

## Solving differential equations:

6.8.8

We can observe the general behavior of the solutions without actually solving the equation. Rather, we will construct a picture that is related to the solutions of the equation.

How? Consider  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x + 2y$   $\boxed{X}$

First, suppose  $y$  is the particular solution of  $\boxed{X}$  that satisfies  $y(x_0) = y_0$ . Then the graph of  $y$  passes through  $(x_0, y_0)$

At that point the slope is (of  $y$ )

is  $x_0 + 2y_0$  (why?)

For example, the slope of the solution that passes through  $(-1, 2)$

is  $-1 + 2(2) = 3$ . Indicate this

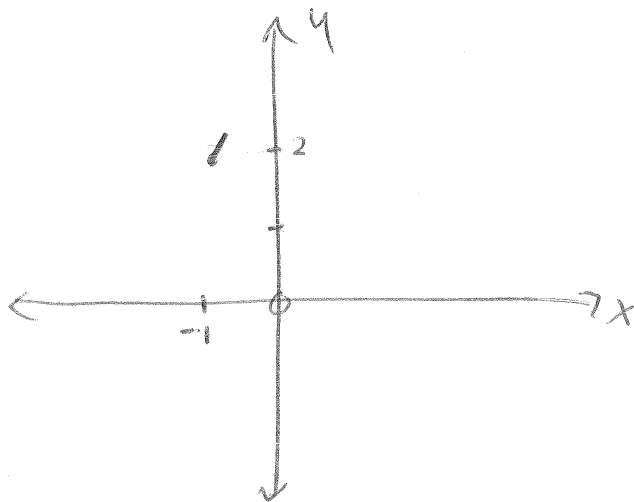
by drawing a small line

segment that passes through  $(-1, 2)$

and has slope = 3. We call this

a SLOPE SEGMENT.

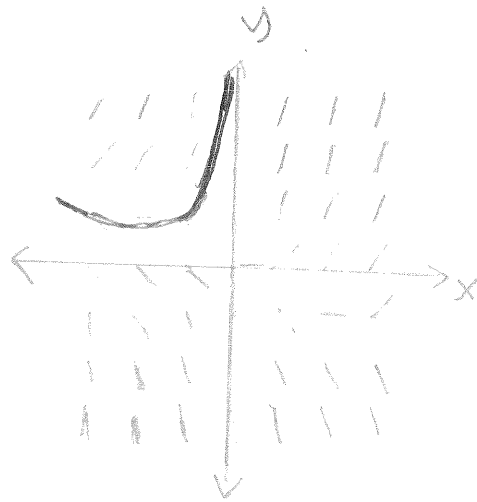
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = x + 2y$$



SLOPE SEGMENT - A linear approximation to the solution satisfying  $y(x_0) = y_0$ .

Local Linearity.

Taking a significant number of well-scattered points in the plane and drawing slope segments we create a picture - SLOPE FIELD of the differential equation.



Approximate  
Solution.

Connecting  
associating  
segments gives  
a smooth  
curve.  
We call this  
the Solution  
Curve.

Also called  
the integral curve

Use [alamos.math.arizona.edu/ODEApplet/OdeApplet.html](http://alamos.math.arizona.edu/ODEApplet/OdeApplet.html)  
See my website; Slope field 1

What do the solution curves tell us?

- General behavior perhaps - as  $x \rightarrow \infty$  or as  $x \rightarrow 0$ .
- Helpful when we cannot find a reasonable formula for  $y$ .

See p 304 - SLOPE FIELD for

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = .056y$$

Skip

\* p 306 SLOPE FIELD for

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = - \frac{2xy}{1+x^2}$$

$$y' = 0 \text{ @ } x = 0$$

as  $x \rightarrow \pm \infty$  the solutions  $\rightarrow 0$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x$$

Explore slope fields

<http://mathviewer.com>

$$(x+2y) = \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)$$

Enter and draw slope field for:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -2xy / (1+x^2)$$

↑  
close

alpha key?

ignore ↓

initial x = -4

initial y = 1

step = .05

-3  
||

-2 -4

1 +.1

.05 .05

6.8.13

Separate to solve:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-2x^4}{(1+x^2)}$$

$$\int \frac{dy}{y} = \int \frac{-2x^4}{1+x^2} dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} u &= 1+x^2 \\ du &= 2x dx \\ -du &= -2x dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\ln y = -\int \frac{du}{u}$$

$$\ln y = -\ln u + C$$

$$\ln y = -\ln(1+x^2) + C$$

$$e^{\ln y} = e^{-\ln(1+x^2) + C}$$

$$y = e^C e^{-\ln(1+x^2)}$$

$$= \frac{e^C}{e^{\ln(1+x^2)}} = \frac{e^C}{(1+x^2)} = y$$

$$\frac{y}{1+x^2} = y$$

# Numerical Methods of Solutions to First order Initial Value PROBLEMS

## Euler's Method

Spse we are given a differential equation  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$  and some

initial condition  $(x_0, y_0)$  ie  $y(x_0) = y_0$ .

