

§7.3: Separable Differential Equations

Key Points:

- A separable differential equation is a differential equation that can be written in the form

$$f(y) \cdot \frac{dy}{dx} = g(x).$$

- To solve a separable differential equation:
 1. Separate the variables
 2. Integrate both sides (Remember + C!!!)
 3. Solve for y (if possible)
 4. Use the initial condition to find C .
- Other notes:

Examples:

1. Solve the differential equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = -2y$ if $y(0) = 1$.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= -2y \\ \frac{1}{y} dy &= -2dx \\ \int \frac{1}{y} dy &= \int -2dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \ln|y| &= -2x + C \rightarrow \ln|y| = -2x + 0 \\ \text{Solve for } C: & \\ \ln|1| &= -2(0) + C \\ 0 &= 0 + C \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} |y| &= e^{-2x} \\ y &= \pm e^{-2x} \end{aligned}$$

$$y = +e^{-2x} \text{ since our initial condition was } (0, 1).$$

2. Solve the differential equation $\frac{dx}{dt} + x = 1$ if $x(1) = 0.1$.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt} &= 1 - x \\ \frac{1}{1-x} dx &= dt \\ \int \frac{1}{1-x} dx &= \int dt \\ -\ln|1-x| &= t + C \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Solve for } C: & \\ -\ln|1-0.1| &= (1) + C \\ C &= -\ln(0.9) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} -\ln(1-x) &= t - \ln(0.9) \\ \ln(1-x) &= -t + \ln(0.9) \\ 1-x &= e^{-t + \ln(0.9)} \end{aligned}$$

$$x = 1 - e^{-t + \ln(0.9)}$$

⚠ (chain rule or u-sub)

3. Solve the differential equation $\frac{du}{dt} = u + ut^2$ if $u(0) = 5$.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{du}{dt} &= u(1+t^2) \\ \frac{1}{u} du &= (1+t^2) dt \\ \int \frac{1}{u} du &= \int (1+t^2) dt \\ \ln|u| &= t + \frac{1}{3}t^3 + C \\ |u| &= e^{t + \frac{1}{3}t^3 + C}\end{aligned}$$

Solve for C:

$$\begin{aligned}|5| &= e^{(0) + \frac{1}{3}(0)^3 + C} \\ 5 &= e^{0+C} \\ 5 &= e^C \\ C &= \ln(5)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\rightarrow |u| &= e^{t + \frac{1}{3}t^3 + \ln(5)} \\ u &= \pm e^{t + \frac{1}{3}t^3 + \ln(5)}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}u &= +e^{t + \frac{1}{3}t^3 + \ln(5)} \\ \text{Use initial condition } (0, 5) \\ \text{to choose the } (+) \text{ branch.}\end{aligned}$$

4. Solve the differential equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = xe^y$ if $y(0) = 0$.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= xe^y \\ \frac{1}{e^y} dy &= x dx \\ \int e^{-y} dy &= \int x dx \\ -e^{-y} &= \frac{1}{2}x^2 + C\end{aligned}$$

Solve for C:

$$\begin{aligned}-e^0 &= \frac{1}{2}(0)^2 + C \\ -1 &= 0 + C \\ C &= -1\end{aligned}$$

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

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

$$-y = \ln\left(1 - \frac{1}{2}x^2\right)$$

$$y = -\ln\left(1 - \frac{1}{2}x^2\right)$$

5. Solve the differential equation $\frac{ds}{d\theta} = -s^2 \tan \theta$ if $s(0) = 2$.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{ds}{d\theta} &= -s^2 \tan \theta \\ \frac{-1}{s^2} ds &= \tan \theta d\theta \\ \int \frac{-1}{s^2} ds &= \int \tan \theta d\theta \\ \int -s^{-2} ds &= \int \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta} d\theta \\ s^{-1} &= \int \frac{-1}{u} du \\ s^{-1} &= -\ln|u| + C \\ \frac{1}{s} &= -\ln|\cos \theta| + C\end{aligned}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned}u &= \cos \theta \\ du &= -\sin \theta d\theta\end{aligned} \right\}$$

