

# Linear differential Equations

First order linear ODE:

$$y' = a(t)y + b(t) \quad \text{for some functions } a(t), b(t).$$

If  $b(t) = 0$  we call the equation  
homogeneous

Ex:

$$\begin{array}{ll} y' = e^t y + t^2 & \text{lin.} \\ y' = \sin(t)y & \text{hom. lin.} \\ y' = \log(y)y - t & \text{non-linear} \end{array}$$

linear differential equations are  
"nice" in the sense that we  
can explicitly solve them.

Easy case: homogenous equations.

$$y' = a(t)y \quad \text{this is separable!}$$

$$\frac{1}{y} dy = a(t) dt$$

$$\ln|y| = \int a(t) dt + C$$

$$|y| = C e^{\int a(t) dt}$$

As  $C$  is arbitrary, we can recover the correct choice of sign so can drop abs. value:

$$y = C e^{\int a(t) dt}$$

What about the general case?

$$y' = a(t)y + b(t)$$

$$y' - a(t)y = b(t)$$

Going to use a trick to solve the equation: want to multiply the LHS by some function s.t. new

LHS = derivative of something.

Optimistic: find some  $g(t)$  s.t.

$$\text{LHS} = \frac{d}{dt} g(t)y$$

$$\underline{g(t)} y' - \underline{g(t)a(t)} y = g(t)b(t)$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} g(t)y = \underline{g'(t)y} + \underline{g(t)y'}$$

For LHS =  $\frac{d}{dt} g(t)y$ , we need

$$g'(t) = -g(t)a(t)$$

$$\frac{g'}{g} = -a$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln|g| = -\int a(t) dt + C$$

$$\Rightarrow g = C e^{-\int a(t) dt}$$

Let's just take  $C=1$  for

Simplicity.

$$g(t) = e^{-\int a(t) dt}$$

which we've deduced is

$$\frac{d}{dt} [g(t)y] = g(t)b(t)$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$g(t)y = \int g(t)b(t) dt + C$$

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{g(t)} \int g(t)b(t) dt + \frac{C}{g(t)}$$

$g(t) = e^{-\int a(t) dt}$  is called

an integrating factor

for the differential equation.

Ex:  $(t^2 + 1)y' + 3ty = 4t$   
 $y(1) = 4$

this a linear ODE.

$$y' = -\frac{3t}{t^2+1} y + \frac{6t}{t^2+1}$$

$$g(t) = e^{-\int -\frac{3t}{t^2+1} dt} \quad \text{integrating factor}$$

$$\int -\frac{3t}{t^2+1} dt$$

$$u = t^2 + 1$$
$$du = 2t dt$$

$$= \int -\frac{\frac{3}{2} du}{u} = -\frac{3}{2} \ln|u|$$

$$= -\frac{3}{2} \ln(t^2+1)$$

$$g(t) = e^{-\frac{1}{2} \ln(t^2+1)}$$

$$= (t^2+1)^{-1/2}$$

Now multiply by  $g(t)$ :

$$\frac{d}{dt} (y (t^2+1)^{3/2}) = 6t (t^2+1)^{1/2}$$

$$\Rightarrow y (t^2+1)^{3/2} = \int 6t (t^2+1)^{1/2} dt$$

$$= 2 (t^2+1)^{3/2} + C$$

$$y(t) = 2 + C (t^2+1)^{-3/2}$$

$$y(4) = 4$$

$$\Rightarrow 2 + C 2^{-3/2} = 4$$

$$2^{-3/2} \cdot C = 2$$

$$C = 2^{5/2}$$

$$y(t) = 2 + 2^{5/2} (t^2)^{-3/2}$$

Another way of thinking  
about first order linear ODEs:



$$y' = a(t)y + b(t)$$

Start with homogeneous

eqn:

$$y_h' = a(t)y_h$$

this we know how to solve:

$$y_h = C e^{\int a(t) dt}$$

(take  $C=1$   
for simplicity)

$$y_h = e^{\int a(t) dt}$$

$$y = v y_h \quad v = y/y_h$$

let's figure out what  $v$

Should be to get a sol<sup>n</sup>.

$$(vy_n)' = v'y_n + vy_n'$$

$$v'y_n + vy_n' = a(t)vy_n + b(t)$$

$$v'y_n + a(t)vy_n = a(t)vy_n + b(t)$$

$$\Rightarrow v' = b(t)/y_n$$

$$v = \int \frac{b(t)}{y_n(t)} dt + C$$

and  $y = vy_n$  is a sol<sup>n</sup>.

