

Section 1: Introduction Concepts and Terminology

Suppose $y = \phi(x)$ is a differentiable function. We know that $dy/dx = \phi'(x)$ is another (related) function.

For example, if $y = \cos(2x)$, then y is differentiable on $(-\infty, \infty)$. In fact,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -2 \sin(2x).$$

Even dy/dx is differentiable with $d^2y/dx^2 = -4 \cos(2x)$. Note that

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4y = 0.$$

$-4 \cos(2x)$ \nearrow \uparrow $4 \cos(2x)$

Differential Equation

The equation

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4y = 0.$$

is an example of a **differential equation**.

Questions: If we only started with the equation, how could we determine that $\cos(2x)$ satisfies it? Also, is $\cos(2x)$ the only possible function that y could be?

Definition

A **Differential Equation** is an equation containing the derivative(s) of one or more dependent variables, with respect to one or more independent variables.

Independent Variable: will appear as one that derivatives are taken **with respect to**.

Dependent Variable: will appear as one that derivatives are taken **of**.

$$\frac{dy}{dx}$$

Handwritten notes: "dependent" with an arrow pointing to y , and "independent x" with an arrow pointing to x .

$$\frac{du}{dt}$$

Handwritten notes: "dep." with an arrow pointing to u , and "ind." with an arrow pointing to t .

$$\frac{dx}{dr}$$

Handwritten notes: "dep" with an arrow pointing to x , and "ind." with an arrow pointing to r .

Classifications

Type: An **ordinary differential equation (ODE)** has exactly one independent variable¹. For example

$$\frac{dy}{dx} - y^2 = 3x, \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{dy}{dt} + 2\frac{dx}{dt} = t, \quad \text{or} \quad y'' + 4y = 0$$

A **partial differential equation (PDE)** has two or more independent variables. For example

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2}, \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial u}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \theta^2} = 0$$

∂ -partial symbol

$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}$ "partial of y with respect to t"

¹These are the subject of this course.

Classifications

Order: The order of a differential equation is the same as the highest order derivative appearing anywhere in the equation.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} - y^2 = 3x \quad 1^{\text{st}} \text{ order}$$

$$y''' + (y')^4 = x^3 \quad 3^{\text{rd}} \text{ order}$$

$$\frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} \quad 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ order}$$

Notations and Symbols

We'll use standard derivative notations:

$$\text{Leibniz: } \frac{dy}{dx}, \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}, \dots, \frac{d^ny}{dx^n}, \text{ or}$$

$$\text{Prime \& superscripts: } y', y'', \dots, y^{(n)}.$$

Newton's **dot notation** may be used if the independent variable is time. For example if s is a position function, then

$$\text{velocity is } \frac{ds}{dt} = \dot{s}, \quad \text{and acceleration is } \frac{d^2s}{dt^2} = \ddot{s}$$

Notations and Symbols

An n^{th} order ODE, with independent variable x and dependent variable y can always be expressed as an equation

$$F(x, y, y', \dots, y^{(n)}) = 0$$

where F is some real valued function of $n + 2$ variables.

Normal Form: If it is possible to isolate the highest derivative term, then we can write a **normal form** of the equation

$$\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = f(x, y, y', \dots, y^{(n-1)}).$$

A couple of normal forms

If $n = 1$, an equation in normal form would look like

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$$

Here's an example $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^2 \cos(y)$

If $n = 2$, an equation in normal form would look like

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = f\left(x, y, \frac{dy}{dx}\right)$$

Here's an example $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 2\frac{dy}{dx} - xy^2$

Special form for a first order equation

Differential Form: A first order equation may appear in the form

$$M(x, y) dx + N(x, y) dy = 0$$

Either x or y could be considered the independent variable!

We can write this in two normal forms.

$$M(x, y) dx + N(x, y) dy = 0$$

$$N(x, y) dy = -M(x, y) dx$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-M(x, y)}{N(x, y)} \quad \text{if } N(x, y) \neq 0$$

$$M(x, y) dx + N(x, y) dy = 0$$

$$M(x, y) dx = -N(x, y) dy$$

$$\frac{dx}{dy} = \frac{-N(x, y)}{M(x, y)}$$

$$\text{if } M(x, y) \neq 0$$

Classifications

Linearity: An n^{th} order differential equation is said to be **linear** if it can be written in the form

$$a_n(x) \frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + a_{n-1}(x) \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dx^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x)y = g(x).$$

Note that each of the coefficients a_0, \dots, a_n and the right hand side g may depend on the independent variable but not on the dependent variable or any of its derivatives.

