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# Hyers–Ulam Stability of Order *k* for Euler Equation and Euler–Poisson Equation in the Calculus of Variations

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**Abstract:** In this paper, we define and study Hyers–Ulam stability of order 1 for Euler's equation and Hyers–Ulam stability of order m - 1 for the Euler–Poisson equation in the calculus of variations in two special cases, when these equations have the form y''(x) = f(x) and  $y^{(m)}(x) = f(x)$ , respectively. We prove some estimations for  $|J[y(x)] - J[y_0(x)]|$ , where y is an approximate solution and  $y_0$  is an exact solution of the corresponding Euler and Euler-Poisson equations, respectively. We also give two examples.

Keywords: Euler equation; Euler-Poisson equation; calculus of variations; Hyers-Ulam stability

MSC: 49K15; 34K20



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# 1. Introduction

Hyers–Ulam stability has been the subject of many papers. Ulam stability was proposed by Ulam in [1] in 1940. The first result in this direction was given in 1941 by Hyers [2]. The first authors which started the study of Hyers–Ulam stability of differential equations was Obloza [3] and Alsina and Ger [4]. After that, many types of differential equations were studied. First-order linear differential equations and linear differential equations of higher order were investigated, for example, in [5–13]. Integral equations in [14–24] and partial differential equations in [25–30] have also been studied. The books [31,32] can be consulted for more details. The Hyers–Ulam stability of fractional differential equations and of fractional integral equations has recently begun to be studied (see [33–42]).

In what follows, we define and study Hyers–Ulam stability of order 1 for Euler's equation and Hyers–Ulam stability of order m - 1 for the Euler–Poisson equation in the calculus of variations. Section 2 is dedicated to the study of Euler's equation, and Section 3 is dedicated to the Euler–Poisson equation. We also establish an estimation for  $|J[y(x)] - J[y_0(x)]|$ , where y is an approximate solution and  $y_0$  is an exact solution for the considered equations.

This paper is a continuation of the paper [43]. In [43], Hyers–Ulam stability of the Euler equation in two special cases was studied when F = F(x, y') and when F = F(y, y'). An estimation for  $|J[y(x)] - J[y_0(x)]|$  is also given in [43] for the case F = F(x, y'). This was the first time, in [43], that the problem of Ulam stability of extremals for functionals represented in integral form was studied. In [43], a direct method and the Laplace transform method were used. Here, we will use Taylor's formula.

# 2. Hyers-Ulam Stability of Euler's Equation

We consider a class of functions  $A \subseteq C^2(I, \mathbb{R}), I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  an open interval. Let  $[a, b] \subset I$ , a < b,  $a \ge 0$ . Let  $y \in A$ , y = y(x) be an element in A. Let the function  $F : M \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $M = I \times \mathbb{R}^2$ ,  $F \in C^2(M)$ . We consider the functional

$$J[y(x)] = \int_{a}^{b} F(x, y, y') dx, \ J : A \to \mathbb{R}, \ y \in A, \ J[y(x)] \in \mathbb{R},$$
(1)

and the conditions

 $y(a) = y_a, y'(a) = y'_a,$  (2)

where  $y_a$ ,  $y'_a \in \mathbb{R}$  are given.

We consider the following problem in the calculus of variations (see [44]): find the extremum of this functional. The necessary condition of extremum (see [44]) is given by Euler's equation

$$F'_{y}(x,y,y') - \frac{d}{dx} \Big[ F'_{y'}(x,y,y') \Big] = 0, \ y \in C^{2}[a,b].$$
(3)

Equation (3) can be represented (by derivation) in the form:

$$\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial y'^2} \cdot y'' + \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial y' \partial y} \cdot y' + \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial y' \partial x} - \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = 0, \ y \in C^2[a, b].$$
(4)

The solutions of Equation (3) or (4) are called extremals.

We will study Hyers–Ulam stability of Equation (3) (or (4)).

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  and  $a, b \in (0, \infty)$ .

