

Week #4 Written Assignment: Due on Friday, September 20.

1. Consider the differential equation

$$y' = t^2 - y^2$$

- (a) Sketch the direction field for this equation. Show the isoclines for $m = 0, 1, -1$ and whatever other information is needed to give a good idea of how solutions behave.
- (b) I claim that the solution satisfying the initial condition $y(1) = 1/2$ also satisfies $y(t) > 0$ for *every* $t > 1$. Is this assertion correct? Justify your answer.
- (c) I claim that the solution satisfying $y(1) = 1/2$ also satisfies $y(t) > t$ for *some* $t > 1$. Is this assertion correct? Justify your answer.

2. A differential equation of the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = Q(x)y^n, \quad n \in \mathbb{R}$$

is called a *Bernoulli Equation*. Note that for $n \in \{0, 1\}$ the Bernoulli equation is linear.

- (a) Assume that $n \neq 0$ and $n \neq 1$. Show that the substitution $u = y^{1-n}$ results in a linear differential equation for u . [Hint: divide both sides of the Bernoulli equation by y^n .]
- (b) Solve the Bernoulli equation $\frac{dy}{dx} + 8y = e^{2x}y^5$.

3. The logistic equation

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP \left(1 - \frac{P}{M} \right)$$

is useful for modeling populations with limited resources. In some situations it is observed that populations below some threshold value will fail to thrive and will eventually become extinct. The logistic model can be modified to reflect this observation by adding an additional factor:

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP \left(1 - \frac{P}{M} \right) \left(1 - \frac{m}{P} \right)$$

- (a) Assuming $0 < m < M$ sketch a graph of the function $f(x) = kx \left(1 - \frac{x}{M} \right) \left(1 - \frac{m}{x} \right)$. Your sketch should indicate where the function is positive, where it is negative, and where it is zero.
- (b) Draw the phase line for the modified logistic equation, $\frac{dP}{dt} = kP \left(1 - \frac{P}{M} \right) \left(1 - \frac{m}{P} \right)$. Determine the stability of each equilibrium point.
- (c) Using the phase line as a guide, sketch a representative sample of solutions in the tP -plane. What does this model prediction about populations with $0 < P < m$? With $m < P < M$? With $M < P$?