

# Initial value problems

**Definition:**

We call an  $n$ -th order DE  $F(x, y, y', \dots, y^{(n)}) = 0$  subject to the conditions

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

(where  $y_0, y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}$  are constants) an  $n$ -th order initial value problem (IVP) and the relations  $(\star)$  the **initial conditions**.

**Discussion, comments, and examples:**

Math45-Module-03-Video-01

**WeBWork module 03 exercises:**

- Problems 1,2

**Relevant Wikipedia articles:**

- [Definition of an initial value problem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Initial_value_problem#Definition)  
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