

2.3

6. Suppose that a tank containing a certain liquid has an outlet near the bottom. Let  $h(t)$  be the height of the liquid surface above the outlet at time  $t$ . Torricelli's<sup>2</sup> principle states that the outflow velocity  $v$  at the outlet is equal to the velocity of a particle falling freely (with no drag) from the height  $h$ .
- (a) Show that  $v = \sqrt{2gh}$ , where  $g$  is the acceleration due to gravity.
- (b) By equating the rate of outflow to the rate of change of liquid in the tank, show that  $h(t)$  satisfies the equation

$$A(h) \frac{dh}{dt} = -\alpha a \sqrt{2gh}, \quad (i)$$

where  $A(h)$  is the area of the cross section of the tank at height  $h$  and  $a$  is the area of the outlet. The constant  $\alpha$  is a contraction coefficient that accounts for the observed fact that the cross section of the (smooth) outflow stream is smaller than  $a$ . The value of  $\alpha$  for water is about 0.6.

- (c) Consider a water tank in the form of a right circular cylinder that is 3 m high above the outlet. The radius of the tank is 1 m, and the radius of the circular outlet is 0.1 m. If the tank is initially full of water, determine how long it takes to drain the tank down to the level of the outlet.
7. Suppose that a sum  $S_0$  is invested at an annual rate of return  $r$  compounded continuously.
- (a) Find the time  $T$  required for the original sum to double in value as a function of  $r$ .
- (b) Determine  $T$  if  $r = 7\%$ .
- (c) Find the return rate that must be achieved if the initial investment is to double in 8 years.
8. A young person with no initial capital invests  $k$  dollars per year at an annual rate of return  $r$ . Assume that investments are made continuously and that the return is compounded continuously.
- (a) Determine the sum  $S(t)$  accumulated at any time  $t$ .
- (b) If  $r = 7.5\%$ , determine  $k$  so that \$1 million will be available for retirement in 40 years.
- (c) If  $k = \$2000/\text{year}$ , determine the return rate  $r$  that must be obtained to have \$1 million available in 40 years.
9. A certain college graduate borrows \$8000 to buy a car. The lender charges interest at an annual rate of 10%. Assuming that interest is compounded continuously and that the borrower makes payments continuously at a constant annual rate  $k$ , determine the payment rate  $k$  that is required to pay off the loan in 3 years. Also determine how much interest is paid during the 3-year period.
10. A home buyer can afford to spend no more than \$1500/month on mortgage payments. Suppose that the interest rate is 6%, that interest is compounded continuously, and that payments are also made continuously.
- (a) Determine the maximum amount that this buyer can afford to borrow on a 20-year mortgage; on a 30-year mortgage.
- (b) Determine the total interest paid during the term of the mortgage in each of the cases in part (a).

<sup>2</sup>Evangelista Torricelli (1608–1647), successor to Galileo as court mathematician in Florence, published this result in 1644. He is also known for constructing the first mercury barometer and for making important contributions to geometry.

- (a) Solve Eq. (i) and express  $u(t)$  in terms of  $t$ ,  $k$ ,  $T_0$ ,  $T_1$ , and  $\omega$ . Observe that part of your solution approaches zero as  $t$  becomes large; this is called the transient part. The remainder of the solution is called the steady state; denote it by  $S(t)$ .
- (b) Suppose that  $t$  is measured in hours and that  $\omega = \pi/12$ , corresponding to a period of 24 h for  $T(t)$ . Further, let  $T_0 = 60^\circ\text{F}$ ,  $T_1 = 15^\circ\text{F}$ , and  $k = 0.2/\text{h}$ . Draw graphs of  $S(t)$  and  $T(t)$  versus  $t$  on the same axes. From your graph estimate the amplitude  $R$  of the oscillatory part of  $S(t)$ . Also estimate the time lag  $\tau$  between corresponding maxima of  $T(t)$  and  $S(t)$ .
- (c) Let  $k$ ,  $T_0$ ,  $T_1$ , and  $\omega$  now be unspecified. Write the oscillatory part of  $S(t)$  in the form  $R \cos[\omega(t - \tau)]$ . Use trigonometric identities to find expressions for  $R$  and  $\tau$ . Let  $T_1$  and  $\omega$  have the values given in part (b), and plot graphs of  $R$  and  $\tau$  versus  $k$ .
19. Consider a lake of constant volume  $V$  containing at time  $t$  an amount  $Q(t)$  of pollutant, evenly distributed throughout the lake with a concentration  $c(t)$ , where  $c(t) = Q(t)/V$ . Assume that water containing a concentration  $k$  of pollutant enters the lake at a rate  $r$ , and that water leaves the lake at the same rate. Suppose that pollutants are also added directly to the lake at a constant rate  $P$ . Note that the given assumptions neglect a number of factors that may, in some cases, be important—for example, the water added or lost by precipitation, absorption, and evaporation; the stratifying effect of temperature differences in a deep lake; the tendency of irregularities in the coastline to produce sheltered bays; and the fact that pollutants are deposited unevenly throughout the lake but (usually) at isolated points around its periphery. The results below must be interpreted in the light of the neglect of such factors as these.
- (a) If at time  $t = 0$  the concentration of pollutant is  $c_0$ , find an expression for the concentration  $c(t)$  at any time. What is the limiting concentration as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ?
- (b) If the addition of pollutants to the lake is terminated ( $k = 0$  and  $P = 0$  for  $t > 0$ ), determine the time interval  $T$  that must elapse before the concentration of pollutants is reduced to 50% of its original value; to 10% of its original value.
- (c) Table 2.3.2 contains data<sup>6</sup> for several of the Great Lakes. Using these data, determine from part (b) the time  $T$  that is needed to reduce the contamination of each of these lakes to 10% of the original value.

