

MATH529 Lesson 01

Ordinary Differential Equations Review

Basic mathematical concepts

Sets

Sets are collections of objects. The sets of interest within this course are \mathbb{N} , \mathbb{Z} , \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} , the sets of naturals, integers, reals, and complex numbers, respectively. The basic operation arising in set theory is membership, for instance $4 \in \mathbb{Z}$, stating that the number four is an integer.

In[*]:= 4 ∈ Integers

Out[*]= True

In fact the number 4 is a natural, or a positive integer.

In[*]:= 4 ∈ Integers && 4 > 0

Out[*]= True

If all elements of A are also members of B , then $A \subset B$. Since $\mathbb{N} \subset \mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{R} \subset \mathbb{C}$, the number 4 is also a real.

In[*]:= 4 ∈ Reals

Out[*]= True

The integers are a proper subset of the reals, i.e., there exist reals that are not integers, such as π .

In[*]:= $\pi \in \text{Reals}$

Out[*]= True

```
In[*]:=  $\pi \in \text{Integers}$ 
Out[*]= False
```

Given two sets X, Y the Cartesian product $X \times Y$ is defined as the set of all pairs (x, y) with $x \in X, y \in Y$. For example $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ contains pairs of reals, identified with the real plane and denoted as \mathbb{R}^2 . Similarly \mathbb{R}^3 denotes three-dimensional real space.

Within the real or complex numbers, a neighborhood of x is a set of numbers within some distance, $N(x, \epsilon) = \{y, |y - x| < \epsilon\}$.

Equations

Recall that within the real plane \mathbb{R}^2 the first bisector corresponds to those points in the plane have equal abscissa and ordinate values, $x = y$. The set of such points is a subset of \mathbb{R}^2 .

```
In[*]:= 1 == 2
Out[*]= False
```

```
In[*]:= 2 == 2
Out[*]= True
```

```
In[*]:= 2 == Sqrt[4]
Out[*]= True
```

Constants and variables

Within some problem certain quantities are assumed to be fixed as in the parabola relationship $y = ax^2$, where a is assumed to be a constant, whereas x, y can take a range of values and are considered to be variables. The distinction between constants and variables is problem dependent. In the parabola definition x can take on any value, and is said to be an independent variable, whereas y results from the parabola definition and is said to be a dependent variable.

In[*]:= $x == y$

Out[*]=

$x == y$

Note that in the above statement, the expression does not evaluate to either True or False, since x, y are variables. A numeric value for a constant can be specified through a substitution operation.

In[*]:= $a /. a \rightarrow 2$

Out[*]=

2

In[*]:= $y == a x^2 /. a \rightarrow 2$

Out[*]=

$y == 2 x^2$

Functions

A function f from set X to set Y is a subset of $X \times Y$ in which there is no repetition of the first element of the pair (x, y) , and is denoted as $f: X \rightarrow Y$.

