

Linear 1st order ODEs
and Integrating Factors
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Existence-Uniqueness Theorem

- Consider the 1st order linear ODE initial value problem

$$y' + p(x)y = q(x), \quad y(x_0) = y_0$$

- If p and q are continuous functions on an interval I containing x_0 , then there exists a unique solution to the IVP for every point in I .
- In a more theoretical ordinary differential equations class, a lot of time is spent on proving various existence theorems, uniqueness theorems, and existence-uniqueness theorems.

Differentials

- Differentials dx and dy are the intuition behind $\frac{dy}{dx}$, and can be thought of as infinitesimal changes along the x- or y-axes.

Ex. $y' = x^2$

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

$$\int dy = \int x^2 dx$$

$$y = \frac{1}{3} x^3 + C$$

Let $f(x) = \frac{1}{3} x^3$

$$d[f(x)] = d\left[\frac{1}{3} x^3\right]$$

$$df = x^2 dx$$

Differentials of multi-variable functions

- Let $z = f(x, y)$ be a function of both x and y .

$\partial f \leftarrow$ tiny change in f
 $\partial x \leftarrow$ tiny change in x

- Recall that the gradient $\nabla f = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \end{bmatrix}$ gives the partial derivative in the $u = \begin{bmatrix} u_x \\ u_y \end{bmatrix}$ direction by $\nabla f \cdot u$.

- We define the total differential of z by

$$dz = f_x(x, y)dx + f_y(x, y)dy = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \underline{dy}$$

- i.e. $dz = \nabla f \cdot \begin{bmatrix} dx \\ dy \end{bmatrix}$, where ∇f is the ~~scalar~~ Gradient.

Example of total differential

Ex. $z = x^2 + 2xy + y^4$

$$\underline{dz} = (2x + 2y) \underline{dx} + (2x + 4y^3) \underline{dy}$$
$$dz = 2x dx + 2y dx + 2x dy + 4y^3 dy$$

Ex. $f(x, y) = \sin 2x + y^2 e^x$

$$df = 2 \cos 2x dx + y^2 e^x dx + 2y e^x dy$$

Ex. $z = x^2 y^2$

$$dz = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} [x^2 y^2] dx + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} [x^2 y^2] dy$$
$$= 2xy^2 dx + 2x^2 y dy$$

Try it out: compute the total differential

• $f(x, y) = x^2 + e^y \sin x$

$$df = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy$$

$$= (2x + e^y \cos x) dx + e^y \sin x dy$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[\frac{5x^2}{y-1} \right] &= 5x^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[\frac{1}{y-1} \right] \\ &= 5x^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial y} [(y-1)^{-1}] \\ &= 5x^2 \cdot -1 \cdot (y-1)^{-2} \end{aligned}$$

• $z = \frac{5x^2}{y-1} + 1$

$$dz = \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} dy$$

$$dz = \frac{10x}{y-1} dx + \frac{-5x^2}{(y-1)^2} dy$$

- A: $(2x + e^y \cos x) dx + e^y \sin x dy$
B: $x^2 dx + e^y \sin x dy$
C: $2x dx + e^y \cos x dx$
D: $2x dy + e^y \sin x dy$
E: None of the above

- A: $\frac{5x^2}{y-1} dx - \frac{5x^2}{(y-1)^2} dy$
B: $\frac{10x}{y-1} dx - \frac{5x^2}{y-1} dy$
C: $\frac{10x}{y-1} dx + \frac{5x^2}{(y-1)^2} dy$
D: $\frac{10x}{y-1} dx - \frac{5x^2}{(y-1)^2} dy$
E: None of the above

Exact differential


- A differential

$$dz = P(x, y)dx + Q(x, y)dy$$

is an exact differential if there exists a function $f(x, y)$ such that $P(x, y) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}$ and $Q(x, y) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$. Then $z = f(x, y)$.

- Recall that for most nice functions $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y}$.
- Therefore, quick way to see if a differential is exact is to check if

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x}$$


$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right] \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left[\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right]$$

Example

Ex. $dz = \underbrace{\frac{10x}{y-1}}_{P(x,y)} dx - \underbrace{\frac{5x^2}{(y-1)^2}}_{Q(x,y)} dy$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = \frac{-10x}{(y-1)^2} \quad \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = \frac{-10x}{(y-1)^2} \quad \text{Exact}$$

Ex. $dz = \underbrace{(5x^2+1)}_{P(x,y)} dx + \underbrace{xy^2}_{Q(x,y)} dy$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = y^2 \quad \text{Not exact}$$

Solving exact differential equations

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-2xy}{x^2+1}$$

$$(x^2+1)dy = -2xy dx$$

$$df = \underbrace{2xy dx}_{P(x,y)} + \underbrace{(x^2+1)dy}_{Q(x,y)} = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = 2x \quad \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x} = 2x \Rightarrow \text{exact}$$

$$\int df = \int 0 \Rightarrow x^2 y + y + C = 0$$

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

$$\int (x^2+1) dy = x^2 y + y + C(x)$$

$$\int 2xy dx = x^2 y + C(y)$$

Guess: $f(x,y) = x^2 y + y$

$$df = 2xy dx + (x^2+1) dy$$

$$\int df = f + C$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-2x C}{(x^2+1)^2} = \frac{-2xy}{x^2+1}$$

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Integrating factors

- Sometimes, we can find an “integrating factor” $I(x)$ to multiply by both sides of an inexact ODE to make it an exact ODE.

Integrating factors

- Fact 1: every first-order ODE can be turned into an exact differential using an integrating factor.
- Fact 2: there is NO systematic way of guessing integrating factors for general ODEs.
- In MATA35, we will not expect you to use integrating factors outside of a few special cases where the integrating factors are known.

Integrating Factor for linear 1st-order ODE

- If you rewrite a linear 1st-order ODE in the following form:

$$y' + p(x)y = q(x)$$

which is equivalent to

$$dy + dx[p(x)y] = q(x)$$

- Then the integrating factor is


$$e^{\int p(x)dx}$$

General solution for 1st-order ODE


- If you rewrite a linear 1st-order ODE in the following form:

$$y' + p(x)y = q(x)$$

- The general solution can be found by:

- Determining the integrating factor $I(x) = e^{\int p(x)dx}$ 
- Multiply both sides by $I(x)$: $y' \cdot I(x) + p(x)y \cdot I(x) = q(x) \cdot I(x)$
- Multiply both sides by dx : $dy \cdot I(x) + p(x)y \cdot I(x)dx = q(x)I(x)dx$
- The left hand side is the total differential $d[I(x)y]$
- So we can integrate both sides to get $I(x)y = \int q(x)I(x)dx$
- Then $y = \frac{1}{I(x)} [\int q(x)I(x)dx + C]$

- In a single, ugly, long equation:

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


Try it out

- $y' - 3x^2y = x^2$

A: $-\frac{1}{3} + e^{x^3} + C$

B: $-\frac{1}{3}e^{x^3} + C$

C: $-\frac{1}{3}e^{x^3+C}$

D: $-\frac{1}{3} + Ce^{x^3}$

E: None of the above