

Chapter I

Introduction

§1.2 Preliminaries and Classification of DEs

Satya Mandal

U. Kansas
Arrowtic *K*-Theory
Fall 2025

Equations from §1.1

We recall the equations discussed in §1.1.

► Falling Object Models:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} m \frac{dv}{dt} = mg - \gamma v \\ 10 \frac{dv}{dt} = 9.8 - 2v \\ \text{OR} \quad \frac{dv}{dt} = 9.8 - .2v \end{array} \right. \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{with } m = 10, \\ g = 9.8, \gamma = .2 \end{array} \quad (1)$$

Continued

- Population Growth Model:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dp}{dt} = rp & \text{neglect other gains} \\ \frac{dp}{dt} = .5p - 450 & r = .5, \text{ other gain } 450 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

- General First Order Equations:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f(t, y) \quad \text{where } f \text{ is a function of } t, y. \quad (3)$$

The equations in §1.1 have been fairly simple, in the sense:

- ▶ All the DEs are of the form (3): $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(t, y)$.
It involves only 1st derivative;
and **no higher order** derivatives.
- ▶ For these DEs (1, 2), the right side $f(t, y)$ are linear.
- ▶ Solving such DEs (3), mainly, involves
nothing more than **revisiting antiderivatives**.

Solving the Growth Model

- We solve the population growth model ((1):

$$\frac{dp}{dt} = .5p - 450 \implies \frac{dp}{.5p - 450} = dt \quad (4)$$

- $\int \frac{dp}{.5p - 450} = \int dt + C$, where C is an arbitrary constant.
- Substituting $u = .5p - 450$ we get

$$\frac{du}{u} = .5 \int dt + C \quad \text{Or} \quad \ln |u| = .5t + C$$

$$|.5p - 450| = e^{.5t+C} = ce^{.5t} \quad \text{Or} \quad p = 900 + ce^{.5t}$$

where $c := \pm e^C > 0$ is an arbitrary constant.

Initial Value

- ▶ $p = 900 + ce^{5t}$ is a solution of (4), for all values of c .
This would be called the **General solution**
- ▶ In the absence of further information, we cannot determine the value of c .
- ▶ Such extra information is provided, often, by giving the population size $p(t_0)$ at a particular time t_0 .
For example, it may be given that $p(0) = 1000$.
Such information, is called an **initial condition**.

- ▶ In case, $p(0) = 1000$, we have

$$1000 = p(0) = 900 + c, \quad c = 100$$

Finally, our **particular solution** is $p = 900 + 100e^{.5t}$

- ▶ In the next frame,
compare the direction fields of the DE (1),
with this solution $p = 900 + 100e^{.5t}$.



```
Computing the field elements.  
Ready.  
The forward orbit from (-0.0014, 1e+03) left the computation window.  
The backward orbit from (-0.0014, 1e+03)  
Ready.
```


Solving such general equations

More generally, consider the initial value problem:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dy}{dt} = ay - b \\ y(0) = y_0 \end{cases} \quad a, b \text{ are constants, and} \quad (5)$$

y_0 is (an) **initial value** of y , at time $t = 0$.

continued

(Trivial cases):

- ▶ If $a = 0$ then the equation is rewritten as

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dy}{dt} = -b \\ y(0) = y_0 \end{cases} \quad \text{Solution : exercise}$$

- ▶ Assume $a \neq 0$ and $ay - b = 0$ then, $y = y(t) = \frac{b}{a}$.
Then there is nothing to solve. We have

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dy}{dt} = 0 \\ y(0) = y_0 \end{cases} \quad \left(\text{Answer : } y = y_0 = \frac{b}{a} \right)$$

continued

(The Non-Trivial case):

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dy}{dt} = ay - b \\ y(0) = y_0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} a \neq 0, \\ ay - b \neq 0 \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

