

MATH 201¹ – Midterm summary study guide²

First Order Equations

- (1) **General Form of ODE:** $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$
(2) **Initial Value Problem:** $y' = f(x, y), y(x_0) = y_0$

Linear Equations

- (3) **General Form:** $y' + p(x)y = f(x)$
(4) **Integrating Factor:** $\mu(x) = e^{\int p(x)dx}$
(5) $\implies \frac{d}{dx}(\mu(x)y) = \mu(x)f(x)$
(6) **General Solution:** $y = \frac{1}{\mu(x)} \left(\int \mu(x)f(x)dx + C \right)$

Homogeneous Equations

- (7) **General Form:** $y' = f(y/x)$
(8) **Substitution:** $y = zx$
(9) $\implies y' = z + xz'$

The result is always separable in z :

(10)
$$\frac{dz}{f(z) - z} = \frac{dx}{x}$$

Bernoulli Equations

- (11) **General Form:** $y' + p(x)y = q(x)y^n$
(12) **Substitution:** $z = y^{1-n}$

The result is always linear in z :

(13)
$$z' + (1-n)p(x)z = (1-n)q(x)$$

Exact Equations

- (14) **General Form:** $M(x, y)dx + N(x, y)dy = 0$
(15) **Test for Exactness:** $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$
(16) **Solution:** $\phi = C$ where
(17) $M = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}$ and $N = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y}$

Method for Solving Exact Equations:

1. Let $\phi = \int M(x, y)dx + h(y)$
2. Set $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} = N(x, y)$
3. Simplify and solve for $h(y)$.
4. Substitute the result for $h(y)$ in the expression for ϕ from step 1 and then set $\phi = 0$. This is the solution.

Alternatively:

1. Let $\phi = \int N(x, y)dy + g(x)$
2. Set $\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} = M(x, y)$
3. Simplify and solve for $g(x)$.
4. Substitute the result for $g(x)$ in the expression for ϕ from step 1 and then set $\phi = 0$. This is the solution.

Integrating Factors

Case 1: If $P(x, y)$ depends only on x , where

(18)
$$P(x, y) = \frac{M_y - N_x}{N} \implies \mu(x) = e^{\int P(x)dx}$$

then

(19)
$$\mu(x)M(x, y)dx + \mu(x)N(x, y)dy = 0$$

is exact.

Case 2: If $Q(x, y)$ depends only on y , where

(20)
$$Q(x, y) = \frac{N_x - M_y}{M} \implies \mu(y) = e^{\int Q(y)dy}$$

Then

(21)
$$\mu(y)M(x, y)dx + \mu(y)N(x, y)dy = 0$$

is exact.

¹MATH 201 - Differential Equations – University of Alberta

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Second Order Linear Equations

General Form of the Equation

$$(22) \quad \text{General Form: } a(t)y'' + b(t)y' + c(t)y = g(t)$$

$$(23) \quad \text{Homogeneous: } a(t)y'' + b(t)y' + c(t)y = 0$$

$$(24) \quad \text{Standard Form: } y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = f(t)$$

The **general solution** of (22) or (24) is

$$(25) \quad y = C_1y_1(t) + C_2y_2(t) + y_p(t)$$

where $y_1(t)$ and $y_2(t)$ are linearly independent solutions of (23).

Linear Independence and The Wronskian

Two functions $f(x)$ and $g(x)$ are **linearly dependent** if there exist numbers a and b , not both zero, such that $af(x) + bg(x) = 0$ for all x . If no such numbers exist then they are **linearly independent**.

If y_1 and y_2 are two solutions of (23) then

$$(26) \quad \text{Wronskian: } W(t) = y_1(t)y_2'(t) - y_1'(t)y_2(t)$$

$$(27) \quad \text{Abel's Formula: } W(t) = Ce^{-\int p(t)dt}$$

and the following are all equivalent:

1. $\{y_1, y_2\}$ are linearly independent.
2. $\{y_1, y_2\}$ are a fundamental set of solutions.
3. $W(y_1, y_2)(t_0) \neq 0$ at some point t_0 .
4. $W(y_1, y_2)(t) \neq 0$ for all t .

