

Week 4

Some other techniques for solving 1st order equation: Substitution.

I. Linear Substitutions:

If the given D.E is of the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(Ax + By + C)$$

where A, B, and C are known constants,
then a (possible) substitution comes from

letting $u = Ax + By + C$.

Examples: 1. Solve: $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{2x - 4y + 7}$.

Soln. Set $u = 2x - 4y + 7$

$$\text{Then } y = \frac{1}{4}(2x + 7 - u)$$

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{du}{dx}.$$

Therefore, $\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{du}{dx} = \frac{1}{u}$, which rearranges

to $\frac{du}{dx} = \frac{2u-4}{u}$, which is separable.

Solving, we get $u + 2\log|u-2| = 2x + C$.

Substituting $u = 2x - 4y + 7$:

$$2x - 4y + 7 + 2\log|2x - 4y + 5| = 2x + C$$

$\Rightarrow \log(2x - 4y + 5)^2 = 4y + C$, an implicit solution.

Note: In general:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(Ax + By + C)$$

and the substitution $u = Ax + By + C$

leads to $\frac{du}{dx} = A + B \frac{dy}{dx}$

$\therefore \frac{du}{dx} = A + B f(u)$, which is

always separable. But $\int \frac{du}{A+Bf(u)}$ can get complicated to evaluate.

Another kind of substitution:

Solve: $2x e^{2y} \frac{dy}{dx} = 3x^4 + e^{2y}$

Here 'y' appears as just as e^{2y} , so we can try: $v = e^{2y}$ Then $\frac{dv}{dx} = 2e^{2y} \frac{dy}{dx}$

$$= 2v \frac{dy}{dx}$$

transforming the diff. eqn. to

$$2xv \left(\frac{1}{2v} \frac{dv}{dx} \right) = 3x^4 + v$$

i.e., $\frac{dv}{dx} - \frac{1}{2}v = 3x^3$, which is linear.

Now we study more systematic substitutions

II. Homogeneous Equations

This is when the DE is of the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f\left(\frac{y}{x}\right).$$

Then, we make the substitution $v = \frac{y}{x}$

$$\text{i.e., } y = vx$$

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = v + x \frac{dv}{dx}.$$

and we get the separable eqn. $x \frac{dv}{dx} = f(v) - v$.

Examples

Express the following diff. eqns. as

$$y' = f\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) :$$

a) $x \frac{dy}{dx} = y + \sqrt{x^2 - y^2}$ $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y}{x} + \sqrt{1 - \frac{y^2}{x^2}}$

b) $x^2 y' - y^2 = xy$ $y' = \frac{y^2}{x^2} + \frac{y}{x}$

c) $xy^2 \frac{dy}{dx} = x^3 + y^3$ $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1 + \left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^3}{\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^2}$

Solution of the D.E. in c):

Take $y = vx$. Then $y' = v + xv'$

and we get $y' = v + xv' = \frac{1+v^3}{v^2}$

$$\therefore xv' = \frac{1}{v^2},$$

which is a separable equation.

$$\int v^2 dv = \int \frac{dx}{x} + C$$

$$\frac{v^3}{3} = \log|x| + C$$

$$\therefore v = (3\log|x| + C)^{1/3}$$

$$\frac{y}{x}$$

$$\text{so } y(x) = x(3\log|x| + C)^{1/3}.$$

ii)

$$\text{Solve: } x^2 y' = xy + x^2 e^{y/x}$$

$$\text{Solution: } y(x) = -x \log | -\log|x|-C |.$$

III. Bernoulli Equations

In 1696, Jacob Bernoulli solved what is now known as the Bernoulli differential eqn:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = Q(x)y^n$$

Here, n is any real number.

This is a first order non-linear D.E for $n \neq 0, 1$.

The following year, Leibniz solved this equation by transforming it into a linear equation, and we use this method

as well.

We use the substitution

$$v = y^{1-n}$$

$$\text{Then, } y = v^{\frac{1}{1-n}}$$

$$\therefore \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{1-n} v^{\frac{n}{1-n}} \frac{dv}{dx}.$$

Therefore the Bernoulli equation transforms to:

$$\frac{1}{1-n} v^{\frac{n}{1-n}} \frac{dv}{dx} + P(x) v^{\frac{1}{1-n}} = Q(x) v^{\frac{n}{1-n}}$$

Dividing the equation on both sides by $\frac{1}{1-n} v^{\frac{n}{1-n}}$, we get

$$\frac{dv}{dx} + (1-n) P(x) v = (1-n) Q(x), \text{ which}$$

is a linear D.E.

