

Exact 1st order linear differential equations

Starter

1. **(Review of last lesson)** Calculate the exact value of the mean value of the function

$$y = \frac{4}{x^2 + 16} \text{ over the interval } 0 \leq x \leq \pi.$$

Working:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Mean value} &= \frac{1}{\pi - 0} \int_0^{\pi} \frac{4}{x^2 + 16} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \frac{4}{x^2 + 4^2} dx \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{4}{4} \tan^{-1} \frac{x}{4} \right]_0^{\pi} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\arctan \frac{\pi}{4} - \arctan \frac{0}{4} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \arctan \frac{\pi}{4} \end{aligned}$$

2. Solve these differential equations:

(a) $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x + 5$

(b) $(x - 3) \frac{dy}{dx} = y$

Working: (a) $y = \int \frac{dy}{dx} dx = x^2 + 5x + c$

(b) Separation of variables

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{1}{y} dy &= \int \frac{1}{x - 3} dx \\ \ln y &= \ln(x - 3) + \ln A \\ \ln y &= \ln A(x - 3) \\ y &= A(x - 3) \end{aligned}$$

E.g. 1 Consider the left-hand side of these differential equations. Decide what their connection is with the product rule and hence solve the equations.

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

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

(c) $2ye^x \frac{dy}{dx} + e^x y^2 = e^{2x}$

(d) $x^2 \cos y \frac{dy}{dx} + 2x \sin y = \frac{1}{x^2}$

Working: (a) The left-hand side is $\frac{d(x^3y)}{dx}$ so $\frac{d(x^3y)}{dx} = x^4$

$$\Rightarrow x^3y = \int x^4 dx \Rightarrow 5x^3y = x^5 + c$$

(b) The left-hand side is $\frac{d(xy)}{dx}$ so $\frac{d(xy)}{dx} = e^x$
 $\Rightarrow xy = \int e^x dx \Rightarrow xy = e^x + c$

(c) The left-hand side is $\frac{d(e^x y^2)}{dx}$ so $\frac{d(e^x y^2)}{dx} = e^{2x}$
 $\Rightarrow e^x y^2 = \int e^x dx \Rightarrow e^x y^2 = \frac{1}{2} e^{2x} + c$

(d) The left-hand side is $\frac{d(x^2 \sin y)}{dx}$ so $\frac{d(x^2 \sin y)}{dx} = \frac{1}{x^2}$
 $\Rightarrow x^2 \sin y = \int \frac{1}{x^2} dx \Rightarrow x^2 \sin y = -\frac{1}{x} + c$
 $\Rightarrow x^3 \sin y = cx - 1$

E.g. 2 Solve these exact first order differential equations:

(a) $r^3 \sec^2 \theta + 3r^2 \tan \theta \frac{dr}{d\theta} = 2 \sin^2 \theta$ (b) $\ln y + \frac{x}{y} \frac{dy}{dx} = \sec x \tan x$

Working: (a) $r^3 \sec^2 \theta + 3r^2 \tan \theta \frac{dr}{d\theta} = 2 \sin^2 \theta$
 $\frac{d(r^3 \tan \theta)}{d\theta} = 2 \sin^2 \theta$
 $r^3 \tan \theta = \int 2 \sin^2 \theta d\theta = \int (1 - \cos 2\theta) d\theta$
 $r^3 \tan \theta = \theta - \frac{1}{2} \sin 2\theta + c$

(b) $\ln y + \frac{x}{y} \frac{dy}{dx} = \sec x \tan x$
 $\frac{d(x \ln y)}{dx} = \sec x \tan x$
 $x \ln y = \int \sec x \tan x dx$
 $x \ln y = \sec x + c$

Video: [Exact first order linear differential equations](#)

[Solutions to Starter and E.g.s](#)

Exercise

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