

§ 1.5 Linear ODEs

Bernoulli Equation

Population Dynamics

A first order ODE is linear if it can be written in the form

$$y' + p(x)y = r(x).$$

e.g. $y' \cos x + y \sin x = x$ is linear as we can divide by $\cos x$ to get

$$y' + y \tan x = \frac{x}{\cos x}$$

(may have to worry about places where $\cos x = 0$).

Note that

$$y' + p(x)y = r(x)$$

is linear both as a fn of y and of y' .

In engineering, $r(x)$ is called the input or forcing applied to the system and y is the output or response of the system to this input.

We want to solve $y' + p(x)y = r(x)$ on some interval $J = (a, b)$. The simplest case is when the rhs $r(x)$ is identically 0 and we have the homogeneous eqⁿ.

$$y' + p(x)y = 0$$

Separating variables gives

$$\frac{dy}{y} = -p(x)dx$$

Now integrate

$$\int \frac{dy}{y} = \int -p(x) dx$$

$$\ln |y| = -\int p(x) dx + k$$

$$|y| = e^{k - \int p(x) dx}$$

$$y = c e^{-\int p(x) dx}$$

$$c = \pm e^k$$

May also have $c=0$ in which case we have the trivial solution $y=0$.

(\pm depending on whether $y \geq 0$ or $y \leq 0$)

We now consider the case where $r(x)$ is not identically zero on J .

In this case the ODE

$$y' + p(x)y = r(x)$$

is called inhomogeneous (nonhomogeneous)

First we separate the variables as before

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + p(x)y = r(x)$$

$$dy + p(x)y dx = r(x) dx$$

$$(p(x)y - r(x)) dx + dy = 0$$

This is of course not as simple as last time, but we can luckily find an integrating factor depending only on x .

In the terminology of § 1.4,

$$P = p(x)y - r(x), \quad Q = 1$$

and
$$R = \frac{1}{Q} (P_y - Q_{xc}) = p(x).$$

As this depends only on x , by Thm I, \exists an integrating factor F depending only on x which satisfies

$$\frac{1}{F} \frac{dF}{dx} = R = p(x).$$

and by Thm 1 again we have

$$\begin{aligned} F(x) &= e^{\int p(x) dx} \\ &= e^{\int p(x) dx} \end{aligned}$$

Now multiply both sides of our ODE
by $F(x)$.

$$e^{\int p(x) dx} y' + e^{\int p(x) dx} p(x) y = e^{\int p(x) dx} r(x).$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(e^{\int p(x) dx} y \right) = e^{\int p(x) dx} r(x)$$

by the product rule
(used backwards).

Now integrate (again) to get.

$$e^{\int p(x) dx} y = \int e^{\int p(x) dx} r(x) dx + C$$

Divide by $e^{\int p(x) dx}$ to get

$$y = e^{-\int p(x) dx} \left(\int e^{\int p(x) dx} r(x) dx + C \right)$$

or, if we let $h = \int p(x) dx$, then

$$y = e^{-h} \left(\int e^h r dx + C \right)$$

n.b. as $e^h = e^{\int p(x) dx}$ is just an integrating factor, we don't need to bother about the const of integration in $h = \int p(x) dx$ and can just take it to be 0 (or anything else we like).

In any case, one can see from the form of the soln that any change in the const of integration would cancel out because of the e^{-h} and the e^h and so we get the same soln anyway.

If we write our solⁿ as

$$y = e^{-h} \int e^h r dx + C e^{-h},$$

we recognise $C e^{-h}$ as the solⁿ to the homogeneous eqⁿ $y' + p(x)y = 0$.

The other part depends on the rhs r (and would be 0 if r was 0 on J).

