

# Differential Equations

separate the variables

## Q1

Given the differential equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3y}{x+1}$$

boundary conditions

and that  $x=1$  when  $y=16$ , express  $y$  in terms of  $x$

help to get  $c$

[10]

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{3y}{x+1}$$

$$\int \frac{dy}{y} = \int \frac{3dx}{x+1}$$

$$\int \frac{1}{y} dy = 3 \int \frac{1}{x+1} dx$$

$$\ln y = 3 \ln(x+1) + c$$

$$\ln 16 = 3 \ln(1+1) + c$$

$$\ln 16 = 3 \ln(2) + c$$

$$\ln(16) = \ln(8) + c$$

$$\ln(16) - \ln(8) = c$$

$$\ln(2) = c$$

$$\ln(y) = 3 \ln(x+1) + \ln(2)$$

$$\ln(y) = \ln(x+1)^3 + \ln(2)$$

$$\ln(y) = \ln[2(x+1)^3]$$

$$y = 2(x+1)^3$$

$$+ c_1 = + c_2$$

$$= + \ln 2$$

$$+ c$$

## Q2

Solve the differential equation

Think  $\frac{2x + \dots}{x + \dots}$

given that  $y = 4$  when  $x = 2$

$$\frac{2x}{x-1} \equiv 2 + \frac{A}{x-1}$$

$$\frac{2x}{(x-1)} \equiv \frac{2(x-1)}{(x-1)} + \frac{A}{(x-1)}$$

$$2x \equiv 2(x-1) + A$$

$$\textcircled{x=1} \quad 2 = A$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{dy}{\sqrt{y}} = \frac{x}{x-1} dx$$

$$\frac{dy}{\sqrt{y}} = \frac{2x}{x-1} dx$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x\sqrt{y}}{x-1}$$

$$\int y^{-1/2} dy = \int \frac{2x}{x-1} dx$$

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[9]

$$\int \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln|x|$$

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

$$2y^{1/2} = 2x + 2 \ln(x-1) + c$$

$$\sqrt{y} = x + \ln(x-1) + c$$

$$\sqrt{4} = 2 + \ln(1) + c$$

$$2 = 2 + c$$

$$0 = c$$

Final Answer

$$\sqrt{y} = x + \ln(x-1)$$
$$y = [x + \ln(x-1)]^2$$

# Q3

Solve the differential equation

$$(\sin^2 \theta) \frac{dx}{d\theta} = \frac{4}{x^2}$$

**Boundaries**  
given that  $x = 3$  when  $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$

$$\int x^2 dx = 4 \int \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} d\theta$$

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Formula Booklet  
Diff  $\rightarrow$

$\cot \theta \rightarrow -\operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta$

$$\int x^2 dx = 4 \int \operatorname{cosec}^2 \theta d\theta$$

$$\frac{x^3}{3} = 4(-\cot \theta) + c$$

$$\frac{3^3}{3} = 4(-\cot \frac{\pi}{4}) + c$$

$$9 = -\frac{4}{\tan \frac{\pi}{4}} + c$$

$$9 = -4 + c$$

$$13 = c$$

Final Answer

$$\frac{x^3}{3} = 4(-\cot \theta) + 13$$

$$\frac{x^3}{3} + \frac{4}{\tan \theta} = 13$$

# Q4

The voltage  $V$  of the battery in a smoke alarm can be modelled by

Rate of change of volt with time  $\left(\frac{dV}{dt} = -kV\right)$

where  $t$  is the number of days after installation and  $k$  is a positive constant.  
 The initial voltage is 9 volts and after 30 days the voltage drops to 4.5 volts.

(i) Solve this differential equation.

[7]

The smoke alarm does not function properly if the battery's voltage drops below 1.5 volts.

(ii) Find after how many days the battery should be changed.

[2]

$$\frac{dV}{dt} = -kV$$

$$\int \frac{1}{V} dV = \int -k dt$$

$$\ln V = -kt + c$$

Initially it was 9 volts  
 $t=0, V=9$

$$\ln 9 = -k(0) + c$$

$$\ln V = -kt + \ln 9$$

$$\ln(4.5) = -30k + \ln 9$$

$$30k = \ln(9) - \ln(4.5)$$

$$30k = \ln 2$$

$$k = \frac{\ln 2}{30}$$

Final Answer  $\ln V = -\frac{\ln 2}{30}t + \ln 9$

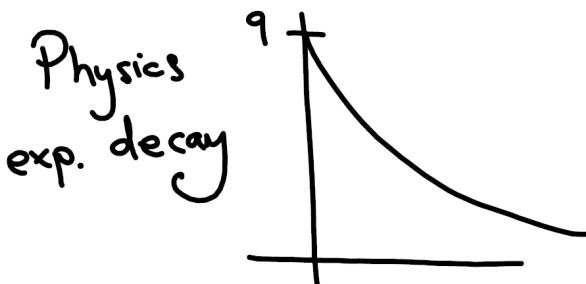
$$e^V = e^{-\frac{\ln 2}{30}t} \times e^{\ln 9}$$

