

Example

$y' = 2yt$  in Leibniz notation becomes  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 2yt$

$y' = 2t \frac{y}{1+y} + e^t y'$  becomes  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 2t \frac{y}{1+y} + e^t \frac{dy}{dt}$

## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS §2.2

A first order ODE is called a separable ODE if it can be rewritten in such a way that the LHS is  $y'$  and the RHS is a product of a term containing only  $y$  and a term containing only  $t$

Example

$$y' = \underbrace{t}_{\text{contains only } t} \underbrace{y^2}_{\text{contains only } y}$$

$$y' = \underbrace{(e^t + 2)}_{\text{only } t} \underbrace{(y^3 + 2y)}_{\text{only } y}$$

How to solve. We show this on  $y' = ty^2$

- ① Check for zeroes of the part containing only  $y$   
Need to solve  $y^2 = 0$ . Only solution is  $y = 0$

This gives a constant solution  $y(t) = 0$

Let's check:  $y'(t) = 0$ ,  $t(y(t))^2 = t \cdot 0^2 = 0$  ✓

- ② Rewrite in Leibniz notation, multiply by  $dt$  and divide by the part of RHS containing only  $y$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ty^2 \rightsquigarrow dy = ty^2 dt \rightsquigarrow \frac{dy}{y^2} = t dt$$

Now  $y$  and  $t$  are separated

③ Integrate both sides

$$\int \frac{dy}{y^2} = \int t \, dt$$

this is why Leibniz notation  
is useful

$$-\frac{1}{y} = \frac{t^2}{2} + c$$

④ Solve for  $y$

$$\frac{1}{y} = -\left(\frac{t^2}{2} + c\right)$$

$$y = \frac{-1}{\frac{t^2}{2} + c}$$

Let's check that  $y(t) = \frac{-1}{\frac{t^2}{2} + c}$  is a solution

$$\text{LHS } y'(t) = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{t^2}{2} + c\right)^2} \cdot t = \frac{t}{\left(\frac{t^2}{2} + c\right)^2}$$

$$\text{RHS } t(y(t))^2 = t \cdot \left(\frac{-1}{\frac{t^2}{2} + c}\right)^2 = \frac{t}{\left(\frac{t^2}{2} + c\right)^2}$$

• Let's now solve the initial value problem

$$\begin{cases} y' = ty^2 \\ y(1) = -2 \end{cases}$$

We found that the solutions of  $y' = ty^2$

are  $y(t) = 0$  and  $y(t) = -\frac{1}{\frac{t^2}{2} + c}$

$y(t)=0$  is not a solution of the IVP because  $0 \neq -2$

Need to find  $C$  such that

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

$$\frac{1}{\frac{1}{2} + C} = -2$$

$$\frac{1}{2} + C = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$C = -1$$

So  $y(t) = -\frac{1}{\frac{t^2}{2} - 1} = -\frac{2}{t^2 - 2}$  is the solution

Check

$$y'(t) = -2 \cdot \frac{1}{t^3} (-2) = \frac{4}{t^3}$$

✓

$$t(y(t))^2 = t \left(-\frac{2}{t^2}\right)^2 = t \left(\frac{4}{t^4}\right) = \frac{4}{t^3}$$

What is the interval of existence of the solution

$y(t) = -\frac{2}{t^2}$  for the IVP?

• What is the solution of the IVP

$$\begin{cases} y' = ty^2 \\ y(1) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$y(1) = -\frac{1}{\frac{1}{2} + C} = 0$$

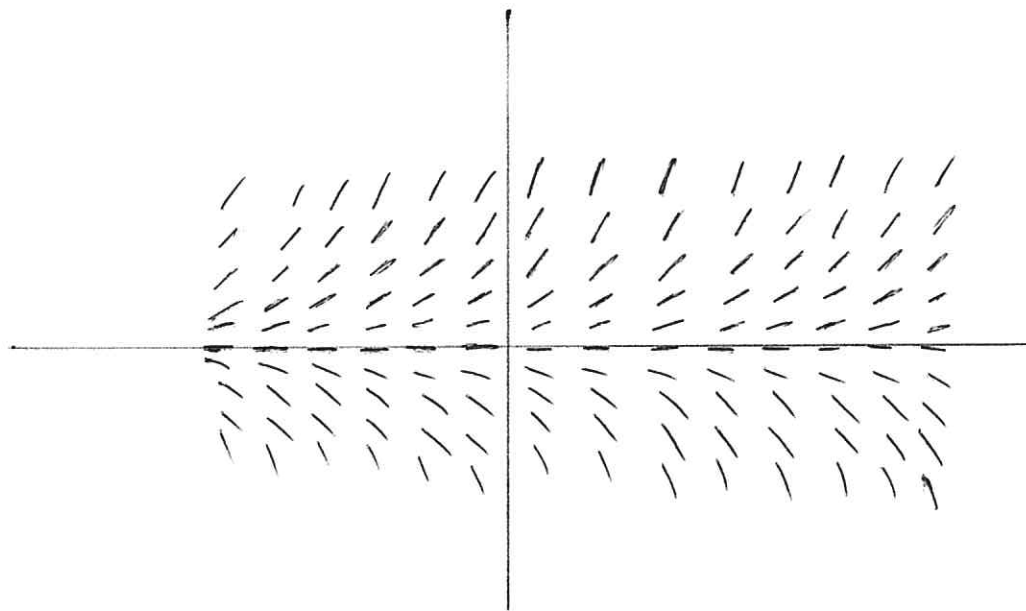
gives no solution so no solution of the form  $y(t) = -\frac{1}{\frac{t^2}{2} + C}$

but  $y(t)=0$  is a solution!

