

Lecture 26 - 27 : First Order Differential Equations

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1 Growth Model

1.1 Malthusian Growth Model

Malthusian growth model is based on the assumption that the population grows at a rate proportional to the size of the population. Let $P(t)$ represents the population at time t , then

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP$$

for some constant k

1.2 Logistic Growth Model

Since population is not likely to grow indefinitely due to limited resources and other constraints, a new model is created. The new more practical model would assume that initially P grows proportionally with P and the growth will decrease as P gets closer to a certain carrying capacity M .

$$k = r(M - P)$$

where $r > 0$ is a constant. then in this case

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP = r(M - P)P = rPM\left(1 - \frac{P}{M}\right)$$

if we set a constant $K = rM$ then

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

2 Differential Equations

2.1 Definition

A **first-order differential equation** (D.E.) is an equation of the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = F(x, y)$$

where y is the dependent variable and x is the independent variable.

A solution to a first-order differential equation is a function $y = y(x)$ defined on some interval I such that

$$y'(x) = F(x, y(x)) \quad \forall x \in I$$

A general solution to a first-order differential equation is the collection of all solutions to the equation.

A **first-order initial value problem (IVP)** is a first-order differential equation with an initial value condition:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dy}{dx} = F(x, y) \\ y(x_0) = y_0 \end{cases}$$

A particular solution is a solution that satisfies the IVP.

Example Show that $y = (x^3 + 8)^{1/3}$ is a particular solution to the IVP

$$y' = \frac{x^2}{y^2} \quad y(0) = 2$$

$$y' = \frac{1}{3}(x^3 + 8)^{-\frac{2}{3}}(3x^2) = \frac{x^2}{(x^3 + 8)^{\frac{2}{3}}} = \frac{x^2}{y^2}$$

$$y(0) = (0 + 8)^{\frac{1}{3}} = 2$$

2.2 Slope Fields

Given a D.E. we can graph the solutions using slope fields. Suppose $y = f(x)$ is a solution satisfying $f(x_0) = y_0$ then:

- The graph passes through (x_0, y_0)
- $f'(x_0) = F(x_0, y_0)$
- The slope of the tangent line to $y = f(x) = F(x_0, y_0)$

So to sketch the solution curves first plot many points on the plane with each plotted point (x_0, y_0) have a short line segment with slope $F(x_0, y_0)$.

Example Sketch the slope field for

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

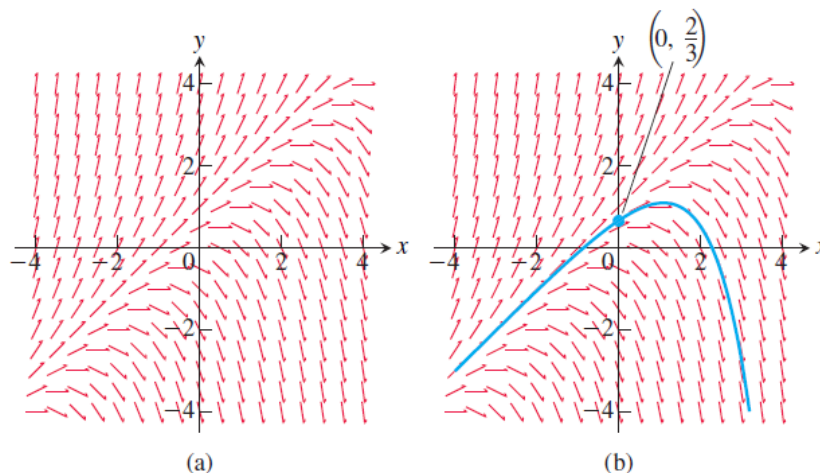


Figure 1: The slope fields for $dy/dx = y - x$

2.3 Euler's Method

Given an IVP $\frac{dy}{dx} = F(x, y)$ with $y(x_0) = y_0$, suppose we want to find $y(s)$ with $s = x_0 + 1$

- If we can solve $y = y(x)$ explicitly, then we can find $y(s)$
- Otherwise numerical methods are required, such as Euler's method

The main idea is to start with (x_0, y_0) and approximate the solution curve $y = y(x)$ by generating a sequence of points $(x_0, y_0), (x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \dots$ using tangent line approximation. Let (x_0, y_0) be the starting point. Pick a small Δx , then

$$\text{set } \begin{cases} x_1 = x_0 + \Delta x \\ y_1 = y_0 + F(x_0, y_0)\Delta x \end{cases}$$

y_1 is approximation of $y(x_0 + \Delta x)$, which is $y(x_1)$. And repeat the same procedure until x_n .

