

Ordinary Differential Equations (ODEs)

Differential Equation:

A differential equation is, in simpler terms, a statement of equality having a derivative or differentials.

An equation involving differentials or differential co-efficient is called a differential equation.

For examples, $\frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} = 0$ and $y dx + x dy = 0$ are two differential equations.

Ordinary Differential Equation:

If a differential equation contains one dependent variable and one independent variable, then the differential equation is called ordinary differential equation.

For example, (i) $\frac{dy}{dx} = x \sin x$;

$$(ii) 4 \frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} + 6 y = \tan x .$$

Partial Differential Equation:

If there are two or more independent variables, so that the derivatives are partial, then the differential equation is called partial differential equation.

For example, $x \frac{\partial z}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial z}{\partial y} = z$.

Order:

By the order of a differential equation, we mean the order of the highest differential co-efficient which appears in it.

For example, $4 \frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} + x \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$ is a second order differential equation.

Degree:

By the degree of a differential equation, we mean the degree of the highest differential co-efficient after the equation has been put in the form free from radicals and fraction.

For example, $\left(\frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} \right)^4 + 2x \left(\frac{d y}{d x} \right)^5 = 0$ is a differential equation whose degree is 4.

The degree of $\sqrt[4]{\frac{d y}{d x} + 2x \left(\frac{d^4 y}{d x^4} \right)^3} = \sqrt[3]{x-2}$ is 9.

$$\left\{ \frac{d y}{d x} + 2x \left(\frac{d^4 y}{d x^4} \right)^3 \right\}^{\frac{1}{4}} = (x-2)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$\left\{ \frac{d y}{d x} + 2x \left(\frac{d^4 y}{d x^4} \right)^3 \right\}^3 = (x-2)^4.$$

General Solution:

The solution of a differential equation in which the number of arbitrary constants is equal to the order of the differential equation is called the general solution.

For example, $y = ax + b$ is the general solution of the differential equation $\frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} = 0$,

where a and b are arbitrary constant.

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Particular Solution:

If particular values are given to the arbitrary constants in the general solution, then the solution so obtained is called particular solution.

For example, putting $a=2$ and $b=3$ a particular solution of $\frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} = 0$ is $y = 2x + 3$.

How to solve $\frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} = 0$?

Solution:

$$\frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} = 0, \text{ or } \frac{d}{d x} \left(\frac{d y}{d x} \right) = 0, \text{ or } \int d \left(\frac{d y}{d x} \right) = a,$$

$$\text{or } \int d u = a \text{ where } u = \frac{d y}{d x},$$

$$\text{or } u = a,$$

$$\text{or } \frac{d y}{d x} = a,$$

$$\text{or } \int d y = a \int d x + b,$$

$$\text{or } y = ax + b.$$

which geometrically represents a straight line.

Or one may solve it in the following way :

$$\frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} = 0, \text{ or } \frac{d}{d x} \left(\frac{d y}{d x} \right) = 0;$$

since the derivative of $\frac{d y}{d x}$ is zero;

so $\frac{d y}{d x} = \text{constant } a$ (say)

$$\text{or } \int d y = a \int d x + b \text{ or } y = aqx + b.$$

In fact $\frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} = 0$ is an ODE of order 2 and has as solution with 2 parameters a and b .

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Formation of Ordinary Differential Equation:

Eliminating arbitrary constants, we can form ODE.

Form an ODE corresponding to $y = e^x (A \cos x + B \sin x)$

Solution:

Given, $y = e^x (A \cos x + B \sin x)$

Differentiating with respect to x we get

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d y}{d x} &= e^x (A \cos x + B \sin x) + e^x (-A \sin x + B \cos x) \\ &= y + e^x (-A \sin x + B \cos x)\end{aligned}$$

Differentiating again with respect to x we get

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} &= \frac{d y}{d x} + e^x (-A \sin x + B \cos x) + e^x (-A \cos x - B \sin x) \\ &= \frac{d y}{d x} + e^x (-A \sin x + B \cos x) - e^x (A \cos x + B \sin x) \\ &= \frac{d y}{d x} + \left(\frac{d y}{d x} - y \right) - y\end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} - 2 \frac{d y}{d x} + 2 y = 0.$$

Derive an ODE corresponding to all circles lying in a plane.

Derivation:

The equation of all circles lying in a plane is

$$x^2 + y^2 + 2gx + 2fy + c = 0 \quad \dots \dots \dots \text{(i)}$$

Which contains three arbitrary constant g , f and c .

Differentiating (i) thrice successively, we have

$$2x + 2y \frac{d y}{d x} + 2g + 2f \frac{d y}{d x} = 0$$

$$x + y \frac{d y}{d x} + g + f \frac{d y}{d x} = 0$$

$$1 + \left(\frac{d y}{d x} \right)^2 + y \frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} + f \frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} = 0$$

$$1 + \left(\frac{d y}{d x} \right)^2 + (y + f) \frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} = 0$$

$$1 + \left(\frac{d y}{d x} \right)^2 = - (y + f) \frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} \quad \dots \dots \dots \text{(ii)}$$

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