

1.2 Uniqueness and Existence

Q₁: When do we know a solution exists to an ODE? ①

Q₂: If one exists, might there be a second solution.

Q₁ → existence

Q₂ → uniqueness

Thm: For the 1st order linear ODE I.C.
 $y' + p(t)y = q(t)$ w/ $y(t_0) = y_0$

{ Non-homog. 1st order, Linear, ODE }

If $p(t)$ and $q(t)$ are continuous on some open interval
 $t \in (a, b)$. AND if this interval contains

the value t_0 .

Then

there exists a unique solution in the interval. Both in this case.

notes: • y_0 is not mentioned here

• soln exists

• soln is unique (only one)

⊗ Sometimes knowing there exists a solution is just as important as finding the solution. We can use numerical analysis to find the soln even if we could find an analytical solution.

⊗ we call the interval a "region of validity" or "interval of validity"

EX Determine the intv'l's of validity for (2)
 $(t^2-9)y' + 2y = \ln|20-4t|$ for $y(4)=13$

Use the thm for Lin. 1st order ODEs:

• 1st get the form used in the thm: $y' + p(t)y = g(t)$

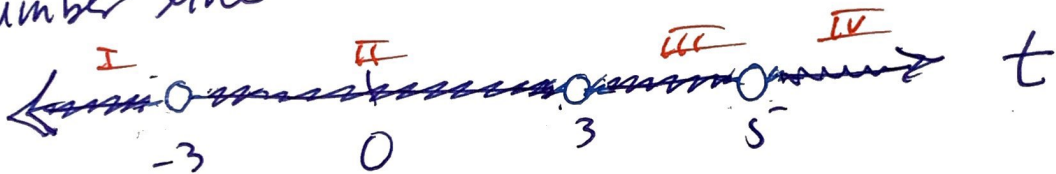
$$\frac{t^2-9}{t^2-9} \Rightarrow y' + \underbrace{\left[\frac{2}{(t+3)(t-3)} \right]}_{p(t)} y = \underbrace{\frac{\ln|20-4t|}{(t+3)(t-3)}}_{g(t)}$$

• Q: where do p & g misbehave?

$p(t)$ has a problem @ $t = -3, 3$

$g(t)$ has issues @ $t = -3, 3$ and $t = 5$

• Number line



So any region excluding $-3, +3, +5$ has a unique soln

$\{ (-\infty, -3) \text{ or } (-3, 3) \text{ or } (3, 5) \text{ or } (5, \infty) \}$

BUT for the I.C. $t_0 = 4$ only $(3, 5)$ is guaranteed
to have a unique solution since this region
contains the I.C.

So the intv'l of validity for this Init. Value Prob.

is $\boxed{3 < t < 5}$ ← ANS:

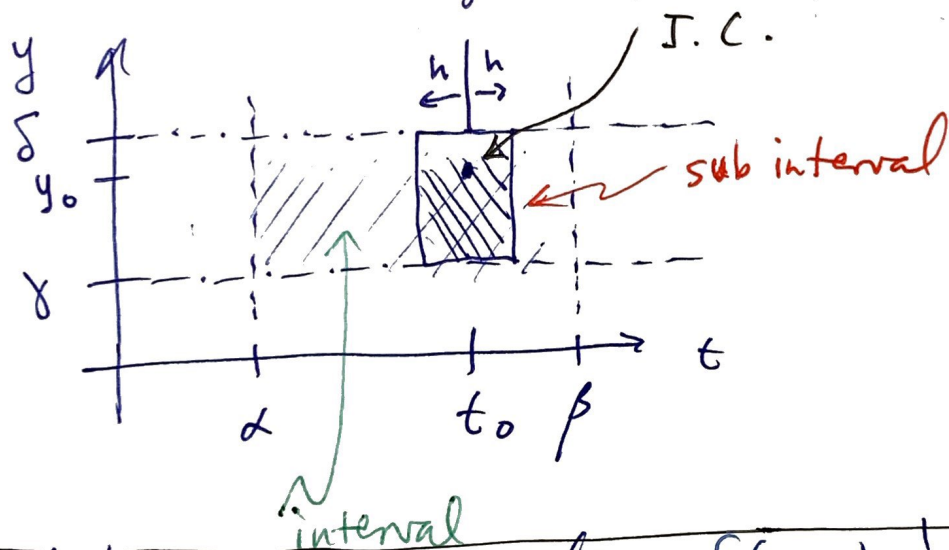
⊛ Consider Non-Linear 1st order ODEs: (3)

Thm For the ODE $y' = f(t, y)$ with $y(t_0) = y_0$

If $f(t, y)$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ are continuous in the rectangle $t \in (\alpha, \beta)$ by $y \in (\gamma, \delta)$ which must contain $y(t_0) = y_0$

Then there exists a unique solution in some sub-interval $t_0 - h < t < t_0 + h$

The interval is a rectangle



$\gamma, \delta, \alpha, \beta, h$ are all based on $f(x, y) \} (t_0, y_0)$

EX

Analyze the IVP for existence

(4)

$$(y' = y^{1/3}), y(0) = 0$$

- $f(x, y) = y^{1/3}$
- $\frac{\partial f(x, y)}{\partial y} = \frac{1}{3} y^{-2/3}$

$f = \text{cont. everywhere}$

$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$ is discontinuous @ $y=0$



Can we apply the theorem? NO

avoid $y=0$

B/c the I.C. at $t_0=0$ is $y_0=0$. So we cannot imply uniqueness (even existence).

