

Definition 1: A mathematical equation is called differential equation if it has 2 types of variables: dependent and independent variables where the dependent variable can be written in terms of independent variable.

Example 1: Given: $y' = 15x$.

- Find y .
- Determine whether $y' = 15x$ is a linear differential equation or non-linear differential equation.
- Find the order of this differential equation.

Solution: Part (a): To find y , we do the following:

$$\int y' dy = \int 15x dx$$

$y = \int 15x dx = 15 \frac{x^2}{2} + C = \boxed{7.5x^2 + C}$ where C is a constant. So, y is called dependent variable because it depends on x while x is called independent variable because it does not depend on y .



Part (b):

Definition 2: The differential equation is called linear if the dependent variable ^{and} all its derivatives are to the power 1. Otherwise, the differential equation is non-linear.

Now, since $y(x) = 7.5x^2 + C$ where C is a constant, then

↓ dependent variable
↓ independent variable

We can see that the dependent variables and all its derivatives are to the power 1. Thus, by definition 2, this differential equation is linear.

Part (c):

Definition 3: The order of differential equation is the highest derivative in the equation, i.e. the order of this equation:

$$y^{(3)} + 3y^{(2)} + 2y' = 12x^2 + 22 \quad \text{is } \underline{3}.$$

Hence, by definition 3, our differential equation $y' = 15x$ has an order of 1.

Example 2: Given: $m^{(4)} + (3m^{(2)})^3 - m = \sqrt{x} + 1$

- Is it linear differential equation? Why?!
- What is the order of this differential equation?



Part (a):

$$m^{(4)} + (3m^{(2)})^3 - m = \sqrt{x+1}$$

↓ dependent variable
 ← are not to the power 1.
 ↓ independent variable

By applying definition 2, we see that the dependent variable, m , and all its derivatives are NOT to the power 1. Hence, it's non-linear differential equation.

Part (b):

By applying definition 3, the highest derivative is 4. So, the order of this differential equation is 4.

Note: For the Separable Method in differential equation, please look at Handout #4 or my textbook: (A Friendly Introduction to Differential Equations).

Integration by Parts:

$$(uv)' = uv' + u'v$$

$$uv' = (uv)' - u'v$$

let's integrate both sides with respect to x .

$$\int uv' dx = \int (uv)' dx - \int u'v dx$$

$$\int uv' dx = uv - \int u'v dx \rightarrow \int \boxed{v \frac{du}{dx}} dx$$

$$\int uv' dx = \int u \frac{dv}{dx} dx$$

$$= \int u dv$$

$$\int u'v dx = \int v \frac{du}{dx} dx$$

$$= \int v du$$