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Unit 1 : Differential Equations - Lesson 2

Integrating Factor Differential Equations

LI

- Solve DEs that can be written in the form $y' + P(x)y = f(x)$.

SC

- Integrate.
- Product Rule in reverse.

A 1st-order linear differential equation is a differential equation that can be written in the form :

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = f(x) \quad \star$$

Solving a 1st-order linear differential equation requires the following steps :

- Find the integrating factor (IF) = $e^{\int P(x) dx}$.
- Multiply \star by the IF.
- Integrate both sides wrt x and solve for y .

Example 1

Obtain the general solution of,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{5}{x} y = 3x$$

$$P(x) = -\frac{5}{x}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore \int P(x) dx &= -5 \int \frac{1}{x} dx \\ &= -5 \ln|x| + C\end{aligned}$$

$$IF = e^{\int P(x) dx}$$

$$\therefore IF = e^{-5 \ln|x| + C}$$

$$\Rightarrow IF = e^C e^{\ln|x|^{-5}}$$

$$\Rightarrow IF = A x^{-5} \quad (A = e^C)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{5}{x} y = 3x$$

$$\therefore A x^{-5} \frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{5}{x} y \cdot A x^{-5} = 3x \cdot A x^{-5}$$

$$\Rightarrow x^{-5} \frac{dy}{dx} - x^{-5} \frac{5}{x} y = 3x^{-4} \quad A = e^C > 0; \\ \text{so, } A \neq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^{-5} \frac{dy}{dx} - 5x^{-6}y = 3x^{-4}$$

$$\therefore \frac{d}{dx}(x^{-5}y) = 3x^{-4}$$

Integrating both sides wrt x gives,

$$x^{-5}y = -x^{-3} + C$$

$$\Rightarrow y = -x^2 + Cx^5$$

Example 2

Obtain the general solution of,

$$y' \cos x + y \sin x = 1$$

Dividing by $\cos x$ gives,

$$y' + (\tan x)y = \sec x$$

$$P(x) = \tan x$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \int P(x) dx &= \int \tan x dx \\ &= -\ln |\cos x| + C \end{aligned}$$

$$IF = e^{\int P(x) dx}$$

$$\therefore IF = e^{-\ln |\cos x| + C}$$

$$\Rightarrow IF = e^C e^{\ln |\cos x|^{-1}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{IF = A \sec x}$$

$$y' + (\tan x)y = \sec x$$

Multiplying by $A \sec x$ and cancelling A gives,

$$(\sec x)y' + (\sec x \tan x)y = \sec^2 x$$

$$\therefore (\sec x \cdot y)' = \sec^2 x$$

Integrating both sides wrt x gives,

$$\sec x \cdot y = \tan x + C$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{y = \sin x + C \cos x}$$

Example 3

Obtain the general solution of,

$$y' + 7y = 4e^{-7x}$$

$$P(x) = 7$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \int P(x) dx &= \int 7 dx \\ &= 7x + C \end{aligned}$$

$$IF = e^{\int P(x) dx}$$

$$\therefore IF = e^{7x+C}$$

$$\Rightarrow IF = e^C e^{7x}$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{IF = A e^{7x}}$$

$$y' + 7y = 4e^{-7x}$$

Multiplying by $A e^{7x}$ and cancelling A gives,

$$\Rightarrow e^{7x} y' + 7e^{7x} y = 4$$

$$\Rightarrow (e^{7x} y)' = 4$$

Integrating both sides wrt x gives,

$$e^{7x} y = 4x + C$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{y = 4x e^{-7x} + C e^{-7x}}$$

AH Maths - MiA (2nd Edn.)

- pg. 136-7 Ex. 8.3 Q 1a - e, g, k
r, s, 2 a, b, d, e, f, 3 a, b, e.

Ex. 8.3

1 Solve each of these first-order linear differential equations.

a $\frac{dy}{dx} + y = e^x$

b $\frac{dy}{dx} + 3y = e^{-x}$

c $\frac{dy}{dx} + 4y = \sin x$

d $\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{y}{x} = e^x$

e $\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{3y}{x} = x^3$

g $\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{y}{x-1} = x + 1$

k $\frac{dy}{dx} + y \sin x = 3 \sin x$

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

s $\frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{y}{x} = \frac{x}{\sqrt{4-x^2}}$

2 Find general solutions for these differential equations.

a $3 \frac{dy}{dx} + y = 6e^x$

b $x \frac{dy}{dx} + y = \cos x$

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

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

f $\cos x \frac{dy}{dx} + 3y \sin x = 2$

3 Find the particular solution to each equation with the given initial conditions.

a $\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{y}{2} = e^x$; when $x = 0, y = e$

b $\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{y}{x} = \sin x$; when $x = \pi, y = 2$

e $\frac{dy}{dx} - y \ln x = x^x \sin x$; when $x = \pi, y = \pi^\pi$

Answers to AH Maths (MiA), pg. 136-7, Ex. 8.3

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|------------|---|----------|---|
| 1 a | $y = \frac{e^x}{2} + \frac{c}{e^x}$ | b | $y = \frac{1}{2e^x} + \frac{c}{e^{3x}}$ |
| c | $y = \frac{1}{17}(4 \sin x - \cos x) + \frac{c}{e^{4x}}$ | | |
| d | $y = e^x - \frac{e^x}{x} + \frac{c}{x}$ | e | $y = \frac{x^4}{7} + \frac{c}{x^3}$ |
| g | $y = \frac{x^3 - 3x}{3(x-1)} + \frac{c}{x-1}$ | k | $y = 3 + ce^{\cos x}$ |
| r | $y = x \tan^{-1} x + xc$ | s | $y = x \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{x}{2} \right) + xc$ |
| 2 a | $y = \frac{3}{2}e^x + ce^{-\frac{x}{3}}$ | b | $y = \frac{\sin x}{x} + \frac{c}{x}$ |
| d | $y = 1 + \frac{c}{e^{x^2+2x}}$ | e | $y = 1 + ce^{e^{-x}}$ |
| f | $y = \frac{2}{3} \sin x + \frac{4}{3} \sin x \cos^2 x + c \cos^3 x$ | | |
| 3 a | $y = \frac{2}{3}e^x + \frac{e^{-\frac{2}{3}}}{e^{\frac{x}{2}}}$ | b | $y = \frac{\sin x - x \cos x + \pi}{x}$ |
| e | $y = \frac{1}{2}x^x(\sin x - \cos x) + \frac{1}{2}e^{\pi-x}x^x$ | | |