

## Lesson 53 – Separable Differential Equations

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## Lesson Objectives

- 1. Solve separable differential equations with and without initial conditions
- 2. Solve problems involving exponential decay in a variety of application (Radioactivity, Air resistance is proportional to velocity, Continuously compounding interest, Population growth)

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## (A) Separable Equations

- So far, we have seen differential equations that can be solved by integration since our functions were relatively easy functions in one variable
  - Ex.  $dy/dx = \sin x - 1/x$
  - Ex.  $dv/dt = -9.8$

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## (A) Separable Equations

- In Ex 1, we simply evaluated the indefinite integral of both sides
- But what about the equation  $dy/dx = -x/y$ ?
- If we tried finding antiderivatives or indefinite integrals ....

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \sin x - \frac{1}{x}$$

$$\int \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) dx = \int \left( \sin x - \frac{1}{x} \right) dx$$

$$y = -\cos x - \ln x + C$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$$

$$\int \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right) dx = \int \left( -\frac{x}{y} \right) dx$$

$$y = ???$$

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## SEPARABLE EQUATION

- A separable equation is a first-order differential equation in which the expression for  $dy/dx$  can be factored as a function of  $x$  times a function of  $y$ .
- In other words, it can be written in the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = g(x)f(y)$$

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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS

- The name separable comes from the fact that the expression on the right side can be "separated" into a function of  $x$  and a function of  $y$ .

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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS

- Equivalently, if  $f(y) \neq 0$ , we could write

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{g(x)}{h(y)}$$

where  $h(y) = 1/f(y)$

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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS

- To solve this equation, we rewrite it in the differential form  $h(y) dy = g(x) dx$  so that:

- All  $y$ 's are on one side of the equation.
- All  $x$ 's are on the other side.

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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS

- Then, we integrate both sides of the equation:

$$\int h(y) dy = \int g(x) dx$$

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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS –

### Example #1

- a. Solve the differential equation

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

- b. Find the solution of this equation that satisfies the initial condition  $y(0) = 2$ .

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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS –

### Example #1 - SOLN

- We write the equation in terms of differentials and integrate both sides:

- $y^2 dy = x^2 dx$

- $\int y^2 dy = \int x^2 dx$

- $\frac{1}{3}y^3 = \frac{1}{3}x^3 + C$

- where  $C$  is an arbitrary constant.

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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS –

### Example #1 - SOLN

- We could have used a constant  $C_1$  on the left side and another constant  $C_2$  on the right side.

- However, then, we could combine these constants by writing  $C = C_2 - C_1$ .

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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS – Example #1 - SOLN

- Solving for  $y$ , we get:

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

- We could leave the solution like this or we could write it in the form

$$\text{where } K = 3C. \quad y = \sqrt[3]{x^3 + K}$$

- Since  $C$  is an arbitrary constant, so is  $K$ .

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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS – Example #1 - SOLN

- If we put  $x = 0$  in the general solution in (a), we get:

$$y(0) = \sqrt[3]{K}$$

- To satisfy the initial condition  $y(0) = 2$ , we must have  $\sqrt[3]{K} = 2$ , and so  $K = 8$ .
- So, the solution of the initial-value problem is:

$$y = \sqrt[3]{x^3 + 8}$$

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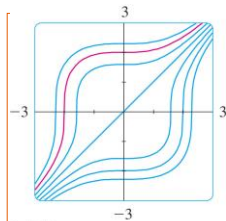
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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS – Example #1 - SOLN

- The figure shows graphs of several members of the family of solutions of the differential equation in Ex 1.
- The solution of the initial-value problem in (b) is shown in red.




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## (B) Example #2

- Given the DE  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y}$  and  $y(2) = 5$
- (a) Solve for y
- (b) Graph y

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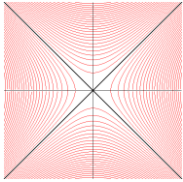
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## Family of solutions (general solution) of a differential equation

**Example**  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x}{y} \quad \int ydy = \int xdx$

$y^2 = x^2 + C$

The picture on the right shows some solutions to the above differential equation. The straight lines  $y = x$  and  $y = -x$  are special solutions. A unique solution curve goes through any point of the plane different from the origin. The special solutions  $y = x$  and  $y = -x$  go both through the origin.



