

Theorem 7.1

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2013. 11. 22

Theorem (7.1). Let $f(x, y)$ be continuous in the domain D , then any solution of

$$y' = f(x, y), y(x_0) = y_0$$

is also a solution of the integral equation

$$y(x) = y_0 + \int_{x_0}^x f(t, y(t)) dt$$

and conversely.

Proof. \Leftarrow : If $g(x)$ is a solution of

$$y(x) = y_0 + \int_{x_0}^x f(t, y(t)) dt,$$

then we have

$$g(x) = y_0 + \int_{x_0}^x f(t, g(t)) dt. \quad (1)$$

So $g(x_0) = y_0$. f is continuous, so g is differentiable¹. Differentiate both sides of (1), we get²

$$g'(x) = f(x, g(x)). \quad (2)$$

\Rightarrow : We have

$$g'(x) = f(x, g(x)), g(x_0) = y_0,$$

¹Note that if f is not continuous, but Riemann integrable, then g is not necessarily differentiable.

²Note that if f is not continuous, then $g'(x)$ does not necessarily equal to $f(x, g(x))$.

So g' is continuous. Integrate both sides, we get

$$g(x) = \int f(x, g(x)) dx + C.$$

Let $H(x) = \int f(x, g(x)) dx$, we have

$$g(x) = H(x) + C.$$

We know that

$$g(x_0) = y_0,$$

so

$$y_0 = H(x_0) + C, \Rightarrow C = y_0 - H(x_0).$$

So

$$g(x) = \int_{x_0}^x f(t, g(t)) dt + y_0.$$

□