

110.302 Lecture 3: Friday, 9/4/15 I

Very generally, a first-order ODE of the form

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = F(t, y) \quad (*)$$

will have  $F$  a function of both  $t$  and  $y$  and will not be solvable.

However, with some additional structure to  $F$ , there are methods to solve: In Chapter 2, we explore some of these.

First type of structure (Section 2.1): Linear

Ⓘ Suppose  $F(t, y) = -p(t)y + q(t)$  for some ~~arbitrary~~ functions  $p(t), q(t)$ .

Then  $(*)$  can be rewritten

$$y' = -p(t)y + q(t) \quad \text{or}$$

$$(**) \quad y' + p(t)y = q(t)$$

II

This new form exposes a structure that facilitates calculation: The LHS is almost the total derivative of a function. To make it so, we multiply the ODE by an expression called an integrating factor

Def An integrating factor is a term that when multiplied to an expression renders the expression integrable.

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To understand what we are looking for, look at the patterns here:

Let  $y$  be a <sup>diffe</sup>function of  $t$ . Then, for any other diffe-function of  $t$ ,  $f(t)$ , we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} [f(t)y] = f(t)y' + f'(t)y \quad \text{by Prod. Rule}$$

$$\text{And also } \frac{d}{dt} [e^{A(t)} y] = e^{A(t)} y' + e^{A(t)} A'(t) y \\ = e^{A(t)} [y' + A'(t) y].$$

We do this just to look for patterns. In this case, we see an important one: Inside the brackets,  $[y' + A'(t) y]$  looks very close to the LHS of ~~(\*)~~  $y' + p(t) y = q(t)$ .

In fact, they are precisely the same when  $A'(t) = p(t)$ , or  $A(t) = \int p(t) dt$ .

So we do one more calculation for a pattern:

$$\frac{d}{dt} [e^{\int p(t) dt} y] = e^{\int p(t) dt} y' + \frac{d}{dt} [e^{\int p(t) dt}] y \\ = e^{\int p(t) dt} y' + e^{\int p(t) dt} p(t) y \\ = e^{\int p(t) dt} [y' + p(t) y].$$

precisely the LHS of  
~~(\*\*)~~  $y' + p(t) y = q(t)$

IV

This is useful because, if we take  $y' + p(t)y = q(t)$  and multiply the entire eqn by  $e^{\int p(t) dt}$ , then the LHS becomes easily integrable.

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Call  $e^{\int p(t) dt}$  the integrating factor of  $y' + p(t)y = q(t)$ .

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Challenge Q: It turns out, any antiderivative of  $p(t)$  will give the same effect. Why?

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Let's play this out and see just how the integrating factor is helpful.

Solve  $y' + p(t)y = q(t)$ .

Step 1: Multiply entire eqn by  $e^{\int p(t) dt}$ .

$$e^{\int p(t) dt} [y' + p(t)y = q(t)]$$

$$\underbrace{e^{\int p(t) dt} y' + e^{\int p(t) dt} p(t)y}_{\frac{d}{dt} [e^{\int p(t) dt} y]} = e^{\int p(t) dt} q(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} [e^{\int p(t) dt} y] = e^{\int p(t) dt} q(t).$$

Step 2: Integrate with respect to (wrt)  $t$ .

$$\int \frac{d}{dt} [e^{\int p(t) dt} y] dt = \int e^{\int p(t) dt} q(t) dt$$

$$e^{\int p(t) dt} y = \int e^{\int p(t) dt} q(t) dt + C$$

Step 3: Solve for  $y$ .

$$y(t) = e^{-\int p(t) dt} \left[ \int e^{\int p(t) dt} q(t) dt + C \right].$$

Notes ① Theoretically, we can always do this.  
 Practically, the integrating factor  $e^{\int p(t) dt}$  is pretty easy to calculate, usually.

② You do not need to memorize any thing of the form of step 3. Just remember the steps.

③ Any antiderivative of  $p(t)$  will do, since (a) they all only differ by a constant (b) You are multiplying the entire equation by the factor.

ex. Suppose  $p(t) = 2t$ .  ~~$e^{\int p(t) dt}$~~  Then  $e^{\int p(t) dt} = e^{\int 2t dt} = e^{t^2}$ .

If instead you chose  $e^{\int p(t) dt} = e^{\int 2t dt} = e^{t^2 + c}$ , then

$$e^{t^2 + c} = e^{t^2} e^c = e^{t^2} K, \text{ for } K \in \mathbb{R} \text{ a constant.}$$

Then  $K e^{t^2} [y' + p(t)y = r(t)]$  is same as  $e^{t^2} [y' + p(t)y = r(t)]$  as far as solutions are concerned.

Some examples

(I) Solve  $ty' - 2y = t^3 e^{-2t}$

Strategy: This is linear so we use the int. fact.  $e^{\int p(t)dt}$  to solve using the 3 steps above.

Solution: Place the ODE in standard form

$$y' - \frac{2}{t}y = t^2 e^{-2t}$$

This gives us  $p(t) = -\frac{2}{t}$ , so the int. factor is  $e^{\int p(t)dt} = e^{-2\int \frac{1}{t} dt} = e^{-2\ln|t|} = e^{\ln t^{-2}} = t^{-2}$ .

