

Quiz 1  
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Differential  
Equations

Q1. Solve the initial value problem

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

where  $y(0) = 3$

Solution:

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

$$\int \frac{1}{y(y^2 - 4)} dy = \frac{1}{2} \int dx$$

Solving for the left side:

$$\int \frac{1}{y(y^2 - 4)} dy = \int \left( \frac{1}{8} \frac{1}{(y + 2)} + \frac{1}{8} \frac{1}{(y - 2)} + \left( -\frac{1}{4} \right) \frac{1}{y} \right) dy$$

Solving for the partial fractions:

$$\frac{1}{y(y^2 - 4)} = \frac{A}{y + 2} + \frac{B}{y - 2} + \frac{C}{y}$$

$$1 = A(y(y - 2)) + B(y(y + 2)) + C((y - 2)(y + 2))$$

$$1 = A(y^2 - 2y) + B(y^2 + 2y) + C(y^2 - 4)$$

$$1 = Ay^2 - 2Ay + By^2 + 2By + Cy^2 - 4C$$

$$1 = y^2(A + B + C) + y(-2A + 2B) + (-4C)$$

Solving for A, B and C:

$$A + B + C = 0$$

$$-2A + 2B = 0$$

$$-4C = 1$$

$$C = -\frac{1}{4}$$

$$A + B = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$-2\left(\frac{1}{4} - B\right) + 2B = 0$$

$$-\frac{1}{2} + 4B = 0$$

$$B = \frac{1}{8}$$

$$A = \frac{1}{8}$$

Simplifying the left side:

$$= \frac{1}{8} \ln|y + 2| + \frac{1}{8} \ln|y - 2| - \frac{1}{4} \ln|y|$$

$$= \frac{1}{8} (\ln(|y^2 - 4|)) - \frac{1}{4} \ln|y|$$

(Simplified the equation  $\log(a) + \log(b) = \log(a*b)$ )

Solving for the right side:

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

Solving for y:

$$\frac{1}{8} (\ln(|y^2 - 4|)) - \frac{1}{4} \ln|y| = \frac{1}{2} x + c_1$$

(In a neighborhood around y, y is positive)

(Hence, the absolute value of  $(y^2 - 4)$  and y are not needed)

$$\ln(y^2 - 4) - 2\ln(y) = 4x + c_1 \quad (\text{Multiplied both sides by 8})$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{y^2 - 4}{y^2}\right) = 4x + c_1 \quad (\log(a) - \log(b)) = \log(a/b)$$

$$\ln\left(1 - \frac{4}{y^2}\right) = 4x + c_1$$

$$1 - \frac{4}{y^2} = e^{4x + c_1}$$

$$\frac{4}{y^2} = 1 - e^{4x + c_1}$$

$$y^2 = \frac{4}{1 - e^{4x + c_1}}$$

$$y = \pm 2 \sqrt{\frac{1}{1 - e^{4x + c_1}}}$$

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Solving for c:

$$3 = 2 \sqrt{\frac{1}{1 - e^{c_1}}}$$

(Substituted y for 3 and x for 0)

$$\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{1 - e^{c_1}}$$

(Took the reciprocal of both sides)

$$\frac{4}{9} = 1 - e^{c_1}$$

$$e^{c_1} = \frac{5}{9}$$

$$c_1 = \ln\left(\frac{5}{9}\right)$$

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Answer:

$$y = \pm 2 \sqrt{\frac{1}{1 - \frac{5}{9}e^{4x}}}$$

Q2. Find the explicit solution to the initial value problem

$$\frac{e^{y^2}}{2y} + \frac{e^x}{x+1} \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

where  $y(0) = \sqrt{\ln(2)}$

Solution:

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

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

(Separated the functions)

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

Solving for the left side:

$$\int \left( -\frac{2y}{e^{y^2}} \right) dy = - \int \frac{du}{e^u}$$

( $u = y^2$  and  $du = 2ydy$ )

$$= \frac{1}{e^u} = \frac{1}{e^{y^2}}$$

Solving for the right side:

$$\int \left( \frac{x+1}{e^x} \right) dx = - \left( \frac{x+1}{e^x} \right) + \int \frac{dx}{e^x}$$

(Integration by parts;  $u = x+1, dv = \frac{dx}{e^x}$ )

