

HOMEWORK 10: §10.1#7: CALCULUS II: (STEWART 6th Ed.)

§10.1#7

(a.) What can we say about a sol<sup>n</sup> of  $\frac{dy}{dx} = -y^2$  just from looking at the DE<sup>n</sup>?

Notice  $y^2 \geq 0$  thus  $-y^2 \leq 0$  and so we find either  $y = 0$  for all  $x$  or  $y \neq 0$  but  $y$  is decreasing.

(b.) Verify that all members of  $y = \frac{1}{x+c}$  are sol<sup>n</sup>'s of  $y' = -y^2$ .

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{x+c} \right) = \frac{-1}{(x+c)^2} \frac{d}{dx} (x+c) = \frac{-1}{(x+c)^2} = -y^2.$$

Thus,  $y = 1/(x+c)$  is a sol<sup>n</sup> of  $y' = -y^2$ .

(c.) Is there a sol<sup>n</sup> of  $y' = -y^2$  that is not in the family of curves given in (b)?

YES. It's not hard to guess  $y = 0$  is a sol<sup>n</sup>.  
Moreover, once the guess is made it's easy to verify that  $(y' = -y^2)$  if  $y \equiv 0$ .

↑  
identically zero.  
(it's zero for all  $x$ )

Notice

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -y^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{-y^2} = dx \Rightarrow \frac{1}{y} = x+c \Rightarrow y = \frac{1}{x+c}$$

this step assumes  $y \neq 0$ , we lose the  $y = 0$  sol<sup>n</sup> in the sep. of variables calculation.

Sol<sup>n</sup>'s like this are called "exceptional"

(d.) Find sol<sup>n</sup> of  $y' = -y^2$  such that  $y(0) = 0.5$ .

$$0.5 = \frac{1}{0+c} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{c} \Rightarrow \underline{c=2} \Rightarrow \underline{y = \frac{1}{x+2}}$$