Section 5: First Order Equations Models and Applications
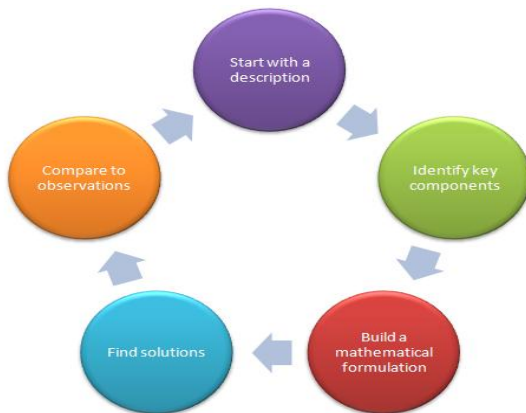

Figure: Mathematical Models give Rise to Differential Equations

Population Dynamics

A population of dwarf rabbits grows at a rate proportional to the current population. In 2021, there were 58 rabbits. In 2022, the population was up to 89 rabbits. Estimate the number of rabbits expected in the population in 2031.

We need variables. The population is changing in time, so let's introduce variables

$t \sim$ time   and $P(t) \sim$ is the population (density) at time t.

We need to express the following mathematically:

The population's rate of change is proportional to the population.

$$\frac{dP}{dt} \propto P \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad \frac{dP}{dt} = kP$$

rate of change of P

↑ proportional to

for some constant k

Let's take t in years with $t = 0$ in 2021.

The given data is $P(0) = 58$ and $P(1) = 89$

We have an IVP

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

and an additional condition $P(1) = 89$.

The ODE is separable and linear.

Separating the variables

$$\frac{1}{P} \frac{dP}{dt} = k \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{1}{P} dP = k \, dt$$

$$\int \frac{1}{P} \, dP = \int k \, dt \implies \ln P = kt + C$$

Solving for P

$$P = e^{kt+C} = e^{C} e^{kt} = A e^{kt}$$

where $A = e^{C}$. Apply $P(0) = 58$

$$P(0) = A e^{0} = 58 \implies A = 58$$

The population $P(t) = 58 \, e^{kt}$.

Use $P(1) = 89$ to find k.

$$P(1) = 58\, e^{k} = 89 \quad \Rightarrow \quad e^{k} = \frac{89}{58}$$

Hence $\quad k = \ln\left(\frac{89}{58}\right).$

The model is $\quad P(t) = 58\, e^{t \ln\left(\frac{89}{58}\right)}$

with t in years and $t = 0$ in 2021, 2031 is $t = 10$.

The predicted population in 2031 is

$$P(10) = 58\, e^{10 \ln\left(\frac{89}{58}\right)} \quad \approx 4200$$

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**.

