

# 1.1 Intro to Differential Equations

an equation that contains a derivative

e.g.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos x$

more generally,  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$  e.g.  $y' = y$

applications: Newton's Law:  $F = ma$  ← second deriv. of position

$$F = m x''$$

$$\frac{d^2 r}{dt^2} = - \frac{Gm}{r^2}$$

Newton's Law of gravitation



Earth mass  $m$

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = K(L - P)$$

$P(t)$  is population

$L$ : pop. capacity

goal: solve the differential eq.

for example,  $y' = y$  "solve"  $\rightarrow y = ?$

$\rightarrow$  function whose deriv. is itself

$$y = Ae^x \quad A: \text{constant}$$

if something is a solution to a differential eq.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$

then it must satisfy the differential eq.

for example,  $y' = y$  with  $y = Ae^x$  as a solution

it satisfies the  $y' = y$  because

$$\underbrace{y = Ae^x}_{\text{right side}} \\ \text{of } y' = y$$

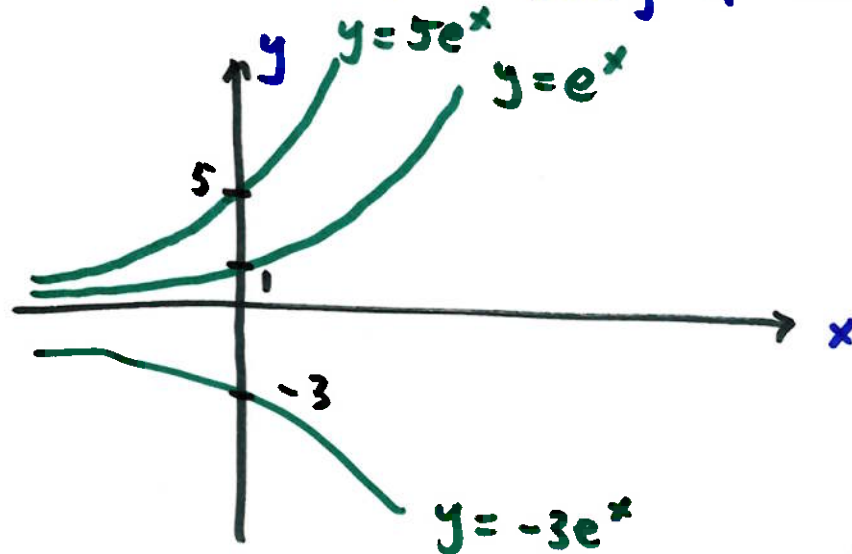
$$\underbrace{y' = Ae^x}_{\text{left side}} \\ \text{of } y' = y$$

$\rightarrow$  so  $y = Ae^x$  is a  
solution

usually we use "C" for the constant

$y' = y$  has  $y = Ce^x$  as a solution

includes a family of solutions



$y = Ce^x$  is often called the general solution if we don't specify C

if a C is known, then it's a particular solution

the intersection at  $x=0 \rightarrow y(0) = \text{constant}$

initial condition

the highest derivative in a differential eq. is called the order of the differential eq.

$$y' = y \text{ is a 1st-order}$$

$$r'' = -\frac{GM}{r} \text{ is 2nd-order}$$

$$e^y y' = 1 \text{ is 1st-order}$$

example

Find all values of  $r$  such that  $y = e^{rx}$  is a solution to  $y'' + y' - 2y = 0$

