

Vector calculus and numerical mathematics

Worksheet 8

Problem 1: Separable-variables ODEs

Which ones of the following ODEs are of the **separable-variables** type?
In any case, find a proper method to obtain **infinitely many** solutions analytically.

Hints: $\frac{d}{du} \arctan(u) = \frac{1}{1+u^2}$, $\frac{d}{du} \arcsin(u) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^2}}$.

(a) (See also Problem 2 below.)

$$y'(x) = ax y(x)^2 \quad (a \in \mathbb{R}).$$

(b)

$$y'(x) y(x) = x^2.$$

(c)

$$y'(x) = y(x) - x^2.$$

(d)

$$y'(x) = 4x^3 [1 + y(x)^2].$$

(e)

$$y'(x) = \frac{6x}{\cos[y(x)]}.$$

(f) Here is a more sophisticated example:

$$y'(x) = \sin[y(x)].$$

Problem 2: Numerical solution of an ODE

Let $y(x) = f(x)$ be that particular (exact) solution of the ODE

$$y'(x) = -2x y(x)^2$$

(Problem 1a with $a = -2$) that satisfies the starting condition $y(0) = 1$.

- (a) Applying a finite-differences method (FDM) with step size $h = 0.1$, find approximate values $y_1(x_n) \approx f(x_n)$ (with $x_n = nh$ and $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$).
- (b) Find better approximations $y_2(x_n)$ by considering the second derivative $y''(x)$.

Compare your results with the exact solution $f(x) = \frac{1}{1+x^2}$!

Problem 3: Diffusion

Consider the time dependent 3D density distribution (e.g., of ink in a water basin)

$$\begin{aligned}\rho(\mathbf{r}, t) &= \frac{M}{(4\pi Dt)^{3/2}} e^{-\mathbf{r}^2/4Dt} \\ &\equiv \frac{M}{(4\pi Dt)^{3/2}} e^{-(x^2+y^2+z^2)/4Dt} = \rho(x, y, z, t) \quad (t > 0),\end{aligned}\quad (1)$$

where M is a constant with the dimension of a mass (kg) and D is a diffusion constant.

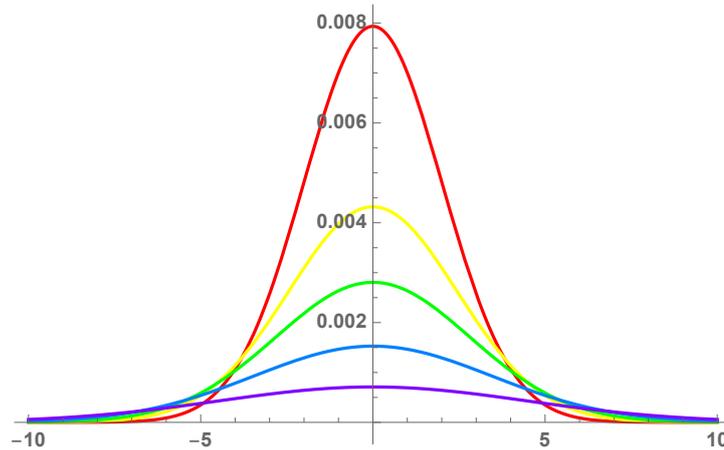


Figure 1: The function $\rho(x, 0, 0, t)$ (in units of $1 \frac{\text{g}}{\text{mm}^3}$), plotted versus x (in mm) at different times $t = 200$ s (red), 300 s (yellow), 400 s (green), 600 s (blue), and 1000 s (violet), using the values $M = 0.001$ kg $\equiv 1$ g and $D = 0.01 \frac{\text{mm}^2}{\text{s}}$.

- (a) Show that $\rho(\mathbf{r}, t)$ of Eq. (1) is a solution of the PDE (diffusion equation)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \rho(\mathbf{r}, t) = D \nabla^2 \rho(\mathbf{r}, t) + s(\mathbf{r}, t).$$

What do you find for the source density $s(\mathbf{r}, t)$?

Is ink being added to the water at any time $t > 0$?

- (b) Compute the total amount $m(t)$ of mass at a given time t ,

$$m(t) = \int d^3r \rho(\mathbf{r}, t).$$

Hint: $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} du e^{-au^2} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{a}}$.

Problem 4: Heated Disk

The rim of a circular metal disk in the xy -plane (centered at $x = y = 0$ and with radius R) is held at a constant temperature T_0 . Find the steady-state temperature distribution $T(x, y)$ on this disk (with heat conductivity λ), when it is heated with a uniform heat source density $s(x, y) = s_0$,

$$\nabla^2 T(x, y) = -\frac{1}{\lambda} s(x, y).$$

Hint: Use the ansatz $T(x, y) = Ax^2 + Bxy + Cy^2 + Dx + Ey + F$, with constants A, B, C, D, E, F .