In[*]:= $f[x_] = 2 x^2$

Out[*]=

$2 x^2$

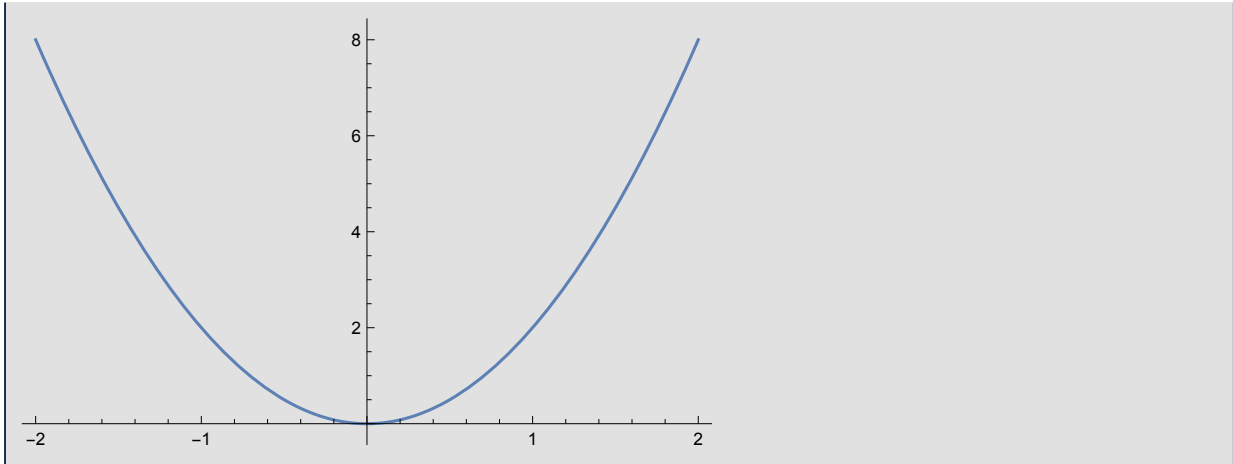
In[*]:= $f[2]$

Out[*]=

8

```
In[*]:= Plot[f[x], {x, -2, 2}]
```

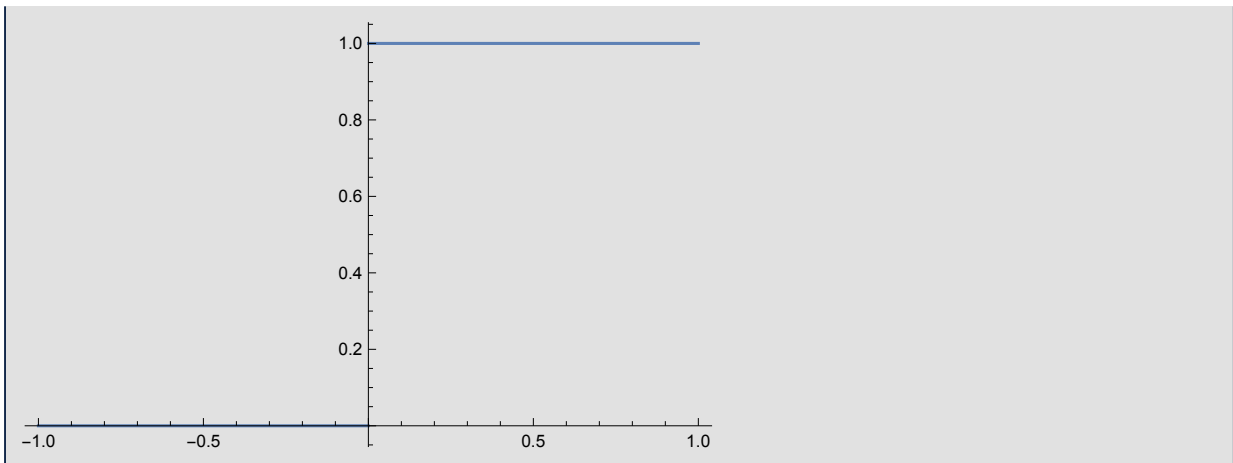
```
Out[*]=
```



Of main interest in this course are real functions $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, and complex functions $w: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. A function is continuous if it maps small neighborhoods into small neighborhoods, as the parabola above. Conversely the step function is not continuous since arbitrarily small neighborhoods of zero are mapped into the $[0,1]$ interval

```
In[*]:= Plot[HeavisideTheta[t], {t, -1, 1}]
```

```
Out[*]=
```



Differentiation

Real functions that finitely map arbitrarily small neighborhoods into small neighborhoods are differentiable:

$$f'(x_0) = \lim_{x \rightarrow x_0} \frac{f(x) - f(x_0)}{x - x_0}$$

```
In[ ]:= f[x]
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```

 $2 x^2$

```
In[ ]:= D[f[x], x]
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```

 $4 x$

```
In[ ]:= f'[x]
```

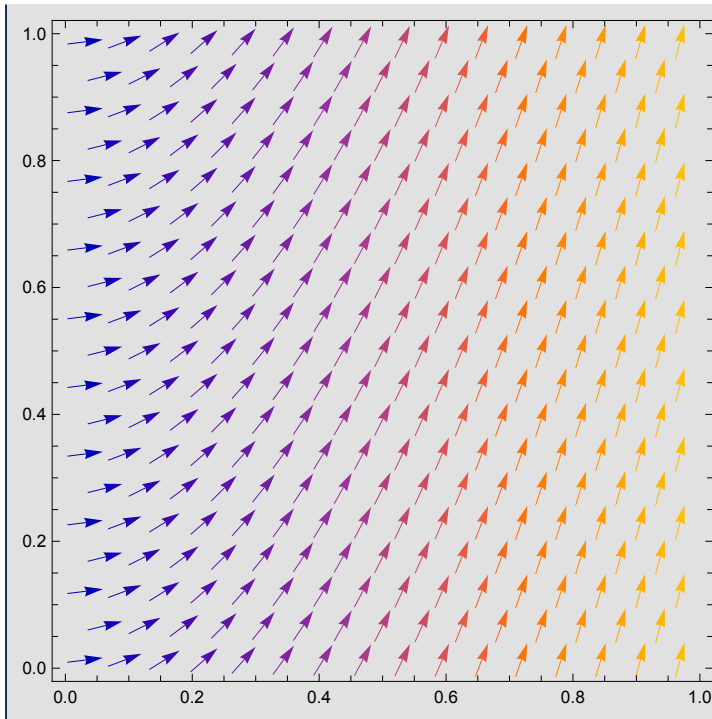
```
Out[ ]:=
```

 $4 x$

For real functions $f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, the derivative is the slope of the tangent to function graph.

```
In[ ]:= VectorPlot[{1, f'[x]}, {x, 0, 1}, {y, 0, 1}]
```

