

# Differential Equation

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**Disclaimer:** This note contains parts that I learnt from the Differential equation course of Rice university in edx.org

## 1. Differential Equation

A differential equation of simple form  $\frac{dy}{dt} + P(t)y = f(t)$  explains how the change in one variable (independent variable) affects the other dependent variable. It shows the direction of movement as well as the magnitude of the movement of dependent variable with respect the independent variable. It can be (i) ordinary differential equation that has 1 independent variable, (ii) partial differential equation that has at least 2 independent variables.

### 1.1 Solution of differential equation

**a. General Solution** includes all the possible solutions that typically includes arbitrary constant. For eg.  $y(t) = t^3 + c$  is a general solution.

**b. Particular Solution** includes the solution without arbitrary solution. Consider the initial condition:

$$y(t_0) = 0$$

$$c = 0$$

So,

$$y(t) = t^3$$

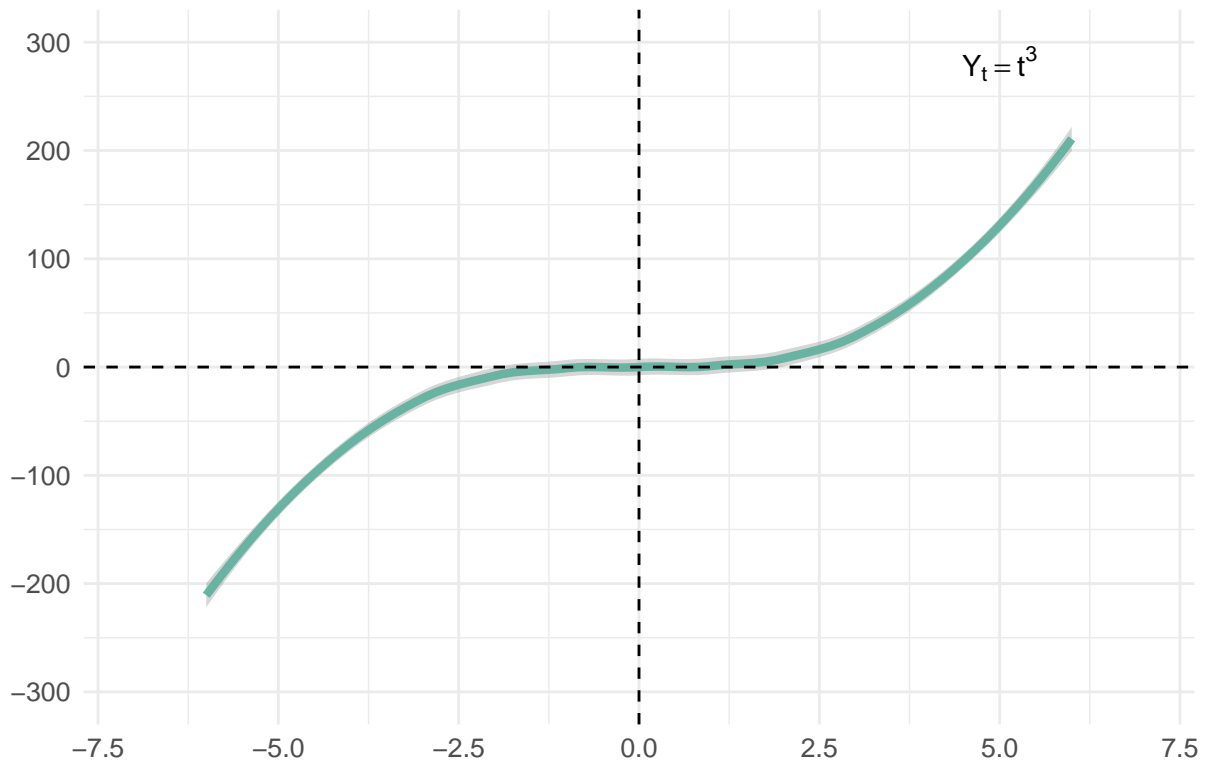


Figure 1: Plot of  $y = t^3$

## 1.2 Order of Differential Equation

The order of the differential equation is the highest derivative of the dependent variable that exists in the equation.

$$\frac{d^n y}{dt} = f(t, y^1, y^2, \dots, y^{n-1}, y^n)$$

is the  $n - th$  order differential equation.

