

**AP Calculus I**  
**Notes 6.3**  
**Separation of Variables**

If you have an equation in which the derivative of a function is equal to some other function, we call this a **differential equation**. To solve a differential equation, we must use a variety of techniques to eliminate the differentials. The simplest of these techniques is called **separation of variables**.

**Ex. 1:** If  $x \frac{dy}{dx} = 3$  and  $y(1) = 5$ , find the equation for  $y$  in terms of  $x$ . Then, verify this is the solution to the differential equation.

**Ex. 2:** If  $\frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{3x^2}{y} = 0$  and  $y(0) = -2$ , find the equation for  $y$  in terms of  $x$ .

**Ex. 3:** Find the equation of the curve through  $(0,2)$  whose slope is always 4 more than its  $y$  –coordinate.

**Ex. 4:** If  $y' = \frac{\sqrt{2t+1}}{y^2}$  and given  $y(0) = 3$ , find an equation for  $y$  in terms of  $t$  and find  $y(4)$ .

**Ex. 5:** If  $\frac{dw}{dt} = \frac{w^2}{4+t^2}$  and  $w(2) = -1$ , find an equation for  $w$  in terms of  $t$ .

**Ex. 6:** Which of the following is the solution to the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{d\theta} = y \sec^2 \theta$  with the initial condition  $y\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = -1$ .

(A)  $y = -e^{\tan \theta}$

(B)  $y = -e^{-1+\tan \theta}$

(C)  $y = -e^{(\sec^2 \theta - 2\sqrt{2})/3}$

(D)  $y = -\sqrt{2 \tan \theta - 1}$

**Ex. 7:** Consider the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = y^2(2^x + 2)$ . Let  $y = f(x)$  be the particular solution to the differential equation with initial condition  $f(1) = -1$ .

a) Use the equation of the tangent line to the graph of  $f(x)$  at  $x = 1$  to approximate  $f(2)$ .

b) Find  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ . Use this to determine if  $f(x)$  is concave up or down at  $x = 1$ . Justify your answer.

c) Find  $y = f(x)$ , the particular solution to the differential equation with  $f(1) = -1$ . Then, find  $f(2)$ .

**AP Calculus I**  
**Notes 6.2**  
**Differential Equations: Growth and Decay**

**Growth and Decay Models**

One of the more common applications to differential equations is modeling growth, especially in the field of science. In many applications, the rate of change of a variable  $y$  is proportional to the value of  $y$ . If  $y$  is a function of time  $t$ , the proportionality can be written as:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ky$$

If  $y$  is a differentiable function of  $t$  such that  $y > 0$  and  $y' = ky$ , for some constant  $k$ , then  $y = Ce^{kt}$ .  $C$  is the **initial value** of  $y$ , and  $k$  is the **proportionality constant**.

**Proof:**

**Ex. 1:** The rate of change of  $y$  is proportional to  $y$ . When  $t = 0$ ,  $y = 2$  and when  $t = 2$ ,  $y = 4$ . What is the value of  $y$  when  $t = 3$ ?

**Ex. 2:** The rate of change of  $V$  is proportional to the quotient of the square of  $V$  and the square root of  $t$ . If  $t = 0$ ,  $V = 3$  and  $t = 1$ ,  $V = 2$ , what is the value of  $V$  when  $t = 3$ ?

**Ex. 3:** Suppose an experimental population of fruit flies increases according to the law of exponential growth. There were 100 flies at the beginning of the experiment and 300 flies after the fourth day. After how many days will there be 1000 of the little buggers present?

**Ex. 4:**

$t$	0	2
$f(t)$	4	12

Let  $y = f(t)$  be a solution to the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dt} = ky$ , where  $k$  is a constant. Values of  $f$  for selected values of  $t$  are given in the table above. Which of the following is an expression for  $f(t)$ ?

