# Lesson 9: Conservative vector fields—Exact Equations

Francisco Blanco-Silva

University of South Carolina



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#### WHAT DO WE KNOW?

► The concepts of differential equation and initial value problem

$$F(x, y, y', \dots, y^{(n)}) = 0$$

- ► The concept of order of a differential equation.
- The concepts of general solution, particular solution and singular solution.
- ► Slope fields
- ► Approximations to solutions via Euler's Method and Improved Euler's Method

- ► Separable equations  $y' = H_1(x)H_2(y)$
- ► Homogeneous First-Order Equations y' = H(y/x)
- Linear First-Order Equations y' + P(x)y = Q(x)
- ► Bernoulli Equations  $y' + P(x)y = Q(x)y^n$

#### MOTIVATION AND DEFINITION

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But note the other possible ways to write our equation:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}(x,y) + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y}(x,y)\frac{dy}{dx} = 0 \qquad \frac{\partial F}{\partial x}(x,y)\,dx + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y}(x,y)\,dy = 0$$

#### MOTIVATION AND DEFINITION

If we receive now a differential equation of first order in one of these forms,

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

we know that the solution is guaranteed, provided

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

for some suitable function F(x, y). In this case, it must be F(x, y) = C the solution of the equation (in implicit form).

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So the real question is, how do we know that *M* and *N* are the partial derivatives of a function *F*?

#### MOTIVATION AND DEFINITION

This is simple: If  $M = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x}$  and  $N = \frac{\partial F}{\partial y}$ , then it must be (assuming M and N are *good enough*)

 $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y}$ 

#### MOTIVATION AND DEFINITION

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \right)$$

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#### Definition

We say that a differential equation of the form

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

is exact, if

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$$

MOTIVATION AND DEFINITION

In order to solve these equations, it is enough to find an expression for *F* from *M* and *N* from integration: It must be

$$F(x,y) = \int M(x,y) dx + C(y), \text{ and}$$
  
$$F(x,y) = \int N(x,y) dy + C(x)$$

EXAMPLES

# Which of the following equations are exact?

$$(6xy - y^3) dx + (4y + 3x^2 - 3xy^2) dy = 0$$

$$y^3 dx - 3xy^2 dy = 0$$

$$\left(x^3 + \frac{y}{x}\right) dx + (y^2 + \ln x) dy = 0$$

$$\left(x + \tan^{-1} y\right) dx + \frac{x + y}{1 + y^2} dy = 0$$

$$(e^x \sin y + \tan y) dx + (e^x \cos y + x \sec^2 y) dy = 0$$

$$\left(\frac{2x}{y} - \frac{3y^2}{x^4}\right) dx + \left(\frac{2y}{x^3} - \frac{x^2}{y^2} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{y}}\right) dy = 0$$

EXAMPLES

# Which of the following equations are exact?

$$(6xy - y^3) dx + (4y + 3x^2 - 3xy^2) dy = 0$$

$$y^3 dx - 3xy^2 dy = 0 \leftarrow \text{ this one is not!}$$

$$\left(x^3 + \frac{y}{x}\right) dx + (y^2 + \ln x) dy = 0$$

$$\left(x + \tan^{-1} y\right) dx + \frac{x + y}{1 + y^2} dy = 0$$

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LET US SOLVE THE EXACT EQUATIONS

# Solve the differential equation

$$(6xy - y^3) dx + (4y + 3x^2 - 3xy^2) dy = 0$$

$$M(x, y) = 6xy - y^3$$

$$N(x, y) = 4y + 3x^2 - 3xy^2$$

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$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = 6x - 3y^{2}$$

$$\int M(x,y) dx = 3x^{2}y - xy^{3} + C(y)$$

$$N(x,y) = 4y + 3x^{2} - 3xy^{2}$$

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$$\int N(x,y) dy = 2y^2 + 3x^2y - xy^3 + C(x)$$

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$$(6xy - y^3) dx + (4y + 3x^2 - 3xy^2) dy = 0$$

