

Outline:

- Solve first-order autonomous equation (in general)
- Give a couple practice examples

Consider a first-order **autonomous** equation

$$\dot{x} = f(x), \quad f \in C(\mathbb{R})$$

Remember that I also called these **time-invariant** equations.

The reason is because if  $\phi(t)$  is a solution, then  
so is  $\psi(t) = \phi(t - t_0)$ . (Hw 1.8)

Thus, we only have to consider solutions starting at time  $t=0$ .

Let's try to find the solution that starts at a particular point  $x_0$ .

i.e.  $x_0 = x(0)$ .

If  $f(x_0) \neq 0$ , we can divide to get

$$\frac{\dot{x}}{f(x)} = 1$$

$$\frac{\dot{x}(t)}{f(x(t))} = 1 \quad \text{write out the } t\text{-dependence explicitly}$$

$$\frac{\dot{x}(s)}{f(x(s))} = 1 \quad \text{change } t \rightarrow s$$

$$\int_0^t \frac{\dot{x}(s)}{f(x(s))} ds = \int_0^t ds = t$$

Let's change variables setting  $y = x(s)$ .

$$\text{Then } \int_{x(0)}^{x(t)} \frac{dy}{f(y)} = t.$$

$$\text{Let } F(x) = \int_{x_0}^x \frac{dy}{f(y)}. \quad \text{Then clearly } F(x(t)) = \int_{x_0}^{x(t)} \frac{dy}{f(y)} = t.$$

Heuristically, (or more formally, using differential forms)

$$\frac{1}{f(x)} \frac{dx}{dt} = 1$$

$$\frac{dx}{f(x)} = dt$$

$$\frac{dy}{f(y)} = ds \quad \text{change } x \rightarrow y, \quad t \rightarrow s$$

$$\int_{y=x(0)}^{y=x(t)} \frac{dy}{f(y)} = \int_{s=0}^{s=t} ds$$

$$\int_{x(0)}^{x(t)} \frac{dy}{f(y)} = t$$

Lemma  $F(x)$  is strictly monotone near  $x_0$ .  
 $\hookrightarrow$  always going up, or always going down.

proof.  $f(x_0) \neq 0$ , and  $f \in C(\mathbb{R})$ .

Two cases:  $f(x_0) > 0$  or  $f(x_0) < 0$ .

We focus on  $f(x_0) > 0$ .

Then by continuity,  $\exists \delta > 0$  s.t.  $\forall x \in (x_0 - \delta, x_0 + \delta)$ ,  $f(x) > 0$ .



$$f(x) > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{f(x)} > 0.$$

Thus  $F(x)$  on  $(x_0 - \delta, x_0 + \delta)$  is strictly monotone positive.

The converse holds true for  $f(x_0) < 0$ . □

Since  $F(x)$  is strictly monotone near  $x_0$ , it is invertible.

We can then obtain a unique solution to our ODE

$$\phi(t) = F^{-1}(t), \quad \phi(0) = F^{-1}(0) = x_0.$$

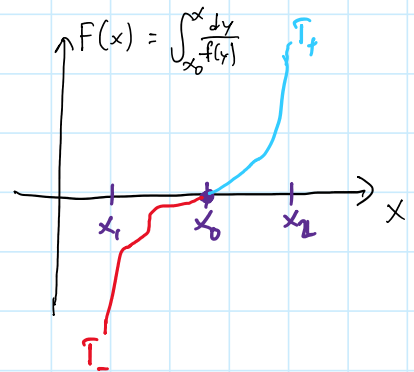
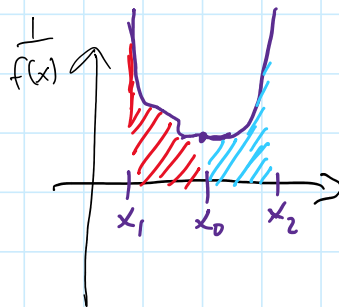
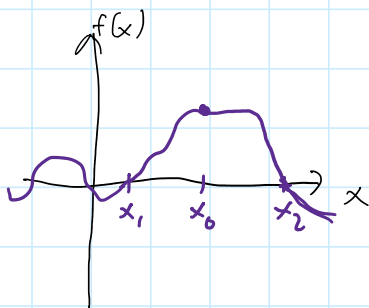
We only showed  $\phi(t)$  to be defined in a small  $\delta$ -ball around  $x_0$ .

How far can we define  $\phi(t)$  by  $F^{-1}(t)$ ?

