

Math 211

Lecture #6

Linear Equations

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Air Resistance

Acts in the direction opposite to the velocity. Therefore

$$R(x, v) = -r(x, v)v \quad \text{where} \quad r(x, v) \geq 0.$$

There are many models. We will look at two different cases.

1. $R = -rv, \quad v' = -\frac{mg + rv}{m}.$
2. $R = -k|v|v, \quad v' = -\frac{mg + k|v|v}{m}.$

Solving for $x(t)$

- Integrating $x' = v(t)$ is sometimes hard.
- Use the trick (see Exercise 2.3.7):

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{dv}{dx} \cdot \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{dv}{dx} \cdot v$$

- The equation

$$v \frac{dv}{dx} = a = \frac{F}{m}$$

is usually separable.

Problem

A ball is projected from the surface of the earth with velocity v_0 . How high does it go?

- At $t = 0$, we have $x(0) = 0$ and $v(0) = v_0$.
- At the top we have $t = T$, $x(T) = x_{\max}$, and $v(T) = 0$.
- We have $v \frac{dv}{dx} = a = \frac{F}{m} = \frac{-mg + R}{m}$, so

$$\int_{v_0}^0 \frac{v \, dv}{mg - R} = - \int_0^{x_{\max}} \frac{dx}{m}.$$

Cases

1. $R = 0.$ $x_{\max} = \frac{v_0^2}{2g}.$

2. $R = -rv.$

$$x_{\max} = \frac{m}{r} \left[v_0 - \frac{mg}{r} \ln \left(1 + \frac{rv_0}{mg} \right) \right].$$

3. $R = -k|v|v.$ $x_{\max} = \frac{m}{2k} \ln \left(1 + \frac{kv_0^2}{mg} \right).$

Linear Equations

A *linear equation* is one of the form

$$x' = a(t)x + f(t).$$

- Example: $x' = \tan(t)x + 3 \sin^2(t)$
- The unknown function x and its derivative must appear *linearly*.
- The equation is *homogeneous* if $f = 0$
 - ◆ $x' = a(t)x$, e.g. $x' = \tan(t)x$
- The equation is *inhomogeneous* if $f \neq 0$

Homogenous Linear Equations

- Homogeneous linear equations are separable.

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = a(t)x$$

$$x(t) = Ae^{\int a(t) dt}$$

- Example: $x' = \tan(t)x$.

$$x(t) = Ae^{\sec^2 t}$$

Example: $x' = \tan(t)x + 3 \sin^2(t)$

- Rewrite as $x' - \tan(t)x = 3 \sin^2(t)$
- Multiply by $\cos t$.

$$\cos(t)x' - \sin(t)x = 3 \sin^2(t) \cos(t)$$

The left hand side is the derivative of $\cos(t)x$. So

$$[\cos(t)x]' = 3 \sin^2(t) \cos(t)$$

- Integrate

$$\cos(t)x(t) = 3 \int \sin^2(t) \cos(t) dt = \sin^3(t) + C$$

- Solve for x

$$x(t) = \frac{\sin^3(t) + C}{\cos(t)}.$$

How did we do that? Can we do it in general?

The Key Step for $x' = ax + f$

- Rewrite as $x' - ax = f$.
- Multiply by a function $u(t)$ so that

$$u[x' - ax] = [ux]'$$

$$ux' - aux = ux' + u'x$$

- ♦ True if $u' = -au$. Linear, homogeneous

$$u(t) = e^{-\int a(t) dt} \quad \text{is one solution.}$$

- ♦ u is called an *integrating factor*.

Solving the Linear Equation

$$x' = a(t)x + f(t)$$

Four step process:

1. **Rewrite** as $x' - ax = f$.
2. **Multiply** by the **integrating factor**

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

Equation becomes $[ux]' = ux' - aux = uf$.

3. **Integrate:** $u(t)x(t) = \int u(t)f(t) dt + C$.
4. **Solve** for $x(t)$.

Examples

- $x' = -4x + 8, \quad x(0) = 0.$
- $x' = 2tx + e^{t^2}, \quad x(0) = 1.$
- $y' = 3y - t, \quad y(0) = 2.$
- $z' = (z + 1) \cos t, \quad z(\pi) = -1.$