

# Lecture Module - Ordinary Differential Equations

ME3001 - Mechanical Engineering Analysis

Mechanical Engineering

Tennessee Technological University

## Module 4 - Ordinary Differential Equations

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- Topic 3 - Classification

## Topic 1 - What is a Differential Equation?

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# What is a Differential Equation?

*Definition:*

A **differential equation** is an equation which describes a function and one or more of its \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ with respect to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Ordinary Differential Equations are written in the following form.

$$a_n \frac{dy^{(n)}}{d^{(n)}x} + a_{n-1} \frac{dy^{(n-1)}}{d^{(n-1)}x} + \dots + a_2 \frac{dy^2}{d^2x} + a_1 \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0 y = f(x)$$

The apostrophe is commonly used for the derivative.

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

If time is the independent variable the equation changes slightly.

## Is the differential equation ordinary or partial?

An **ordinary** differential equation has \_\_\_\_\_ independent variable and \_\_\_\_\_ dependent variable.

A **partial** differential equation has \_\_\_\_\_ independent variable \_\_\_\_\_ dependent variable.

## What is the order of the equation?

The **order** of a differential equation is the

\_\_\_\_\_

present in the equation.

## What is the degree of the equation?

The **degree** of a differential equation is the \_\_\_\_\_  
of its highest derivative, after the equation has been made rational  
and integral in all of its derivatives.



## Is the differential equation linear or non-linear?

An ordinary differential equation is \_\_\_\_\_ if the following statements are true.

- 1 *The dependent variable and its derivatives are of the first degree.*
- 2 *The coefficients are constants or dependent on the independent variable.*

If either rule is broken, the equation is \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_.

Differential equations are used to describe physical systems in many areas of engineering. An equation that represents a physical (or theoretical) system is known as a \_\_\_\_\_.

- Solid Mechanics
- Kinematics and Dynamics
- Heat Transfer and Thermodynamics
- Fluid Mechanics

Newton's Second Law

$$\Sigma F = ma$$

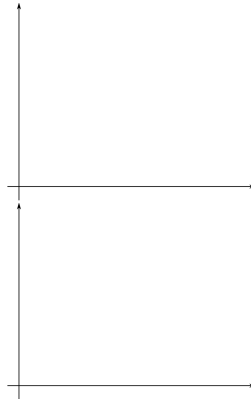
leads to an *equation of motion*.

$$\dot{y} + \frac{c}{m}y = f(t)$$



The **solution** to a differential equation describes the

\_\_\_\_\_ as a  
function  
of the \_\_\_\_\_.



There are many different  
methods for finding the solution

## Topic 2 - Standard Form of an ODE

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What is a Differential Equation?  
**Standard Form of an ODE**  
Classification  
Examples

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## Topic 3 - Classification

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## Topic 3 - Examples

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What is a Differential Equation?  
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**Examples**

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