

Separation of variables Template

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Goal: Find an analytic solution to a separable DE: $f(y)dy = g(t)dt$

Example: $y'=2y$, $y(0)=3$. Solve this IVP and determine how long it takes for the initial amount to double.

Clear variables

$y = .$

$t = .$

Separate by hand first: $1/y dy = 2 dt$

$f = 1 / y$

$\frac{1}{y}$

$g = 2$

2

Integrate both sides:

$LHS = \text{Integrate}[f, y]$

$\text{Log}[y]$

$RHS = \text{Integrate}[g, t] + C$

$C + 2 t$

LHS = RHS would be an implicit solution. Solve for y to obtain an explicit solution:

$\text{gensln} = \text{Solve}[RHS == LHS, y]$

$\{\{y \rightarrow e^{C+2 t}\}\}$

Trick to eliminate both sets of braces from gensln:

$\text{gensln} = y /. \text{gensln}[[1]][[1]]$

$e^{C+2 t}$

Specify initial conditions:

$t0 = 0$

0

$y0 = 3$

3

Use the initial conditions to solve for the arbitrary constant.

```
IC = Solve[y0 == gensln /. t -> t0, C]
```

Solve::ifun : Inverse functions are being used by Solve, so some solutions may not be found; use Reduce for complete solution information. More...

```
{{C -> Log[3]}}
```

Use the value of the constant in the general solution to obtain the particular solution.

```
sln = gensln /. IC[[1]]
```

```
3 e2 t
```

```
Simplify[sln]
```

```
3 e2 t
```

```
doubletime = Solve[sln == 2 * y0, t, Reals]
```

Solve::ifun : Inverse functions are being used by Solve, so some solutions may not be found; use Reduce for complete solution information. More...

```
{{t ->  $\frac{\text{Log}[2]}{2}$ }}
```

Find the numerical value of $\log(2)/2$:

```
N[doubletime]
```

```
{{t -> 0.346574}}
```