

Find the solution to the following differential equations given an initial condition.

1) $\frac{dy}{dx} = 12x + 3; f(-1) = 8$

$$\int dy = \int (12x + 3) dx$$

$$y = 6x^2 + 3x + C$$

$$8 = 6(-1)^2 + 3(-1) + C$$

$$5 = C$$

$$y = 6x^2 + 3x + 5$$

2) $\frac{dy}{dx} = \cos x + 3; f\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right) = \frac{5 + \pi}{2}$

$$\int dy = \int (\cos x + 3) dx$$

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

$$\frac{5 + \pi}{2} = \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right) + 3\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right) + C$$

$$\frac{5 + \pi}{2} = \frac{1 + \pi}{2} + C$$

$$5 + \pi = 1 + \pi + 2C$$

$$4 = 2C \rightarrow C = 2$$

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

Check:

$$\frac{5 + \pi}{2} = \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{6}\right) + \frac{\pi}{2} + 2$$

$$\frac{5 + \pi}{2} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{4}{2}$$

$$\frac{5 + \pi}{2} = \frac{5 + \pi}{2} \checkmark$$

Notes:

A differential equation of the form $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(y)g(x)$ is called **separable**. We separate the variables by writing it in the form:

$$\frac{1}{f(y)} dy = g(x) dx$$

The solution is found by integrating each side with respect to its isolated variable.

Example 1: Solve for y if $\frac{dy}{dx} = (xy)^2$ and $y = 1$ when $x = 1$. $(1, 1)$

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

$$\int \frac{dy}{y^2} = \int x^2 dx$$

$$-\frac{1}{y} = \frac{x^3}{3} + C$$

$$-1 = \frac{1}{3} + C$$

$$\frac{4}{3} = C$$

$$-\frac{1}{y} = \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{4}{3}$$

$$-y = \frac{3}{x^3 - 4}$$

$$y = \frac{3}{4 - x^3}$$

Example 2: Use separation of variables to solve $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x}{y}$ and $y = 2$ when $x = 1$. $(1, 2)$

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

$$\int y dy = \int x dx$$

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

$$\frac{2^2}{2} = \frac{1^2}{2} + C$$

$$\frac{3}{2} = C$$

$$\frac{y^2}{2} = \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{3}{2}$$

$$y^2 = x^2 + 3$$

$y = \pm \sqrt{x^2 + 3}$
Using given condition $(1, 2)$

$$y = \sqrt{x^2 + 3}$$