BTW:

Note that we can solve

this ODE via

separation of variables: (mult. by $y^{-1/3}$)

$$y^{-1/3} dy = dt$$

integrate $\int y^{-1/3} dy = t + C$

$$\frac{3}{2} y^{2/3} = t + C$$

implicit soln

- Apply the I.C. $\frac{3}{2} y_0^{2/3} = t_0 + C \Rightarrow C=0$

so the solution is

$$y^{2/3} = \frac{3}{2} t$$

two branches

$$y^2 = \left(\frac{3}{2} t\right)^3$$

cube

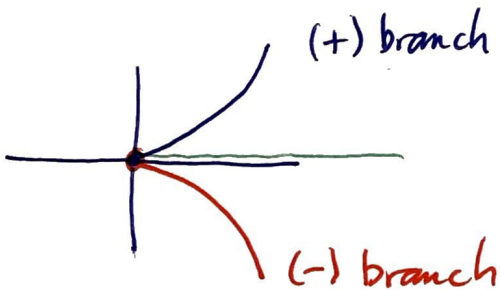
square root

$$y(t) = \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{2}{3} t\right)^3}$$

not unique

Furthermore

$(t) \equiv$ is also a s



EX Determine the interval of validity for

$$y' = y^2, \quad y(0) = y_0$$

Note that y_0 is not specified.

1st If $y_0 = 0$ then $y(t) \equiv 0$ is a soln to the IVP

2nd Non-LinThm's Premise: $f = y^2$ & $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 2y$ are both continuous everywhere

So we have unique solutions no matter y_0 's value.

We can solve this IVP to gain further insight

• Sep. of vars $y^{-2} y' = 1$

$$\int y^{-2} dy = \int dt$$

$$-\frac{1}{y} = t + C$$

• Apply the I.C.

$$-\frac{1}{y_0} = 0 + C \Rightarrow C = -\frac{1}{y_0}$$

$$C = -\frac{1}{y_0}$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{1}{y} = t - \frac{1}{y_0}$$

• solve for $y \Rightarrow$

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{y_0} - t}, \quad y_0 \neq 0$$

$$\Rightarrow y(t) = \frac{y_0}{1 - y_0 t}$$

but $1 - y_0 t = 0$ when $t = 1/y_0$

If $y_0 > 0$ then interval of validity is $-\infty < t < 1/y_0$
If $y_0 = 0$ then interval of validity is $-\infty < t < \infty$
If $y_0 < 0$ then interval of validity is $1/y_0 < t < \infty$

All outcomes are unique but which outcome to use depends on y_0

[EX] { 2.2 HW (#39) } we were asked to solve (6)

$$y' = (y-1)^2 \text{ with } y(0)=1$$

We separated variables and integrated

$$y(x) = -\frac{1}{x+c} + 1$$

Now lets apply the I.C.

$$y(0) = -\frac{1}{0+c} + 1$$

$$1 = -\frac{1}{c} + 1 \quad \text{we need } -\frac{1}{c} = 0$$

so c is undefined

Since $f(x,y) = (y-1)^2$ is cont. $\forall y$

and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = 2(y-1)$ is cont. $\forall y$

\Rightarrow we are guaranteed a unique soln.

{ But that solution depends on y_0 }

We cannot form a solution from $y(x)$ above when $y_0 = 1$ yet there is a solution and it is unique ... So what is it?

The solution above does not apply if $y_0 = 1$

But we know \exists a unique soln ... by observation

we see that

$y(x) \equiv 1$ is our solution

when $y_0 = 1$

Summary: $\begin{cases} x_0 = 0, y_0 = 1 : \text{ soln } y(x) \equiv 1 \\ x_0 \neq 0, \text{ no matter } y_0 : \text{ soln } y(x) = -\frac{1}{x+c} + 1 \end{cases}$ (get "c" by apply my I.C.)

NOTE: Duplicate Terminology...

• In 1st order ODE's we also define an ODE to be

homogeneous if it is of the form

$$y' = F(y/x)$$

homog.

as well as if $y' + P(x)y = 0$

non-homog.

$$y' + P(x)y = g(x)$$

ex

$$y' = \frac{xy - y^2}{x^2}$$

which can be re-written as

$$y' = \underbrace{\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) - \left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^2}_{= F(y/x)}$$

BTW:

To solve such eqns (i) let $u = y/x$

so then $y = ux$ & so $y' = u'x + u$ = F(u)

and the ODE becomes a Linear ODE in "u"

(ii) solve for "u", then (iii) back substitute using $y = u \cdot x$
↑
soln.