

# \* Separable Equations & Applications

Warm up: Find the equilibrium solution of

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x(y-4)$$

eq. soln:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0 = x(y-4) \Rightarrow \boxed{y^* = 4}$

## I. Separable ODEs

Def: A 1st order ODE is called separable provided it can be written:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = g(x)h(y)$$

$$\left( \frac{dy}{dx} = f(x,y) \right) \text{ last time}$$

Ex:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2xy = (2x)(y)$  separable!  
 $2x = g(x) \quad h(y) = y$

Solve this by the method of separation of variables

— put all the  $y$ -terms on left  
 $x$ -terms on right

$$\frac{dy}{y} = 2x dx$$

Now "integrate" both sides

$$\int \frac{dy}{y} = \int 2x dx$$

$$\ln(y) = \frac{2x^2}{2} + C = x^2 + C$$

exponentiate both sides

$$y(x) = e^{\ln(y)} = e^{x^2 + C} = \underbrace{(e^{x^2})}_{\text{still an unknown const}} (e^C)$$

still an unknown const

rename it  $A$   
for amplitude

$$\underbrace{\quad \quad \quad}_{x^2}$$

$$y(x) = A e^{x^2}$$

rename it A  
for amplitude

This is the general solution to the ODE  
( b/c it has an undetermined const A )

Later on, we will see that

1st order linear ODE  $\rightarrow$  Every particular solution comes from the general solution by selecting const C

In contrast, it's common for a nonlinear 1st order ODE to have both

1. general solution (w/ const C)
2. one (or more) particular solns that cannot be obtained by selecting C from the general soln.

called singular solution

Ex: (singular soln)

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 6x(y-1)^{2/3}$$

1st order  
separable  
nonlinear

makes it nonlinear (sec 1.1)

$\hookrightarrow$  singular solns possible

Find the general soln  $\rightarrow$  separation of variables

$$\frac{dy}{(y-1)^{2/3}} = 6x dx$$

$$\int \frac{dy}{(y-1)^{2/3}} = \int 6x dx$$

- substitution

$$\int (y-1)^{2/3} - \int$$

u-substitution

$$u = y-1$$

$$du = dy$$

$$\int u^{-2/3} du = \int 6x dx$$

$$3u^{1/3} = \frac{u^{1/3}}{1/3} = \frac{6x^2}{2} + C = 3x^2 + C$$

$$3(y-1)^{1/3} = 3x^2 + C$$

$$(y-1)^{1/3} = x^2 + \frac{C}{3} = x^2 + C_2$$

$$y-1 = (x^2 + C_2)^3$$

$$\boxed{y(x) = 1 + (x^2 + C)^3}$$

general solution

Look for possible singular solns:

