

Section 2.2 Separable Equations

Definition : Separable Equation

If the right-hand side of the equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$ can be expressed as a function $g(x)$ that depends only on x times a function $p(y)$ that depends only on y , then the differential equation is called **separable**.

Method for Solving Separable Equations

To solve the equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = g(x)p(y)$

1. To obtain $\frac{1}{p(y)} dy = g(x) dx$

2. Integrate both sides : $\int \frac{1}{p(y)} dy = \int g(x) dx \Rightarrow P(y) = G(x) + C$

◇ Determine whether the given differential equation is separable.

5. $(xy^2 + 3y^2)dy - 2xdx = 0$

Sol.

$$(xy^2 + 3y^2)dy - 2xdx = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (xy^2 + 3y^2)dy = 2xdx$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2x}{xy^2 + 3y^2} = \frac{2x}{x+3} \cdot \frac{1}{y^2}$$

Hence, the equation is separable.

◇ Solve the equation.

11. $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\sec^2 y}{1+x^2}$

Sol.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{\sec^2 y}{1+x^2} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sec^2 y} dy &= \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx \\ \Rightarrow \int \frac{1}{\sec^2 y} dy &= \int \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx\end{aligned}$$

Way1 :

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{1}{\sec^2 y} dy & \quad * \quad \cos 2x = 2\cos^2 x - 1 \\ & \Rightarrow \cos^2 x = \frac{1}{2}(\cos 2x + 1) \\ &= \int \cos^2 y dy \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \int (\cos 2y + 1) dy \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \sin 2y + y \right) + C = \frac{\sin 2y}{4} + \frac{y}{2} + C\end{aligned}$$

Way2 : 分部積分 $\begin{pmatrix} u = \cos y & dv = \cos y dy \\ du = -\sin y dy & v = \sin y \end{pmatrix}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\sin 2y}{4} + \frac{y}{2} = \tan^{-1} x + C$$

15. $y^{-1}dy + ye^{\cos x} \sin x dx = 0$

Sol.

$$y^{-1}dy + ye^{\cos x} \sin x dx = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow y^{-2}dy = -e^{\cos x} \sin x dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \int y^{-2}dy = \int -e^{\cos x} \sin x dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \int y^{-2}dy = \int e^{\cos x} d(\cos x)$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{1}{y} = e^{\cos x} + C_1$$

$$\Rightarrow y = \frac{1}{C - e^{\cos x}}, \text{ where } C = -C_1 \text{ (explicit solution)}$$

◇ Solve the initial value problem.

19. $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2\sqrt{y+1} \cos x, \quad y(\pi) = 0$

Sol.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2\sqrt{y+1} \cos x$$

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

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \int (y+1)^{-\frac{1}{2}} dy = \int \cos x dx$$

$$\Rightarrow (y+1)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sin x + C$$

$$\because y(\pi) = 0 \Rightarrow (0+1)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sin \pi + C$$

$$\Rightarrow C = 1^{\frac{1}{2}} - 0 = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow (y+1)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \sin x + 1$$

$$\Rightarrow y = (\sin x + 1)^2 - 1$$

15.

$$\int -e^{\cos x} \sin x dx \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} u = \cos x \\ du = -\sin x dx \end{array} \right)$$

$$= \int e^u du$$

$$= e^u + C_1$$

$$= e^{\cos x} + C_1$$

19.

$$\frac{1}{2} \int (y+1)^{-\frac{1}{2}} dy \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} u = y+1 \\ du = dy \end{array} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \int u^{-\frac{1}{2}} du$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (2u^{\frac{1}{2}}) + C$$

$$= (y+1)^{\frac{1}{2}} + C$$

26. $\sqrt{y}dx + (1+x)dy = 0, \quad y(0) = 1$

Sol.

$$\sqrt{y}dx + (1+x)dy = 0$$

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

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

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

$$\Rightarrow -\ln|1+x| = 2y^{\frac{1}{2}} + C$$

$$\Rightarrow -\ln(1+x) = 2y^{\frac{1}{2}} + C \quad (\text{since at initial point, } x=0 \Rightarrow x+1 > 0)$$

$$\therefore y(0) = 1 \Rightarrow -\ln 1 = 2 + C \Rightarrow C = -2$$

$$\therefore 2y^{\frac{1}{2}} = -\ln|1+x| - (-2) \Rightarrow y^{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{2 - \ln|1+x|}{2} \Rightarrow y = \frac{[2 - \ln(1+x)]^2}{4}$$

29. **Uniqueness Questions.** In Chapter 1 we indicated that in applications most *initial value problems* will have a unique solution. In fact, the existence of unique solutions was so important that we stated an existence and uniqueness theorem, Theorem 1, page 12. The method for separable equations can give us a solution, but it may not give us all the solutions (also see problem 30). To illustrate this, consider the equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = y^{\frac{1}{3}}$.