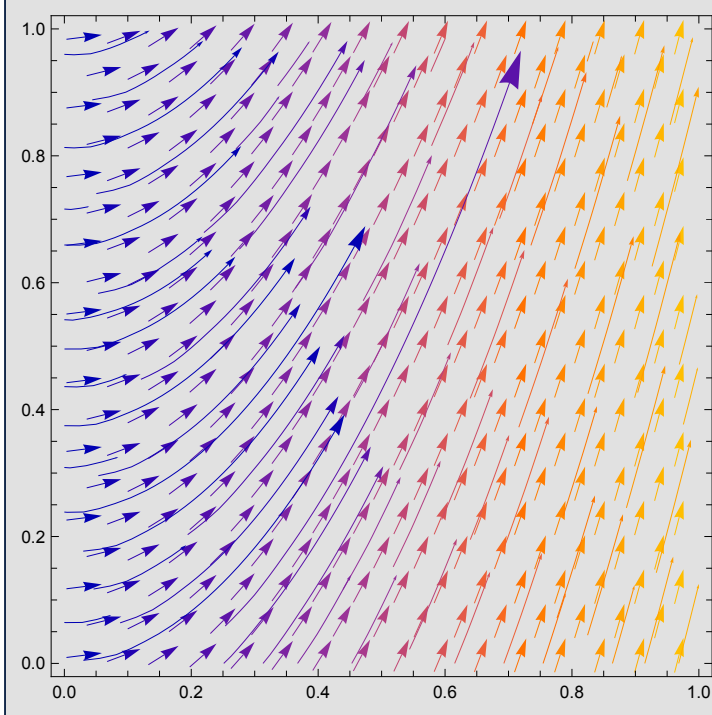
```
Out[ ]:=
```



Rather than explicitly defining a function such as $f(x) = 4x^2$, the function could be defined in terms of its slope within the real plane, $f'(x) = 4x$. Starting from some arbitrary point in the \mathbb{R}^2 plane one can reconstruct the function by following the direction of the local slope.

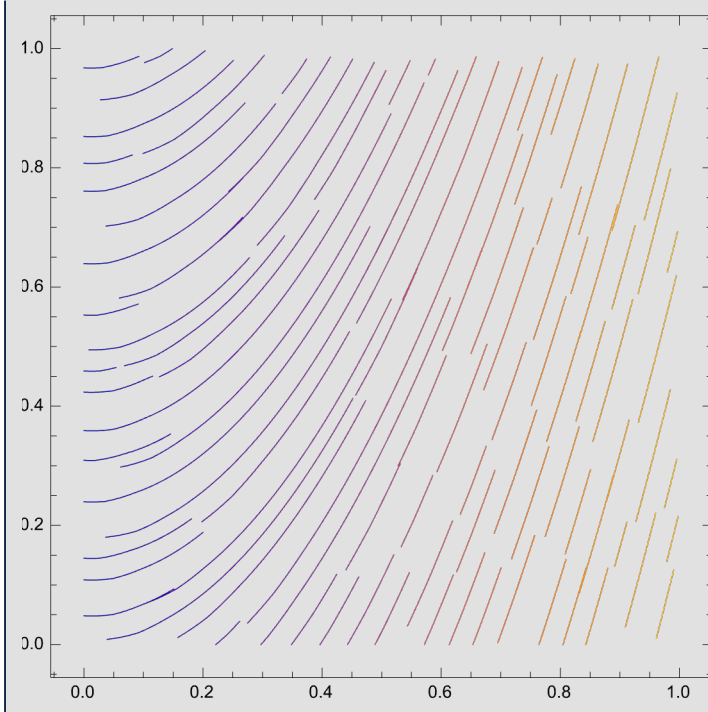
```
In[*]:= VectorPlot[{1, f'[x]}, {x, 0, 1},  
  {y, 0, 1}, StreamPoints -> Medium, StreamScale -> Full]
```

Out[*]=



```
In[ ]:= StreamPlot[{1, f'[x]}, {x, 0, 1}, {y, 0, 1}, StreamScale -> None]
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```



The rate of change of the rate of change is given by the second derivative, e.g., $f''(x) = 4$

```
In[ ]:= D[f[x], {x, 2}]
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```

```
4
```

Differential equations

Differential equations are relationships among the rates of change, i.e., derivatives of a function. Various rates of change, i.e., order of differentiation can be specified. The order of a differential equation is the highest order of differentiation that arises

Ordinary differential equations (ODEs)

Differential equations for functions of a single variable are said to be ordinary.

