

# MA201 - Differential Equations

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# Chapter 1

## Linear Differential Equations

A general  $n^{th}$  order differential equation can be written as

$$F(x, y, \frac{dy}{dx}, \dots, \frac{d^n y}{dx^n}) = 0$$

An  $n^{th}$  order ODE is *linear*, if it can be written in the form

$$a_0(x) \frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + a_1(x) \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dx^{n-1}} + \dots + a_n(x) y = g(x)$$

where the functions  $a_i(x)$  are called the coefficient functions.

A *non-linear* ODE is an ODE which is NOT linear.

### 1.1 Solution of an ODE

A solution of the  $n^{th}$  order ODE

$$F(x, y, \frac{dy}{dx}, \dots, \frac{d^n y}{dx^n}) = 0$$

on an interval  $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$  is a function  $y = \phi(x)$  which is defined on  $I$ , which is at least  $n$  times differentiable on  $I$ , and which satisfies the equation.

### 1.2 First Order Ordinary Differential Equations

Consider the first-order ODE of the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y) \tag{1.1}$$

The eq. (1.1) can always be written as

$$M(x, y)dx + N(x, y)dy = 0 \tag{1.2}$$

#### 1.2.1 Solving First Order ODEs

We assume that the ODE of the form eq. (1.1) or eq. (1.2) has a solution.

##### 1. Separable Equations

If the eq. (1.1) or eq. (1.2) can be written in the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = g(x) \cdot h(y)$$

or

$$f_1(x)\phi_1(y)dx + f_2(x)\phi_2(y)dy = 0$$

then the DE is called a separable equation and can be solved by separating variables and integrating.

## 2. Homogeneous Equations

If the eq. (1.2) can be written in the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f\left(\frac{x}{y}\right)$$

then the DE is called a homogeneous equation and can be solved by substituting  $y = vx$  and  $\frac{dy}{dx} = v + x \frac{dv}{dx}$ . After substitution, the equation changes to separable equation.

## 3. Exact Equations

If the eq. (1.2) can be written in the form

$$dF(x, y) = 0$$

without multiplying by any factor, then the DE is called a homogeneous equation and its general solution is

$$F(x, y) = c$$

where  $c$  is an arbitrary constant.

**Note:** Total differential  $:= dF$  and it is defined by the formula

$$dF(x, y) = \frac{\partial F(x, y)}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial F(x, y)}{\partial y} dy$$

### 1.2.2 Exact Differential Equations

How to check if a DE of form eq. (1.2) is exact or not.

**Theorem 1.1** Consider the differential equation

$$M(x, y)dx + N(x, y)dy = 0 \tag{1.3}$$

where  $M(x, y)$  and  $N(x, y)$  have continuous first partial derivatives at all points  $(x, y)$  in rectangular domain  $D$ . Then, the differential equation 1.3 is exact **iff**

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial y}(x, y) = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}(x, y)$$

### 1.2.3 Integrating Factors

Sometimes an equation **not exact** but can be **made exact** by multiplying it by some function of  $x$  and  $y$ . The function which when multiplied, makes the equation exact is called *integrating factor*.

**1:** If  $\frac{1}{N} \left[ \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} \right]$  be a function of  $x$  only

$$\frac{1}{N} \left[ \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} \right] = g(x)$$

then  $e^{\int g(x)dx}$  is an IF of the equation.

**2:** If  $\frac{1}{M} \left[ \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} \right]$  be a function of  $y$  only

$$\frac{1}{M} \left[ \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} \right] = h(y)$$

then  $e^{\int h(y)dy}$  is an IF of the equation.

**3:** If  $Mx + Ny \neq 0$  and the equation is homogeneous, then  $\frac{1}{Mx + Ny}$  is an IF of the equation.

**4:** If  $Mx - Ny \neq 0$  and the equation can be written as

$$\{f_1(xy)\} ydx + \{f_2(xy)\} xdy = 0$$

then  $\frac{1}{Mx - Ny}$  is an IF of the equation.

# Bibliography