

What are the steps to solving a differential equation?

1. Isolate variables

→ y's & dy on left side

→ x's & dx on right

2. Integrate both sides

→ +C on right side only

3. Plug in initial condition & solve for C.

4. Plug C in & solve for y.

Find $y = f(x)$ for $yy' - e^x = 0$ given the initial condition $y(0) = 4$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &yy' - e^x = 0 \\
 &\cancel{dx} \quad y \frac{dy}{dx} = e^x dx \\
 &\int y dy = \int e^x dx \\
 &\frac{y^2}{2} = e^x + C \\
 &y(0) = 4 \\
 &\frac{(4)^2}{2} = e^0 + C \\
 &\frac{16}{2} = 1 + C \\
 &8 = 1 + C \\
 &7 = C \\
 &2\left(\frac{1}{2}y^2 = e^x + 7\right) \\
 &y^2 = 2e^x + 14 \\
 &y = \pm \sqrt{2e^x + 14} \\
 &4 = +\sqrt{2e^0 + 14} \\
 &y = \sqrt{2e^x + 14}
 \end{aligned}$$

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

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y-1}{x^2} \\
 &\frac{1}{y-1} dy = \frac{y-1}{x^2} dx \cdot \frac{1}{y-1} \\
 &\int \frac{1}{y-1} dy = \int \frac{1}{x^2} dx \\
 &u = y-1 \\
 &\frac{du}{dy} = dy \\
 &\int \frac{1}{u} du = \int x^{-2} dx \\
 &\ln|u| = \frac{x^{-1}}{-1} + C \\
 &\ln|y-1| = -\frac{1}{x} + C \\
 &e^{\ln|y-1|} = e^{-\frac{1}{x} + C} \\
 &|y-1| = e^{-\frac{1}{x}} \cdot e^C \\
 &|y-1| = Ce^{-\frac{1}{x}} \\
 &y-1 = \pm Ce^{-\frac{1}{x}} \\
 &y-1 = Ce^{-\frac{1}{x}} \\
 &y = Ce^{-\frac{1}{x}} + 1
 \end{aligned}$$