

Math 2250-4

Fri Jan 27

### 2.3 Improved velocity models.

We'll begin with the last two pages of Wednesday's notes, which are reproduced and slightly modified below:

For particle motion along a line, with

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{position } x(t) \text{ (or } y(t) \text{) ,} \\ & \text{velocity } x'(t) = v(t) \text{ , and} \\ & \text{acceleration } x''(t) = v'(t) = a(t) \end{aligned}$$

We have Newton's 2<sup>nd</sup> law

$$m v'(t) = F$$

where  $F$  is the net force.

- We're very familiar with constant force  $F = m \alpha$  :

$$\begin{aligned} v'(t) &= \alpha \\ v(t) &= \alpha t + v_0 \\ x(t) &= \frac{1}{2} \alpha t^2 + v_0 t + x_0 . \end{aligned}$$

Examples we've seen a lot of:

- $\alpha = -g$  near the surface of the earth, if up is the positive direction, or  $\alpha = g$  if down is the positive direction.
- boats or cars subject to constant acceleration or deceleration.

New today !!! Try to account for frictional drag forces.

$$m v'(t) = m \alpha + F_f$$

Empirically/mathematically the drag forces  $F_f$  depend on velocity, in such a way that their magnitude is

$$|F_f| \approx k |v|^p \text{ , } 1 \leq p \leq 2 .$$

- $p = 1$  (linear model, drag proportional to velocity):

$$m v'(t) = m \alpha - k v$$

This linear model makes sense for "slow" velocities, as a linearization of the frictional force function, assuming it's differentiable...recall Taylor series:

$$F_f(v) = F_f(0) + F_f'(0) v + \frac{1}{2!} F_f''(0) v^2 + \dots$$

$F_f(0) = 0$  and for small  $v$  the higher order terms are negligible, so

$$F_f(v) \approx F_f'(0) v \approx -k v$$

since the frictional force opposes the direction of motion, so has the opposite sign of velocity.

Exercise 1a: Rewrite the linear drag model as

$$v'(t) = \alpha - \rho v$$

where the  $\rho = \frac{k}{m}$ . Construct the phase diagram for  $v$ . Notice that  $v(t)$  has exactly one constant (equilibrium) solution, and find it. Its value is called the *terminal velocity*. Explain why *terminal velocity* is an appropriate term of art, based on your phase diagram.

1b) Solve the IVP

$$\begin{aligned}v'(t) &= \alpha - \rho v \\v(0) &= v_0\end{aligned}$$

and verify your phase diagram analysis.

1c) integrate the velocity function above to find a formula for the position function.

- $p = 2$ , for the power in the frictional force. Accounting for the fact that friction opposes direction of motion we get

$$\begin{aligned} m v'(t) &= m \alpha - k v^2 & \text{if } v > 0 \\ m v'(t) &= m \alpha + k v^2 & \text{if } v < 0. \end{aligned}$$

<http://exploration.grc.nasa.gov/education/rocket/termvr.html>

Exercise 2) Once again letting  $\rho = \frac{k}{m}$  we can rewrite the DE's as

$$\begin{aligned} v'(t) &= \alpha - \rho v^2 & \text{if } v > 0 \\ v'(t) &= \alpha + \rho v^2 & \text{if } v < 0. \end{aligned}$$

2a) Consider the case in which  $\alpha = -g$ , so we are considering vertical motion, with up being the positive direction. Draw the phase diagrams. Note that each diagram contains a half line of  $v$ -values. Make conclusions about velocity behavior in case  $v_0 > 0$  and  $v_0 \leq 0$ . Is there a terminal velocity?

2b) Set up the two separable differential equation IVPs for the cases above, so that you will be able to complete finding the solution formulas (in your homework)...Of course, once you find the velocity function you'll still need to integrate that if you want to find the position function!