

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'' (reads 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

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

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 $v = \frac{dx}{dt} \Big|_{t=0} = 0$ 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

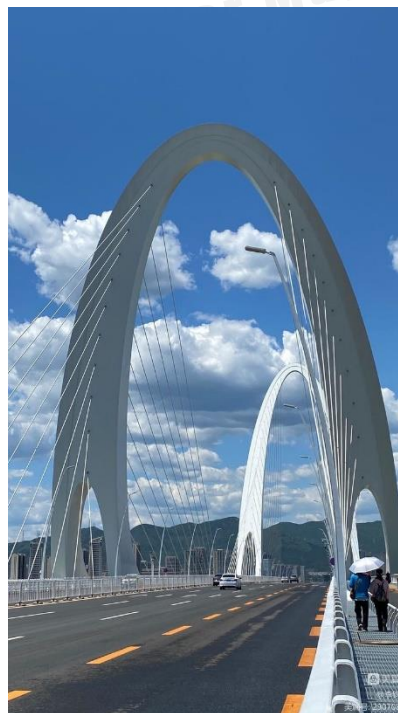
an idealized hanging chain or cable assumes

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 $mg = \rho s g$. At point (x,y) the tension is T and its angle from x-direction is θ .

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

$$\Rightarrow \tan \theta = \rho g s / T_0$$

The curve length s is:

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

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

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

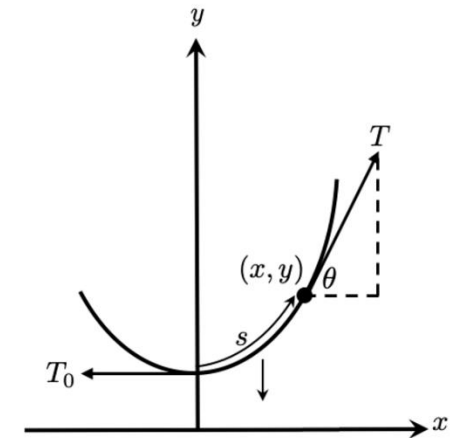
$$\frac{\rho g}{T_0} dx = \frac{dp}{\sqrt{1 + p^2}}$$

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 10th 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

$$\ln(p + \sqrt{1 + p^2}) = \frac{\rho g}{T_0} x \Rightarrow p + \sqrt{1 + p^2} = e^{\left(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x\right)}$$

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

$$\Rightarrow 2pe^{\left(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x\right)} = e^{2\left(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x\right)} - 1 \Rightarrow p = \frac{1}{2} \left(e^{\left(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x\right)} - e^{-\left(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x\right)} \right) = \sinh\left(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x\right)$$

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

Integrate the equation and we can obtain:

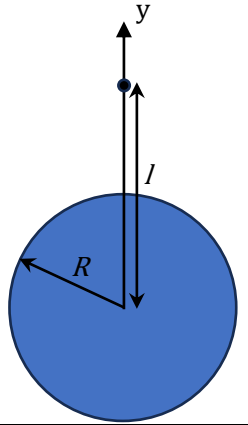
$$y = \frac{T_0}{2\rho g} \left(e^{\left(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x\right)} + e^{-\left(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x\right)} \right) + C_2 = \frac{T_0}{2\rho g} \cosh\left(\frac{\rho g}{T_0} x\right) + C_2$$

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

$$C_2 = 0$$

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

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

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