Solve for C:

$$\frac{1}{2} = -\ln|\cos(0)| + C$$

$$\frac{1}{2} = -\ln|1| + C$$

$$\frac{1}{2} = 0 + C$$

$$C = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{s} &= -\ln|\cos \theta| + \frac{1}{2} \\ s &= \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2} - \ln|\cos \theta|}\end{aligned}$$

6. Find an equation of the curve that passes through the point $(0, 1)$ and whose slope at (x, y) is xy .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Slope} &= \frac{dy}{dx} = xy \\ \frac{1}{y} dy &= x dx \\ \int \frac{1}{y} dy &= \int x dx \\ \ln|y| &= \frac{1}{2}x^2 + C \end{aligned}$$

Solve for C:

use $(0, 1)$:

$$\ln|1| = \frac{1}{2}(0)^2 + C$$

$$0 = 0 + C$$

$$C = 0$$

$$\rightarrow \ln|y| = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + 0$$

$$|y| = e^{\frac{1}{2}x^2}$$

$$y = \pm e^{\frac{1}{2}x^2}$$

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

Use \oplus because of initial condition

7. Solve the differential equation $y' = x + y$ by making the change of variable $u = x + y$.

Notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{so } y' &= u, \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= u. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Also, } y &= u - x, \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{du}{dx} - 1 \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\frac{du}{dx} = u + 1$$

$$\frac{1}{u+1} du = dx$$

$$\int \frac{1}{u+1} du = \int dx$$

$$\ln|u+1| = x + C$$

$$|u+1| = e^{x+C}$$

$$u+1 = \pm e^{x+C}$$

$$u = -1 \pm e^{x+C}$$

sub back in: $y = u - x$
 $u = x + y$

$$x + y = -1 \pm e^{x+C}$$

$$y = -1 - x \pm e^{x+C}$$

8. A tank contains 20 kg of salt dissolved in 5000 L of water. Brine that contains 0.03 kg of salt per liter of water enters the tank at a rate of 25 L/min. The solution is kept thoroughly mixed and drains from the tank at the same rate. How much salt remains in the tank after half an hour?

We want an equation $s(t)$ for the amount of salt at time t .
First, let's understand the rates we are given:

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = \begin{array}{c} \text{Change from} \\ \text{brine entering} \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \text{Change from} \\ \text{brine leaving} \end{array}$$

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = \underbrace{(0.03) \cdot 25}_{\substack{\text{kg/L} \cdot \text{L/min} \\ \text{kg/min}}} - \underbrace{\frac{s}{5000} \cdot 25}_{\substack{\text{current salt} \\ \text{concentration} \left(\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{L}}\right) \cdot \frac{\text{L}}{\text{min}} \\ \text{kg/min}}}$$

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = \left(0.03 - \frac{s}{5000}\right) 25 \quad \leftarrow \text{units are } \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{min}}$$

Now, we'll use separation of variables to solve for s ...

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = 25 \left(0.03 - \frac{s}{5000}\right)$$

$$\frac{1}{5000} \cdot \frac{1}{0.03 - \frac{s}{5000}} ds = 25 dt \cdot \frac{1}{5000}$$

$$\int \frac{1}{150 - s} ds = \int 0.005 dt$$

$$-\ln|150 - s| = 0.005t + C$$

$$-\ln|150 - s| = 0.005t - 4.8675$$

$$\ln|150 - s| = 4.8675 - 0.005t$$

$$|150 - s| = e^{4.8675 - 0.005t}$$

$$150 - s = \pm e^{4.8675 - 0.005t}$$

$$s = 150 \mp e^{4.8675 - 0.005t}$$

$$s = 150 - e^{4.8675 - 0.005t}$$

← use "-" because of initial cond.

We know $s(0) = 20 \text{ kg}$

solve for C :

$$-\ln|150 - 20| = 0.005(0) + C$$

$$-\ln|130| = C$$

$$C \approx -4.8675$$

So, after 30 mins, there are $s(30) \approx 38.1 \text{ kg}$ of salt

Note: brine entering is saltier than brine leaving, so this makes sense.