## Geometric meaning of a differential equation and its solutions

A direction field is the result of attaching to every point of the plane a small slanted line segment

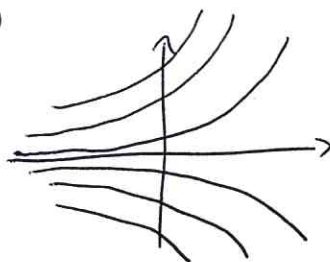
Example If the slope of the segment at the point  $(t, y)$  is given by  $y$  you get



Given a first order eq in normal form  $y' = f(t, y)$  we can associate the direction field ~~shown above~~ such that the slope of the segment attached to ~~the point~~ the point  $(t, y)$  has slope  $f(t, y)$

The example above is the direction field associated to the equation  $y' = y$

Then it turns out that  $y(t)$  is a solution to  $y' = f(t, y)$  if and only if the graph of  $y(t)$  is tangent to the segment attached to every point it passes through  
in the example above:



For pictures of direction fields see section 2.1 of the book

See: [DES.MOS.COM/CALCULATOR/KGSYCYWBUG](https://www.desmos.com/calculator/kgsycywbug)

for an interactive tool

It's default setting is the direction field for  $y' = ty^2$  that we solved before

Back to separable equations:

Solve the IVP:  $y' = \frac{e^x}{1+y}$ ,  $y(0) = -1$

now  $x$  denotes the independent variable

Check for zeroes in the  $y$  part of the RHS i.e.  $\frac{1}{1+y}$ . There are none  
Leibniz notation:

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

Separate variables:  $(1+y)dy = e^x dx$

Integrate:  $\int (1+y)dy = \int e^x dx$

$$y + \frac{y^2}{2} = e^x + c$$

Solve for  $y$ :  $\frac{y^2}{2} + y - (e^x + c) = 0$

$$y^2 + 2y - 2(e^x + c) = 0$$

$$y = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{4 + 8(e^x + c)}}{2}$$

$$y = -1 \pm \sqrt{1 + 2(e^x + c)}$$

So the solutions are

$$y(x) = -1 + \sqrt{1 + 2(e^x + c)} \quad \text{and} \quad y(x) = -1 - \sqrt{1 + 2(e^x + c)}$$

~~Note that  $c$  must be such that  $1 + 2(e^x + c) \geq 0$~~   
~~is.~~



Find the solution such that  $y(0) = -4$

By plugging 0 in place of  $x$  we get

$$y(0) = -1 + \sqrt{3+2c} \quad \text{and} \quad y(0) = -1 - \sqrt{3+2c}$$

Since we want  $y(0) = -4$ , we look at the second formula (because  $\sqrt{3+2c}$  is always positive)

$$y(0) = -1 - \sqrt{3+2c} = -4$$

$$3 = \sqrt{3+2c}$$

$$9 = 3+2c$$

$$6 = 2c$$

$$c = 3$$

$$\text{So the solution is } y(x) = -1 - \sqrt{1+2(e^x+3)} = -1 - \sqrt{7+2e^x}$$

What if we want to solve

$$y' = \frac{e^x}{1+y}, \quad y(0) = 1 \quad ?$$

Then we look at the first formula

$$y(0) = -1 + \sqrt{3+2c} = 1$$

$$\sqrt{3+2c} = 2$$

$$3+2c = 4$$

$$2c = 1$$

$$c = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\text{So the solution is } y(x) = -1 + \sqrt{1+2(e^x+\frac{1}{2})} = -1 + \sqrt{2+2e^x}$$

Solve the IVPs:

$$x' = \frac{2tx}{1+x} \quad \text{with } x(0) = 1 \quad \text{or } x(0) = -2 \quad \text{or } x(0) = 0$$

This is a separable equation because  $x' = 2t \frac{x}{1+x}$

Check zeroes of the  $x$  part of the RHS:  $x=0$  is a zero

therefore  $x(t)=0$  is a constant solution!

