

10.2 Separation of Variables

How to solve a class of differential equations of the form

$$y' = p(t)q(y)$$

Called "seperable" because we can separate the variables

$$y' = \frac{3t^2}{y^2} \Rightarrow \boxed{y^2 y' = 3t^2}$$

y 's on one side, t 's on the other.

ex

① $y' = 5y$

seperable \Rightarrow $\frac{y'}{y} = 5$ $p(t) = 5$

② $y' = 3t + 4$

seperable \Rightarrow $y' = 3t + 4$ $q(y) = 1$

③ $y' = e^{-y}(2t+1)$

seperable \Rightarrow $e^y y' = 2t+1$

④ $y' = 5y - 2t$

not seperable

cannot write $5y - 2t$ as $p(t)q(y)$

How to find solutions:

$$y' = \frac{3t^2}{y^2} \Rightarrow y^2 y' = 3t^2$$

write y' as $\frac{dy}{dt}$

$$y^2 \frac{dy}{dt} = 3t^2$$

$$\int y^2 \frac{dy}{dt} dt = \int 3t^2 dt$$

not exactly canceling,
but we can think of
it that way for simplicity.

$$\int y^2 dy = \int 3t^2 dt$$

$$\frac{1}{3} y^3 + C_1 = t^3 + C_2$$

$$\frac{1}{3} y^3 = t^3 + (C_2 - C_1)$$

$$\frac{1}{3} y^3 = t^3 + C_3$$

$$y^3 = 3t^3 + 3C_3$$

$$y^3 = 3t^3 + C_4$$

$C_2 - C_1$ is just a constant,
so only need $+C$ on one
side

since $3C_3$ is still a
constant, we can just
rewrite it as C

$$y = \sqrt[3]{3t^3 + C}$$

ex

$$y' = t^3 y^2 + y^2$$

$$y' = (t^2 + 1) y^2 \quad \text{seperable}$$

$$\frac{1}{y^2} \frac{dy}{dt} = t^3 + 1$$

$$\int \frac{1}{y^2} dy = \int t^3 + 1 dt$$

$$-y^{-1} = \frac{t^4}{4} + t + C$$

$$y = \frac{-1}{\frac{1}{4}t^4 + t + C}$$

does this give
all the solutions?

no!

consider $y = 0$

$$\Rightarrow y' = 0$$

check:

$$0 = t^3 \cdot 0 + 0 \quad \checkmark$$

ex

Solve the IVP:

$$y' = e^{-y}(2t+1)$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

$$e^y y' = 2t+1$$

$$\int e^y dy = \int (2t+1) dt$$

$$e^y = t^2 + t + C$$

$$y = \ln(t^2 + t + C)$$

using $y(0) = 1$

$$\cancel{1 = \ln(t^2 + t + C)} \quad 1 = \ln(C)$$

$$\Rightarrow e = C$$

$$\boxed{y = \ln(t^2 + t + e)}$$

ex

$$y' = ky$$

$$\int \frac{dy}{y} = \int k dt$$

$$\ln(y) = kt + C$$

$$y = e^{kt+C}$$

$$y = Ce^{kt}$$

ex

$$y' = k(12-y)$$

$$\frac{y'}{12-y} = k$$

$$\int \frac{1}{12-y} dy = \int k dt$$

$$\ln|12-y| = kt + C$$

$$12-y = Ce^{kt}$$

$$y = 12 - Ce^{kt}$$

ex

$$y' = \frac{\ln t}{ty}$$

ex

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{te^t}{y}$$

use integration
by parts

ex

$$y' = (y-3)^2 \ln t$$

This is also integration by parts.
Hint: $u = \ln(x)$, $dv = 1$

ex

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{t^2 y^2}{t^3 + 8}$$

ex

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\ln x}{\sqrt{x}y}, \quad y(1) = 4$$

use integration
by parts

ex

$$y' = y^2 - e^{3t} y^2, \quad y(0) = 1$$