- We have $\frac{dy}{ay-b} = dt$. So, $\int \frac{dy}{ay-b} = \int dt + C$,
where C is an arbitrary constant. So,

$$\int \frac{dy}{y - \frac{b}{a}} = a \int dt + C \implies \ln \left| y - \frac{b}{a} \right| = at + C$$

continued

- ▶ Taking exponential: The **general solution** of (6) is:
 $y - \frac{b}{a} = ce^t$ where $c = \pm e^C$ is also arbitrary
- ▶ $c = 0$ corresponds to the **equilibrium solution** $y = \frac{b}{a}$.
- ▶ Using the initial values, we have $y(0) = y_0$: $y_0 - \frac{b}{a} = c$
- ▶ So, the final solution of the initial value problem (6) is:

$$y = \frac{b}{a} + \left[y_0 - \frac{b}{a} \right] e^{at} \quad (7)$$

Standard Examples

Following are some of the standard examples:

- ▶ Mass of decaying mass (usually radio active).
The Population Growth Model above,
the amortization of an interest paying account.
These are analogous.
- ▶ Motion of an ejected or falling body.

We discuss such examples subsequently.

Example 1: Decaying Mass

Statement: Let $Q(t)$ denote the mass of some radio-active substance, at time t . It is known that such substances disintegrates at a rate proportional to the current mass $Q(t)$. Write down a model, for this phenomenon.

- ▶ The rate of disintegration, at time t would be $\frac{dQ}{dt}$. According to the above model statement, $\frac{dQ}{dt}$ is proportional to $Q(t)$.
- ▶ So, the model is $\frac{dQ}{dt} = -rQ(t)$, for some constant $r > 0$.
- ▶ By (6) and solution 7, with $b = 0$, $a = -r$, we have

$$Q(t) = Q(0)e^{-rt}$$

Continued

Statement: Now suppose initial mass is 1000 grams, which reduces to 900 grams in 10 hours. Compute r .

- ▶ We are given $\begin{cases} Q(0) = 1000 \text{ gram} \\ Q(10) = 900 \end{cases}$, at hour t .
- ▶ So, we have

$$900 = 1000e^{-10r}. \quad r = -\frac{\ln(.9)}{10} = .0105$$

- ▶ So, $Q(t) = 1000e^{-.0105t}$.

Example 2: Motion of a Falling Body

Statement: A missile has a vertical and a horizontal motion. For now, we only consider the vertical motion.

Suppose such a missile of mass 1000 kg, is projected and the vertical drag is **proportional to square of the velocity**.

We formulate the model for vertical velocity.

- ▶ Let $v(t)$ denote the vertical velocity of the missile, at time t .
- ▶ The model of the falling body DE (1) was modified, by changing model on drag. By the model statement, the drag = γv^2 .

Continued

- So, the new model DE is

$$m \frac{dv}{dt} = mg - \gamma v^2 \quad (8)$$

- Recall $g = 9.81 \text{ meter/s}^2$. With $m = 1000 \text{ kg}$.
So, we have

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = 9.81 - \frac{1}{1000} \gamma v^2 \quad (9)$$

Continued

Statement: You recorded,
the vertical acceleration $\frac{dv}{dt} = 0$, reduces to zero,
when velocity $v(t) = 100 \text{ meter/sec}$.

We compute the drag constant γ .

- ▶ Substituting $\frac{dv}{dt} = 0$, $v = 0$, in (9),

$$0 = 9.81 - \frac{1}{1000}\gamma(100^2).$$

- ▶ So, $\gamma = .981$ and the model is

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = 9.81 - \frac{.981}{1000}v^2 = \frac{.981}{1000}(10000 - v^2)$$

Continued

- We separate variables (see §2.3):

$$\int \frac{dv}{v^2 - 10000} = -\frac{.981}{1000} \int dt + c \implies$$

$$\int \frac{1}{200} \left(\frac{1}{v - 100} - \frac{1}{v + 100} \right) dv = -\frac{.981}{1000} + c \implies$$



$$\frac{1}{200} \ln \left| \frac{v - 100}{v + 100} \right| = -\frac{.981}{1000} + c \implies$$

Continued

►
$$\left| \frac{v - 100}{v + 100} \right| = Ce^{-.1962t} \quad \text{with} \quad C = e^{200c} > 0$$

