

Feb. 11, 2014

More Diffy Q techniques: Separable Differential Equations

Goal: Be able to solve differential equations of the form $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x) \cdot g(y)$

Separable Differential Equations

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y} = (-x) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{y}\right)$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = xy$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= yx^2 + yx + y \\ &= (x^2 + x + 1) \cdot y \end{aligned}$$

Not Separable Differential Equations

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

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{t+x}{xt^2}$$

A short tangent: Differentials

$$\frac{dy}{dx} \approx \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta x} = \frac{\text{change in } y}{\text{change in } x} \quad \text{except change is infinitesimal.}$$

dy = infinitesimal change in y

dx = infinitesimal change in x

When we take derivatives and antiderivatives,
the dy, dx notation refers to the same thing:

differentials

$$\left[\frac{dy}{dx} \right]$$

$$\int f(x) \underbrace{dx}_{\text{differential}}$$

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

$$dy = f'(x) dx$$

*we will have a more geometric notion of antiderivatives
and differentials next week*

Back to Sep. Diffy Q's

Ex: (1) $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$

*let's put y's and dy's on one side
of equation and x's and
dx's on the other side.

this is the "separation"

$$\underline{y \cdot dy = -x \cdot dx}$$

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

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

*to solve (1), (2) we take
the antiderivative of both sides*

$$\int y \cdot dy = \int -x dx$$

$$\frac{y^2}{2} + C_1 = -\frac{x^2}{2} + C_2$$

$$\frac{y^2}{2} = -\frac{x^2}{2} + C \quad (C = C_2 - C_1)$$

Now solve for y

$$y^2 = -x^2 + 2C$$

$$y = \pm \sqrt{2C - x^2}$$

replace w/
another letter to look cleaner (doesn't actually matter)

$$y = \pm \sqrt{A - x^2} \quad (A = 2C)$$

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

$$\int \left(\frac{1}{y}\right) dy = \frac{x^2}{2} + C_2$$

$$\ln|y| + C_1 = \frac{x^2}{2} + C_2$$

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

$$y = e^{x^2/2 + C}$$

$$y = e^{x^2/2} \cdot \underbrace{e^C}_{\text{a constant}}$$

(let $k = e^C$)

$$y = ke^{x^2/2}$$

Ex: (3) $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3 - 2y$ this is separable.
divide both sides by $3 - 2y$

$$\int \frac{1}{3-2y} \cdot dy = \int dx$$

Need to guess
a bit to get
this antiderivative

$\ln(3-2y)$ has
derivative

$$\frac{1}{3-2y} \cdot -2$$

So $\frac{\ln(3-2y)}{-2}$

has derivative

$$\frac{1}{3-2y}$$



$$\frac{\ln(3-2y)}{-2} = x + C$$

$$\ln(3-2y) = -2x - 2C$$

$$3-2y = e^{-2x-2C}$$

$$-2y = e^{-2x} e^{-2C} - 3 \quad (k = e^{-2C})$$

$$y = k \frac{e^{-2x}}{-2} + \frac{3}{2}$$

(4) $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{y \cos^2 x}$

$$\int \frac{1}{y} \cdot dy = \int \frac{1}{\underbrace{\cos^2 x}_{\sec^2 x}} dx$$

$$\ln y = \tan x + C$$

$$y = e^{\tan x + C}$$

$$y = k e^{\tan x}$$