**TABLE 2.3.2** Volume and Flow Data for the Great Lakes

Lake	$V$ ( $\text{km}^3 \times 10^3$ )	$r$ ( $\text{km}^3/\text{year}$ )
Superior	12.2	65.2
Michigan	4.9	158
Erie	0.46	175
Ontario	1.6	209

20. A ball with mass 0.15 kg is thrown upward with initial velocity 20 m/s from the roof of a building 30 m high. Neglect air resistance.
- (a) Find the maximum height above the ground that the ball reaches.
- (b) Assuming that the ball misses the building on the way down, find the time that it hits the ground.
- (c) Plot the graphs of velocity and position versus time.

<sup>6</sup>This problem is based on R. H. Rainey, "Natural Displacement of Pollution from the Great Lakes," *Science* 155 (1967), pp. 1242–1243; the information in the table was taken from that source.

2.4

22. (a) Verify that both  $y_1(t) = 1 - t$  and  $y_2(t) = -t^2/4$  are solutions of the initial value problem

$$y' = \frac{-t + \sqrt{t^2 + 4y}}{2}, \quad y(2) = -1.$$

Where are these solutions valid?

- (b) Explain why the existence of two solutions of the given problem does not contradict the uniqueness part of Theorem 2.4.2.
- (c) Show that  $y = ct + c^2$ , where  $c$  is an arbitrary constant, satisfies the differential equation in part (a) for  $t \geq -2c$ . If  $c = -1$ , the initial condition is also satisfied, and the solution  $y = y_1(t)$  is obtained. Show that there is no choice of  $c$  that gives the second solution  $y = y_2(t)$ .
23. (a) Show that  $\phi(t) = e^{2t}$  is a solution of  $y' - 2y = 0$  and that  $y = c\phi(t)$  is also a solution of this equation for any value of the constant  $c$ .
- (b) Show that  $\phi(t) = 1/t$  is a solution of  $y' + y^2 = 0$  for  $t > 0$  but that  $y = c\phi(t)$  is not a solution of this equation unless  $c = 0$  or  $c = 1$ . Note that the equation of part (b) is nonlinear, while that of part (a) is linear.
24. Show that if  $y = \phi(t)$  is a solution of  $y' + p(t)y = 0$ , then  $y = c\phi(t)$  is also a solution for any value of the constant  $c$ .
25. Let  $y = y_1(t)$  be a solution of

$$y' + p(t)y = 0, \tag{i}$$

and let  $y = y_2(t)$  be a solution of

$$y' + p(t)y = g(t). \tag{ii}$$

Show that  $y = y_1(t) + y_2(t)$  is also a solution of Eq. (ii).

26. (a) Show that the solution (7) of the general linear equation (1) can be written in the form

$$y = cy_1(t) + y_2(t), \tag{i}$$

where  $c$  is an arbitrary constant.

- (b) Show that  $y_1$  is a solution of the differential equation

$$y' + p(t)y = 0, \tag{ii}$$

corresponding to  $g(t) = 0$ .

- (c) Show that  $y_2$  is a solution of the full linear equation (1). We see later (for example, in Section 3.5) that solutions of higher order linear equations have a pattern similar to Eq. (i).

**Bernoulli Equations.** Sometimes it is possible to solve a nonlinear equation by making a change of the dependent variable that converts it into a linear equation. The most important such equation has the form

$$y' + p(t)y = q(t)y^n,$$

and is called a Bernoulli equation after Jakob Bernoulli. Problems 27 through 31 deal with equations of this type.

27. (a) Solve Bernoulli's equation when  $n = 0$ ; when  $n = 1$ .
- (b) Show that if  $n \neq 0, 1$ , then the substitution  $v = y^{1-n}$  reduces Bernoulli's equation to a linear equation. This method of solution was found by Leibniz in 1696.

In each of Problems 28 through 31, the given equation is a Bernoulli equation. In each case solve it by using the substitution mentioned in Problem 27(b).

28.  $t^2 y' + 2ty - y^3 = 0, \quad t > 0$

29.  $y' = ry - ky^2, r > 0$  and  $k > 0$ . This equation is important in population dynamics and is discussed in detail in Section 2.5.

