

110.302 Lecture 3: ~~Friday~~, ~~Monday~~ I

Very generally, a first-order ODE of the

form $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(t, y)$ (*)

will have f a function of both t and y and will not be solvable.

However, with some additional structure to f , there are methods to solve: In chapter 2, we explore some of these.

First type of structure (Section 2.1): Linear

Ⓘ Suppose $f(t, y) = -p(t)y + q(t)$ for some ~~arbitrary~~ functions $p(t), q(t)$.

Then (*) can be rewritten

$$y' = -p(t)y + q(t) \quad \text{or}$$

$$(**) \quad y' + p(t)y = q(t)$$

This new form exposes a structure

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that facilitates calculation: The LHS is almost the total derivative of a function. To make it so, we multiply the ODE by an expression called an integrating factor

Def An integrating factor is a term that when multiplied to an expression renders the expression integrable.

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To understand what we are looking for, look at the patterns here:

Let y be a ^{diffe} function of t . Then, for any other diffe function of t , $f(t)$, we have

$$\frac{d}{dt} [f(t)y] = f(t)y' + f'(t)y \quad \text{by Prod. Rule}$$

$$\text{And also } \frac{d}{dt} [e^{A(t)} y] = e^{A(t)} y' + e^{A(t)} A'(t) y \\ = e^{A(t)} [y' + A'(t) y].$$

We do this just to look for patterns. In this case, we see an important one: Inside the brackets, $[y' + A'(t) y]$ looks very close to the LHS of ~~(*)~~ $y' + p(t) y = q(t)$.

In fact, they are precisely the same when $A'(t) = p(t)$, or $A(t) = \int p(t) dt$.

So we do one more calculation for a pattern:

$$\frac{d}{dt} [e^{\int p(t) dt} y] = e^{\int p(t) dt} y' + \frac{d}{dt} [e^{\int p(t) dt}] y \\ = e^{\int p(t) dt} y' + e^{\int p(t) dt} p(t) y \\ = e^{\int p(t) dt} [y' + p(t) y].$$

precisely the LHS of
(**) $y' + p(t) y = q(t)$

This is useful because, if we take $y' + p(t)y = q(t)$,
and multiply the entire eqn by $e^{\int p(t) dt}$,
then the LHS becomes easily integrable.

Call $e^{\int p(t) dt}$ the integrating factor of
 $y' + p(t)y = q(t)$.

Challenge Q: It turns out, any antiderivative of
 $p(t)$ will give the same effect. Why?

Let's play this out and see just how the
integrating factor is helpful.

Solve $y' + p(t)y = q(t)$.

Step 1: Multiply entire eqn by $e^{\int p(t) dt}$.

$$e^{\int p(t) dt} [y' + p(t)y = q(t)]$$

$$\underbrace{e^{\int p(t) dt} y' + e^{\int p(t) dt} p(t)y}_{\frac{d}{dt} [e^{\int p(t) dt} y]} = e^{\int p(t) dt} q(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} [e^{\int p(t) dt} y] = e^{\int p(t) dt} q(t).$$

Step 2: Integrate with respect to (wrt) t .

$$\int \frac{d}{dt} [e^{\int p(t) dt} y] dt = \int e^{\int p(t) dt} q(t) dt$$

$$e^{\int p(t) dt} y = \int e^{\int p(t) dt} q(t) dt + C$$

Step 3: Solve for y .

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

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Notes ① Theoretically, we can always do this.

Practically, the integrating factor $e^{\int p(t) dt}$ is pretty easy to calculate, usually.

② You do not need to memorize any thing of the form of step 3. Just remember the steps.

③ Any anti derivative of $p(t)$ will do, since ② they all only differ by a constant

④ You are multiplying the entire equation by the factor.

ex. Suppose $p(t) = 2t$. ~~$e^{\int p(t) dt}$~~ Then $e^{\int p(t) dt} = e^{\int 2t dt} = e^{t^2}$.

If instead you chose $e^{\int p(t) dt} = e^{\int 2t dt} = e^{t^2 + c}$, then

$$e^{t^2 + c} = e^{t^2} e^c = e^{t^2} K, \text{ for } K \in \mathbb{R} \text{ a constant.}$$

Then $K e^{t^2} [y' + p(t)y = q(t)]$ is same as $e^{t^2} [y' + p(t)y = q(t)]$ as far as solutions are concerned.

Some examples

(I) Solve $ty' - 2y = t^3 e^{-2t}$

Strategy: This is linear so we use the int. fact $e^{\int p(t) dt}$ to solve using the 3 steps above.