- $y, y', \dots, y^{(n)}$ have to appear as themselves
(to the power 1)

An equation that is not linear is Nonlinear

Examples (Linear -vs- Nonlinear)

(a) $y'' + 4y = 0$

$$a_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = g(x)$$

This is linear with $g(x) = 0$

$$a_2(x) = 1, \quad a_1(x) = 0, \quad a_0(x) = 4$$

(b) $t^2 \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + 2t \frac{dx}{dt} - x = e^t$

This is linear with $g(t) = e^t$

$$a_2(t) = t^2, \quad a_1(t) = 2t, \quad a_0(t) = -1$$

Examples (Linear -vs- Nonlinear)

$$(a) \quad \frac{d^3 y}{dx^3} + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^4 = x^3 \qquad \frac{d^3 y}{dx^3} + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^3 \frac{dy}{dx} = x^3$$

↑ this is a nonlinear term
the equation is nonlinear.

$$(b) \quad u'' + u' = \cos u$$

↑
non linear term

the eqn is nonlinear

Note: $u'' + u' = \cos(x)$
would be
linear

Exercises

Identify the independent and dependent variables. Determine the order of the equation. State whether it is linear or nonlinear.

$$(a) \quad y'' + 2ty' = \cos t + y$$

$$y'' + 2ty' - y = \cos t$$

Ind. Var.: t

Dep. Var.: y

Order: 2nd

Linear/Non: Linear

$$(b) \frac{d^3y}{dx^3} + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + \tan(x)$$

$$y''' - y'' + 2y y' = \tan x$$

nonlinear term
coef. of y'
depends on y

Ind. Var.: x

Dep. Var.: y

Order: 3^{rd}

Linear/Non: Non linear

(c) $\ddot{\theta} + \frac{g}{l} \sin \theta = 0$ (g and l are constant)

\uparrow
 θ is dependent
so $\sin \theta$
is a nonlinear term

Ind. Var.: time (dot notation) t

Dep. Var.: θ

Order: 2^{nd}

Linear/Non: non linear


Solution of $F(x, y, y', \dots, y^{(n)}) = 0$ (*)

Definition: A function ϕ defined on an interval² I and possessing at least n continuous derivatives on I is a **solution** of (*) on I if upon substitution (i.e. setting $y = \phi(x)$) the equation reduces to an identity.

An identity is an equation that is always true
e.g. $0=0$.

For example $\phi(x) = \cos(2x)$ is a soln. of
 $y'' + 4y = 0$ on $(-\infty, \infty)$.

we can call this an explicit solution.

²The interval is called the *domain of the solution* or the *interval of definition*. 

Implicit Solution of $F(x, y, y', \dots, y^{(n)}) = 0$ (*)

Definition: An **implicit solution** of (*) is a relation $G(x, y) = 0$ provided there exists at least one function $y = \phi$ that satisfies both the differential equation (*) and this relation.

Recall that implicit differentiation can be used to find $\frac{dy}{dx}$ from the eqn $G(x, y) = 0$.

Examples:

Verify that the given function is an solution of the ODE on the indicated interval.

$$\phi(t) = 3e^{2t}, \quad I = (-\infty, \infty), \quad \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - \frac{dy}{dt} - 2y = 0$$

Note $\phi(t) = 3e^{2t}$ is infinitely differentiable.

So ϕ has 2 continuous derivatives on I .

We need to show that the eqn. reduces to an identity on substitution.

$$\text{Set } y = 3e^{2t}. \text{ Then } \frac{dy}{dt} = 3e^{2t} \cdot 2 = 6e^{2t}$$

and $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = 6e^{2t} \cdot 2 = 12e^{2t}$

Our eqn is $y'' - y' - 2y = 0$

$$y'' - y' - 2y \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$12e^{2t} - 6e^{2t} - 2(3e^{2t}) \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$12e^{2t} - 6e^{2t} - 6e^{2t} \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$0 = 0 \text{ on identity}$$

Hence $\phi(t) = 3e^{2t}$ solves the ODE on \mathbb{I} .

Verify that the given function is an solution of the ODE on the indicated interval.

$$\phi(x) = 5 \tan(5x), \quad I = \left(-\frac{\pi}{10}, \frac{\pi}{10}\right), \quad y' - 25 = y^2$$

Note: if $-\pi/10 < x < \pi/10$, then $-\pi/2 < 5x < \pi/2$. $\tan(5x)$ is continuous and continuously differentiable on I .

$$\text{Set } y = 5 \tan(5x). \text{ Then } y' = 5 \sec^2(5x) \cdot 5 \\ = 25 \sec^2(5x)$$

$$y' - 2s = y^2$$

$$y' - 2s = y^2$$

$$2s \sec^2(sx) - 2s \stackrel{?}{=} (s \tan(sx))^2$$

$$2s (\sec^2(sx) - 1) \stackrel{?}{=} 2s \tan^2(sx)$$

$$2s \tan^2(sx) = 2s \tan^2(sx)$$

an identity

So $\phi(x) = s \tan(sx)$ solves the ODE on I .