$$V = 9e^{-\frac{\ln 2}{30}t}$$

$$1.5 = 9e^{-\frac{\ln 2}{30}t}$$

etc  
 $\vdots$

Ans 78 days.



## Q5

In the atmosphere, the air pressure  $P$  (Pascals) decreases with the height  $h$  (km) above sea level at a rate that is proportional to the pressure.

(i) Model this by a differential equation.

$$\frac{dP}{dh} \propto P$$

[2]

At sea level the air pressure is 100 000 Pa.

At 1 km above sea level the air pressure is 88 000 Pa.

(ii) By solving the differential equation, find the air pressure at 400 m above sea level.

[8]

$$\frac{dP}{dh} \propto P$$

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

$$\int \frac{1}{P} dP = \int k dh$$

$$\ln P = kh + c$$

When  $h=0$ :  $P=100000$

$$\ln 100000 = 0 + c \longrightarrow c = \ln 100000$$

$$\ln P = kh + \ln 100,000$$

When  $h=1$ :  $P=88000$

$$\ln 88000 = k + \ln 100000$$

$$k = -\ln \frac{100000}{88000}$$

$$k = -\ln \left( \frac{100}{88} \right)$$

Equation  $\ln P = -\ln \left( \frac{100}{88} \right) h + \ln 100000$

$$P = 100000 e^{-\ln \left( \frac{100}{88} \right) h}$$

check on calculator

(ii) when  $h=0.4$

$$P = 100000 e^{-\ln \left( \frac{100}{88} \right) \times 0.4}$$

$$P = 95015$$

$$P = 95000 \quad (3 \text{ sig. fig.})$$

## Q6

While on a skiing holiday in the Alps, Ben pours a cup of hot coffee from his flask.

The initial temperature of the coffee is  $85^\circ\text{C}$  and the temperature of Ben's surroundings is a constant  $10^\circ\text{C}$ .

The rate of change of the temperature  $x^\circ\text{C}$  of the coffee after time  $t$  minutes ( $t \geq 0$ ) is proportional to the difference in temperature between the coffee and the surroundings.

(i) Show that  $\frac{dx}{dt} = -k(x-10)$

where  $k$  is a positive constant.

$$\frac{dx}{dt} \propto (x-10)$$

[3]

After two minutes, Ben's coffee has cooled to  $65^\circ\text{C}$ .

(ii) Find the temperature of Ben's coffee after one further minute.

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -k(x-10)$$

Negative because temperature is decreasing.

[9]

(iii) Find  $t$  when  $x = 35$

[3]

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -k(x-10)$$

$$\int \frac{1}{(x-10)} dx = \int -k dt$$

$$\ln(x-10) = -kt + c \quad \text{or} \quad x = 10 + e^{-kt+c}$$

Now we must use boundary conditions to get  $k$  &  $c$   
when  $t=0$  then  $x=85$

$$\ln(85-10) = 0 + c$$

$$\ln(75) = c \quad \text{or} \quad x = 10 + 75e^{-kt}$$

When  $t=2$  the temperature is  $65$

$$65 = 10 + 75e^{-k(2)}$$

$$55 = 75e^{-2k}$$

$$\frac{55}{75} = e^{-2k}$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{55}{75}\right) = -2k \quad \text{Equation}$$

$$+0.155 = k$$

$$x = 10 + 75e^{-0.155t}$$

(ii) when  $t=3$

$$x = 10 + 75e^{(-0.155)^3} = 57.1$$

3 sig. fig.

(iii) find  $t$  when  $x=35$

$$35 = 10 + 75e^{-0.155t}$$

$$25 = 75e^{-0.155t}$$

$$\frac{25}{75} = e^{-0.155t}$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{25}{75}\right) = -0.155t$$

$$\frac{\ln\left(\frac{25}{75}\right)}{-0.155} = t \quad t = \underline{\underline{7.09 \text{ mins}}}$$