First order differential equation is

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f(t, y)$$

## 1.3 Directional Fields

Directional field also known as slope field is the graphical representation of the solutions to the first order differential equation. Consider the differential equation,

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

To determine the directional field, we equate the above equation equals to 0,

$$(y - 2)(y + 1)(1 - y)^2 = 0$$

So,  $y = 2, \pm 1$ . The graph is divided into four regions i.e.  $y < -1$ ,  $-1 < y < 1$ ,  $1 < y < 2$  and  $y > 2$ .

For,  $y < -1$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 36$  when  $y = -2$ ,

For,  $-1 < y < 1$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = -1.05$  when  $y = -0.9$

For,  $1 < y < 2$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = -0.0189$  when  $y = 1.1$

For,  $y > 2$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 0.3751$  when  $y = 2.1$

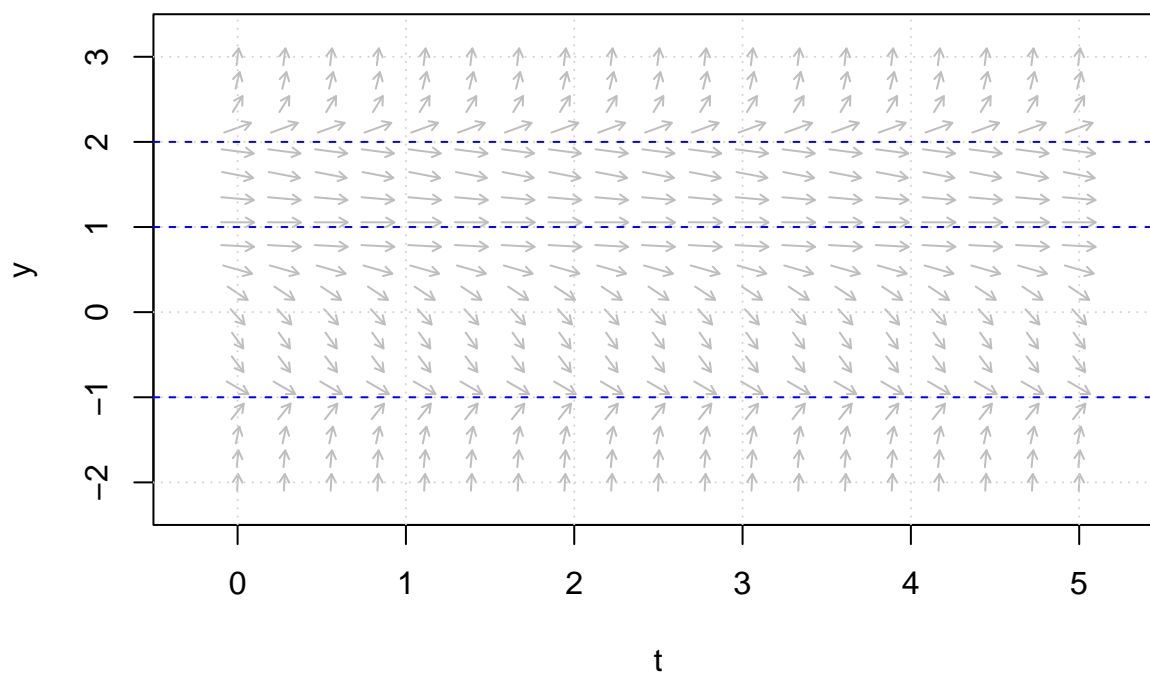
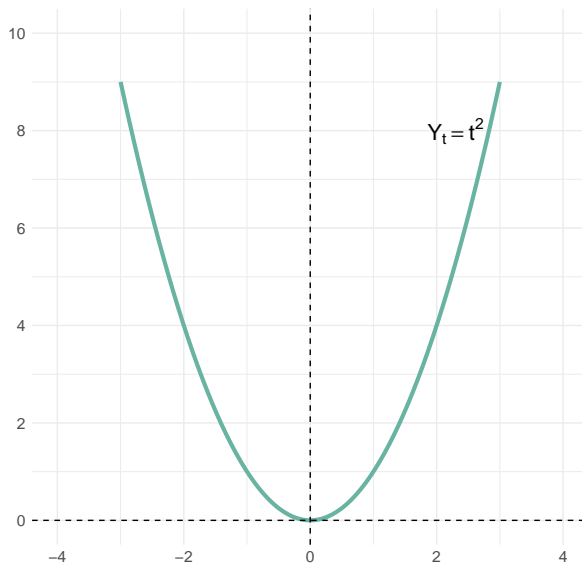