Initial Value Problem

$$(28) \quad \begin{cases} y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0 \\ y(t_0) = y_0 \\ y'(t_0) = y_1 \end{cases}$$

Linear Equation: Constant Coefficients

$$(29) \quad \text{Homogeneous: } ay'' + by' + cy = 0$$

$$(30) \quad \text{Non-homogeneous: } ay'' + by' + cy = g(t)$$

$$(31) \quad \text{Characteristic Equation: } ar^2 + br + c = 0$$

$$(32) \quad \text{Quadratic Roots: } r = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

The solution of (29) is given by:

$$(33) \quad \text{Real Roots}(r_1 \neq r_2): y_h = C_1e^{r_1t} + C_2e^{r_2t}$$

$$(34) \quad \text{Repeated}(r_1 = r_2): y_h = (C_1 + C_2t)e^{r_1t}$$

$$(35) \quad \text{Complex}(r = \alpha \pm i\beta): y_h = e^{\alpha t}(C_1 \cos \beta t + C_2 \sin \beta t)$$

The solution of (30) is $y = y_p + y_h$ where y_h is given by (33) through (35) and y_p is found by **undetermined coefficients** or **variation of parameters**.

Heuristics for Undetermined Coefficients (Trial and Error)

If $f(t) =$	then guess that a particular solution $y_p =$
$P_n(t)$	$t^s(A_0 + A_1t + \cdots + A_nt^n)$
$P_n(t)e^{at}$	$t^s(A_0 + A_1t + \cdots + A_nt^n)e^{at}$
$P_n(t)e^{at} \sin bt$ or $P_n(t)e^{at} \cos bt$	$t^s e^{at}[(A_0 + A_1t + \cdots + A_nt^n) \cos bt$ $+ (B_0 + B_1t + \cdots + B_nt^n) \sin bt]$

where $s = 0, 1, 2$ if $r = a$ is not a root, is a single root, or a double root of (31), respectively.

Method of Reduction of Order

When solving (23), given y_1 , then y_2 is given by

$$(36) \quad y_2 = y_1 \int \frac{e^{-\int p(x)dx} dx}{y_1(x)^2}$$

Method of Variation of Parameters

If $y_1(t)$ and $y_2(t)$ are a fundamental set of solutions to (23) then a particular solution to (24) is

$$(37) \quad y_p(t) = -y_1(t) \int \frac{y_2(t)f(t)}{W(t)} dt + y_2(t) \int \frac{y_1(t)f(t)}{W(t)} dt$$

Cauchy-Euler Equation

$$(38) \quad \text{ODE: } ax^2y'' + bxy' + cy = g(x)$$

$$(39) \quad \text{Auxilliary Equation: } ar(r-1) + br + c = 0$$

The homogeneous solutions of (38) depend on the roots of (39):

$$(40) \quad \text{Real Roots}(r_1 \neq r_2): y_h = C_1x^{r_1} + C_2x^{r_2}$$

$$(41) \quad \text{Repeated}(r_1 = r_2): y_h = C_1x^r + C_2x^r \ln x$$

$$\text{Complex}(r_{1,2} = \alpha \pm i\beta): y_h = x^\alpha [C_1 \cos(\beta \ln x) + C_2 \sin(\beta \ln x)]$$

The substitution $x = e^t$ transform (38) into a (30)

$$(43) \quad ay''(t) + (b-a)y'(t) + cy(t) = g(e^t)$$

Series Solutions

$$(44) \quad y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$$

If x_0 is a **regular point** of (44) then

$$(45) \quad y(x) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k(x - x_k)^k$$

At a **Regular Singular Point** x_0 :

$$(46) \quad \text{Indicial Equation: } r^2 + (p(0) - 1)r + q(0) = 0$$

$$(47) \quad \text{First Solution: } y_1 = (x - x_0)^{r_1} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k(x - x_k)^k$$

Where r_1 is the larger real root if both roots of (46) are real or either root if the solutions are complex.