

We begin with a review of integrating factor

We showed that we can solve the linear ODE

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

by first computing the integrating factor

$$e^{\int \frac{1}{x} dx} = e^{\ln x} = x$$

and then multiplying the ODE by the integrating factor;

$$x \left(\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{1}{x}y \right) = x^2$$

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

$$\underbrace{\frac{d}{dx}(xy)}$$

After multiplying by the integrating factor, these terms can be written as $\frac{d}{dx}(\dots)$

Integrating both sides, we get

$$\int \frac{d}{dx}(xy) dx = \int x^2 dx + C$$

↖ arbitrary constant

$$xy = \frac{x^3}{3} + C$$

$$y = \frac{x^2}{3} + \frac{C}{x}$$

↖ The general solution (contains the arbitrary constant)

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In this lecture we will re-examine the foregoing process.
After multiplying by the integrating factor, the ODE became:

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

Let's multiply by dx and move everything to one side:

$$(y - x^2) dx + x dy = 0 \quad (*)$$

Now we know that this equation has the following integral:

$$xy - \frac{x^3}{3} = C$$

To show this directly (without deriving it), take the differential of it:

$$\begin{aligned} d\left(xy - \frac{x^3}{3}\right) &= x dy + dx \cdot y - \frac{3x^2}{3} dx \\ &= (y - x^2) dx + x dy = 0 \end{aligned}$$

which is eq. (*) above.

We say that $(y - x^2) dx + x dy$ is an exact differential

More generally, $M(x, y) dx + N(x, y) dy = 0$

is an exact differential if it can be written

in the form $d\psi(x, y) = 0$

2 Questions:

1) How can you tell if a d.e. of the form

$$M dx + N dy = 0 \quad \text{is } \underline{\text{exact}} \text{ ?}$$

2) If it is exact, how can you find the integral

$$\psi(x, y) = \text{constant} \text{ ?}$$

Work backwards:

$$\psi = c$$

$$d\psi = 0$$

$$\psi_x dx + \psi_y dy = 0$$

But

$$M dx + N dy = 0$$

So identify

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \psi_x = M \\ \psi_y = N \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \psi_{yx} = M_y \\ \psi_{xy} = N_x \end{array}$$

$$\therefore \boxed{M_y = N_x = \psi_{xy}} \text{ is the test condition}$$

Example Let's use the previous example, but let's make believe we don't know the solution.

$$\text{Equation (*)} \Rightarrow \underbrace{(y-x^2)}_M dx + \underbrace{x}_{N} dy = 0$$

Test to see if it is exact:

$$M_y \stackrel{?}{=} N_x$$

$$M_y = \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (y-x^2) = 1$$

$$N_x = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} (x) = 1$$

$M_y = N_x \Rightarrow$
equation is
EXACT
(we knew this)

Now, continuing with making believe we don't know the solution, how to solve this exact equation:

$$(y-x^2) dx + x dy = 0$$

$$M = y-x^2 \quad N = x$$

We have shown that $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$

We seek an integral, $\psi(x, y) = \text{constant}$

$$\therefore d\psi = 0$$

$$\therefore \psi_x dx + \psi_y dy = 0$$

$$\text{We are given } \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = M = y-x^2, \quad \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = N = x$$

In order for ψ to exist,

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial y \partial x} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$$

We have shown this to be the case. But what is ψ ?

Integrate this eq., $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = y-x^2$, with respect to x :

$$\psi = xy - \frac{x^3}{3} + f(y)$$

↑ an arbitrary
function of y

this function plays the role of an arbitrary constant,

but for partial integration it is a function of y instead of a constant.

Now ψ must also satisfy $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = N = x$.

So differentiate (with respect to y), $\psi = xy - \frac{x^3}{3} + f(y)$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left[xy - \frac{x^3}{3} + f(y) \right] = x$$

$$x + \frac{df}{dy}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{df}{dy} = 0 \Rightarrow f(y) = \text{constant}$$

Conclusion: $\psi = xy - \frac{x^3}{3} + \text{constant}$

(which agrees with what we already knew.)

Another example

p. 75, problem 3: $(3x^2 - 2xy + 2) dx + (6y^2 - x^2 + 3) dy = 0$

1) Is it exact? $M = 3x^2 - 2xy + 2$, $N = 6y^2 - x^2 + 3$

Compute $M_y = -2x$ and $N_x = -2x$

Since they are equal, the answer is yes, the eq. is exact.

2) Find $\psi(x, y)$.

$$\psi(x, y) = \text{constant}$$

$$d\psi = \underbrace{\psi_x}_{M} dx + \underbrace{\psi_y}_{N} dy = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = 3x^2 - 2xy + 2 \Rightarrow \psi = x^3 - x^2y + 2x + f(y)$$

We require $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = N = 6y^2 - x^2 + 3$.

We have so far $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} (\text{---}) = -x^2 + \frac{df}{dy}$ } comparing these, we find

$$\frac{df}{dy} = 6y^2 + 3 \Rightarrow f = 2y^3 + 3y + \text{constant}$$

$$\therefore \boxed{\psi(x, y) = x^3 - x^2y + 2x + 2y^3 + 3y = \text{constant}}$$