

Why differential equations (DEs)?

Lots of things can be modelled and studied using diff. equations
→ in science, engineering, economics, ...

Q: if $y = y(t)$ solves $y' = ry$ with $r > 0$, what can you say about y ?

- if $y(t_0) > 0$, $y'(t_0) > 0 \Rightarrow y(t)$ increases
 $\Rightarrow y''(t)$ also increases
 $\therefore y(t)$ increases faster and faster

Solution of $y' = ry$

$y(t) = C e^{rt}$, where C is any fixed constant

To check: Plug in back into the DE equation

$$y(t) = C e^{rt} \Rightarrow y'(t) = C \cdot e^{rt} \cdot r \Rightarrow y'(t) = r y(t)$$

$\therefore y' = ry \checkmark$ as in differential equation

Example 1: Exponential Growth Model

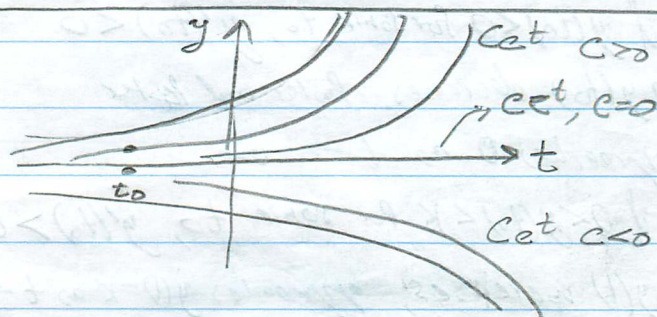
$t =$ time, independent variable

$y(t) =$ (a) population at time t

(b) deposit/debt balance at time t

(rate of change of y at time t) is proportional to y

$$y' = ry \quad \text{for some } r > 0$$



if $y(t_0) < 0$, $y'(t_0) < 0 \Rightarrow y(t)$ decreases, faster and faster

$y(t) = C e^{rt}$ is the general solution of $y' = ry$

\Leftrightarrow every solution has this form for some C

$y(t) = 2e^{rt}$ is a solution

solves $y' = ry$

Example 2: Logistic Growth Model

$t =$ time, $y =$ limited resources

$t =$ time, $y = y(t)$ population at time t

(rate of change of $y(t)$) is roughly proportional to $y(t)$

when $y(t)$ is very small

$y(t)$ decreases if $y(t) > K$ "carrying capacity"

$$E: y' = ry \left(1 - \frac{y}{K}\right), \quad r, K > 0 \text{ constants}$$

$y'(t) \approx r y(t)$ if y is small $y \ll K$

$y'(t) < 0$ if $y(t) > K$

Q: What do solutions $y(t)$ of this equation look like?

over
 \Rightarrow

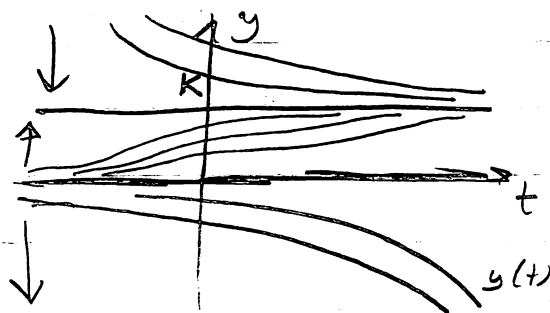
(1) $y(t) = 0 \forall t$ is a solution:

$$y'(t) = 0 \Rightarrow y' = ry \left(1 - \frac{y}{K}\right)$$

(2) $y(t) = K \forall t$ is a solution

$$y'(t) = 0 \Rightarrow y' = ry \left(1 - \frac{y}{K}\right)$$

These are constant or equilibrium solutions



(3) if $y(t_0) < 0$ for some t_0 , $y'(t_0) < 0$

$\Rightarrow y(t)$ decreases, faster and faster approaches 0 as $t \rightarrow -\infty$

(4) if $0 < y(t_0) < K$ for some t_0 , $y'(t_0) > 0$

$\Rightarrow y(t)$ increases, approaches $y(t) = K$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$
0 as $t \rightarrow -\infty$

Skip to bottom of p1 of next set
or top of p2