► So,

$$\frac{v - 100}{v + 100} = Ce^{-.1962t} \quad \text{with} \quad -\infty < C < \infty$$

► Substituting $v(0) = 0$ we have $C = -1$

Continued

- So, the solution is given by

$$\frac{v - 100}{v + 100} = -e^{-.1962t} \implies$$

$$v(t) = 100 - (v + 100)e^{-.1962t}$$

- **Next Level:** Let $h = h(t)$ denote the vertical distance of the missile, from the point of ejection, at time t . So,

$$\frac{dh}{dt} = v = v(t) = 100 - (v + 100)e^{-.1962t}$$

This equation can be solved to determine the height $h(t)$, of the missile, at time t .

Example 3: Concentration

Statement: A water reservoir contains 10^6 gallons of water. The water is not acceptable for human consumption, due the level of chemicals in the water. The concentration of this chemicals is $.01 \text{ gm/gallon}$. Pure water is added to the pond at the rate of 1,000 gallons/h. The well mixed water drains out of the pond at the same rate . Model the total quantity of chemicals in the pond and determine the concentration of the chemicals after one year.

Continued

Solution:

- ▶ Let $Q(t)$ = quantity of the chemical in the pond, at time t .
- ▶ So, $Q(0) = .01 * 10^6 = 10^4$ gm.
- ▶ Part a): The rate of change

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -1000 * \frac{Q(t)}{10^6} = -\frac{Q(t)}{10^3}$$

- ▶ We can use the general solution solution (7) or rework it out. I will rework. We have

$$\int \frac{dQ}{Q} = - \int \frac{dt}{10^3} + c \quad c \text{ is a constant.}$$

$$\ln Q(t) = \frac{t}{10^3} + c.$$

Continued

So, $Q(t) = Ce^{-\frac{t}{10^3}}$ $C \geq 0$ is a constant

Now, $Q(0) = 10^4 \implies 10^4 = C.$

So, the solution is $Q(t) = 10^4 e^{-\frac{t}{10^3}}$

Finally, after one year, $t = 365 * 24 = 8760$. So,

$$Q(1 \text{ year}) = Q(8760) = 10^4 e^{-\frac{8760}{10^3}} = 10^4 e^{-8.760}$$

So, the concentration is

$$= \frac{Q(1 \text{ year})}{10^6} = \frac{10^4 e^{-8.760}}{10^6} \text{ per gallon. This is near zero.}$$

§1.3 Classification based on no of ind. variables

Two broad classifications of DEs are as follows:

- ▶ When a DE involves only a single independent variable x (or t), then it is called an **Ordinary DE** (also called **ODE**). Chapter 2, 3 would be on ODE.
- ▶ When a DE involves more than one independent variables $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$, then it is called a **Partial DE** (also called **PDE**). PDEs will not be covered in this course.

Classification based on number of unknown variables

- ▶ There may only be one unknown dependent variable y , to be determined. As in **linear algebra**, only one DE (plus initial value) is needed to determine y .
- ▶ There may also be more than one unknown dependent variables $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m$, to be determined. As in **linear algebra**, a system of m (independent, in some sense) DE (plus initial values) are needed to determine $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m$. They will be called a **System of DEs**. We will consider such systems in chapter 7.

Based on Order of derivatives

- ▶ DEs can be classified based on the **highest order** of derivation present.
We will cover
 - ▶ **First order** DE (Chapter 2)
 - ▶ **Second order** DE (Chapter 3)

Linearity and non-linearity

- An ODE of order n is called **linear**, if it looks like

$$a_0(t) \frac{d^n y}{dt^n} + a_1(t) \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dt^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_{n-1}(t) \frac{dy}{dt} + a_n(t)y = g(t)$$

This is also written as:

$$a_0(t)y^{(n)} + a_1(t)y^{(n-1)} + \cdots + a_{n-1}(t)y^{(1)} + a_n(t)y = g(t)$$

$a_i(t), g(t)$ are functions of the independent variable t .