We consider the following inequalities:

$$F'_{y}(x,y,y') - \frac{d}{dx} \Big[ F'_{y'}(x,y,y') \Big] \bigg| \le \varepsilon, \ y \in C^{2}[a,b],$$
(5)

or

$$\left|\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial y'^2} \cdot y'' + \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial y' \partial y} \cdot y' + \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial y' \partial x} - \frac{\partial F}{\partial y}\right| \le \varepsilon, \ y \in C^2[a, b]. \tag{6}$$

**Definition 1.** Equation (3) (or (4)) is called Hyers–Ulam stable if there is a real number c > 0 such that for any solution y(x) of the inequality (5) (or (6)), there is a solution  $y_0(x)$  of the Equation (3) (or (4)) such that

$$|y(x) - y_0(x)| \le c \cdot \varepsilon, \ \forall x \in [a, b].$$

In the following definition, we give a new notion of stability, named stability of order 1.

**Definition 2.** Equation (3) (or (4)) is called Hyers–Ulam stable of order 1 if there are real numbers  $c_1 > 0, c_2 > 0$  so that for any solution y(x) of the inequality (5) (or (6)), there is a solution  $y_0(x)$  of Equation (3) (or (4)) such that

$$|y(x) - y_0(x)| \le c_1 \cdot \varepsilon, \ \forall x \in [a, b],$$

and

$$|y'(x) - y'_0(x)| \le c_2 \cdot \varepsilon, \ \forall x \in [a, b].$$

y is called an approximate solution and  $y_0$  is called an exact solution for Equation (3) (or (4)).

In the following, we will study the case where Euler's equation is

$$y''(x) = f(x), f \in C[a, b], x \in [a, b].$$
(7)

**Remark 1.** If y = y(x) is a solution of (7),  $x \in [a, b]$ , then (see [45]),

$$y(x) = y(a) + \frac{x-a}{1!}y'(a) + \int_{a}^{x} \frac{x-s}{1!}f(s)ds.$$
(8)

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . We consider the inequality

$$\left|y''(x) - f(x)\right| \le \varepsilon, \ y \in C^2[a, b]. \tag{9}$$

**Remark 2.** A function y = y(x) is a solution of (9) if and only if there exists a function  $g \in C[a, b]$  such that

- (1)  $|g(x)| \leq \varepsilon, \forall x \in [a,b],$
- (2)  $y''(x) f(x) = g(x), \ \forall x \in [a, b].$

**Remark 3.** If y = y(x) is a solution of (9), using Remark 2 and Remark 1, we have

$$y(x) = y(a) + \frac{x-a}{1!}y'(a) + \int_{a}^{x} \frac{x-s}{1!}(f(s) + g(s))ds.$$
 (10)

**Theorem 1.** (*i*) For each solution y = y(x) of (9), there exists a unique solution  $y_0 = y_0(x)$  of (7) such that

$$\begin{cases} y_0(a) = y(a) \\ y'_0(a) = y'(a). \end{cases}$$
(11)

(ii) The Equation (7) is Hyers–Ulam stable of order 1. If y is a solution of (9) and  $y_0$  is a solution of (7) satisfying conditions (11), then

$$|y(x) - y_0(x)| \le \varepsilon \frac{(b-a)^2}{2}, \forall x \in [a,b]$$

$$(12)$$

and

$$\left|y'(x) - y'_0(x)\right| \le \varepsilon(b-a). \tag{13}$$

(iii) If there exists  $l_1, l_2 : [a, b] \longrightarrow [0, \infty)$  continuous, such that

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| F(x, y_1(x), y_1'(x)) - F(x, y_2(x), y_2'(x)) \right| \\ & \leq l_1(x) \cdot |y_1(x) - y_2(x)| + l_2(x) |y_1'(x) - y_2'(x)|, \forall x \in [a, b], \ y_1, y_2 \in A, \end{aligned}$$

then

$$|J[y(x)] - J[y_0(x)]| \le \varepsilon \cdot \frac{(b-a)^2}{2} \int_a^b l_1(x) dx + \varepsilon(b-a) \int_a^b l_2(x) dx, \qquad (14)$$

where y is a solution of (9) and  $y_0$  is a solution of (7), both satisfying the conditions of (2).