30.  $y' = \epsilon y - \sigma y^3, \epsilon > 0$  and  $\sigma > 0$ . This equation occurs in the study of the stability of fluid flow.

31.  $dy/dt = (\Gamma \cos t + T)y - y^3$ , where  $\Gamma$  and  $T$  are constants. This equation also occurs in the study of the stability of fluid flow.

**Discontinuous Coefficients.** Linear differential equations sometimes occur in which one or both of the functions  $p$  and  $g$  have jump discontinuities. If  $t_0$  is such a point of discontinuity, then it is necessary to solve the equation separately for  $t < t_0$  and  $t > t_0$ . Afterward, the two solutions are matched so that  $y$  is continuous at  $t_0$ ; this is accomplished by a proper choice of the arbitrary constants. The following two problems illustrate this situation. Note in each case that it is impossible also to make  $y'$  continuous at  $t_0$ .

32. Solve the initial value problem

$$y' + 2y = g(t), \quad y(0) = 0,$$

where

$$g(t) = \begin{cases} 1, & 0 \leq t \leq 1, \\ 0, & t > 1. \end{cases}$$

33. Solve the initial value problem

$$y' + p(t)y = 0, \quad y(0) = 1,$$

where

$$p(t) = \begin{cases} 2, & 0 \leq t \leq 1, \\ 1, & t > 1. \end{cases}$$

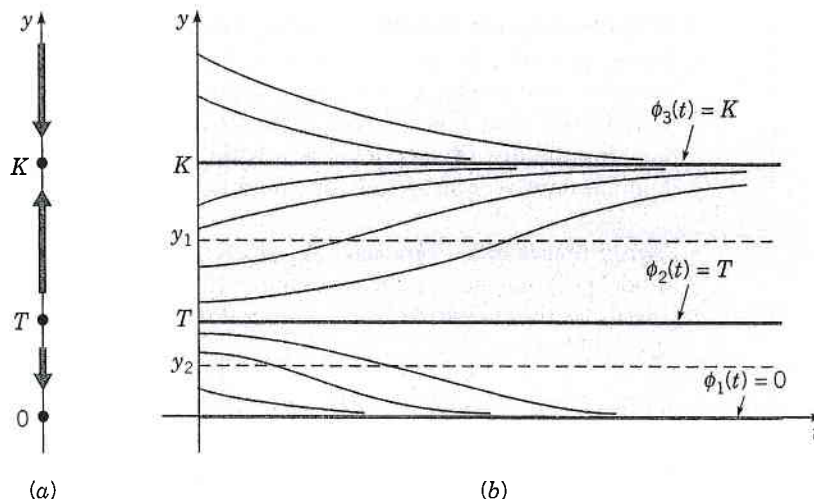
## 2.5 Autonomous Equations and Population Dynamics

An important class of first order equations consists of those in which the independent variable does not appear explicitly. Such equations are called **autonomous** and have the form

$$dy/dt = f(y). \quad (1)$$

We will discuss these equations in the context of the growth or decline of the population of a given species, an important issue in fields ranging from medicine to ecology to global economics. A number of other applications are mentioned in some of the problems. Recall that in Sections 1.1 and 1.2 we considered the special case of Eq. (1) in which  $f(y) = ay + b$ .

Equation (1) is separable, so the discussion in Section 2.2 is applicable to it, but the main purpose of this section is to show how geometrical methods can be used to obtain important qualitative information directly from the differential equation without



**FIGURE 2.5.8** Logistic growth with a threshold:  $dy/dt = -r(1 - y/T)(1 - y/K)y$ .  
 (a) The phase line. (b) Plots of  $y$  versus  $t$ .

A model of this general sort apparently describes the population of the passenger pigeon,<sup>13</sup> which was present in the United States in vast numbers until late in the nineteenth century. It was heavily hunted for food and for sport, and consequently numbers were drastically reduced by the 1880s. Unfortunately, the passenger pigeon could apparently breed successfully only when present in a large concentration, corresponding to a relatively high threshold  $T$ . Although a reasonably large number of individual birds remained alive in the late 1880s, there were not enough in any one place to permit successful breeding, and the population rapidly declined to extinction. The last survivor died in 1914. The precipitous decline in the passenger pigeon population from huge numbers to extinction in a few decades was one of the earliest factors contributing to a concern for conservation in this country.

## PROBLEMS

Problems 1 through 6 involve equations of the form  $dy/dt = f(y)$ . In each problem sketch graph of  $f(y)$  versus  $y$ , determine the critical (equilibrium) points, and classify each one as asymptotically stable or unstable. Draw the phase line, and sketch several graphs of solutions in the  $ty$ -plane.