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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS – Example #3

- Solve the equation
  - $y' = x^2y$
- First, we rewrite the equation using Leibniz notation:
 

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

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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS – Example #3 - SOLN

- If  $y \neq 0$ , we can rewrite it in differential notation and integrate:

$$\frac{dy}{y} = x^2 dx \quad y \neq 0$$

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

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

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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS – Example #3 - SOLN

- The equation defines  $y$  implicitly as a function of  $x$ .
- However, in this case, we can solve explicitly for  $y$ .

$$|y| = e^{\ln|y|} = e^{(x^3/3)+C} = e^C e^{x^3/3}$$

- Hence,  $y = \pm e^C e^{x^3/3}$

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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS – Example #3 - SOLN

- We can easily verify that the function  $y = 0$  is also a solution of the given differential equation.

- So, we can write the general solution in the form

$$y = Ae^{x^3/3}$$

where  $A$  is an arbitrary constant ( $A = e^C$ , or  $A = -e^C$ , or  $A = 0$ ).

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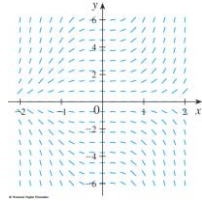
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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS – Example #3 - SOLN

- The figure shows a direction field for the differential equation in Example 3.

$$y = Ae^{x^2/3}$$

- Compare it with the next figure, in which we use the equation to graph solutions for several values of  $A$ .




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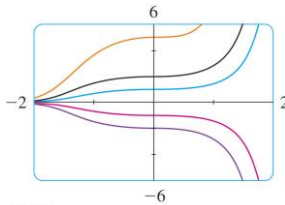
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## SEPARABLE EQUATIONS – Example #3 - SOLN

- If you use the direction field to sketch solution curves with  $y$ -intercepts 5, 2, 1, -1, and -2, they will resemble the curves in the figure.




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## (B) Example #4

- Given the DE  $y' = x^2y$  and  $y(\sqrt{3}) = 4e$
- (a) Solve
- (b) Graph

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 (B) Example #5

- Given the DE

$$y + y \frac{dy}{dx} = xy - \frac{dy}{dx} \text{ and } y(2) = 1$$

- (a) Solve
- (b) Graph

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 (B) Example #6

- Given the DE

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = xe^{y-x} \text{ and } y(0) = 2$$

- (a) Solve
- (b) Graph

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 (B) Example #7

- Given the DE  $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{6x^2}{2y + \cos y}$

- (a) Solve given  $y(1) = \pi$
- (b) Graph the solutions on a slope field diagram

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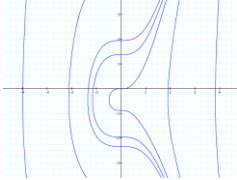
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### B) Example #7 – Graphic SOLN

- Here is the graphic solution for

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{6x^2}{2y + \cos y}$$


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### Example #8

- Solve  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2xy^2$

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### SOLN to Example #8

A separable differential equation can be expressed as the product of a function of  $x$  and a function of  $y$ .

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

Example:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2xy^2$$

Multiply both sides by  $dx$  and divide both sides by  $y^2$  to separate the variables. (Assume  $y^2$  is never zero.)

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

$$y^{-2} dy = 2x \, dx$$


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### SOLN to Example #8

A separable differential equation can be expressed as the product of a function of  $x$  and a function of  $y$ .

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

Example:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2xy^2$$

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

$$y^{-2} dy = 2x \, dx$$

$$\int y^{-2} dy = \int 2x \, dx$$

$$-y^{-1} + C_1 = x^2 + C_2$$

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

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

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

Combined constants of integration

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### Example #9

- Solve  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x(1+y^2)e^{x^2}$

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### SOLN to Example #9

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x(1+y^2)e^{x^2} \quad \leftarrow \text{Separable differential equation}$$

$$\frac{1}{1+y^2} dy = 2x e^{x^2} dx$$

$$\int \frac{1}{1+y^2} dy = \int 2x e^{x^2} dx \quad \begin{matrix} u = x^2 \\ du = 2x \, dx \end{matrix}$$

$$\int \frac{1}{1+y^2} dy = \int e^u du$$

$$\tan^{-1} y + C_1 = e^u + C_2$$

$$\tan^{-1} y + C_1 = e^{x^2} + C_2$$

$$\tan^{-1} y = e^{x^2} + C \quad \leftarrow \text{Combined constants of integration} \rightarrow$$

