

We can do simple substitutions to transform a higher order ODE to first order.

Ex: $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2 \frac{dy}{dx} = 30e^{3x}$

Set $v = \frac{dy}{dx} \Rightarrow \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$, So,

$$\frac{dv}{dx} + 2v = 30e^{3x} \quad \Leftarrow \text{first order linear.}$$

$$\mu = e^{\int 2 dx} = e^{2x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} [e^{2x} \cdot v] = 30e^{5x}$$

$$\Rightarrow e^{2x} v = 6e^{5x} + C_1$$

$$\Rightarrow v(x) = 6e^{3x} + C_1 e^{-2x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = 6e^{3x} + C_1 e^{-2x}$$

$$\Rightarrow y(x) = 2e^{3x} - \frac{C_1}{2} e^{-2x} + C_2$$

:

Rule of Thumb

If the ODE involves y' and y'' we can try this

Ex: $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -\left(\frac{dy}{dx} - 3\right)^2$

$$v = \frac{dy}{dx} \Rightarrow \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \Rightarrow \frac{dv}{dx} = -(v-3)^2$$

This is a separable equation

$$-\frac{1}{(v-3)^2} dv = dx$$

$$\Rightarrow -\int (v-3)^2 dv = \int dx$$

$$\Rightarrow (v-3)^{-1} = x+C$$

$$\Rightarrow v-3 = \frac{1}{x+C} \Rightarrow v = 3 + (x+C)^{-1}$$

↑ This kind of looks like a const. solution

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dv}{dx} = -(v-3)^2$$

↑ $v=3$ is constant

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

$$\Rightarrow y(x) = 3x + \ln(x+C) + C_2$$

∴

Ex: $3 \frac{d^3 y}{dx^3} = \left(\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} \right)^{-2}$

$$\text{let } v = \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} \Rightarrow \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{d^3 y}{dx^3}$$

Sol: $3 \frac{dv}{dx} = v^{-2} \Rightarrow 3v^2 dv = dx$

$$\Rightarrow \int 3v^2 dv = \int dx$$

$$\Rightarrow v^3 = x+C_1$$

$$\Rightarrow v = (x+C_1)^{1/3}$$

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

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3}{4} (x+C_1)^{4/3} + C_2$$

$$\Rightarrow y(x) = \frac{9}{28} (x+C_1)^{7/3} + C_2 x + C_3$$

Ex: $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + 2x \frac{dy}{dx} = 5 \sin(x) y$

$$\begin{cases} v = \frac{dy}{dx} \\ \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dv}{dx} + 2xv = 5 \sin(x) y \\ \frac{dy}{dx} = v \end{cases}$$

13.2 Reduction of Order \Rightarrow Second Order Autonomous

If y shows up in your 2nd order ODE it is not as easy to use

$$v = \frac{dy}{dx}$$

Let's construct something

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{dy}{dx} \right] = \frac{d}{dx} [v] = \frac{dv}{dx} = \frac{dv}{dy} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dv}{dy} \cdot v$$

This reduces to order of $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2}$ from second order in y to a first order in v !

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + y = 0$$

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{dv}{dy} v + y = 0$$

$$\hookrightarrow v \frac{dv}{dy} = -y$$

$$\hookrightarrow v dv = -y dy$$

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{1}{2}v^2 = -\frac{1}{2}y^2 + C_0$$

$$\hookrightarrow v^2 = -y^2 + 2C_0$$

$$\hookrightarrow v = \pm \sqrt{2C_0 - y^2}$$

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \pm \sqrt{2C_0 - y^2}$$

$$\hookrightarrow \frac{1}{\pm(2C_0 - y^2)^{1/2}} dy = dx$$

$$\hookrightarrow \pm \int \frac{1}{(A^2 - y^2)^{1/2}} dy = \int dx = x + C_1$$

$$y = A \sin(\theta) \quad dy = A \cos(\theta) d\theta \quad \Rightarrow \sin(\theta) = y/A \Rightarrow \theta = \sin^{-1}(y/A)$$

$$\hookrightarrow \pm \int \frac{1}{\sqrt{A^2 - A^2 \sin^2(\theta)}} A \cos(\theta) d\theta = x + C_1$$

$$\hookrightarrow \pm \int d\theta = x + C_1$$

$$\hookrightarrow \pm \theta = x + C_1$$

$$\hookrightarrow \pm \sin^{-1}(y/A) = x + C_1$$

$$\hookrightarrow \sin^{-1}(y/A) = \pm x + B$$

$$\hookrightarrow y/A = \sin(\pm x + B)$$

$$\hookrightarrow y = A \sin(\pm x + B)$$

}