Explicit form

An ordinary differential equation is said to be given in explicit form if the highest-order derivative is a known expression of the lower order derivatives

$$y^{(k)} = f(x, y, y', y'', \dots, y^{(k-1)})$$

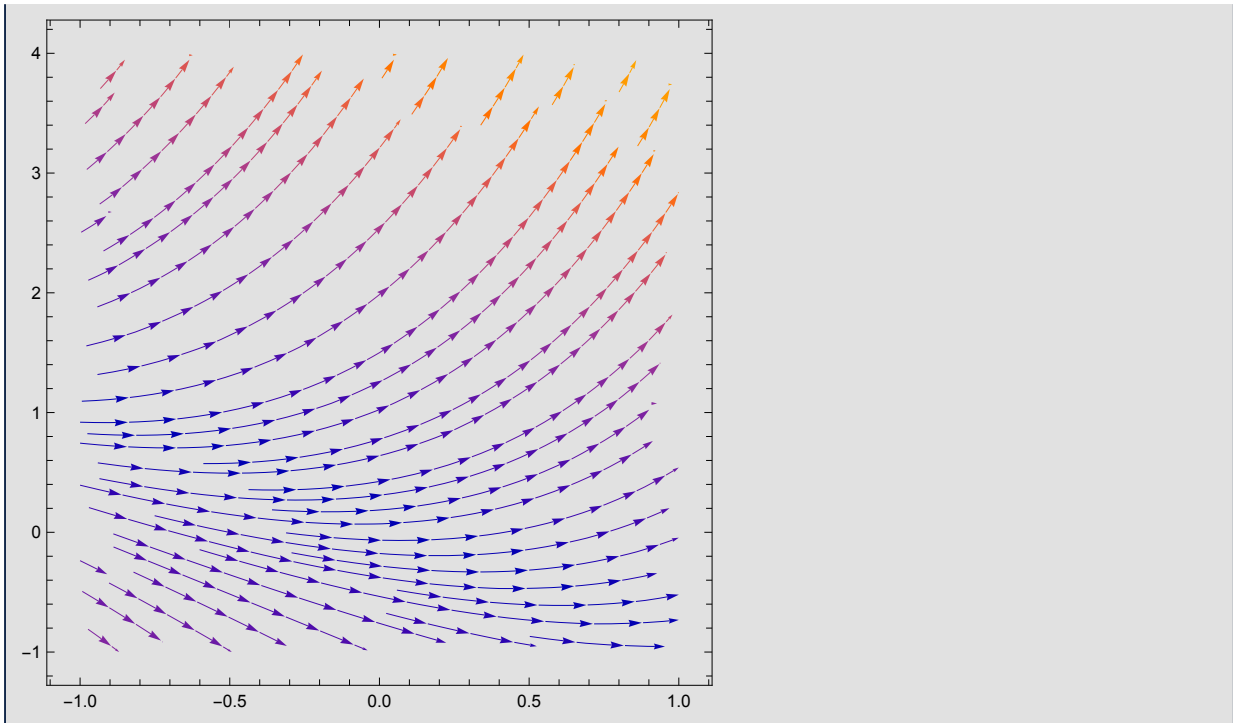
```
In[*]:= f[x_, y_] = x + y
```

```
Out[*]=
```

```
x + y
```

```
In[*]:= sp = StreamPlot[{1, f[x, y]}, {x, -1, 1}, {y, -1, 4}]
```

```
Out[*]=
```



```
In[*]:= DSolve[y'[x] == f[x, y[x]], y[x], x]
```

```
Out[*]=
```

```
{{y[x] -> -1 - x + e^x c_1}}
```

Solve $y'=x+y$

```
In[*]:= DSolve[y'[x] == x + y[x], y[x], x]
```

```
Out[*]=
```

```
{{y[x] -> -1 - x + e^x c_1}}
```



