

Sample Assessment Exercises

This document contains one exercise and solution for each standard. The goal is to give you an idea of what the exercises might look like, and what the expectations for a complete solution are.

C1. Find the general solution to

$$y' + y = -t^2.$$

Solution: First, we find a general solution to the homogeneous equation (removing all non- y terms)

$$y'_h + y_h = 0.$$

Since this is a first-order constant coefficient ODE, we know the answer is a modification of ke^t . We find that $y_h = ke^{-t}$ is valid, since

$$y'_h + y_h = \frac{d}{dt}[ke^{-t}] + ke^{-t} = -ke^{-t} + ke^{-t} = 0.$$

The simplest particular solution for this homogeneous ODE is $y_0 = e^{-t}$, so we use variation of parameters by assuming there is a non-homogeneous particular solution $y_p = vy_0 = ve^{-t}$ for some function v (which we now need to find).

Using the product rule we find $y'_p = v'e^{-t} - ve^{-t}$, so we may substitute into the original ODE to find

$$y'_p + y_p = (v'e^{-t} - ve^{-t}) + ve^{-t} = v'e^{-t} = -t^2.$$

Thus $v' = -t^2e^t$, so (after integrating by parts twice) we conclude $v = \int -t^2e^t dt = -t^2e^t + 2te^t - 2e^t$. Thus $y_p = ve^{-t} = (-t^2 + 2t - 2)e^te^{-t} = -t^2 + 2t - 2$, so the general solution is

$$y = y_h + y_p = ke^{-t} - t^2 + 2t - 2.$$

□

C2. Consider the following scenario: A water droplet with a radius of $10 \mu\text{m}$ has a mass of about $4 \times 10^{-15}\text{kg}$ and a terminal velocity of $3 \frac{\text{cm}}{\text{s}}$. The droplet is dropped from rest; assume that acceleration due to gravity is given by $9.8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2}$.

(a) Write down an IVP modelling the velocity.

(b) What is its velocity after 0.01 s?

Solution:

(a) The ODE modeling the velocity of a tiny mass under gravity and air resistance is $mv' = -mg - bv$ where m is the mass and g is the acceleration due to gravity, both given. The coefficient of air resistance b is not given. Since the object is dropped from rest, we know $v = 0$ when $t = 0$. So the initial value problem is given by

$$mv' = -mg - bv \quad v(0) = 0$$

To find b , we note that the given terminal velocity v_t occurs when there is no acceleration: $v' = 0$. So we may solve

$$0 = -mg - bv_t$$

to get $b = -\frac{mg}{v_t}$. Thus the simplified IVP is given by

$$v' - av = -g \quad v(0) = 0$$

where $a = \frac{g}{v_t} = \frac{9.8}{-0.03} \text{s}^{-1} \approx -326.7 \text{s}^{-1}$.

(b) To solve for v , we first solve the homogeneous system

$$v'_h - av_h = 0$$

which has the general solution $v_h = ke^{at}$, and a simple particular solution $v_0 = e^{at}$. So we use variation of parameters to assert that $v_p = wv_0 = we^{at}$ is a particular solution for the original equation. If so, then $v'_p = w'e^{at} + awe^{at}$ and thus

$$v'_p - av_p = w'e^{at} + awe^{at} - awe^{at} = w'e^{at} = -g$$

and therefore $w' = -ge^{-at}$. By integration, $w = \frac{g}{a}e^{-at}$ and thus $v_p = \frac{g}{a}$.

Therefore the general solution is given by $v = v_h + v_p = ke^{at} + \frac{g}{a}$. Using the initial condition $v(0) = 0$, we have $0 = ke^0 + \frac{g}{a}$ and thus $k = -\frac{g}{a}$. So we have that $v = -\frac{g}{a}e^{at} + \frac{g}{a}$ or $v = \frac{g}{a}(1 - e^{at})$. Thus our final answer is given by plugging in

$$g = 9.8, \quad a = \frac{g}{v_t} = \frac{9.8}{-0.03} \approx -326.7, \quad t = 0.01$$

which yields the result $v \approx -0.029$. So after 1/100 of a second, the droplet is falling at a rate of about 29 millimeters per second.

