

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

18: The Catenary

If a flexible chain or rope is loosely hung between two fixed points, it hangs in a curve that looks a little like a parabola, but in fact is not quite a parabola; it is a curve called a *catenary*, which is a word derived from the Latin *catena*, a chain.

[18.1: Introduction](#)

[18.2: The Intrinsic Equation to the Catenary](#)

[18.3: Equation of the Catenary in Rectangular Coordinates, and Other Simple Relations](#)

[18.4: Area of a Catenoid](#)

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