We have

$$M(x,y) = 6xy - y^3$$

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = 6x - 3y^2$$

$$\int M(x,y) dx = \frac{3x^2y}{2} - xy^3 + C(y)$$

$$N(x,y) = 4y + 3x^2 - 3xy^2$$

$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial x} = 6x - 3y^2$$

$$\int N(x,y) dy = 2y^2 + \frac{3x^2y}{2} - xy^3 + C(x)$$

We proceed to gather (not add!) the different expressions in the integrals:

$$F(x, y) = 3x^2y$$

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$$F(x, y) = 3x^2y - xy^3 + 2y^2.$$

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We proceed to gather (not add!) the different expressions in the integrals:

$$F(x, y) = 3x^2y - xy^3 + 2y^2.$$

Therefore, the solution is  $3x^2y - xy^3 + 2y^2 = C$ 

LET US SOLVE THE EXACT EQUATIONS

# Solve the differential equation

$$y^3 dx - 3xy^2 dy = 0$$

$$M(x,y) = y^3 \qquad N(x,y) = -3xy^2$$

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$$y^3 dx - 3xy^2 dy = 0$$
$$y^3 - 3xy^2 \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

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$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y^{3}}{3xy^{2}} = \frac{y}{3x}$$

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  $3xy^{2} \frac{dy}{dx} = y^{3}$   $\frac{dy}{y} = \frac{dx}{3x}$   
 $y^{3} - 3xy^{2} \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$   $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y^{3}}{3xy^{2}} = \frac{y}{3x}$   $\ln|y| = \frac{1}{3} \ln|x| + C$ 

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$$|y| = A|x|^{1/3}$$

LET US SOLVE THE EXACT EQUATIONS

# Solve the differential equation

$$(x + \tan^{-1} y) dx + \frac{x+y}{1+y^2} dy = 0$$

$$M(x, y) = x + \tan^{-1} y$$

$$N(x,y) = \frac{x+y}{1+y^2}$$

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$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial x} = \frac{1}{1+y^2}$$

$$\int M(x,y) dx = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + x \tan^{-1} y + C(y)$$

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$$\int M(x,y) dx = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + x \tan^{-1} y + C(y)$$

$$\int N(x,y) dy = x \tan^{-1} y + \frac{1}{2} \ln(1+y^2) + C(x)$$

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$$\int N(x,y) dy = x \tan^{-1} y + \frac{1}{2} \ln(1+y^2) + C(x)$$

$$x \tan^{-1} y + \frac{1}{2}x^2$$

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$$x \tan^{-1} y + \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{2}\ln(1+y^2)$$

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$$\int M(x,y) dx = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + x \tan^{-1} y + C(y)$$

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$$x \tan^{-1} y + \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{2}\ln(1+y^2) = C$$

LET US SOLVE THE EXACT EQUATIONS

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$$(e^x \sin y + \tan y) dx + (e^x \cos y + x \sec^2 y) dy = 0$$

$$M(x, y) = e^x \sin y + \tan y$$

$$N(x, y) = e^x \cos y + x \sec^2 y$$

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$$\int M(x,y) dx = e^{x} \sin y + x \tan y + C(y)$$

$$\int N(x,y) dy = e^{x} \sin y + x \tan y + C(x)$$

$$e^x \sin y + x \tan y = C$$

LET US SOLVE THE EXACT EQUATIONS

# Solve the differential equation

$$\left(\frac{2x}{y} - \frac{3y^2}{x^4}\right) dx + \left(\frac{2y}{x^3} - \frac{x^2}{y^2} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{y}}\right) dy = 0$$

$$M(x,y) = \frac{2x}{y} - \frac{3y^2}{x^4}$$

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LET US SOLVE THE EXACT EQUATIONS

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Solution:

 $x^{-3}y^2 + x^2y^{-1}$ 

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$$x^{-3}y^2 + x^2y^{-1} - 2y^{1/2} = C$$