

Answer on Question #52873 - Math – Differential Equations

Solve with the orthogonal trajectory:

$$xy = c$$

Solution

$$xy = c \rightarrow \frac{d}{dx}(xy) = \frac{d}{dx}(c) \rightarrow y + x \frac{dy}{dx} = 0 \rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y}{x}.$$

Using the fact that perpendicular lines have slopes which are negative reciprocals, solve $\frac{dY}{dX} = -\frac{1}{\frac{dy}{dx}}$.

For the orthogonal trajectories

$$\frac{dY}{dX} = \frac{X}{Y}$$

We usually change back to x and y at this point

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x}{y}$$

Separate the variables and integrate

$$ydy - xdx = 0$$

$$\frac{y^2}{2} - \frac{x^2}{2} = C_1$$

$$y^2 - x^2 = C_2$$

or

$$x^2 - y^2 = C$$

where C is an arbitrary real constant.

Trajectories of $xy = c$ and $x^2 - y^2 = C$ are hyperbolas.

