

Assumed Knowledge Integration techniques.

Objectives

(9a) To be able to distinguish between separable and linear first-order differential equations.

(9b) To be able to solve a linear equations utilising an integrating factor.

Preparatory Questions

1. For each of the following equations, determine whether it is separable or a first-order linear equation:

(i) $\frac{dy}{dx} + 3y = x$

(ii) $t \frac{dx}{dt} + x = \cos t$

(iii) $\frac{x}{2} \frac{dy}{dx} = x^2 - y$

(iv) $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2x\sqrt{y}}{\sqrt{1+x^2}}$.

2. Write each of the linear equations in Question 1 in standard form $\frac{dy}{dx} + p(x)y = q(x)$ (with a suitable renaming of variables where necessary) and identify the functions p and q .

Practice Questions

3. (i) Find the general solution of $\frac{dy}{dx} + 3y = x$.

(ii) Find the general solution of $t \frac{dx}{dt} + x = \cos t$

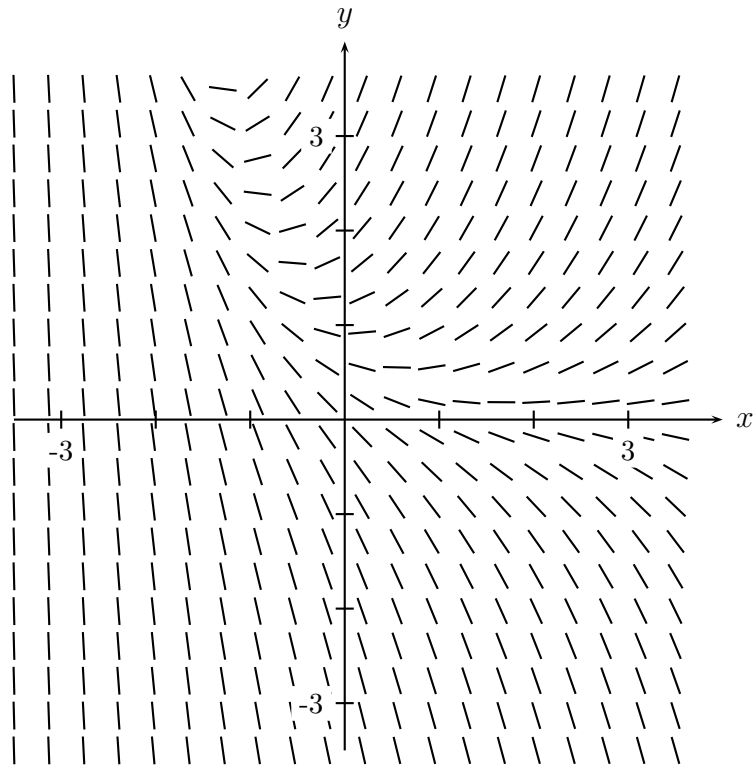
(iii) Find the particular solution of $\frac{x}{2} \frac{dy}{dx} = x^2 - y$ for which $y = 1$ when $x = 1$.

4. (i) The direction field for the equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = y - e^{-x}$ is shown below.

Sketch the graphs of the solutions which satisfy the following initial conditions:

(a) $x = 0, y = 0$;

(b) $x = 0, y = 1$.



- (ii) (a) Find the general solution to the above differential equation.
 (b) Find the particular solutions which correspond to each of the curves sketched in part (i). What happens as $x \rightarrow \infty$ for each of these solutions?
 (c) Find the particular solution for the initial condition $x = 0, y = \frac{1}{2}$. What happens as $x \rightarrow \infty$ in this case?
5. (Suitable for group work and discussion.) A model for how the size of a fish varies with time is

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = -\alpha V + \beta S.$$

where V is the volume of the fish, S is its surface area, t a time variable and $\alpha > 0$ and $\beta > 0$ constants.

For particular species,

$$V = \frac{L^3}{10} \quad \text{and} \quad S = L^2,$$

and when L is measured in metres and time t in years the growth equation is

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = -V + \frac{S}{10}.$$

- (i) Show that L satisfies the differential equation

$$\frac{dL}{dt} = \frac{1}{3}(1 - L).$$

- (ii) Solve this equation as a linear differential equation to find $L(t)$ given that $L = 0$ when $t = 0$.
 (iii) What is the maximum size to which such a fish can grow?
 (iv) How long does it take for such a fish to grow to 50 cm in length?

