

Linear differential equations of the first order

All equations that we can write in the form $y' + P(x)y = Q(x)$

Examples: ① $x^2 y' + y = 1$

$$\Leftrightarrow y' + \frac{1}{x^2} y = \frac{1}{x^2}$$

$$P(x) = \frac{1}{x^2} ; Q(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$$

② $y' + y = 1$

$$P(x) = 1 ; Q(x) = 1$$

③ $x^3 y' + (\ln x) y = 0$

$$\Leftrightarrow y' + \frac{\ln x}{x^3} y = 0$$

$$P(x) = \frac{\ln x}{x^3} ; Q(x) = 0$$

④ $3x^2 y' = \ln x$

$$\Leftrightarrow y' = \frac{\ln x}{3x^2}$$

$$P(x) = 0 ; Q(x) = \frac{\ln x}{3x^2}$$

How to solve these equations:

Examples:

$$\textcircled{1} \quad y' + y = 1$$

If we compute

$$\begin{aligned}(y e^x)' &= y' e^x + y e^x \\ &= (y' + y) e^x = e^x\end{aligned}$$

$$y' + y = 1 \quad \Leftrightarrow (y e^x)' = e^x$$

$$\text{Then} \quad \Leftrightarrow y e^x = \int e^x dx$$

$$\Leftrightarrow y e^x = e^x + C$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \boxed{y = 1 + C e^{-x}}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad y' + 2xy = x$$

We compute:

$$\begin{aligned}(y e^{x^2})' &= y' e^{x^2} + 2x e^{x^2} y \\ &= (y' + 2xy) e^{x^2} \\ &= x e^{x^2}\end{aligned}$$

$$y' + 2xy = x \Rightarrow (ye^{x^2})' = xe^{x^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow ye^{x^2} = \int xe^{x^2} dx = \frac{1}{2} \int e^u du$$

$$u = x^2 \quad du = 2x dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} e^u + C$$

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

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

In general:

$$y' + P(x)y = Q(x)$$

Consider $\boxed{f(x) = e^{\int P(x) dx}}$

$$f'(x) = P(x) e^{\int P(x) dx}$$

$$= P(x) f(x)$$

$f(x)$ is called an integrating factor

We have $(y f(x))' = y' f(x) + P(x) f(x) y$

$$= (y' + P(x)y) f(x)$$

$$(y f(x))' = Q(x) f(x)$$

$$y f(x) = \int Q(x) f(x) dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{y = \frac{1}{f(x)} \int Q(x) f(x) dx}$$

To solve an linear equation of the first order

$$y' + P(x)y = Q(x)$$

(1) We compute an integrating factor

$$f(x) = e^{\int P(x) dx}$$

(2) We compute the solution

$$y = \frac{1}{f(x)} \int f(x) Q(x) dx$$

In the ~~eq.~~ example: $y' + y = 1$

$$P(x) = 1 \quad ; \quad f(x) = e^{\int 1 dx} = e^x$$

In the example: $y' + 2xy = x$

$$P(x) = 2x \quad ; \quad f(x) = e^{\int 2x dx} = e^{x^2}$$

Example 3:

Find the general solution to the differential equation

$$x \frac{dy}{dx} - 2y = x^3 \sec x \tan x$$

and then find the particular solution which satisfies $y(\pi) = \pi^2$

Solution: We write the equation in the form:

$$y' - \frac{2}{x} y = \underbrace{x^2 \sec x \tan x}_{Q(x)}$$

We find an integrating factor

$$P(x) = -\frac{2}{x}$$

$$f(x) = e^{\int -\frac{2}{x} dx} = e^{-2 \int \frac{1}{x} dx} = e^{-2 \ln|x|}$$

$$= e^{\ln x^{-2}} = x^{-2} = \frac{1}{x^2}$$

The solution is

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

$$= x^2 \int \sec x \tan x dx = x^2 (\sec x + C)$$

$$\boxed{y = x^2 \sec x + Cx^2}$$

For the particular solution
which satisfies $y(\pi) = \pi^2$

$$\pi^2 = \pi^2 \underbrace{\sec \pi}_{-1} + C\pi^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \pi^2 = -\pi^2 + C\pi^2$$

$$\Leftrightarrow C\pi^2 = 2\pi^2 \Leftrightarrow \boxed{C=2}$$

Then the particular solution is

$$\boxed{y = x^2 \sec x + 2x^2}$$

Example 4: The same question for
 $y' + 3y = e^{-2x}$

Solution:

Here: $P(x) = 3$; $Q(x) = e^{-2x}$

An integrating factor:

$$f(x) = e^{\int 3dx} = e^{3x}$$

To solve:

$$y = \frac{1}{e^{3x}} \int e^{3x} \cdot e^{-2x} dx = \frac{1}{e^{3x}} \int e^x dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{e^{3x}} (e^x + c) = e^{-2x} + \frac{c}{e^{3x}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{e^{2x}} + \frac{c}{e^{3x}} = e^{-2x} + ce^{-3x}$$

$$\boxed{y = e^{-2x} + ce^{-3x}}$$

A particular solution for $y(0) = 0$

$$0 = 1 + c \Rightarrow c = -1$$

$$\boxed{y = e^{-2x} - e^{-3x}}$$