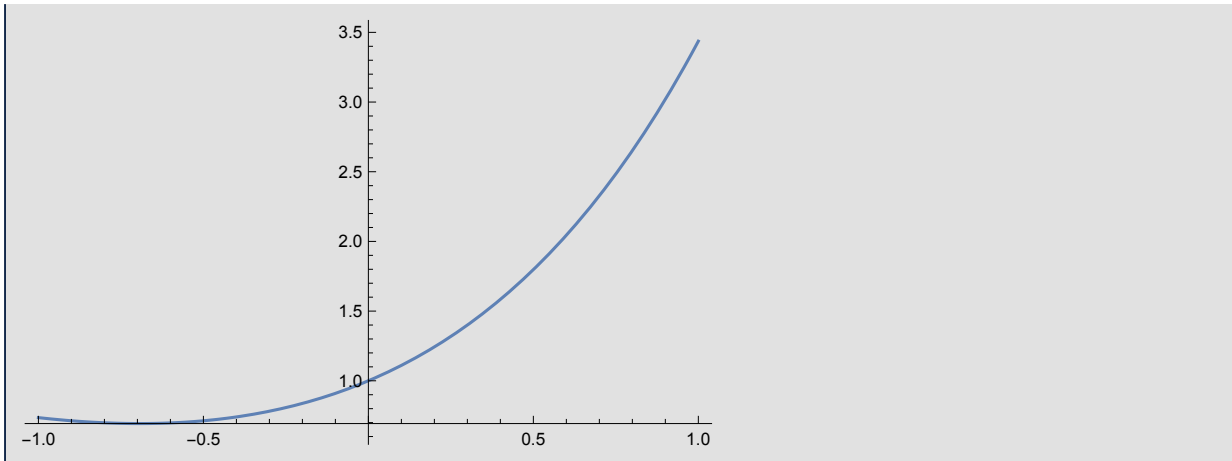
```
In[*]:= sol = DSolve[{y'[x] == f[x, y[x]], y[0] == 1}, y[x], x]
```

```
Out[*]=
```

```
{y[x] -> -1 + 2 e^x - x}
```

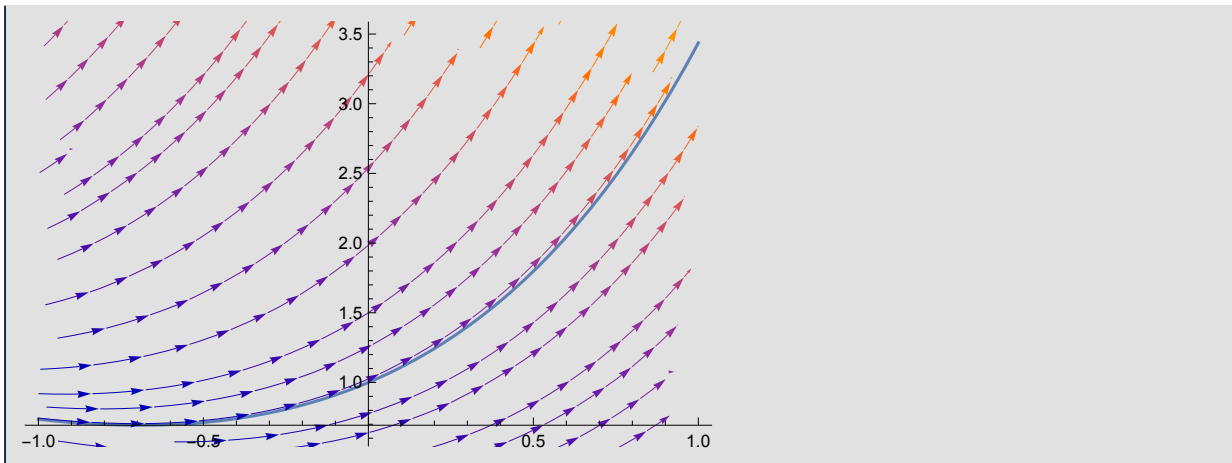
```
In[*]:= yp = Plot[y[x] /. sol[[1, 1]], {x, -1, 1}]
```

```
Out[*]=
```



```
In[*]:= Show[{yp, sp}]
```

```
Out[*]=
```



Implicit form

Conversely, if the highest order derivative has not been isolated, the ordinary differential equation is said to be given in implicit form

$$f(x, y, y', y'', \dots, y^{(k)}) = 0$$

Solve $\sin(x+y)=y$

In[*]:= `DSolve[Sin[x + y'[x]] == y[x], y[x], x]`

⋯ Solve : Inverse functions are being used by Solve, so some solutions may not be found; use Reduce for complete solution information. [i](#)

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Out[*]=

`DSolve[Sin[x + y'[x]] == y[x], y[x], x]`

Systems of differential equations

Relationships between rates of change of multiple functions lead to systems of differential equations.