We can express this in engineering terms as

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total Output} &= \text{Response to the Input } r \\ &+ \\ &\text{Response to the Initial Data.} \end{aligned}$$

Ex. $y' - y = e^{2x}$

Solⁿ Here $p = -1$ $r = e^{2x}$

$h = \int p dx = -x$ (remember, const of integration = 0)

Thus the gen solⁿ is

$$y = e^{-h} \left(\int e^h r(x) dx + c \right)$$

$$= e^x \left(\int e^{-x} e^{2x} dx + c \right)$$

$$= e^x \left(\int e^x dx + c \right)$$

$$= e^x (e^x + c)$$

$$= ce^x + e^{2x}$$

Can also solve this just by multiplying
by the integrating factor $e^h = e^{-x}$. Get

$$(y' - y)e^{-x} = e^{2x}e^{-x}$$

$$\frac{d}{dx}(ye^{-x}) = e^x$$

Integrate.

$$ye^{-x} = \int e^x dx$$

$$= e^x + C$$

$$y = e^{2x} + ce^x$$

Ex. $y' + y \tan x = \sin 2x$, $y(0) = 1$.

Soln. Here $p = \tan x$, $r = \sin 2x = 2 \sin x \cos x$

$$\int p dx = \int \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} dx$$

$$u = \cos x \\ du = -\sin x dx$$

$$= \int -\frac{du}{u}$$

$$= -\ln |u|$$

$$= \ln \frac{1}{|u|}$$

$$= \ln \left| \frac{1}{\cos x} \right|$$

$$= \ln |\sec x|$$

and

$$e^h = e^{\ln |\sec x|}$$

$$= |\sec x|$$

In fact, we can just take $e^h = \sec x$ as changing an integrating factor by a constant factor (± 1) still gives us an integrating factor.

Then

$$e^{-h} = \frac{1}{\sec x} = \cos x$$

and

$$e^{h} r = \sec x \cdot 2 \sin x \cos x$$
$$= 2 \sin x$$

and the general solⁿ of the ODE is

$$y = e^{-h} \left(\int e^h r \, dx + c \right)$$
$$= \cos x \left(\int 2 \sin x \, dx + c \right)$$
$$= \cos x \left(-2 \cos x + c \right)$$
$$= c \cos x - 2 \cos^2 x.$$

Since $y(0) = 1$

$$1 = c \cdot 1 - 2 \cdot 1^2$$

$\Rightarrow c = 3$ and so the solⁿ of the IVP is

$$y = 3 \cos x - 2 \cos^2 x.$$

Reduction to Linear Form - Bernoulli Equation

A Bernoulli equation is an ODE of the form

$$y' + p(x)y = g(x)y^a, \quad a \in \mathbb{R}.$$

If $a=0$ or 1 , the ODE is linear.

Otherwise it is nonlinear. In this case we set

$$u(x) = (y(x))^{1-a}$$

Differentiate and substitute for y' from the ODE to get

$$\begin{aligned} u' &= (1-a)y^{-a}y' \\ &= (1-a)y^{-a}(gy^a - py) \\ &= (1-a)(g - py^{1-a}) \\ &= (1-a)(g - pu) \quad \text{as } u = y^{1-a} \\ &= (1-a)g - (1-a)pu. \end{aligned}$$

Thus u satisfies the linear ODE

$$u' + (1-a)pu = (1-a)pg.$$

This can then be solved for u using the same method as before. Then use

$$y = u^{\frac{1}{1-a}} \text{ to find } y.$$

Ex. An example from population dynamics - the Logistic Equation.

$$y' = Ay - By^2$$

Soln Rewrite this as a Bernoulli eqⁿ.

$$y' - Ay = -By^2$$

Here $a=2$, so $u = y^{1-a} = y^{-1} = \frac{1}{y}$

Here

$$\begin{aligned}u' &= -\frac{1}{y^2} y' \\&= -\frac{1}{y^2} (Ay - By^2) \\&= -\frac{A}{y} + B \\&= -Au + B\end{aligned}$$

So $u' + Au = B$

Here $p = A$, $r = B$

$$h = \int p dt = At, \quad e^h = e^{At}$$

and the general soln is

$$\begin{aligned}y &= e^{-h} \left(\int e^h r dt + c \right) \\&= e^{-At} \left(\int e^{At} \cdot B dt + c \right) \\&= e^{-At} \left(\frac{B}{A} e^{At} + c \right)\end{aligned}$$