1.  $dy/dt = ay + by^2$ ,  $a > 0$ ,  $b > 0$ ,  $y_0 \geq 0$
2.  $dy/dt = ay + by^2$ ,  $a > 0$ ,  $b > 0$ ,  $-\infty < y_0 < \infty$
3.  $dy/dt = y(y-1)(y-2)$ ,  $y_0 \geq 0$
4.  $dy/dt = e^y - 1$ ,  $-\infty < y_0 < \infty$
5.  $dy/dt = e^{-y} - 1$ ,  $-\infty < y_0 < \infty$
6.  $dy/dt = -2(\arctan y)/(1 + y^2)$ ,  $-\infty < y_0 < \infty$
7. **Semistable Equilibrium Solutions.** Sometimes a constant equilibrium solution has the property that solutions lying on one side of the equilibrium solution tend to approach

<sup>13</sup>See, for example, Oliver L. Austin, Jr., *Birds of the World* (New York: Golden Press, 1983), pp. 143-

whereas solutions lying on the other side depart from it (see Figure 2.5.9). In this case the equilibrium solution is said to be **semistable**.

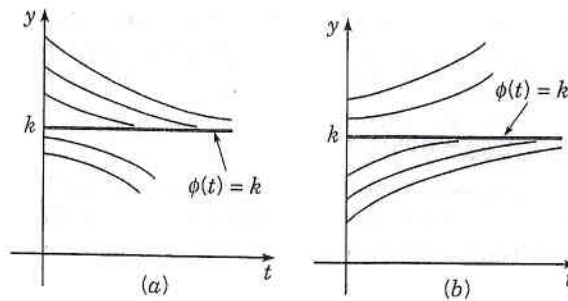
(a) Consider the equation

$$dy/dt = k(1 - y)^2, \quad (i)$$

where  $k$  is a positive constant. Show that  $y = 1$  is the only critical point, with the corresponding equilibrium solution  $\phi(t) = 1$ .

(b) Sketch  $f(y)$  versus  $y$ . Show that  $y$  is increasing as a function of  $t$  for  $y < 1$  and also for  $y > 1$ . The phase line has upward-pointing arrows both below and above  $y = 1$ . Thus solutions below the equilibrium solution approach it, and those above it grow farther away. Therefore,  $\phi(t) = 1$  is semistable.

(c) Solve Eq. (i) subject to the initial condition  $y(0) = y_0$  and confirm the conclusions reached in part (b).



**FIGURE 2.5.9** In both cases the equilibrium solution  $\phi(t) = k$  is semistable.  
(a)  $dy/dt \leq 0$ ; (b)  $dy/dt \geq 0$ .

Problems 8 through 13 involve equations of the form  $dy/dt = f(y)$ . In each problem sketch the graph of  $f(y)$  versus  $y$ , determine the critical (equilibrium) points, and classify each one asymptotically stable, unstable, or semistable (see Problem 7). Draw the phase line, and sketch several graphs of solutions in the  $ty$ -plane.

8.  $dy/dt = -k(y - 1)^2$ ,  $k > 0$ ,  $-\infty < y_0 < \infty$
9.  $dy/dt = y^2(y^2 - 1)$ ,  $-\infty < y_0 < \infty$
10.  $dy/dt = y(1 - y^2)$ ,  $-\infty < y_0 < \infty$
11.  $dy/dt = ay - b\sqrt{y}$ ,  $a > 0$ ,  $b > 0$ ,  $y_0 \geq 0$
12.  $dy/dt = y^2(4 - y^2)$ ,  $-\infty < y_0 < \infty$
13.  $dy/dt = y^2(1 - y)^2$ ,  $-\infty < y_0 < \infty$
14. Consider the equation  $dy/dt = f(y)$  and suppose that  $y_1$  is a critical point—that is,  $f(y_1) = 0$ . Show that the constant equilibrium solution  $\phi(t) = y_1$  is asymptotically stable if  $f'(y_1) < 0$  and unstable if  $f'(y_1) > 0$ .
15. Suppose that a certain population obeys the logistic equation  $dy/dt = ry[1 - (y/K)]$ .
  - (a) If  $y_0 = K/3$ , find the time  $\tau$  at which the initial population has doubled. Find the value of  $\tau$  corresponding to  $r = 0.025$  per year.
  - (b) If  $y_0/K = \alpha$ , find the time  $T$  at which  $y(T)/K = \beta$ , where  $0 < \alpha, \beta < 1$ . Observe that  $T \rightarrow \infty$  as  $\alpha \rightarrow 0$  or as  $\beta \rightarrow 1$ . Find the value of  $T$  for  $r = 0.025$  per year,  $\alpha = 0.1$ , and  $\beta = 0.9$ .

16. Another equation that has been used to model population growth is the Gompertz<sup>14</sup> equation

$$dy/dt = ry \ln(K/y),$$

where  $r$  and  $K$  are positive constants.

- (a) Sketch the graph of  $f(y)$  versus  $y$ , find the critical points, and determine whether each is asymptotically stable or unstable.  
 (b) For  $0 \leq y \leq K$ , determine where the graph of  $y$  versus  $t$  is concave up and where it is concave down.  
 (c) For each  $y$  in  $0 < y \leq K$ , show that  $dy/dt$  as given by the Gompertz equation is never less than  $dy/dt$  as given by the logistic equation.