Solution: Place the ODE in standard form

$$y' - \frac{2}{t}y = t^2 e^{-2t}$$

This gives us $p(t) = -\frac{2}{t}$, so the int. factor is $e^{\int p(t) dt} = e^{-2 \int \frac{1}{t} dt} = e^{-2 \ln|t|} = e^{\ln t^{-2}} = t^{-2}$.

Step 1: Multiply ODE by int. factor.

$$t^{-2} \left[y' - \frac{2}{t}y = t^2 e^{-2t} \right]$$

$$\underbrace{t^{-2}y' - \frac{2}{t^3}y}_{\frac{d}{dt}[t^{-2}y]} = e^{-2t}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}[t^{-2}y] = e^{-2t}$$

Step 2: Integrate w.r.t. t .

$$\int \frac{d}{dt}[t^{-2}y] dt = t^{-2}y + C_1 = \int e^{-2t} dt = -\frac{1}{2}e^{-2t} + C_2$$

$$t^{-2}y = -\frac{1}{2}e^{-2t} + K$$

Step 3: Solve for $y(t)$:

$$\boxed{y(t) = -\frac{1}{2}t^2 e^{-2t} + Kt^2}$$

This func solves the ODE.

Check to see if this is correct:

$$\underbrace{(-te^{-2t} + t^2e^{-2t} + 2kt)}_{y'} - \frac{2}{1} \underbrace{\left(-\frac{1}{2}t^2e^{-2t} + kt^2\right)}_y = t^2e^{-2t}$$

$$\underbrace{-te^{-2t} + t^2e^{-2t} + 2kt}_{y'} + \underbrace{te^{-2t} - 2kt}_{y} = t^2e^{-2t}$$

$$t^2e^{-2t} = t^2e^{-2t} \quad \checkmark$$

(II) $\dot{x} + 2tx = t^3$. Solve this.

Strategy: Use the integrating factor on this linear ODE to integrate through to an expression for $x(t)$.

Solution: This ODE is linear, with $p(t) = 2t$.

Thus the int. factor is

$$e^{\int p(t)dt} = e^{\int 2t dt} = e^{t^2}$$

Step 1: Mult. ODE by int. factor:

$$e^{t^2} [\dot{x} + 2tx = t^3]$$

$$\underbrace{e^{t^2} \dot{x} + 2te^{t^2} x}_{\frac{d}{dt}[e^{t^2} x]} = t^3 e^{t^2}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt}[e^{t^2} x] = t^3 e^{t^2}$$

(III) Solve $\frac{dx}{ds} = \frac{x}{s} - s^2$, for $s > 0$

Here the ODE is again linear (note s is the independent variable), and $p(s) = -\frac{1}{s}$.

The int. factor is then

$$e^{\int p(s) ds} = e^{\int (-\frac{1}{s}) ds} = e^{-\int \frac{1}{s} ds} = e^{-\ln s} = e^{\ln s^{-1}} = s^{-1}$$

Multiply through standard form of ODE to get

$$\frac{1}{s} \left[\frac{dx}{ds} - \frac{x}{s} = -s^2 \right] \Rightarrow \underbrace{\frac{1}{s} \frac{dx}{ds} - \frac{x}{s^2}}_{\frac{d}{ds} \left[\frac{1}{s} \cdot x \right]} = -s$$

Integrate wrt s to get

$$\frac{1}{s} \cdot x = \int (-s) ds + C = -\frac{s^2}{2} + C$$

Solve for $x(s)$:

$$\boxed{x(s) = -\frac{s^3}{2} + Cs}$$

This is the general solution to ODE

Check it:

$$\underbrace{\left(-\frac{3}{2}s^2 + C \right)}_{\frac{dx}{ds}} = \frac{1}{s} \underbrace{\left(-\frac{s^3}{2} + Cs \right)}_x - s^2$$

$$-\frac{3}{2}s^2 + C = -\frac{s^2}{2} + C - s^2$$

$$-\frac{3}{2}s^2 = -\frac{3}{2}s^2 \quad \checkmark \quad \underline{\text{It is correct.}}$$

(IV) Find the general solution to

$$t(y' - y) = (1+t^2)e^t \quad \text{on } t > 0.$$

Here, try to see why this is linear, with $p(t) = -1$. The solution is

$$y(t) = e^t \left(\ln t + \frac{t^2}{2} + C \right)$$

This solution is drawn up in a separate document under example problems, on the web site.

(V) Solve $\frac{dp}{dt} = \frac{p}{2} - 450$ using an integrating factor.

Solution: This is an exercise. You already know the answer.