
M1M1: Problem Sheet 9

Ordinary Differential Equations

1. Find the general solution of the 2nd order ODE

$$y'' + my' + 2y = 0$$

in the 3 cases (a) $m = 3$ (b) $m = 2$ and (c) $m = 2\sqrt{2}$.

2. Find the solution to the problem for general $m \neq 1$

$$y'' + (m + 1)y' + my = 0, \quad \text{satisfying } y(0) = 0, y'(0) = 1.$$

Take the limit of y as $m \rightarrow 1$, and verify that what you obtain does indeed solve the problem when $m = 1$.

1. Solve the following differential equations:

$$\begin{aligned} (a) \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{2x}{(y+1)}; & (b) \frac{dy}{dx} &= (1+x)(1+y); & (c) \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{(1+y)}{(2+x)}; \\ (d) \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{(x+y)}{(x-2y)}; & (e) xy \frac{dy}{dx} &= x^2 + y^2; & (f) y^2 \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{x^3 + y^3}{x}; \\ (g) x \frac{dy}{dx} &= y + xe^{y/x}; & (h) xy \frac{dy}{dx} &= x^2 e^{-y^2/x^2} + y^2; & (i) \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{4 \log x}{y^2}; \end{aligned}$$

2. By making a substitution of the form $y = at + bx + c$, solve the following differential equations for $x(t)$:

$$(a) \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{t - x + 2}{t - x + 3}; \quad (b) \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{1 - 2x - t}{4x + 2t}$$

3. Find the solutions of the following initial value problems:

$$\begin{aligned} (a) \frac{dx}{dt} - 2t(2x - 1) &= 0, \quad x(0) = 0; & (b) \frac{dx}{dt} + 5x - t &= e^{-2t}, \quad x(-1) = 0; \\ (c) \frac{dx}{dt} + x \cot t &= \cos t, \quad x(0) = 0; & (d) (1 + t^2) \frac{dx}{dt} + 3xt &= 5t(1 + t^2), \quad x(1) = 2; \end{aligned}$$

4. Solve

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2}{x + e^y}.$$

5. By using a suitable substitution (or otherwise), find the solution of

$$y(xy + 1) + x(1 + xy + x^2y^2) \frac{dy}{dx} = 0.$$

6. Solve

$$\frac{r \tan \theta}{a^2 - r^2} \left(\frac{dr}{d\theta} \right) = 1, \quad r \left(\frac{\pi}{4} \right) = 0.$$

7. Find the general solution $R(t)$ of

$$\frac{d^2 R}{dt^2} - \frac{2}{t} \frac{dR}{dt} = t^4.$$

8. Find $x(t)$ and $y(t)$ satisfying the coupled system of first-order differential equations given by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{x}{y} &= 1, \\ y \frac{dx}{dt} - x \frac{dy}{dt} &= 2ty^2. \end{aligned}$$

with $x(0) = 0$ and $y(0) = 1$.

9. (Difficult). Find the solution $R(t)$ of the nonlinear second-order equation

$$1 = R \frac{d^2 R}{dt^2} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{dR}{dt} \right)^2.$$

satisfying the conditions $R(0) = 1$ and $\frac{dR}{dt}(0) = 0$.

Hint: try finding $\frac{dR}{dt}$ as a function of $R(t)$.

10. Solve the equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + \sin \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right) = x \quad \text{with} \quad y(0) = 0.$$