

An example of a differential equation is

$$y' = x + y \quad (y' = \frac{dy}{dx})$$

A solution:

$$\cancel{y = -x - 1}$$

$\nwarrow$

$c=0$

check solution:

$$(-x - 1)' = x + (-x - 1)$$

$$-1 = -1 \quad \checkmark$$

Yes  $y = -x - 1$  is  
a solution to

$$y' = x + y$$

The general solution:

$$\boxed{y = -x - 1 + ce^x} \quad (c = \text{any constant})$$

$$(-x - 1 + ce^x)' = x + (-x - 1 + ce^x)$$

$$-1 + ce^x = -1 + ce^x \quad \checkmark$$

Many times a differential equation is given together with "initial conditions", extra properties the solution you find must have,

$$\cancel{y' = x + y}$$

when  $x=2$ ,  $y$  must equal 1

First find the general solution

$$y|_{x=2} = 1, \quad y(2) = 1$$

when  $x=2$

$$y = \underline{-1 - x} + ce^x$$

$$1 = -1 - 2 + ce^2$$

$$4 = ce^2 \Rightarrow c = 4e^{-2} = \frac{4}{e^2}$$

$$\boxed{y = -1 - x + 4e^{-2}e^x}$$

$$\boxed{y = -1 - x + 4e^{x-2}}$$

$$y' = x + y$$

$$(-1 - x + 4e^{x-2})' = x + (-1 - x + 4e^{x-2})$$

$$-1 + 4e^{x-2} = -x + 4e^{x-2}$$

$$1 = ? - 1 - 2 + 4e^{2-2}$$

$$1 = -3 + 4 \quad \checkmark$$

Fundamentally there are three ways of thinking about differential equations

9.2  
slope fields  
direction fields

(1) Conceptually

Thinking (sometimes visually) about how solutions to differential equations.

9.2 > (2) Numerically

Euler's Method

Using a computer to compute values of the solution to a differential equation to any desired degree of accuracy

9.3  
separation of variables (3) Algebraically = Finding the exact solutions to a differential equations

$$y' = 2x \quad \text{solution: } y = x^2 + C$$

## 9.2 Direction Fields

$$y' = x + y \quad y(0) = 2$$



