

Section 4: First Order Equations: Linear

Recall that we were interested in first order linear equations. Such an equation in **standard form** looks like

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

We're assuming that P and f are continuous on the domain of definition. The solution, that we'll call the **general solution** will have the form

$$y = y_c + y_p$$

where y_c is called the **complementary** solution and y_p is called the **particular** solution. If $f(x) = 0$, we call the ODE **homogeneous**¹. Otherwise, we call it **nonhomogeneous**.

¹ $y_p = 0$ if the ODE is homogeneous.

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 $\mu(x) = \exp\left(\int P(x) dx\right)$.
- ▶ 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 .

Solve the IVP

$$x \frac{dy}{dx} - y = 2x^2, \quad x > 0 \quad y(1) = 5$$

Divide by x to get standard form.

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

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y \quad P(x) = \frac{-1}{x}$$

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

$$\int P(x) dx = \int \frac{-1}{x} dx = -\ln x$$

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

Mult. ODE by μ

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

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

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

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

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

$$y = 2x^2 + Cx$$

Now we apply $y(1) = 5$

$$y(1) = 2(1)^2 + C(1) = 5$$

$$2 + C = 5 \Rightarrow C = 3$$

The solution to the IVP

$$y = 2x^2 + 3x$$

Verify

Just for giggles, let's verify that our solution $y = 2x^2 + 3x$ really does solve the differential equation we started with

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

Let's substitute : $y = 2x^2 + 3x$, $y' = 4x + 3$

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

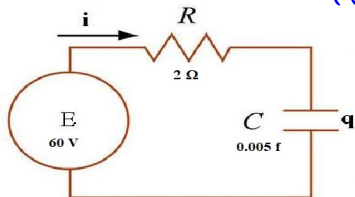
$$x(4x + 3) - (2x^2 + 3x) \stackrel{?}{=} 2x^2$$

$$4x^2 + \cancel{3x} - 2x^2 - \cancel{3x} \stackrel{?}{=} 2x^2$$

$$2x^2 = 2x^2$$

that's
an identity.

Steady and Transient States



Current

$$i(t) = \frac{dq}{dt}$$

q - charge

Figure: The charge $q(t)$ on the capacitor in the given circuit satisfies a first order linear equation.

$$2 \frac{dq}{dt} + 200q = 60, \quad q(0) = 0.$$

In standard form $\frac{dq}{dt} + 100q = 30$

$$P(t) = 100$$

Integrating factor $\mu = e^{\int p(t)dt} = e^{\int 100dt} = e^{100t}$

$$e^{100t} [q' + 100q] = e^{100t} (30)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} (e^{100t} q) = 30 e^{100t}$$

$$\int \frac{d}{dt} (e^{100t} q) dt = \int 30 e^{100t} dt$$

$$e^{100t} q = \frac{30}{100} e^{100t} + k$$

$$q = \frac{\frac{3}{10} e^{100t} + k}{e^{100t}} = \frac{3}{10} + k e^{-100t}$$

$\int e^{at} dt$
 $\frac{1}{a} e^{at} + C$
 $a \neq 0$
 a - non zero
 constant

Now we can apply $q(0) = 0$.

$$q(0) = \frac{3}{10} + k e^0 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow k = \frac{-3}{10}$$

The charge on the capacitor

$$q(t) = \frac{3}{10} - \frac{3}{10} e^{-100t}.$$

Steady and Transient States

Note that the solution, the charge, consists of a complementary and a particular solution, $q = q_p + q_c$.

$$q(t) = \frac{3}{10} - \frac{3}{10}e^{-100t}$$

$$q_c(t) = -\frac{3}{10}e^{-100t} \quad \text{and} \quad q_p(t) = \frac{3}{10}$$

Evaluate the limit

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} q_c(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{3}{10} e^{-100t} = 0$$

Steady and Transient States

The complementary solution contains the information given by the initial condition, and for some physical systems like this the complementary solution decays.

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

Note that due to this decay, after a while $q(t) \approx q_p(t)$.

Definition: Such a corresponding particular solution is called a **steady state**.

Bernoulli Equations

Suppose $P(x)$ and $f(x)$ are continuous on some interval (a, b) and n is a real number different from 0 or 1 (not necessarily an integer). An equation of the form

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

is called a **Bernoulli** equation.

Observation: This equation has the flavor of a linear ODE, but since $n \neq 0, 1$ it is necessarily nonlinear. So our previous approach involving an integrating factor does not apply directly. Fortunately, we can use a change of variables to obtain a related linear equation.

Solving the Bernoulli Equation

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

Divide by y^n $\dot{y}^n \frac{dy}{dx} + P(x) \dot{y}^{1-n} = f(x)$

we'll do a change of variables

Set $u = y^{1-n}$, then $\frac{du}{dx} = (1-n)y^{1-n-1} \frac{dy}{dx}$
 $= (1-n) \dot{y}^n \frac{dy}{dx}$

Multiply the ODE by $1-n$

$$(1-n) \dot{y}^n \frac{dy}{dx} + (1-n) P(x) \dot{y}^{1-n} = (1-n) f(x)$$

This is the 1st order linear ODE

$$\frac{du}{dx} + (1-n)P(x)u = (1-n)f(x)$$

It has the form

$$\frac{du}{dx} + P_1(x)u = f_1(x)$$

where $P_1(x) = (1-n)P(x)$ and

$$f_1(x) = (1-n)f(x).$$

Note $u = y^{1-n} \Rightarrow y = u^{\frac{1}{1-n}}$

Example

Solve the initial value problem $y' - y = -e^{2x}y^3$, subject to $y(0) = 1$.

Here, $n = 3$. so $u = y^{1-3} = y^{-2}$

$$y' - y = -e^{2x}y^3 \Rightarrow y^3 \frac{dy}{dx} - y^2 = -e^{2x}$$

$$u = y^{-2} \Rightarrow \frac{du}{dx} = -2y^{-3} \frac{dy}{dx}$$

Mult. by -2

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

The equation for u is

$$\frac{du}{dx} + zu = 2e^{2x}$$

$$P_1(x) = 2, \quad \mu = e^{\int P_1(x) dx} = e^{\int 2 dx} = e^{2x}$$

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

$$\frac{d}{dx} [e^{2x} u] = 2e^{4x}$$

$$\int \frac{d}{dx} [e^{2x} u] dx = \int 2e^{4x} dx$$

$$e^{2x} u = \frac{2}{4} e^{4x} + C$$

Hence
$$u = \frac{\frac{1}{2} e^{4x} + C}{e^{2x}} = \frac{1}{2} e^{2x} + C e^{-2x}$$

$$u = \frac{1}{2} e^{2x} + C e^{-2x}$$

$$u = y^2 \Rightarrow y = u^{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{u}}$$

Hence
$$y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{2} e^{2x} + C e^{-2x}}}$$

We find $y(0) = 1 \Rightarrow C = \frac{1}{2}$

The solution to the IVP is

$$y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{2}e^{2x} + \frac{1}{2}e^{-2x}}}$$