We can approximate the solution  $y = y(x)$

by

$$L(x) = y(x_0) + y'(x_0)(x - x_0)$$

OR

$$L(x) = y_0 + f(x_0, y_0)(x - x_0)$$

$L(x)$  gives a good approximation to the solution  $y(x)$  in a small neighborhood around  $x_0$ .

Basic idea: String together several linearizations to approximate the curve —

Numerical Methods of solutions to first-order equations do not produce a general solution of  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$  — They produce tables of values of  $y$  for preselected values of  $x$ .

Helpful when no explicit algebraic solution is available.

Here it is  $\rightarrow$

The initial condition  $(x_0, y_0)$  represents a point that lies on the solution curve —

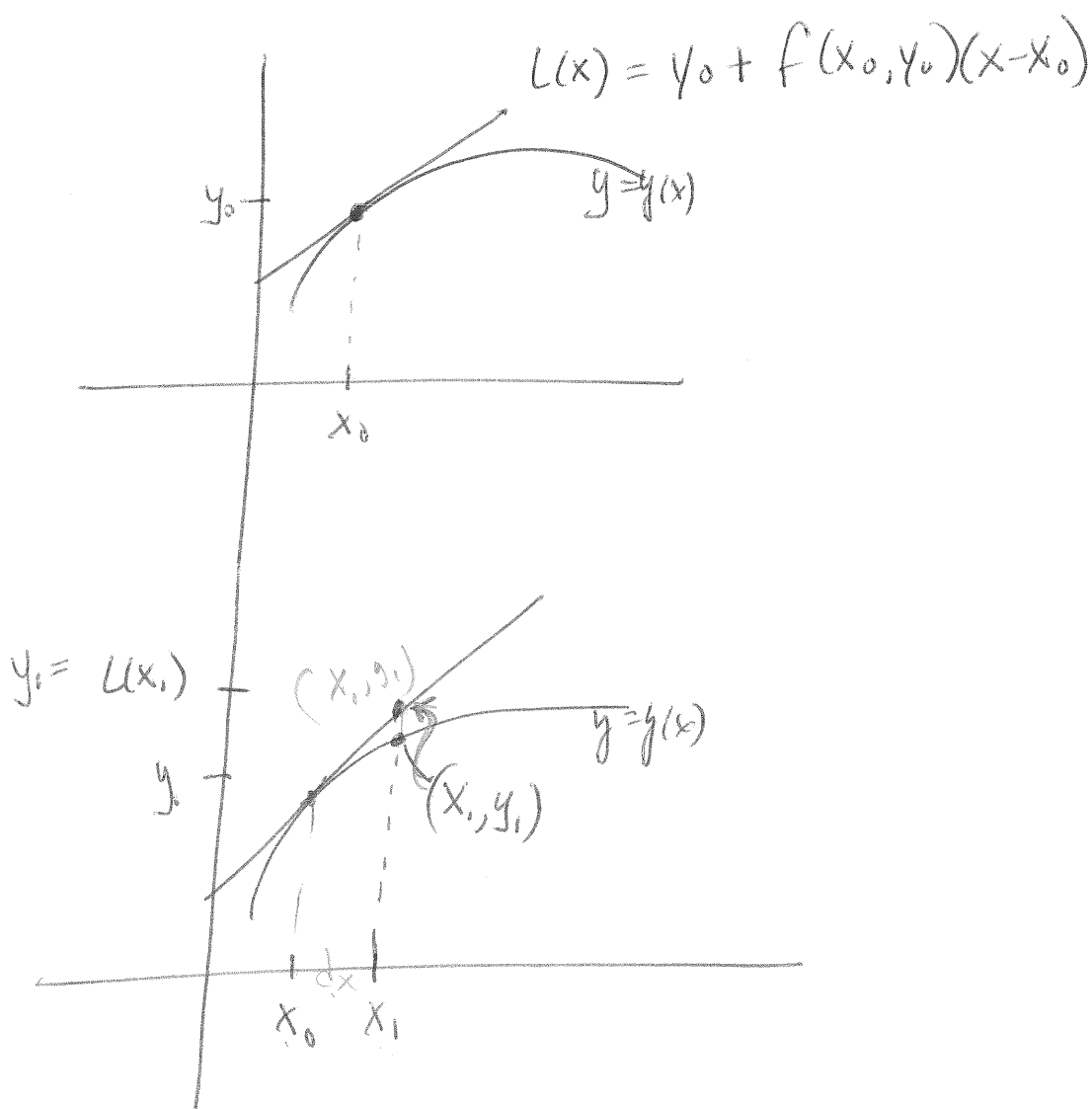


Now choose a point,  $x_1 = x_0 + dx$   
to be close to  $x_0$ . So,  $dx$  is small.

