, F(0) = F_0 \\ t = T, F(T) = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow F(t) = kt + b \Rightarrow \begin{cases} b = F_0 \\ k = -F_0/T \end{cases} \Rightarrow F(t) = -\frac{F_0}{T}t + F_0$$

$$F(t) = ma = m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -\frac{F_0}{T}t + F_0 \Rightarrow \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = \frac{F_0}{m} \left( 1 - \frac{t}{T} \right)$$

初始条件为

$$x|_{t=0} = 0, \quad v = \frac{dx}{dt}|_{t=0} = 0$$

积分可得

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \int \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} dt = \int \left( \frac{F_0}{m} \left( 1 - \frac{t}{T} \right) \right) dt = \frac{F_0}{m} \left( t - \frac{t^2}{2T} \right) + C_1$$

带入  $v = \frac{dx}{dt}|_{t=0} = 0$  的条件, 可得

$$C_1 = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{F_0}{m} \left( t - \frac{t^2}{2T} \right) \Rightarrow dx = \frac{F_0}{m} \left( t - \frac{t^2}{2T} \right) dt$$

积分可得

$$x = \int dx = \int \frac{F_0}{m} \left( t - \frac{t^2}{2T} \right) dt = \frac{F_0}{m} \left( \frac{t^2}{2} - \frac{t^3}{6T} \right) + C_2$$

带入  $x|_{t=0} = 0$  的条件, 可得

$$C_2 = 0 \Rightarrow x = \frac{F_0}{m} \left( \frac{t^2}{2} - \frac{t^3}{6T} \right)$$

$y'' = f(x, y')$ 型微分方程

此方程的特点是, 方程的右端不显含未知数  $y$ .

可以设  $y' = p$

$$y'' = \frac{dp}{dx} = p'$$

此时原方程可以化为

$$p' = f(x, p)$$

这是一个关于变量  $(x, p)$  的一阶微分方程。

**Example 4:** Find the solution of  $(1 + x^2)y'' = 2xy'$ ,  $y|_{x=0} = 1$ ,  $y'|_{x=0} = 3$

Let  $y' = p$ , we have

$$(1 + x^2) \frac{dp}{dx} = 2xp$$

$$\frac{dp}{p} = \frac{2x}{1 + x^2}$$

Integrate the function

$$\ln|p| = \ln(1 + x^2) + C$$

$$p = y' = C_1(1 + x^2) \quad (C_1 = \pm e^C)$$

Plug in the initial condition  $y'|_{x=0} = 3$ , we have

$$3 = C_1(1 + 0^2) \Rightarrow C_1 = 3$$

$$y' = 3(1 + x^2)$$

Integrate the function

$$y = 3 \left( x + \frac{x^3}{3} \right) + C_2 = x^3 + 3x + C_2$$

Plug in the initial condition  $y|_{x=0} = 1$ , we have

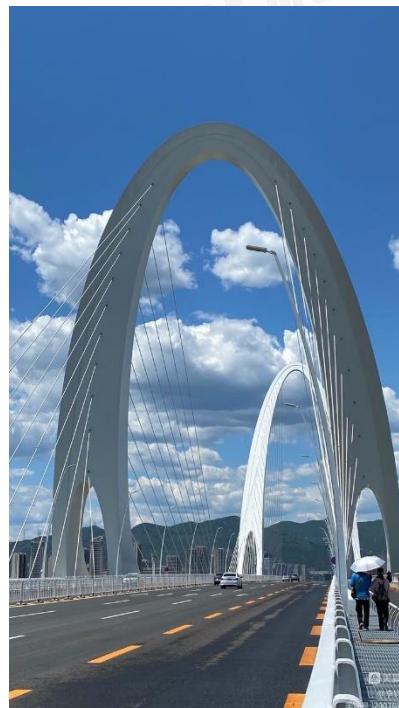
$$1 = C_2$$

$$y = x^3 + 3x + 1$$

**Example 5:** Catenary 悬链线

In physics and geometry, a catenary (US: /'kætənəri/, UK: /kə'ti:nəri/) is the curve that an idealized hanging chain or cable assumes under its own weight when supported only at its ends in a uniform gravitational field.

The Shougang Bridge (Shijingshan District, Beijing) is a flattened catenary.



At the lowest position A, the tension only have the x-direction component  $T_0$ . The length of the string from point A to point  $(x, y)$  is  $s$  and its weight is  $mg = \rho sg$ . At point  $(x, y)$  the tension is  $T$  and its angle from x-direction is  $\theta$ .

$$\begin{cases} x \text{ direction: } T \cos \theta = T_0 \\ y \text{ direction: } T \sin \theta = \rho sg \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \tan \theta = \rho gs / T_0$$

The curve length  $s$  is:

$$s = \int_0^x \sqrt{1 + (y')^2} dx$$

$$\tan \theta = y' = \rho gs / T_0 \Rightarrow s = (y' T_0) / \rho g$$

So we can have:

$$\int_0^x \sqrt{1 + (y')^2} dx = \frac{y' T_0}{\rho g}$$

Taking the derivative for the equation above with respect of  $x$ , we can obtain:

$$\sqrt{1 + (y')^2} = \frac{y'' T_0}{\rho g}$$

上式是一个典型的  $y'' = f(x, y')$  型微分方程, 方程的右端不显含未知数  $y$ .