17. (a) Solve the Gompertz equation

$$dy/dt = ry \ln(K/y),$$

subject to the initial condition  $y(0) = y_0$ .

Hint: You may wish to let  $u = \ln(y/K)$ .

- (b) For the data given in Example 1 in the text ( $r = 0.71$  per year,  $K = 80.5 \times 10^6$  kg,  $y_0/K = 0.25$ ), use the Gompertz model to find the predicted value of  $y(2)$ .  
 (c) For the same data as in part (b), use the Gompertz model to find the time  $\tau$  at which  $y(\tau) = 0.75K$ .

18. A pond forms as water collects in a conical depression of radius  $a$  and depth  $h$ . Suppose that water flows in at a constant rate  $k$  and is lost through evaporation at a rate proportional to the surface area.

- (a) Show that the volume  $V(t)$  of water in the pond at time  $t$  satisfies the differential equation

$$dV/dt = k - \alpha\pi(3a/\pi h)^{2/3}V^{2/3},$$

where  $\alpha$  is the coefficient of evaporation.

- (b) Find the equilibrium depth of water in the pond. Is the equilibrium asymptotically stable?  
 (c) Find a condition that must be satisfied if the pond is not to overflow.
19. Consider a cylindrical water tank of constant cross section  $A$ . Water is pumped into the tank at a constant rate  $k$  and leaks out through a small hole of area  $a$  in the bottom of the tank. From Torricelli's principle in hydrodynamics (see Problem 6 in Section 2.3) it follows that the rate at which water flows through the hole is  $\alpha a\sqrt{2gh}$ , where  $h$  is the current depth of water in the tank,  $g$  is the acceleration due to gravity, and  $\alpha$  is a contraction coefficient that satisfies  $0.5 \leq \alpha \leq 1.0$ .

- (a) Show that the depth of water in the tank at any time satisfies the equation

$$dh/dt = (k - \alpha a\sqrt{2gh})/A.$$

- (b) Determine the equilibrium depth  $h_e$  of water, and show that it is asymptotically stable. Observe that  $h_e$  does not depend on  $A$ .

<sup>14</sup>Benjamin Gompertz (1779–1865) was an English actuary. He developed his model for population growth, published in 1825, in the course of constructing mortality tables for his insurance company.

### PROBLEMS

In each of Problems 1 through 8, find the general solution of the given differential equation.

1.  $y'' + 2y' - 3y = 0$

3.  $6y'' - y' - y = 0$

5.  $y'' + 5y' = 0$

7.  $y'' - 9y' + 9y = 0$

2.  $y'' + 3y' + 2y = 0$

4.  $2y'' - 3y' + y = 0$

6.  $4y'' - 9y = 0$

8.  $y'' - 2y' - 2y = 0$

In each of Problems 9 through 16, find the solution of the given initial value problem. Sketch the graph of the solution and describe its behavior as  $t$  increases.

9.  $y'' + y' - 2y = 0, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 1$

10.  $y'' + 4y' + 3y = 0, \quad y(0) = 2, \quad y'(0) = -1$

11.  $6y'' - 5y' + y = 0, \quad y(0) = 4, \quad y'(0) = 0$

12.  $y'' + 3y' = 0, \quad y(0) = -2, \quad y'(0) = 3$

13.  $y'' + 5y' + 3y = 0, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 0$

14.  $2y'' + y' - 4y = 0, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y'(0) = 1$

15.  $y'' + 8y' - 9y = 0, \quad y(1) = 1, \quad y'(1) = 0$

16.  $4y'' - y = 0, \quad y(-2) = 1, \quad y'(-2) = -1$

17. Find a differential equation whose general solution is  $y = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{-3t}$ .

18. Find a differential equation whose general solution is  $y = c_1 e^{-t/2} + c_2 e^{-2t}$ .

19. Find the solution of the initial value problem

$$y'' - y = 0, \quad y(0) = \frac{5}{4}, \quad y'(0) = -\frac{3}{4}.$$

Plot the solution for  $0 \leq t \leq 2$  and determine its minimum value.

20. Find the solution of the initial value problem

$$2y'' - 3y' + y = 0, \quad y(0) = 2, \quad y'(0) = \frac{1}{2}.$$

Then determine the maximum value of the solution and also find the point where the solution is zero.

21. Solve the initial value problem  $y'' - y' - 2y = 0, y(0) = \alpha, y'(0) = 2$ . Then find  $\alpha$  so that the solution approaches zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

22. Solve the initial value problem  $4y'' - y = 0, y(0) = 2, y'(0) = \beta$ . Then find  $\beta$  so that the solution approaches zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

In each of Problems 23 and 24, determine the values of  $\alpha$ , if any, for which all solutions tend to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ; also determine the values of  $\alpha$ , if any, for which all (nonzero) solutions become unbounded as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

23.  $y'' - (2\alpha - 1)y' + \alpha(\alpha - 1)y = 0$

24.  $y'' + (3 - \alpha)y' - 2(\alpha - 1)y = 0$

25. Consider the initial value problem

$$2y'' + 3y' - 2y = 0, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = -\beta,$$

where  $\beta > 0$ .