□

C3. Find the general solution to

$$y'' + 6y' + 13y = 0.$$

Solution: Rewriting in terms of differential operators, we have $(D^2 + 6D + 13I)(y) = 0$, so we need to find the roots of the equation $r^2 + 6r + 13 = 0$, which are $r = -3 \pm 2i$. Thus the general solution using complex numbers is

$$y = k_1e^{-3t+2it} + k_2e^{-3t-2it}.$$

By applying Euler's formula $e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$, we may obtain the real-valued general solution

$$y = c_1e^{-3t} \cos(2t) + c_2e^{-3t} \sin(2t).$$

□

C4. Find the solution to

$$y'' + 10y' + 24y = 0$$

when $y(0) = -3$ and $y'(0) = 2$.

Solution: Rewriting in terms of differential operators, we have $(D^2 + 10D + 24I)(y) = 0$, so we need to find the roots of the equation $r^2 + 10r + 24 = 0$, namely roots $r = -6$ and $r = -4$. Thus, the general solution is of the form $y = c_1e^{-4t} + c_2e^{-6t}$.

$$\begin{aligned} -3 &= y(0) = c_1 + c_2 \\ 2 &= y'(0) = -4c_1 - 6c_2 \end{aligned}$$

Solving this system yields $c_1 = -8$ and $c_2 = 5$, so the solution to the IVP is

$$y = -8e^{-4t} + 5e^{-6t}$$

□

C5. Find the general solution to

$$y'' + 10y' + 24y = e^{-4t}$$

Solution: First, we find a general solution to the homogenous equation $y'' + 10y' + 24y = 0$. We begin by writing the auxilliary equation $r^2 + 10r + 24 = 0$, which has roots $r = -6$ and $r = -4$. Thus, the general solution is of the form $y = c_1e^{-4t} + c_2e^{-6t}$.

We use variation of parameters to find a particular solution, $y_p = v_1e^{-4t} + v_2e^{-6t}$ for some functions v_1, v_2 . We assume for convenience $v_1'e^{-4t} + v_2'e^{-6t} = 0$, so that $y_p' = -4v_1e^{-4t} - 6v_2e^{-6t}$, and $y_p'' = -4v_1'e^{-4t} + 16v_1e^{-4t} - 6v_2'e^{-6t} + 36v_2e^{-6t}$. Substituting into the original ODE and simplifying yields

$$e^{-4t} = y_p'' + 10y_p' + 14y_p = -4v_1'e^{-4t} - 6v_2'e^{-6t}.$$

Combining with our earlier assumption we have the system

$$\begin{aligned} v_1'e^{-4t} + v_2'e^{-6t} &= 0 \\ -4v_1'e^{-4t} - 6v_2'e^{-6t} &= e^{-4t} \end{aligned}$$

Multiply both equations by e^{4t} for convenience:

$$\begin{aligned} v_1' + v_2'e^{-2t} &= 0 \\ -4v_1' - 6v_2'e^{-2t} &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Then six times the first equation plus the second yields $2v_1' = 1$, so $v_1 = \int \frac{1}{2} dt = \frac{1}{2}t$. Substituting back into the first yields $v_2' = -\frac{1}{2}e^{2t}$, so $v_2 = \int -\frac{1}{2}e^{2t} dt = -\frac{1}{4}e^{2t}$, and thus

$$y_p = \frac{1}{2}te^{-4t} - \frac{1}{4}e^{-4t},$$

and thus the general solution is

$$y = \frac{1}{2}te^{-4t} + c_1e^{-4t} + c_2e^{-6t}.$$

□

C6. Consider the following scenario: A 2kg mass is suspended by a spring (with spring constant 8kg/s²). The mass is pulled down 1m from its equilibrium position and released from rest.

- Write down an IVP modelling the position of the mass.
- How long does it take for the mass to return to its equilibrium point?

