

A note to page 45, lecture 7.

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In page 45, lecture 7, the book says:

For example, the initial value problem

$$y' = \frac{2}{x}(y - 1), y(0) = 0$$

has no solution, while the problem

$$y' = \frac{2}{x}(y - 1), y(0) = 1$$

has an infinite number of solutions $y(x) = 1 + cx^2$, where c is an arbitrary constant.

Now I verify these claims.

Verify. We try solving the ODE

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2}{x}(y - 1), \text{ i.e.,}$$

$$x dy - 2(y - 1) dx = 0,$$

where $x \neq 0$. We just need to solve

$$\frac{1}{y - 1} dy - \frac{2}{x} dx = 0,$$

where $y \neq 1, x \neq 0$. It is easy to see that the solution is

$$\ln |y - 1| = \ln x^2 - \ln(|C|) = \ln \frac{x^2}{|C|}.$$

So, when $y > 1$, we have

$$y - 1 = \frac{x^2}{C},$$

when $y < 1$, we have

$$1 - y = \frac{x^2}{C}.$$

$$\ln y - 1 = \ln x^2 - \ln |C|$$

When $y = 1$, we see that the solution is $y = 1, x \neq 0$. □

Remark. Note that at point $x = 0$ the derivatives of these functions **are not defined**, but that **does not necessarily** imply that these functions are not defined at $x = 0$, neither does it imply that the derivatives of these functions do not exist at $x = 0$.