(a) Use the method of separation of variables to show that $y = \left(\frac{2x}{3} + C\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}$ is a solution.

Sol.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$\Rightarrow y^{-\frac{1}{3}}dy = dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \int y^{-\frac{1}{3}}dy = \int dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{3}{2}y^{\frac{2}{3}} = x + C_1$$

$$\Rightarrow y^{\frac{2}{3}} = \frac{2}{3}x + \frac{2}{3}C_1$$

$$\Rightarrow y = \left(\frac{2}{3}x + C\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}, \text{ where } C = \frac{2}{3}C_1.$$

(b) Show that the initial value problem $\frac{dy}{dx} = y^{\frac{1}{3}}$ with $y(0) = 0$ is satisfied for $C = 0$ by

$$y = (2x/3)^{\frac{3}{2}} \text{ for } x \geq 0.$$

Sol.

From (a), $y = \left(\frac{2x}{3} + C\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}$ is a general solution of $y' = y^{\frac{1}{3}}$.

For $C = 0$, $y = \left(\frac{2}{3}x\right)^{\frac{3}{2}}$ is also a solution of $y' = y^{\frac{1}{3}}$ and $y(0) = \left(\frac{2}{3} \cdot 0\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} = 0$

Hence, it satisfies the I.V.P. $y' = y^{\frac{1}{3}}$, $y(0) = 0$

(c) Now show that the constant function $y \equiv 0$ also satisfies the initial value problem given in part (b). Hence, this initial value problem does not have a unique solution.

Sol.

Clearly, $y \equiv 0$ satisfies the I.V.P. $y' = y^{\frac{1}{3}}$, $y(0) = 0$. Hence, the I.V.P. has multiple solutions.

(d) Finally, show that the conditions of Theorem 1 on page 12 are not satisfied.

(The solution $y \equiv 0$ was lost because of the division by zero in the separation process.)

Sol.

$$f(x, y) = y^{\frac{1}{3}} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial y}[y^{\frac{1}{3}}] = \frac{1}{3}y^{-\frac{2}{3}} = \frac{1}{3y^{\frac{2}{3}}}, y \neq 0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \text{ is not continuous in any rectangle contains}$$

$(0,0)$. Hence, the IVP has no unique solution.

(i.e. IVP 可能有解，但有兩個以上的解，或根本沒有解)

30. As stated in this section, the separation of equation (2) on page 40 requires division by $p(y) = 0$, and this may disguise the fact that the roots of the equation $p(y) = 0$ are actually constant solutions to the differential equation.

(a) To explore this further, separate the equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = (x-3)(y+1)^{\frac{2}{3}}$ to derive the solution,

$$y = -1 + (x^2/6 - x + C)^3.$$

Sol.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = (x-3)(y+1)^{\frac{2}{3}}$$

$$\Rightarrow (y+1)^{-\frac{2}{3}} dy = (x-3)dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \int (y+1)^{-\frac{2}{3}} dy = \int (x-3)dx$$

$$\Rightarrow 3(y+1)^{\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{1}{2}(x-3)^2 + C_1$$

$$\Rightarrow (y+1)^{\frac{1}{3}} = \frac{1}{6}(x-3)^2 + \frac{1}{3}C_1$$

$$= \frac{x^2}{6} - x + C, \text{ where } C = \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{3}C_1$$

$$\Rightarrow y = -1 + \left(\frac{x^2}{6} - x + C\right)^3$$

(b) Show that $y \equiv -1$ satisfies the original equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = (x-3)(y+1)^{\frac{2}{3}}$

Sol.

For $y \equiv -1$

$$\Rightarrow y' = 0 \text{ and } (x-3)(y+1)^{\frac{2}{3}} = 0$$

$\Rightarrow y \equiv -1$ is a solution of the original equation.

(c) Show that there is no choice of the constant C that will make the solution in part (a) yield the solution $y \equiv -1$. Thus, we lost the solution $y \equiv -1$ when we divided by $(y+1)^{\frac{2}{3}}$.

Sol.

$$\therefore \frac{x^2}{6} - x + C \neq 0 \text{ for any constant } C$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{There is no choice of } C \text{ such that } y = -1 + \left(\frac{x^2}{6} - x + C\right)^3 = -1.$$

(表示這題在使用變數分離法解題時，會遺漏了 $y \equiv -1$ 這個解)