Solve $z'=x + y, y'=x-z$

In[*]:= `DSolve[{z'[x] == x + y[x], y'[x] == x - z[x]}, {y[x], z[x]}, x]`

Out[*]=

$\{ \{ y[x] \rightarrow c_1 \cos[x] - c_2 \sin[x] - \sin[x] (\cos[x] + x \cos[x] - \sin[x] + x \sin[x]) + \cos[x] (\cos[x] - x \cos[x] + \sin[x] + x \sin[x]) ,$
 $z[x] \rightarrow c_2 \cos[x] + c_1 \sin[x] + \cos[x] (\cos[x] + x \cos[x] - \sin[x] + x \sin[x]) + \sin[x] (\cos[x] - x \cos[x] + \sin[x] + x \sin[x]) \} \}$

In[*]=

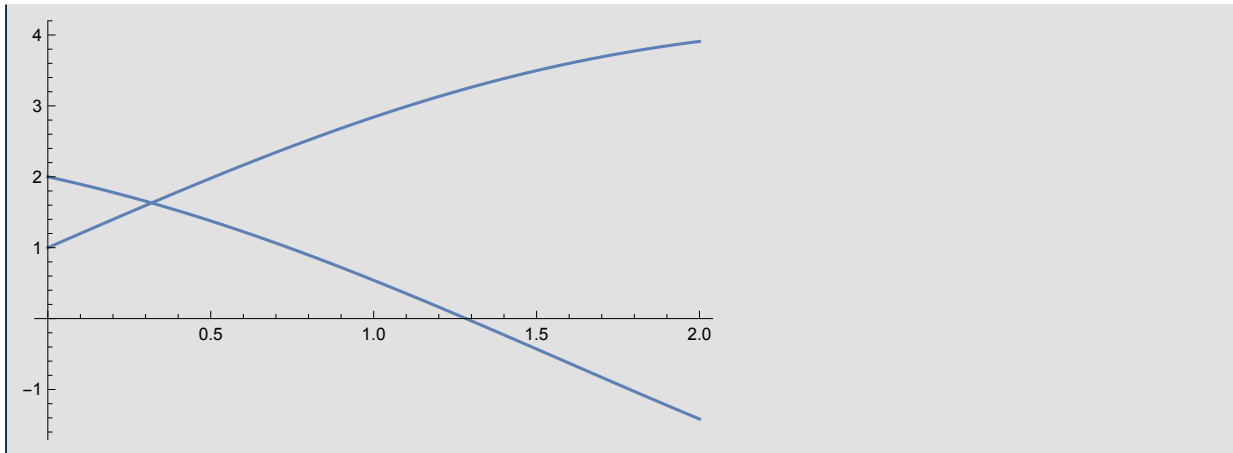
`sol = DSolve[{z'[x] == x + y[x], y'[x] == x - z[x], z[0] == 1, y[0] == 2}, {y[x], z[x]}, x]`

Out[*]=

$\{ \{ y[x] \rightarrow \cos[x] + \cos[x]^2 - x \cos[x]^2 + \sin[x]^2 - x \sin[x]^2 ,$
 $z[x] \rightarrow \cos[x]^2 + x \cos[x]^2 + \sin[x] + \sin[x]^2 + x \sin[x]^2 \} \}$

```
In[ ]:= Plot[{y[x], z[x]} /. sol[[1]], {x, 0, 2}]
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```



Linear differential equations

An equation $y^{(k)} = f(x, y, y', y'', \dots, y^{(k-1)})$ is linear if f is linear in the dependent variable and its derivatives, e.g., for $k = 1$, $y' = f(x, y)$ is linear if $f(x, a_1 y_1 + a_2 y_2) = a_1 f(x, y_1) + a_2 f(x, y_2)$ for any reals a_1, a_2

Partial differential equations (PDEs)

Specifying rates of change of a function with respect to multiple independent variables leads to a partial differential equation. For PDEs, it is convenient to denote differentiation by subscripts. Of special relevance to study of PDEs are the simplest forms that arise, known as the canonical PDEs.

Canonical PDEs

Heat (diffusion) equation

The diffusion equation $u_t = \alpha u_{xx}$ describes the evolution of some concentration $u(t, x)$ due to unresolved microscopic processes (random motion).

Poisson equation

The Poisson equation $u_{xx} + u_{yy} = f(x, y)$ describes the stable equilibrium concentration of some quantity u under the effect of the external forces f .

Wave equation

The wave equation $u_{tt} = c^2 u_{xx}$ describes the propagation of waves with speed c , with $u(t, x)$ indicating the displacement from equilibrium.

Initial value problem

Development of differential equation theory is guided by analysis of generic cases. The first generic case is that of first-order differential equations given in explicit form with an initial condition, known as the initial value problem (IVP)

$$y' = dy/dx = f(x, y), \quad y(x_0) = y_0$$

A unique solution exists over some interval $R = (x_0, x_1) \times (y_0, y_1)$ if f is continuous over \mathbb{R} , and the derivative of f is continuous on \mathbb{R} . (a weaker sufficient condition is Lipschitz continuity in dependence of f on y)

An example of an IVP with multiple solutions

$$y' = dy/dx = x y^{1/2}, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad f(x, y) = x y^{1/2}$$

$$\partial f / \partial y = x / (2 y^{1/2})$$

