MATH 261.007
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Spring 2010

Bernouli Equations handout

Format: $y' + p(t)y = g(t)y^n$.
Solution:

(a) For $n = 0$ and $n = 1$ this is linear equation. For other n use substitution $v = y^{1-n}$.

(b) Since $y = v^{\frac{1}{1-n}}$, taking the derivative we get $y' = \frac{1}{1-n} v^{\frac{1}{1-n}-1} v' = \frac{1}{1-n} v^{\frac{n}{1-n}} v'$.

(c) Substituting this to $y' + p(t)y = g(t)y^n$ we get
$\frac{1}{1-n} v^{\frac{n}{1-n}} v' + p(t) v^{\frac{1}{1-n}} = g(t) \left(v^{\frac{1}{1-n}} \right)^n$.

(d) Multiplying this by the reciprocal of $\frac{1}{1-n} v^{\frac{n}{1-n}}$, that is by $(1-n) v^{-\frac{n}{1-n}}$, we get
$v' + (1-n)p(t) v^{\frac{1}{1-n}} v^{-\frac{n}{1-n}} = (1-n) g(t) v^{\frac{n}{1-n}} v^{-\frac{n}{1-n}}$, that is,
$v' + (1-n)p(t)v = (1-n)g(t)$,
since $\frac{1}{1-n} - \frac{n}{1-n} = 1$. *Algebra always leads to the linear equation!*

(e) Next, solve (for v) the linear equation $v' + (1-n)p(t)v = (1-n)g(t)$.

(f) Using again equation $y = v^{\frac{1}{1-n}}$, find the formula for y from the formula for v found in (e).