

2.4: Exact Equations

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ex1: a clever way to solve $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{2x+y}{x+6y}$

it isn't separable or linear... try!

$$-(x+6y)dy = (2x+y)dx$$

$$\Rightarrow (2x+y)dx + (x+6y)dy = 0$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ M(x,y) & & N(x,y) \end{array}$$

Suppose there was some $f(x,y)$ s.t.
this DE is the differential of f .

Let's try to find f :

$$\begin{aligned} f(x,y) &= \int (2x+y) dx \\ &= x^2 + xy + g(y) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{now } \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = x + g'(y) = x + 6y$$

$$\Rightarrow g'(y) = 6y \quad \text{and} \quad g(y) = 3y^2 + c$$

$$\text{so } f(x,y) = x^2 + xy + 3y^2 + c$$

and $x^2 + xy + 3y^2 + c = 0$ is a soln to
the DE.

$$\text{check } \frac{d}{dx} (x^2 + xy + 3y^2 + c) = \frac{d}{dx} (0)$$

$$\Rightarrow 2x + y + xy' + 6yy' = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow y' = -\frac{2x+y}{x+6y} \quad \checkmark$$

In the last example, we referenced differentials.

Recall from calculus:

(A) If $y = f(x)$, the differential is:
 $dy = f'(x) dx$ (section 3.10)

or $dy = \frac{dy}{dx} dx$

(B) If $z = f(x, y)$, the differential is:

$$dz = f_x(x, y) dx + f_y(x, y) dy$$

or $dz = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy$ (section 14.4)

(C) If $0 = f(x, y)$

then $0 = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy$

Defn: A differential expression $M(x, y) dx + N(x, y) dy$ is an exact differential in a region R of the xy -plane if it corresponds to the differential of some $f(x, y)$ defined on R .

Defn: A 1st-order DE of the form $M(x, y) dx + N(x, y) dy = 0$ is an exact eqt if the LHS is an exact differential.

ex2: Suppose $(\overset{M(x,y)}{6xy - y^2}) dx + (\overset{N(x,y)}{4y + 3x^2 - 3xy^2}) dy = 0$ is an exact eqt. Find the solution $f(x, y) = 0$ s.t. $f_x = M$ and $f_y = N$.

$$f(x, y) = \int (6xy - y^2) dx = 3x^2y - y^2x + g(y).$$

Now $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 3x^2 - 3xy^2 + g'(y) = 4y + 3x^2 - 3xy^2$

$\hookrightarrow g'(y) = 4y$

$\Rightarrow g(y) = 2y^2 + C$

so $f(x,y) = 3x^2y - xy^3 + 2y^2 + C$

and our soln. family is $3x^2y - xy^3 + 2y^2 + C = C_1$

General derivation.

The previous example begins by supposing we have an exact eqn. But how do we know this?

Criterion for an exact eqn:

show: $M(x,y)dx + N(x,y)dy$ is exact iff $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$

long: Let $M(x,y)$ and $N(x,y)$ be continuous first partials in a rect. region R . Then a necessary and sufficient condition that $M(x,y)dx + N(x,y)dy$ be an exact differential is $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$

proof of necessity

Assume M, N have conc. partials on \mathbb{R}^2 so we can ignore R .

If $M(x,y)dx + N(x,y)dy$ is exact, then $\exists f$ s.t. $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = M$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = N$

$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \right) = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial y \partial x} = \frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x \partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \right) = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$

by Clairaut's Thm in 14.2

To show sufficiency, we assume $M(x,y)dx + N(x,y)dy = 0$
 and $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$ and then show the LHS is
 an exact differential.

NTS: There is an $f(x,y)$ s.t. LHS is its differential
 For such an f to exist

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = M(x,y)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(x,y) = \int M(x,y) dx + g(y)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \int M(x,y) dx + g'(y) = N(x,y)$$

* $\Rightarrow g'(y) = N(x,y) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \int M(x,y) dx$

integrate to find $g(y)$ and the soln is $f(x,y) = c$

The tricky point is (*) where we claim that
 ugly RHS is a fcn of y (and not x). To see this,
 we differentiate wRT x and show $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ RHS = 0.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(N(x,y) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \int M(x,y) dx \right) &= \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial y} \int M(x,y) dx \right) \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{Clairaut's Thm and assumption}} \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \int M(x,y) dx \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} M(x,y) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Ex 3: Solve $y dx + \sec^2 x dy = 0$ (Not exact, but is separable).

Ex 4: $(e^x \sin y + \tan y) dx + (e^x \cos y + x \sec^2 y) dy = 0$

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = e^x \cos y + \sec^2 y = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x} \dots \text{so exact}$$

$$f(x,y) = \int (e^x \sin y + \tan y) dx = e^x \sin y + x \tan y + g(y)$$

$$\frac{df}{dy} = e^x \cos y + x \sec^2 y + g'(y) = (e^x \cos y + x \sec^2 y) \Rightarrow g'(y) = 0$$

$$\text{So } e^x \sin y + x \tan y = C.$$

Sometimes we can combine the idea of an integrating factor w/ this idea

Ex 5: $y^2 \cos x dx + (4 + 5y \sin x) dy = 0$

... Not exact.

$$\frac{M_y - N_x}{N} \quad \text{fnc of } x \text{ \& } y \quad (\text{works})$$

$$\frac{N_x - M_y}{M} = \frac{3}{y} \quad \text{fnc of } y \dots \mu(y) = e^{\int \frac{3}{y} dy} = y^3 \text{ is our integrating factor.}$$