Math-183
Differential Equations

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Contents

1 Differential Equations and Their Solutions

1.1 Classification of Differential Equations

Definition 1.1.1: Differential Equation

Differential equation is an equation involving derivatives of one or more dependent variables with respect to one or more independent variables.

Definition 1.1.2: Ordinary Differential Equation

A differential equation involving ordinary derivatives of one or more dependent variables with respect to a single independent variable is called an ordinary differential equation.

Example 1.1: Ordinary Differential Equations:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + xy\left(\frac{d}{dx}\right)^2 = 0 \tag{1}$$

$$\frac{d^4x}{dt^4} + 5\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + 3x = \sin t \tag{2}$$

Definition 1.1.3: Partial Differential Equation

A differential equation involving partial derivatives of one or more dependent variables with respect to more than one independent variables is called an partial differential equation.

Example 1.2: Partial Differential Equations:

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial s} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} = v \tag{3}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} = 0 \tag{4}$$

Definition 1.1.4: Order and Degree of Differential Equations

Order of DE: The order of the highest ordered derivative involved in a differential equation is called the order of the differential equation.

Degree of DE: The power of the highest order derivative involved in a differential equation is called the degree of the differential equation.

Definition 1.1.5: Linearity of Differential Equations

If the dependent variable and its various derivatives occur to the first degree only, the DE is a linear DE. Otherwise it's a non-linear DE.

$$a_0(x)\frac{\mathrm{d}^n y}{\mathrm{d}x^n} + a_1(x)\frac{\mathrm{d}^{n-1} y}{\mathrm{d}x^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_{n-1}(x)\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} + a_n(x)y = b(x)$$

Linear DE can also be classified as linear with *constant* and *variable* coefficients.

Example 1.3: Ordinary Differential Equations: Orders, Degree, Linearity

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\mathrm{d}^3 y}{\mathrm{d}x^3} - 3\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 y}{\mathrm{d}x^2} + 3\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} - 6y = \sin x &\quad \text{3rd ord 1st deg Lin} \\
\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 y}{\mathrm{d}x^2} + \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x}\right)^2 + y = 0 &\quad \text{2nd ord 1st deg Non-Lin} \\
y = x\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} + \sqrt{1 + \frac{\mathrm{d}^2 y}{\mathrm{d}x^2}} &\quad \text{2nd ord 1st deg Non-Lin} \\
\frac{\mathrm{d}^4 x}{\mathrm{d}t^4} + t^2\frac{\mathrm{d}^3 x}{\mathrm{d}t^3} + \frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} = \sin t &\quad \text{4th ord 1st deg Lin} \\
\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 y}{\mathrm{d}x^2} + 5\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} + 6y^2 = 0 &\quad \text{2nd ord 1st deg Non-Lin} \\
\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 y}{\mathrm{d}x^2} + 5\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x}\right)^3 + 6y = 0 &\quad \text{2nd ord 1st deg Non-Lin} \\
\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 y}{\mathrm{d}x^2} + 5y\frac{\mathrm{d}y}{\mathrm{d}x} + 6y = 0 &\quad \text{2nd ord 1st deg Lin}
\end{aligned}$$

1.2 Solutions

The study of a Differential Equation consists of 3 phases:

1. Formulation of DE from the given physical situation.
2. Solutions of DE, evaluating the arbitrary constants from the given condition.
3. Physical interpretation of the solution.

Example 1.4: Obtain the DE of the co-axial circle

$$x^2 + y^2 + 2ax + c^2 = 0$$