

1. Transformation of dependent variable: nonseparable to separable

Transformation from nonseparable problem to separable problem:

If $M(x, y)$ and $N(x, y)$ are homogeneous with the same degrees, we have

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-M(x, y)}{N(x, y)}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-M(1, y/x)}{N(1, y/x)} = F(y/x)$$

Setting $y = ux$, we have

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = u + x \frac{du}{dx}$$

Then the nonexact form can be reduced to

$$xdu = (F(u) - u)dx$$

$$\frac{1}{x}dx = \frac{1}{(F(u) - u)}du$$

$(x, y(x)) \rightarrow (x, u(x))$ where $u(x) = y(x)/x$.

2. Transformation of independent variable(Cauchy-Euler equation): variable coef. ODE to const. coef. ODE

Variable coefficient ODE :

$$t^2 \ddot{y}(t) + at\dot{y}(t) + by(t) = 0$$

Change of independent variable:

$$t = e^x, x = \ln(t)$$

Constant coefficient ODE :

$$Y''(x) + (a-1)Y'(x) + bY(x) = 0$$

$(t, y(t)) \rightarrow (x, Y(x))$ where $Y(x) = y(t)$.