**Proof.** (i) This results from Cauchy–Picard's theorem of existence and uniqueness (see [46]). (ii) Let y = y(x) be a solution of (9). Let  $y_0 = y_0(x)$  be the unique solution of (7) which

verifies the corresponding Cauchy conditions of (11). We have

$$\begin{aligned} |y(x) - y_0(x)| &= \\ \left| y(a) + \frac{x - a}{1!} y'(a) + \int_a^x \frac{x - s}{1!} (f(s) + g(s)) ds - y(a) - \frac{x - a}{1!} y'(a) - \int_a^x \frac{x - s}{1!} f(s) ds \right|, \end{aligned}$$

hence

$$|y(x) - y_0(x)| = \left| \int_a^x \frac{x - s}{1!} g(s) ds \right| \le \int_a^x \left| \frac{x - s}{1!} g(s) \right| ds,$$

so

$$|y(x) - y_0(x)| \le \varepsilon \frac{(b-a)^2}{2}, \forall x \in [a,b].$$

We also have

$$|y'(x)-y'_0(x)| \leq \int_a^x g(s)ds \leq \varepsilon(b-a).$$

Thus, Equation (7) is Hyers–Ulam stable of order 1.

(iii) If y is a solution of (9) and  $y_0$  is a solution of (7), both satisfying conditions (2), then

$$|J[y(x)] - J[y_0(x)]| \le \int_a^b \left[ l_1(x) \cdot |y(x) - y_0(x)| + l_2(x) |y'(x) - y'_0(x)| \right] dx$$

$$\stackrel{(12),(13)}{\le} \varepsilon \cdot \frac{(b-a)^2}{2} \int_a^b l_1(x) dx + \varepsilon(b-a) \int_a^b l_2(x) dx.$$
(15)

**Example 1.** We consider  $J : A \longrightarrow R$ ,  $A \subseteq C^2(I)$ ,  $[1,2] \subset I$ ,

1.

$$J[y(x)] = \int_{1}^{2} \left( {y'}^{2} - 2xy \right) dx,$$
(16)

and the conditions

$$y(1) = 0, y'(1) = -\frac{1}{3}.$$
 (17)

*The Euler equation becomes* 

$$y'' + x = 0. (18)$$

*Let*  $\varepsilon > 0$ *. We consider the inequality* 

 $\left|y'' + x\right| \le \varepsilon. \tag{19}$ 

We remark that

$$y_0(x) = -\frac{x^3}{6} + \frac{x}{6} \tag{20}$$

is a solution of Equation (18), satisfying (17).

If y is a solution of (19) and  $y_0$  is a solution of (18), both satisfying (17), then applying Theorem 1, we get

$$|y(x) - y_0(x)| \le \varepsilon \frac{(x-1)^2}{2} \le \frac{\varepsilon}{2}, \ \forall x \in [1,2],$$
 (21)

and

$$\left|y'(x) - y'_0(x)\right| \le \varepsilon(x-1) \le \varepsilon, \ \forall x \in [1,2],$$
(22)

hence, Equation (18) is Hyers–Ulam stable of order 1.

Moreover,

$$\begin{split} |J[y(x)] - J[y_0(x)]| &\leq \int_1^2 \left| {y'}^2(x) - 2xy(x) - {y'}_0^2(x) + 2xy_0(x) \right| \, dx \\ &\leq \int_1^2 \left| {y'(x) - y'_0(x)} \right| \left| {y'(x) + y'_0(x)} \right| + 2x|y(x) - y_0(x)| \, dx \\ &\leq \int_1^2 \left[ \varepsilon(x-1) \left( \varepsilon(x-1) + x^2 + \frac{1}{3} \right) + \varepsilon x(x-1)^2 \right] \, dx = \frac{\varepsilon(2\varepsilon + 13)}{4}. \end{split}$$

# 3. Hyers-Ulam Stability of the Euler-Poisson Equation

Now, we consider functionals dependent on higher derivatives.

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $n \ge 2$ ,  $A \subseteq C^{2n}(I, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  be an open interval. Let  $[a, b] \subset I$ , a < b. Let  $y \in A$ , y = y(x) be an element in A. Let the function  $F : M \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $M = I \times \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ . We suppose that F is n + 2 times differentiable with respect to all arguments.