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**SOLN to Example #9:**

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

⋮

$$\tan^{-1} y = e^{x^2} + C \quad \leftarrow \text{ We now have } y \text{ as an } \underline{\text{implicit}} \text{ function of } x.$$

$$\tan(\tan^{-1} y) = \tan(e^{x^2} + C) \quad \text{We can find } y \text{ as an } \underline{\text{explicit}} \text{ function of } x \text{ by taking the tangent of both sides.}$$

$y = \tan(e^{x^2} + C)$

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### (C) - Application - Exponential Growth

- Write a DE for the statement: the rate of growth of a population is directly proportional to the population
- Solve this DE

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### (C) - Application - Exponential Growth

- Write a DE for the statement: the rate of growth of a population is directly proportional to the population

$$\frac{dP}{dt} \propto P \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{dP}{dt} = kP$$

- Solve this DE:

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP$$

$$\int \frac{dP}{P} = \int k dt$$

$$\ln|P| = kt + C$$

$$P(t) = e^{kt+C} = e^C e^{kt}$$

$$P(t) = Ce^{kt}$$

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## (D) Examples

- The population of bacteria grown in a culture follows the Law of Natural Growth with a growth rate of 15% per hour. There are 10,000 bacteria after the first hour.
- (a) Write an equation for  $P(t)$
- (b) How many bacteria will there be in 4 hours?
- (c) when will the number of bacteria be 250,000?

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## (D) Examples

- The concentration of phosphate pollutants in a lake follows the Law of Natural Growth with a decay rate of 5.75% per year. The phosphate pollutant concentrations are 125 ppm in the second year.
- (a) Write an equation for  $P(t)$
- (b) What will there be phosphate pollutant concentration in 10 years?
- (c) A given species of fish can be re-introduced into the lake when the phosphate concentration falls below 35 ppm. When can the fish be re-introduced?

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## Challenge Problems

- Solve these DEs:

$$(i) \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{xy + 3y + 2x + 6}{xy - 2y - x + 2}$$

$$(ii) e^y \sin 2x dx + \cos(e^{2y} - y) dy = 0$$

$$(iii) x \sin x dx + (1 + 4y^3) dy = 0$$

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Chapter 2  
Differential Equation  
Variable Separable

**Example:9.** Solve the differential equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{xy + 3y + 2x + 6}{xy - 2y - x + 2}$$


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**Solution:**

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{xy + 3y + 2x + 6}{xy - 2y - x + 2}$$

$$= \frac{y(x+3) + 2(x+3)}{y(x-2) - 1(x-2)}$$

$$= \frac{(x+3)(y+2)}{(x-2)(y-1)}$$

$$\left[1 - \frac{3}{y+2}\right] dy = \left[1 + \frac{5}{x-2}\right] dx$$

$$\int \left(1 - \frac{3}{y+2}\right) dy = \int \left(1 + \frac{5}{x-2}\right) dx$$

$$y - 3 \ln|y+2| = x + 5 \ln|x-2| + c.$$

$$y - 3 \ln|y+2| = x + 5 \ln|x-2| + c.$$

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**Example:10.** Solve the differential equation

$$e^y \sin 2x dx + \cos x (e^{2y} - y) dy = 0$$


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**Solution:**

$$e^y \sin 2x dx + \cos x (e^{2y} - y) dy = 0$$

separating the Variables by dividing differential equation by  $e^y \cos x$

$$\frac{\sin 2x}{\cos x} dx + \frac{e^{2y} - y}{e^y} dy = 0$$

$$\frac{2 \sin x \cos x}{\cos x} dx + e^{-y} (e^{2y} - y) dy = 0$$

$$2 \sin x dx + (e^y - ye^{-y}) dy = 0$$

$$\int 2 \sin x dx + \int (e^y - ye^{-y}) dy = 0$$

$$-2 \cos x + e^y - (-ye^{-y} - e^{-y}) = c$$

$$-2 \cos x + e^y + ye^{-y} + e^{-y} = c$$

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**Example:11.** Solve the IVP

$$x \sin x dx + (1 + 4y^3) dy = 0 \quad ; \quad y(\pi) = 0.$$


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**Solution:**

$$x \sin x dx = -(1 + 4y^3) dy$$

$$\int x \sin x dx = -\int (1 + 4y^3) dy$$

$$\sin x - x \cos x = -y - y^4 + c$$

$$x = \pi, y = 0$$

$$\sin \pi - \pi \cos \pi = c \quad \sin \pi = 0, \cos \pi = -1$$

$$c = \pi$$

Solution of IVP is  $\sin x - x \cos x + y + y^4 = \pi.$

Chapter 2  
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## MIXING PROBLEMS