Decay is written $\frac{dP}{dt} = -kP$

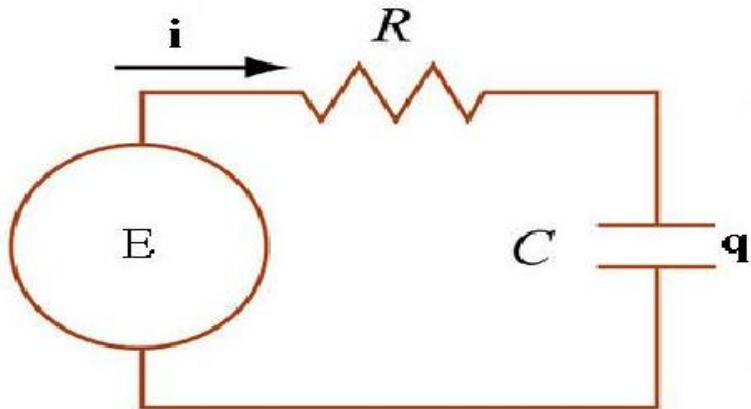$w/ \quad k > 0.$

Series Circuits: RC-circuit

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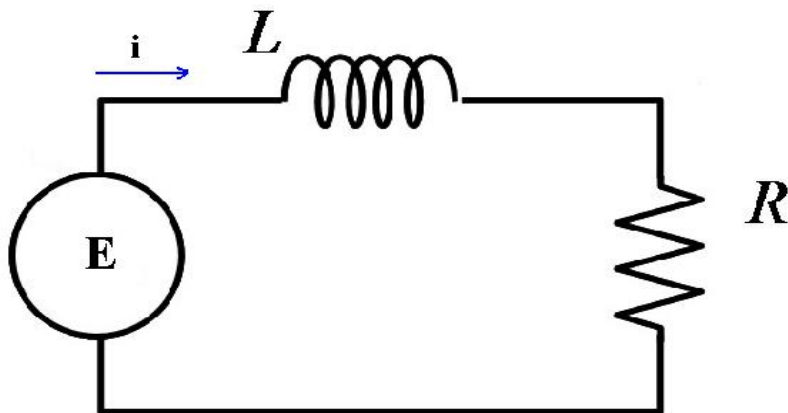
Series Circuits: LR-circuit

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: $i = \dfrac{dq}{dt}$.

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
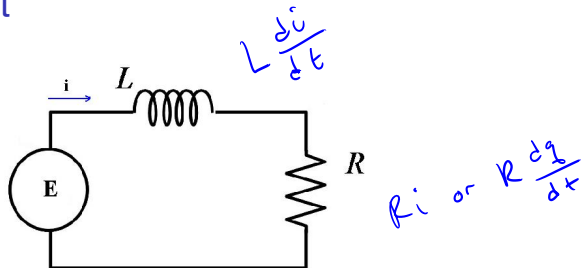components is equal to the applied electromotive force.

RC Series Circuit

Handwritten annotations: Ri , $R\frac{dq}{dt}$, $\frac{1}{C}q$
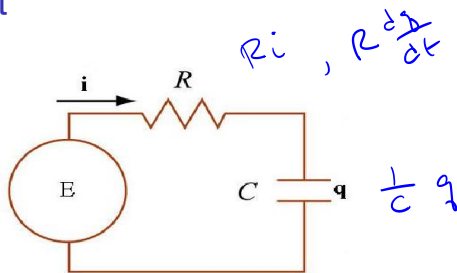
drop across resistor	+	drop across capacitor	=	applied force
$R\frac{dq}{dt}$	+	$\frac{1}{C}q$	=	$E(t)$

$$\boxed{R\frac{dq}{dt} + \frac{1}{C}q = E(t)}$$

If $q(0) = q_0$, the IVP can be solved to find $q(t)$ for all $t > 0$.

LR Series Circuit

drop across inductor	+	drop across resistor	=	applied force
$L\frac{di}{dt}$	+	Ri	=	$E(t)$

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

If $i(0) = i_0$, the IVP can be solved to find $i(t)$ for all $t > 0$.

Example

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

Basic eqn $R\dfrac{dq}{dt} + \dfrac{1}{c}q = E$ $i(0) = 0.4$

$q'(0) = 0.4$

$R = 1000, \quad C = 5 \cdot 10^{-6}, \quad E(t) = 200$

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

$*$ $\dfrac{1}{5 \cdot 10^{-6}} \div 1000 = \dfrac{10^{6}}{5(10^{3})} = 200$

Standard form:

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

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

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

$$e^{200t} q = \int \frac{1}{5} e^{200t} dt$$

$$e^{200t} \, q = \frac{1}{1000} e^{200t} + k$$

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

$$q'(t) = -200 k \, e^{-200t} \qquad q'(0) = \frac{2}{5}$$

$$q'(0) = \frac{2}{5} = -200 k e^{0} \Rightarrow k = \frac{2}{5} \frac{1}{-200}$$

$$k = \frac{-1}{500}$$

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

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} q(t) = \frac{1}{1000}$$

The long time charge is $\frac{1}{1000}$ C.