Step 1: Multiply ODE by int. factor.

$$t^{-2} [y' - \frac{2}{t}y = t^2 e^{-2t}]$$

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

$$\frac{d}{dt} [t^{-2}y] = e^{-2t}$$

Step 2: Integrate w/rt t.

$$\int \frac{d}{dt} [t^{-2}y] dt = t^{-2}y + C_1 = \int e^{-2t} dt = -\frac{1}{2}e^{-2t} + C_2$$

$$t^{-2}y = -\frac{1}{2}e^{-2t} + K$$

Step 3: Solve for  $y(t)$ :

$y(t) = -\frac{1}{2}t^2 e^{-2t} + Kt^2$

This func solves the ODE.

Check to see if this is correct:

$$\underbrace{(-te^{-2t} + t^2e^{-2t} + 2kt)}_{y'} - \frac{2}{t} \underbrace{\left(-\frac{1}{2}t^2e^{-2t} + kt^2\right)}_y = t^2e^{-2t}$$

$$\underbrace{-te^{-2t} + t^2e^{-2t} + 2kt}_{0} + \underbrace{te^{-2t} - 2kt}_{0} = t^2e^{-2t}$$

$$t^2e^{-2t} = t^2e^{-2t} \quad \checkmark$$

(II)  $\dot{x} + 2tx = t^3$ . Solve this.

Strategy: Use the integrating factor on this linear ODE to integrate through to an expression for  $x(t)$ .

Solution: This ODE is linear, with  $p(t) = 2t$ .

Thus the int. factor is

$$e^{\int p(t) dt} = e^{\int 2t dt} = e^{t^2}$$

Step 1: Mult. ODE by int. factor:

$$e^{t^2} [\dot{x} + 2tx = t^3]$$

$$\underbrace{e^{t^2} \dot{x} + 2te^{t^2} x}_{\frac{d}{dt}[e^{t^2} x]} = t^3 e^{t^2}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}[e^{t^2} x] = t^3 e^{t^2}$$



Step 2: Integrate wrt  $t$ .

$$\int \frac{d}{dt} [e^{t^2} x] dt = e^{t^2} x + C_1 = \int t^3 e^{t^2} dt$$

$$\rightarrow \int t^3 e^{t^2} dt \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{subst.} \\ s = t^2 \\ ds = 2t dt \end{array} \quad \frac{1}{2} \int s e^s ds$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \int s e^s ds \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Int By Pts.} \\ u = s \\ v = e^s \\ du = ds \\ dv = e^s ds \end{array} \quad \frac{1}{2} (s e^s - \int e^s ds) = \frac{1}{2} (s e^s - e^s) + C_2 \\ = \frac{1}{2} e^{t^2} (t^2 - 1) + C_2$$

Combine constants to get:

$$e^{t^2} x = \frac{1}{2} e^{t^2} (t^2 - 1) + K$$

Step 3: Solve for  $x(t)$ .

$$x(t) = \frac{1}{2} t^2 - \frac{1}{2} + K e^{-t^2}$$

This is the general solution to  $\dot{x} + 2tx = t^3$

Check this:

$$\left( t - 2Kt e^{-t^2} \right) + 2t \left( \frac{1}{2} t^2 - \frac{1}{2} + K e^{-t^2} \right) = t^3$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \dot{x} \quad x \\ t - 2Kt e^{-t^2} + t^3 - t + 2Kt e^{-t^2} = t^3 \end{array}$$

$$t^3 = t^3 \quad \text{it works}$$

(III) Solve  $\frac{dx}{ds} = \frac{x}{s} - s^2$ , for  $s > 0$

Here the ODE is again linear (note  $s$  is the independent variable), and  $p(s) = -\frac{1}{s}$ .

The int. factor is then

$$e^{\int p(s) ds} = e^{\int (-\frac{1}{s}) ds} = e^{-\int \frac{1}{s} ds} = e^{-\ln s} = e^{\ln s^{-1}} = s^{-1}$$

Multiply through standard form of ODE to get

$$\frac{1}{s} \left[ \frac{dx}{ds} - \frac{x}{s} = -s^2 \right] \Rightarrow \underbrace{\frac{1}{s} \frac{dx}{ds} - \frac{x}{s^2}}_{\frac{d}{ds} \left[ \frac{1}{s} \cdot x \right]} = -s$$

Integrate wrt  $s$  to get

$$\frac{1}{s} \cdot x = \int (-s) ds + C = -\frac{s^2}{2} + C$$

Solve for  $x(s)$ :

$$\boxed{x(s) = -\frac{s^3}{2} + Cs}$$

This is the general solution to ODE

Check it:

$$\underbrace{\left( -\frac{3}{2}s^2 + C \right)}_{\frac{dx}{ds}} = \frac{1}{s} \underbrace{\left( -\frac{s^3}{2} + Cs \right)}_x - s^2$$

$$-\frac{3}{2}s^2 + C = -\frac{s^2}{2} + C - s^2$$

$$-\frac{3}{2}s^2 = -\frac{3}{2}s^2 \quad \checkmark \quad \underline{\text{It is correct.}}$$

④ Find the general solution to

$$t(y' - y) = (1+t^2)e^t \quad \text{on } t > 0.$$

Here, try to see why this is linear, with  $p(t) = -1$ . The solution is

$$y(t) = e^t \left( \ln t + \frac{t^2}{2} + C \right)$$

This solution is drawn up in a separate document under example problems, on the web site.

⑤ Solve  $\frac{dp}{dt} = \frac{p}{2} - 450$  using an integrating factor.

Solution: This is an exercise. You already know the answer.