

Differential Equations

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Contents

| | | |
|----------|------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Introduction | 3 |
| 1.1 | Definitions | 3 |
| 1.2 | Example | 3 |
| 2 | Basic Existence and Uniqueness Theorems | 4 |
| 2.1 | Flow Theorem | 4 |

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1 Introduction

1.1 Definitions

Differential equations are relations between one or more unknown functions and a finite amount of their derivatives, along with a certain number of independent variables. Most are not solvable, and do not have approximations for more than a minute region of the function.

Linear differential equations are defined as equations with algebraic functions as the multiplier of each function derivative and each derivative with a degree/power of 1, such that all linear equations are able to be solved.

First order differential equations means that the highest derivative in the equation is the first derivative, and is extended as such.

Coupled systems are those defined as requiring being solved together, such as

$$X' = aX + bY, Y' = cX + dY,$$

rather than equations containing only their own function, which would be uncoupled.

Ordinary Differential Equations are those where all unknown functions depend on the same, single independent variable, while **Partial Differential Equations** are those where the functions have multiple independent variables. In addition though, vector function differential equations can fall into either category, acting more as a system of differential equations, rather than a single one.

Finally, in general, either an initial condition is set allowing it to be solved for a single solution, or a family of solutions must be considered as the answer.

1.2 Example

For some identically restricted, coupled functions,

$$R' = aR + bJ, J' = bR + aJ,$$

where $R(0) = R_0$ and $J(0) = J_0$, where $a < 0, b > 0$, if $|a| > |b|$, we can graph the phase plane of R on the x-axis, J on the y-axis, such that for all possible functions, it moves toward the stable node $(0, 0)$. These stable nodes don't need to be a point, but rather can be a curve of some sort. If $|a| < |b|$, if the initial points are above $R = -J$, it moves in a parabolic fashion until asymptotic to $R = J$ on the positive side. If below $R = -J$, it moves similarly, except asymptotic to $R = J$ on the negative side. Finally, if $|a| = |b|$, the function moves infinitely in a circle around the origin, with the radius determined by the initial point.

2 Basic Existence and Uniqueness Theorems

2.1 Flow Theorem

Theorem

Let $\vec{F}(\vec{x}) = (F_1(\vec{x}), F_2(\vec{x}), \dots, F_n(\vec{x}))$ be a vector field (the assignment of a vector to each point within some subset of space) defined on some closed, bounded region D in \mathbb{R}^n . Also assume \vec{F} is C^1 and let \vec{p} be a specific point interior to D . Then \exists a function $\vec{\sigma}(t)$ from some time interval t , $(-\epsilon, \epsilon)$ with $\epsilon > 0$ into D , such that $\vec{\sigma}(0) = \vec{p}$ and $\vec{\sigma}'(t) = \vec{F}(\vec{\sigma}(t))$.

Thus, for any point on the interval t , the velocity of $\vec{\sigma}$ is the vector field, such that we call $\vec{\sigma}$ the flow for \vec{F} on that interval, starting at \vec{p} , which we call the initial condition.

The flow is unique, such that for any two flows for \vec{F} starting at the same initial condition, they must agree whenever both are defined.

This can easily be extended to higher derivatives, such that it is written as a system of two differential equations, each going one derivative, though an initial condition is needed for both of the systems.

Proof