This technique is called  
Variation of parameter

Key idea: try modifying things  
you do know how to solve  
to solve new things.

Ex:  $y' + y \cot(t) = \cos(t)$

homogeneous equation:

$$y' + y \cot(t) = 0$$

$$y' = -y \cot(t)$$

$$\int \frac{1}{y} dy = \int -\cot(t) dt$$

$$\ln|y| = -\ln|\sin(t)| + C$$

$$y = C \csc(t)$$

let's take  $C=1$ :

$$y_h = \csc(t)$$

Now need the fudge factor:

$$v' = \frac{b(t)}{y_h} = \frac{\cos(t)}{\csc(t)} = \cos(t) \sin(t)$$

$$\Rightarrow v(t) = \frac{1}{2} \sin^2(t) + C$$

$$y = v(t) y_h(t)$$

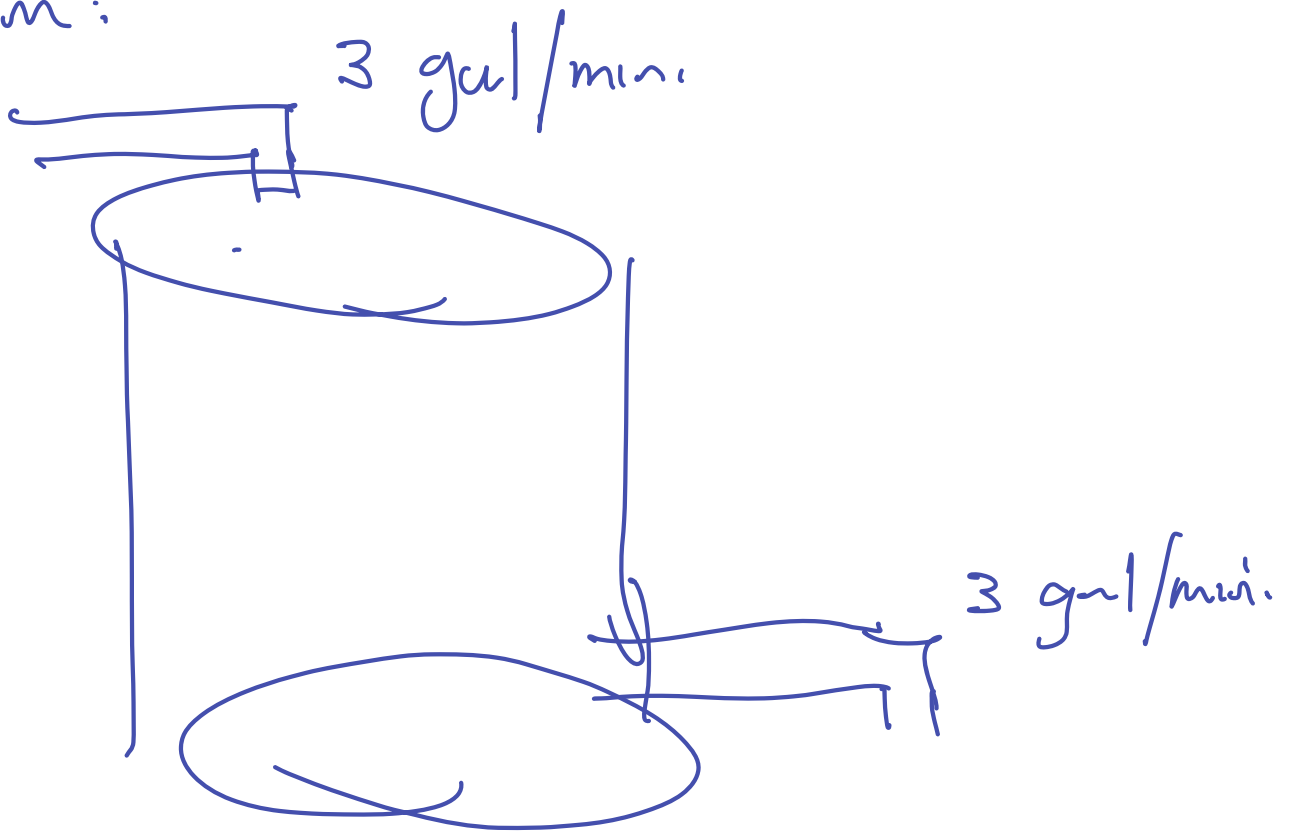
$$= \left( \frac{1}{2} \sin^2(t) + C \right) \csc(t)$$

$$y = \frac{1}{2} \sin(t) + C \csc(t)$$

# Some applications

## Application #1: Mixing problems

Problem:



Suppose we have a tank with 100 gal of water in it. At time  $t=0$ , a solution of 2 lb salt/gal enters the

tank at a rate of 3 gal/min.

