

Section 5: First Order Equations Models and Applications

We considered the following problem description:

A population of dwarf rabbits grows at a rate proportional to the current population. In 2011, there were 58 rabbits. In 2012, the population was up to 89 rabbits. Estimate the number of rabbits expected in the population in 2021.

We defined $P(t)$ as the population density (no. rabbits per unit habitat) at the time t in years with $t = 0$ in 2011. The given statement was then interpreted mathematically as

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP, \quad P(0) = 58, \quad \text{and} \quad P(1) = 89.$$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP, \quad P(0) = 58$$

With the first condition, we have an IVP for the population of rabbits P . Using separation of variables, our population satisfied

$$P(t) = 58e^{kt}.$$

The additional condition determined that $k = \ln(89/58)$. We then estimated the 2021 population by

$$P(10) = 58e^{10 \ln(89/58)} \approx 4198.$$

Exponential Growth or Decay

If a quantity P changes continuously at a rate proportional to its current level, then it will be governed by a differential equation of the form

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP \quad \text{i.e.} \quad \frac{dP}{dt} - kP = 0.$$

Note that this equation is both separable and first order linear. If $k > 0$, P experiences **exponential growth**. If $k < 0$, then P experiences **exponential decay**.

Series Circuits: RC-circuit

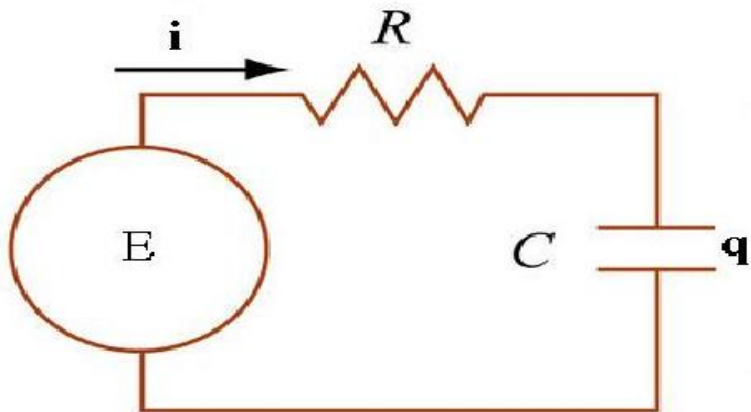


Figure: Series Circuit with Applied Electromotive force E , Resistance R , and Capacitance C . The charge of the capacitor is q and the current $i = \frac{dq}{dt}$.

Series Circuits: LR-circuit

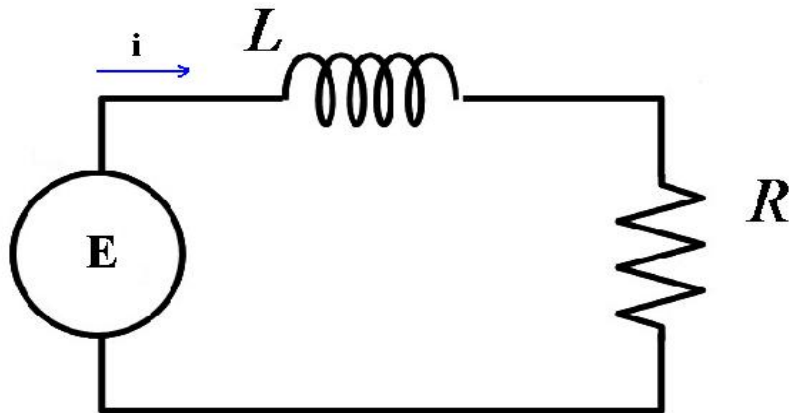


Figure: Series Circuit with Applied Electromotive force E , Inductance L , and Resistance R . The current is i .

Measurable Quantities:

Resistance R in ohms (Ω), Implied voltage E in volts (V),
Inductance L in henries (h), Charge q in coulombs (C),
Capacitance C in farads (f), Current i in amperes (A)

Current is the rate of change of charge with respect to time: $i = \frac{dq}{dt}$.

Component	Potential Drop
Inductor	$L \frac{di}{dt}$
Resistor	Ri i.e. $R \frac{dq}{dt}$
Capacitor	$\frac{1}{C} q$

Kirchhoff's Law

The sum of the voltages around a closed circuit is zero.

In other words, the sum of potential drops across the passive components is equal to the applied electromotive force.

RC :

	Drop across	
	Resistor	Capacitor
	$R \frac{dq}{dt}$	$+ \frac{1}{C} q$
	$= E$	

1st order linear ODE for $q(t)$

LR:

Potential Drop
across

Inductor Resistor

$$L \frac{di}{dt} + Ri = E$$

1st order linear ODE for $i(t)$.

Example

A 200 volt battery is applied to an RC series circuit with resistance 1000Ω and capacitance $5 \times 10^{-6} f$. Find the charge $q(t)$ on the capacitor if $i(0) = 0.4A$. Determine the charge as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

$$R \frac{dq}{dt} + \frac{1}{C} q = E$$

$$\text{Here } E = 200 \text{ V}$$

$$R = 1000 \Omega$$

$$C = 5 \cdot 10^{-6} f$$

$$i(t) = q'(t)$$

$$= 0.4 \text{ A}$$

$$1000 \frac{dq}{dt} + \frac{1}{5 \cdot 10^{-6}} q = 200$$

stand and form

$$\frac{dq}{dt} + \frac{10^6}{5(1000)} q = \frac{200}{1000}$$

$$\frac{10^6}{5 \cdot 10^3} = 200$$

The IVP is

$$\frac{dq}{dt} + 200q = \frac{1}{5}, \quad q'(0) = \frac{2}{5}$$

$$P(t) = 200, \quad \mu = e^{\int P(t) dt} = e^{\int 200 dt} = e^{200t}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left(e^{200t} q \right) = \frac{1}{5} e^{200t}$$

