

Finding the general equation of a first order differential equation in which the variables are separable.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= f(x)g(y) \\ \therefore \frac{1}{g(y)} \frac{dy}{dx} &= f(x) \\ \therefore \int \frac{1}{g(y)} dy &= \int f(x) dx + c\end{aligned}$$

Example

Given that $y = 2$ at $x = 0$ and $\frac{dy}{dx} = y^2 + 4$, find y in terms of x .

Solution

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy}{dx} &= y^2 + 4 \\ \Rightarrow \int \frac{1}{y^2 + 4} dy &= \int dx \\ \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) &= x + c \\ \text{when } x=0, y=2 &\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{2}{2}\right) = c \\ \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1}(1) &= c \\ \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) &= c \\ c &= \frac{\pi}{8} \\ \Rightarrow \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{y}{2}\right) &= 2x + \frac{\pi}{4} \\ \Rightarrow y &= 2 \tan\left(2x + \frac{\pi}{4}\right)\end{aligned}$$

First Order Linear Differential Equations

A 1st order linear differential equation is of the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + Py = Q \text{ where } P \text{ and } Q \text{ are functions of } x \text{ or constants.}$$

An equation of this form is said to be exact when one side is the exact derivative of a product and the other side can be integrated wrt x .

If it is not exact then it can be made exact by multiplying through the equation by a function of x . This function is called the integrating factor.

Example

Consider the differential equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{y}{x} = x^2$$

Multiplying through by x gives...

$$x \frac{dy}{dx} + y = x^3$$

...making it exact.

$$\therefore \frac{d(xy)}{dx} = x^3$$

$$\therefore xy = \int x^3 dx$$

$$\therefore xy = \frac{x^4}{4} + c$$

In this case the integrating factor is x .

Note:- The integrating factor is given by $f(x)$ where $f(x) = e^{\int P dx}$.

i.e. in the last example $P = \frac{1}{x}$

$$\therefore f(x) = e^{\int \frac{1}{x} dx}$$

$$\therefore f(x) = e^{\ln x}$$

$$\therefore f(x) = x$$

So the linear equation $\frac{dy}{dx} + Py = Q$ can be solved by multiplying by the integrating factor $e^{\int P dx}$, provided $e^{\int P dx}$ can be found and the function $Qe^{\int P dx}$ can be integrated wrt x .

Example

Find the general solution of the differential equation

$$\cos x \frac{dy}{dx} + y \sin x = \sin x \cos^3 x$$

Solution

$$\cos x \frac{dy}{dx} + y \sin x = \sin x \cos^3 x$$

first divide through by $\cos x$ to get in $\frac{dy}{dx} + Py = Q$ form

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} y = \sin x \cos^2 x \quad \text{--- ①}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{IF} &= e^{\int \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} dx} \\ &= e^{-\ln(\cos x)} = e^{\ln(\sec x)} = \sec x \end{aligned}$$

mult throug by $\sec x$

$$\Rightarrow \text{① being } \sec x \frac{dy}{dx} + \tan x \sec x y = \sin x \cos x$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d(y \sec x)}{dx} = \sin x \cos x$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d(y \sec x)}{dx} = \frac{1}{2} \sin 2x$$

$$y \sec x = -\frac{1}{4} \cos 2x + C$$

Example

Find y in terms of x given that

$$\frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{2}{x}y = x^2 \ln x \text{ for } x > 0 \text{ and } y = 2 \text{ at } x = 1$$

Solution

$$IF = e^{\int -\frac{2}{x} dx} = e^{-2 \ln x} = e^{\ln x^{-2}} = x^{-2}$$

$$\Rightarrow x^{-2} \frac{dy}{dx} - 2x^{-3}y = \ln x$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d(x^{-2}y)}{dx} = \ln x$$

$$\Rightarrow x^{-2}y = \int \ln x \, dx$$

$$\text{Let } u = \ln x \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \frac{du}{dx} = 1 \\ v = x \end{array} \right.$$

$$\frac{du}{dx} = \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\Rightarrow x^{-2}y = x \ln x - \int x \cdot \frac{1}{x} dx$$

$$\frac{y}{x^2} = x \ln x - x + c$$

$$\text{when } x=1, y=2 \Rightarrow 2 = 0 - 1 + c \Rightarrow c = 3$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{y}{x^2} = x \ln x - x + 3 \Rightarrow y = x^3 \ln x - x^3 + 3x^2$$

The Second Order Linear Differential Equation

$$a \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0 \text{ where } a, b \text{ and } c \text{ are constants}$$

The equation is called the 2nd order, because its highest derivative of y wrt x is $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$.

The equation is called linear because only 1st degree terms in y and its derivatives occur.

Result: The general solution of the 2nd order differential equation

$$a \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0 \text{ is } y = Au + Bv,$$

where $y = u$ and $y = v$ are particular, distinct solutions of the differential equation.

We now need to find the functions u and v in specific cases.

