

1.2 Integrals as General and Particular Solutions

first-order differential eg: $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$

$\underbrace{f(x, y)}$ generally contain x and y

$\downarrow$ independent variable

$\nearrow$ dependent

e.g. $\frac{dy}{dx} = xy^2$ solution: $y = ?$

we will start with the case where right side contains no y

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x) \rightarrow \text{just calculus}$$

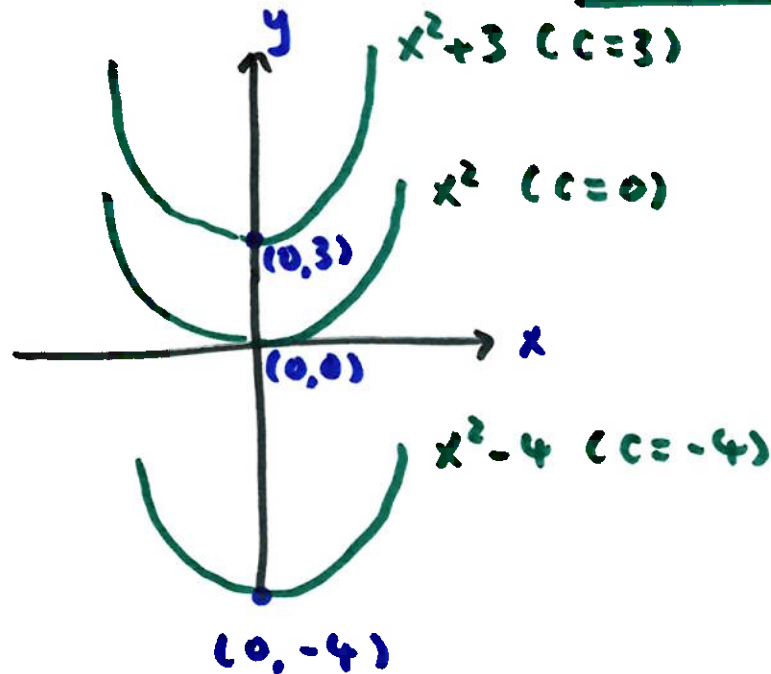
$$y = \int f(x) dx$$

e.g. $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x$

$$y = \int 2x dx = x^2 + C$$

infinitely many solutions

→ General solution



altogether they are
the general solution

each one is called a
particular solution

finding C is equivalent to specifying a point the solution must go through. For example, solution to

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x, \quad \boxed{y(0)=3} \rightarrow \text{initial or side condition}$$

$$\text{Solution is } y = x^2 + 3$$

Solution curves do not have common points

example

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x\sqrt{x^2+1}$$

$$y(0) = 2$$

initial condition

Given $\rightarrow$ "initial value problem"

or IVP

$$y = \int x\sqrt{x^2+1} dx$$

$$u = x^2 + 1$$

$$du = 2x dx$$

$$= \int \frac{1}{2} u^{1/2} du = \frac{1}{2} \frac{u^{3/2}}{3/2} + C = \frac{1}{3} u^{3/2} + C$$

$$y = \frac{1}{3}(x^2+1)^{3/2} + C \quad (\text{general solution})$$

use the given initial condition $y(0)=2$ to find C

$$2 = \frac{1}{3}(0+1)^{3/2} + C \quad \text{so} \quad C = \frac{5}{3}$$

$$\boxed{y = \frac{1}{3}(x^2+1)^{3/2} + \frac{5}{3}}$$

second-order : $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = f(x)$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \int f(x) dx + C_1 = F(x) + C_1$$

$$y = \int F(x) dx + C_1 x + C_2$$

↑ ↗
Two constants

Two initial/side conditions to find constants

n^{th} -order $\rightarrow$ n initial conditions

$$y(x_0) = y_0, \quad y'(x_0) = y'_0, \text{ etc}$$

example $y'' = -10$

$$y' = -10x + C_1$$

$$y = -5x^2 + C_1x + C_2$$

need two conditions : for example $y(0) = 0$

$$y'(0) = 1$$

$$1 = -10(0) + C_1 \rightarrow C_1 = 1$$

$$y = -5x^2 + x + C_2$$

$$y(0) = 0 \rightarrow 0 = -5(0) + (0) + C_2 \text{ so } C_2 = 0$$

$$\boxed{y = -5x^2 + x}$$

$y'' = -10$ can be interpreted physically

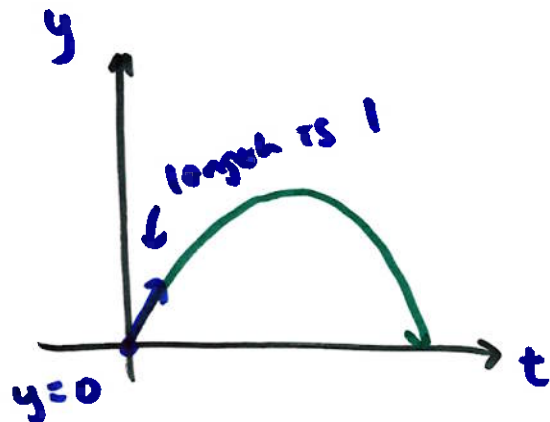
let's use t instead of x as the independent variable

if y is the position of an object

then y' is velocity and y'' is the acceleration

and $y(0) = 0 \rightarrow$ initial position: at $t=0$, y is at 0

$y'(0) = 1 \rightarrow$ initial velocity: at $t=0$, y' is 1



$$y'' + 2y' + y = 0$$

can be interpreted physically as a mass-spring-damper problem

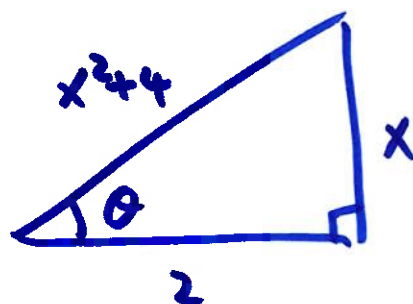


calculus review

trig subs.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x^2+4}$$

triangle with sides x^2+4 , x , 2



relate x and θ : $\tan \theta = \frac{x}{2}$

$$x = 2 \tan \theta$$

$$dx = 2 \sec^2 \theta d\theta$$

$$y = \int \frac{1}{x^2+4} dx$$

$$= \int \frac{1}{\underbrace{4 \tan^2 \theta + 4}_{4(\tan^2 \theta + 1) = 4 \sec^2 \theta}} 2 \sec^2 \theta d\theta = \int \frac{1}{4 \sec^2 \theta} \cdot 2 \sec^2 \theta d\theta = \int \frac{1}{2} d\theta$$

$$y = \frac{1}{2} \theta + c$$

$$\left(\tan \theta = \frac{x}{2} \rightarrow \theta = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{x}{2} \right) \right.$$

$$\boxed{y = \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{x}{2} \right) + c}$$