

MA121, 2005 Q7

a) (i) Solve

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{6x^2}{2y + \cos y}, \quad y(0) = \pi.$$

Soln

$$(2y + \cos y) \frac{dy}{dx} = 6x^2$$

$$\int (2y + \cos y) dy = \int 6x^2 dx$$

$$y^2 + \sin y = 2x^3 + C$$

$$y(0) = \pi :$$

$$\pi^2 + \sin \pi = 0 + C$$

$$\pi^2 = C$$

Solution is :

$$y^2 + \sin y = 2x^3 + \pi^2$$

a) ii) Solve

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + 2xy = xe^{-x^2}, \quad y(0) = 2.$$

Soln

Equation is first order linear.

We'll multiply both sides

by $e^{\int 2x dx}$.

$$e^{\int 2x dx} = e^{x^2}$$

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

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

$$\frac{d}{dx} (e^{x^2} y) = x$$

$$e^{x^2} y' = \int x \, dx$$

$$e^{x^2} y = \frac{x^2}{2} + C$$

$$y(0) = 2 :$$

$$e^0 \cdot 2 = 0 + C$$

$$C = 2$$

Solution is

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

$$y = e^{-x^2} \left(\frac{x^2}{2} + 2 \right) .$$

Q7 b)

A radioactive substance decays according to the law

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = -ky$$

where $y(t)$ is the amount of the substance present at time t , and $k > 0$ is a constant. Determine the half life of the substance.

Soln Suppose

$$y(0) = y_0$$

We need to find the value of t such that

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{2} y_0.$$

The solution to the diff. eqⁿ. is of the form

$$y(t) = A e^{-kt}$$

~~Need to solve~~

$$y_0 = y(0) = A$$

$$\text{So } y(t) = y_0 e^{-kt}$$

~~Need to solve~~

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{2} y_0$$

$$\cancel{y_0} e^{-kt} = \frac{1}{2} \cancel{y_0}$$

$$e^{-kt} = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\ln(e^{-kt}) = \ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$$

$$-kt = \ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)$$

half life is

$$t = -\frac{\ln\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)}{k} .$$