Example:

Solve: $y^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 2xy^3 = 6x$

Solution : Dividing both sides by y^2 :

$$y' + 2xy = 6xy^2,$$

which is a Bernoulli eqn with $n = -2$.

Making the substitution $v = y^{1-n} = y^3$,

$$y = v^{\frac{1}{3}} \quad ; \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{3} v^{-\frac{2}{3}} \frac{dv}{dx}$$

So the DE becomes

$$\frac{dv}{dx} + 6xv = 18x \rightarrow \text{linear} \\ (\text{also separable})$$

The integrating factor is e^{3x^2}

$$\therefore ve^{3x^2} = 18 \int x e^{3x^2} dx$$

$$= 3e^{3x^2} + C$$

$$\therefore v(x) = 3 + Ce^{-3x^2}.$$

$$\therefore y^3$$

A combination of substitutions:

Example. Solve: $y' = \frac{t(y+1) + (y+1)^2}{t^2}$

Solution: This is very close to being homogeneous, if $y+1 = u$. So we make this substitution. Then,

$$u' = \frac{tu + u^2}{t^2} = \frac{u}{t} + \frac{u^2}{t^2}$$

Set $v = \frac{u}{t}$ so $u = vt$
 $\frac{du}{dt} = v + t\frac{dv}{dt}$.

$\therefore v + t\frac{dv}{dt} = v + v^2$, which is separable.

$$\therefore \int \frac{dv}{v^2} = \int \frac{dt}{t} + C$$

$$-\frac{1}{v} = \log|t| + C.$$

$$\therefore v = \frac{-1}{\log|t| + C}$$

$\frac{y+1}{t}$

$$\therefore y(t) = -1 - \frac{t}{\log|t| + C}.$$

Exact Differential Equations

Recall : when we have an implicit solution to a diff. eqn., we verify the solution using implicit differentiation, i.e., if

$$F(x, y) = C$$

is a solution curve, then we recover the D.E. by differentiating it w.r.t x on both sides:

$$\underbrace{\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}}_{M(x,y)} + \underbrace{\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \cdot \frac{dy}{dx}}_{N(x,y)} = 0$$

We express this in a symmetric form as:

$$M(x,y)dx + N(x,y)dy = 0, \quad (*)$$

called its "differential form".

Now, we turn this around (we are reverse-engineering this process to obtain $F(x,y)=C$ starting from an equation of the form (*));

Suppose the functions $M(x,y)$ and $N(x,y)$ in the given D.E are such that there exists a function $F(x,y)$ satisfying:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = M(x,y), \quad \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = N(x,y)$$

Then the implicit solution of the diff. eqn. would be $F(x,y)=C$.

If such an F exists, the diff. eqn (*) is said to be an exact differential equation.

How do we know a given D.E. is exact?

Fact from multivariable calc:

If the mixed partial derivatives

$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \right)$ and $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} \right)$ are continuous
on an open set in the xy -plane, then they
are equal: $\frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial y \partial x}$.

\therefore If such an F exists, we must
necessarily have: $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$. — (**)

This

What about the converse? i.e., if we have
a differential form $M(x,y)dx + N(x,y)dy = 0$
such that $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$, is it true that the
diff. eqn. is exact? Turns out the ans. is YES,
so (***) is called the criterion for exactness of
a differential equation:

Theorem (Criterion for exactness)

Suppose that the functions $M(x,y)$ and $N(x,y)$ are continuous and have conts. first order partial derivatives in the open rectangle R : $a < x < b$, $c < y < d$. Then, the diff. equation

$$M(x,y)dx + N(x,y)dy = 0$$

is exact in R if and only if $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$ at each point of R .

Proof : \Rightarrow) seen earlier

\Leftarrow) We need to show that if $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$ then there is a function $F(x,y)$ so that $\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = M$,

$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = N$. Observe that, for any function $g(y)$,

the function $F(x,y) = \int M(x,y)dx + g(y)$

satisfies the condition $\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = M$, since $g(y)$ is merely a function of y , so is treated as a

constant when integrating with respect to x .

