

Ordinary Differential Equations

Definition

An ***n*th order ODE** includes the *n*th derivate but no higher derivatives.

To solve an ODE we find the dependent variable as a function of the independent variables.

- In the real world: this is done numerically with computers.
- Here we do it analytically to demonstrate principles.

Some ODEs don't have analytical solutions.

First Order ODEs

Definition

Integrable ODEs have form

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

where the RHS does not depend on *y*.

$$y = \int f(x) dx$$

If $F'(x) = f(x)$, then $y = F(x) + C$. *y* solves the ODE whatever *C* is - there are infinitely many solutions.

(*) is called the **general solution** if it contains all possible solutions.

If we choose any value for *C*, we get a particular solution.

Definition

Separable ODEs have form

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

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

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

$$\int g(y) dy = \int f(x) dx$$

$$G(y) = F(x) + C$$

Geometric Interpretation of First Order ODEs

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

For every point (x, y) :

- There is a particular solution passing through the point
- Its gradient is $F(x, y)$

Note

2 particular solutions don't have to be the same shape (shifted versions) of each other.

Linear ODE

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + y \cdot p(x) = f(x)$$

When $f(x) = 0$, the ODE is homogenous, two ways to solve it

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= -y \cdot p(x) & e^{P(x)} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} + p(x) \cdot e^{P(x)} \cdot y &= 0 \\ \int \frac{1}{y} dy &= - \int p(x) dx & \frac{d}{dx}(e^{P(x)} \cdot y) &= 0 \\ y &= Ae^{-P(x)} & y &= Ae^{-P(x)}\end{aligned}$$

Note

$e^{\int p(x) dx}$ is called the integrating factor.

For inhomogenous cases, multiply both sides by the integrating factor.

$$\begin{aligned}e^{P(x)} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} + p(x) \cdot e^{P(x)} \cdot y &= f(x) \\ \frac{d}{dx}(e^{P(x)} \cdot y) &= f(x) \\ e^{P(x)} \cdot y &= F(x) + C \\ y &= (F(x) + C)e^{-P(x)}\end{aligned}$$

Definition

n th order ODE contains n arbitrary constants: n pieces of informations to fix them. The extra information are called **boundary conditions**.

Note

A **particular solution** has no unknown constants or \pm signs.

Substitutions

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

$$\text{let } u(x) = \frac{y(x)}{x}$$

$$x \cdot u(x) = y(x)$$

$$u + x \cdot \frac{du}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

For example

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{x^2 + y^2}{xy} \\ &= \frac{(x/y)^2 + 1}{x/y} \\ u + x \cdot \frac{du}{dx} &= \frac{u^2 + 1}{u} \\ x \cdot \frac{du}{dx} &= \frac{1}{u} \\ &\vdots\end{aligned}$$

Benoulli Equations

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + p(x) \cdot y = q(x) \cdot y^n$$

If $y = 0$ or $y = 1$, then the equation is homogenous, otherwise

$$\begin{aligned} \text{let } z(x) &= y(x)^{1-n} \\ \frac{dz}{dx} &= (1-n) \cdot y(x)^{-n} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} \\ \frac{1}{1-n} \cdot \frac{dz}{dx} \cdot y(x)^n &= \frac{dy}{dx} \\ \frac{1}{1-n} \cdot \frac{dz}{dx} \cdot y^n + p(x) \cdot y &= q(x) \cdot y^n \\ \frac{1}{1-n} \cdot \frac{dz}{dx} + p(x) \cdot y^{1-n} &= q(x) \\ \frac{dz}{dx} + (1-n) \cdot p(x) \cdot z &= (1-n) \cdot q(x) \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

2nd Order ODE

We consider linear cases only: the ODE can be written as $Ly = f$.

L is the **differential operator**

$$L = \left[\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + p(x) \frac{d}{dx} + q(x) \right]$$

Similar to how d/dx is an operator on functions.

Definition

A **linear operator** has properties:

- $L(\alpha u) = \alpha L(u)$
- $L(u + v) = L(u) + L(v)$

Note

$\frac{d}{dx}$ is a linear operator.

The differential operator is a linear operator that includes $\frac{d^n}{dx^n}$.

Definition

A **linear ODE** can be written as $Ly = f$ where L is a linear operator.

- $f = 0$: homogeneous
- $f \neq 0$: inhomogenous

The Principle of Superposition

If y_1 and y_2 are particular solutions of a homogeneous ODE

- Then so is $y_1 + y_2$
- And so is $\alpha y_1 + \beta y_2$ for any $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{C}$

If:

- The **particular integral** y_p solves an inhomogenous linear ODE, and
- The **complementary function** y_c is the general solution of the homogeneous equation of the complementary ODE

Then the general solution is $y = y_p + y_c$
