

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.

Mixing Problem w/ Non-constant Volume

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 rate of 10 gal/min. Set up the initial value problem governing the amount (pounds) of salt $A(t)$ at time t in minutes. Determine the time interval for which the differential equation is valid.

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = r_i c_i - r_o c_o \quad \text{where} \quad c_o = \frac{A}{V}$$

$$\text{Here } r_i = 5 \text{ gal/min}, \quad c_i = 2 \frac{\text{lb}}{\text{gal}}$$

$$r_o = 10 \text{ gal/min}$$

$$c_o = \frac{A}{V(t) + (r_i - r_o)t} = \frac{A}{500 + (5-10)t} = \frac{A}{500 - 5t}$$

Note C_0 is only valid until $V=0$

$$500 - 5t = 0 \Rightarrow t = 100$$

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

$$\frac{dA}{dt} + \frac{2}{100 - t} A = 10 \quad \text{with } A(0) = 0$$

valid for $0 \leq t < 100$

Mixing Problem w/ Non-constant Volume

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 rate of 10 gal/min. Set up the initial value problem governing the amount of salt A . Determine the time interval for which the differential equation is valid.

Solving the problem is left as an exercise. The correct solution will be

$$A(t) = 10(100 - t) - \frac{(100 - t)^2}{10} \quad \text{valid for } 0 \leq t < 100$$

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 .

Current population P , difference between M and P
 P $M - P$

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

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

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 $t \rightarrow \infty$.

The ODE is separable

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

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

²The partial fraction decomposition

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

is useful.

Using the partial fraction decomp

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

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

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

Using log properties

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

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

Let $A = e^c$ or $-e^c$

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

Let $P(0) = P_0$, then applying this condition

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

Save this

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

$$P = A M e^{kmt} - A P e^{kmt}$$

$$P + APe^{kmt} = AMe^{kmt}$$

$$(1 + Ae^{kmt})P = AMe^{kmt}$$

$$P = \frac{AMe^{kmt}}{1 + Ae^{kmt}}$$

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

$$P = \frac{\frac{P_0}{M - P_0} M e^{kmt}}{1 + \frac{P_0}{M - P_0} e^{kmt}} \cdot \left(\frac{M - P_0}{M - P_0} \right)$$

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

This is the solution
to the logistic
equation subject to
 $P(0) = P_0$

The long time population

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

by
l'Hospital's
rule

$$= \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{P_0 M k M e^{kMt}}{P_0 k M e^{kMt}}$$

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

The limit is M as expected.

Section 6: Linear Equations Theory and Terminology

Recall that an n^{th} order linear IVP consists of an equation

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

to solve subject to conditions

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

The problem is called **homogeneous** if $g(x) \equiv 0$. Otherwise it is called **nonhomogeneous**.

Theorem: Existence & Uniqueness

Theorem: If a_0, \dots, a_n and g are continuous on an interval I , $a_n(x) \neq 0$ for each x in I , and x_0 is any point in I , then for any choice of constants y_0, \dots, y_{n-1} , the IVP has a unique solution $y(x)$ on I .

Put differently, we're guaranteed to have a solution exist, and it is the only one there is!

Homogeneous Equations

We'll consider the equation

$$a_n(x) \frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + a_{n-1}(x) \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dx^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x)y = 0$$

and assume that each a_i is continuous and a_n is never zero on the interval of interest.

Theorem: If y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k are all solutions of this homogeneous equation on an interval I , then the *linear combination*

$$y(x) = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x) + \cdots + c_k y_k(x)$$

is also a solution on I for any choice of constants c_1, \dots, c_k .

This is called the **principle of superposition**.

Corollaries

- (i) If y_1 solves the homogeneous equation, then any constant multiple $y = cy_1$ is also a solution.
- (ii) The solution $y = 0$ (called the trivial solution) is always a solution to a homogeneous equation.

Big Questions:

- ▶ Does an equation have any **nontrivial** solution(s), and
- ▶ since y_1 and cy_1 aren't truly *different* solutions, what criteria will be used to call solutions distinct?

Linear Dependence

Definition: A set of functions $f_1(x), f_2(x), \dots, f_n(x)$ are said to be **linearly dependent** on an interval I if there exists a set of constants c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n with at least one of them being nonzero such that

$$c_1 f_1(x) + c_2 f_2(x) + \dots + c_n f_n(x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x \text{ in } I.$$

A set of functions that is not linearly dependent on I is said to be **linearly independent** on I .