More Questions

6. (i) For each of the following differential equations, find the general solution and also the particular solution satisfying $y(1) = 0$.

(a) $\frac{dy}{dx} + 4y = e^{-2x}$

(b) $\frac{dy}{dx} + (\sinh x)y = (2x)e^{-\cosh x}$

- (ii) Find the general solution of the differential equation

$$\frac{dz}{dx} + (\cot x)z = -2x,$$

where we assume $0 < x < \pi$.

7. Consider the equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + y \cos x = \cos x.$$

Solve this equation as a linear equation and then solve it as a separable equation. Are the solutions the same?

8. In electronic circuit theory, circuits with a resistor and an inductance coil in series with a voltage applied across these two components are known as RL circuits. This is because the resistance of the resistor is conventionally given as R ohms and the inductance of the coil is conventionally given as L henries. The equation for the rate of change of the electric current I in such a circuit is

$$\frac{dI}{dt} + \frac{R}{L}I = \frac{V}{L}$$

where V is the voltage applied to the circuit. In a circuit with an applied AC current, V will vary with time as $V = A \sin \omega t$. So, if R and L are constant the equation becomes

$$\frac{dI}{dt} + \frac{R}{L}I = \frac{A \sin \omega t}{L}.$$

Solve this equation to find the general solution for I as a function of t . Find the particular solution if the circuit has no current in it when it is switched on. What happens to the current as $t \rightarrow \infty$? How does the initial condition affect this long-term behaviour?

(Hint: $\int e^{au} \sin bu \, du = \frac{e^{au}}{a^2+b^2}(a \sin bu - b \cos bu) + C$.)

Answers to Selected Questions

1. Equations (i), (ii) and (iii) are linear, (iv) is separable.

2. (i) The equation is in standard form, with $p(x) = 3$, and $q(x) = x$.

(ii) Standard form $\frac{dx}{dt} + \frac{x}{t} = \frac{\cos t}{t}$. So solution is $p(t) = \frac{1}{t}$ and $q(t) = \frac{\cos t}{t}$.

(iii) Standard form $\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{2y}{x} = 2x$. Solution $p(x) = \frac{2}{x}$ and $q(x) = 2x$.

3. (i) $y = \frac{1}{3}x - \frac{1}{9} + Ce^{-3x}$ (ii) $x = \frac{\sin t}{t} + \frac{C}{t}$ (iii) $y = \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2x^2}$

4. (ii) (a) $y = \frac{1}{2}e^{-x} + Ce^x$

(b) For $y = 1, x = 0$ particular solution is $y = \frac{1}{2}e^{-x} + \frac{1}{2}e^x = \cosh x$.

For $y = 0, x = 0$ particular solution is $y = \frac{1}{2}e^{-x} - \frac{1}{2}e^x = -\sinh x$.

5. (i) $L = 1 - e^{-t/3}$ (ii) 1 metre (iii) $t = 3 \ln 2 = 2.08$ years

6. (i) (a) General solution: $y = \frac{1}{2}e^{-2x} + Ce^{-4x}$, particular solution: $y = \frac{1}{2}e^{-2x} (1 - e^{2(1-x)})$.

(b) General solution: $y = (x^2 + C)e^{-\cosh x}$, particular solution: $y = (x^2 - 1)e^{-\cosh x}$.

(ii) $z = \frac{2x \cos x - 2 \sin x + C}{\sin x}$

8. General solution:

$$I = \frac{A}{L} \frac{1}{(R/L)^2 + \omega^2} \left(\frac{R}{L} \sin \omega t - \omega \cos \omega t \right) + Ce^{-Rt/L}$$

Particular solution:

$$I = \frac{A}{L} \frac{1}{(R/L)^2 + \omega^2} \left(\frac{R}{L} \sin \omega t - \omega \cos \omega t + \omega e^{-Rt/L} \right).$$

As $t \rightarrow \infty$

$$I \rightarrow \frac{A}{L} \frac{1}{(R/L)^2 + \omega^2} \left(\frac{R}{L} \sin \omega t - \omega \cos \omega t \right).$$