Let

$$J[y(x)] = \int_{a}^{b} F(x, y(x), y'(x), \dots, y^{(n)}(x)) dx,$$
(23)

and the conditions

$$y(a) = y_a, y'(a) = y'_a, \dots, y^{(2n-1)}(a) = y^{(2n-1)}_a,$$
 (24)

where  $y_a, y'_a, \ldots, y^{(2n-1)}_a \in \mathbb{R}$  are given.

The extremals of the functional (23), given conditions (24), are the integral curves of the Euler–Poisson equation (see [44]):

$$F'_{y} - \frac{d}{dx}[F'_{y'}] + \frac{d^{2}}{dx^{2}}[F'_{y''}] - \ldots + (-1)^{n}\frac{d^{n}}{dx^{n}}[F'_{y^{(n)}}] = 0.$$
(25)

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . We consider the inequality

$$\left|F'_{y} - \frac{d}{dx}[F'_{y'}] + \frac{d^{2}}{dx^{2}}[F'_{y''}] - \ldots + (-1)^{n}\frac{d^{n}}{dx^{n}}[F'_{y^{(n)}}]\right| \le \varepsilon.$$
(26)

We give a new notion of stability, named stability of order  $k, k \ge 1, k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

**Definition 3.** Equation (25) is called Hyers–Ulam stable of order k if there are real numbers  $C_1 > 0, C_2 > 0, \dots, C_{k+1} > 0$  such that for any solution y(x) of the inequality (26) there is a solution  $y_0(x)$  of the Equation (25) such that

$$|y(x) - y_0(x)| \le C_1 \cdot \varepsilon, \ \forall x \in [a, b],$$

and

$$|y'(x)-y'_0(x)| \leq C_2 \cdot \varepsilon, \ \forall x \in [a,b],$$

• • •

$$\left|y^{(k)}(x) - y_0^{(k)}(x)\right| \le C_{k+1} \cdot \varepsilon, \ \forall x \in [a,b].$$

*y* is called an approximate solution and  $y_0$  is called an exact solution for Equation (25).

In the following, we will study the case where the Euler-Poisson equation is

$$y^{(m)}(x) = f(x), \ m = 2n, \ f \in C[a, b], \ x \in [a, b].$$
 (27)

**Remark 4.** If y = y(x) is a solution of (27), then (see [45])

$$y(x) = y(a) + \frac{x-a}{1!}y'(a) + \dots + \frac{(x-a)^{m-1}}{(m-1)!}y^{(m-1)}(a) + \int_a^x \frac{(x-s)^{m-1}}{(m-1)!}f(s)ds.$$
 (28)

Let  $\varepsilon > 0$ . We also consider the inequality

$$\left|y^{(m)}(x) - f(x)\right| \le \varepsilon, \forall x \in [a, b], \ y \in C^{m}[a, b].$$
<sup>(29)</sup>

**Remark 5.** A function y = y(x) is a solution of (29) if and only if there exists a function  $g \in C[a, b]$  such that

- (1)  $|g(x)| \leq \varepsilon, \forall x \in [a, b],$
- (2)  $y^{(m)}(x) f(x) = g(x), \ \forall x \in [a, b].$

**Remark 6.** If y = y(x) is a solution of (29), using Remark 5 and Remark 4, we have

$$y(x) = y(a) + \frac{x-a}{1!}y'(a) + \dots + \frac{(x-a)^{m-1}}{(m-1)!}y^{(m-1)}(a) + \int_a^x \frac{(x-s)^{m-1}}{(m-1)!}(f(s) + g(s))ds.$$
(30)

**Theorem 2.** (*i*) For each solution y = y(x) of (29), there exists a unique solution  $y_0 = y_0(x)$  of (27) such that

$$\begin{cases} y_0(a) = y(a) \\ y'_0(a) = y'(a) \\ \cdots \\ y_0^{(m-1)}(a) = y^{(m-1)}(a). \end{cases}$$
(31)