In the differential equation $a \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0$, try as a solution...

$$y = e^{mx} \text{ where } m \text{ is a constant to be found.}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = me^{mx}$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = m^2e^{mx}$$

If $y = e^{mx}$ is a solution of the differential equation then

$$am^2e^{mx} + bme^{mx} + ce^{mx} = 0$$

$$\therefore am^2 + bm + c = 0 \text{ (because } e^{mx} > 0 \text{ for all } m)$$

The 2 values of m required are the roots of the quadratic equation $am^2 + bm + c = 0$. This equation is called the Auxiliary Quadratic Equation and it may have..

- (i) Real roots (if $b^2 - 4ac > 0$)
- (ii) Identical roots (if $b^2 - 4ac = 0$)
- (iii) Complex roots (if $b^2 - 4ac < 0$)

Example

Find the general solution of the differential equation

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + \frac{dy}{dx} - 6y = 0$$

Solution

$$\text{Let } \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + \frac{dy}{dx} - 6y = 0 \dots (1)$$

Take $y = e^{mx}$ as a particular soln.

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = m e^{mx} \quad , \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = m^2 e^{mx}$$

$$(1) \text{ now becomes } m^2 + m - 6 = 0$$

$$(m+3)(m-2) = 0$$

$$m = -3 \quad , \quad m = 2$$

Hence the 2 particular solns $y = e^{-3x}$ and $y = e^{2x}$. The general solution is then

$$y = A e^{-3x} + B e^{2x}.$$

Generalising:- The general solution of the differential equation

$a \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0$, whose auxiliary quadratic equation

$am^2 + bm + c = 0$ has real distinct roots α and β is:-

$$y = A e^{\alpha x} + B e^{\beta x}$$

(where A and B are constants)

Auxiliary Quadratic Equation With Real Coincident Roots

Example

Find the general solution of the differential equation

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 4\frac{dy}{dx} + 4y = 0$$

Solution

$$\text{let } \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 4\frac{dy}{dx} + 4y = 0 \dots \textcircled{1}$$

$$\text{let } y = e^{mx} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = me^{mx} \Rightarrow \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = m^2e^{mx}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \quad m^2 - 4m + 4 = 0$$

$$(m-2)^2 = 0$$

$$m = 2$$

The general solution in this case is $y = Ae^{2x} + Bxe^{2x}$

* You can check by finding $\frac{dy}{dx}$ then $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ and

showing that $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 4\frac{dy}{dx} + 4y = 0$ as it is in $\textcircled{1}$.

Generalising:- The general solution of the differential equation

$a\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + b\frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0$, whose auxiliary quadratic equation

$am^2 + bm + c = 0$ has equal roots α is:-

$$y = (A + Bx)e^{\alpha x}$$

(where A and B are constants)

Auxiliary Quadratic Equation With Pure Imaginary Roots

Example

Find the general solution of the differential equation

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4y = 0$$

Solution

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4y = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$\text{let } y = e^{mx} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = m e^{mx} \Rightarrow \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = m^2 e^{mx}$$

$$\text{(1) } m^2 + 4 = 0$$

$$m^2 = -4$$

$$m = \pm 2i$$

$$\text{gen soln is } y = A e^{2ix} + B e^{-2ix}$$

$$\Rightarrow y = A(\cos 2x + i \sin 2x) + B(\cos 2x - i \sin 2x)$$

$$\Rightarrow y = (A+B) \cos 2x + i(A-B) \sin 2x$$

$$\Rightarrow y = P \cos 2x + Q \sin 2x \quad \text{where } P = A+B$$
$$Q = i(A-B)$$

Result:- For the differential equation

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + n^2y = 0$$

General solution is $y = A \cos nx + B \sin nx$ (where A and B are constants).

Auxiliary Quadratic Equation With Complex Conjugate Roots

Example

Find the general solution of the differential equation

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 4\frac{dy}{dx} + 13y = 0$$

Solution

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 4\frac{dy}{dx} + 13y = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

let $y = e^{mx}$

\Rightarrow (1) becomes $m^2 - 4m + 13 = 0$

$\Rightarrow m = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{16 - 4(13)}}{2}$

$m = \frac{4 \pm 6i}{2}$

$m = 2 \pm 3i$

gen soln is $y = Pe^{(2+3i)x} + Qe^{(2-3i)x}$

$\Rightarrow y = e^{2x}(Pe^{3ix} + Qe^{-3ix})$

$y = e^{2x}(A \cos 3x + B \sin 3x)$

where $A = P+Q$
 $B = i(P-Q)$

Ans: $y = e^{2x}(A \cos 3x + B \sin 3x)$

Result:- For the differential equation

$a\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + b\frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0$, where the auxiliary quadratic equation

$am^2 + bm + c = 0$ has complex conjugate roots

$p + iq$ and $p - iq$ (where p and $q \in R$)

the general solution is $y = e^{px}(A \cos qx + B \sin qx)$

(where A and B are constants)

*P3 book Ex8F

The Second Order Differential Equation

$$a \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = f(x)$$

To solve this type of differential equation:-

Method:-

1. Solve the differential equation

$$a \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0$$

The solution is called the complementary function.

