

Solutions to Differential Equations

Find the general solution to the differential equation.

(1) Solve for the differential (dy).

(2) Anti-derive both sides of the equation.

Example 1:

Find the general solution to $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x$.

$$\int dy = \int 2x \, dx$$

$$\boxed{y = x^2 + C}$$

Example 2:

Find the general solution to $\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos x e^{\sin x}$.

$$\int dy = \int \cos x e^{\sin x} \, dx$$

$$y = \int e^u \, du$$

$$y = e^u + C$$

$$\boxed{y = e^{\sin x} + C}$$

$u = \sin x$
 $du = \cos x \, dx$

Example 3:

Find the general solution to $\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{1}{1-2t}$.

$$\int dy = \int \frac{1}{1-2t} \, dt$$

$$y = \int \frac{1}{u} \cdot -\frac{1}{2} \, du$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{2} \int \frac{1}{u} \, du$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{2} \ln|u| + C$$

$$\boxed{y = -\frac{1}{2} \ln|1-2t| + C} \quad \text{or} \quad \boxed{y = \ln|1-2t|^{-1/2} + C}$$

$u = 1-2t$
 $du = -2 \, dt$
 $-\frac{1}{2} \, du = dt$

Particular Solutions to Differential Equations

Find the particular solution to the differential equation (or Solve the initial value problem explicitly)

- (1) Solve for the differential (dy).
- (2) Anti-derive both sides of the equation.
- (3) Sub in given values to solve for C .
- (4) Write solution with particular value of C .

Example 1:

Find the particular solution to $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x$ at $(1,3)$.

general solution $\rightarrow \int dy = \int 2x \, dx$
 $y = x^2 + C$
 $3 = 1^2 + C$
 $3 = 1 + C$
 $2 = C$

$\rightarrow y = x^2 + 2$ particular solution

Example 2:

Solve the differential equation $\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos x - 3x^2$ with the initial value of $y = 3$ when $x = 0$.

general solution $\rightarrow \int dy = \int (\cos x - 3x^2) \, dx$
 $y = \sin x - x^3 + C$
 $3 = \sin 0 - 0^3 + C$
 $3 = C$

$\rightarrow y = \sin x - x^3 + 3$ particular solution

Example 3:

Find the solution to $\frac{dA}{dt} = \cos t \sin t$ for $A = \frac{3}{2}$ for $t = \frac{\pi}{2}$.

$\int dA = \int \cos t \sin t \, dt$
 $A = \int u \, du$
 $A = \frac{1}{2} u^2 + C$
 $A = \frac{1}{2} (\sin t)^2 + C$
 $\frac{3}{2} = \frac{1}{2} (\sin \frac{\pi}{2})^2 + C$
 $\frac{3}{2} = \frac{1}{2} (1)^2 + C$
 $1 = C$

$u = \sin t$
 $du = \cos t \, dt$

$\rightarrow A = \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 t + 1$ particular solution