```
Dsolve[{y'[x] == x (y[x])^1/2, y[0] == 0}, y[x], x]
```

Out[] =

$$\left\{ \left\{ y[x] \rightarrow \frac{x^4}{16} \right\} \right\}$$

```
DE = y'[x] == x (y[x])^1/2
```

Out[] =

$$y'[x] == x \sqrt{y[x]}$$

```
sol = DSolve[{DE, y[0] == 0}, y[x], x][[1, 1]]
```

Out[] =

$$y[x] \rightarrow \frac{x^4}{16}$$

```
In[ ]:= dsol = y'[x] -> x^3/4
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```

$$y'[x] \rightarrow \frac{x^3}{4}$$

```
In[ ]:= Assuming[x > 0, Simplify[DE /. {sol, dsol}]]
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```

```
True
```

```
In[ ]:= {a, b} /. {a -> 1, b -> 2}
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```

```
{1, 2}
```

Separable first-order equations

The ODE $y' = dy/dx = f(x, y)$ is separable if $f(x, y) = g(x)/h(y)$, and is solvable by direct integration

$$\int h(y) dy = \int g(x) dx + C$$

Example: $y' = dy/dx = y/(1+x) \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{y} = \frac{dx}{1+x} \Rightarrow \log(y) = \log(1+x) + \log(C) \Rightarrow y(x) = C(1+x)$

```
In[ ]:= DSolve[y'[x] == y[x]/(1+x), y[x], x]
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```

```
{{y[x] -> (1+x) c1}}
```

Implicit solutions

$$\cos x (e^{2y} - y) \frac{dy}{dx} = e^y \sin 2x \Rightarrow \frac{e^{2y}-y}{e^y} dy = \frac{\sin 2x}{\cos x} dx$$

```
In[ ]:= ysol = Integrate[(Exp[2 y] - y) / Exp[y], y]
```

```
Out[ ]:=
```

```
e^y - e^-y (-1 - y)
```

```
In[*]:= xsol = Integrate [Sin[2 x] / Cos[x], x]
```

```
Out[*]= -2 Cos[x]
```

```
In[*]:= ysol == xsol + c
```

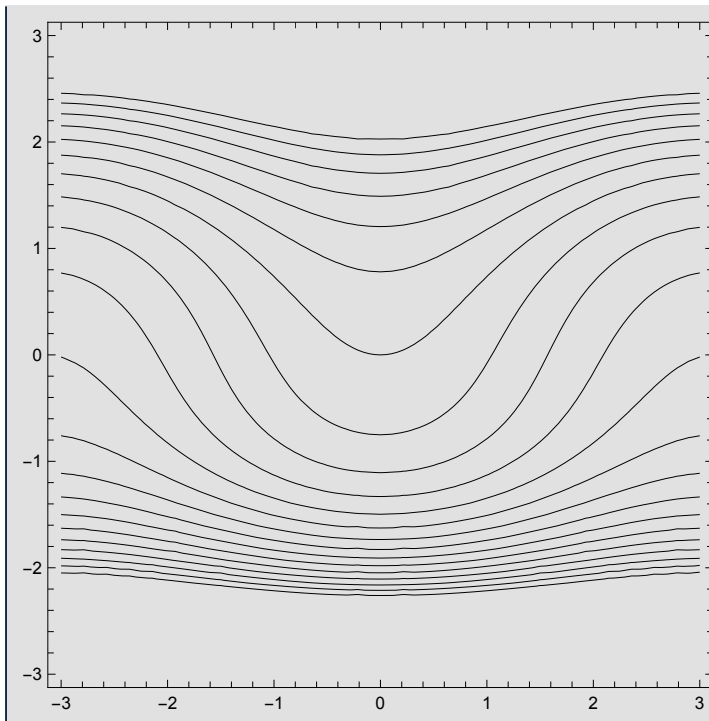
```
Out[*]= ey - e-y (-1 - y) == c - 2 Cos[x]
```

