

## Matlab and ordinary differential equations

Matlab can solve ODEs both symbolically and numerically. To find symbolic solutions, use `dsolve` as in the examples below:

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```
>> dsolve('D2y-3*Dy-4*y=cos(t)')
ans = -1/34*(5*cos(t)*exp(t)+3*exp(t)*sin(t)-34*C1*exp(4*t)*exp(t)-34*C2)/exp(t)
>> dsolve('D2y-3*Dy-4*y=cos(t)', 'Dy(0)=1', 'y(0)=2')
ans = -1/34*(5*cos(t)*exp(t)+3*exp(t)*sin(t)-22*exp(4*t)*exp(t)-51)/exp(t)
>> simplify(ans)
ans = -5/34*cos(t)-3/34*sin(t)+11/17*exp(4*t)+3/2*exp(-t)
>> dsolve('y+t*Dy=0')
ans = 1/t*C1
>> [x y] = dsolve('3*Dx=2*y-x', 'Dy=4*x/3+y/3', 'x(0)=2,y(0)=1')
x = exp(-t)+exp(t)
y = 2*exp(t)-exp(-t)
```

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The letter upper case D stands for the derivative with respect to  $t$ . D2 is the second derivative, D3 is the third, and so on.

To solve ODEs numerically, you can use `ode45`. For example let us solve  $y' = y^6 - t^2$  for  $0 \leq t \leq 1$  with the initial condition  $y(0) = .9$ .

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```
>> syms y t
>> f = inline(vectorize(y^6-t^2),'t','y');
>> ode45(f,[0 1],.9)
```

---

In an apparently undocumented feature, this will produce a graph of the solution, with circles around the points which matlab calculated. To obtain a list of the  $y$  and  $t$  values, use the command

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```
>> [T Y] = ode45(f,[0 1],.9)
```

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Note in this example, when  $t \geq .3023$  or so, the value of  $Y$  is given as NaN, standing for not a number, which indicates that the solution has gone off to infinity there.

By default, `ode45` attempts for three digit accuracy, (or error less than  $10^{-6}$  if the answer has absolute value less than  $10^{-3}$ ). This can be changed using `odeset`, typing `help ode45` gives more information.

You can graph several solutions with various initial values by giving a row vector of initial values, for example `ode45(f,[0 1],[.5 1])` graphs two solutions with initial values  $y(0) = 1$  and  $y(0) = 1/2$ .

You can solve systems of equations with `ode45` also. For example to solve the system  $y'_1 = y_1 + t$ ,  $y'_2 = y_1 + y_2$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ ,  $y_1(0) = 1$ ,  $y_2(0) = 2$

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```
>> g = inline(vectorize('[y(1)+t; y(1)+y(2)]'),'t','y');
>> [T Y] = ode45(g,[0 1],[1;2])
```

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There is something to watch when you do this. The function and initial values should be given as a column vector, so you separate entries by a semicolon as above. Also the argument to `vectorize` should be a string enclosed in single quotes as indicated above. Otherwise matlab gets unhappy.

You can have matlab plot your solutions `[T Y]` using `plot` for two dimensional plots or `plot3` for three dimensional plots. For example to plot the five solutions to  $y' = 3y + \sin t$  for  $0 \leq t \leq 2$  with initial values  $y(0) = 0, 1, -1, 2, -2$  type:

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```
>> f = inline(vectorize(3*y+sin(t)), 't', 'y')
>> [T Y] = ode45(f,[0 2],[0 1 -1 2 -2]);
>> plot(T,Y)
```

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To plot the solutions to  $y'_1 = y_1 y_2 - t$ ,  $y'_2 = y_1 - y_2$ ,  $y_1(1) = 3$ ,  $y_2(1) = 0$  for  $0 \leq t \leq 1$  we can do

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```
>> g = inline(vectorize('[y(1)*y(2)-t; y(1)-y(2)]'),'t','y')
>> [T Y] = ode45(g,[1 0],[3; 0]);
>> plot3(T,Y(:,1),Y(:,2))
```

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The second argument of `ode45` is `[1 0]` since our initial  $t$  value is 1 and the final  $t$  value is 0. The expression `Y(:,1)` is the first column of  $Y$  which gives the  $y_1$  values.

Second and higher order equations can be solved numerically by changing them to first order. For example  $y'' - y' + 10y = \sin t$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(0) = 0$  can be changed to  $y'_1 = y_2$ ,  $y'_2 = y_2 - 10y_1 + \sin t$ ,  $y_1(0) = 0$ ,  $y_2(0) = 0$  and solved and graphed by:

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```
>> h = inline('y(2); y(2)-10*y(1)+sin(t)'),'t','y')
>> [T Y] = ode45(h,[0 2*pi], [0;0]);
>> plot(T,Y(:,1))
```

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Use matlab to solve the following problems, due Friday, April 4. You may work in pairs if you wish.

**Problem 1:** p. 66 prob 7.

**Problem 2:** p. 149 problem 1.

**Problem 3:** Graph an approximate solution to  $y'' + t^2y' - y = \sin t$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y'(0) = 2$  for  $0 \leq t \leq 4\pi$ .