

Section 4: First Order Equations: Linear

A first order linear equation has the form

$$a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x)y = g(x).$$

If $g(x) = 0$ the equation is called **homogeneous**. Otherwise it is called **nonhomogeneous**.

Provided $a_1(x) \neq 0$ on the interval I of definition of a solution, we can write the **standard form** of the equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = f(x).$$

$$P(x) = \frac{a_0(x)}{a_1(x)}$$

$$f(x) = \frac{g(x)}{a_1(x)}$$

We'll be interested in equations (and intervals I) for which P and f are continuous on I .

Solutions (the General Solution)

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = f(x).$$

It turns out the solution will always have a basic form of $y = y_c + y_p$ where

- ▶ y_c is called the **complementary** solution and would solve the equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = 0$$

(called the associated homogeneous equation), and

- ▶ y_p is called the **particular** solution, and is heavily influenced by the function $f(x)$.

The cool thing is that our solution method will get both parts in one process—we won't get this benefit with higher order equations!

Motivating Example

$$x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 2xy = e^x$$

By the product rule

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x^2 y] = x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 2xy$$

So our equation is

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x^2 y] = e^x$$

* our goal is to find y *

Integrate
both
sides

$$\int \frac{d}{dx} [x^2 y] dx = \int e^x dx$$

$$x^2 y = e^x + C$$

Divide
by x^2
to isolate
 y

$$y = \frac{e^x + C}{x^2}$$

$$y = \frac{e^x}{x^2} + \frac{C}{x^2}$$

$$y_p = \frac{e^x}{x^2} \quad \text{and} \quad y_c = \frac{C}{x^2}$$

Derivation of Solution via Integrating Factor

Solve the equation in standard form

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

- Based on the previous example, we want the left side to collapse as one derivative term (a product rule)
- Multiply both sides by some function $\mu(x)$ such that the left side is our product rule.

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

Assume $\mu(x)$ exists.

$$\mu(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)\mu(x)y = \mu(x)f(x)$$

The left needs to be $\frac{d}{dx} [\mu(x)y]$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\mu(x)y] = \mu(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{d\mu}{dx} y$$

Match to $\mu(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)\mu(x)y$

This requires

$$\frac{d\mu}{dx} y = P(x)\mu(x) y$$

For $y \neq 0$, μ solves the separable equation

$$\frac{d\mu}{dx} = P(x)\mu$$

Separate variables $\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dx} = P(x)$

$$\frac{1}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dx} dx = P(x) dx$$

$$\int \frac{1}{\mu} d\mu = \int P(x) dx$$

lets assume $\mu > 0$

$$\ln \mu = \int P(x) dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\mu = e^{\int P(x) dx}}$$

This is the function needed to get a product rule on the left side. It's called an integrating factor.

So
$$\mu \frac{dy}{dx} + P(x) \mu y = \mu(x) f(x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\mu y] = \mu(x) f(x)$$

$$\int \frac{d}{dx} [\mu y] dx = \int \mu(x) f(x) dx$$

$$\mu y = \int \mu(x) f(x) dx + C$$

$$y = \frac{1}{\mu} \int f(x) \mu(x) dx + \frac{C}{\mu}$$

y_p y_c

General Solution of First Order Linear ODE

- ▶ Put the equation in standard form $y' + P(x)y = f(x)$, and correctly identify the function $P(x)$.
- ▶ Obtain the integrating factor $\mu(x) = \exp(\int P(x) dx)$.
- ▶ Multiply both sides of the equation (in standard form) by the integrating factor μ . The left hand side **will always** collapse into the derivative of a product

$$\frac{d}{dx}[\mu(x)y] = \mu(x)f(x).$$

- ▶ Integrate both sides, and solve for y .

$$y(x) = \frac{1}{\mu(x)} \int \mu(x)f(x) dx = e^{-\int P(x) dx} \left(\int e^{\int P(x) dx} f(x) dx + C \right)$$

Solve the ODE

Let's assume that $x > 0$

$$x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 2xy = e^x$$

Standard form (divide by x^2)

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{2}{x}y = \frac{e^x}{x^2} \quad P(x) = \frac{2}{x}$$

Build $\mu = e^{\int P(x) dx}$

$$\int \frac{2}{x} dx = 2 \int \frac{1}{x} dx = 2 \ln x = \ln x^2$$

so $\mu = e^{\ln x^2} = x^2$

Mult. standard form by $\mu = x^2$

$$x^2 \left(\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{2}{x} y \right) = x^2 \left(\frac{e^x}{x^2} \right)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x^2 y] = e^x$$

$$\int \frac{d}{dx} [x^2 y] dx = \int e^x dx$$

$$x^2 y = e^x + C$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{y = \frac{e^x + C}{x^2}}$$

Solve the ODE

Find the general solution using an integrating factor. Then verify that your result actually solves the ODE.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + y = 3xe^{-x}$$

The eqn is in standard form.

