

Section 5: First Order Equations Models and Applications

A Classic Mixing Problem If we are tracking the amount A of some substance (e.g. salt) dissolved in some fluid in which we know the flow rates at which fluid is entering (r_i) and leaving (r_o) a receptacle, the initial volume $V(0)$ of fluid, and the substance concentration of the inflow c_i , then for a **well mixed** solution

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = r_i \cdot c_i - r_o \frac{A}{V}.$$

Here $V(t) = V(0) + (r_i - r_o)t$. This equation is first order linear

$$\frac{dA}{dt} + \frac{r_o}{V}A = r_i c_i$$

There is nothing precluding one of the coefficients such as r_o , r_i or c_i from being a nonconstant function of time.

Solve the Mixing Problem

A tank originally contains 500 gallons of pure water. Brine containing 2 pounds of salt per gallon is pumped in at a rate of 5 gal/min. The well mixed solution is pumped out at the same rate. Find the amount of salt $A(t)$ in pounds at the time t . Find the concentration of the mixture in the tank at $t = 5$ minutes.

We determined that

$$r_i = 5 \text{ gal/min}, c_i = 2 \text{ lb/gal}, r_o = 5 \text{ gal/min}, V(0) = 500 \text{ gal},$$

$$A(0) = 0, \text{ and } c_o = \frac{A}{500}. \quad c_o = \frac{A}{V} = \frac{A}{500 + (5-5)t} = \frac{A}{500}$$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} + r_o c_o = r_i c_i$$

Our IVP is $\frac{dA}{dt} + 5 \left(\frac{A}{500} \right) = 5 \cdot 2$, $A(0) = 0$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} + \frac{1}{100} A = 10$$

$$P(t) = \frac{1}{100} \quad \text{so} \quad \mu = e^{\int \frac{1}{100} dt} = e^{\frac{1}{100} t}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(e^{\frac{1}{100} t} A \right) = 10 e^{\frac{1}{100} t}$$

$$e^{\frac{1}{100} t} A = \int 10 e^{\frac{1}{100} t} dt = 10(100) e^{\frac{1}{100} t} + C$$

$$A = 1000 + C e^{-\frac{1}{100} t}$$

$$\text{Apply } A(0) = 0 \quad A(0) = 1000 + C e^0 = 0$$

$$1000 + C = 0 \quad C = -1000$$

The amount of salt in pounds is

$$A(t) = 1000 - 1000 e^{-\frac{1}{100}t}$$

The concentration in the tank at t minutes

is

$$C(t) = \frac{A(t)}{V(t)} = \frac{A(t)}{500} \frac{\text{lb}}{\text{gal}}$$

At $t = 5$ minutes

$$C(5) = \frac{A(5)}{500} = \frac{1000 - 1000e^{-\frac{1}{100}(5)}}{500} \approx 0.0975 \frac{\text{lb}}{\text{gal}}$$

Note that as $t \rightarrow \infty$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} A(t) &= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left(1000 - 1000e^{-\frac{1}{100}t} \right) \\ &= 1000 \text{ lb} \end{aligned}$$

The concentration tends to $\frac{1000 \text{ lb}}{500 \text{ gal}} = 2 \frac{\text{lb}}{\text{gal}}$

$$r_i \neq r_o$$

Suppose that instead, the mixture is pumped out at 10 gal/min. Determine the differential equation satisfied by $A(t)$ under this new condition.

$$\text{As before } r_i = 5 \frac{\text{gal}}{\text{min}}, \quad C_i = 2 \frac{\text{lb}}{\text{gal}}, \quad A(0) = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} r_o &= 10 \frac{\text{gal}}{\text{min}} \quad \text{so} \quad V(t) = V(0) + (r_i - r_o)t \\ &= 500 + (5 - 10)t \\ &= 500 - 5t \end{aligned}$$

$$C_o = \frac{A}{V} = \frac{A}{500 - 5t}$$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} + r_0 C_0 = r_i C_i$$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} + 10 \left(\frac{A}{500 - 5t} \right) = 5.2$$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} + \frac{2}{100 - t} A = 10$$

The tank is empty after 100 minutes since $V(100) = 500 - 5(100) = 0$. The equation is valid for $0 < t < 100$

A Nonlinear Modeling Problem

A population $P(t)$ of tilapia changes at a rate jointly proportional to the current population and the difference between the constant carrying capacity¹ M of the environment and the current population. Determine the differential equation satisfied by P .

rate of change $\frac{dP}{dt}$ is proportional to P and the difference $M - P$. The ODE is

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = k P(M - P) \quad \text{for some constant of proportionality } k$$

¹The carrying capacity is the maximum number of individuals that the environment can support due to limitation of space and resources.

Logistic Differential Equation

The equation

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP(M - P), \quad k, M > 0$$

is called a **logistic growth equation**.

Solve this equation² and show that for any $P(0) \neq 0$, $P \rightarrow M$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

Let $P(0) = P_0 \neq 0$. The ODE is separable.

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP(M-P) \Rightarrow \frac{1}{P(M-P)} \frac{dP}{dt} = k$$

$$\int \frac{1}{P(M-P)} dP = \int k dt$$

²The partial fraction decomposition

$$\frac{1}{P(M-P)} = \frac{1}{M} \left(\frac{1}{P} + \frac{1}{M-P} \right)$$

is useful.

$$\int \frac{1}{M} \left(\frac{1}{P} + \frac{1}{M-P} \right) dP = \int k dt$$

$$\int \left(\frac{1}{P} + \frac{1}{M-P} \right) dP = \int kM dt$$

$$\ln|P| - \ln|M-P| = kMt + C$$

$$\ln \left| \frac{P}{M-P} \right| = kMt + C$$

$$\frac{P}{M-P} = A e^{kMt}$$

where $A = e^C$ or
 $A = -e^C$

Using $P(0) = P_0$

$$\frac{P_0}{M-P_0} = A e^0$$

$$\text{So } A = \frac{P_0}{M - P_0}$$

Solve for P

$$\frac{P}{M - P} = A e^{kMt} \Rightarrow P = A e^{kMt} (M - P)$$

$$P = AM e^{kMt} - P A e^{kMt}$$

$$P + P A e^{kMt} = AM e^{kMt}$$

$$(1 + A e^{kMt}) P = AM e^{kMt}$$

$$P = \frac{AM e^{kMt}}{1 + A e^{kMt}}$$

Using $A = \frac{P_0}{M - P_0}$

$$P = \frac{\frac{P_0}{M - P_0} M e^{kMt}}{1 + \frac{P_0}{M - P_0} e^{kMt}}$$

Clear the fractions
↓

$$\cdot \left(\frac{M - P_0}{M - P_0} \right)$$

$$P(t) = \frac{P_0 M e^{kMt}}{M - P_0 + P_0 e^{kMt}}$$

General
solution
to the
logistic
equation

We'll take the limit as $t \rightarrow \infty$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{P_0 M e^{knt}}{M - P_0 + P_0 e^{knt}} = \frac{\infty}{\infty}$$

Use
L'Hopital's
rule

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{P_0 M (kn) e^{knt}}{P_0 (kn) e^{knt}}$$

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} M = M$$