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example of derivative as parameter

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For solving the (nonlinear) differential equation

$$x = \frac{y}{3p} - 2py^2 \quad (1)$$

with $p = \frac{dy}{dx}$, according to **III** in the <http://planetmath.org/DerivativeAsParameterForSolving> entry, we differentiate both sides in regard to y , getting first

$$\frac{1}{p} = \frac{1}{3p} - \left(\frac{y}{3p^2} + 2y^2 \right) \frac{dp}{dy} - 4py.$$

Removing the denominators, we obtain

$$2p + (y + 6p^2y^2) \frac{dp}{dy} + 12p^3y = 0.$$

The left hand side can be factored:

$$(y \frac{dp}{dy} + 2p)(1 + 6p^2y) = 0 \quad (2)$$

Now we may use the zero rule of product; the first factor of the product in (2) yields $y \frac{dp}{dy} = -2p$, i.e.

$$2 \int \frac{dy}{y} = - \int \frac{dp}{p} + \ln C,$$

whence $y^2 = \frac{C}{p}$, i.e. $p = \frac{C}{y^2}$. Substituting this into the original equation (1)

we get $x = \frac{y^3}{3C} - 2C$. Hence the general solution of (1) may be written

$$y^3 = 3Cx + 6C^2.$$

The second factor in (2) yields $6p^2y = -1$, which is substituted into (1) multiplied by $3p$:

$$3px = y - (-y)$$

Thus we see that $p = \frac{2y}{3x}$, which is again set into (1), giving

$$x = \frac{y \cdot 3x}{3 \cdot 2y} - \frac{4y^3}{3x}.$$

Finally, we can write it

$$3x^2 = -8y^3,$$

which (a variant of the so-called semicubical parabola) is the singular solution of (1).