Solution: Let y denote the vertical distance from equilibrium; then the forces acting are gravity and the spring force, giving the ODE

$$my'' = -ky.$$

Substituting in the values of the constants $m = 2$ and $k = 8$, we have

$$2y'' + 8y = 0.$$

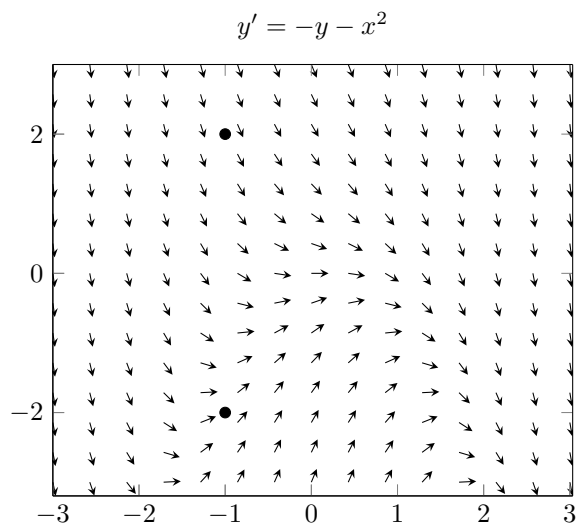
Note that the initial conditions are $y(0) = -1$ and $y'(0) = 0$, so an IVP model is

$$2y'' + 8y = 0 \qquad y(0) = -1, \quad y'(0) = 0.$$

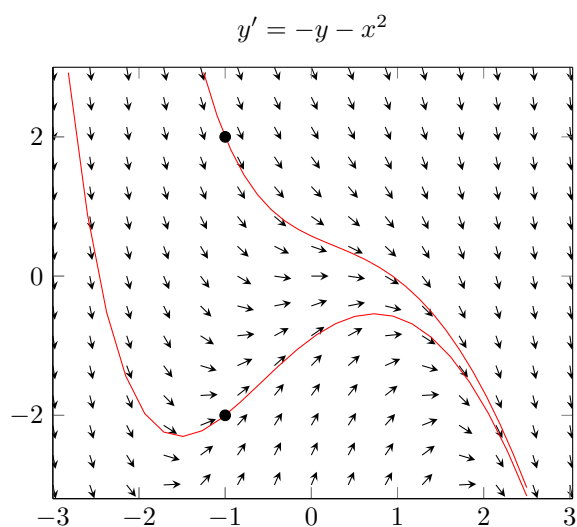
Simplifying, we have $y'' + 4y = 0$, so the general solution is $y = c_1 \cos(2t) + c_2 \sin(2t)$. The initial conditions are $y(0) = -1$ and $y'(0) = 0$, which imply $c_1 = -1$ and $c_2 = 0$, so the system is modelled by $y = -\cos(2t)$. This is first zero when $2t = \frac{\pi}{2}$, i.e. when $t = \frac{\pi}{4}$. Thus the mass takes $\frac{\pi}{4}$ s to return to its equilibrium point.

□

F1. Sketch a solution curve through each point marked in the slope field.



Solution:



□

F2. Solve $y' + xy = x$.

Solution: Rearranging, we have $y' = x - xy = x(1 - y)$, so we see the equation is separable, and write

$$\frac{y'}{1-y} = x.$$

Thus we compute $\int \frac{y'}{1-y} dx = \int \frac{1}{1-y} dy = -\ln|1-y| + c_1$, and $\int x dx = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + c_2$. Thus, we have (letting $c_3 = c_2 - c_1$)

$$-\ln|1-y| = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + c_3.$$

Then exponentiating, we have (letting $c_4 = \pm e^{-c_3}$) $1-y = c_4 e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2}$, so (with $c = -c_4$) the general solution is

$$y = 1 + ce^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2}.$$

□

F3. A ball has a mass of 0.1kg and a drag coefficient of 0.001kg/m. It is thrown with a velocity of 20m/s.

- Write down an IVP modelling the horizontal velocity of the ball (ignore any vertical movement in the ball).
- How long does it take the ball to travel 20m?

