

110.302 Lecture 4: 9/9/15

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Ⓓ Structure type: Separable

Suppose for $y' = f(t, y)$ that

$$f(t, y) = g(t)h(y)$$

for 2 functions $g(t)$, and $h(y)$.

Then we say the ODE is separable

(we can separate RHS into the product of 2 functions; one of t alone and the other of y alone).

Then the ODE is $y' = g(t)h(y)$, and we can write

$$\frac{1}{h(y)} \frac{dy}{dt} = g(t)$$

Since y is a function of t , both sides are functions of t and we can integrate wrt t .

$$(*) \quad \underbrace{\int \left(\frac{1}{h(y)} \frac{dy}{dt} \right) dt}_{\substack{\text{No antiderivative} \\ \text{of } \frac{1}{h(y)} \text{ as a} \\ \text{function of } t}} = \underbrace{\int g(t) dt}_{\substack{\text{No antiderivative} \\ \text{of } g(t)}}$$

The general solution to this kind of ODE is then found by integration alone.

ex. Find the general solution to $\frac{dy}{dx} = xy^2$

(Note: This ODE is separable, but NOT linear!)

Solution: Separate the variables: $\frac{1}{y^2} \frac{dy}{dx} = x$

Then integrate both sides w.r.t x :

$$\int \frac{1}{y^2} \frac{dy}{dx} dx = \int x dx$$

$$-\frac{1}{y} = \frac{x^2}{2} + C = \frac{x^2 + K}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{y = \frac{-2}{x^2 + K}}$$

Note: While this is the general soln, particular solutions will require more than just a choice of K !

This function works since for $y = \frac{-2}{x^2+k}$

$$y' = \frac{2}{(x^2+k)^2} \cdot 2x = x \left(\frac{2}{x^2+k} \right)^2 = x \left(\frac{-2}{x^2+k} \right)^2 = xy^2 \quad \checkmark$$

Notes ① The LHS of (*) is interesting:

$\int \left(\frac{1}{h(y)} \frac{dy}{dt} \right) dt$ is the antiderivative of $\frac{1}{h(y)}$ as a function of t ; in the example,

$$\int \frac{1}{y^2} \frac{dy}{dx} dx = -\frac{1}{y} + C.$$

To see this, rewrite LHS(*) using u as the dependent variable:

$\int \left(\frac{1}{h(u(x))} \cdot \frac{du}{dx} \right) dx$ looks just like the integrand

one would find in a substitution problem:

Let $y = u(x)$, $dy = \cancel{dx} u'(x) dx = \frac{du}{dx} dx$

Then $\int \frac{1}{h(u(x))} \frac{du}{dx} dx = \int \frac{1}{h(y)} dy$ and you can integrate wrt y directly!

In our example above,

$$\int \frac{1}{y^2} \frac{dy}{dx} dx = \int \frac{1}{y^2} dy = -\frac{1}{y} + C.$$

Strictly speaking one does not simply cross out the dx 's. But it does look that way.

② The book uses a slightly different formula:

Any $y' = \frac{dy}{dx} = f(t, y)$ can be written

$$M(x, y) + N(x, y) \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

(think $M = -f$ and $N = 1$, but this may sometimes not be the only way).

Then if $M(x, y) = M(x)$ and $N(x, y) = N(y)$

we get $M(x) + N(y) \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$ or

$$N(y) \frac{dy}{dx} = -M(x) \quad \text{and ODE is separable.}$$

③ In differential form

$$M(x) + N(y) \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

may be presented $M(x) dx + N(y) dy = 0$

$$\text{or} \quad N(y) dy = -M(x) dx.$$

Integrating the differentials yields

$$-\int M(x) dx = \int N(y) dy$$

ex. We may sometimes see $y' = xy^2$ as

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = xy^2, \text{ or } \frac{dy}{dx} - xy^2 = 0, \text{ or } \frac{dy}{y^2} = x dx$$

