

# Diff Equations

equations  
↑

Diff Equations: Principles/Laws underlying natural world are relations involving rates at which things happen.

↓  
derivatives

Equations w/ derivatives are diff. equations.

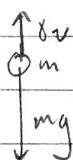
Ex: Newton's 2<sup>nd</sup> law  $F =$

$$F = m a \Rightarrow F = m \frac{dv}{dt}$$

net force (N)
mass (kg)
acceleration ( $m/s^2$ )

$$\begin{aligned}
 F &= \text{net force (N)} \\
 m &= \text{mass (kg)} \\
 a &= \text{acceleration } (m/s^2) \\
 v &= \text{velocity } (m/s) \\
 \frac{dv}{dt} &= a
 \end{aligned}$$

force due to  
air resistance  
(proportional to  
velocity)



$$g = 9.81 \frac{m}{s^2}$$

mathematical model of  
object falling

$$F = mg - \delta v = ma$$

$$mg - \delta v = m \frac{dv}{dt}$$

$m, g, \delta$  constants

## Ordinary Differential Equations (ODE)

involves unknown function of one variable w/ one or more of its derivatives  
ex:  $\frac{dy}{dt} = y - t$   $y(t)$  is unknown function and  $t$  is ind. variable

other examples:

first order —  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} y' = y - t \\ y' + 4y = e^{-3t} \end{array} \right]$

2<sup>nd</sup> order —  $\left[ \begin{array}{l} yy'' + t^2 y = \cos t \\ y'' = y^2 \end{array} \right]$

3<sup>rd</sup> order —  $[y''' + 2e^t y'' + yy' = t^4]$

The order of a diff. equation is of highest derivative

## Partial Differential Equations (PDE)

an equation w/ more than one unknown variable

ex:  $\frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 w}{\partial x^2}$

unknown function  $w$  is  
dependent on both  $t$  and  
 $x$ .

Any first order equation can be put in this form:

$$\phi(t, y, y') = 0$$

where  $\phi$  is a function of 3 variables

ex:  $y' = y - t \Rightarrow y' - y + t = 0$

$$\phi(t, y, z) = z - y + t = 0$$

General equation of order

$n$  written as:

$$\phi(t, y, y', \dots, y^{(n)}) = 0$$

$\phi$  is a function of  $n+2$  variables.

Useful to solve for highest derivative:

A first-order DE  $y' = f(t, y)$  is said to be in normal form

Similarly,  $y^{(n)} = f(t, y, y', \dots, y^{(n-1)})$  is also in normal form

ex: Put  $t + 4yy' = 0$  into normal form

solve for  $\boxed{y' = -\frac{t}{4y}}$  - function of  $t$  and  $y$   
so  $y' = f(t, y)$

### Solutions

A solution of a first-order ODE  $\phi(t, y, y') = 0$  is a diff. function  $y(t)$  such that

$$\phi(t, y(t), y'(t)) = 0 \text{ for all } t \text{ in the interval}$$

where  $y(t)$  is defined.

To determine if given func. is solution to a DE, just sub the function & its derivative into the equation