Qualitative Methods; Autonomous Equations

Irina Holmes Math 2552 Fall 2015, Sections F; L

Georgia Institute of Technology

Tuesday, September 8th 2015

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2) Autonomous Equations







• Determine properties of the solutions of a DE using *geometrical* methods

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- Determine properties of the solutions of a DE using *geometrical* methods (without actually solving the DE).
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 - equilibrium solutions;
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 - monotonicity of solutions.

$$\frac{dy}{dx}=f(x,y).$$

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Example:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{45}xy.$$

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Example:



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2 Autonomous Equations

3 Phase Portraits

4 The Logistic Equation

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Definition

An autonomous first order ODE is an equation of the form:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(y)$$

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Every Autonomous Equation is Separable

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If $f(y) \neq 0$:

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What happens when f(y) = 0?

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Example:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y - 2.$$

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Example:

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Example:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \underbrace{y-2}_{f(y)}.$$

$$f(y)=0 \Rightarrow y=2.$$

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Is y = 2 a solution to the ODE?

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Example:

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Is y = 2 a solution to the ODE? Yes!

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Is y = 2 a solution to the ODE? Yes! If $y \neq 2$, we can solve by separation of variables:

$$\int \frac{1}{y-2} \, dy = \int \, dx$$

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$$y = ce^x + 2.$$

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$$y' = y - 2; \quad y = ce^x + 2.$$

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Critical Points; Equilibrium Solutions

Let

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(y)$$

be an autonomous equation.

Critical Points; Equilibrium Solutions

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• Any number c such that

f(c) = 0

is called a **critical point**, aka **equilibrium point** of the autonomous ODE.

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be an autonomous equation.

• Any number c such that

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is called a **critical point**, aka **equilibrium point** of the autonomous ODE.

• If c is a critical point, the constant function

$$y = c$$

is a solution to the ODE, called an equilibrium solution.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(y)$$
$$f(c) = 0$$

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$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(y)$$
$$f(c) = 0$$

$$y(x) = c, \forall x$$

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$$y'=(y-1)(y-2)$$

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Equilibrium solutions: y = 1; y = 2.

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Qualitative Methods

2 Autonomous Equations



4 The Logistic Equation

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$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y - 2.$$

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$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y - 2.$$

Draw a vertical line, representing the *y*-axis.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y - 2.$$

Place the critical points.



$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y - 2.$$

Note: If y > 2, then y' > 0, so y is increasing.



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$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y - 2.$$

Note: If y < 2, then y' < 0, so y is decreasing.



$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y - 2.$$

Note: If y < 2, then y' < 0, so y is decreasing.


Look again at

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y - 2.$$

Phase Portrait!



Phase Portraits



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Phase Portraits:

- Draw a vertical line representing the "dependent variable"-axis.
- Place the critical points on the axis. The critical points partition the axis into distinct intervals.
- On each of these intervals, y is either increasing or decreasing.
 - Why? The critical points are the zeros of the function *f*. Assuming *f* is continuous, it must be either positive or negative between two roots.
- Orient each partitioned line segment up or down, if *f* is increasing or decreasing, respectively.



The equilibrium partition the plane into horizontal strips.

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Image: A math a math



What can we learn from this?

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(1). Solutions are "trapped" in these regions.

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(2). Solutions in these regions are either increasing or decreasing.

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(3). Solutions in these regions have the equilibrium solutions as horizontal asymptotes.

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Qualitative Methods

2 Autonomous Equations

3 Phase Portraits



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$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ry$$

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where r is a non-zero constant.

- r > 0: rate of growth.
- *r* < 0: **rate of decay**.

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$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ry$$

Solve subject to initial condition

$$y(0)=y_0.$$

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$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ry$$

Solve subject to initial condition

$$y(0) = y_0.$$
$$y(t) = y_0 e^{rt}$$

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Problem? This model is fairly accurate under *ideal conditions*, but ideal conditions cannot last forever (depletion of resources).

$$y(t) = y_0 e^{rt}$$



Problem? This model is fairly accurate under *ideal conditions*, but ideal conditions cannot last forever (depletion of resources). This model is only accurate for limited periods of time.

$$y'(t) = r \cdot y(t)$$

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$$y'(t) = r \cdot h(y) \cdot y(t)$$

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$$y'=r\left(1-\frac{1}{K}y\right)y$$

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$$y' = r\left(1 - \frac{1}{K}y\right)y$$

K =carrying capacity (of the environment).

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The Logistic Equation

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 - Equilibrium Solutions: y = 0; y = K.

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- K =carrying capacity (of the environment).
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Solution, subject to y(0) = 0:

$$y(t) = rac{Ky_0}{y_0 + (K - y_0)e^{-rt}}$$

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