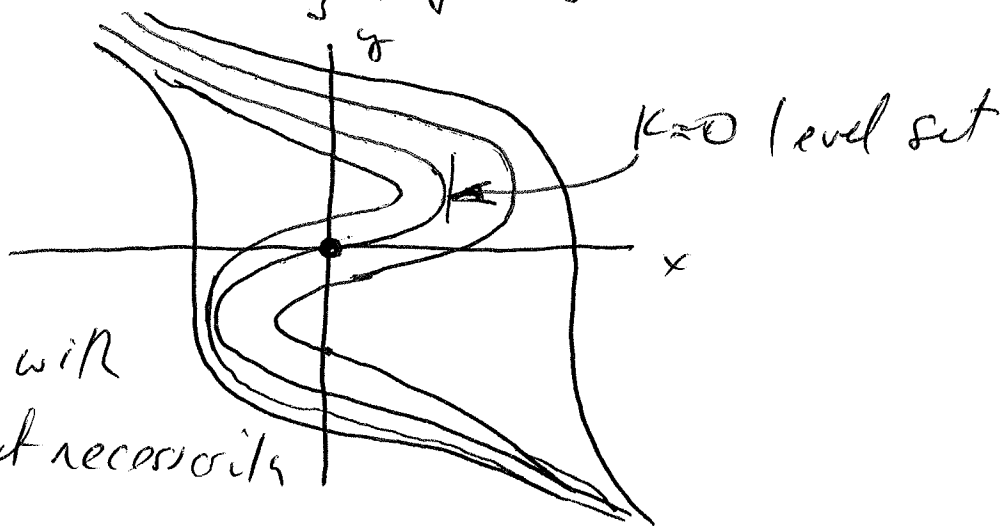
The notation is different, but the ODE is the same.

④ Sometimes, a solution is known only implicitly:

ex in book: $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x^2}{1-y^2}$

Solution is $-\frac{x^3}{3} + y - \frac{y^3}{3} = K$

These curves are solutions to a general eqn with x and y . (not necessarily a function).



Q: How does one use this information to find an explicit solution?

Q: What is the domain of ~~each~~ ^{each} solution?

Q: How do we know which piece to pick?

For $y' = \frac{x^2}{1-y^2}$, $y(0) = 0$, the solution is $y(x)$

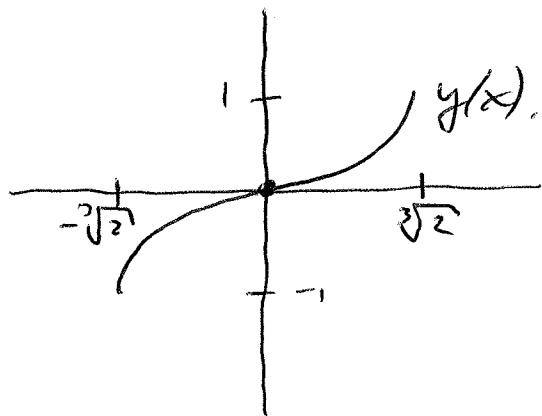
where $-\frac{x^3}{3} + y - \frac{y^3}{3} = 0$, but ~~the~~ the function $y(x)$ is only defined up to the vertical asymptote

lines: these are where $y^2 = 1$, or $y = \pm 1$.

Here when $y = 1$, $-\frac{x^3}{3} + 1 - \frac{1}{3} = 0 \Rightarrow x = \sqrt[3]{2}$.

$y = -1 \Rightarrow x = -\sqrt[3]{2}$.

Caution: A solution to an ODE is a function (even when defined implicitly) that includes its domain!



Solution is interval curve of $-\frac{x^3}{3} + y - \frac{y^3}{3} = 0$, on interval $-\sqrt[3]{2} < x < \sqrt[3]{2}$. that includes (0,0).

⑤ Back to $y' = xy^2$ with its general solution
 $y(x) = \frac{-2}{x^2 + k}$. This is fine as a
 general solution.

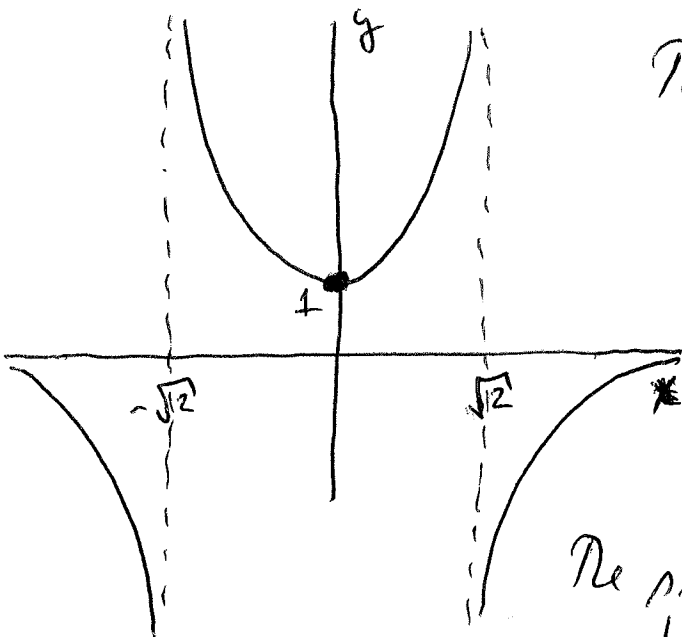
But for an IVP, we will also need a
 domain for which the solution is continuous!