$$\int \frac{d}{dt} \left(e^{200t} q \right) dt = \int \frac{1}{5} e^{200t} dt$$

$$e^{200t} q = \frac{1}{5} \cdot \frac{1}{200} e^{200t} + K$$

$$q = \frac{1}{1000} + K e^{-200t}$$

$$\text{Apply } q'(0) = \frac{2}{5}$$

$$q'(t) = 0 + k(-200 e^{-200t}) = -200k e^{-200t}$$

$$q'(0) = \frac{2}{5} = -200k e^0 = -200k$$

$$k = \frac{2}{5(-200)} = \frac{-1}{500}$$

The on
charge
the
capacitor

$$q(t) = \frac{1}{1000} - \frac{1}{500} e^{-200t}$$

The long term charge

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} q(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{1000} - \frac{1}{500} e^{-200t} \right) = \frac{1}{1000} +$$

Steady state

transient state

A Classic 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 5gal/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.

A Classic Mixing Problem

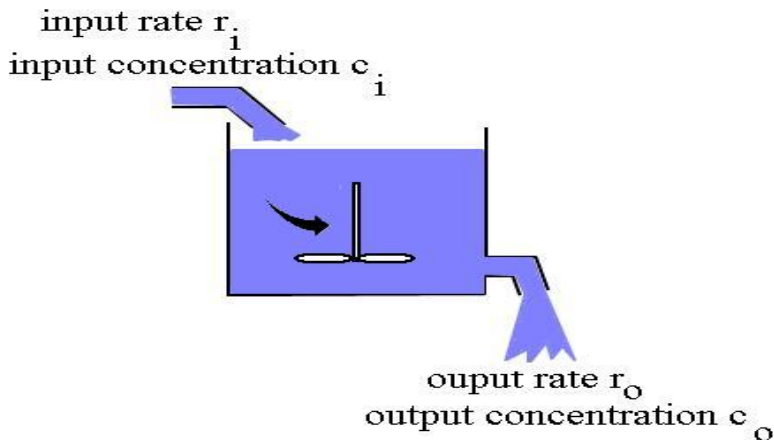


Figure: Spatially uniform composite fluids (e.g. salt & water, gas & ethanol) being mixed. Concentrations of substance change in time.

Building an Equation

The rate of change of the amount of salt

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{input rate} \\ \text{of salt} \end{array} \right) - \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{output rate} \\ \text{of salt} \end{array} \right)$$

The input rate of salt is

$$\text{fluid rate in} \cdot \text{concentration of inflow} = r_i(c_i).$$

r - rate of fluid flow
c - concentration
i - in
o - out

The output rate of salt is

$$\text{fluid rate out} \cdot \text{concentration of outflow} = r_o(c_o).$$

Building an Equation

C_o = concentration in the tank.

The concentration of the outflowing fluid is

$$C_o = \frac{\text{total salt}}{\text{total volume}} = \frac{A(t)}{V(t)} = \frac{A(t)}{V(0) + (r_i - r_o)t}.$$

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

This equation is first order linear.

$\underbrace{r_o C_o}$

↑
Starting of
Volume of
fluid

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

1st order linear

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.

$$V(0) = 500 \text{ gal}$$

$$C_i = 2 \frac{\text{lb}}{\text{gal}}$$

$$r_i = 5 \frac{\text{gal}}{\text{min}}$$

$$C_0 = \frac{A}{V}$$

$$r_0 = 5 \frac{\text{gal}}{\text{min}}$$

$$A(0) = 0 \text{ (pure water)}$$

$$V(t) = V(0) + (r_i - r_0) t = 500 \text{ gal} + \left(5 \frac{\text{gal}}{\text{min}} - 5 \frac{\text{gal}}{\text{min}} \right) t \text{ min}$$

$$= 500 \text{ gal}$$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} + \frac{r_0}{v} A = r_i c_i$$

$$\frac{dA}{dt} + \frac{5}{500} A = 5 \cdot 2 = 10$$

Our IVP is $\frac{dA}{dt} + \frac{1}{100} A = 10, \quad A(0) = 0.$

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

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

$$\int \frac{d}{dt} \left[e^{\frac{1}{100} t} A \right] dt = \int 10 e^{\frac{1}{100} t} dt$$

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

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

Apply $A(0) = 0$

$$A(0) = 1000 + C e^0 = 0 \Rightarrow C = -1000$$

The amount of salt @ time t is

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

The concentration $C(t)$ in the tank at time t is

$$C(t) = \frac{A(t)}{V(t)} = \frac{1000 - 1000 e^{\frac{-1}{100}t}}{500}$$

At 5 minutes

$$C(5) = \frac{1000 - 1000 e^{\frac{-1}{100}(5)}}{500} \approx 0.098 \frac{\text{lb}}{\text{gal}}$$

$$r_i \neq r_o$$

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

$$V(0) = 500, \quad r_i = 5, \quad C_i = 2$$

$$\text{now } r_o = 10$$

$$V(t) = V(0) + (r_i - r_o)t = 500 + (5 - 10)t = 500 - 5t$$

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

$$\frac{dA}{dt} + \frac{10}{500 - 5t} A = 10 \quad \Rightarrow$$

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

$$\text{Valid for } 0 < t < 100$$

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 .

Change in P : $\frac{dP}{dt} \propto P$ and $M-P$

\uparrow
difference between
carrying capacity
and population

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

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 $t \rightarrow \infty$.

The equation is 1st order separable
(non linear).

²The partial fraction decomposition

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

is useful.