

# CH 9.1: MODELLING w/ DIFFERENTIAL EQ'S

**GOAL:** We will learn what a **DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION (DE)** is and will explore some basic properties of them. We will also learn how DEs can be used to model certain real world situations.

## PART 1: BASICS of DE'S

**DEFN:** [DIFFERENTIAL EQ]:

**Ex 1:** The following are differential equations

A

B

**NOTE:** The **ORDER** of a Differential Equation is the power of the highest derivative.

**Q:** What does it mean to find a **SOLUTION** of a differential equation?

**A:** A **SOLUTION** of a DE is a **FUNCTION**  $y(x)$  such that both sides of the DE are equal.

**Ex 2.** Verify that each function is a solution to the specified **DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION**.

**A**  $y = 12x^4$ . DE:  $xy' = 4y$

**sol:**

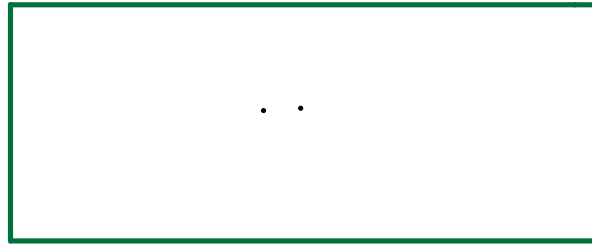
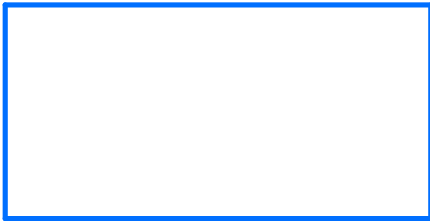
**B**  $y = Ae^{\lambda x}$  DE:  $y' = \lambda y$

**sol:**

$y = Ce^{3t} - \frac{1}{3}$ , D.E:  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 1 + 3y$

Sol:

There are two different terms that are used for solutions to differential equations: PARTICULAR SOLUTIONS and the GENERAL SOLUTION

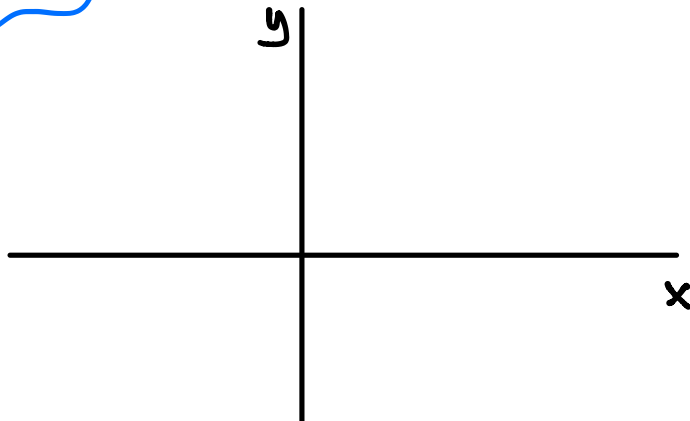
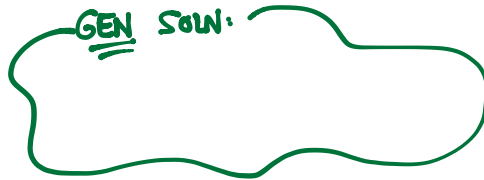


Ex. For the differential equation:  $y' = 3x^2$   
Find 3 PARTICULAR SOLUTIONS and then find the GENERAL SOLUTION

Sol: PART. SOLNS:



GEN SOLN:



\* A common type of question in the field of differential equations is called an **INITIAL VALUE PROBLEM (IVP)**. Here, you will be given a differential equation and an initial condition that the function (i.e. solution) needs to satisfy. The goal is to find a **PARTICULAR SOLUTION** that satisfies the differential equation AND the initial condition.