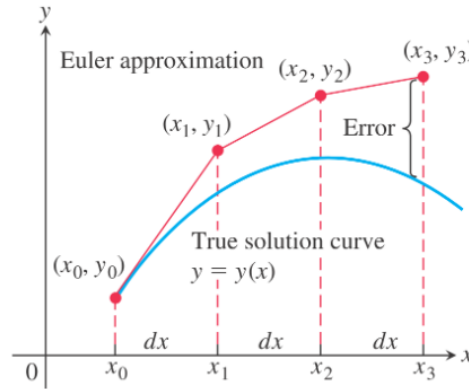


Figure 2: Illustration of Euler's method

Example Given $y' = 1 + y$ and $y(0) = 1$, approximate $y(0.3)$ with $\Delta x = 0.1$

$$\begin{aligned} x_0 &= 0 & y_0 &= 1 \\ x_1 &= 0.1 & y_1 &= 1 + (1 + 1)(0.1) = 1.2 \\ x_2 &= 0.2 & y_2 &= 1.2 + (1 + 1.2)(0.1) = 1.42 \\ x_3 &= 0.3 & y_3 &= 1.42 + (1 + 1.42)(0.1) = 1.662 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$y(0.3) = y(x_3) \approx y_3 = 1.662$$

The exact solution is:

$$\begin{aligned} v(x) &= e^{\int (1) dx} = e^{-x} \\ y &= \frac{1}{e^{-x}} \int e^{-x} dx = e^x(-e^{-x} + C) = -1 + Ce^x \\ y(0) &= 1 \Rightarrow 1 = -1 + C \Rightarrow C = 2 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$y(0.3) = -1 + 2e^{0.3} \approx 1.6997$$

3 Solving Methods

3.1 Separable Equations

Definition A differential equation of the form

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

is said to be separable

Example $y' = e^x e^y$ is separable and $y' = e^x + e^y$ is not separable
Suppose that $y' = g(x)f(y)$ and f is not a zero function then

$$\frac{1}{f(y)}y' = g(x) \Rightarrow \int \frac{1}{f(y)} dy = \int g(x) dx$$

Solving Separable Function If $\frac{dy}{dx} = g(x)f(y)$, by letting $h(y) = \frac{1}{f(y)}$ we have

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{g(x)}{h(y)} = \int g(x) dx = \int h(y) dy$$

Example 1 Solve $y' = e^{x+y}$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= e^{x+y} = e^x e^y \\ \int \frac{1}{e^y} dy &= \int e^x dx \\ -e^{-y} + C_1 &= e^x + C_2 \\ -e^{-y} &= e^x + C_2 - C_1 \\ y &= -\ln -e^x + C \quad C = C_2 - C_1\end{aligned}$$

Example 2 Solve $y' = x^2 y$
Suppose $y \neq 0$ for some x then

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= x^2 y \\ \int \frac{1}{y} dy &= \int x^2 dx \\ \ln |y| &= \frac{1}{3}x^3 + K \\ |y| &= e^K e^{\frac{1}{3}x^3} \\ y &= \pm e^K e^{\frac{1}{3}x^3} \\ y &= C e^{\frac{1}{3}x^3} \quad C = \pm e^K\end{aligned}$$

Since zero function is also a solution so, the general solution is

$$y = C e^{\frac{1}{3}x^3} \quad C \in \mathbb{R}$$

Example 3 Solve the IVP: $y' = \left(\frac{x}{y}\right)^2$, $y(0) = 2$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{x^2}{y^2} \\ \int y^2 dy &= \int x^2 dx \\ \frac{1}{3}y^3 &= \frac{1}{3}x^3 + K \\ y^3 &= x^3 + 3K \\ y &= (x^3 + 3K)^{\frac{1}{3}}\end{aligned}$$