- (A)  $4e^{\frac{t}{2} \ln 3}$
- (B)  $e^{\frac{t}{2} \ln 9} + 3$
- (C)  $2t^2 + 4$
- (D)  $4t + 4$

**AP Calculus I**  
**Notes 6.4**  
**Logistic Growth Model**

The model  $y = Ce^{kt}$  is known as “uninhibited growth”. However, in the real world, environmental factors usually inhibit growth. Factors such as water, food, resources, disease and weather cause a population to reach some upper limit  $L$  past which growth cannot occur. This upper limit  $L$  is known as the **carrying capacity**, which is the idea of how many people/animals/bacteria that can be supported naturally.

The model that is used to describe this type of growth is the **logistic differential equation**:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ky \left(1 - \frac{y}{L}\right)$$

where  $k$  and  $L$  are both positive constants. The **general solution** of this logistic differential equation is:

$$y = \frac{L}{1 + be^{-kt}}$$

The graph of logistic growth models can be found below:



Increasing/Decreasing –

Concave up/Concave down –

**Ex. 1:** The population of donkeys in Mrsgoughwantedashoutoutinaproblemistan can be modeled by the equation  $y = \frac{730}{1+4e^{-1.5t}}$ . Find the initial population, the value of  $k$  and the carrying capacity. Then, write the equivalent differential equation representing this situation.

**Ex. 2:** The population of whales in Mrgoughismehistan can be modeled by  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 0.1y \left(1 - \frac{y}{200}\right)$ . Assuming  $y(0) = 40$ , find the number of whales at  $t = 5$ , find  $\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} y(t)$  and find  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t)$ . At what population is the rate of change the greatest? What is that greatest rate of change?



**Ex. 3:** Suppose that a population  $y(t)$  grows in accordance with the logistic model  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 6y - 0.24y^2$ .

- What is the carrying capacity of the population?
- What is the greatest rate of change of the population?
- Over what interval is the graph concave down?

**Ex. 4:** Identify which of the following differential equations are logistic. If so, find the carrying capacity.

a)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 4x - 0.6x^2$

b)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 4y - 0.6y^2$

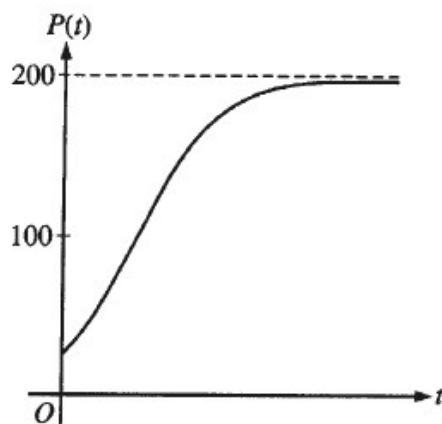
c)  $\frac{dC}{dt} = 0.5t \left( 3 - \frac{2t}{5} \right)$

d)  $\frac{dC}{dt} = 0.5C \left( 3 - \frac{2C}{5} \right)$

**Ex. 5:** AP Problems

The population  $P(t)$  of a species satisfies the logistic differential equation  $\frac{dP}{dt} = P\left(2 - \frac{P}{5000}\right)$ , where the initial population  $P(0) = 3,000$  and  $t$  is the time in years. What is  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} P(t)$ ?

- (A) 2,500      (B) 3,000      (C) 4,200      (D) 5,000      (E) 10,000



Which of the following differential equations for a population  $P$  could model the logistic growth shown in the figure above?