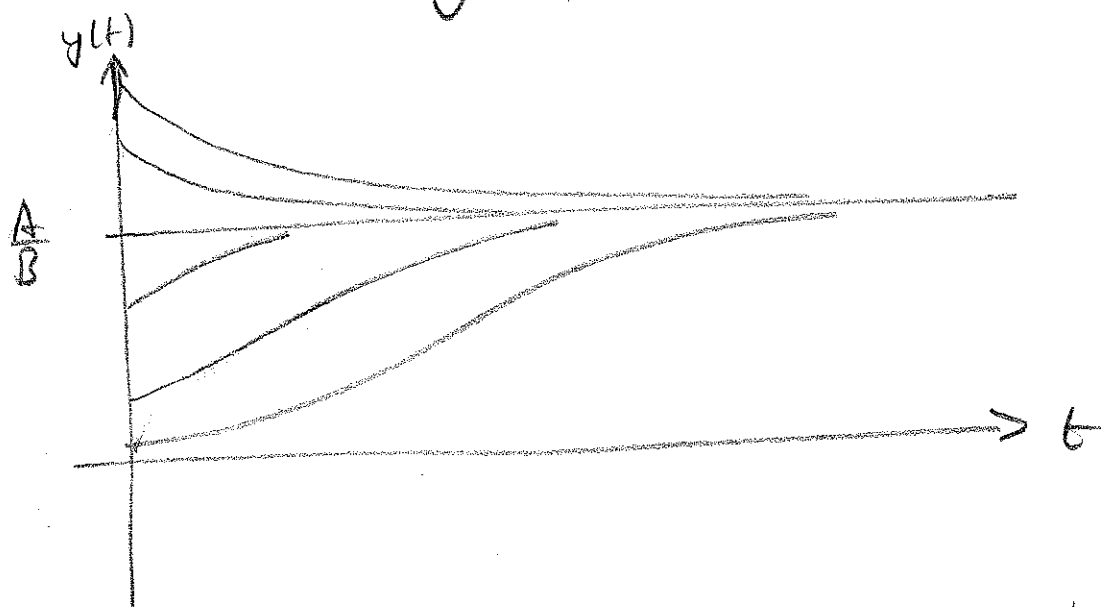
So

$$u = ce^{-At} + \frac{B}{A}$$

and since $u = \frac{1}{y}$, we have

$$y = \frac{1}{u} = \frac{1}{ce^{-At} + \frac{B}{A}}$$

Note also that $y = 0$ is also a soln of $y' = Ay - By^2$ as can be seen directly from the ODE.



If $A > 0$, then because of the negative exponential, the population value tends to $\frac{1}{\frac{B}{A}} = \frac{A}{B}$.

Note that if $B = 0$,

$$y = \frac{1}{c e^{-At}} = \frac{1}{c} e^{At}$$

- population grows without bound.

- Malthusian growth - models populations growing in an environment with infinite resources

The term $-By^2$ is a 'braking term' which prevents the population from growing without bound.

If we write

$$\begin{aligned} y' &= Ay - By^2 \\ &= Ay \left(1 - \frac{B}{A}y\right) \end{aligned}$$

then we see that $y' > 0$ if $y < \frac{A}{B}$

and $y' < 0$ if $y > \frac{A}{B}$.

$\Rightarrow y$ is increasing if $y < \frac{A}{B}$
and y is decreasing if $y > \frac{A}{B}$.
Also $y = \frac{A}{B}$ is another constant solution.

Note that t does not appear explicitly
in the ODE $y' = Ay - By^2$.

An ODE of the form

$$y' = f(y)$$

in which t does not appear explicitly
is called autonomous.

If $f(y_0) = 0$ for some y_0 , then

$$y' = f(y_0) = 0$$

and $y = y_0$ is a constant solution.

In this case the point y_0 is called
a critical point of the ODE.

A critical point is stable if solutions close to it for some t remain close to it for all further t .

A critical point is unstable if solutions close to it at some t do not remain close to it.

In the logistic example, we have two critical points, $y=0$ and $y=\frac{A}{B}$. $y=0$ is unstable, while $y=\frac{A}{B}$ is stable.

One can also see this in a phase line plot where one makes little arrows whose slope is y' .

