

## 1.5 First-order Linear Eq.

first order linear:  $\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = Q(x)$

$\leftarrow$  cannot contain  $y$   $\rightarrow$

so,  $y' + xy = 1$  is linear

but  $y' + y^2 = 2$  is NOT

$y' + yy = 2$

$\leftarrow$  contains  $y$

Solution method: always we can always find an integrating factor such that when multiplied to both sides the left can always be turned into the product of something. Then integrate both sides to solve for  $y$ .

example

$$y' + \left[ \frac{1}{x} \right] y = \left[ 0 \right]$$

no  $y$  in these

notice if we multiply by

$$\boxed{x}$$

integrating  
factor

$$x y' + y = 0$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{1.5cm}}$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(xy) = 0 \quad \text{by product rule}$$

integrate both sides

$$xy = C$$

$$\text{so, } \boxed{y = \frac{C}{x}}$$

How to find the integrating factor ?

eg:  $y' + py = Q$       $P, Q$  do NOT contain  $y$

want to multiply  $I$  such that the left side turns into

$$\frac{d}{dx}(Iy) = \underbrace{Iy' + I'y}_{\text{product rule}}$$

we want the left side to be this

$$I(y' + py) = IQ$$

$$\underbrace{Iy' + Ipy} = IQ$$

equal

so, we want:  $Iy' + I'y = Iy' + Ipy$

$$I' = Ip \rightarrow \text{solve this for } I$$

$$I' = IP$$

$$\frac{dI}{dx} = IP(x) \quad \text{separable in } I \text{ and } x$$

$$\frac{1}{I} dI = P dx$$

$$\int \frac{1}{I} dI = \int P dx$$

$$\ln |I| = \int P dx$$

$$\text{so, } \boxed{I = e^{\int P dx}}$$

integrating factor

to turn left side into  $\frac{d}{dx}(Iy)$

example

$$(1+x)y' =$$

$$xy' + 3y = x \quad y(1) = 2$$

↑

not 1, so divide by this to put into standard form

$$y' + py = Q$$

$$y' + \frac{3}{x}y = 1 \quad \text{so, } p = \frac{3}{x}$$

ALWAYS identify P  
in standard form

$$I = e^{\int p dx} = e^{\int \frac{3}{x} dx}$$

$$= e^{3 \ln x}$$

$$= e^{\ln x^3} = \boxed{x^3}$$

+C is not needed  
here (but including  
it does not hurt)

multiply both sides by  $I = x^3$

$$x^3 \left( y' + \frac{3}{x}y \right) = x^3 \cdot 1$$

$$\underbrace{x^3 y' + 3x^2 y}_{\frac{d}{dx}(x^3 y)} = x^3$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(x^3 y)$$

if I is correct, left side is  
ALWAYS  $\frac{d}{dx}(Iy)$

$$\text{so, } \frac{d}{dx}(x^3 y) = x^3$$

$$x^3 y = \int x^3 dx$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} x^4 + C$$

$$y = \frac{1}{4} x + \frac{C}{x^3}$$

general

$$\text{use } y(1) = 2 \text{ to find } C : 2 = \frac{1}{4} + C \quad \text{so, } C = \frac{7}{4}$$

$$\boxed{y = \frac{1}{4} x + \frac{7}{4} \cdot \frac{1}{x^3}}$$

why is +C not needed when finding  $I = e^{\int p dx}$  ?

$$y' + \frac{3}{x} y = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} I = e^{\int p dx} &= e^{\int \frac{3}{x} dx} \\ &= e^{3 \ln x + C} \\ &= e^{\ln x^3} \cdot e^C \\ &= x^3 \cdot A \end{aligned}$$

multiply both sides by  $I = Ax^3$

↑ 1 if no +C above

$$\cancel{Ax^3} (y' + \frac{3}{x} y) = \cancel{Ax^3} \cdot 1$$



cancel out, as if  $A=1$  (which means  $C=0$  in  $I$ )

example

$$y' - 4y = e^x$$

↑ coefficient is 1 so is in standard form

$$P(x) = -4$$

$$I = e^{\int p dx} = e^{\int -4 dx} = e^{-4x}$$

(no +C or  
use C=0)

multiply I :  $e^{-4x} (y' - 4y) = e^{-4x} \cdot e^x$

$$e^{-4x} y' - 4e^{-4x} y = e^{-3x}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} (e^{-4x} y) = e^{-3x}$$

integrate:

$$e^{-4x} y = \int e^{-3x} dx$$

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

this +C is  
important

$$y = -\frac{1}{3} e^x + C e^{4x}$$



terminal velocity :  $\frac{dv}{dt} = g - \frac{c}{m}v$

this is linear:

$$v' + \underbrace{\left[\frac{c}{m}\right]}_P v = \underbrace{[g]}_Q$$

neither contains  $v$

$$I = e^{\int \frac{c}{m} dt} = e^{\frac{c}{m}t}$$

$$e^{\frac{c}{m}t} (v' + \frac{c}{m}v) = g \cdot e^{\frac{c}{m}t}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} (e^{\frac{c}{m}t} v) = g \cdot e^{\frac{c}{m}t}$$

$$e^{\frac{c}{m}t} v = \frac{m}{c} g e^{\frac{c}{m}t} + C_1$$

$$v = \frac{mg}{c} + C_1 e^{-\frac{c}{m}t}$$