- (A)  $\frac{dP}{dt} = 0.2P - 0.001P^2$   
(B)  $\frac{dP}{dt} = 0.1P - 0.001P^2$   
(C)  $\frac{dP}{dt} = 0.2P^2 - 0.001P$   
(D)  $\frac{dP}{dt} = 0.1P^2 - 0.001P$   
(E)  $\frac{dP}{dt} = 0.1P^2 + 0.001P$



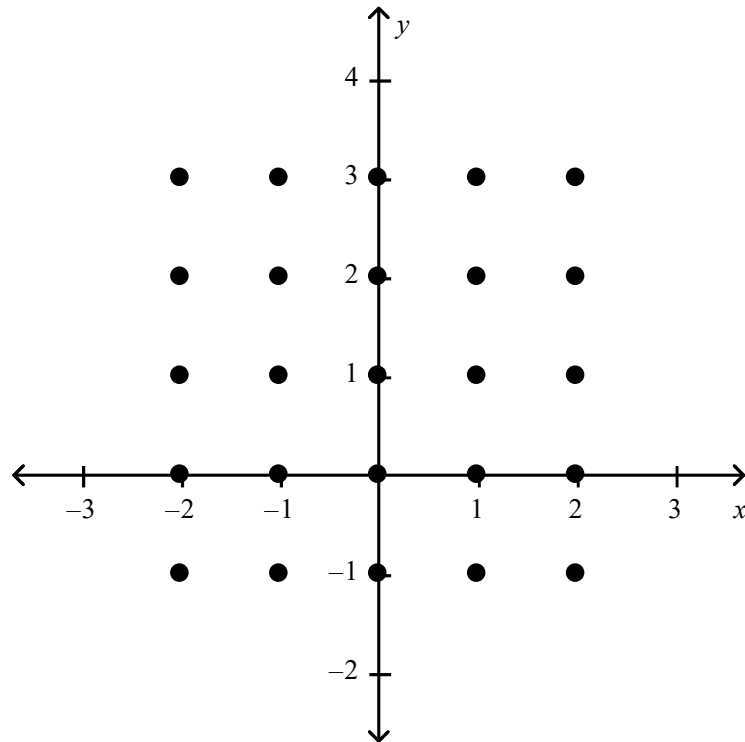
- 1) Write the logistic equation of best fit  $D(t)$ .
- 2) Write the equivalent differential equation modeling the above logistic equation.
- 3) What is  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} D(t)$ ?
- 4) At what population of infection is the infection rate the greatest? After how many days does this rate become the greatest? What is the maximum infection rate?
- 5) When is  $D(t)$  increasing at an increasing rate?

**AP Calculus I**  
**Notes 6.1**  
**Slope Fields and Euler's Method**

Remember that a **differential equation** involves one or two variable and a derivative. Solving a differential equation can be very difficult if separation of variables does not work. A way around this is to take a graphical approach to learn about the solution of the differential equation. This approach is to create a **slope field**, which uses the derivative to find the slope at several points to paint a picture of various solutions.

**Ex. 1:** Consider the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x(y - 1)$ .

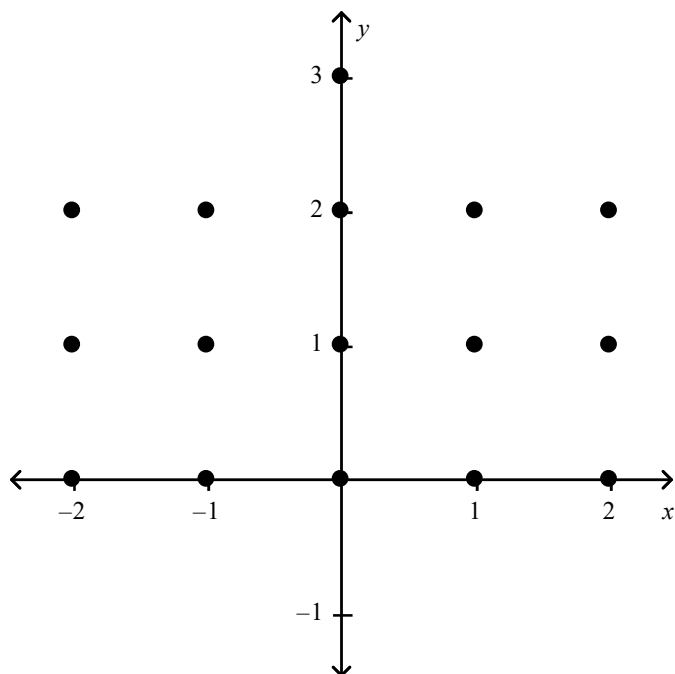
- a) Sketch the slope field in the graph below. How many solutions are shown?