Since $y(0) = 2$:

$$2 = (0 + 3K)^{\frac{1}{3}} \Rightarrow 3K = 8$$

The particular solution is:

$$y = (x^3 + 8)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

3.2 Linear Equations

Definition A first-order linear differential equation is an equation of the form

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

It is linear because if $\frac{dy}{dx} = F(x, y)$, then

$$F(x, y) = -P(x)y + Q(x)$$

which is linear in y

Intuition Consider solving

$$y' + \frac{y}{x} = 2 \quad x > 0$$

Multiply both sides with x :

$$\begin{aligned}xy' + y &= 2x \\ (xy)' &= 2x \\ xy &= x^2 + C \\ y &= x + \frac{C}{x} \quad C \in \mathbb{R}\end{aligned}$$

Consider solving

$$y' + P(x)y = Q(x)$$

Consider multiplying both sides by $v(x)$ with $v(x)$ is not a zero function:

$$v(x)y' + v(x)P(x)y = v(x)Q(x)$$

If we can choose $v(x)$ such that $v(x)y' + v(x)P(x)y = (v(x)y)'$ then

$$\begin{aligned}(v(x)y)' &= v(x)Q(x) \\ \int (v(x)y)' dx &= \int v(x)Q(x) dx \\ v(x)y &= \int v(x)Q(x) dx \\ y &= \frac{1}{v(x)} \int v(x)Q(x) dx\end{aligned}$$

Definition: Integrating Factor Any function $v(x)$ that satisfies

$$\frac{d(v(x)y)}{dx} = v(x) \left(\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y \right)$$

is called an integrating factor

$$\begin{aligned}(v(x)y)' &= v(x)y' + v(x)P(x)y \\ v(x)y' + v'(x)y &= v(x)y' + v(x)P(x)y \\ v'(x)y &= v(x)P(x)y \\ v'(x) &= v(x)P(x)\end{aligned}$$

Let $v = v(x)$ then

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dv}{dx} &= vP(x) \\ \int \frac{1}{v} dv &= \int P(x) dx \\ \ln|v| &= \int P(x) dx \\ v &= \pm e^{\int P(x) dx}\end{aligned}$$

Since we only need one integrating factor, then we can choose the positive one with $\int P(x) dx$ to be any particular antiderivative of $P(x)$, then

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

Solving Linear D.E. To solve $y' + P(x)y = Q(x)$, let $v(x) = e^{\int P(x) dx}$ where $\int P(x) dx$ is any antiderivative of $P(x)$. The general solution is given by

$$y = \frac{1}{v(x)} \int v(x)Q(x) dx$$

Example 1 Solve the IVP $xy' + 2y = x^2 - x + 1$ with $x > 0$, $y(1) = \frac{1}{2}$

$$y' + \frac{2}{x}y = x - 1 + \frac{1}{x}$$

Integrating Factor:

$$v(x) = e^{\int \frac{2}{x} dx} = e^{2 \ln x} = x^2$$

General Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}y &= \frac{1}{x^2} \int x^2 \left(x - 1 + \frac{1}{x} \right) dx \\ y &= \frac{1}{x^2} \int (x^3 - x^2 + x) dx \\ y &= \frac{1}{x^2} \left(\frac{1}{4}x^4 - \frac{1}{3}x^3 + \frac{1}{2}x^2 + C \right)\end{aligned}$$

Find C:

$$y(1) = \frac{1}{2} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} + C \Rightarrow C = \frac{1}{12}$$

Particular Solution:

$$y = \frac{1}{4}x^2 - \frac{1}{3}x + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{12x^2}$$