(ii) The Equation (27) is Hyers–Ulam stable of order m - 1, and if y is a solution of (29) and  $y_0$  is a solution of (27) satisfying conditions (31), then

$$|y(x) - y_0(x)| \le \varepsilon \frac{(b-a)^m}{m!}, \forall x \in [a,b],$$
(32)

$$|y'(x) - y'_0(x)| \le \varepsilon \frac{(b-a)^{m-1}}{(m-1)!}, \forall x \in [a,b],$$
(33)

$$|y''(x) - y_0''(x)| \le \varepsilon \frac{(b-a)^{m-2}}{(m-2)!}, \forall x \in [a,b],$$
 (34)

• • •

$$\left| y^{(m-1)}(x) - y_0^{(m-1)}(x) \right| \le \varepsilon(b-a), \forall x \in [a,b].$$
 (35)

(iii) If there exists  $l_1, l_2, \dots , l_n : [a, b] \longrightarrow [0, \infty)$  continuous, such that

$$\left| F\left(x, y_1(x), y_1'(x), \cdots, y_1^{(n)}(x)\right) - F\left(x, y_2(x), y_2'(x), \cdots, y_2^{(n)}(x)\right) \right|$$
  
  $\leq l_1(x)|y_1(x) - y_2(x)| + l_2(x)|y_1'(x) - y_2'(x)| + \cdots + l_n(x)|y_1^{(n)}(x) - y_2^{(n)}(x)|,$ 

 $\forall x \in [a, b], \forall y_1, y_2 \in A, then$ 

$$|J[y(x)] - J[y_0(x)]| \le \varepsilon \cdot \frac{(b-a)^m}{m!} \int_a^b l_1(x) dx + \varepsilon \cdot \frac{(b-a)^{m-1}}{(m-1)!} \int_a^b l_2(x) dx + \dots + \varepsilon \cdot \frac{(b-a)^n}{n!} \int_a^b l_n(x), \quad (36)$$

where y is a solution of (29) and  $y_0$  is a solution of (27), both satisfying the conditions of (24).

Proof. (i) This results from Cauchy–Picard's theorem of existence and uniqueness (see [46]).
(ii) Let y = y(x) be a solution of (29). Let y<sub>0</sub> = y<sub>0</sub>(x) the unique solution of (27) satisfying the conditions of (31). Using Remark 6, we have

$$\begin{aligned} |y(x) - y_0(x)| &= \\ \left| y(a) + \frac{x - a}{1!} y'(a) + \dots + \int_a^x \frac{(x - s)^{m-1}}{(m-1)!} (f(s) + g(s)) ds \right| \\ &- y(a) - \frac{x - a}{1!} y'(a) - \dots - \int_a^x \frac{(x - s)^{m-1}}{(m-1)!} f(s) ds \right|, \end{aligned}$$

hence

$$|y(x) - y_0(x)| = \left| \int_a^x \frac{(x-s)^{m-1}}{(m-1)!} g(s) ds \right| \le \int_a^x \left| \frac{(x-s)^{m-1}}{(m-1)!} g(s) \right| ds,$$

so

$$|y(x) - y_0(x)| \le \varepsilon \frac{(b-a)^m}{m!}, \forall x \in [a,b].$$
(37)

We also have

$$\begin{aligned} \left| y'(x) - y'_0(x) \right| &= \left| \int_a^x \frac{(x-s)^{m-2}}{(m-2)!} g(s) ds \right| \le \int_a^x \left| \frac{(x-s)^{m-2}}{(m-2)!} g(s) \right| ds \le \varepsilon \frac{(b-a)^{m-1}}{(m-1)!}, \\ \left| y''(x) - y''_0(x) \right| &= \left| \int_a^x \frac{(x-s)^{m-3}}{(m-3)!} g(s) ds \right| \le \int_a^x \left| \frac{(x-s)^{m-3}}{(m-3)!} g(s) \right| ds \le \varepsilon \frac{(b-a)^{m-2}}{(m-2)!}, \\ \cdots \\ \left| y^{(m-1)}(x) - y^{(m-1)}_0(x) \right| &= \left| \int_a^x g(s) ds \right| \le \int_a^x |g(s)| ds \le \varepsilon (b-a), \forall x \in [a,b], \end{aligned}$$

thus the Equation (27) is Hyers–Ulam stable of order m - 1.