Let  $|OA| = a$ , we can have the initial condition:

$$y|_{x=0} = a, \quad y'|_{x=0} = 0$$

Let  $y' = p, y'' = dp/dx$ , we can obtain

$$\sqrt{1 + (p)^2} = \frac{T_0}{\rho g} \left( \frac{dp}{dx} \right)$$

Separate variables

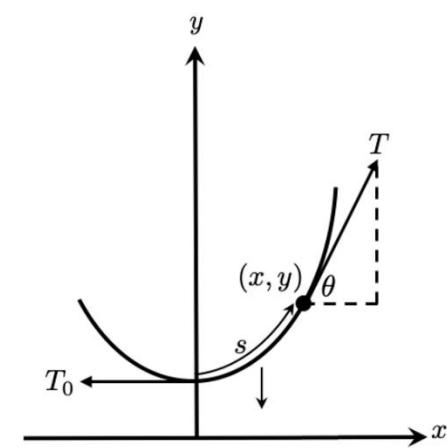
$$\frac{\rho g}{T_0} dx = \frac{dp}{\sqrt{1 + p^2}}$$

Please notice that  $T_0$  is constant, so we can integrate the differential equation:

$$\int \frac{\rho g}{T_0} dx = \int \frac{dp}{\sqrt{1 + p^2}}$$

Integrate the function (Refer to P389, Calculus 10<sup>th</sup> ed, Ron Larson, of Inverse

Hyperbolic Function Integration  $\int \frac{du}{\sqrt{u^2 + a^2}} = \ln(u + \sqrt{u^2 + a^2})$  for details)



$$\ln(p + \sqrt{1 + p^2}) = \frac{\rho g}{T_0} x + C_1$$

Plug the initial condition into the equation above:  $y'|_{x=0} = 0 \Rightarrow p|_{x=0} = 0$

$$\ln(0 + \sqrt{1 + 0^2}) = C_1 \Rightarrow C_1 = 0$$

So we have

$$\begin{aligned} \ln(p + \sqrt{1 + p^2}) &= \frac{\rho g}{T_0} x \Rightarrow p + \sqrt{1 + p^2} = e^{(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x)} \\ \Rightarrow \sqrt{1 + p^2} &= e^{(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x)} - p \Rightarrow 1 + p^2 = e^{2(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x)} - 2pe^{(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x)} + p^2 \\ \Rightarrow 2pe^{(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x)} &= e^{2(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x)} - 1 \Rightarrow p = \frac{1}{2} \left( e^{(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x)} - e^{-(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x)} \right) = \sinh\left(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x\right) \end{aligned}$$

The notation  $\sinh x$  is read as "the hyperbolic sine of  $x$ "

Integrate the equation and we can obtain:

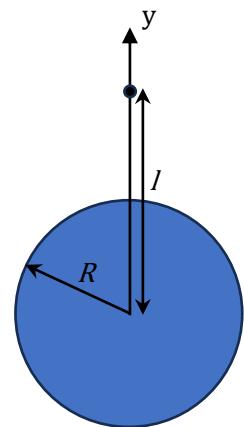
$$y = \frac{T_0}{2\rho g} \left( e^{(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x)} + e^{-(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x)} \right) + C_2 = \frac{T_0}{2\rho g} \cosh\left(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x\right) + C_2$$

Plug the initial condition into the equation above:  $y|_{x=0} = a$

$$C_2 = 0$$

$$y = \frac{T_0}{2\rho g} \left( e^{(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x)} + e^{-(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x)} \right) = \frac{T_0}{2\rho g} \cosh\left(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x\right)$$

**Exercise 1:** 某距离地面很高的物体，受到地心引力的作用，从静止开始坠向地球。忽略空气阻力，设地球半径是  $R$ ，物体开始下坠时距离地心为  $l$  ( $l > R$ )，地球质量为  $M$ ，地面附件的重力加速度为  $g$ ，求此物体降落到地面所需要的时间。



设物体质量  $m$ ，根据万有引力定律，物体所受到的引力为：

$$F = -\frac{GMm}{y^2}$$

根据牛顿第二定律，此物体的加速度为

$$F = ma = mv' = my''$$

Initial condition:

$$\begin{cases} \text{初始位置为 } l: & y|_{t=0} = l \\ \text{初始速度为 } 0: & y'|_{t=0} = 0 \\ \text{地表加速度为 } g: & y''|_{y=R} = g \end{cases}$$

列出微分方程

$$-\frac{GMm}{y^2} = my'' \Rightarrow -\frac{GM}{y^2} = y''$$