(a) Solve the initial value problem.

(b) Plot the solution when  $\beta = 1$ . Find the coordinates  $(t_0, y_0)$  of the minimum point of the solution in this case.

(c) Find the smallest value of  $\beta$  for which the solution has no minimum point.



26. Consider the initial value problem (see Example 5)

$$y'' + 5y' + 6y = 0, \quad y(0) = 2, \quad y'(0) = \beta,$$

where  $\beta > 0$ .

- Solve the initial value problem.
  - Determine the coordinates  $t_m$  and  $y_m$  of the maximum point of the solution as functions of  $\beta$ .
  - Determine the smallest value of  $\beta$  for which  $y_m \geq 4$ .
  - Determine the behavior of  $t_m$  and  $y_m$  as  $\beta \rightarrow \infty$ .
27. Consider the equation  $ay'' + by' + cy = d$ , where  $a, b, c$ , and  $d$  are constants.
- Find all equilibrium, or constant, solutions of this differential equation.
  - Let  $y_e$  denote an equilibrium solution, and let  $Y = y - y_e$ . Thus  $Y$  is the deviation of a solution  $y$  from an equilibrium solution. Find the differential equation satisfied by  $Y$ .
28. Consider the equation  $ay'' + by' + cy = 0$ , where  $a, b$ , and  $c$  are constants with  $a > 0$ . Find conditions on  $a, b$ , and  $c$  such that the roots of the characteristic equation are:
- real, different, and negative.
  - real with opposite signs.
  - real, different, and positive.

## Solutions of Linear Homogeneous Equations; the Wronskian

In the preceding section we showed how to solve some differential equations of the form

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0,$$

where  $a, b$ , and  $c$  are constants. Now we build on those results to provide a clearer picture of the structure of the solutions of all second order linear homogeneous equations. In turn, this understanding will assist us in finding the solutions of other problems that we will encounter later.

To discuss general properties of linear differential equations, it is helpful to introduce a differential operator notation. Let  $p$  and  $q$  be continuous functions on an open interval  $I$ —that is, for  $\alpha < t < \beta$ . The cases for  $\alpha = -\infty$ , or  $\beta = \infty$ , or both, are included. Then, for any function  $\phi$  that is twice differentiable on  $I$ , we define the differential operator  $L$  by the equation

$$L[\phi] = \phi'' + p\phi' + q\phi. \quad (1)$$

Note that  $L[\phi]$  is a function on  $I$ . The value of  $L[\phi]$  at a point  $t$  is

$$L[\phi](t) = \phi''(t) + p(t)\phi'(t) + q(t)\phi(t).$$

For example, if  $p(t) = t^2$ ,  $q(t) = 1 + t$ , and  $\phi(t) = \sin 3t$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} L[\phi](t) &= (\sin 3t)'' + t^2(\sin 3t)' + (1 + t)\sin 3t \\ &= -9\sin 3t + 3t^2 \cos 3t + (1 + t)\sin 3t. \end{aligned}$$

without solving the differential equation. Further, since under the conditions of Theorem 3.2.7 the Wronskian  $W$  is either always zero or never zero, you can determine which case actually occurs by evaluating  $W$  at any single convenient value of  $t$ .

In Example 5 we verified that  $y_1(t) = t^{1/2}$  and  $y_2(t) = t^{-1}$  are solutions of the equation

$$2t^2 y'' + 3ty' - y = 0, \quad t > 0. \quad (29)$$

Verify that the Wronskian of  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  is given by Eq. (23).

From the example just cited we know that  $W(y_1, y_2)(t) = -(3/2)t^{-3/2}$ . To use Eq. (23), we must write the differential equation (29) in the standard form with the coefficient of  $y''$  equal to 1. Thus we obtain

$$y'' + \frac{3}{2t}y' - \frac{1}{2t^2}y = 0,$$

so  $p(t) = 3/2t$ . Hence

$$\begin{aligned} W(y_1, y_2)(t) &= c \exp \left[ - \int \frac{3}{2t} dt \right] = c \exp \left( -\frac{3}{2} \ln t \right) \\ &= c t^{-3/2}. \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

Equation (30) gives the Wronskian of any pair of solutions of Eq. (29). For the particular solutions given in this example, we must choose  $c = -3/2$ .