Solution: The only force acting on the ball is air resistance (drag), so we have

$$mv' = -bv^2.$$

Substituting in our constants (and dividing through by m), we have

$$v' = -0.1v^2.$$

The initial condition is that it is travelling 20m/s, i.e. $v(0) = 20$, giving the IVP

$$v' = -0.1v^2 \quad v(0) = 20.$$

Solving this separable ODE, we obtain $v = \frac{20}{1+2t}$. To model the position of the ball, we integrate again, obtaining $x = \int \frac{20}{1+2t} dt = 10 \ln|1+2t| + C$; using $x(0) = 0$, we see $C = 0$. Then we simply need to solve $x(t) = 20$, i.e. $20 = 10 \ln|1+2t|$, so $t = \frac{1}{2}(e^2 - 1) \approx 3.19$ s.

□

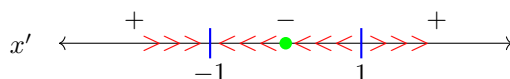
F4. Consider the autonomous equation

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = x^2 - 1.$$

- Find and classify the critical points.
- Describe the long term behavior of the solution passing through the point $x(4) = 0$.

Solution:

Note that $x^2 - 1 = (x-1)(x+1)$, so there are equilibria solutions at $x = 1$ and $x = -1$. We can thus compute a number line for x' :



We see that -1 is a sink (stable), while 1 is a source (unstable). A trajectory passing through $x(4) = 0$ will approach $x = -1$ in the limit.

□

F5. Solve $y' + xy = x^3$.

Solution: First, we solve the homogeneous equation $y' + xy = 0$, which is separable: $\frac{y'}{y} = -x$, so $\ln|y| = -\frac{1}{2}x^2 + c$, or $y = c_1 e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2}$. We then use variation of parameters to find a particular solution, writing $y_p = v e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2}$; substituting in and simplifying yields

$$x^3 = y'_p + xy_p = v' e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} - v x e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} + x v e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} = v' e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2}.$$

Thus, $v' = x^3 e^{\frac{1}{2}x^2}$. This can be integrated by parts to obtain $v = x^2 e^{\frac{1}{2}x^2} - 2e^{\frac{1}{2}x^2}$, so $y_p = v e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} = x^2 - 2$. Thus the general solution is

$$y = c_1 e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} + x^2 - 2.$$

□

F6. One of the two ODEs below is exact. Identify which one, and solve it.

$$\begin{aligned}(x + 3y)y' + y &= 3x \\ (x + 3y)y' - y &= -3x\end{aligned}$$

Solution: Rewrite the first equation as $y' = \frac{3x-y}{x+3y}$; if there is a function with $\nabla F = \langle -(3x - y), x + 3y \rangle$, then

$$\frac{d}{dt}F(x, y) = \frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \frac{\partial x}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} = -(3x - y)(x + 3y) + (x + 3y)(3x - y) = 0,$$

so $F(x, y) = c$ is a solution of the autonomous system.

Note that $\langle -(3x - y), x + 3y \rangle$ is conservative, as $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}(x + 3y) = 1 = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}(-3x + y)$; so a potential function F is found by integrating: $F = \int x + 3y \, dy = xy + \frac{3}{2}y^2 + f(x)$, and differentiating with respect to x , we have $-3x + y = y + f'(x)$, so $f'(x) = -3x$, in which case $f(x) = \int -3x \, dx = -\frac{3}{2}x^2$, so a potential function is $F(x, y) = xy + \frac{3}{2}y^2 - \frac{3}{2}x^2$. So the general solution to the ODE is

$$xy + \frac{3}{2}y^2 - \frac{3}{2}x^2 = c.$$

□

S1. Find the general solution of the system

$$\begin{aligned}x' &= 2x + y, \\ y' &= x + 2y\end{aligned}$$

Solution:

