

- Goals
- differential equations & their solutions
  - separable differentiable equations

Let  $y$  be a function of  $t$ . An equation in  $t$  and the derivatives of  $y$  is called a differential equation.

E.g.  $y'' - y = 0$  (or, equivalently,  $y''(t) - y(t) = 0$ )

$$\Leftrightarrow y'' = y.$$

What functions satisfy this? They are solutions to the differential equation.

For  $y'' = y$ , it turns out that all solutions are of the form

$$y = ae^t + be^{-t}$$

for some  $a, b$  constants.

Check that these work:

$$\begin{aligned}(ae^t + be^{-t})'' &= (ae^t - be^{-t})' \\ &= ae^t - (-be^{-t}) \\ &= ae^t + be^{-t} \quad \checkmark\end{aligned}$$

This is a "two-parameter family of solutions."

To specify a particular sol'n, we need two initial conditions.

For instance,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(0) = 1$ .

initial position

initial velocity

$$0 = y(0) = ae^0 + be^{-0} = a + b$$

$$y'(t) = ae^t - be^{-t}$$

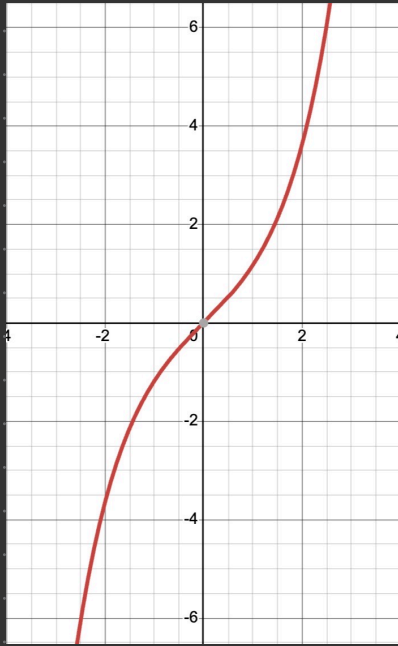
$$1 = y'(0) = a - b$$

$$2a = 1 \Rightarrow a = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow b = -\frac{1}{2}$$

so for the given initial position and velocity, the unique sol'n is

$$y = \frac{1}{2}(e^t - e^{-t})$$



Q What if  $y(0) = -1$ ,  $y'(0) = 1$ ?

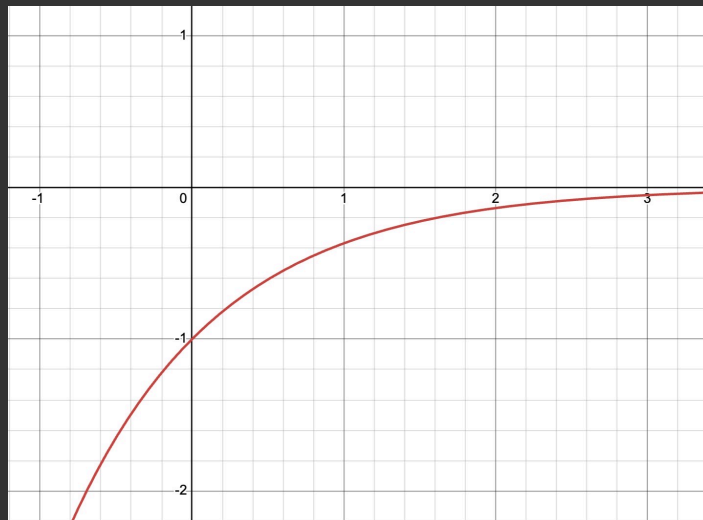
$$-1 = y(0) = a + b$$

$$+ \quad 1 = y'(0) = a - b$$

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$$0 = 2a \Rightarrow a = 0 \Rightarrow b = -1.$$

A  $y = -e^{-t}$



Q What if  $y(0) = y'(0) = 0$ ?

A  $a+b = y(0) = 0$   
 $a-b = y'(0) = 0 \Rightarrow a=b=0 \Rightarrow y=0.$

E.g. First order equation  $ty'(t) = 3y(t)$ .

Then  $\frac{y'}{y} = \frac{3}{t}$  — the equation is separable:  
we can get  $y$ 's on one side  
of the eq'n,  $t$ 's on the other.

Integrate:  $\int \frac{y'}{y} dt = \int \frac{3}{t} dt$

$$\text{RHS} = 3 \log(t) + C$$

$$\text{LHS} = \int \frac{1}{u} du = \log(u) + \tilde{C} = \log(y) + \tilde{C}$$

$u=y, du=y'dt$

Thus  $\log(y) = 3 \log(t) + k = \log(t^3) + k$

for some constant  $k$ .

Exponentiating,

$$e^{\log(y)} = e^{\log(t^3) + k}$$

$$\Rightarrow y = e^{\log(t^3)} e^k$$

$$\Rightarrow y = K t^3 \text{ for } K \text{ some positive constant}$$

If  $y(1) = 1$  then  $K=1$  and  $y = t^3$ .

Problem Solve  $y' = \frac{3t}{y}$

- (a) in general, and  
(b) subject to initial condition  
 $y(0) = 5$ .

$$yy' = 3t$$

$$\int yy' dt = \int 3t dt$$

$$\begin{aligned} u &= y \\ du &= y' dt \end{aligned}$$

$$\int u du = 3 \frac{t^2}{2} + C$$

$$\frac{u^2}{2} + \tilde{C} = 3 \frac{t^2}{2} + C$$

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

$$y^2 = 3t^2 + k$$

$$y = \pm \sqrt{3t^2 + k}$$