

Lesson 23: Practice Problems - Integrating Factors $\mu(x)$ and $\mu(y)$

ODE 1 - Prof. Adi Ditkowski

Part A: Testing for $\mu(x)$ and $\mu(y)$ (Problems 1-6)

1. For $(3x + 2y)dx + xdy = 0$:
 - (a) Show the equation is not exact
 - (b) Test if $\mu(x)$ exists
 - (c) Test if $\mu(y)$ exists
 - (d) Find the integrating factor
2. For $(y^2 + 2xy)dx + xydy = 0$:
 3. Verify non-exactness
 4. Determine which type of integrating factor exists
 5. Find and apply the integrating factor

Test both $\mu(x)$ and $\mu(y)$ for: $(2y)dx + (3x + 4y^2)dy = 0$

Test both $\mu(x)$ and $\mu(y)$ for: $(xy + 1)dx + (x^2 - 1)dy = 0$

For $ydx - xdy = 0$, show that both $\mu(x) = 1/x^2$ and $\mu(y) = 1/y^2$ work.

Determine all possible integrating factors of the form $\mu(x)$ for: $(2y)dx + xdy = 0$

Part B: Finding and Using $\mu(x)$ (Problems 7-12)

7. Solve $(2xy + y^2)dx + xdy = 0$ by finding $\mu(x)$
8. Solve $(3y + 2x)dx + xdy = 0$ using an integrating factor
9. Solve $(y + x^2)dx + 2xdy = 0$
10. Solve $(2y + 3x^{2y})dx + xdy = 0$
11. Find $\mu(x)$ and solve: $(e^y + 2x)dx + xe^y dy = 0$
12. Solve the initial value problem: $(y + x^3)dx + 2xdy = 0, y(1) = 2$

Part C: Finding and Using $\mu(y)$ (Problems 13-18)

13. Solve $ydx + (2x + 3y^2)dy = 0$ by finding $\mu(y)$
14. Solve $2ydx + (3x - y)dy = 0$ using an integrating factor
15. Solve $(y^2 + 1)dx + xydy = 0$
16. Find $\mu(y)$ and solve: $\sin y dx + (x \cos y + 1)dy = 0$
17. Solve $(2y^3)dx + (3xy^2 - 1)dy = 0$
18. Solve the IVP: $ydx + (3x - 2y^2)dy = 0, y(0) = 1$

Part D: Choice Between $\mu(x)$ and $\mu(y)$ (Problems 19-23)

19. For $(2xy^2 + y)dx + xdy = 0$:
 20. Show both $\mu(x)$ and $\mu(y)$ exist
 21. Find both integrating factors
 22. Solve using each and verify same solution

Find the simpler integrating factor and solve: $(3x^{2y} + 2y^2)dx + x^{3dy} = 0$

Choose the appropriate integrating factor for: $(y \cos x + 1)dx + \sin x dy = 0$

For $(ax + by^2)dx + ydy = 0$, find conditions on a and b for :

$\mu(x)$ to exist

$\mu(y)$ to exist

Solve by choosing the simpler integrating factor: $(x^{2y^3} + 2y)dx + xdy = 0$

Part E: Linear Equation Connection (Problems 24-26)

24. Show that $y' + \frac{2}{x}y = x^2$ leads to $\mu(x) = x^2$ and solve.
25. Convert to standard form and find integrating factor: $xy' - 2y = x^{3e^x}$
26. Show that every linear equation $y' + P(x)y = Q(x)$ has $\mu(x) = e^{\int P(x)dx}$

Part F: Exam-Style Problems (Problems 27-32)

27. (Prof. Ditkowski 2023) Given that $\mu = x^n$ is an integrating factor for $(2xy + y^3)dx + (x^2 + xy^2)dy = 0$, find n and solve.
28. Show that $(3x^{2y} + y^2)dx + (x^3 + xy)dy = 0$ becomes exact when multiplied by $\mu = 1/xy$. Is this $\mu(x)$ or $\mu(y)$? Explain.
29. Find all integrating factors of the form $\mu = x^a y^b$ for $2ydx + xdy = 0$
30. Given $(f(x) + 2y)dx + xdy = 0$ has $\mu(x) = x^2$:
31. Find $f(x)$
32. Solve the equation

For what value of k does $(ky + x^2)dx + (2x + y^2)dy = 0$ have :

An integrating factor $\mu(x)$?

An integrating factor $\mu(y)$?

A student claims that if an equation has both $\mu(x)$ and $\mu(y)$, then it must be exact. Prove or disprove with an example.

Solutions and Key Insights

Problem 1: (a) $M_y = 2, N_x = 1$, not equal \rightarrow not exact (b) $(M_y - N_x)/N = (2-1)/x = 1/x \rightarrow \mu(x)$ exists! (c) $(N_x - M_y)/M = (1-2)/(3x+2y) \rightarrow$ contains both x and y , no $\mu(y)$ (d) $\mu(x) = e^{\int (1/x) dx} = x$

Problem 7: Test: $(M_y - N_x)/N = (2x+2y-1)/x = (2x+2y-1)/x$ This contains y , so no $\mu(x)$... Wait! Let's recheck: $M = 2xy + y^2, N = x(M_y - N_x)/N = (2x + 2y - 0)/x = 2 + 2y/x$ Still has y . Try $\mu(y)$: $(N_x - M_y)/M = (1 - 2x - 2y)/(2xy + y^2) = -1/y$ So $\mu(y) = e^{\int (-1/y) dy} = 1/y$

Problem 19: For $(2xy^2 + y)dx + xdy = 0$: (a) $(M_y - N_x)/N = (4xy + 1 - 1)/x = 4y \rightarrow$ No $\mu(x)$ Actually, let me recalculate: $M_y = 4xy + 1, N_x = 1$ $(M_y - N_x)/N = (4xy + 1 - 1)/x = 4y \rightarrow$ No $\mu(x)$ $(N_x - M_y)/M = (1 - 4xy - 1)/(2xy^2 + y) = -4xy/(y(2xy + 1)) = -4x/(2xy + 1)$ Hmm, this is complex. Let me reconsider the original equation...

Problem 24: $y' + (2/x)y = x^2$ becomes $(2y/x - x^2)dx + dy = 0$ $(M_y - N_x)/N = (2/x - 0)/1 = 2/x$ $\mu(x) = e^{\int (2/x) dx} = e^{2 \ln |x|} = x^2$ Multiply: $(2xy - x^4)dx + x^{2dy} = 0$ Now exact! $H = x^{2y} - x^5/5$ Solution: $x^{2y} - x^5/5 = C$ or $x^3/5 + C/x^2$

Key Strategy: When both tests give functions of mixed variables, neither $\mu(x)$ nor $\mu(y)$ exists. Move to Lesson 24 for special forms!

Warning: Problem 32 - Counterexample: $2ydx + xdy = 0$ has both types but is not exact!