IVP: $y' = xy^2, y(0) = 1$.

Here, the particular solution has k -value $k = -2$.

But $y(x) = \frac{-2}{x^2 - 2}$ does not solve $y' = xy^2, y(0) = 1$.

Only the continuous piece that contains the
 initial value is the solution.



The solution to $y' = xy^2, y(0) = 1$ is
 $y(x) = \frac{-2}{x^2 - 2}$ on $(-\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{2})$ only.

The solution to $y' = xy^2, y(2) = -1$
 is $y(x) = \frac{-2}{x^2 - 2}$ on $(\sqrt{2}, \infty)$ only.

The proper domain is absolutely necessary
 to specifying a solution.

One more example.

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example (ex 4 pg 37)

Solve the IVP $ty' + 2y = 4t^2$ for

(a) $y(-1) = 1$, (b) $y(-1) = 2$, (c) $y(0) = 0$, (d) $y(0) = 1$.

Here method of int. factors yields

$y(t) = t^2 + \frac{c}{t^2}$ as the general soln.

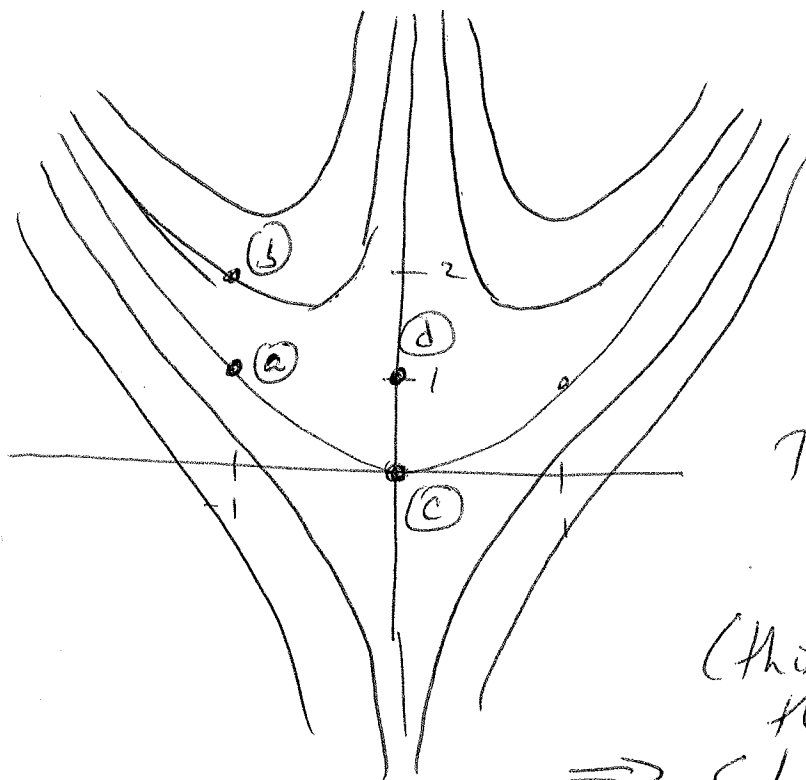
(a) $y(-1) = 1 = (-1)^2 + \frac{c}{(-1)^2} \Rightarrow c = 0$ $y(t) = t^2$ for $t \in (-\infty, \infty)$.

(b) $y(-1) = 2 = (-1)^2 + \frac{c}{(-1)^2} \Rightarrow c = 1$ $y(t) = t^2 + \frac{1}{t^2}$ for $t \in (-\infty, 0)$

(c) Cannot plug in 0. But the pt $(0,0)$ is on an integral curve of IVP. It is on the curve $y = t^2$ on $(-\infty, \infty)$.

(d) The pt $t=0, y=1$ is not on any integral curve. The IVP $ty' + 2y = 4t^2, y(0) = 1$ has no solution. What gives??

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The domain of the
IVP solution in (a)
is $(-\infty, \infty)$

The domain of IVP in (b)
is $(-\infty, 0)$

(This is only 1 piece of $y(t) = t^2 + \frac{1}{t^2}$
the one that includes the pt.)

\Rightarrow Soln to IVP $ty' + 2y = 4t^2$,
 $y(t) = 1$ is

$$y(t) = t^2 + \frac{1}{t^2} \text{ on } (-\infty, 0)$$

Caefal here.