( $du = dx$ , and  $v = -\frac{1}{e^x}$ )

$$\int \frac{dx}{e^x} = -\frac{1}{e^x} + c_1$$

(Adding the other part:  $-\left(\frac{x+1}{e^x}\right)$ )

$$\frac{-x-1}{e^x} - \frac{1}{e^x} + c_1 = \frac{-x-2}{e^x} + c_1$$

Solving for y:

$$\frac{1}{e^{y^2}} = \frac{-(x+2)}{e^x} + c_1$$

$$e^{y^2} = \left( \frac{-(x+2)}{e^x} + c_1 \right)^{-1}$$

$$y^2 = \ln \left( \left( \frac{-(x+2)}{e^x} + c_1 \right)^{-1} \right)$$

$$y = \pm \sqrt{\ln \left( \left( \frac{-(x+2)}{e^x} + c_1 \right)^{-1} \right)}$$

Solving for c:

$$\sqrt{\ln(2)} = \sqrt{\ln((c_1 - 2)^{-1})}$$

(Substituted y for  $\sqrt{\ln(2)}$  and x for 0)

$$2 = \frac{1}{c_1 - 2}$$

(Squared both sides and took both sides to power of e)

$$c_1 = \frac{5}{2}$$

Answer:

$$y = \pm \sqrt{\ln \left( \left( \frac{-(x+2)}{e^x} + \frac{5}{2} \right)^{-1} \right)}$$

Q3. Find the general explicit solution to

$$\frac{1}{x} \frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{2}{x^2} y = x^3 \sin x$$


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Solution:

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

(Converting to standard form:  $y' + p(x)y = q(x)$ )

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Solving  $\mu(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(x) &= e^{\int -\frac{2}{x} dx} \\ &= e^{-2 \ln(x)} = e^{\ln\left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right)} \\ &= \frac{1}{x^2} \end{aligned}$$


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Setting up the problem:

$$\left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right) y = \int \frac{1}{x^2} x^4 \sin x \, dx$$

( $\mu(x)y = \int \mu(x)q(x)dx$ )

$$\frac{1}{x^2} y = \int x^2 \sin x \, dx$$


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Solving for the right side:

$$\int x^2 \sin x \, dx = -x^2 \cos x + \int 2x \cos x \, dx$$

(Integration by parts:  $u = x^2, dv = \sin x \, dx$ )  
( $du = 2x, v = -\cos x$ )

$$= -x^2 \cos x + 2x \sin x - \int 2 \sin x \, dx$$

(Integration by parts:  $t = 2x, dk = \cos x \, dx$ )  
( $dt = 2dx, k = \sin x$ )

$$= -x^2 \cos x + 2x \sin x + 2 \cos x + c_1$$


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Solving for y:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{x^2} y &= -x^2 \cos x + 2x \sin x + 2 \cos x + c_1 \\ y &= -x^4 \cos x + 2x^3 \sin x + 2x^2 \cos x + c_1 x^2 \end{aligned}$$

Q4. Find the general explicit solution to

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

Solution:

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

(Converting to standard form:  $y' + p(x)y = q(x)$ )

Solving for  $\mu(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\mu(x) &= e^{\int \left(-\frac{2}{x}\right) dx} \\ &= e^{-2 \ln(x)} = e^{\ln\left(\frac{1}{x^2}\right)} \\ &= \frac{1}{x^2}\end{aligned}$$

Setting up the problem:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{x^2} y &= \int \left(\frac{1}{x^2} x^3 e^{-x}\right) dx \\ (\mu(x)y &= \int \mu(x)q(x)dx)\end{aligned}$$

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

Solving for the right side:

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{x}{e^x} dx &= -\frac{x}{e^x} + \int \frac{dx}{e^x} \\ &\quad \left(\text{Integration by parts: } u = x, dv = \frac{1}{e^x}\right) \\ &\quad \left(du = dx, v = -\frac{1}{e^x}\right) \\ &= -\frac{x}{e^x} + \int \frac{dx}{e^x} = -\frac{x}{e^x} - \frac{1}{e^x} + c_1 \\ &= \frac{-(x+1)}{e^x} + c_1\end{aligned}$$

Solving for y:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{x^2} y &= \frac{-(x+1)}{e^x} + c_1 \\ y &= \frac{-x^3 - x^2}{e^x} + c_1 x^2\end{aligned}$$