- b) Sketch two different graphs given that the solution passes through  $(0,0)$  and  $(-1,2)$ .
- c) Can you find the solution  $y = f(x)$  to the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  that is sketched through  $(0,0)$ ?

**Ex. 2:** Consider the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x - 2y$ .

a) Construct a slope field for the sixteen ordered pairs shown below:

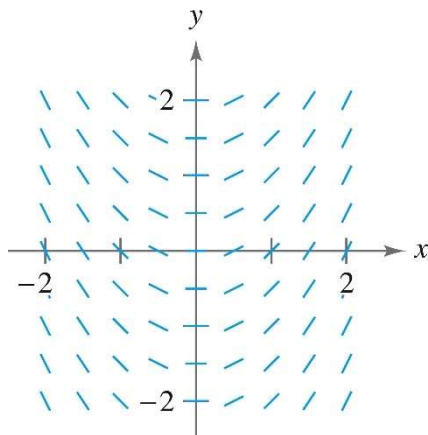


b) Sketch the graph of the solution that passes through the point (0,1).

c) Can you find the solution to this differential equation?

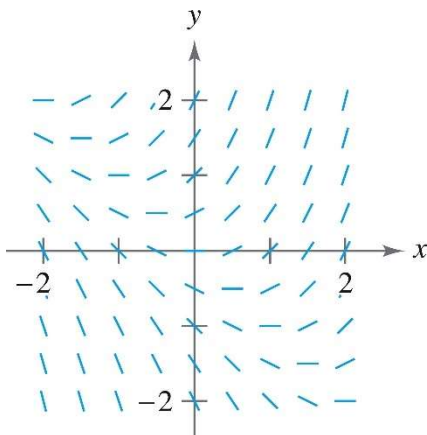
d) Show that  $y = 3e^{-2x} + \frac{1}{2}x - \frac{1}{4}$  is a solution to the differential equation  $y' + 2y - x = 0$ .