Example 2 Solve the D.E. $\cos(x)y' + \sin(x)y = 2\cos^3(x)\sin(x) - 1$, $0 \leq x < \frac{\pi}{2}$

$$y' + \tan(x)y = 2\cos^2(x)\sin(x) - \sec(x)$$

Integrating Factor:

$$v(x) = e^{\int P(x) dx} = e^{\int \tan x dx} = e^{\ln(\sec x)} = \sec x$$

General Solution:

$$y = \cos x \int \sec(x)(2\cos^2(x)\sin(x) - \sec(x)) dx$$

$$y = \cos x \int (2\cos(x)\sin(x) - \sec^2(x)) dx$$

$$y = \cos x \int (\sin(2x) - \sec^2(x))$$

$$y = \cos x \left(-\frac{1}{2} \cos(2x) - \tan(x) + C_0 \right)$$

$$y = -\cos x \left(\frac{1}{2} \cos(2x) + \tan(x) + C \right)$$

4 Applications

4.1 Population Growth Models

Malthusian Growth Model

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dP}{dt} &= kP \\ \int \frac{1}{kP} dP &= t \\ \frac{1}{k} \ln P &= t + A \\ \ln P^{\frac{1}{k}} &= t + A \\ P^{\frac{1}{k}} &= e^{t+A} = e^A e^t \\ P &= e^{kA} e^{kt} \\ P &= C e^{kt} \end{aligned}$$

If $P(0) = P_0$ then $P_0 = C e^0 = C$. Hence the particular solution is:

$$P = P_0 e^{kt}$$

where P_0 is the initial population.

Logistic Growth Model Let $0 < P < M$ is the carrying capacity

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{dP}{dt} &= kP\left(1 - \frac{P}{M}\right) \\
 \frac{dP}{dt} &= \frac{kP(M - P)}{M} \\
 \int \frac{M}{P(M - P)} dP &= \int k dt \\
 \int \frac{1}{P} dP + \int \frac{1}{M - P} dP &= kt \\
 \ln P - \ln(M - P) &= kt + A \\
 \ln\left(\frac{P}{M - P}\right) &= kt + A \\
 \frac{P}{M - P} &= e^{A} e^{kt} \\
 \frac{M - P}{P} &= e^{-A} e^{-kt} \\
 \frac{M}{P} &= 1 + C e^{-kt} \quad C = e^{-A} \\
 P &= \frac{M}{1 + C e^{-kt}} \quad C > 0
 \end{aligned}$$

If the initial condition is $P(0) = P_0$ then

$$P_0 = \frac{M}{1 + C} \Rightarrow C = \frac{M - P_0}{P_0}$$

Properties of logistic function

- P is increasing with t
- $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P(t) = M$
- P has a point of inflection when $M/2$. Assume this point is $(t_1, M/2)$ then P is concave up on $(-\infty, t_1)$ and concave down on (t_1, ∞)

4.2 Mixing Problem

Example Consider a container satisfying the following conditions:

- It initially contains 10000L of solution, having 50 kg of salts dissolved in it
- The solution leaks out of the container at a rate 220 L/min
- A solution with salt whose concentration is 0.2 kg/L is pumped into the container at a rate of 200 L/min

Suppose that the newly added solution is instantly well mixed with the solution that was already in the container. What is the amount of salt in the container 20 minutes after the initial time?

Solution Let $y(t)$ = mass of salt t minutes since the beginning, then $y(0) = 50$, what is $y(20)$?

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dt} &= \text{rate in} - \text{rate out} \\ &= (200)(0.2) - (220)\frac{y(t)}{V(t)} \\ &= 40 - 220 \cdot \frac{y(t)}{10000 - 20t} \\ &= 40 - \frac{11y(t)}{500 - t}\end{aligned}$$

The IVP is:

$$\begin{cases} y' = 40 - \frac{11y(t)}{500-t} \\ y(0) = 50 \end{cases}$$

$$y' + \frac{11}{500-t}y(t) = 40$$

Integrating Factor:

$$v(x) = e^{\int P(t) dt} = e^{\int \frac{11}{500-t} dt} = (500-t)^{-11}$$

General Solution:

$$\begin{aligned}y &= \frac{1}{v(t)} \int v(t)Q(t) dt \\ &= (500-t)^{11} \int 40(500-t)^{-11} dt \\ &= (500-t)^{11} \left(\frac{40}{-10}(-1)(500-t)^{-10} + C \right) \\ &= 4(500-t) + C(500-t)^{11}\end{aligned}$$

