



ME 326 - Intermediate Fluid Mechanics 

Review of Differential Equations

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Review of Differential Equations 

Outline

- ▶ Constant Coefficient Equations
- ▶ Euler Equation
- ▶ Total Differentials
- ▶ Separable Equations

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Review of Differential Equations 

Constant Coefficient Equations

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dx} - 8y = 0$$

Boundary Conditions

$$x = 0, \quad y = 1$$


$$x = \infty, \quad y = 0$$

Solution

$$y = Ae^{mx}$$

$$m^2 + 2m - 8 = 0$$

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Constant Coefficient Equations (Continued)

$$m = -1 \pm \sqrt{1+8}$$

$$m = -4, 2$$

Solution $\Rightarrow y = Ae^{2x} + Be^{-4x}$

B.C. $\Rightarrow A = 0, B = 1$

Final Solution $\Rightarrow y = e^{-4x}$

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Euler Equation

$$x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + x \frac{dy}{dx} - y = 0$$

Solution

$$y = x^m$$

$$\begin{aligned} m(m-1) + m - 1 &= 0 \\ m &= 1, -1 \end{aligned}$$

Final Solution

$$y = Ax + \frac{B}{x}$$

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Total Differentials

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left(x \frac{dy}{dx} \right) = 0$$

Solution

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

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

$$y = C \ln x + D$$

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Separable Equations

$$(x+1) + y^2 \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

Solution

$$(x+1)dx + y^2 dy = 0$$

$$\frac{(x+1)^2}{2} + \frac{y^3}{3} = C$$

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Thank you!

Questions?

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