equilibrium solns,  $\frac{dy^*}{dx} = 0 = 6x(y^*-1)^{2/3}$

$$y^*-1 = 0$$

$$\boxed{y^* = 1}$$

equilibrium soln

Q: Is  $y^* = 1$  a singular solution

$$y(x) = 1 + (x^2 + C)^3 \stackrel{?}{=} 1 = y^*$$

$$(x^2 + C)^3 = 0$$

No value of C that makes this true

so  $y^* = 1$  does not come from the general soln

So  $y^* = 1$  is a singular solution

II. Exponential function:

Let's consider a special separable ODE

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$$\frac{dy}{dx} = ky$$

$k = \text{constant}$

1st order, linear, separable  $g(x) = k, h(y) = y$

Solve - separation of variables

$$\frac{dy}{y} = k dx$$

$$\int \frac{dy}{y} = \int k dx$$

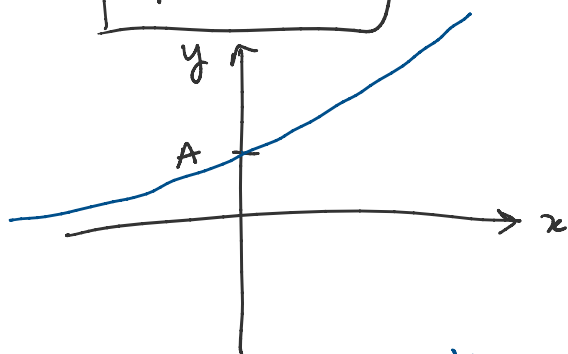
$$\ln y = kx + C$$

$$y(x) = e^{\ln y} = e^{kx+C} = (e^{kx})(e^C) = Ae^{kx}$$

$$y(x) = Ae^{kx}$$

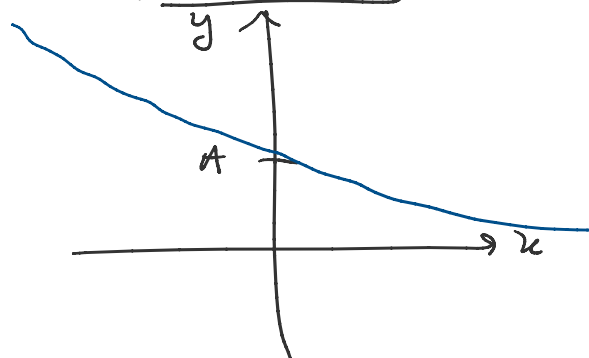
exponential function

if  $k > 0$



exponential growth

if  $k < 0$



exponential decay

NOTE: The exponential function  $y(x) = e^x$  is a special function whose derivative is equal to itself:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y$$

→ show up in many applications

### III. Models of Growth & Decay:

1. Population Growth

$P(x)$  - population

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$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP$$

$P(t)$  - population  
 $k$  - net growth rate  
(# births - # deaths)

2. Compound Interest

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = rA$$

$A(t)$  - \$ in bank acct  
 $r$  - annual interest rate  
(compounded continuously)

3. Radioactive Decay

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = -kN$$

$N(t)$  - # of atoms of radioactive isotope  
 $k$  - decay constant ( $k > 0$ )

ex: for Carbon-14 dating  
 $k \approx 0.0001216$  ( $t$  is measured in years)

4. Drug Elimination

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = -\lambda A$$

$A(t)$  - amount of drug in blood stream  
 $\lambda$  - elimination const ( $\lambda > 0$ )

Ex: You work for the FDA and you want to measure the elimination rate of a new drug that's up for approval

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = -\lambda A$$

Find  $\lambda$

Use separation of variables, we derive

$$A(t) = A_0 e^{-\lambda t} \quad \text{--- exp decay}$$

At time  $t = 5 \text{ min}$  you measure

$$A(5) = 6000 \text{ units of drug in bloodstream}$$

You wait, and at  $t = 25 \text{ min}$ , you measure

$$A(25) = 200 \text{ units}$$

$$A(25) = 200 \text{ umm...}$$

Q: Find  $\lambda$  - elimination const

$$t=5$$

$$6000 = A_0 e^{-5\lambda}$$

$$t=25$$

$$200 = A_0 e^{-25\lambda}$$

divide both equations

$$\frac{6000}{200} = \frac{A_0 e^{-5\lambda}}{A_0 e^{-25\lambda}}$$

$$30 = e^{-5\lambda + 25\lambda} = e^{20\lambda}$$

$$\ln(30) = \ln(e^{20\lambda}) = 20\lambda$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\ln(30)}{20} \approx 0.17$$

Note: we didn't need to solve for  $A_0$  to find  $\lambda$

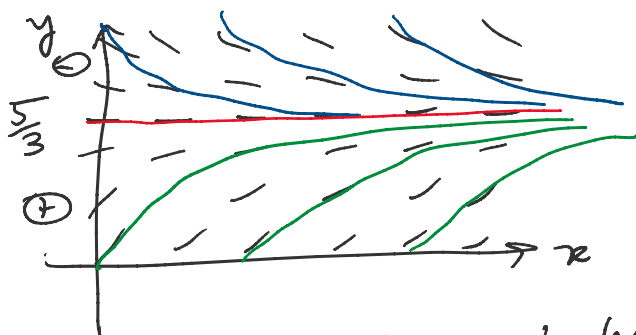
Ex:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -3y + 5$

