

A Linear First Order EquationsWarm up: Solve the linear ODE:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y + 1$$

Q what if RHS was  
 $y+x$ ?

using separation of variables.

Ans:

$$\int \frac{dy}{y+1} = \int dx$$

$$e^{\ln(y+1)} = e^{x+C}$$

$$y+1 = Ae^x$$

$$\rightarrow \boxed{y(x) = -1 + Ae^x}$$

I. First order Linear ODE:

Consider the following ODE

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

All 1st order linear ODE can be written  
in the above form:

Ex:  $x \frac{dy}{dx} + x^2 y = x^3 e^{-x}$  standard linear form

divide both sides by  $x$ 

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + xy = x^2 e^{-x}$$

$$a(x) = x$$

$$g(x) = x^2 e^{-x}$$

Def: If  $a(x)=a$  is a constant, then the ODE  
is said to have constant coefficients

Def: The function  $g(x)$  is called the forcing term  
or the source term

Consider the IVP

$$(*) \quad \frac{dy}{dx} + ay = g(x)$$

$$y(0) = y_0$$

Here  $a(x)=a$  is constant  $\rightarrow$  const coeff  
1st order, linear

known methods:

1st order, linear

We can't solve this using known methods:

Rewrite  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -ay + q(x)$

- direct ~~integration?~~ — No, because  $y$  on RHS
- separation ~~of variables?~~ — No, b/c not separable  
(could draw a slope field — qualitative solns)

Q: What if we could transform this ODE  
into something we know how to solve?  
→ change of variables

Define a new fun:  $\mu(x) = e^{ax}$

called an integrating factor

Then let  $z(x) = \mu(x)y(x) = e^{ax}y(x)$   
change of variables.

Q: What ODE does  $z(x)$  solve?

$$\frac{dz}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} [e^{ax}y(x)] = e^{ax} \frac{dy}{dx} + ae^{ax}y(x)$$

Notice that

$$\frac{dz}{dx} = e^{ax} \left[ \underbrace{\frac{dy}{dx} + a y(x)}_{\text{LHS of ODE}} \right] = e^{ax}q(x)$$

$$\boxed{\frac{dz}{dx} = e^{ax}q(x)}$$

can solve this!  
→ direct integration

Procedure:

1. Find integrating factor  $\mu(x) = e^{ax}$
2. Change of variables  $z(x) = e^{ax} y(x)$
3. New ODE:  $\frac{dz}{dx} = e^{ax} g(x)$
4. Solve by direct integration  

$$z(x) = \int \frac{dz}{dx} dx = \int e^{ax} g(x) dx$$
5. Change back to  $y(x)$   

$$y(x) = e^{-ax} z(x) = e^{-ax} \int e^{ax} g(x) dx$$

Ex: IVP:  $\frac{dy}{dx} + 5y = e^{3x}$   $y(0) = 2$   
 Here  $a = 5$ ,  $g(x) = e^{3x}$

1. Find the integrating factor:  $\mu(x) = e^{ax} = e^{5x}$
2. Change of variables:  $z(x) = e^{5x} y(x)$
3. Derive new ODE

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dz}{dx} &= \frac{d}{dx} [e^{5x} y(x)] = e^{5x} y' + 5e^{5x} y \\ &= e^{5x} [y' + 5y] = e^{5x} (e^{3x}) = e^{8x}\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{dz}{dx} = e^{8x}$$

4. Solve the ODE by direct integration

$$z(x) = \int \frac{dz}{dx} dx = \int e^{8x} dx = \frac{e^{8x}}{8} + C$$

5. Change back to  $y(x)$

$$z(x) = e^{5x} y(x) \quad y(x) = e^{-5x} z(x)$$

$$y(x) = e^{-5x} \left[ \frac{e^{8x}}{8} + C \right] = \frac{1}{8} e^{3x} + C e^{-5x}$$

6. Find the initial condition

$$y(0) = 2 = \left[ \frac{1}{8} e^{3x} + C e^{-5x} \right] \Big|_{x=0}$$

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$$2 = \left[ \frac{1}{8} e^0 + C e^0 \right] = \frac{1}{8} + C$$

$$C = 2 - \frac{1}{8} = \frac{16-1}{8} = \frac{15}{8}$$

particular soln : 
$$\boxed{y(x) = \frac{1}{8} e^{3x} + \frac{15}{8} e^{-5x}}$$

## II. Integrating Factor :

Q: Why do we make the change of variables to  
 $z(x) = e^{ax} y(x)$

Q: What if  $a(x)$  is NOT a constant?  
 what change of variables does we make?

