

- For each of the following equations, decide which of the three methods we have learnt can be used to solve them (in principle).
- It might be possible to use more than one method, or none.
- The three methods are:

sep Separation of variables

integ fac Integrating factor

$y = vx$   $y = vx$  method.

1.

$$xy + x \frac{dy}{dx} = y,$$

2.

$$(x^2y - 3xy^2) \frac{dy}{dx} = y^3 + x^3,$$

3.

$$e^{y/x} + \sin(x/y)y' = \frac{x+y}{x-y},$$

4.

$$e^x y + y' \sin x = x^3 \tan x,$$

5.

$$2xyy' = x^2 - y^2,$$

6.

$$x^2yy' + 3xy^2 + 2yy' = 5.$$

For

$$xy + x \frac{dy}{dx} = y,$$

we can use two methods,  
separation of variables  
and the integrating factor method.

Can we solve it in practice?

For

$$(x^2y - 3xy^2) \frac{dy}{dx} = y^3 + x^3,$$

we can use the  $y = vx$  method.

Can we solve it in practice?

For

$$e^{y/x} + \sin(x/y)y' = \frac{x+y}{x-y},$$

we can use  $y = vx$ .

Can we solve it in practice? For

$$e^x y + y' \sin x = x^3 \tan x,$$

we can use the integrating factor method.

Can we solve it in practice? For

$$2xyy' = x^2 - y^2,$$

we can use  $y = vx$ .

Can we solve it in practice? For

$$x^2 yy' + 3xy^2 + 2yy' = 5.$$

none of the three methods works,

but there is a simple trick to reduce to integrating factor method.

Can you spot it?

Overall the answers are:

1. sep and integ fac,
2.  $y = vx$ ,
3.  $y = vx$ ,
4. sep,
5.  $y = vx$ ,
6. none of the three directly, but after a change of variable  $z = y^2$ , sep can be used

Put  $z = y^2$ . Then  $2yy' = z'$ . So

$$x^2 yy' + 3xy^2 + 2yy' = 5$$

becomes

$$(x^2 + 2)z' + 6xz = 10.$$

The standard form is

$$z' + \frac{6xz}{x^2 + 2} = \frac{10}{x^2 + 2}.$$

Then the integrating factor is  $(x^2 + 2)^3$ , and the equation becomes

$$\frac{d}{dx}(z(x^2 + 2)^2) = 10(x^4 + 4x^2 + 4),$$

which can be solved.