* Recall $\tan^2 \theta + 1 = \sec^2 \theta$ ie $\sec^2 \theta - 1 = \tan^2 \theta$

Verify that the given function is an solution of the ODE on the indicated interval.

$$\phi(x) = \sqrt{\ln x + 1}, \quad I = (1, \infty), \quad dx - 2xy \, dy = 0$$

We can write the DE in normal form

$$2xy \, dy = dx \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{2xy}$$

Note for $x > 1$, $\ln x > 0$ and $\ln x$ is continuous.
So $\ln x + 1 > 1$ and $\sqrt{\ln x + 1}$ is defined,
continuous and differentiable.

$$\text{Set } y = \sqrt{\ln(x)+1} = (\ln x + 1)^{1/2}$$

Then $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{2}(\ln x + 1)^{-1/2} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{x} + 0\right)$

so $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\ln x + 1}} \cdot \frac{1}{x} = \frac{1}{2x\sqrt{\ln x + 1}}$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{1}{2xy}$$

$$\frac{1}{2x\sqrt{\ln x + 1}} = \frac{1}{2x\sqrt{\ln x + 1}}$$

an identity.

Hence $\phi(x) = \sqrt{\ln x + 1}$ solves the ODE on the interval.

Implicit Solution Example

Verify that the relation defines an implicit solution of the differential equation.

$$y^2 - 2x^2y = 1, \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2xy}{y - x^2}$$

Here, we'll use implicit differentiation to show that the relation being true implies that the ODE is also true.

Do implicit differentiation

$$y^2 - 2x^2y = 1$$

$$2y \frac{dy}{dx} - 4xy - 2x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

Solve for $\frac{dy}{dx}$:

$$2y \frac{dy}{dx} - 2x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} = 4xy$$

$$2(y-x^2) \frac{dy}{dx} = 4xy \Rightarrow (y-x^2) \frac{dy}{dx} = 2xy$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2xy}{y-x^2} \quad (\text{assuming } y-x^2 \neq 0)$$

This is the ODE. Hence $y^2 - 2x^2y = 1$ defines an implicit solution.

Function vs Solution

The interval of definition has to be an **interval**.

Consider $y' = -y^2$. Clearly $y = \frac{1}{x}$ solves the DE. The interval of definition can be $(-\infty, 0)$, or $(0, \infty)$ —or any interval that doesn't contain the origin. **But it can't be $(-\infty, 0) \cup (0, \infty)$ because this isn't an interval!**

Often, we'll take I to be the largest, or one of the largest, possible interval. It may depend on other information.

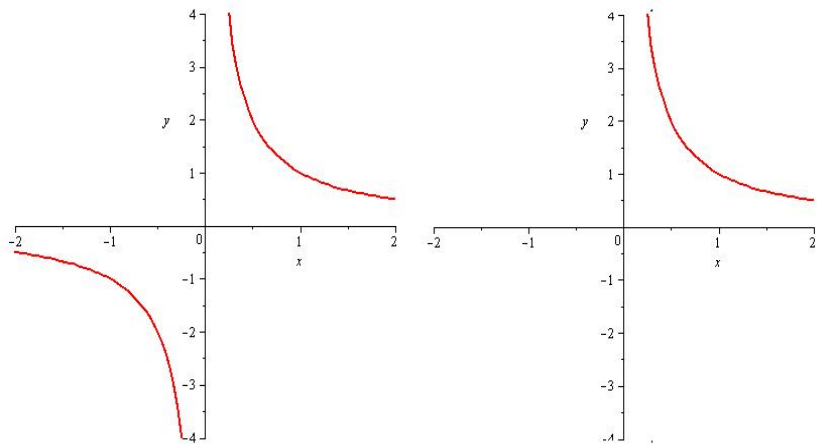


Figure: Left: Plot of $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ as a **function**. Right: Plot of $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$ as a possible **solution** of an ODE.

