

## Separation of Variables 分离变量 (p406)

Consider a differential equation that can be written in the form

$$M(x) + \frac{N(y)dy}{dx} = 0$$

$M(x)$  is a continuous function of  $x$  alone

$N(y)$  is a continuous function of  $y$  alone.

$$M(x) + \frac{N(y)dy}{dx} = 0 \Rightarrow M(x)dx = -N(y)dy$$

Such equations are said to be **separable**, and the solution procedure is called **separation of variables** (分离变量).

Original Differential Equation      Rewritten with Variables Separated

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + 3y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0 & \quad 3ydy = -x^2dx \\ (\sin x)y' = \cos x & \quad dy = \cot x dx \\ \frac{xy'}{e^y + 1} = 2 & \quad \frac{dy}{e^y + 1} = \frac{2dx}{x} \end{aligned}$$

**Example:** Find the general solution of

$$\frac{(x^2 + 4)dy}{dx} = xy$$

Solution: To begin, note that  $y = 0$  is a solution. To find other solutions, assume that  $y \neq 0$  and separate variables as shown.

$$\Rightarrow (x^2 + 4)dy = xydx$$

$$\frac{dy}{y} = \frac{xdx}{x^2 + 4} \quad \text{Separate variables}$$

$$\int \frac{dy}{y} = \int \frac{xdx}{x^2 + 4}$$

$$u = x^2 + 4 \Rightarrow du = 2xdx \quad (u > 0)$$

$$\int \frac{dy}{y} = \int \frac{(1/2)du}{u}$$

$$\ln|y| = \frac{1}{2}\ln(u) + C_1 = \frac{1}{2}\ln(x^2 + 4) + C_1$$

$$|y| = e^{C_1} \sqrt{x^2 + 4} \Rightarrow y = \pm e^{C_1} \sqrt{x^2 + 4}$$

$$y = C \sqrt{x^2 + 4}$$

Let  $C = \pm e^{C_1}$  (whether  $C = 0$ ?)

**REMARK:** check solutions throughout this chapter.

$$y = C \sqrt{x^2 + 4}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = C \frac{d}{dx} \sqrt{x^2 + 4} = C \left[ \frac{1}{2} (x^2 + 4)^{\frac{-1}{2}} \cdot 2x \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x \cdot C}{\sqrt{x^2 + 4}} = \frac{x \cdot C \sqrt{x^2 + 4}}{x^2 + 4} = \frac{xy}{x^2 + 4}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(x^2 + 4)dy}{dx} = xy$$

结论：可分离变量的微分方程，经常需要检查  $y=0$  是否是一个解。

In some cases, it is not feasible to write the general solution in the explicit form  $y = f(x)$ . The next example illustrates such a solution. Implicit differentiation can be used to verify this solution.

**Example:** Given the initial condition  $y(0) = 1$ , find the particular solution of the equation

$$xy \, dx + e^{-x^2} (y^2 - 1) \, dy = 0$$

Solution:  $xy \, dx = -e^{-x^2} (y^2 - 1) \, dy$

$$\frac{xdx}{-e^{-x^2}} = \frac{(y^2-1)dy}{y} \Rightarrow -xe^{x^2}dx = (y - \frac{1}{y})dy$$

$$-\int xe^{x^2}dx = \int \left(y - \frac{1}{y}\right)dy \Rightarrow \frac{-1}{2} \int e^{x^2}dx^2 = \int \left(y - \frac{1}{y}\right)dy$$

$$\frac{-1}{2}e^{x^2} = \frac{y^2}{2} - \ln|y| + c$$

From the initial condition  $y(0) = 1$ , you have

$$\frac{-1}{2}e^0 = \frac{1}{2} - \ln 1 + c \Rightarrow \frac{-1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} - 0 + c$$

$$c = -1$$

So, the particular solution has the implicit form

$$\frac{-1}{2}e^{x^2} = \frac{y^2}{2} - \ln|y| - 1 \Rightarrow y^2 - \ln y^2 + e^{x^2} = 2$$

Please notice that  $y = 0$  can also satisfy the differential equation but not meet the initial condition  $y(0) = 1$ .

**Example:** Find the equation of the curve that passes through the point  $(1,3)$  and has a slope of  $y/x^2$  at any point  $(x, y)$ .

Solution:  $y' = y/x^2$

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

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

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

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

the curve that passes through the point  $(1,3)$ , so that  $y > 0$ .

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

$$\ln 3 = \frac{-1}{1} + C$$

$$C = \ln 3 + 1$$

The particular solution is

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

$$\text{or } y = 3e^{(x-1)/x}$$

为什么  $x > 0$ , Ron Larson Cal 10<sup>th</sup> P416. 不明白?

A common problem in electrostatics, thermodynamics, and hydrodynamics involves finding a family of curves, each of which is orthogonal to all members of a given family of curves.

The right figure shows a family of circles

$$x^2 + y^2 = C \quad \text{Family of circles}$$

each of which intersects the lines in the family

$$y = kx \quad \text{Family of lines}$$

at right angles. Two such families of curves are said to be **mutually orthogonal**, and each curve in one of the families is called an **orthogonal trajectory** of the other family.

**Example:** Describe the orthogonal trajectories for the family of curves given by

$$y = C/x \quad C \neq 0$$

Solution

$$y = C/x \Rightarrow xy = C \quad \text{original family curves}$$

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

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

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{y}{x} \quad \text{slop of given family}$$

Because  $dy/dx$  represents the slope of the given family of  $(x, y)$  curves at it follows that the orthogonal family has the negative reciprocal slope  $x/y$ . So,

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x}{y} \quad \text{slop of orthogonal family}$$

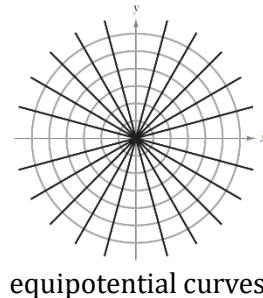
Solve this differential equation

$$ydy = xdx$$

$$\int ydy = \int xdx$$

$$\frac{y^2}{2} = \frac{x^2}{2} + C_1$$

$$y^2 - x^2 = K \quad \text{orthogonal family}$$



equipotential curves

Exercise: Calculus 10<sup>th</sup>, Ron Larson,  
P421: 7,8,11,12,13,14,21,22,23,24,25,26,43,44