Leibniz and separate:  $\frac{dx}{dt} = 2t \frac{x}{1+x}$

$$\frac{1+x}{x} dx = 2t dt$$

Integrate  $\int \frac{1+x}{x} dx = \int 2t dt$

$$\int \left(\frac{1}{x} + 1\right) dx = \int 2t dt$$

$$\ln|x| + x = t^2 + C$$

Solve for  $x$ : there is a problem, we have to keep the solution in this implicit form

Solution for  $x(0)=1$

$$1 + \ln|1| = 0^2 + C$$

$$1 = C$$

So  $x(t)$  defined by  $\ln|x| + x = t^2 + 1$

Solution for  $x(0)=0$

we found  $x(t)=0$  before!

Solution for  $x(0)=-2$

~~$$\ln|-2| - 2 = 0^2 + C$$~~

$$\ln 2 - 2 = C$$

So  $x(t)$  defined by  $\ln|x| + x = t^2 + \ln 2 - 2$

For pictures  
of solutions  
see Figure 5  
page 34 of  
the book

## LINEAR EQUATIONS § 2.4

A first order linear equation is one of the form

$$x' = a(t)x + f(t) \quad \text{where } a(t), f(t) \text{ are functions of } t$$

### Example

$$x' = 2x + 3$$

$$x' = \sin(t)x + \cos(t) \quad \text{are all linear}$$

$$y' = e^{2t}y + \cos(t)$$

$$y' = (3t+2)y + t^2 - 1$$

### Homogeneous linear equations

When  $f(t) = 0$  a linear equation is called homogeneous

So they are equations of the form

$$x' = a(t)x$$

But this is a separable equation that we already know how to solve!

$$x' = a(t)x$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = a(t)x$$

$$\frac{dx}{x} = a(t)dt$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{x} = \int a(t)dt + C$$

$$\ln|x| = \int a(t)dt + C$$

$$|x| = e^{\int a(t)dt + C}$$



$$|x| = e^c e^{\int a(t) dt}$$

the constant  $e^c$  is always positive so we can replace it with the constant  $A$  that we allow to be positive, zero or negative so we can get rid of the absolute value and obtain the zero solution

$$x = A e^{\int a(t) dt}$$

Example  $x' = \sin(t)x$

in this case  $a(t) = \sin(t)$  and  $\int a(t) dt = \int \sin(t) dt = -\cos(t)$

~~we can forget the constant C when computing  $\int a(t) dt$~~

In this case we can forget the constant  $C$  when computing  $\int a(t) dt$  because  $A$  already takes care of that

Then 
$$x(t) = A e^{\int a(t) dt} = A e^{-\cos(t)}$$

### Inhomogeneous linear equations

This is the general case  $x' = a(t)x + f(t)$

Before stating the methods to solve them, let's see how to solve an example

Example:  $x' = x + e^{-t}$

the integrating factor of the equation  $x' = a(t)x + f(t)$

is  $v(t) = e^{-\int a(t) dt}$  (this is like the solution of the homogeneous equation with a  $-$  in the exponent)

in this case it is

$$v(t) = e^{-\int a(t) dt} = e^{-\int 1 dt} = e^{-t}$$

(we still don't care about constants in this step)

Bring the term involving  $x$  to the LHS

$$x' - x = e^{-t}$$

Multiply both sides by the integrating factor  $v(t) = e^{-t}$

$$e^{-t}(x' - x) = e^{-2t}$$

the LHS turns out to be the derivative of  $e^{-t}x$

then the equation becomes

$$[e^{-t}x]' = e^{-2t}$$

Integrate both sides w.r.t.  $t$  to get

$$e^{-t}x = \int e^{-2t} dt$$

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

Solve for  $x$  by multiplying both sides by  $e^t$

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

This is the solution

### Summary of the method

Given the equation  $x' = ax + f$

1. Rewrite it as  $x' - ax = f$

2. Multiply by the integrating factor  $v(t) = e^{-\int a(t) dt}$

so the equation becomes  $v(x' - ax) = vf$

which is the same as  $(vx)' = vf$

3. Integrate  $v(t)x(t) = \int v(t)f(t) dt + C$

4. Solve for  $x(t)$

Example  $x' = x \sin(t) + 2t e^{-\cos(t)}$

Let's rewrite it as

$$x' = \sin(t)x + 2t e^{-\cos(t)}$$

Bring the term involving  $x$  to the LHS

$$x' - \sin(t)x = 2t e^{-\cos(t)}$$

Find the integrating factor

$$u(t) = e^{-\int \sin(t) dt} = e^{\cos(t)}$$

Multiply both sides by  $u$

$$e^{\cos(t)} (x' - \sin(t)x) = 2t$$

$$(e^{\cos(t)} x)' = 2t$$

Integrate

$$e^{\cos(t)} x = \int 2t dt = t^2 + C$$

Multiply by  $e^{-\cos(t)}$  to solve for  $x$

$$x(t) = e^{-\cos(t)} t^2 + e^{-\cos(t)} C = (t^2 + C) e^{-\cos(t)}$$

Find the solution that satisfies  $x(0) = 1$

$$x(0) = (0^2 + C) e^{-\cos(0)}$$

$$1 = C e^{-1}$$

$$C = e$$

The solution is  $x(t) = (t^2 + e) e^{-\cos(t)}$