

# Week 2

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## 2.1 Separable ODEs

10/3: • Do not sit on the left side of the classroom: The sun sucks!

- **Separable** (ODE): An ODE of the form

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f(t)g(y)$$

where  $y$  is a real<sup>[1]</sup>, unknown, scalar function of  $t$ .

- Solving separable ODEs: Formally, evaluate

$$\int \frac{dy}{g(y)} = \int f(t) dt$$

- Rearrange the initial separable ODE to  $dy/dt \cdot 1/g = f$  and invoke the law of composite differentiation to get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[ \int_{y_0}^{y(t)} \frac{dw}{g(w)} - \int_{t_0}^t f(\tau) d\tau \right] = 0$$

- It follows that

$$\int_{y_0}^{y(t)} \frac{dw}{g(w)} = \int_{t_0}^t f(\tau) d\tau$$

- Examples:

1. Exponential growth.

- We have that

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

for  $k > 0$  and  $y(0) = y_0 > 0$ .

- The solution is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dt} &= k \\ \log y(t) - \log y_0 &= kt \\ y(t) &= y_0 e^{kt} \end{aligned}$$

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<sup>1</sup>We'll deal with complex functions later.

## 2. Logistic growth.

- We have that

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

for  $k, M > 0$  and  $y(0) = y_0 > 0$ .

- The solution is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{M dy}{y(M-y)} &= k dt \\ \log \frac{y}{M-y} - \log \frac{y_0}{M-y_0} &= kt \\ \frac{y(M-y_0)}{y_0(M-y)} &= e^{kt} \\ y \cdot \frac{M-y_0}{y_0} &= (M-y)e^{kt} \\ y \cdot \frac{M-y_0}{y_0} + ye^{kt} &= Me^{kt} \\ y \left( \frac{M-y_0}{y_0} + e^{kt} \right) &= Me^{kt} \\ y \left( \frac{M-y_0+y_0e^{kt}}{y_0} \right) &= Me^{kt} \\ y \left( \frac{M+y_0(e^{kt}-1)}{y_0} \right) &= Me^{kt} \\ y(t) &= \frac{My_0e^{kt}}{M+y_0(e^{kt}-1)} \end{aligned}$$

- Sketches the graph of logistic growth and discusses the turning point (for which there is a formula; zero of the second derivative) as well as general trends.
- If  $y_0 < 0$ , the solution is not physically meaningful, but it is mathematically insightful.
  - When we integrate, the arguments of our logarithms now have absolute values.

$$\log \left| \frac{y}{M-y} \right| - \log \left| \frac{y_0}{M-y_0} \right| = kt$$

- We need to make sure that the denominator of the final logistic form is never equal to zero, but now that  $y_0$  is negative, as  $t$  increases, the denominator will approach zero exponentially. It reaches zero when

$$\begin{aligned} M + y_0(e^{kt} - 1) &= 0 \\ e^{kt} &= -\frac{M}{y_0} + 1 \end{aligned}$$

In other words,  $t_{\max} = (1/k) \log(1 - M/y_0)$  because when  $t = t_{\max}$ , the equation blows up.

- This is an example of **finite lifespan**.

- If  $y_0 > M$ , then you will exponentially decrease to  $M$ .

## 3. Lotka-Volterra predator-prey model.

- We have that

$$r' = k_1 r - a w r \qquad w' = -k_2 w + b w r$$

where  $r$  is rabbits and  $w$  is wolves.

- We can rename the variables to

$$\begin{cases} x' = Ax - Bxy \\ y' = -Cy + Dxy \end{cases}$$

- Dividing, we get

$$\frac{x'}{y'} = \frac{Ax - Bxy}{-Cy + Dxy}$$

$$\frac{By - A}{y}y' + \frac{Dx - C}{x}x' = 0$$

- Use the fact that  $x, y$  are independent variables, so both terms in the above equation are equal to zero?
- Invoke the law of composite differentiation twice and, from the above, know that  $0 + 0 = 0$ , so we can add the two solutions:

$$\frac{d}{dt}(By(t) - A \log y(t)) + \frac{d}{dt}(Dx(t) - C \log x(t)) = 0$$

$$By(t) - A \log y(t) + Dx(t) - C \log x(t) = E$$

- Sketches some of the trajectories (they're all closed curves in the  $xy$ -plane).

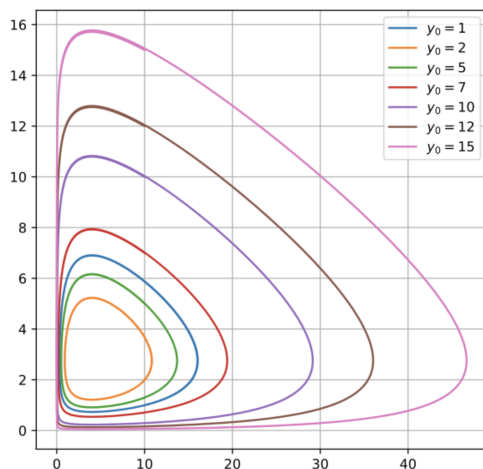


Figure 2.1: Lotka-Volterra solution curves.

- Properties of the curves:

■ The implicit relation which determines them: By the implicit function theorem, the  $y$  derivative of the LHS is  $B - A/y$  and the  $x$ -derivative of the LHS is  $D - C/x$ . When the partial derivatives are equal to zero,  $(C/D, A/B)$  becomes interesting. Turning points happen when the  $y$ -coordinate is  $A/B$  or the  $x$ -coordinate is  $C/D$ .

- **Finite lifespan:** Even if the RHS of  $dy/dt = f(t, y)$  is very regular, the solution can still blow up at some finite time.
- Consider the following variation on the E-L equation from the Brachistochrone problem.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \sqrt{\frac{B-y}{y}}$$

- Finding the **primitives**.

■ What are these “primitives” Shao keeps talking about?

– We should have

$$\int \sqrt{\frac{y}{B-y}} dy = x$$

– Change of variables:  $y = B \sin^2 \phi$  and  $dy = 2B \cos \phi \sin \phi d\phi$ . Thus,

$$\int \sqrt{\frac{y}{B-y}} dy = \int \frac{\sin \phi}{\cos \phi} \cdot 2B \cos \phi \sin \phi d\phi = 2B \int \sin^2 \phi d\phi$$

– The solution is

$$\begin{cases} x = B\phi - \frac{B}{2} \sin(2\phi) + C \\ y = B \sin^2 \phi \end{cases}$$

■ This is a parameterization of a cycloid.

- Later in the week, we will do the SHM, the pendulum, the Kepler 2-body problem, and the Michaelis-Menten equation.
- Separable ODEs are a subset of ODEs of **exact form**.
- ODEs of exact form are of the form

$$g(x, y) \frac{dy}{dx} + f(x, y) = 0$$

where for some  $F(x, y)$ ,  $g = \partial F / \partial y$ ,  $f = \partial F / \partial x$ , and partials commute. Equivalently,

$$\frac{\partial g}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$$

is our necessary and sufficient condition.

- By the law of composite differentiation,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} [F(x, y(x))] &= \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \cdot y'(x) \\ &= f(x, y(x)) + g(x, y(x))y'(x) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

– We solve these with an integrating factor  $\mu \neq 0$  such that  $(\mu g, \mu f)$  satisfy the constraint.