We begin by moving all x and y terms to one side, and rewriting in terms of differential operators

$$\begin{aligned}(D - 2I)x - Iy &= 0, \\ (-I)x + (D - 2I)y &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Applying $D - 2I$ to the top equation and adding, we obtain $(D - 2I)^2 x - Ix = 0$, or $(D^2 - 4D + 3I)x = 0$, which factors as $(D - 3I)(D - I)x = 0$. Thus the general solution for x is $x = c_1 e^{3t} + c_2 e^t$. But rearranging the first equation, we have $y = x' - 2x$, so $y = (c_1 e^{3t} + c_2 e^t)' - 2(c_1 e^{3t} + c_2 e^t) = c_1 e^{3t} - c_2 e^t$. Thus the general solution is

$$\begin{aligned} x &= c_1 e^{3t} + c_2 e^t \\ y &= c_1 e^{3t} - c_2 e^t \end{aligned}$$

□

S2. Two populations of competing species of fish, bluegills and greenfish, are modelled by the system

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dG}{dt} &= 0.1G - 0.005G^2 - 0.004BG \\ \frac{dB}{dt} &= 0.2B - 0.01B^2 - 0.004BG. \end{aligned}$$

- (a) Identify all equilibrium points for the system.
- (b) If a lake is stocked with 25 bluegills and 35 greenfish, what will happen to the two populations in the long term?

Solution:

The greenfish isocline is given by

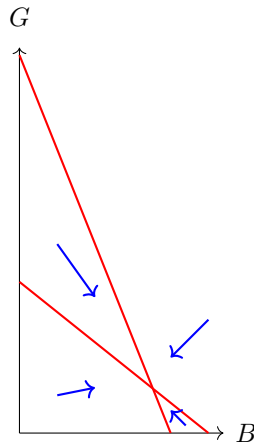
$$0 = 0.1G - 0.005G^2 - 0.004BG = 0.001G(100 - 5G - 4B)$$

, while the bluegill isocline is given by

$$0 = 0.2B - 0.01B^2 - 0.004BG = 0.001B(200 - 10B - 4G).$$

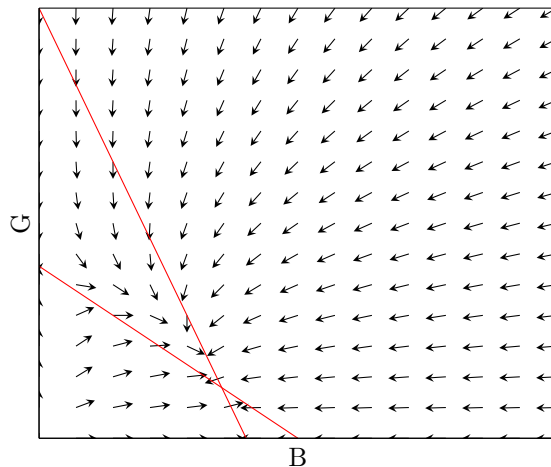
If $G = 0$, then the bluegill isocline implies $B = 0$ or $200 - 10B = 0$, i.e. $B = 20$, giving two equilibrium points ($B = 0, G = 0$ and $B = 20, G = 0$). On the other hand, if $100 - 5G - 4B = 0$ and $B = 0$, then we obtain an equilibrium point at $B = 0, G = 20$; but if $100 - 5G - 4B = 0$ and $200 - 10B - 4G = 0$, solving this system yields $B = 2.94, G = 17.65$ as an equilibrium point.

Now that we have identified the four equilibrium points, to answer part (b), we plot the isoclines, and the general direction of the slopes in each of the four regions



Analyzing the slopes in each of the four regions on the graph shows that the central equilibrium point is a sink. Thus, in the long term the populations will approach the central equilibrium of 2.94 bluegills and 17.65 greenfish.

Here is a slope field to make the intuition of the above rough sketch more clear:


☐

S3.

Solution:

☐

N1.

Solution:

☐

N2.

Solution:

☐

N3.

Solution:

☐

N4.

Solution:



N5.

Solution:



D1.

Solution:



D2.

Solution:



D3.

Solution:



D4.

Solution:

