

## CH 9.3 SEPARATION of VARIABLES

**GOAL:** Now that we are familiar with the terminology of **DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS**, we can learn one of the main techniques that can be used to actually solve a differential equation: **SEPARATION OF VARIABLES**.

### PART 1: WHAT IS A **SEPARABLE** DIFFERENTIAL EQ?

\* Our focus in this section will be on first-order differential equations (i.e. DEs with only a first derivative) that have an important property:

**DEFN:** [SEPARABLE DE]:

A DIFF EQ THAT CAN BE WRITTEN AS

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x) \cdot g(y) \quad \text{OR} \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{f(x)}{g(y)} \quad g(y) \neq 0$$

Ex. Which of the following differential equations are **SEPARABLE**?

**A**  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^2y + y = y(x^2 + 1)$  ✓

**D**  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \sqrt{y^5 + 8}$  ✓

**B**  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x + y$  ✗

**E**  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^2y - x$  ✗

**C**  $\frac{dy}{dx} = e^{x^2+y} = e^{x^2}e^y$  ✓

**F**  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x^3$  ✓

### PART 2: THE METHOD of **SEPARATION** of **VARIABLES**

**STEP 1:** WRITE ALL  $y$ 's ON LEFT &  $x$ 's ON RIGHT (ALGEBRA)  
 $\frac{dy}{dx}$  CAN BE TREATED AS A FRACTION!

**STEP 2:** INTEGRATE BOTH SIDES.

**STEP 3:** SOLVE FOR  $y$  (IF POSSIBLE).

! APPLIES ONLY TO SEPARABLE DEs

**Ex 2.** Find the general solution to the following differential equations using **SEPARATION OF VARIABLES**

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

Sol: (1)  $y^2 dy = x^2 dx$

(2)  $\int y^2 dy = \int x^2 dx$   
 $\frac{y^3}{3} + C_1 = \frac{x^3}{3} + C_2$

(3)  $\frac{y^3}{3} = \frac{x^3}{3} + C_2 - C_1$

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

$y = \sqrt[3]{x^3 + C}$

! General solution is also known as family of solutions

**Check!**

LHS:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{3} (x^3 + C)^{-2/3} \cdot 3x^2$   
 $= \frac{x^2}{(x^3 + C)^{2/3}}$

RHS:  $\frac{x^2}{y^2} = \frac{x^2}{(x^3 + C)^{2/3}}$

✓

**B**  $(y + xy)y' = 2$

Sol:

$(y + xy) \frac{dy}{dx} = 2 \Rightarrow y(1+x) \frac{dy}{dx} = 2$

$\int y dy = \int \frac{2}{1+x} dx$   $\leftarrow x \neq -1$

$\frac{y^2}{2} = 2 \ln|1+x| + C$

$y^2 = 4 \ln|1+x| + C$

**IMPLICIT**  
GENERAL SOLN.

$y = \pm \sqrt{4 \ln|1+x| + C}$

**EXPLICIT.**  
GENERAL SOLN.

$$\square \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2x^2}{y + \sin(y)} \quad y \neq 0$$

sol:

$$\int (y + \sin(y)) dy = \int 2x^2 dx$$

$$\frac{y^2}{2} - \cos(y) = \frac{2x^3}{3} + C$$

$$\square \frac{dy}{dt} = t^2 y \quad y \neq 0$$

sol:

if  $y=0$   
 $\frac{dy}{dt} = 0 \checkmark$   
So  $y=0$  IS  
EQUILIBRIUM

$$\int \frac{dy}{y} = \int t^2 dt$$

$$e^{\ln|y|} = e^{\frac{t^3}{3} + C}$$

$$|y| = e^C e^{\frac{t^3}{3}}$$

$$y = \pm e^C e^{\frac{t^3}{3}}$$

$$y = C e^{\frac{t^3}{3}}$$

**E**  $xy' + 4 = y^2 \rightarrow x \frac{dy}{dx} = y^2 - 4 \rightarrow \frac{dy}{y^2 - 4} = \frac{dx}{x}$

**sol:**

$$\int \frac{dy}{y^2 - 4} = \int \frac{dx}{x} \Rightarrow \int \frac{dy}{(y+2)(y-2)} = \int \frac{dx}{x}$$

$$\int \frac{-1/4}{y+2} + \frac{1/4}{y-2} dy = \int \frac{dx}{x} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{4} \ln|y+2| - \frac{1}{4} \ln|y-2| = \ln|x| + C$$

$$\frac{1}{4} (\ln|y-2| - \ln|y+2|) = \ln|x| + C$$

$$\frac{1}{4} (\ln|\frac{y-2}{y+2}|) = \ln|x| + C$$

$$e^{(\ln|\frac{y-2}{y+2}|)} = (4 \ln|x| + C)$$

$$|\frac{y-2}{y+2}| = e^C e^{4 \ln|x|}$$

$$\frac{y-2}{y+2} = \pm e^C e^{\ln(x^4)}$$

$$\frac{y-2}{y+2} = \frac{Cx^4}{1}$$

$$\frac{y-2}{y+2-(y-2)} = \frac{Cx^4}{1-Cx^4}$$

$$\frac{y-2}{4} = \frac{Cx^4}{1-Cx^4}$$

$$y = \frac{4Cx^4}{1-Cx^4} + 2$$

!  $\frac{a}{b} = \frac{c}{d}$   
 $\frac{a}{b+a} = \frac{c}{d+c}$   
 $\frac{2}{3} = \frac{4}{6}$   
 $\frac{2}{5} = \frac{4}{10}$

**Ex 3:** Find the particular solution of each differential equation that satisfies the given initial condition (i.e. solve each **INITIAL VALUE PROBLEM**)

**A**  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x^2}{y^2}, y(0) = 4$

**sol:**

GEN SOLN (from ABOVE)  $y = \sqrt[3]{x^3 + C}$

APPLY INITIAL COND  
 $y(0) = 4$

$4 = \sqrt[3]{C}$  so  $C = 64$

PARTICULAR SOLN  $y = \sqrt[3]{x^3 + 64}$

**B**  $(y+xy)y' = 2, y(0) = 3$

**sol:**

GEN SOLN (from ABOVE).  $y = \pm \sqrt{4 \ln|1+x| + C}$

APPLY INITIAL COND  
 $y(0) = 3$

$3 = \sqrt{4 \ln|1+0| + C}$

$C = 9$

PART. SOLN.  $y = \sqrt{4 \ln|1+x| + 9}$

# PART 3: ORTHOGONAL TRAJECTORIES

(AKA PERPENDICULAR)

\*\* Given a family of solution curves that satisfy a differential equation. We will find another collection of curves that are perpendicular to the original family. These new curves are called **ORTHOGONAL TRAJECTORIES**.

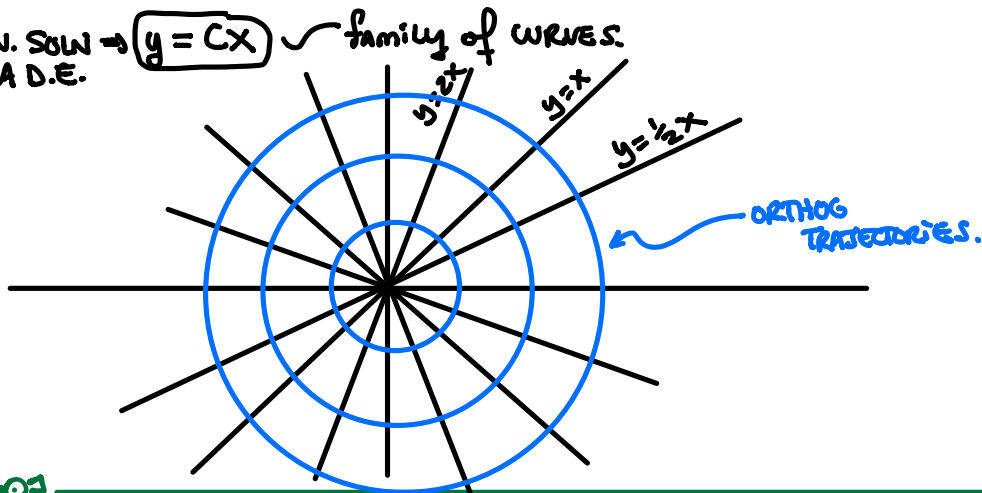
## DEFN: [ORTHOGONAL TRAJECTORY]

AN ORTHOGONAL TRAJECTORY OF A FAMILY OF CURVES IS A CURVE THAT INTERSECTS EACH MEMBER OF ORIGINAL FAMILY PERPENDICULARLY.

## SOME APPLICATIONS

IN ELECTRIC FIELDS, FORCE LINES ARE  $\perp$  TO POTENTIAL CURVES.

EX. GEN. SOLN  $\rightarrow$   $y = Cx$  family of CURVES.  
of A D.E.



## PROCEDURE

TO FIND ORTHOGONAL TRAJECTORIES

GIVEN A FAMILY OF CURVES.

