

Separation of variables, concluded: supergrowth.

Some models suggest world population P grows at a rate proportional to more than just P itself.

According to one such model,

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = k P^{1.2}, \quad P(0) = P_0. \quad (SG)$$

(Note that $P^{1.2} > P$, so here, P grows faster than exponentially).

Solve the above IVP for P .

Solution.

Separate:

$$\frac{dP}{P^{1.2}} = k dt$$

Integrate:

$$\int \frac{dP}{P^{1.2}} = \int k dt$$

$$\int P^{-1.2} dP = \int k dt$$

$$\frac{P^{-0.2}}{-0.2} = kt + C.$$

Evaluate:

$$\frac{P_0^{-0.2}}{-0.2} = k \cdot 0 + C = C.$$

Plugging this C back in, then,

$$\frac{P^{-0.2}}{-0.2} = kt + \frac{P_0^{-0.2}}{-0.2}.$$

p. 2
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Finally, solve:

$$p^{-0.2} = -0.2kt + p_0^{-0.2}$$

Or, since $0.2 = 1/5$,

$$p^{-1/5} = -\frac{kt}{5} + p_0^{-1/5} = \frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{p_0}} - \frac{kt}{5}.$$

Raise both sides to the -5 power:

$$p = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{p_0}} - \frac{kt}{5} \right)^{-5}$$

Solution to the
"supergrowth" IVP (SG)

Remark: under supergrowth P can, in theory, become infinite after a finite time!!

Why? Well, " $0^{-5} = \frac{1}{0^5} = \infty$," so in the above model, P becomes infinite when

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{p_0}} - \frac{kt}{5} = 0.$$

Solve for t :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{kt}{5} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt[5]{p_0}} \\ kt &= \frac{5}{\sqrt[5]{p_0}} \end{aligned}$$

$$t = \frac{5}{k\sqrt[5]{p_0}}$$

"Doomsday" for
the IVP (SG)

Separation of variables, concluded.

Using the "separate, integrate, **evaluate**, solve" strategy, we can solve various DE's (**IVP's**) of the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x)g(y), \quad y(x_0) = y_0,$$

including applications to:

- Newton's Law of Cooling;
 - Logistic Growth;
 - Diffusion across a cell membrane (see H/W 11);
 - Supergrowth;
 - Mixing;
 - "Newton's Law of Warming."
- } see Exam 4
"SVA" review sheet.