- A tank contains 20 kg of salt dissolved in 5000 L of water.
  - Brine that contains 0.03 kg of salt per liter of water enters the tank at a rate of 25 L/min.
  - The solution is kept thoroughly mixed and drains from the tank at the same rate.
  
- How much salt remains in the tank after half an hour?

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## MIXING PROBLEMS

- Let  $y(t)$  be the amount of salt (in kilograms) after  $t$  minutes.
- We are given that  $y(0) = 20$  and we want to find  $y(30)$ .
  - We do this by finding a differential equation satisfied by  $y(t)$ .

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## MIXING PROBLEMS

- Note that  $dy/dt$  is the rate of change of the amount of salt.
- Thus,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = (\text{rate in}) - (\text{rate out})$   
 where:
  - 'Rate in' is the rate at which salt enters the tank.
  - 'Rate out' is the rate at which it leaves the tank.

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## RATE IN

- We have:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{rate in} &= \left(0.03 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{L}}\right) \left(25 \frac{\text{L}}{\text{min}}\right) \\ &= 0.75 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{min}}\end{aligned}$$

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## MIXING PROBLEMS

- The tank always contains 5000 L of liquid.

- So, the concentration at time  $t$  is  $y(t)/5000$  (measured in kg/L).

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## RATE OUT

- As the brine flows out at a rate of 25 L/min, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{rate out} &= \left(\frac{y(t) \text{ kg}}{5000 \text{ L}}\right) \left(25 \frac{\text{L}}{\text{min}}\right) \\ &= \frac{y(t) \text{ kg}}{200 \text{ min}}\end{aligned}$$

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## MIXING PROBLEMS

- Thus, from Equation 5, we get:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 0.75 - \frac{y(t)}{200} = \frac{150 - y(t)}{200}$$

- Solving this separable differential equation, we obtain:

$$\int \frac{dy}{150 - y} = \int \frac{dt}{200}$$

$$-\ln|150 - y| = \frac{t}{200} + C$$

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## MIXING PROBLEMS

- Since  $y(0) = 20$ , we have:  
 $-\ln 130 = C$

$$\text{So, } -\ln|150 - y| = \frac{t}{200} - \ln 130$$

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## MIXING PROBLEMS

- Therefore,  $|150 - y| = 130e^{-t/200}$

- $y(t)$  is continuous and  $y(0) = 20$ , and the right side is never 0.

- We deduce that  $150 - y(t)$  is always positive.

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## MIXING PROBLEMS

- Thus,  $|150 - y| = 150 - y$ .
- So,  $y(t) = 150 - 130e^{-t/200}$ 
  - The amount of salt after 30 min is:  
 $y(30) = 150 - 130e^{-30/200} \approx 38.1$  kg

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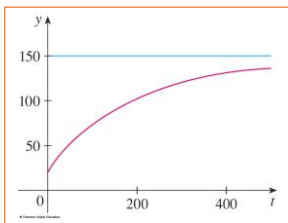
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## MIXING PROBLEMS

- Here's the graph of the function  $y(t)$  of Example 6.

- Notice that, as time goes by, the amount of salt approaches 150 kg.




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### Logistic Growth Model

Real-life populations do not increase forever. There is some limiting factor such as food or living space.

There is a maximum population, or carrying capacity,  $M$ .

A more realistic model is the logistic growth model where growth rate is proportional to both the size of the population ( $y$ ) and the amount by which  $y$  falls short of the maximal size ( $M-y$ ). Then we have the equation:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ky(M - y)$$

The solution to this differential equation:

$$y = \frac{y_0 M}{y_0 + (M - y_0)e^{-kMt}}, \quad \text{where } y_0 = y(0)$$

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