```
In[*]:= g[x_, y_] = xsol - ysol
```

```
Out[*]= -ey + e-y (-1 - y) - 2 Cos[x]
```

```
In[*]:= ContourPlot[g[x, y], {x, -3, 3}, {y, -3, 3},  
ContourShading → None, Contours → Table[c, {c, -10, 10}]]
```

```
Out[*]=
```



Linear first-order equations

Development of differential equation theory is guided by analysis of generic cases. The first generic case is that of first-order differential equations given in explicit form with an initial condition, known as the initial value problem (IVP)

$$y' = dy/dx = f(x, y), \quad y(x_0) = y_0$$

A unique solution exists over some interval $R = (x_0, x_1) \times (y_0, y_1)$ if f is continuous over \mathbb{R} , and the derivative of f is continuous on \mathbb{R} . (a weaker sufficient condition is Lipschitz continuity in dependence of f on y)

Basic theory

The first-order differential equation $h(x, y, y') = g(x)$ is linear if h is a linear mapping in y , in which case the equation can be written as $h(x, y, y') = a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = g(x)$, with $a_1(x) \neq 0$, or

$$L(y) = \left[a_0(x) \frac{d}{dx} + a_1(x) \right] y = a_0(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_1(x) y = g(x)$$

where L is the differential operator associated with the equation.

Recall that, in general, a function F is a linear mapping iff $F(c_1 t_1 + c_2 t_2) = c_1 F(t_1) + c_2 F(t_2)$. For the above,

$$\begin{aligned} L(c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2) &= a_0(x)(c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2) + a_1(x) \frac{d}{dx}(c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2) = \\ &= c_1 a_0 y_1 + c_1 \frac{d y_1}{d x} + c_2 a_0 y_2 + c_2 \frac{d y_2}{d x} = \\ &= c_1 L(y_1) + c_2 L(y_2) \end{aligned}$$

If $g(x) = 0$ the ODE is said to be homogeneous

A linear first-order ODE can be written in *standard form* as $y' + p(x)y = q(x)$

Examples

A linear ODE

Q: Is the equation $y' + xy = x^2$ linear in y ?

A: Yes. The function $h(x, y, y') = y' + xy$ is linear in y . Verify:

$$\begin{aligned} h(x, c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2, c_1 y_1' + c_2 y_2') &= (c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2)' + x(c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2) = \\ &= c_1 (y_1' + x y_1) + c_2 (y_2' + x y_2) = c_1 h(x, y_1, y_1') + c_2 h(x, y_2, y_2') \end{aligned}$$

A nonlinear ODE

Q: Is the equation $y' + x \sin y = x^2$ linear in y ?

A: No, $h(x, y) = y' + x \sin y$ is nonlinear in y .

Solution by variation of parameters

The solution to a linear ODE can be written as the solution to the homogeneous equation plus a particular solution to the original DE.

1. Solve the homogeneous equation $y' + p(x)y = 0$, and obtain $y_h(x)$.
2. Assume constant of integration becomes a parameter that depends on the independent variable ("variation of parameters"), and find a particular solution.

Example

Solve $y' + xy = e^x$

Step 1: Solve homogeneous equation $y' + xy = 0$

```
In[*]:= DE = y'[x] + x y[x] == e^x
```

```
Out[*]= x y[x] + y'[x] == e^x
```

```
In[*]:= solh = DSolve[y'[x] + x y[x] == 0, y[x], x][[1, 1]]
```

```
Out[*]= y[x] -> e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} c_1
```

```
In[*]:= yh[x_] = y[x] /. solh
```

```
Out[*]= e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} c_1
```

Step 2. Assume constant of integration becomes a parameter

```
In[*]:= yp[x_] = yh[x] /. c_1 -> A[x]
```

```
Out[*]= e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} A[x]
```


In[*]:= DEp = DE /. y -> yp

Out[*]=

$$e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} A'[x] == e^x$$

In[*]:= vpsol = DSolve[DEp, A[x], x][[1, 1]]

Out[*]=

$$A[x] \rightarrow c_1 + e^{-\frac{1}{2} \text{Log}[e]^2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \text{Erfi}\left[\frac{x + \text{Log}[e]}{\sqrt{2}}\right]$$

In[*]:= ys[x_] = yp[x] /. vpsol

Out[*]=

$$e^{-\frac{x^2}{2}} \left(c_1 + e^{-\frac{1}{2} \text{Log}[e]^2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \text{Erfi}\left[\frac{x + \text{Log}[e]}{\sqrt{2}}\right] \right)$$