**Ex. 3:** Match the slope fields to the differential equations. Then, match the solutions to the slope fields.



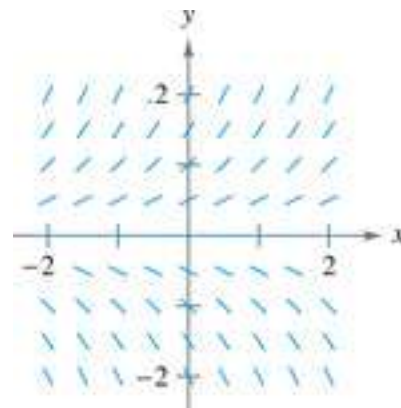
a)  $y' = x + y$

d)  $y = x^2$



b)  $y' = 2x$

e)  $y = e^x$

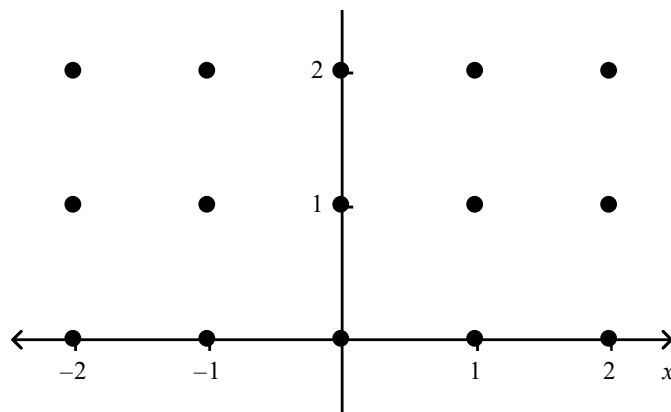


c)  $y' = y$

f)  $y = e^x - x - 1$

**Ex. 4:** Given the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = y + \cos \pi x$ ,

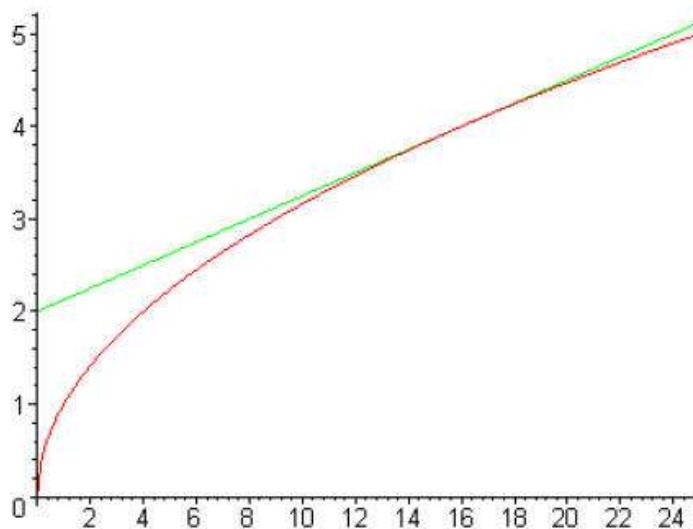
- a) Construct a slope field for the fifteen ordered pairs shown:



- b) Is the graph of  $y$  increasing/decreasing and concave up/down at  $(-1, 2)$ ? Justify your answer.

## Tangent Line Approximations and Euler's Method

We will now look at two different ways to approximate a solution given a difficult function or differential equation. The first is using a **tangent line approximation**, also known as a **local linear approximation**.

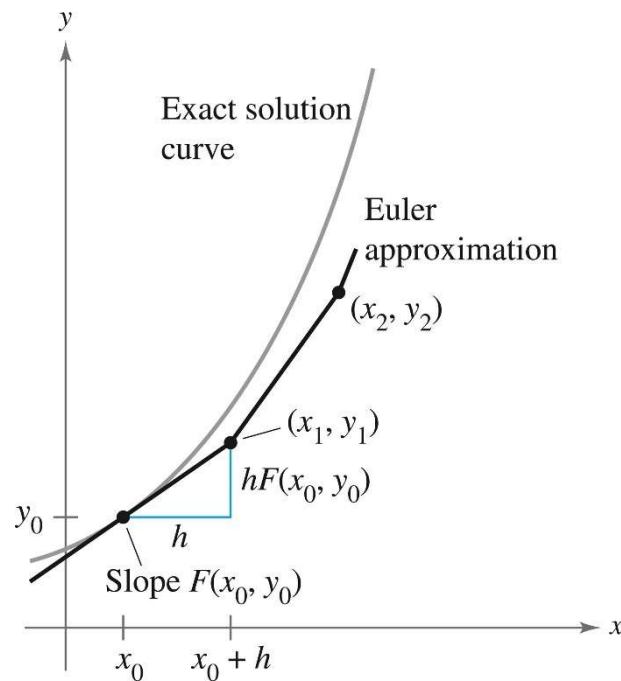


**Ex. 5:** Approximate the value of  $g(0.1)$  using the tangent line to  $g(x) = 3x + \sqrt{4 + 5 \cos x}$  at  $x = 0$ .

**Ex. 6:** Approximate the value of  $f(1.02)$  using the tangent line to  $f(x) = 5 - 3xe^{2x-2}$  at  $x = 1$ . Is this approximation an over or underestimate of  $f(1.02)$ ? Explain your reasoning.



Euler's Method is a numerical approach to approximating the particular solution to a differential equation that may be too difficult to separate given a "starting point" to the original function.



The starting point in this situation is  $(x_0, y_0)$  and from this starting point, you can proceed in the direction of the curve using the slope. Using a small step  $h$  or  $dx$ , move along the tangent line until you arrive at the point  $(x_1, y_1)$ . If you think of  $(x_1, y_1)$  as the new starting point, you can repeat this process to obtain a second point  $(x_2, y_2)$  and so on...