2. Find a solution of the equation

$$a \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = f(x)$$

where $f(x)$ could be any one of these forms: –

- (i) A constant k
- (ii) A linear function $px + q$
- (iii) An exponential function ke^{px}
- (iv) A trig function e.g. $p \sin x, q \cos 2x$ or $p \sin 3x + q \cos 3x$

A solution of the differential equation for any of the forms of $f(x)$ given above can be found by inspection.

This solution, when found, is called a particular integral of the equation.

3. The general solution of the differential equation is then

$$y = C.F. + P.I.$$

Examples on finding the P.I.

Example

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 3\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = f(x)$$

Find P.I. of this differential equation in the cases where $f(x) = \dots$

- (a.) 12 (b.) $3x + 5$ (c.) $3e^{2x}$ (d.) $\cos 2x$

Solution

(a.)

$$\text{Try } y = k \text{ as P.I.}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 0 \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 0$$

$$\text{sub into } \textcircled{1} \quad 0 + 0 + 2k = 12 \Rightarrow k = 6$$

$$\text{so } y = 6 \text{ is P.I.}$$

(b.)

$$\text{try } y = ax + b \text{ as P.I.}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = a \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 0$$

$$\textcircled{1} \text{ becomes } 0 + 3a + 2ax + 2b = 3x + 5$$

$$\text{equate } x \Rightarrow 2a = 3 \Rightarrow a = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$\text{equate constant} \Rightarrow 3a + 2b = 5$$

$$4.5 + 2b = 5$$

$$2b = 0.5$$

$$b = 0.25$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{P.I. is } y = 1.5x + 0.25$$

(c.)

$$\text{Try } y = ke^{2x}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2ke^{2x} \quad / \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 4ke^{2x}$$

$$\textcircled{1} \text{ hence, } 4ke^{2x} + 6ke^{2x} + 2ke^{2x} = 3e^{2x}$$

$$12k = 3$$

$$k = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{P.I. is } y = \frac{1}{4}e^{2x}$$

(d.)

$$\text{Try } y = a \cos 2x + b \sin 2x$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -2a \sin 2x + 2b \cos 2x$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -4a \cos 2x - 4b \sin 2x$$

$\textcircled{1}$ hence,

$$-4a \cos 2x - 4b \sin 2x - 6a \sin 2x + 6b \cos 2x + 2a \cos 2x + 2b \sin 2x = \cos 2x$$

equating terms in $\cos 2x \Rightarrow$

$$-4a + 6b + 2a = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow -2a + 6b = 1 \quad \dots \textcircled{1}$$

equating terms in $\sin 2x \Rightarrow$

$$-4b - 6a + 2b = 0$$

$$-2b - 6a = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow b = -3a$$

sub into $\textcircled{1}$ $-2a - 18a = 1$

$$a = -\frac{1}{20}$$

$$b = \frac{3}{20}$$

$$\text{So P.I. is } y = -\frac{1}{20} \cos 2x + \frac{3}{20} \sin 2x$$

Example

Find y in terms of x for the differential equation

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 3\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = \cos 2x$$

given that $\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$ at $x = 0$ and $y = 0$ at $x = 0$.

Solution

$$\text{Consider } \frac{dy}{dx} + 3\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = 0$$

$$\text{Auxiliary eqn is } m^2 + 3m + 2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (m+2)(m+1) = 0$$

$$m = -2, m = -1$$

$$\text{hence CF is } y = Ae^{-2x} + Be^{-x}$$

$$\text{From (d.) of previous question PI is } y = -\frac{1}{20}\cos 2x + \frac{3}{20}\sin 2x$$

$$\text{So general soln is } y = Ae^{-2x} + Be^{-x} - \frac{1}{20}\cos 2x + \frac{3}{20}\sin 2x$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} x=0 \\ y=0 \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow 0 = A + B - \frac{1}{20}$$

$$A + B = \frac{1}{20} \quad \dots \text{I}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -2Ae^{-2x} - Be^{-x} + \frac{1}{10}\sin 2x + \frac{3}{10}\cos 2x$$

$$x=0, \frac{dy}{dx} = 0 \Rightarrow 0 = -2A - B + \frac{3}{10}$$

$$2A + B = \frac{3}{10} \quad \dots \text{II}$$

$$\Rightarrow A = \frac{5}{20} = \frac{1}{4} \quad \dots \text{II-I}$$

$$\Rightarrow B = -\frac{1}{5}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{soln of diff eqn is } y = \frac{1}{4}e^{-2x} - \frac{1}{5}e^{-x} - \frac{1}{20}\cos 2x + \frac{3}{20}\sin 2x$$