Advanced Engineering Mathematics Ordinary Differential Equations Notes

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1 Introduction to Differential Equations

1.1 Definitions and Terminology

- An equation containing the derivatives of one or more dependent variables, with respect to one or more independent variables, is said to be a **differential equation** (DE)
- An **ordinary DE** (ODE) is a DE that contains only ordinary (i.e. non-partial) derivatives of one or more functions with respect to a single independent variable
- A **partial DE** is a DE that contains only partial derivatives of one or more functions of two or more independent variables
- The **order** of a DE is the order of the highest derivative in the equation
- First order ODEs are sometimes written in the **differential form**

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

- n-th order ODEs in one dependent variable can be expressed by the **general form**

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

- It's possible to solve ODEs in the general form uniquely for the highest derivative $y^{(n)}$ in terms of the other $n+1$ variables, allowing them to be expressed in the **normal form**

$$\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = f(x, y, y', \ldots, y^{(n-1)})$$

- An n-th order ODE is said be **linear** in the variable y if it can be expressed in the form

$$a_n(x)y^{(n)} + a_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)} + \cdots + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y - g(x) = 0$$

  i.e. the dependent variable y and all of its derivatives aren't raised to a power or used in nonlinear functions like e^y or $\sin y$, and the coefficients a_0, a_1, …, a_n depend at most on the independent variable x

- A **nonlinear** ODE is one that is not linear

- A **solution** to an ODE is a function ϕ, defined on an interval I and possessing at least n derivatives that are continuous on I, such that

$$F(x, \phi(x), \phi'(x), \ldots, \phi^n(x)) = 0 \text{ for all } x \text{ in } I.$$

- The **interval of definition**, **interval of validity**, or the **domain** of a solution is the interval over which the solution is valid

- A solution of a DE that is 0 on an interval I is said to be a **trivial solution**

- Because solutions to DEs must be differentiable over their interval of validity, discontinuities, etc. must be excluded from the interval

- An **explicit solution** to an ODE is one where the dependent variable is expressed solely in terms of the independent variable and constants

- An **implicit solution** to an ODE is a relation $G(x, y) = 0$ over an interval I provided there exists at least one function ϕ that satisfies the relation as well as the ODE on I

- When solving a first-order ODE we usually obtain a solution containing a single arbitrary constant or parameter c. A solution containing an arbitrary constant represents a set of solution called a **one-parameter family of solutions**

- When solving an n-th order DE we usually obtain an **n-parameter family of solutions**

- A solution of a DE that is free from arbitrary parameters is called a **particular solution**

- A **singular solution** is a solution to a DE that isn't a member of a family of solutions

- A **system of ODEs** is two or more equations involving the derivatives of two or more unknown functions of a single independent variable. A solution of such a system is a differentiable function for each equation defined on a common interval I that satisfy each equation of the system on that interval

1.2 Initial Value Problems

- An **initial value problem** is the problem of solving a DE with some given **initial conditions**, e.g. solve

$$\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = f(x, y, y', \ldots, y^{(n-1)})$$

subject to

$$y(x_0) = y_0,\, y'(x_0) = y_1,\, \ldots,\, y^{(n-1)}(x_0) = y_{n-1}$$

- The domain of $y = f(x)$ differs depending on how it's considered:
  - As a function its domain is all real numbers for which it's defined
  - As a solution of a DE its domain is a single interval over which it's defined an differentiable
  - As a solution of an initial value problem its domain is a single interval over which it's defined, differentiable, and contains the initial conditions

- An initial value problem may not have any solutions. If it does it may have multiple.

- First-order initial value problems of the form

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

$$y(x_0) = y_0$$

are guaranteed to have a unique solution over an interval I containing x_0 if $f(x, y)$ and $\partial f/\partial y$ are continuous

1.3 Differential Equations as Mathematical Models

- A **mathematical model** is a mathematical description of a system or phenomenon

- The **level of resolution** of a model determines how many variables are included in the model

- A simple model of the growth of a population P is

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP$$

where $k > 0$

- A simple model of radioactive decay of an amount of substance A is

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = kA$$

where $k < 0$

- Newton's empirical law of cooling/warming states that the rate of change of the temperature of a body is proportional to the difference between the temperature of the body and the temperature of the surrounding medium

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = k(T - T_m)$$

2 First-Order Differential Equations

2.1 Solution Curves Without a Solution

- An ODE in which the independent variable doesn't appear is said to be **autonomous**, e.g.

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

- A real number c is a **critical/equilibrium/stationary point** of an autonomous DE if it is a zero of f
- If c is a critial point of an autonomous DE, then $y(x) = c$ is a solution
- A solution of the form $y(x) = c$ is called an **equilibrium solution**
- We can draw several conclusions about the solutions of an autonomous DE with n critical points and $n + 1$ subregions bounded by the critical points:
  - If (x_0, y_0) is in a subregion, it remains in that subregion for all x
  - By continuity, $f(y) < 0$ or $f(y) > 0$ for all y in a subregion and thus $y(x)$ can't have maximum/minimum points or oscillate
  - If $y(x)$ is bounded above by a critical point c_1, it must approach $y(x) = c_1$ as $x \to -\infty$ or $x \to \infty$
  - If $y(x)$ is bounded above and below by critical points c_1 and c_2, it must approach $y(x) = c_1$ as $x \to -\infty$ and $y(x) = c_2$ as $x \to \infty$ or vice versa

- If $y(x)$ is bounded below by a critical point c_1, it must approach $y(x) = c_1$ as $x \to -\infty$ or $x \to \infty$

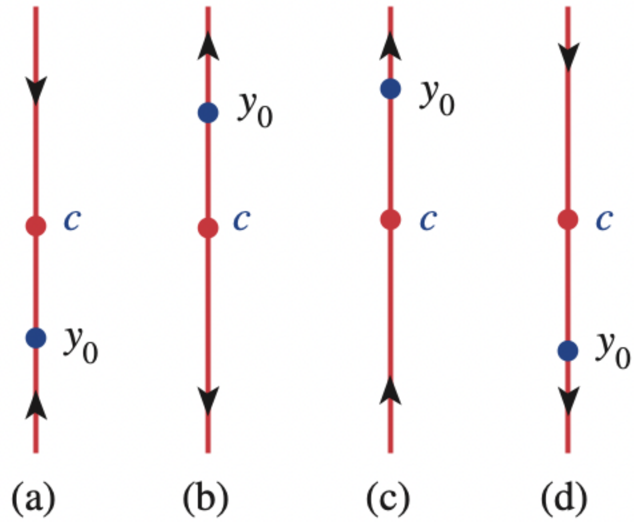

FIGURE 2.1.8 Critical point c is an attractor in (a), a repeller in (b), and semi-stable in (c) and (d)

- If $y(x)$ is a solution of an autonomous differential equation $dy/dx = f(y)$, then $y_1(x) = y(x - k)$, where k is a constant, is also a solution