**Summary.** We can summarize the discussion in this section as follows: to find the general solution of the differential equation

$$y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0, \quad \alpha < t < \beta,$$

we must first find two functions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  that satisfy the differential equation in  $\alpha < t < \beta$ . Then we must make sure that there is a point in the interval where the Wronskian  $W$  of  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  is nonzero. Under these circumstances  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  form a fundamental set of solutions, and the general solution is

$$y = c_1 y_1(t) + c_2 y_2(t),$$

where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are arbitrary constants. If initial conditions are prescribed at a point in  $\alpha < t < \beta$ , then  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  can be chosen so as to satisfy these conditions.

3.2

### PROBLEMS

In each of Problems 1 through 6, find the Wronskian of the given pair of functions.

1.  $e^{2t}$ ,  $e^{-3t/2}$

2.  $\cos t$ ,  $\sin t$

3.  $e^{-2t}$ ,  $te^{-2t}$

4.  $x$ ,  $xe^x$

5.  $e^t \sin t$ ,  $e^t \cos t$

6.  $\cos^2 \theta$ ,  $1 + \cos 2\theta$

In each of Problems 7 through 12, determine the longest interval in which the given initial value problem is certain to have a unique twice-differentiable solution. Do not attempt to find the solution.

7.  $ty'' + 3y = t$ ,  $y(1) = 1$ ,  $y'(1) = 2$

8.  $(t-1)y'' - 3ty' + 4y = \sin t$ ,  $y(-2) = 2$ ,  $y'(-2) = 1$

9.  $t(t-4)y'' + 3ty' + 4y = 2$ ,  $y(3) = 0$ ,  $y'(3) = -1$

10.  $y'' + (\cos t)y' + 3(\ln |t|)y = 0$ ,  $y(2) = 3$ ,  $y'(2) = 1$

11.  $(x-3)y'' + xy' + (\ln|x|)y = 0$ ,  $y(1) = 0$ ,  $y'(1) = 1$   
 12.  $(x-2)y'' + y' + (x-2)(\tan x)y = 0$ ,  $y(3) = 1$ ,  $y'(3) = 2$
13. Verify that  $y_1(t) = t^2$  and  $y_2(t) = t^{-1}$  are two solutions of the differential equation  $t^2y'' - 2y = 0$  for  $t > 0$ . Then show that  $y = c_1t^2 + c_2t^{-1}$  is also a solution of this equation for any  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ .
14. Verify that  $y_1(t) = 1$  and  $y_2(t) = t^{1/2}$  are solutions of the differential equation  $yy'' + (y')^2 = 0$  for  $t > 0$ . Then show that  $y = c_1 + c_2t^{1/2}$  is not, in general, a solution of this equation. Explain why this result does not contradict Theorem 3.2.2.
15. Show that if  $y = \phi(t)$  is a solution of the differential equation  $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t)$ , where  $g(t)$  is not always zero, then  $y = c\phi(t)$ , where  $c$  is any constant other than 1, is not a solution. Explain why this result does not contradict the remark following Theorem 3.2.2.
16. Can  $y = \sin(t^2)$  be a solution on an interval containing  $t = 0$  of an equation  $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0$  with continuous coefficients? Explain your answer.
17. If the Wronskian  $W$  of  $f$  and  $g$  is  $3e^{4t}$ , and if  $f(t) = e^{2t}$ , find  $g(t)$ .
18. If the Wronskian  $W$  of  $f$  and  $g$  is  $t^2e^t$ , and if  $f(t) = t$ , find  $g(t)$ .
19. If  $W(f, g)$  is the Wronskian of  $f$  and  $g$ , and if  $u = 2f - g$ ,  $v = f + 2g$ , find the Wronskian  $W(u, v)$  of  $u$  and  $v$  in terms of  $W(f, g)$ .
20. If the Wronskian of  $f$  and  $g$  is  $t \cos t - \sin t$ , and if  $u = f + 3g$ ,  $v = f - g$ , find the Wronskian of  $u$  and  $v$ .
21. Assume that  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are a fundamental set of solutions of  $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0$  and let  $y_3 = a_1y_1 + a_2y_2$  and  $y_4 = b_1y_1 + b_2y_2$ , where  $a_1, a_2, b_1$ , and  $b_2$  are any constants. Show that  $W(y_3, y_4) = (a_1b_2 - a_2b_1)W(y_1, y_2)$ .

Are  $y_3$  and  $y_4$  also a fundamental set of solutions? Why or why not?

In each of Problems 22 and 23, find the fundamental set of solutions specified by Theorem 3.2.5 for the given differential equation and initial point.

22.  $y'' + y' - 2y = 0$ ,  $t_0 = 0$   
 23.  $y'' + 4y' + 3y = 0$ ,  $t_0 = 1$

In each of Problems 24 through 27, verify that the functions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are solutions of the given differential equation. Do they constitute a fundamental set of solutions?