Now, we must choose $g(y)$ in such a way that $\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = N$.

$$\text{i.e., } \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\int M(x, y) dx + g(y) \right) = N$$

$$\text{or, } \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\underbrace{\int M(x, y) dx}_{\text{ }} \right) + g'(y) = N.$$

$$\text{Therefore we need } g'(y) = N - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \int M(x, y) dx \quad \textcircled{G}$$

But how do we get hold of $g'(y)$? What happens is that our hypothesis $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$ will ensure that $N - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \int M(x, y) dx$ is a function of y alone! So we can integrate eqn. \textcircled{G} to obtain $g(y)$.

Let's verify this claim: $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(N - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \int M(x, y) dx \right)$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x \partial y} \int M(x,y) dx \\
 &= \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \int M(x,y) dx \right) \\
 &= \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the RHS of eqn. ⑥ is a function of y alone, since the partial derivative w.r.t x is zero.

Therefore we find a suitable $g(y)$ such that $\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = N$ and this completes the proof.

Steps for solving an exact equation:

[Note: We do this after first verifying that the D.E. is exact, i.e., $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$.]

Step 1 : Use the fact that $\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = M(x,y)$ to find

$F(x,y)$ by integrating with respect to x :

$$F(x,y) = \int M(x,y)dx + g(y)$$

"constant" of
integration

Step 2: Use the fact that $\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = N(x,y)$ to find $g'(y)$ by differentiating the equation obtained in Step 1, w.r.t y .

Step 3: Find $g(y)$ by integrating the expression obtained for $g'(y)$ in Step 2.

Step 4: Finally, substitute for $g(y)$ in the expression for $F(x,y)$ obtained in Step 1 to arrive at the final answer.

We look at some solved examples:

Verify if the following differential equations are exact or not. If they are, then solve it.

$$1. \quad y^3 dx + 3xy^2 dy = 0$$

Solu. Here, $M(x,y) = y^3$, $N(x,y) = 3xy^2$.

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = 3y^2$$

$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial x} = 3y^2.$$

Since $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$, the given D.E is exact.

We now perform the steps to get a solution:

$$F(x,y) = \int M(x,y)dx + g(y)$$

$$= \int y^3 dx + g(y)$$

$$F(x,y) = xy^3 + g(y) \text{ --- } A.$$

To find $g(y)$: $\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = N(x,y)$,

$$\text{so } 3xy^2 + g'(y) = 3xy^2$$

$$\Rightarrow g'(y) = 0$$

so $g(y) = C$, a constant.

$\therefore F(x, y) = C$ where $F(x, y) = xy^3$ (plugging $g(y) = C$ in eqn (A)).

is the general solution to the given D.E.

$$2. (\cos x + \log y) dx + \left(\frac{x}{y} + e^y \right) dy = 0$$

Soln.. Here, $M(x, y) = \cos x + \log y$

$$N(x, y) = \frac{x}{y} + e^y.$$

Check for exactness: $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$, so the

given eqn. is exact.

$$F(x, y) = \int (\cos x + \log y) dx + g(y)$$

$$= \sin x + x \log y + g(y).$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = N(x, y) \Rightarrow \frac{x}{y} + g'(y) = \frac{x}{y} + e^y$$

$$\text{so } g'(y) = e^y$$

$$\Rightarrow g(y) = e^y + C.$$

$$F(x, y) =$$

thus $F(x, y) = C$, where $\sin x + x \log y + e^y$
the general solution.

Exercises: Solve, if the DE is exact:

$$\textcircled{1} \quad 2xy^2 + 3x^2 + (2x^2y + 4y^3) \frac{dy}{dx} = 0. \quad \begin{matrix} \text{solt:} \\ F(x, y) = x^2y^2 + \\ x^3 + y^4 \end{matrix}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-2x-y}{x-1}; \quad y(0) = 1 \quad \begin{matrix} \text{solt:} \\ F(x, y) = x^2 + xy - y \\ \text{particular soln:} \end{matrix}$$

$$\textcircled{3} \quad 2x + y + xy \frac{dy}{dx} = 0 \quad \begin{matrix} \text{solt:} \\ \text{This is not exact.} \end{matrix}$$

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