

Definition: Exact Equation

If An expression $M(x,y)dx+N(x,y)dy$ is an exact differential in a region R corresponding to the differential of some function $f(x, y)$.

A first-order DE of the form

$$M(x, y) dx + N(x, y) dy = 0$$

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Exact Differential Equation:

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Remark

If the differential of $f(x, y)$ is $M(x, y) dx + N(x, y) dy$, then $f(x, y) = c$ is an implicit solution to the DE

$$M(x, y) dx + N(x, y) dy = 0$$

Exact Equation:

Theorem:

Let $M(x, y)$ and $N(x, y)$ be continuous with continuous first partial derivatives on a rectangular region R of the xy -plane. Then, a necessary and sufficient condition that $M(x, y) dx + N(x, y) dy$ be an exact differential is

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Facts

● $\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$ implies exactness.

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Since $\partial f / \partial x = M(x, y)$, we have.

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Differentiating (i) with respect to y and assume

$$\partial f/\partial y = N(x, y)$$

Then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \int M(x, y)dx + g'(y) = N(x, y)$$

And

$$g'(y) = N(x, y) - \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \int M(x, y)dx \quad (ii)$$

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Integrate (ii) with respect to y to get $g(y)$, and substitute the result into (i) to obtain the implicit solution $f(x, y) = c$.

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So

$$M = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2xy,$$

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$$f(x, y) = x^2y + g(y)$$

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$$g'(y) = -1,$$

$$g(y) = -y$$

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$$\partial f / \partial y = x^2 + g'(y) = x^2 - 1$$

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Hence $f(x, y) = x^2y - y$, and the solution is

$$x^2y - y = c$$

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Rewrite the DE in the form

$$(\cos x \sin x - xy^2) dx + y(1 - x^2) dy = 0$$

Since

$$\partial M / \partial y = -2xy = \partial N / \partial x \quad (\text{This DE is exact})$$

There exists a function f such that

$$\begin{aligned} df &= Mdx + Ndy \\ &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} dx + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} dy \end{aligned}$$

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Then $\partial f / \partial y = y(1 - x^2)$

$$f(x, y) = \frac{1}{2} y^2 (1 - x^2) + h(x)$$

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$$h'(x) = \cos x \sin x$$

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Thus $\frac{1}{2} y^2 (1 - x^2) - \frac{1}{2} \cos^2 x = c_1$

or $y^2 (1 - x^2) - \cos^2 x = c$

where $c = 2c_1$.

Example 2

Now $y(0) = 2$, so $c = 3$.

The solution is

$$y^2(1 - x^2) - \cos^2 x = 3$$

Introduction:

It is sometimes possible to convert a differential equation that is not exact into an exact equation by multiplying the equation by a suitable integrating factor $\mu(x, y)$:

$$M(x, y)dx + N(x, y)dy = 0$$

$$\mu(x, y)M(x, y)dx + \mu(x, y)N(x, y)dy = 0$$

For this equation to be exact, we need

$$(\mu M)_y = (\mu N)_x$$

$$M\mu_y + M_y\mu = N\mu_x + N_x\mu$$

$$N\mu_x - M\mu_y = \mu(M_y - N_x)$$

Integrating Factors:

- μ is a function of x only

If μ is a function of x alone, then $\mu_y = 0$ and hence we solve

$$\frac{d\mu}{dx} = \frac{M_y - N_x}{N} \mu,$$

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- μ is a function of y only

If μ is a function of y alone, then $\mu_x = 0$ and hence we solve

$$\frac{d\mu}{dy} = \frac{N_x - M_y}{M} \mu,$$

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Summary

We summarize the results for $M(x, y) dx + N(x, y) dy = 0$

- If $\frac{M_y - N_x}{N}$ depends only on x , then $\mu(x) = e^{\int \frac{M_y - N_x}{N} dx}$

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- If $\frac{M_y - N_x}{N}$ depends only on x , then $\mu(x) = e^{\int \frac{M_y - N_x}{N} dx}$
- If $\frac{N_x - M_y}{M}$ depends only on y , then $\mu(y) = e^{\int \frac{N_x - M_y}{M} dy}$

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We summarize the results for $M(x, y) dx + N(x, y) dy = 0$

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● If $\frac{N_x - M_y}{M}$ depends only on y , then $\mu(y) = e^{\int \frac{N_x - M_y}{M} dy}$

● If we can write $M = yf(xy)$ $N = xg(xy)$ then

$$\mu(x, y) = \frac{1}{xM - yN}$$

Example 3

The nonlinear DE: $xy \, dx + (2x^2 + 3y^2 - 20) \, dy = 0$ is not exact.

Since $M = xy,$

$$N = 2x^2 + 3y^2 - 20$$

$$M_y = x,$$

$$N_x = 4x.$$

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$$\frac{M_y - N_x}{N} = \frac{x - 4x}{2x^2 + 3y^2 - 20} = \frac{-3x}{2x^2 + 3y^2 - 20} \text{ depends on both } x \text{ and } y.$$

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$$\frac{N_x - M_y}{M} = \frac{3}{y} \text{ depends only on } y.$$

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The integrating factor is $e^{\int \frac{3}{y} dy} = e^{3 \ln y} = y^3 = \mu(y)$

then the resulting equation is

$$xy^4 \, dx + (2x^2y^3 + 3y^5 - 20y^3) \, dy = 0$$

Try to show that the solution is:

$$\frac{1}{2} x^2 y^4 + \frac{1}{2} y^6 - 5y^4 = c$$