Consider the ODE

$$(D) \quad \frac{dy}{dx} + a(x)y = g(x) \quad \begin{matrix} \text{variable} \\ \text{coefficients} \end{matrix}$$

Want to make a change of variables, so let's multiply both sides by an unknown function  $\mu(x)$  — called integrating factor

$$\mu(x)y'(x) + a(x)\mu(x)y(x) = \mu(x)g(x)$$

Key step: Observe that LHS almost looks like the product rule for derivatives.

product rule      
$$\frac{d}{dx}[f(x)y(x)] = f(x)y'(x) + f'(x)y(x)$$
  
 LHS                  
$$= \mu(x)y'(x) + a(x)\mu(x)y(x)$$

To set these equal, we need  
 $f(x) = \mu(x)$  and  $f'(x) = a(x)\mu(x)$   
 putting these two together  
 $\dots - a(x)\mu(x)$

Putting these two together

$$u'(x) = a(x)u(x)$$

$$\frac{du}{dx} = a(x)u \quad \begin{matrix} \text{separable!} \\ \text{sep of variables} \end{matrix}$$

$$\int \frac{du}{u} = \int a(x) dx$$

$$\ell \ln u = \int a(x) dx$$

$$u(x) = \exp \left[ \int a(x) dx \right]$$

integrating factor

Check:  
when  $a(x) = a$

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= \exp \left[ \int a dx \right] \\ &= \exp \left[ ax \right] \\ &= e^a \end{aligned}$$

We have our integrating factor:  $\uparrow$   
(go back to ODE)

$$u(x)y' + \underbrace{a(x)u(x)y}_{\text{by Def of } u(x)} = u(x)g(x)$$

by Def of  $u(x)$

$$a(x)u(x) = u'(x)$$

product rule

$$u(x)y' + u'(x)y = u(x)g(x)$$

Def

$$z(x) = u(x)y(x)$$

$$z' = u(x)g(x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [u(x)y(x)] = u(x)g(x)$$

integrate both sides w.r.t.  $x$

$$u(x)y(x) = \int \frac{d}{dx} [u(x)y(x)] = \int u(x)g(x) dx$$

Solve for  $y(x)$

$$y(x) = \frac{1}{u(x)} \int u(x)g(x) dx$$

We say that we solve this ODE by  
using the integrating factor

Def: The integrating factor for ( $\square$ ) is

Def: The integrating factor for ( $\square$ ) is  
 $\mu(x) = \exp(\int a(x)dx)$

Ex: Find the integrating factor for the following ODE:

$$(a) y' + y = x$$

$$\mu(x) = \exp\left(\int 1 dx\right) = \boxed{e^x}$$

$$(b) y' - 10y = e^{3x}$$

$$\mu(x) = \exp\left(\int -10 dx\right) = \boxed{e^{-10x}}$$

$$(c) y' - (\sin x)y = \sin x$$

$$\begin{aligned} a(x) &= -\sin x \\ \mu(x) &= \exp\left(\int -\sin x dx\right) \\ &= \exp(\cos x) \\ &= \boxed{e^{\cos x}} \end{aligned}$$

Ex: Solve the IVP using the integrating factor

$$\frac{dy}{dx} - \sin(x)y = \sin(x) \quad y(0) = 2$$

1. Find the integrating factor  $\mu(x) = e^{\cos(x)}$

2. Multiply both sides of the ODE by  $\mu(x)$   
and simplify

$$e^{\cos(x)} y' - \sin(x)e^{\cos(x)} y = \sin(x)e^{\cos(x)}$$

pull out a derivative on LHS

$$\rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} [e^{\cos(x)} y(x)] = \sin(x)e^{\cos(x)}$$

3. Solve the new ODE - integrate both sides

$$\int \frac{d}{dx} [e^{\cos(x)} y(x)] dx = \int \sin(x) e^{\cos(x)} dx$$

$u = \cos(x) \quad du = -\sin(x)dx$

$$e^{\cos(x)} y(x) = \int -e^u du = -e^u + C$$

$$e^{\cos(x)} y(x) = -e^{\cos(x)} + C$$

Solve for  $y(x)$

$$y(x) = e^{-\cos(x)} \left[ -e^{\cos(x)} + C \right]$$

$$y(x) = -1 + C e^{-\cos(x)}$$

general solution

4. Find the initial condition

$$y(0) = 2 = \left[ -1 + C e^{-\cos(0)} \right] \Big|_{x=0}$$

$$2 = -1 + C e^{-\cos(0)} = -1 + C e^{-1}$$

$$3 = \frac{C}{e} \Rightarrow C = 3e$$

particular  
soln

$$y(x) = -1 + (3e) e^{-\cos(x)}$$

$$\boxed{y(x) = -1 + 3e^{-\cos(x)+1}}$$

### III. Comparison:

We've seen this kind of procedure before  
 → similar to completing the square

#### integrating factor

$$\text{left: } c_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + c_0(x)y = g(x)$$

$$\text{rearrange } \frac{dy}{dx} + a(x)y = g(x)$$

multiply by  $\mu(x) = \exp(\int a(x) dx)$

$$\underbrace{\mu(x)y' + a(x)\mu(x)y}_{\mu(x)y' + a(x)\mu(x)y} = \mu(x)g(x)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} [\mu(x)y(x)] = \mu(x)g(x)$$

Solve for  $y(x)$

$$\mu(x)y(x) = \int \mu(x)g(x) dx$$

$$y(x) = \frac{1}{\mu(x)} \int \mu(x)g(x) dx$$

#### completing the square

$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

$$x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x = -\frac{c}{a}$$

$$\text{add } + \frac{b^2}{4a^2}$$

$$\underbrace{x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{b^2}{4a^2}}_{(x + \frac{b}{2a})^2} = \frac{b^2}{4a^2} - \frac{c}{a} = \frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a^2}$$

$$(x + \frac{b}{2a})^2 = \frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a^2}$$

solving for  $x$

$$x + \frac{b}{2a} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a^2}}$$

$$x = \frac{-b}{2a} \pm \sqrt{\frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a^2}}$$

Next: — more integrating factor  
— applications