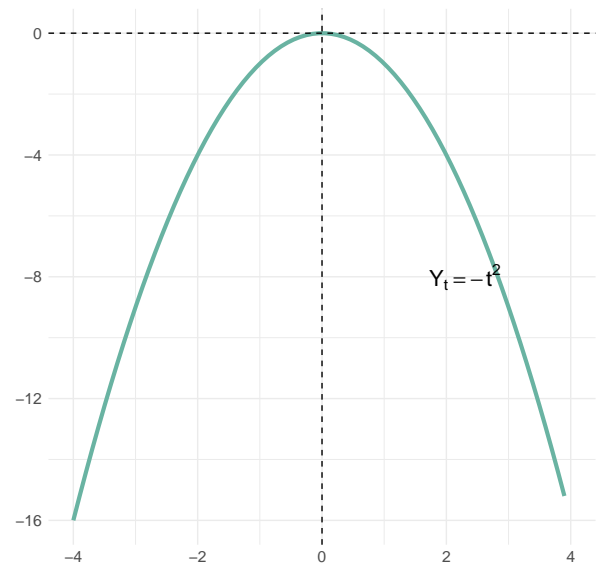
Figure 2: Directional field of  $\frac{dy}{dt} = (y - 2)(y + 1)(1 - y)^2$

## 1.4 Concavity

The graph of  $f(x)$  is concave up if  $f'(x)$  is increasing i.e.  $f'' > 0$  and concave down if  $f'(x)$  is decreasing i.e.  $f''(x) < 0$ .



(a) Convex function (Concave upward)



(b) Concave function (Concave downward)

## 1.5 Separable equations

Differential equation is separable if  $y' = f(t)g(y)$ .

**Example:**

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 3t^2(1 + y)$$

$$\frac{1}{1 + y} dy = 3t^2 dt \tag{1}$$

$$\int \frac{1}{1 + y} dy = \int 3t^2 dt$$

$$\ln|1 + y| = t^3 + c$$

$$e^{\ln|1+y|} = e^{t^3+c}$$

$$|1 + y| = e^{t^3} \cdot e^c$$

$$1 + y = \pm e^c e^{t^3} \quad (2)$$

where  $e^c > 0$  in equation (1).

$$y = K e^{t^3}$$

$$y = -1 + K e^{t^3}$$

$$y = -1 + C e^{t^3} \quad (3)$$

In equation (3),

a. If  $C = 0$ ,  $y = -1$  is equilibrium solution.

b. If  $C \neq 0$ , it gives all other possible solutions.

**Example:**

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{3t^2 + 1}{1 + 2y}$$

and  $y(0) = 1$

The equation is in the form  $y' = f(t)g(y)$ . So the equation can be separated.

Does the equation has equilibrium solution?

Set,  $g(y) = 0, \Rightarrow \frac{1}{1+2y} = 0$ . So, no equilibrium solution.

Now,

$$\int (1 + 2y) dy = \int (3t^2 + 1) dt$$

$$y + y^2 = t^3 + t + c \quad (1)$$

Put  $y(0) = 1$ , then  $C = 2$ . So,

$$y + y^2 = t^3 + t + 2$$

$$(y^2 + y) - (t^3 + t + 2) = 0 \quad (2)$$

Equation (2) is in the form of  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ , where  $a = 1$ ,  $b = 1$  and  $c = -(t^3 + t + 2)$ .

$$y = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{1 + 4(t^3 + t + 2)}}{2}$$

