

# Chapter 46: Solution of First Order Differential Equations by Separation of Variables

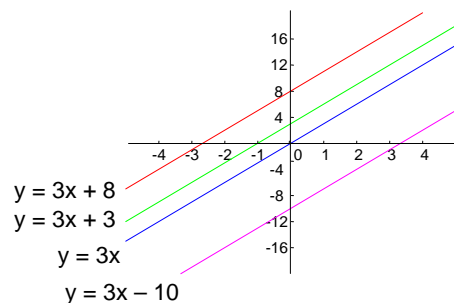
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## Outline

- Family of Curves
- Differential Equations
- The Solution of Equations of the Form  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x)$
- The Solution of Equations of the Form  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(y)$
- The Solution of Equations of the Form  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x) \cdot f(y)$

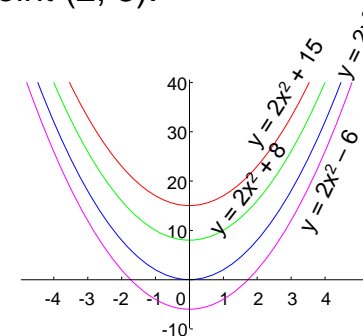
## Family of Curves

- Integrating both sides of the derivative  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3$  with respect to  $x$  gives  $y = \int 3 dx$ , i.e.,  $y = 3x + c$ , where  $c$  is an arbitrary constant.
- $y = 3x + c$  represents a **family of curves**, each of the curves in the family depending on the value of  $c$ .



## Problems

- **Problem 1.** Sketch the family of curves given by the equation  $dy/dx = 4x$  and determine the equation of one of these curves which passes through the point (2, 3).  
 $[y = 2x^2 - 5]$



## Differential Equations (1/4)

- A **differential equation** is one that contains differential coefficients.
- Differential equations are classified according to **the highest derivative** which occurs in them.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 7x \text{ (first order differential equation)}$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 5\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = 0 \text{ (second order differential equation)}$$

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## Differential Equations (2/4)

- The **degree** of a differential equation is that of the highest power of the highest differential which the equation contains after simplification.

$$\left(\frac{d^2x}{dt^2}\right)^3 + 2\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^5 = 7 \text{ (second order differential equation of degree three)}$$

- A solution to a differential equation which contains **one or more arbitrary constants** of integration is called the **general solution** of the differential equation.

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## Differential Equations (3/4)

- When additional information (**boundary conditions**) is given so that constants may be calculated, the **particular solution** of the differential equation is obtained.
- Equations which can be written in the form

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

can all be solved by integration.

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## Differential Equations (4/4)

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

- In each case, it is possible to separate the  $y$ 's to one side of the equation and the  $x$ 's to the other.
- Solving such equations is therefore known as solution by **separation of variables**.

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## The Solution of Equations of the Form $dy/dx = f(x)$

- A differential equation of the form  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x)$  is solved by direct integration, i.e.,

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

- Problem 4.** Solve the equation  $2x\left(x - \frac{dy}{dx}\right) = 5$ , given  $y = 2$  when  $x = 1$ .  
[ $y = (x^2 - 5\ln x + 3)/2$ ]

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## Exercise 178

Solve the differential equations:

- Exercise 2.**  $2x \frac{dy}{dx} = 3 - x^3$

$$[y = \frac{3}{2} \ln x - \frac{x^3}{6} + c]$$

- Exercise 5.**  $\frac{1}{e^x} + 2 = x - 3 \frac{dy}{dx}$ , given  $y = 1$  when  $x = 0$ .

$$[y = \frac{1}{6}(x^2 - 4x + \frac{2}{e^x} + 4)]$$

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## Exercise 178

- Exercise 8.** An object is thrown vertically upwards with an initial velocity,  $u$ , of 20 m/s. The motion of the object follows the differential equation  $ds/dt = u - gt$ , where  $s$  is the height of the object in meters at time  $t$  seconds and  $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ . Determine the height of the object after 3 seconds if  $s = 0$  when  $t = 0$ .  
[15.9m]

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## The Solution of Equations of the Form $dy/dx = f(y)$