Find C:

$$y(0) = 50 \Rightarrow 50 = 2000 + C(500)^{11} \Rightarrow C = -\frac{1950}{500^{11}}$$

Particular Solution:

$$y(t) = 4(500-t) - \frac{1950}{500^{11}}(500-t)^{11}$$

After $t = 20$:

$$y(20) = 1920 - 1950\left(\frac{24}{25}\right)^{11} \approx 675.43$$

5 Autonomous Equations

5.1 Definition

An autonomous equation is a differential equation of the form:

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

Example

- $\frac{dP}{dt} = kP$ is autonomous (Malthusian growth model)
- $\frac{dP}{dt} = kP \left(1 - \frac{P}{M}\right)$ is autonomous (Logistic growth model)

If we think of $y = y(t)$ as the position of a moving particle on the y-axis at time t , then $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(y)$ is stating that the velocity of the particle depends only on the position y but not the time t .

5.2 Phase Line Analysis

Suppose K is a root of f , i.e. $f(K) = 0$. Consider the constant function $y = y(x) = K$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 0 \quad \forall x$$

$$f(y) = f(y(x)) = f(K) = 0 \quad \forall x$$

Hence the constant function $y = K$ is a solution to $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(y)$.

Definition Given an autonomous equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(y)$, for any root K of f :

- K is called an **equilibrium value**
- The constant function $y = K$ is called an **equilibrium solution** to the autonomous equation

We can analyse the solutions by drawing all equilibrium points on the y-axis and analysing the signs of derivatives on the intervals separated by the equilibrium points. We call this **phase line analysis**

Example

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

The roots (equilibrium values) are -1 and 2. Then phase line analysis:

$$\rightarrow (+) \rightarrow [-1] \leftarrow (-) \leftarrow [2] \rightarrow (+) \rightarrow$$

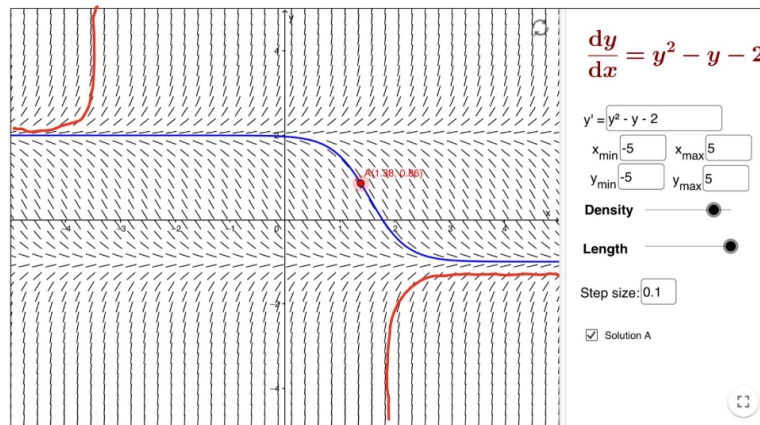


Figure 3: Slope fields of $y^2 - y - 2$

We can also check the concavity by looking at the second derivative $y'' = (2y - 1)y'$

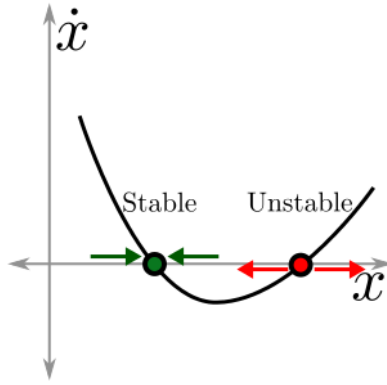


Figure 4: Stable and Unstable Equilibrium

5.3 Stable and Unstable Equilibrium

Let K be an equilibrium value of $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(y)$. For any solution $y(x)$ with $y(0)$ near K , K is a stable equilibrium if $y(x)$ moves toward K as $x \rightarrow \infty$. Or else, K is an unstable equilibrium.