24.  $y'' + 4y = 0$ ;  $y_1(t) = \cos 2t$ ,  $y_2(t) = \sin 2t$   
 25.  $y'' - 2y' + y = 0$ ;  $y_1(t) = e^t$ ,  $y_2(t) = te^t$   
 26.  $x^2y'' - x(x+2)y' + (x+2)y = 0$ ,  $x > 0$ ;  $y_1(x) = x$ ,  $y_2(x) = xe^x$   
 27.  $(1 - x \cot x)y'' - xy' + y = 0$ ,  $0 < x < \pi$ ;  $y_1(x) = x$ ,  $y_2(x) = \sin x$

28. Consider the equation  $y'' - y' - 2y = 0$ .  
 (a) Show that  $y_1(t) = e^{-t}$  and  $y_2(t) = e^{2t}$  form a fundamental set of solutions.  
 (b) Let  $y_3(t) = -2e^{2t}$ ,  $y_4(t) = y_1(t) + 2y_2(t)$ , and  $y_5(t) = 2y_1(t) - 2y_3(t)$ . Are  $y_3(t)$ ,  $y_4(t)$ , and  $y_5(t)$  also solutions of the given differential equation?  
 (c) Determine whether each of the following pairs forms a fundamental set of solutions:  $[y_1(t), y_3(t)]$ ;  $[y_2(t), y_3(t)]$ ;  $[y_1(t), y_4(t)]$ ;  $[y_4(t), y_5(t)]$ .

In each of Problems 29 through 32, find the Wronskian of two solutions of the given differential equation without solving the equation.

29.  $t^2y'' - t(t+2)y' + (t+2)y = 0$       30.  $(\cos t)y'' + (\sin t)y' - ty = 0$   
 31.  $x^2y'' + xy' + (x^2 - v^2)y = 0$ , Bessel's equation  
 32.  $(1 - x^2)y'' - 2xy' + \alpha(\alpha + 1)y = 0$ , Legendre's equation

33. Show that if  $p$  is differentiable and  $p(t) > 0$ , then the Wronskian  $W(t)$  of two solutions of  $[p(t)y']' + q(t)y = 0$  is  $W(t) = c/p(t)$ , where  $c$  is a constant.
34. If the differential equation  $ty'' + 2y' + te'y = 0$  has  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  as a fundamental set of solutions and if  $W(y_1, y_2)(1) = 2$ , find the value of  $W(y_1, y_2)(5)$ .
35. If the differential equation  $t^2y'' - 2y' + (3+t)y = 0$  has  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  as a fundamental set of solutions and if  $W(y_1, y_2)(2) = 3$ , find the value of  $W(y_1, y_2)(4)$ .
36. If the Wronskian of any two solutions of  $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0$  is constant, what does this imply about the coefficients  $p$  and  $q$ ?
37. If  $f, g$ , and  $h$  are differentiable functions, show that  $W(fg, fh) = f^2W(g, h)$ .

In Problems 38 through 40, assume that  $p$  and  $q$  are continuous and that the functions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are solutions of the differential equation  $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0$  on an open interval  $I$ .

38. Prove that if  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are zero at the same point in  $I$ , then they cannot be a fundamental set of solutions on that interval.
39. Prove that if  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  have maxima or minima at the same point in  $I$ , then they cannot be a fundamental set of solutions on that interval.
40. Prove that if  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  have a common point of inflection  $t_0$  in  $I$ , then they cannot be a fundamental set of solutions on  $I$  unless both  $p$  and  $q$  are zero at  $t_0$ .
41. **Exact Equations.** The equation

$$P(x)y'' + Q(x)y' + R(x)y = 0$$

is said to be exact if it can be written in the form

$$[P(x)y']' + [f(x)y]' = 0,$$

where  $f(x)$  is to be determined in terms of  $P(x)$ ,  $Q(x)$ , and  $R(x)$ . The latter equation can be integrated once immediately, resulting in a first order linear equation for  $y$  that can be solved as in Section 2.1. By equating the coefficients of the preceding equations and then eliminating  $f(x)$ , show that a necessary condition for exactness is

$$P''(x) - Q'(x) + R(x) = 0.$$

It can be shown that this is also a sufficient condition.

In each of Problems 42 through 45, use the result of Problem 41 to determine whether the given equation is exact. If it is, then solve the equation.

42.  $y'' + xy' + y = 0$

43.  $y'' + 3x^2y' + xy = 0$

44.  $xy'' - (\cos x)y' + (\sin x)y = 0, \quad x > 0$

45.  $x^2y'' + xy' - y = 0, \quad x > 0$

46. **The Adjoint Equation.** If a second order linear homogeneous equation is not exact, it can be made exact by multiplying by an appropriate integrating factor  $\mu(x)$ . Thus we require that  $\mu(x)$  be such that

$$\mu(x)P(x)y'' + \mu(x)Q(x)y' + \mu(x)R(x)y = 0$$

can be written in the form

$$[\mu(x)P(x)y']' + [f(x)y]' = 0.$$

By equating coefficients in these two equations and eliminating  $f(x)$ , show that the function  $\mu$  must satisfy

$$P\mu'' + (2P' - Q)\mu' + (P'' - Q' + R)\mu = 0.$$