

First Order Differential Equation and its Implications

Mathematics-III (Differential Calculus)

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**Bachelor of Technology
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1. Introduction

A differential equation of first order and n-th degree is of the form

$p^n + P_1 p^{n-1} + P_2 p^{n-2} + \dots + P_{n-1} p + P_n = 0 \dots (1)$, where $p = dy/dx$ and P_1, P_2, \dots, P_n are functions of x and y . Since it is a differential equation of the first order, its general solution will contain only one arbitrary constant.

2 . Body

Equations solvable for p .

Let the equation (1) can be put in the form $\{p - f_1(x, y)\} \{p - f_2(x, y)\} \dots \{p - f_n(x, y)\} = 0$

which is equivalent to $p - f_1(x, y) = 0, p - f_2(x, y) = 0, \dots, p - f_n(x, y) = 0$i.e.

$dy/dx - f_1(x, y) = 0, dy/dx - f_2(x, y) = 0, \dots, dy/dx - f_n(x, y) = 0$.

Each of these equations is of the first order and first degree and can be solved by methods. Let the solution be $F_1(x, y, c) = 0, F_2(x, y, c) = 0, \dots, F_n(x, y, c) = 0 \dots$

where c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n are arbitrary constants. Hence the general solution of (1) is given by

$F_1(x, y, c) = F_2(x, y, c) = \dots = F_n(x, y, c) = 0$

where $c_1 = c_2 = \dots = c_n = c$ is any arbitrary constant. We should have one arbitrary constant because this is a first order differential equation.

Example:

The equation from Newton's law of cooling, $y' = k(M - y)$ is a first order differential equation

$y' = k(M - y)$

$y' = t^2 + 1$ is a first order differential equation

$y' = t^2 - 1$. All solutions to this equation are of the form $t^3/3 + t + C$.

A first order initial value problem is a system of equations of the form $F(t, y, y') = 0, y(t_0) = y_0$. Here t_0 is a fixed time and y_0 is a number.

A solution of an initial value problem is a solution $f(t)$ of the differential equation that also satisfies the initial condition $f(t_0) = y_0$.

The general first order equation is rather too general, that is, we can't describe methods that will work on them all, or even a large portion of them. We can make progress with specific kinds of first order differential equations. For example, much can be said about equations of the form $y' = \phi(t, y)$ where ϕ is a function of the two variables t and y . Under reasonable conditions on ϕ , such an equation has a solution and the corresponding initial value problem has a unique solution. However, in general, these equations can be very difficult or impossible to solve explicitly. Consider this specific example of an initial value problem for Newton's law of cooling: $y' = 2(25 - y)$, $y(0) = 40$. We first note that if $y(t) = 25$, the right hand side of the differential equation is zero, and so the constant function $y(t) = 25$ is a solution to the differential equation. It is not a solution to the initial value problem, since $y(0) \neq 40$. (The physical interpretation of this constant solution is that if a liquid is at the same temperature as its surroundings, then the liquid will stay at that temperature.) So long as y is not 25, we can rewrite the differential equation as

$$(17.1.1) \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = 2(25 - y) \implies \frac{dy}{25 - y} = 2 dt,$$

so

$$(17.1.2) \quad \int \frac{1}{25 - y} dy = \int 2 dt,$$

that is, the two anti-derivatives must be the same except for a constant difference. We can calculate these anti-derivatives and rearrange the results:

$$(17.1.3) \quad \int \frac{1}{25 - y} dy = \int 2 dt \implies (-1) \ln|25 - y| = 2t + C_0 \implies \ln|25 - y| = -2t - C_0 = -2t + C \implies |25 - y| = e^{-2t + C} = e^{-2t} e^C = A e^{-2t}.$$

Here $A = e^C = e^{-C_0}$ is some non-zero constant. Since we want $y(0) = 40$, we substitute and solve for A :

$$(17.1.4) \quad 40 = 25 + A e^{0} \implies 15 = A \implies A = 15,$$

and so $y = 25 + 15e^{-2t}$ is a solution to the initial value problem. Note that y is never 25, so this makes sense for all values of t . However, if we allow $A = 0$ we get the solution $y = 25$ to the differential equation, which would be the solution to the

initial value problem if we were to require $y(0)=25$. Thus, $y=25+Ae^{-2t}$ describes all solutions to the **differential equation** $y'=2(25-y)$, and all solutions to the associated initial value problems.

2. Conclusion A first order **differential equation** is separable if it can be written in the form $y'=f(t)g(y)$. a **differential equation** typically has an infinite number of solutions. Ideally, but certainly not always, a corresponding **initial value problem** will have just one solution. A solution in which there are no unknown constants remaining is called a **particular solution**. The general approach to separable equations is this: Suppose we wish to solve $y'=f(t)g(y)$ where f and g are continuous functions. If $g(a)=0$ for some a then $y(t)=a$ is a constant solution of the equation, since in this case $y'=0=f(t)g(a)$. For example, $y'=y^2-1$ has constant solutions $y(t)=1$ and $y(t)=-1$. To find the nonconstant solutions, we note that the **function** $1/g(y)$ is continuous where $g \neq 0$, so $1/g$ has an **antiderivative** G . Let F be an **antiderivative** of f . Now we write

$$(17.1.8) \quad G(y) = \int \frac{1}{g(y)} dy = \int \frac{f(t)}{g(y)} dt = F(t) + C \quad G(y) = \int \frac{1}{g(y)} dy = \int \frac{f(t)}{g(y)} dt = F(t) + C,$$

so $G(y)=F(t)+C$. Now we solve this equation for y . Of course, there are a few places this ideal description could go wrong: we need to be able to find the anti derivatives G and F , and we need to solve the final equation for y . The upshot is that the solutions to the original **differential equation** are the constant solutions, if any, and all functions y that satisfy $G(y)=F(t)+C$.

3. References

The information in this report has been taken from the following:-

Book:

ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS VOLUME 3A BY BK PAL AND K DAS

Link:

<https://math.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Calculus>