$$P(x) = 1$$

Build μ : $\mu = e^{\int P(x) dx}$

$$\int P(x) dx = \int dx = x$$

$$\Rightarrow \mu = e^x$$

Mult. eqn by μ

$$e^x \left(\frac{dy}{dx} + y \right) = e^x \left(3xe^{-x} \right)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [e^x y] = 3x$$

Note

$$e^x \left(\frac{dy}{dx} + y \right) = e^x \frac{dy}{dx} + e^x y$$

$$\int \frac{d}{dx} [e^x y] dx = \int 3x dx$$

$$e^x y = \frac{3x^2}{2} + C$$

$$y = \frac{\frac{3x^2}{2} + C}{e^x} = \frac{3}{2} x^2 e^{-x} + C e^{-x}$$

Our solution is $y = \frac{3}{2} x^2 e^{-x} + C e^{-x}$.

Let's verify that $y = \frac{3}{2}x^2 e^{-x} + C e^{-x}$ solves $\frac{dy}{dx} + y = 3x e^{-x}$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3}{2}(2x)e^{-x} + \frac{3}{2}x^2(-e^{-x}) + C(-e^{-x})$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3x e^{-x} - \frac{3}{2}x^2 e^{-x} - C e^{-x}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + y \stackrel{?}{=} 3x e^{-x}$$

$$3x e^{-x} - \frac{3}{2}x^2 e^{-x} - C e^{-x} + \frac{3}{2}x^2 e^{-x} + C e^{-x} \stackrel{?}{=} 3x e^{-x}$$

$$3x e^{-x} = 3x e^{-x} \text{ an identity.}$$

Hence our solution is a solution.

Solve the Initial Value Problem

Find the solution of the IVP.

$$\cos \theta \frac{dy}{d\theta} + \sin \theta y = 1, \quad -\frac{\pi}{2} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad y(0) = -2$$

Standard form

$$\frac{dy}{d\theta} + \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} y = \frac{1}{\cos \theta}$$

$$\frac{dy}{d\theta} + \tan \theta y = \sec \theta \quad P(\theta) = \tan \theta$$

Find $\mu = e^{\int P(\theta) d\theta}$

$$\int P(\theta) d\theta = \int \tan \theta d\theta = \ln |\sec \theta|$$

$$= \ln(\sec \theta)$$

$$\sec \theta > 0 \\ \text{for } -\pi/2 < \theta < \pi/2$$

$$\text{So } \mu = e^{\int \sec \theta} = \sec \theta$$

Multi. eqn in standard form by μ

$$\sec \theta \left(\frac{dy}{d\theta} + \tan \theta y \right) = \sec \theta \sec \theta$$

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} [\sec \theta y] = \sec^2 \theta$$

$$\int \frac{d}{d\theta} [\sec \theta y] d\theta = \int \sec^2 \theta d\theta$$

$$\sec \theta y = \tan \theta + C$$

$$y = \frac{\tan \theta + C}{\sec \theta} = \cos \theta \tan \theta + C \cos \theta$$

$$\Rightarrow y = \sin \theta + C \cos \theta$$

our general soln.
to the ODE.

Impose the initial condition $y(0) = -2$

$$-2 = \sin 0 + C \cos 0 = 0 + C \cdot 1$$

$$C = -2$$

The solution to the IVP is $y = \sin \theta - 2 \cos \theta$.

Find the General Solution

Find the general solution of the ODE.

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

Let's assume $x > 0$.

Standard form $\frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{1}{x} y = \frac{2x^2}{x} = 2x$

$$P(x) = \frac{-1}{x}, \quad \mu = e^{\int P(x) dx} \quad \int P(x) dx = \int \frac{-1}{x} dx = -\ln x$$

$$\mu = e^{-\ln x} = e^{\ln x^{-1}} = x^{-1}$$

$$x^{-1} \left(\frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{1}{x} y \right) = 2x \cdot x^{-1}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x^{-1} y] = 2$$

$$\int \frac{d}{dx} [x^{-1} y] dx = \int 2 dx$$

$$x^{-1} y = 2x + C$$

$$y = \frac{2x + C}{x^{-1}} = 2x^2 + Cx$$

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

Which is the correct **general solution**?

(a) $y = \frac{2}{3}x^4 + Cx$

(b) $y = 2x^2$

(c) $y = x + \frac{C}{x}$

(d) $y = 2x^2 + Cx$

A the correct solution.

Steady and Transient States

For some linear equations, the term y_c decays as x (or t) grows. For example

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + y = 3xe^{-x} \quad \text{has solution} \quad y = \frac{3}{2}x^2 + Ce^{-x}.$$

* there's a typo here
 $y_p = \frac{3}{2}x^2 e^{-x}$

$$\text{Here, } y_p = \frac{3}{2}x^2 \quad \text{and} \quad y_c = Ce^{-x}.$$

Such a decaying complementary solution is called a **transient state**.

The corresponding particular solution is called a **steady state**.