

Example. Find orthogonal trajectories of the family of curves given by the equation

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

First step, write it in the form $F(x, y) = k$

$$\begin{aligned} k - x &= \frac{x^3}{y^2} \\ k &= x + \underbrace{\frac{x^3}{y^2}}_{F(x,y)} = x + x^3 y^{-2} \end{aligned}$$

Do implicit differentiation to find the differential equation that gives that family:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= 1 + 3x^2 y^{-2} - 2x^3 y^{-3} y' \\ &= 1 + 3\frac{x^2}{y^2} - 2\frac{x^3}{y^3} y' \end{aligned}$$

Switch y' with a $-1/y'$.

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= 1 + 3\frac{x^2}{y^2} + 2\frac{x^3}{y^3} \cdot \frac{1}{y'} \\ -2\frac{x^3}{y^3} \cdot \frac{1}{y'} &= 1 + 3\frac{x^2}{y^2} = \frac{y^2 + 3x^2}{y^2} \\ \frac{y^3}{-2x^3} y' &= \frac{y^2}{y^2 + 3x^2} \\ y' &= \frac{-2x^3 y^2}{y^3(y^2 + 3x^2)} = -2\frac{x^3}{y(y^2 + 3x^2)} \end{aligned}$$

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

This is a homogeneous equation. Do $v = y/x$, $y' = v + xv'$. And solve.

Example. The normal and the line through the point and the origin form an isosceles triangle.

$$|y_0| \sqrt{1 + (y'_0)^2} = \sqrt{x_0^2 + y_0^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
y^2(1 + (y')^2) &= x^2 + y^2 \\
y^2 + y^2(y')^2 &= x^2 + y^2 \\
y^2(y')^2 &= x^2 \\
yy' &= \pm x \\
y' &= \pm \frac{x}{y}
\end{aligned}$$

Example. Study the model given by the equation

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = (P + 2)(P - 2)^2$$

Singular solutions at $P = 2$ and $P = -2$.

However, $P = -2$ makes no sense in terms of populations.

$0-2-\infty$

Pick a point between 0 and 2 (say, 1). Evaluate: $(1 + 2)(1 - 2)^2 = 3 > 0$.

Pick a point after 2 (say, 3). Evaluate: $(3 + 2)(3 - 2)^2 = 5 > 0$.

Sketch the corresponding slope field.

Example. The time rate of change of a rabbit population P is proportional to the square root of P . At time $t = 0$ months, the population numbers 100 rabbits and is increasing at the rate of 20 rabbits per month. How many rabbits will there be one year later?

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = k\sqrt{P}$$

$$P(0) = 100, \quad P'(0) = +20$$

From this information and the given equation, we find that

$$20 = k\sqrt{100}$$

$$k = 2$$

So we have the differential equation: $\frac{dP}{dt} = 2\sqrt{P}$. Let's solve it:

$$\int \frac{dP}{\sqrt{P}} = 2 \int dt$$

$$2\sqrt{P} = 2t + C$$

$$\sqrt{P} = t + C$$

Let's find out the value of C . We use the initial condition $P(0) = 100$ for that.

$$\sqrt{100} = 0 + C$$

$$C = 10$$

Our final equation is then $\sqrt{P} = t + 10$.
How many rabbits one year later? ($t = 12$). Solve for P in the equation

$$\begin{aligned}\sqrt{P} &= 22 \\ P &= 22^2 = 484\end{aligned}$$

Solution. There will be 484 rabbits after one year.