

Separable Differential Equations

A diff. equation is separable if it is of the form

$$f(y) \frac{dy}{dt} = g(t)$$

for functions $f(y)$, $g(t)$.

Example

$$y^2 \frac{dy}{dt} = t^2$$

is separable.

Malthusian Law

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ky$$

is separable since we can write it as

$$\frac{1}{y} \frac{dy}{dt} = k.$$

model works well for small populations y .

For large populations the following model seems to be better:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ky - ly^2$$

Logistic Model

where k, l are constants, and l is tiny compared to k .

The logistic model is a separable diff. eqⁿ since we can write it as

$$\frac{1}{ky - ly^2} \frac{dy}{dt} = 1$$

A separable eqn

$$f(y) \frac{dy}{dt} = g(t) \quad (*)$$

can be rewritten as

$$\frac{d}{dt} F(y) = g(t)$$

where $F(y)$ is any anti-derivative of $f(y)$.

Consequently

$$F(y) = \int g(t) dt + C$$

↑
Solution to the
diff. eqn (*)

Example Solve

$$y^2 \frac{dy}{dt} = t^2, \quad y(0) = 7$$

Soln

$$\int y^2 dy = \int t^2 dt + C$$

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

or

$$y^3 = t^3 + C$$

$$y = (t^3 + C)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

Soln

$$y(0) = 7$$

$$(0^3 + C)^{\frac{1}{3}} = 7$$

$$C = 7^3$$

$$y = (t^3 + 7^3)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

Soln

Example Solve

$$e^y \frac{dy}{dt} - t - t^3 = 0, \quad y(0) = 1.$$

Solⁿ

$$e^y \frac{dy}{dt} = t^3 + t$$

$$\int e^y dy = \int (t^3 + t) dt + c$$

$$e^y = \frac{t^4}{4} + \frac{t^2}{2} + c$$

$$\ln(e^y) = \ln\left(\frac{t^4}{4} + \frac{t^2}{2} + c\right)$$

$$y = \ln\left(\frac{t^4}{4} + \frac{t^2}{2} + c\right)$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

$$1 = \ln(0 + 0 + c)$$

$$c = e$$

$$y = \ln\left(\frac{t^4}{4} + \frac{t^2}{2} + e\right)$$

Solution

Example

Solve

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ky - ly^2$$

Soln

$$\frac{1}{ky - ly^2} \frac{dy}{dt} = 1$$

$$\int \frac{1}{ky - ly^2} dy = \int dt + C$$

RHS: $\int dt = t + C$

LHS

suppose

$$f(y) = \frac{1}{ky - ly^2} = \frac{1}{y(k - ly)}$$

$$f(y) = \frac{1}{y(k - ly)} = \frac{A}{y} + \frac{B}{k - ly}$$

then we'd have

$$\int f(y) dy = \int \frac{A}{y} + \frac{B}{k-y} dy$$

$$= A \ln(y) - \frac{B}{1} \ln(k-y) .$$