$$\text{sub in } y = e^{rx} \quad y' = re^{rx} \quad y'' = r^2 e^{rx}$$

$$r^2 e^{rx} + re^{rx} - 2e^{rx} = 0$$

$$e^{rx} (r^2 + r - 2) = 0$$

$$e^{rx} \neq 0 \text{ for any } r \text{ so } r^2 + r - 2 = 0$$

$$(r+2)(r-1) = 0 \quad r = -2, r = 1$$

solutions are:  $y = e^{-2x}$  and  $y = e^x$

## 1.2 Integrals as General and Particular Solutions

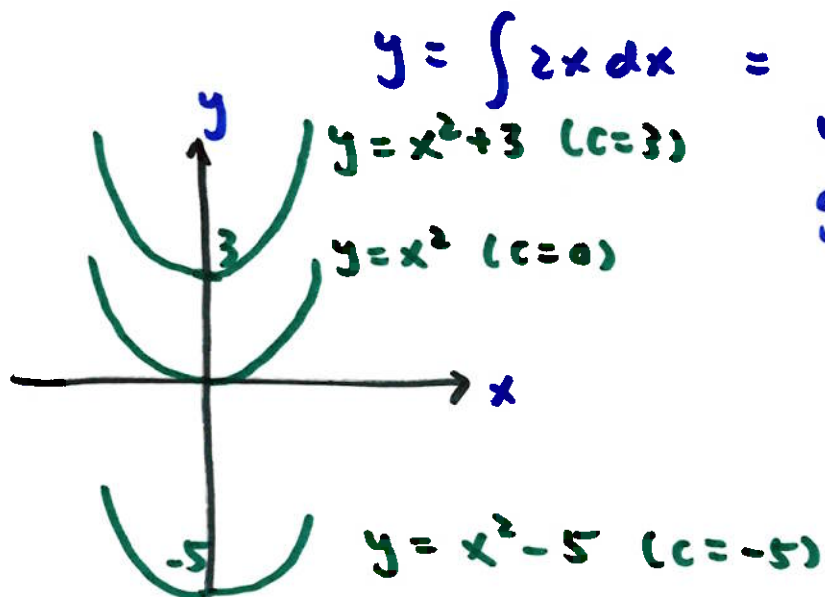
first-order:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$

generally, can contain  $x$  and  $y$

how we solve depends on what  $f$  looks like

today: simplest kind  $\rightarrow$   $f$  only depends on  $x$

for example,  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x \rightarrow$  we know how to solve by calculus!



general solution because  
 $C$  is not specified

if we know  $C$ , then we have a particular solution  
usually determined by a point the curve goes through

for example,  $(1, 3) \rightarrow y(1) = 3$  (initial or side condition)

$$y = x^2 + C$$

$$3 = (1)^2 + C \rightarrow C = 2 \quad \text{so } y = x^2 + 2 \quad (\text{particular solution})$$

example solve  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x\sqrt{x^2+1}$   $y(0) = 2$  initial-value problem (IVP)

first, find  $y$ :

$$y = \int x\sqrt{x^2+1} dx$$

substitution:  $u = x^2 + 1$

$$du = 2x dx$$

$$\rightarrow y = \int \frac{1}{2} u^{1/2} du$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \frac{u^{3/2}}{3/2} + C = \frac{1}{3} (x^2+1)^{3/2} + C$$

(general)

use  $y(0)=2$  to find  $C$

$$y = \frac{1}{3} (x^2+1)^{3/2} + C$$

$$2 = \frac{1}{3} (1)^{3/2} + C \quad \text{so} \quad C = \frac{5}{3}$$

$$y = \frac{1}{3} (x^2+1)^{3/2} + \frac{5}{3}$$

example

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x^2+1}$$

$$y = \int \frac{1}{x^2+1} dx = \tan^{-1} x + C$$

no initial condition  
so we only have the  
general solution

alternative: trig sub

$$F = ma = m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} \quad \text{solution: } x(t)$$

integrate once: velocity  $v(t) = x'(t)$

integrate again: position  $x(t)$

example Solve  $\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -10$

$x'(0) = 20$  (initial velocity),  $x(0) = 5$  (initial position)

2nd-order  $\rightarrow$  Two initial conditions to solve completely

$$x'' = -10$$

$$x' = \int -10 dt = -10t + C_1 \quad \text{find } C_1: x'(0) = 20$$

$$x' = -10t + 20$$

$$20 = -10(0) + C_1 \\ \text{so } C_1 = 20$$

$$x = \int (-10t + 20) dt = -5t^2 + 20t + C_2 \quad \text{find } C_2: 5 = -5(0) + 20(0) + C_2 \\ \text{so } C_2 = 5$$

$$x = -5t^2 + 20t + 5$$

