

Solutions for section B1, B2

**Problem 1**

Find the general solution of  $y' - 2y = e^x$ .

**Solution:** This is a 1st order linear equation with standard form  $y' + P(x)y = Q(x)$ .

Here  $P(x) = -2$ ,  $Q(x) = e^x$ , so the integrating factor  $H(x) = \int P(x)dx = \int -2dx = -2x$ .

The general solution is

$$\begin{aligned} y(x) &= e^{-H(x)}(\int e^{H(x)}Q(x)dx + C) \\ &= e^{2x}(\int e^{-2x}e^x dx + C) \\ &= e^{2x}(-e^x + C) \end{aligned}$$

**Problem 2**

Solve the initial value problem:  $x^2y' = y - xy$ ,  $y(1) = 1$ .

**Solution:** This is a separable equation.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y' = \frac{y(1-x)}{x^2}$$

so

$$\frac{dy}{y} = \frac{(1-x)}{x^2} dx$$

take the integral on both sides:

$$\begin{aligned} \ln(y) &= \int \frac{(1-x)}{x^2} dx + C \\ &= \int \frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{x} dx + C \\ &= -x^{-1} - \ln(x) + C \end{aligned}$$

Plug in the initial value  $y(1) = 1$  to calculate the constant  $C$ :

$$\ln(1) = -1 - \ln(1) + C \implies C = 1.$$

Thus  $\ln(y) = -x^{-1} - \ln(x) + 1$ .