- A differential equation of the form  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(y)$  is initially rearranged to give  $dx = \frac{dy}{f(y)}$  and then the solution is obtained by direct integration, i.e.,

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

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## Problems

- **Problem 7.** Determine the particular solution of

$$(y^2 - 1) \frac{dy}{dx} = 3y \text{ given that } y = 1 \text{ when } x = 13/6$$

$$\left[ x = \frac{y^2}{6} - \frac{1}{3} \ln y + 2 \right]$$

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## Problems

- **Problem 8.** (a) The variation of resistance,  $R$  ohms, of an aluminum conductor with temperature  $\theta$  °C is given by  $\frac{dR}{d\theta} = \alpha R$ , where  $\alpha$  is the temperature coefficient of resistance of aluminum. If  $R = R_0$  when  $\theta = 0^\circ\text{C}$ , solve the equation for  $R$ . (b) If  $\alpha = 38 \times 10^{-4}/^\circ\text{C}$ , determine the resistance of an aluminum conductor at  $50^\circ\text{C}$ , correct to 3 significant figures, when its resistance at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  is  $24.0 \Omega$ .

$$[(a) R = R_0 e^{\alpha\theta} \quad (b) 29.0 \text{ ohms}]$$

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## Exercise 179

- **Exercise 2.** Solve the differential equation:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2 \cos^2 y$$

$$[\tan y = 2x + c]$$

- **Exercise 4.** The current in an electric circuit is given by the equation

$$Ri + L \frac{di}{dt} = 0,$$

where  $L$  and  $R$  are constants. Show that  $i = I e^{-\frac{Rt}{L}}$ , given that  $i = I$  when  $t = 0$ .

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## Exercise 179

- **Exercise 5.** The velocity of a chemical reaction is given by  $\frac{dx}{dt} = k(a - x)$ , where  $x$  is the amount transferred in time  $t$ ,  $k$  is a constant and  $a$  is the concentration at time  $t = 0$  when  $x = 0$ . Solve the equation and determine  $x$  in terms of  $t$ .

$$[x = a(1 - e^{-kt})]$$

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## The Solution of Equations of the Form $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x) \cdot f(y)$

- A differential equation of the form  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x) \cdot f(y)$ , where  $f(x)$  is a function of  $x$  only, and  $f(y)$  is a function of  $y$  only, may be rearranged as  $\frac{dy}{f(y)} = f(x) dx$ , and then the solution is obtained by direct integration, i.e.,

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

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## Problems

- Problem 9.** Solve the equation  $4xy \frac{dy}{dx} = y^2 - 1$   
 $[2\ln(y^2 - 1) = \ln x + c$  or  
 $\frac{(y^2 - 1)^2}{x} = e^c$  or  
 $(y^2 - 1)^2 = Ax]$
- Problem 10.** Determine the particular solution of  $\frac{d\theta}{dt} = 2e^{3t-2\theta}$ , given that  $t = 0$  when  $\theta = 0$ .  
 $[3e^{2\theta} = 4e^{3t} - 1]$

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## Exercise 180

- Exercise 3.** Solve the differential equation:  
 $\frac{dy}{dx} = e^{2x-y}$ , given  $x = 0$  when  $y = 0$ .  
 $[e^y = \frac{1}{2}e^{2x} + \frac{1}{2}]$
- Exercise 6.** Solve  $xy = (1 - x^2) \frac{dy}{dx}$  for  $y$ , given  $x = 0$  when  $y = 1$ .  
 $[y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1-x^2)}}]$

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## Exercise 180

- Exercise 8.** The p.d.,  $V$ , between the plates of a capacitor  $C$  charged by a steady voltage  $E$  through a resistor  $R$  is given by the equation

$$CR \frac{dV}{dt} + V = E$$

- Solve the equation for  $V$  given that at  $t = 0$ ,  $V = 0$ .
- Calculate  $V$ , correct to 3 significant figures, when  $E = 25V$ ,  $C = 20 \times 10^{-6}F$ ,  $R = 200 \times 10^3 \Omega$  and  $t = 3.0s$ .  
 $[(a) V = E(1 - e^{-t/CR})$  (b)  $13.2 V$ ]

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