Let  $(x_1, x_2)$  be a maximal interval around  $x_0$  where  $f(x)$  is positive.

(we consider only the positive case, but the negative is analogous)

Define  $T_+ = \lim_{x \uparrow x_2} F(x) \in [0, \infty]$ ,  $T_- = \lim_{x \downarrow x_1} F(x) \in [-\infty, 0)$



Note that  $F(x)$  has a nonzero continuous derivative on  $(x_1, x_2)$ .

Then by the inverse function theorem,  $F^{-1}(x)$  has a nonzero

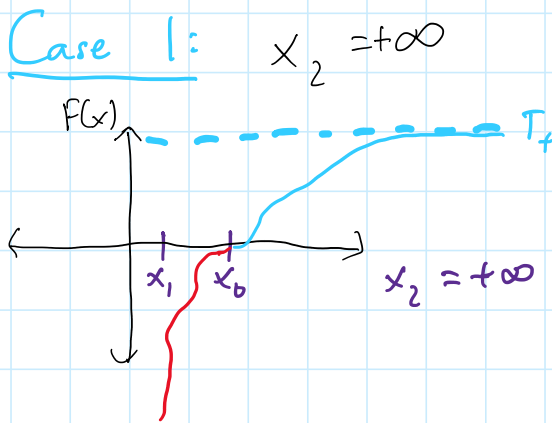
$$\dots$$

Then by the inverse function theorem,  $F^{-1}(x)$  has a nonzero continuous derivative on  $(F(x_1), F(x_2)) = (T_-, T_+)$ .

So  $\phi \in C^1((T_-, T_+))$  and  $\lim_{t \uparrow T_+} \phi(t) = x_2$ ,  $\lim_{t \downarrow T_-} \phi(t) = x_1$ .

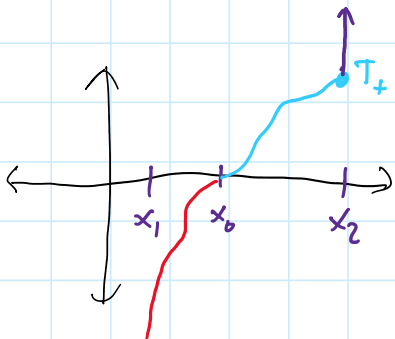
Note that  $\phi$  is defined for all  $t > 0$  iff  $T_+ = \int_{x_0}^{x_2} \frac{dy}{f(y)} = +\infty$ .  
 i.e. if  $\frac{1}{f(x)}$  is not integrable near  $x_2$ .  
 (similarly for  $t < 0$  and integrability near  $x_1$ )

If  $T_+ < +\infty$ , two cases:



When taking the inverse,  
 $x_2 \lim_{t \uparrow T_+} \phi(t) = \infty$ , so  
 cannot extend solution  
 continuously past  $T_+$

Case 2:  $x_2 < +\infty$



Recall  $(x_1, x_2)$  is a maximal interval on which  $f(x) > 0$ .  
 Thus  $f(x_2) = 0$ . Then we can  
 extend  $\phi$  by setting  
 $\phi(t) = x_2$  for  $t \geq T_+$

## Examples

$\dot{x} = x$ , with  $x_0 = x(0) > 0$ .  
 Last time, we did

(Recall radiocarbon dating)

$x = x_0 e^t$ , with  $x_0 = x(0) = v_0$ .

(Recall:  $\frac{dx}{dt} = x$ )

Last time, we did

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dx}{dt} = x &\Rightarrow \int \frac{dx}{x} = \int dt &\Rightarrow \ln x = t + C_1 \\ & &\Rightarrow x = C_2 e^t \quad (C_2 = e^{C_1}) \\ & &\Rightarrow x = x_0 e^t.\end{aligned}$$

This time, more rigorously:

Then  $f(x) = x$ .

And a maximal nonzero interval is  $(x_1, x_2) = (0, \infty)$ .

$$F(x) = \int_{x_0}^x \frac{dy}{y} = \ln y \Big|_{y=x_0}^{y=x} = \ln x - \ln x_0 = \ln \frac{x}{x_0}$$

$$T_+ = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_2} F(x) = \ln \frac{\infty}{x_0} \rightarrow \infty, \text{ which implies } \phi$$

is defined for all  $t > 0$ .

$$\phi(t) = F^{-1}(t).$$

$$t = F(F^{-1}(t)) = \ln \frac{F^{-1}(t)}{x_0}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Rightarrow F^{-1}(t) &= x_0 e^t \\ \phi(t) &= x_0 e^t.\end{aligned}$$

