

# Chapter 1

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Introduction to Differential Equations

Equations contain: “=” and “*solution*”

There are two types of variables: *dependent* and *independent*

Differential: contains derivative (or partial derivative)

Derivative refers to:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{ODE (ordinary differential equation): } & \frac{d}{dx} \\ \text{PDE (partial differential equation): } & \frac{\partial}{\partial x}\end{aligned}$$

The solution to a differential equation is a **function**

And can be expressed in four ways:

1. Verbally
2. Table
3. Graph
4. Expression (implicitly or explicitly)

Regular equation:

$$x^3 + 3\sin(x) = 2 - 2\cos(x)$$

Claim  $x = 0$  is a solution. Verify by substitution.

When  $x = 0$

$$(0)^3 + 3\sin(0) = 2 - 2\cos(0)$$

$$0 + 3 \times 0 = 2 - 2 \times 1$$

$$0 = 0$$

Although it may be true for  $x = 0$ , it is not a true method of verification. See for  $x = \pi$ :

$$\pi^3 + 3\sin(\pi) = 2 - 2\cos(\pi)$$

$$\pi^3 + 0 = 2 - 2 \times (-1)$$

$$\pi^3 \neq 4$$

So how do we verify the equation?

Given  $y'' - 2y' + 5y = 0$  (with respect to  $x$ )

Claim  $y = 4e^x \cos(2x)$  is a solution

$$\begin{aligned}y' &= 4e^x \cos(2x) + 4e^x (-\sin(2x)) \\&= 4e^x (\cos(2x) - \sin(2x)) \\y'' &= 4e^x (\cos(2x) - \sin(2x)) + 4e^x (-2\sin(2x) - 4\cos(2x)) \\&= 4e^x (-3\cos(2x) - 4\sin(2x)) \\-2y' &= 4e^x (-2\cos(2x) + 4\sin(2x)) \\5y &= 4e^x (5\cos(2x))\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{LHS} = y'' - 2y' + 5y = 4e^x (0 + 0) = 0 = \text{RHS}$$

$\therefore y = 4e^x \cos(2x)$  is a solution

## 1.2 Classification of Differential Equations

1. ODE v.s. PDE

- ODE: ordinary differential equation  
 $F(x, y, y', y'', \dots, y^{(n)}) = 0$
- PDE: partial differential equation  
 $F(x_1, x_2, \dots, u, u_{x_1}, u_{x_2}, \dots, u_{x_k}, \dots) = 0$

## 1.3 Order of Differential Equations

The order of differential equations is defined by the highest derivative.

Example:

$$y'' - 2y' + 5y = 0 \rightarrow \text{2nd order}$$

Second order ODE is generally written as:

$$F(x, y, y', y'') = 0$$

- independent variable:  $x$
- dependent variable:  $y$

To write the second order PDE, the independent variable must be located first

- independent variable:  $x, t$
- dependent variable:  $u$

$$F(x, t, u, u_x, u_t, u_{xt}, u_{xx}, u_{tx}, u_{tt}) = 0$$

## 1.4 Linear & Non-Linear ODE Classification

Linear equations can be solved explicitly. Non-linear equations may only sometimes be solvable. Generally analyzed or attempting to find the equation's stable point.

### 1. Linear Form

$$a_n(x)y^n + a_{n-1}(x)y^{n-1} + \cdots + a_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = f(x)$$