Ex 4. Solve the IVP:  $y' = 3x^2$ ,  $y(0) = 4$ .

sol:

Ex 5: The general solution to a differential equation is given by:  $y = Ce^{4x}$

Find the particular solution that satisfies the initial condition:  $y(0) = 5$

sol:

**NOTE:** If a particular solution has the form  $y=K$  for some fixed constant  $K$  then we call this solution a **CONSTANT SOLUTION** (aka equilibrium solution). To find all constant solutions:

1. Let  $y=K$  for a fixed constant  $K$
2. Input  $y=K$  into the DE (Note  $y'=0$ )
3. Solve for  $K$  (if possible)

**Ex 6** Find all **CONSTANT SOLUTIONS** of each differential equation (if any exist)

**A**  $y' = y(y-2)$   
sol:

**B**  $\frac{dy}{dt} = y^4 - 8y^3 + 12y^2$   
sol:

**C**  $\frac{dy}{dx} = xy^2$   $y = k$   
sol:

**D**  $\frac{dP}{dt} = 1 + P \cdot t$   $P = k$   
sol:

## PART 2: BEHAVIOR of SOLUTIONS

\*\* Just by glancing at a differential equation, we can tell a lot about the BEHAVIOR of SOLUTIONS of the DE.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} > 0 \implies$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} < 0 \implies$$

Ex 7. For each differential equation, sketch a graph that depicts the behavior of solutions to the DE.

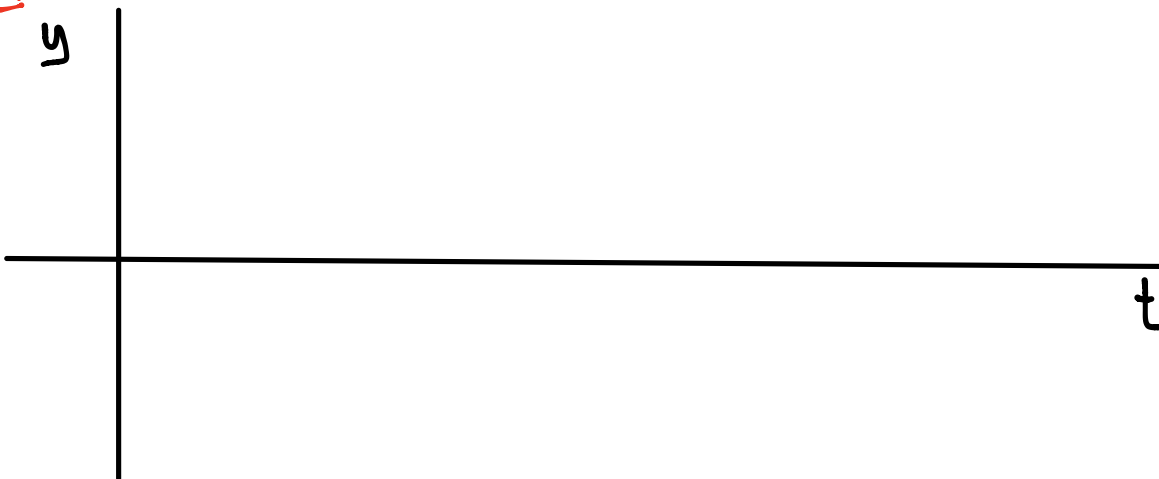
A  $y' = y(y-2)$

sol:



B  $\frac{dy}{dt} = y^2 - 16 = (y+4)(y-4)$

sol:



## PART 3: APPLICATIONS

\*\* Differential equations can be used to model certain systems where a quantity changes over time. One of the most powerful applications comes when modeling populations

Ex 8. A population is modeled by the differential equation

- For what values of  $P$  is the population **INCREASING?**
- For what values of  $P$  is the population **DECREASING?**
- Find all **EQUILIBRIUM SOLUTIONS**
- Sketch a plot illustrating this behavior.

Sol:

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = 2P\left(1 - \frac{P}{100}\right)$$

**LOGISTIC MODEL:**

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP\left(1 - \frac{P}{M}\right)$$

$M$  = CARRYING CAPACITY  
 $k$  = GROWTH RATE.