Let's Suppose water leaves at 3 gal/min  
to keep the volume of the tank  
constant at 100 gal.

At any given time  $t$ , how much  
Salt is in the tank?

$y(t)$  = # lbs of Salt in the  
tank after  $t$  minutes.

Our goal: find a formula for  
 $y(t)$ . Will set up an ODE and  
solve it explicitly.

$y'(t)$  = rate of change of Salt in  
tank w.r.t. time.

rate of change = rate in - rate out

rate in: this one is easy!

$$2 \text{ lb salt/gal} \cdot 3 \text{ gal/min} \\ = 6 \text{ lb salt/min.}$$

rate out is slightly harder.

We assume that mixing happens instantly, so that concentration of salt doesn't depend on location in the tank.

Concentration lbs/gal  
of salt

rate out:

$$3 \text{ gal/min} \cdot \overbrace{y(t)/100}$$



$$= 3y(t)/100 \text{ lbs/min}$$

rate of change:

$$y'(t) = 6 - 3y(t)/100$$

$$y' = 6 - \frac{3y}{100}$$

$$y(0) = 0$$

this gives us IVP to solve.

$$y' + \frac{3}{100} y = 6$$

$$y_h' + \frac{3}{100} y_h = 0$$

homogeneous  
eq<sup>n</sup>

$$= 3/100 t$$

$$y_n = e$$

$$V' = \frac{6}{y_n} = 6e^{3/100 t}$$

$$V = 200e^{3/100 t} + C$$

$$y(t) = (200e^{3/100 t} + C)e^{-3/100 t}$$

$$= 200 + Ce^{-3/100 t}$$

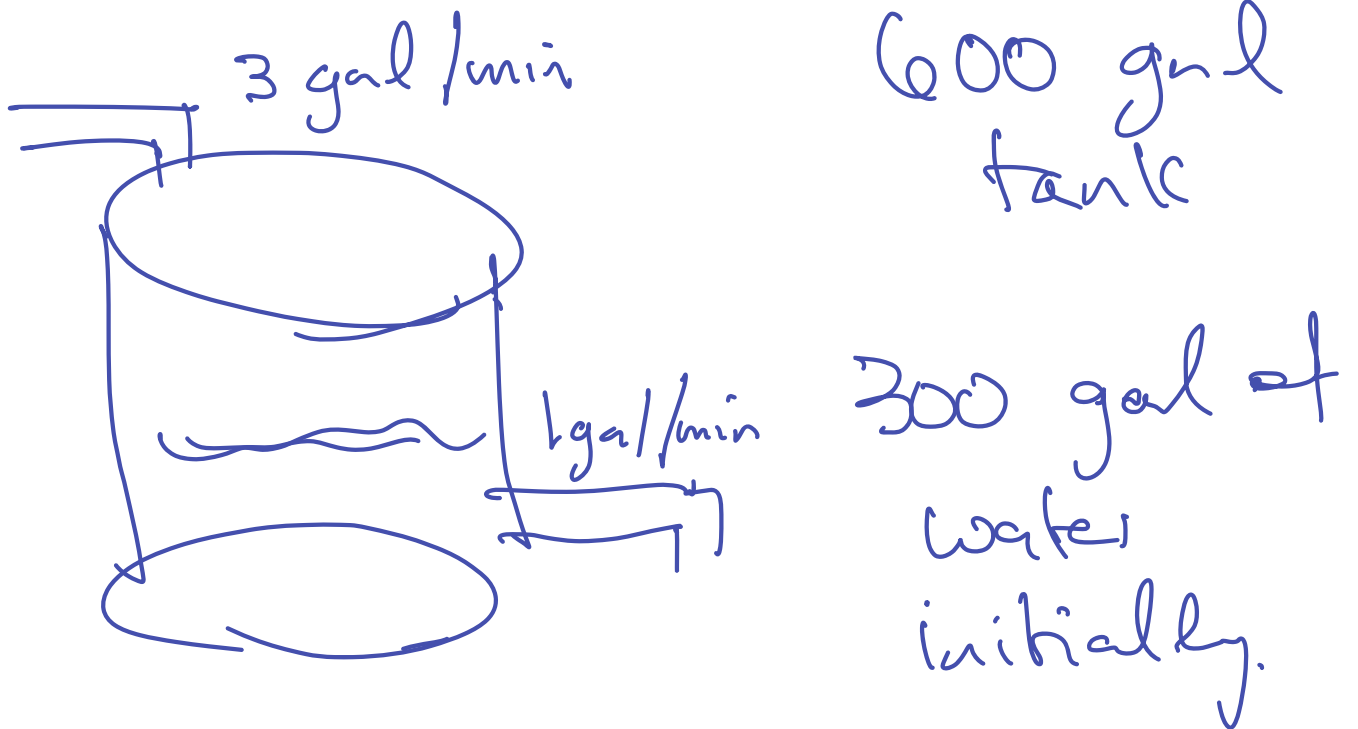
$$y(0) = 0:$$

$$0 = 200 + C$$

$$\Rightarrow C = -200$$

$$y(t) = 200 - 200e^{-3/100 t}$$

Ex: Let's modify the setup a bit.



1.5 lbs salt/gal coming in @  
3 gal/min. Water leaving at  
a rate of 1 gal/min.

At any given time, how  
much salt is in the tank?

$y(t)$  = # lbs of salt at time  $t$ .

rate of change = rate in - rate out

again, rate in is easy:

$$3 \text{ gal/min} \cdot 1.5 \text{ lbs salt/gal} \\ = 4.5 \text{ lbs salt/min.}$$

rate out:

Same as before:

1 gal/min - Concentration at time  $t$ .

Concentration:  $\frac{y(t)}{\text{Volume}(t)} = \frac{y(t)}{300+2t}$

Water increases at 2 gal/min

$\Rightarrow$

$$\text{Volume}(t) = 300 + 2t$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{rate out} = \frac{y(t)}{300+2t} \quad \text{lb/min}$$

