

# Math 3B: Lecture 18

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## Last time

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- Accumulated change and Riemann sums

# Differential equations (motivation)

An (ordinary) **differential equation** (or **ODE**) is an equation that involves derivatives of an unknown function.

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or

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The challenge is to find all the functions  $y = f(x)$  (or even just one) that satisfy a given equation.



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And so on.

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## Note

The right hand side of the equation does not have any  $y$ 's.

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And you'll be able to

- draw solutions for many other ODEs
- classify the behaviour of many ODEs (e.g. does the solution go to zero or infinity?)
- understand how sensitive ODEs are to their parameters.

# Modelling using differential equations

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- as some other variable changes (usually time)
- We can't do this directly, but we can write down an ODE that  $y$  satisfies instead.

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- Number of deaths is proportional to the total number of people. So

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The total change in population at time  $t$  is

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In real life we would determine  $b$  and  $d$  experimentally. Let  $r = b - d$ . the **instinsic growth rate**. So our model is

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = rN.$$

and we know  $N(0) = 100$ .

## Behaviour of solutions

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = rN.$$

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The population never grows or shrinks, it always stays the same (so  $N(t) = 100$  for all  $t$ ).

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The population is increasing indefinitely.

## Case 3: $r < 0$

The population is decreasing indefinitely.

# Solution to a simple ODE

## Theorem

For any constant  $a$ , if  $y$  is a solution to the ODE

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

then  $y$  is given by

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## Next time

We will see why, but for now we can verify it is actually a solution:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} Ce^{ax} = C \frac{d}{dx} e^{ax} = Cae^{ax} = ay.$$

## Back to example 1

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$$100 = Ce^{(b-d)0} \quad \text{so} \quad C = 100e^{(d-b)}.$$

## Logistic growth

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$$(d \propto N(t)).$$



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Where  $K = r/k$ .

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$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dN}{dt} &= bN - (d + kN)N \\ &= (b - d - kN)N = (r - kN)N \\ &= r \left(1 - \frac{kN}{r}\right) N = r \left(1 - \frac{N}{K}\right) N\end{aligned}$$

Where  $K = r/k$ .

# Logistic growth

The equation

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = r \left( 1 - \frac{N}{K} \right) N$$

is called the **Logistic equation** and  $K$  is the **carrying capacity**.

## Behaviour of logistic growth

Assume that  $r > 0$  and  $K > 0$ .

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = r \left( 1 - \frac{N}{K} \right) N$$

Case 1.  $N(0) = 0$

In this case the growth rate is 0 initially, so  $N(t)$  does not increase or decrease, so remains 0.

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Key takeaway

Both  $N(t) = 0$  and  $N(t) = K$  are solutions to the ODE. They are called **equilibrium solutions**.

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In this case,  $N$  is initially increasing and so becomes more positive, slowing down as it gets close to  $K$ .

Case 4.  $N(0) \geq K$

In this case  $N$  is initially decreasing but decreases slower and slower as it gets close to  $K$ .