then

$$y_1 = L(x_1) = y_0 + f(x_0, y_0)(x_1 - x_0)$$

$$y_1 = L(x_1) = y_0 + f(x_0, y_0)dx$$

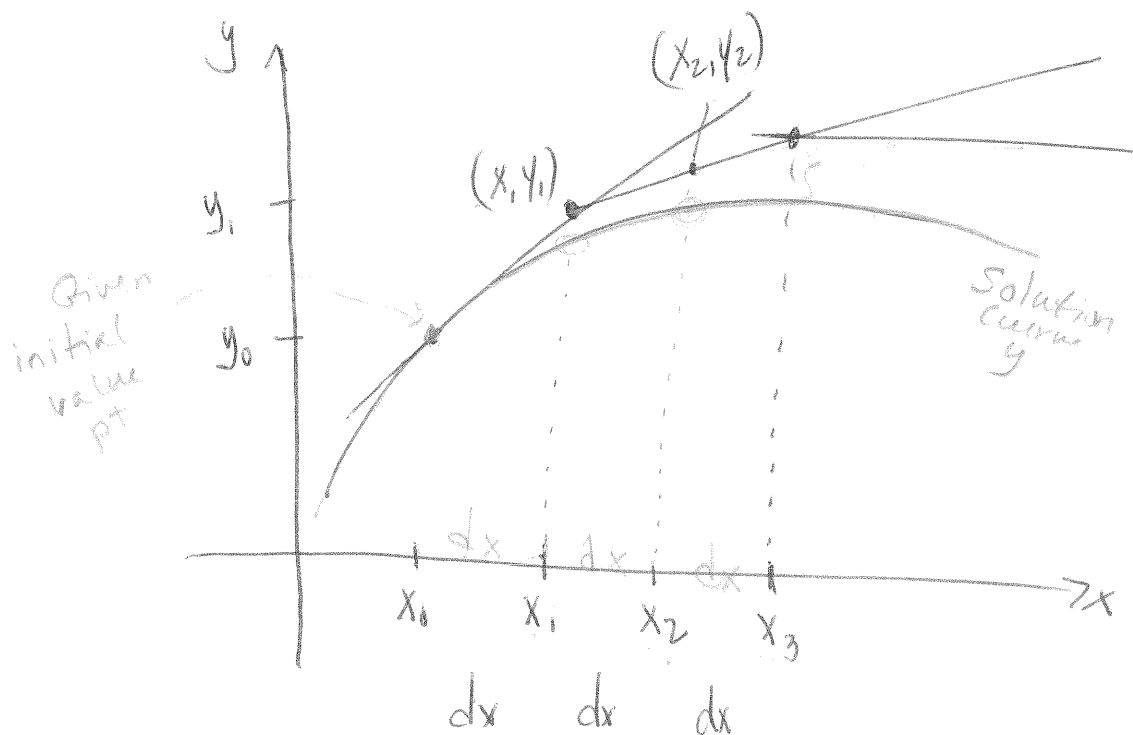


Now use  $(x, y_1)$  which is very close  
to the actual  $(x_1, y(x_1))$ .

Use  $(x_1, y_1)$  and slope  $f(x_1, y_1)$   
of the solution curve that  
point  $(x_1, y_1)$  and write

$$y_2 = y_1 + f(x_1, y_1) dx \quad (x_2, y_2)$$

$$dx = x_2 - x_1 \quad \text{or} \quad x_2 = x_1 + dx$$



$$y_3 = y_2 + f(x_2, y_2) dx$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\vdots$$

Ex Find by using Euler's Method an approximation for  $y(.3)$  given

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y' = -y + x + 1 \quad y(0) = 1$$

$$dx = 0.1 \quad x \in [0, 1]$$

use the software to see the slope field and hit the table feature to see the results for Euler —

(Step)

$$y_1 = y_0 + f(x_0, y_0) dx$$

$$y_1 = 1 + (-1 + 0 + 1)(.1)$$

$$y_1 = 1 \quad x_1 = .1 \quad y_1 = 1$$

(.1, 1)

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$$y_2 = y_1 + f(x_1, y_1) dx$$

$$y_2 = 1 + (-1 + .1 + 1)(.1) \quad x_2 = x_1 + dx$$

$$y_2 = 1.01$$

$$x_2 = .2$$

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$$y_3 = 1.01 + f(.2, 1.01) dx$$

$$= 1.01 + (-1.01 + .2 + 1)(.1)$$

$$y_3 = 1.029$$

$$y(.3) \approx 1.029$$


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