

2.3: Modeling with differential equations.

Suppose salty water enters and leaves a tank at a rate of 2 liters/minute.

Suppose also that the salt concentration of the water entering the tank varies with respect to time according to $Q(t) \cdot t \sin(t^2)$ g/liters where $Q(t)$ = amount of salt in tank in grams. (Note: this is not realistic).

If the tank contains 4 liters of water and initially contains 5g of salt, find a formula for the amount of salt in the tank after t minutes.

Let $Q(t)$ = amount of salt in tank in grams.

Note $Q(0) = 5$ g

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rate in} &= (2 \text{ liters/min})(Q(t) \cdot t \sin(t^2) \text{ g/liters}) \\ &= 2Q t \sin(t^2) \text{ g/min} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{rate out} = (2 \text{ liters/min})\left(\frac{Q(t) \text{ g}}{4 \text{ liters}}\right) = \frac{Q}{2} \text{ g/min}$$

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = \text{rate in} - \text{rate out} = 2Q t \sin(t^2) - \frac{Q}{2}$$

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = Q(2t \sin(t^2) - \frac{1}{2})$$

This is a first order linear ODE. It is also a separable ODE. Thus can use either 2.1 or 2.2 methods.

Using the easier 2.2:

$$\int \frac{dQ}{Q} = \int (2t \sin(t^2) - \frac{1}{2}) dt = \int 2t \sin(t^2) dt - \int \frac{1}{2} dt$$

$$\text{Let } u = t^2, du = 2t dt$$

$$\begin{aligned} \ln|Q| &= \int \sin(u) du - \frac{t}{2} = -\cos(u) - \frac{t}{2} + C \\ &= -\cos(t^2) - \frac{t}{2} + C \end{aligned}$$

$$|Q| = e^{-\cos(t^2) - \frac{t}{2} + C} = e^C e^{-\cos(t^2) - \frac{t}{2}}$$

$$Q = C e^{-\cos(t^2) - \frac{t}{2}}$$

$$Q(0) = 5 : \quad 5 = C e^{-1-0} = C e^{-1}. \text{ Thus } C = 5e$$

$$\text{Thus } Q(t) = 5e \cdot e^{-\cos(t^2) - \frac{t}{2}}$$

$$\text{Thus } Q(t) = 5e^{-\cos(t^2) - \frac{t}{2} + 1}$$

Long-term behaviour:

$$Q(t) = 5(e^{-\cos(t^2)})(e^{-\frac{t}{2}})e$$

As $t \rightarrow \infty$, $e^{-\frac{t}{2}} \rightarrow 0$, while $5(e^{-\cos(t^2)})e$ are finite.

Thus as $t \rightarrow \infty$, $Q(t) \rightarrow 0$.