- (1) FIND A D.E. THE FAMILY SATISFIES  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \square$
- (2) ELIMINATE THE ARBITRARY CONSTANT BY USING ORIGINAL EQ.
- (3) FIND **ORTHOGONAL D.E.** BY TAKING NEGATIVE RECIPROCAL
- (4) SOLVE IT TO FIND ORTHOG. TRAJECTORIES

**Ex 4.** Find the **ORTHOGONAL TRAJECTORIES** of the family of curves given by:

$y = kx^3$  ← Solve for  $k$ :  $k = \frac{y}{x^3}$

**Sol:** (1)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3kx^2$

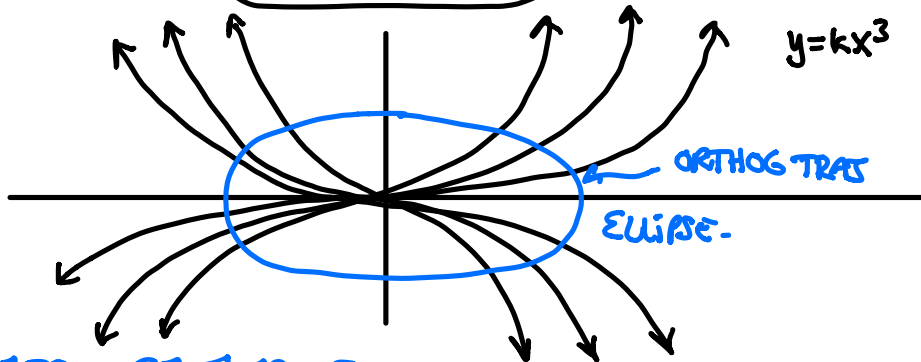
(2)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 3 \cdot \frac{y}{x^3} \cdot x^2 \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3y}{x}$  D.E of orig family.

(3)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-x}{3y}$  D.E of ORTHOG. TRAJECTORIES.

(4) Solve it:  $\int y dy = \int \frac{-x}{3} dx$

$$\frac{y^2}{2} = \frac{-x^2}{6} + C$$

$$3y^2 + x^2 = C$$
 ORTHOG. TRAJ.



## PART 4: APPLICATIONS

\* Let's look at a few more applications of differential equations. We will determine appropriate differential equations to model certain situations and we will then be able to solve them!

NOTE:  $y = \text{Some QUANTITY.}$

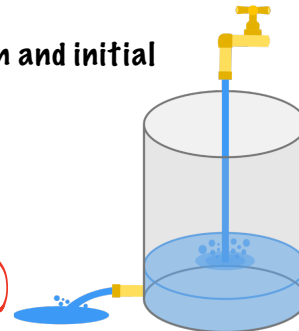
$$\text{CHANGE IN } y \text{ OVER } t \rightarrow \frac{dy}{dt} = \text{RATE IN} - \text{RATE OUT}$$

**Ex 5.** A tank contains 30 lbs of sugar dissolved in 200 gallons of water. A solution that contains 0.04 lbs of sugar per gallon of water is pumped into the tank at a rate of 20 gallons/min. The solution in the tank is kept thoroughly mixed, and is drained at the same rate (20 gallons/min). Let  $y(t)$  represent the amount of sugar (in lbs) in the tank after  $t$  minutes.

**A** Write an IVP that models this situation (i.e. a differential equation and initial condition)

sol:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dt} &= \text{RATE of SUGAR COMING IN (lbs/min)} - \text{RATE of SUGAR GOING OUT (lbs/min)} \\ &= \left( \text{CONCENTRATION COMING IN (lbs/gal)} \cdot \text{RATE of FLOW IN (gal/min)} \right) - \left( \text{CONCENTRATION GOING OUT (lbs/gal)} \cdot \text{RATE of FLOW OUT (gal/min)} \right) \\ &= (0.04)(20) - \left( \frac{y}{200} \right)(20) \end{aligned}$$



IVP:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 0.8 - \frac{y}{10} \quad y(0) = 30$$

**B** Solve the DE from part [A]  $\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{8-y}{10}$  Solve it!

sol:

$$y = 8 - Ce^{-t/10}$$

find C  
 $y(0) = 30$

$$30 = 8 - Ce^0 \Rightarrow C = -22$$

$$y = 8 + 22e^{-t/10} \quad \text{PART SOL.}$$

**C** How much sugar is in the tank after 20 minutes?

sol:

$$\begin{aligned} y(20) &= 8 + 22e^{-2} \text{ lbs} \\ &= 10.98 \text{ lbs.} \end{aligned}$$