(iii) If y is a solution of (29), and  $y_0$  is a solution of (27), both satisfying the conditions of (24), then

$$\begin{aligned} |J[y(x)] - J[y_0(x)]| \\ &\leq \int_a^b \Big[ l_1(x) |y(x) - y_0(x)| + l_2(x) |y'(x) - y'_0(x)| + \dots + l_n(x) \Big| y^{(n)}(x) - y^{(n)}_0(x) \Big| \Big] dx \\ &\stackrel{(ii)}{\leq} \varepsilon \cdot \frac{(b-a)^m}{m!} \int_a^b l_1(x) dx + \varepsilon \cdot \frac{(b-a)^{m-1}}{(m-1)!} \int_a^b l_2(x) dx + \dots + \varepsilon \cdot \frac{(b-a)^n}{n!} \int_a^b l_n(x). \end{aligned}$$

**Example 2.** We consider  $J : A \longrightarrow R$ ,  $A \subseteq C^4(I, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $[0, 1] \subset I$ ,

$$J[y(x)] = \int_0^1 \left(360x^2y - {y''}^2\right) dx,$$
(38)

$$y(0) = 0, y'(0) = 1, y''(0) = -6, y'''(0) = 9.$$
 (39)

The Euler–Poisson equation becomes

$$y^{IV}(x) - 180x^2 = 0. (40)$$

*Let*  $\varepsilon > 0$ *. We consider the inequality* 

$$\left| y^{IV}(x) - 180x^2 \right| \le \varepsilon. \tag{41}$$

We apply Theorem 2; therefore, for each solution y = y(x) of (41) satisfying (39), there exists a unique solution  $y_0 = y_0(x)$  of (40) satisfying (39) such that

$$\begin{aligned} |y(x) - y_0(x)| &\leq \varepsilon \frac{1}{4!}, \ \forall x \in [0, 1], \\ |y'(x) - y'_0(x)| &\leq \varepsilon \frac{1}{3!}, \ \forall x \in [0, 1], \\ |y''(x) - y''_0(x)| &\leq \varepsilon \frac{1}{2!}, \ \forall x \in [0, 1], \\ |y'''(x) - y''_0''(x)| &\leq \varepsilon \frac{1}{1!}, \ \forall x \in [0, 1]; \end{aligned}$$
(42)

$$y_0(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^6 + \frac{3}{2}X^3 - 3X^2 + X,$$
(43)

*be the solution of Equation* (40) *satisfying the conditions of* (39). We remark that  $-6 \le y''(x) \le 18, \forall x \in [0, 1]$ .

If y is a solution of (41) and  $y_0$  is a solution of (40), both satisfying the conditions of (39), then

$$|J[y(x)] - J[y_0(x)]| \le \int_0^1 \left| 360x^2y - {y''}^2 - 360x^2y_0 + {y''_0}^2 \right| dx \tag{44}$$

$$\leq \int_{0}^{1} \left( 360x^{2}|y-y_{0}| + \left| y'' - y_{0}'' \right| \left| y'' + y_{0}'' \right| \right) dx \tag{45}$$

$$\leq \int_0^1 \left[ 360x^2 \cdot \frac{\varepsilon}{24} + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \left(\frac{\varepsilon}{2} + 36\right) \right] dx = \frac{\varepsilon(\varepsilon + 92)}{4}. \tag{46}$$

### 4. Conclusions

In this paper, we have defined and studied Hyers–Ulam stability of order 1 for Euler's equation y''(x) = f(x) and Hyers–Ulam stability of order m - 1 for the Euler–Poisson equation  $y^{(m)}(x) = f(x)$ , in the calculus of variations. An example is considered for each case. Some estimations for  $|J[y(x)] - J[y_0(x)]|$ , where y is a solution of (9) and  $y_0$  is a solution of (7), both satisfying the conditions of (2) and where y is a solution of (29) and  $y_0$  is a solution of (27), both satisfying the conditions of (24), have been established. This paper is a continuation of the paper [43]. In [43], the Hyers–Ulam stability of Euler's equation in two special cases was studied when F = F(x, y') and when F = F(y, y'). The general case will be the subject of future works.

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