**Ex. 7:** Approximate the value of  $y(0.2)$  given  $y(0) = 2$  and  $\frac{dy}{dx} = y + x$  using 2 steps. Can you find the actual value of  $y(0.2)$ ? Is this an over or under approximation for  $y(0.2)$ ?

**Ex. 8:** Use Euler's method for  $y = f(t)$ , starting at  $f(0) = 9$  with 2 steps of equal size, to approximate  $f(1)$  given  $f'(t) = \frac{y}{3}(6 - y)$ . Then, solve the differential equation to find  $f(1)$ .

**Ex. 9:** Approximate the value of  $f(1.7)$  given  $f(2) = 5$  and  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2y + x$  using 3 steps of equal size.

### **Euler's Method Wksht**

- 1) Given the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x + 2$  and  $y(0) = 3$ . Find an approximation for  $y(1)$  by using Euler's method with two equal steps.
- 2) Solve the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x + 2$  with the initial condition  $y(0) = 3$ . Use this solution to find  $y(1)$ . Compare this answer to the answer in 1). How could you produce a closer answer?
- 3) Use the equation of the tangent line to  $y = \frac{4}{\sqrt{2x+1}}$  at  $x = 0$  to approximate  $y(0.2)$ .

4)

$x_0 = 0$	$f(x_0) = 2$
$x_1 = 2$	$f(x_1) \approx 6$
$x_2 = 4$	$f(x_2) \approx 10$

Consider the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{Ax^2 + 4}{y}$ , where  $A$  is a constant.

Let  $y = f(x)$  be the particular solution to the differential equation with the initial condition  $f(0) = 2$ . Euler's method, starting at  $x = 0$  with a step size of 2, is used to approximate  $f(4)$ . Steps from this approximation are shown in the table above. What is the value of  $A$ ?

- (A)  $\frac{1}{2}$
- (B) 2
- (C) 5
- (D)  $\frac{13}{2}$

- 5) The function  $g$  is defined as  $g(x) = e^{x^2-2x}$ . Use Euler's method, starting at  $x = 0$ , with two steps of equal size to approximate  $g(4)$ .
- 6) Use the equation of the tangent line to  $y = f(x)$  at  $x = 6$  to approximate  $f(5.9)$  given  $f(6) = -2$  and  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x - y$ . Then, use  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  to determine if this approximation is greater or less than  $f(5.9)$ .

7) **2020 FRQ Practice Problem BC4**

$t$	0	2	4	7	8	10	13	14	17
$f(t)$	8	14	$a$	44	53	71	94	99	110

**BC 4:** For  $t \geq 0$ , the function  $y = f(t)$  is the particular solution to the logistic differential equation

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f'(t) \text{ with carrying capacity } y = 120 \text{ and } f(0) = 8.$$

Selected values for  $f(t)$  are given in the table above where  $a$  is a constant.

- (a) The function  $f(t)$  is growing fastest when  $t = c$ . Approximate  $f'(c)$  using appropriate values from the table.

$t$	0	1	2	4	6	8	10	13
$f(t)$	7.5	21	27.5	32	45	57	70	100

**BC2:** The functions  $f$  and  $g$  are continuous for all  $t \geq 0$ . Selected values for the function  $f$  and  $g$  are shown above. For  $t \geq 0$  the function  $f$  is increasing.

**Part III:** The weight of a human male  $W(t)$ , in pounds, that is  $t$  years old satisfies the logistic

differential equation  $\frac{dW}{dt} = \frac{W}{5} \left(1 - \frac{W}{200}\right)$  where  $W(t) = f(t)$ .

(a) Approximate  $W'(9)$ . Using correct units, interpret the meaning of  $W'(9)$  in context of the problem.

(b) Find the time  $t$ , in years, when the human male growing the fastest. What is rate that he is growing, in pounds per year, at the time when he is growing the fastest?