$$y'(t) = 4.5 - \frac{y(t)}{300+2t}$$

$$y(0) = 0$$

$$y' = 4.5 - \frac{1}{300+2t} y$$

First order linear ODE, solve

using integrating factor / variation of parameters.

Integrating factor:

$$q(t) = e^{-\int 1/(300+2t) dt}$$

$$= e^{\frac{1}{2} \ln |300+2t|} = \sqrt{300+2t}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} [\sqrt{300+2t} y] = 4.5 \sqrt{300+2t}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \sqrt{300+2t} y &= \int 4.5 \sqrt{300+2t} dt \\ &= \frac{3}{2} (300+2t)^{3/2} + C \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow y = \frac{3}{2} (300+2t) + \frac{C}{\sqrt{300+2t}}$$

$$y(t) = 450 + 3t + \frac{C}{\sqrt{300+2t}}$$

$$y(0) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow C = -4500\sqrt{3}$$

$$y(t) = 450 + 3t - \frac{4500\sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{300 + 2t}}$$

How much Salt is in the tank when the tank is full?

tank full when Volume  $(t) = 600$   
i.e.  $t = 150$

$$y(150) \approx 582 \text{ lbs.}$$

Application #2 : Newton's law of cooling.

$T(t)$  = temperature of some object at time  $t$

$A$  = temperature of ambient  
space (can vary w/ time, but assume constant)

Law of cooling:

$$T' = -K(T - A)$$

$K$  some constant that depends on the object

this is separable.

$$\frac{dT}{T-A} = -K dt$$

Solving yields

$$T = A + Ce^{-Kt}$$



Ex: bottle of champagne @  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$

is placed into a  $3^{\circ}\text{C}$  fridge.

After  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr, the bottle is a  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

How long until it hits  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ?

$$T(t) = 3 + Ce^{-kt}$$

$$T(0) = 25 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 25 = 3 + C$$
$$C = 22.$$

$$T(t) = 3 + 22e^{-kt}$$

$$T(30) = 15 = 3 + 22e^{-30k}$$

$$k = -\ln(12/22) / 30 \approx .02$$

$$T(t) = 3 + 22e^{0.02t}$$

$$4 = 3 + 22e^{-0.02t}$$

$$t = \ln(1/22) / -0.02 \approx 155$$

roughly 2 hr 35 mins.