1st order  
linear ( $\frac{dy}{dx} + 3y = 5$ )  
separable

Evaluate solns qualitatively  $\rightarrow$  Slope field

eq. soln:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0 = -3y_* + 5$   
 $3y_* = 5$   $y_* = 5/3$

Slope Field



@  $y = y_*$  slope = 0

if  $y > y_*$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dx} < 0$   $\ominus$

if  $y < y_*$ ,  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -3y + 5 > 0$   $\oplus$

expect solutions to have  
a horizontal asymptote at  $y_* = 5/3$   
 $u \rightarrow 5/3$

expect solution  
a horizontal asymptote at  $y = 5/3$   
as  $x \rightarrow \infty$   $y \rightarrow 5/3$

Now solve using sep. of vars.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -3y + 5$$

$$\int \frac{dy}{5-3y} = \int dx$$

$$u = 5-3y$$

$$du = -3dy$$

$$-\frac{1}{3} \int \frac{du}{u} = \int dx$$

$$-\frac{1}{3} \ln u = x + C$$

$$\ln u = -3x - 3C = -3x + C_2$$

$$e^{\ln u} = e^{-3x + C_2}$$

$$u = A e^{-3x}$$

$$5-3y = A e^{-3x}$$

$$\frac{5-Ae^{-3x}}{3} = \frac{3y}{3}$$

$$y(x) = \frac{5}{3} - \frac{A}{3} e^{-3x} = \boxed{\frac{5}{3} - B e^{-3x}}$$

general solution

Q: What happens as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ ?

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{5}{3} - B e^{-3x} = \frac{5}{3} = y_x$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{2cm}}_{\text{exp decay} \rightarrow 0}$

solution recovers asymptote at  $y = 5/3$

... have the initial condition

Assume we have the initial condition  
 $y(0) = 0$

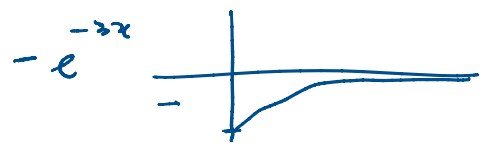
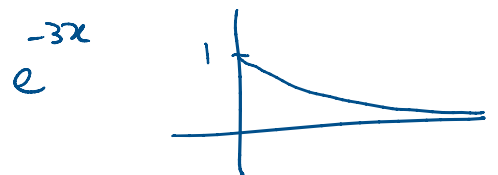
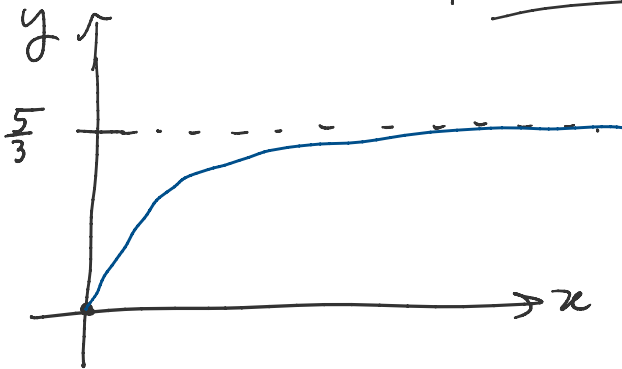
Find B  $\rightarrow y(0) = 0 = \left[ \frac{5}{3} - B e^{-3x} \right] \Big|_{x=0}$

$$0 = \frac{5}{3} - B \rightarrow \boxed{B = \frac{5}{3}}$$

particular solution

$$y(x) = \frac{5}{3} - \frac{5}{3} e^{-3x}$$

$$y(x) = \frac{5}{3} [1 - e^{-3x}]$$



this matches our solution curves from the slope field.

So far we have studied:

Type	Eqn	Solution Methods
1st order linear (no y terms on RHS)	$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x)$	direct integration
2nd order linear (no y terms on RHS)	$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = f(x)$	integrate twice
1st order	$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$	slope field Existence & Uniqueness



Two y terms ...

1st order  
(non) linear

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$$

slope field  
Existence & Uniqueness

1st order  
Separable

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = g(x)h(y)$$

Separation  
of variables  
Exp growth + decay

Next time: 1st order, linear ODE.