(c) Find  $\frac{d^2W}{dt^2}$  in terms of  $W$ . Evaluate  $\frac{d^2W}{dt^2}$  when the male weighs 50 pounds.

(d) Use Euler's method, with two steps of equal size starting at  $t = 13$ , to approximate  $W(17)$ .

(e) The weight of the male, in pounds, can also be modeled by the function  $M$ , given by

$M(x) = \frac{1000}{75 - x}$ , where  $x$  is the height of the male, in inches, and  $x < 70$ . When the male weighs

100 pounds, his height is increasing at a rate of 0.85 inches per year. According to this model, what is the rate of change of the weight of the male, in pounds per year, at the time when he weighs 100 pounds?

## 2011 AP<sup>®</sup> CALCULUS BC FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

At the beginning of 2010, a landfill contained 1400 tons of solid waste. The increasing function  $W$  models the total amount of solid waste stored at the landfill. Planners estimate that  $W$  will satisfy the differential equation  $\frac{dW}{dt} = \frac{1}{25}(W - 300)$  for the next 20 years.  $W$  is measured in tons, and  $t$  is measured in years from the start of 2010.

- (a) Use the line tangent to the graph of  $W$  at  $t = 0$  to approximate the amount of solid waste that the landfill contains at the end of the first 3 months of 2010 (time  $t = \frac{1}{4}$ ).
- (b) Find  $\frac{d^2W}{dt^2}$  in terms of  $W$ . Use  $\frac{d^2W}{dt^2}$  to determine whether your answer in part (a) is an underestimate or an overestimate of the amount of solid waste that the landfill contains at time  $t = \frac{1}{4}$ .
- (c) Find the particular solution  $W = W(t)$  to the differential equation  $\frac{dW}{dt} = \frac{1}{25}(W - 300)$  with initial condition  $W(0) = 1400$ .

**Non-Calculator** At time  $t = 0$ , a marshmallow is taken out of a campfire in pursuit to create the perfect s'more. The internal temperature of the golden-roasted marshmallow is  $68^{\circ}\text{C}$  at time  $t = 0$ , and the internal temperature of the marshmallow is greater than  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$  at all times  $t > 0$ . The internal temperature of the marshmallow at time  $t$  minutes can be modeled by the function  $M$  that satisfies the differential equation  $\frac{dM}{dt} = -\frac{1}{3}(M - 20)$ , where  $M(t)$  is measured in degrees Celsius ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and  $M(0) = 68$ .

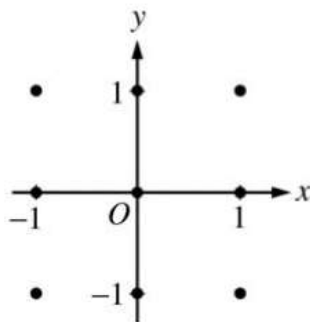
- a) Write an equation for the line tangent to the graph of  $M$  at  $t = 0$ . Use this equation to approximate the internal temperature of the marshmallow at time  $t = 2$ .
- b) Use  $\frac{d^2M}{dt^2}$  to determine whether your answer in part a) is an underestimate or an overestimate of the internal temperature of the marshmallow at time  $t = 2$ . Explain your reasoning.
- c) Find an expression for  $M(t)$ . Based on this model, what is the internal temperature of the marshmallow at time  $t = 2$ ?

**2006 AP<sup>®</sup> CALCULUS AB FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS (Form B)**

Consider the differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = (y - 1)^2 \cos(\pi x)$ .

- (a) On the axes provided, sketch a slope field for the given differential equation at the nine points indicated.

(Note: Use the axes provided in the exam booklet.)



- (b) There is a horizontal line with equation  $y = c$  that satisfies this differential equation. Find the value of  $c$ .
- (c) Find the particular solution  $y = f(x)$  to the differential equation with the initial condition  $f(1) = 0$ .