

1. This next question applies the techniques of separable equations to a new kind of differential equation called a Homogeneous Equation. If the differential equation  $dy/dx = f(x, y)$  can be rewritten as  $dy/dx = g(y/x)$ , then we say that this differential equation is said to be homogeneous. We can solve these homogeneous equations by transforming them into separable equations via a change of variable.

(a) Consider the equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y - 4x}{x - y}.$$

Show that this equation may be rewritten as a homogeneous equation.

**Solution:** Multiply both numerator and denominator of the RHS by the expression  $1/x$ . This gives

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{(y/x) - 4}{1 - (y/x)},$$

which is of the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = g(y/x)$$

when

$$g(v) = \frac{v - 4}{1 - v}.$$

- (b) If  $v = y/x$ , express both  $y$  and  $dy/dx$  in terms of  $x, v$ , and  $dv/dx$ .

**Solution:** If  $v = y/x$ , then  $y = vx$ , and the product rule gives

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = v + \frac{dv}{dx}x.$$

- (c) Replace  $y, dy/dx$  in the equation you wrote in the first part of this question. Solve the separable equation.

**Solution:** Replacing gives

$$v + \frac{dv}{dx}x = \frac{v - 4}{1 - v}.$$

This is a separable equation in  $v$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dv}{dx}x &= \frac{v - 4}{1 - v} - v \\ \frac{dv}{dx}x &= \frac{v - 4}{1 - v} - \frac{v - v^2}{1 - v} \\ \frac{dv}{dx}x &= \frac{v^2 - 4}{1 - v} \\ \int \frac{1 - v}{v^2 - 4} dv &= \int \frac{dx}{x}. \end{aligned}$$

The rational function on the LHS can be split into factors via the method of Partial Fraction Decomposition:

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1-v}{v^2-4} &= \frac{A}{v-2} + \frac{B}{v+2} \\ -v+1 &= Av+2A+Bv-2B \\ -1 &= A+B & 1 &= 2A-2B \\ -2 &= 2A+2B & 1 &= 2A-2B \\ -1 &= 4A & -3 &= 4B \\ \frac{-1}{4} &= A & \frac{-3}{4} &= B \\ \frac{1-v}{v^2-4} &= \frac{-1}{4(v-2)} + \frac{-3}{4(v+2)},\end{aligned}$$

which means that the integrals become

$$\begin{aligned}\int \frac{1-v}{v^2-4} dv &= \int \frac{dx}{x} \\ \int \frac{-dv}{4(v-2)} + \frac{-3dv}{4(v+2)} &= \int \frac{dx}{x} \\ \frac{-1}{4} \ln |v-2| + \frac{-3}{4} \ln |v+2| &= \ln |x| + C \\ \ln \left( |v-2|^{-1/4} |v+2|^{-3/4} \right) &= \ln |x| + C \\ |v-2|^{-1/4} |v+2|^{-3/4} &= C|x| \\ |y/x-2|^{-1/4} |y/x+2|^{-3/4} &= C|x|.\end{aligned}$$

2. In each case, solve the differential equation after multiplying through by the appropriate integrating factor.

(a)  $x^2y^3 + x(1 + y^2)y' = 0$ ,  $\mu(x, y) = 1/xy^3$ .

**Solution:** Multiplying through by the integrating factor gives

$$x + (1 + y^2)/y^3 y' = 0,$$

which is an exact equation (in fact, it's separable), since if  $M(x, y) = x$  and  $N(x, y) = (1 + y^2)/y^3$ , then

$$N_x = 0 = M_y.$$

Thus, we seek a  $\psi$  such that  $\psi_x = M$  and  $\psi_y = N$ . Since  $M$  and  $N$  involve only  $x$  and  $y$  respectively, we suspect that

$$\begin{aligned} \psi &= \\ \int M(x, y)dx + \int N(x, y)dy &= \\ \int xdx + \int (1 + y^2)/y^3 dy &= \\ x^2/2 + -3/y^2 + \ln |y| & \end{aligned}$$

would work. This gives that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} [x^2/2 - 3/y^2 + \ln |y|] &= 0 \\ x^2 - 3/y^2 + \ln |y| &= C \\ x^2 + C &= 3/y^2 - \ln |y|. \end{aligned}$$

(b)  $ydx + (2x - ye^y)dy = 0$ ,  $\mu(x, y) = y$ .

**Solution:** Multiplying through gives

$$y^2dx + (2xy - y^2e^y)dy = 0.$$

If  $M(x, y) = y^2$  and  $N(x, y) = (2xy - y^2e^y)$ , then

$$M_y(x, y) = 2y = N_x,$$

so this is an exact equation. Choosing  $\psi(x, y) = xy^2 - \int y^2e^y dy$  gives  $\psi_x = y^2$  and  $\psi_y = 2yx - y^2e^y$ , so let us compute this last integral:

$$\begin{aligned} \int y^2e^y dy &= & (u = y^2, dv = e^y dy) \\ y^2e^y - \int 2ye^y dy &= & (u = y, dv = e^y dy) \\ y^2e^y - 2 \left[ ye^y - \int e^y \right] &= \\ y^2e^y - 2ye^y + 2e^y, & \end{aligned}$$

so that we have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} [xy^2 - y^2e^y + 2ye^y - 2e^y] &= 0 \\ xy^2 - y^2e^y + 2ye^y - 2e^y &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

(c)  $(x + 2) \sin y dx + x \cos y dy = 0$ ,  $\mu(x, y) = xe^x$ .

**Solution:** Multiplication gives

$$(x^2 e^x + 2x e^x) \sin y + x^2 e^y \cos y y' = 0,$$

which is visibly the derivative of  $x^2 e^x \sin y$  with respect to  $x$ , giving as a solution

$$\frac{d}{dx} [x^2 e^x \sin y] = 0$$

$$x^2 e^x \sin y = C$$

$$\sin y = C x^{-2} e^{-x}$$

$$y = \arcsin [C x^{-2} e^{-x}].$$