Show that for any choice of constants c_1 and c_2 , $y = c_1x + \frac{c_2}{x}$ is a solution of the differential equation

$$x^2y'' + xy' - y = 0$$

$$y = c_1x + \frac{c_2}{x} = c_1x + c_2x^{-1}$$

We substitute this in
assuming $x \neq 0$

$$y' = c_1 + c_2(-x^{-2}) = c_1 - \frac{c_2}{x^2}$$

$$y'' = 0 + c_2(2x^{-3}) = 2\frac{c_2}{x^3}$$

$$x^2y'' + xy' - y \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$x^2\left(\frac{2c_2}{x^3}\right) + x\left(c_1 - \frac{c_2}{x^2}\right) - \left(c_1x + \frac{c_2}{x}\right) \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$\frac{2C_2}{x} + C_1x - \frac{C_2}{x} - C_1x - \frac{C_2}{x} \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$\frac{2C_2}{x} - \frac{C_2}{x} - \frac{C_2}{x} + C_1x - C_1x \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$0 + 0 = 0 \quad \text{an identity.}$$

Hence $y = C_1x + \frac{C_2}{x}$ is a solution for any values of C_1 and C_2 .

Some Terms

- ▶ A **parameter** is an unspecified constant such as c_1 and c_2 in the last example.
- ▶ A **family of solutions** is a collection of solution functions that only differ by a parameter.
- ▶ An **n -parameter family of solutions** is one containing n parameters (e.g. $c_1x + \frac{c_2}{x}$ is a 2 parameter family).
- ▶ A **particular solution** is one with no arbitrary constants in it.
- ▶ The **trivial solution** is the simple constant function $y = 0$.
- ▶ An **integral curve** is the graph of one solution (perhaps from a family).

Section 2: Initial Value Problems

An initial value problem consists of an ODE with additional conditions.

Solve the equation ³

$$\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = f(x, y, y', \dots, y^{(n-1)}) \quad (1)$$

subject to the *initial conditions*

$$y(x_0) = y_0, \quad y'(x_0) = y_1, \quad \dots, \quad y^{(n-1)}(x_0) = y_{n-1}. \quad (2)$$

The problem (1)–(2) is called an *initial value problem* (IVP).

the x_0 is the same through out.

³on some interval I containing x_0 .

First and Second Order Cases

First order case:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y), \quad y(x_0) = y_0$$

1st order → one condition
The curve would pass through (x_0, y_0)

Second order case:

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = f(x, y, y'), \quad y(x_0) = y_0, \quad y'(x_0) = y_1$$

If y is position, y'' would be acceleration.
 y_0 would be initial position and y_1 would be initial velocity.

Example

Given that $y = c_1x + \frac{c_2}{x}$ is a 2-parameter family of solutions of $x^2y'' + xy' - y = 0$, solve the IVP

$$x^2y'' + xy' - y = 0, \quad y(1) = 1, \quad y'(1) = 3$$

We know $y = c_1x + \frac{c_2}{x}$ solves the ODE. Now we'll insist that $y(1) = 1$ and $y'(1) = 3$.

$$\text{Set } y(1) = 1 \quad y(1) = c_1 \cdot 1 + \frac{c_2}{1} = 1$$

$$\text{Set } y'(1) = 3 \quad y'(1) = c_1 - \frac{c_2}{1^2} = 3$$

* from slide 28

Solve the system $C_1 + C_2 = 1$

$$C_1 - C_2 = 3$$

add
$$\begin{array}{r} C_1 + C_2 = 1 \\ C_1 - C_2 = 3 \\ \hline 2C_1 = 4 \quad C_1 = 2 \end{array} \quad \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{r} C_1 + C_2 = 1 \\ C_1 - C_2 = 3 \\ \hline 2C_1 = 4 \quad C_1 = 2 \end{array}} \right\} \Rightarrow C_2 = 1 - C_1 = 1 - 2 = -1$$

The solution to the IVP is

$$y = 2x - \frac{1}{x}$$

Example

Part 1

Show that for any nonnegative constant c the relation $x^2 + y^2 = c$ is an implicit solution of the ODE

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$$

Using implicit diff. $x^2 + y^2 = c$ $2x + 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$

$$2y \frac{dy}{dx} = -2x \Rightarrow y \frac{dy}{dx} = -x$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y} \quad \text{our ODE}$$

Hence $x^2 + y^2 = c$ is an implicit solution.

Example

Part 2

Use the preceding results to find an **explicit** solution of the IVP

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}, \quad y(0) = -2$$

We know that $x^2 + y^2 = C$ defines a solution to

$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$ implicitly. From $y(0) = -2$

$$0^2 + (-2)^2 = C \Rightarrow C = 4$$

So we have $x^2 + y^2 = 4$

Let's find an explicit solution.

$$x^2 + y^2 = 4 \Rightarrow y^2 = 4 - x^2$$

$$\text{so } y = \sqrt{4 - x^2} \quad \text{or} \quad y = -\sqrt{4 - x^2}$$

Since $y(0) = -2$ only the one on the right can solve the IVP.

Hence an explicit soln. is

$$y = -\sqrt{4 - x^2}$$