5.4 Applying on Growth Models

Phase line analysis on logistics model

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP \left(1 - \frac{P}{M} \right) \quad k > 0 \quad M > 0$$

Then the equilibrium values are $P = 0$ and $P = M$. Phase line analysis:

$$\leftarrow (-) \leftarrow [0] \rightarrow (+) \rightarrow [M] \leftarrow (-) \leftarrow$$

This means that at any given time:

- if $0 < P < M$ then P will increase towards M
- if $P > M$ then P will decrease towards M
- if $P = 0$ or $P = M$ then P will stay unchanged

Hence as long as $P(0) > 0$, then $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P(t) = M$

The malthusian model is unrealistic since $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P(t) = \infty$. Hence, the logistic model is more realistic in that aspect since $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P(t) = M$. But it is still not entirely realistic since even if the population is 1, it will still grow to a population near M instead of facing extinction. So, a third parameter m , minimum population for the population to grow, can be introduced to fix the logistic model. It's called cubic model

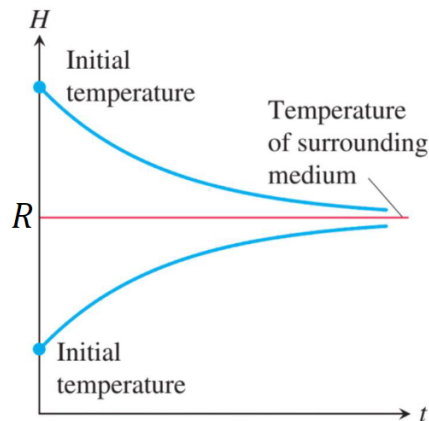
$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP(P - m)(M - P)$$

5.5 Newton's Law of Cooling

Newton's law of cooling states that the rate of change of the temperature of an object is proportional to the difference of temperatures between the object and its surroundings. If $H(t)$ is the temperature of an object at time t then H satisfies the differential equation

$$\frac{dH}{dt} = k(H - R) \quad k < 0$$

where k is some negative constants and R is a constant of surrounding temperature. Then $H = R$ is the equilibrium solution (stable equilibrium)



Example The body of a murder victim is found at noon in a room with a constant temperature of 20° C. At noon the temperature of the body is 35° C and two hours later the temperature of the body is 33° C. Find the temperature H of the body as the function of t , the hours since it was found. Assuming that the body has the normal temperature 37° C at the time of murder, estimate the time of the murder.

(a) IVP is:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dH}{dt} = k(H - 20) \\ H(0) = 35 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{1}{H - 20} dH &= \int k dt \\ \ln |H - 20| &= kt + C \\ |H - 20| &= e^{kt+C} = e^C e^{kt} = Ae^{kt} \end{aligned}$$

Since $H(0) = 35$, consider $H > 20$:

$$\begin{aligned} H - 20 &= Ae^{kt} \\ 35 - 20 &= 15 = A \\ H &= 15e^{kt} + 20 \end{aligned}$$

Also, $H(2) = 33$, so

$$\begin{aligned} 33 &= 15e^{2k} + 20 \\ e^{2k} &= \frac{13}{15} \\ k &= \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{13}{15} \end{aligned}$$

Hence:

$$H = 15 \left(\frac{13}{15} \right)^{\frac{t}{2}} + 20$$

(b) Find t such that

$$37 = 15 \left(\frac{13}{15} \right)^{\frac{t}{2}} + 20$$

$$\frac{17}{15} = \left(\frac{13}{15} \right)^{\frac{t}{2}}$$

$$\ln \left(\frac{17}{15} \right) = \ln \left(\frac{13}{15} \right)^{\frac{t}{2}}$$

$$\ln \left(\frac{17}{15} \right) = \frac{t}{2} \ln \left(\frac{13}{15} \right)$$

$$t = \frac{2 \ln(\frac{17}{15})}{\ln(\frac{13}{15})} \approx - - 1.75$$

So murder happened approximately 1.75 hours before noon.