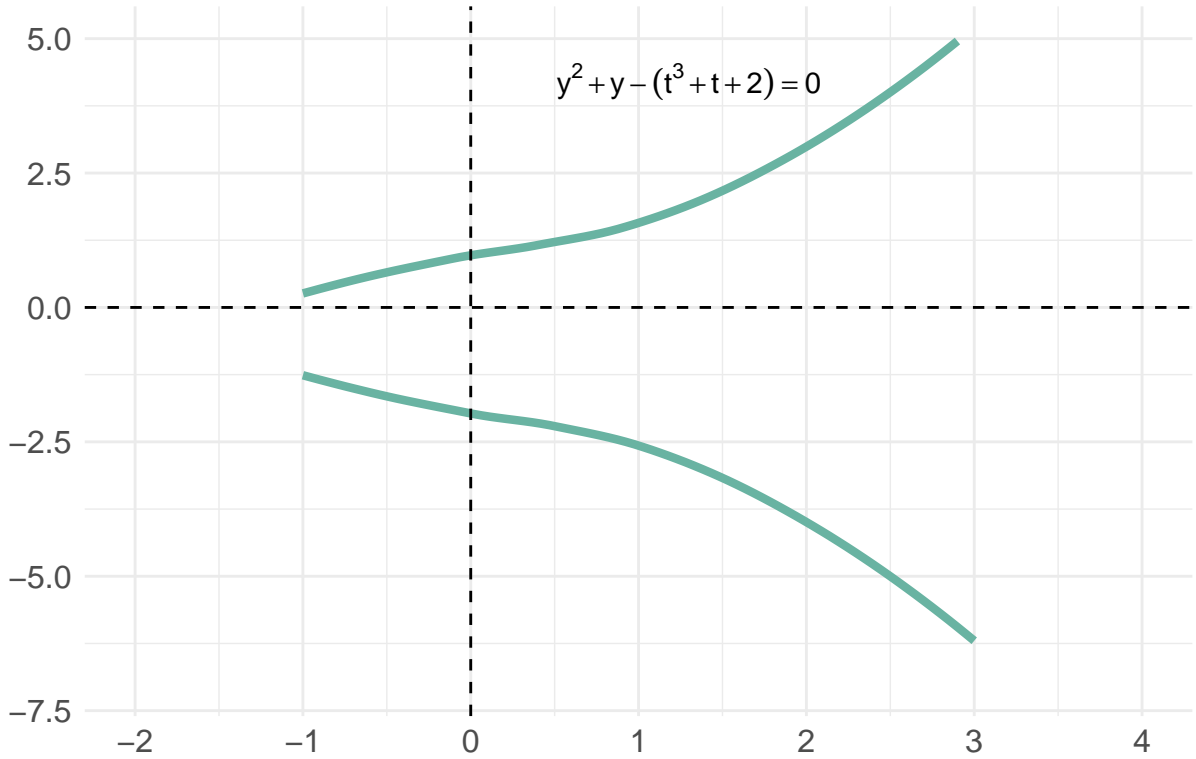


Figure 3: Plot of  $y^2 + y - (t^3 + t + 2) = 0$

## 1.6 Picard's Theorem

For  $y' = f(t, y)$  with  $y(t_0) = y_0$  to have solution:

- Condition I:  $f(t, y)$  should be continuous function in a neighborhood of  $t_0, y_0$ .
- Condition II: The solution is unique if  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$  is also continuous in neighbourhood of this initial condition  $t_0$  and  $y_0$ .

A function  $f(x)$  is continuous at  $x = a$  if

- $f(a)$  is defined

- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x)$  exists
- $\lim_{x \rightarrow a} f(x) = f(a)$

## 1.7 Linearity vs Non-linearity

A linear differential equation is in the form  $y' + p(t)y = f(t)$  which is a first order linear differential equation. Non-linear differential equation can be  $y'y = cost$ . Properties of linear equations are:

- **Superposition principle:** If  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are homogeneous solutions, their linear combinations  $c_1y_1 + c_2y_2$  is also homogeneous.
- **Non homogeneous principle:** General solution for non-homogeneous equation is  $y(t) = y_P + y_H$  where  $y_P$  is solution for non-homogeneous equation and  $y_H$  is solution for homogeneous equation.

## 2. First order Differential Equation

### 2.1 First order linear non-homogeneous Equation: Variation of Parameters

Consider the following first order ODE:

$$y' + p(t)y = f(t) \quad (1)$$

For equation (1),

$$y_H = Ce^{-\int p(t)dt} \quad (2)$$

$$y_p = vy_H \quad (3)$$

Can  $v$  be constant?

No,  $v$  can't be constant because if  $v$  is constant then  $y_p$  is scalar multiplicative of  $y_H$ . This won't solve the non-homogeneous equation.  $v$  is non-constant function of  $t$  i.e.  $v(t)$ .

From equation (3),

$$y'_p = (vy_H)' \longrightarrow v'y_H + vy'_H$$

So, in equation (1),

$$v'y_H + vy'_H + p(t)vy_H = f(t)$$

$$v'y_H + v[y'_H + p(t)y_H] = f(t)$$

$$v'y_H = f(t)$$

$$v' = \frac{f(t)}{y_H}$$

$$v = \int \frac{f(t)}{y_H} dt \quad (4)$$

Equation (4) gives  $v$ .