

Calculus II, Section 9.3, #16  
 Separable Equations

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Find the solution of the differential equation that satisfies the given initial condition.<sup>1</sup>

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = \sqrt{Pt}, \quad P(1) = 2$$

We separate  $P$  and  $t$ , and integrate.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dP}{dt} &= \sqrt{Pt} \\ \frac{dP}{dt} &= \sqrt{P}\sqrt{t} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{P}} dP &= \sqrt{t} dt \\ \int P^{-1/2} dP &= \int t^{1/2} dt \\ \frac{P^{1/2}}{\frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{t^{3/2}}{\frac{3}{2}} + C \end{aligned}$$

We actually have

$$\begin{aligned} \int P^{-1/2} dP &= \int t^{1/2} dt \\ \frac{P^{1/2}}{\frac{1}{2}} + C_1 &= \frac{t^{3/2}}{\frac{3}{2}} + C_2 \\ \frac{P^{1/2}}{\frac{1}{2}} &= \frac{t^{3/2}}{\frac{3}{2}} + C_2 - C_1 \end{aligned}$$

But since  $C_2 - C_1$  is just another constant, we write

$$\frac{P^{1/2}}{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{t^{3/2}}{\frac{3}{2}} + C$$

So the general solution (in implicit form) is

$$2\sqrt{P} = \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{t^3} + C$$

From the initial condition  $P(1) = 2$ , we have  $P = 2$  when  $t = 1$ . Substituting and solving for  $C$ , we get

$$\begin{aligned} 2\sqrt{2} &= \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{1^3} + C \\ 2\sqrt{2} &= \frac{2}{3} + C \\ 2\sqrt{2} - \frac{2}{3} &= C \end{aligned}$$

Substituting this value for  $C$  into our general solution

$$\begin{aligned} 2\sqrt{P} &= \frac{2}{3}\sqrt{t^3} + 2\sqrt{2} - \frac{2}{3} \\ \sqrt{P} &= \frac{1}{3}\sqrt{t^3} + \sqrt{2} - \frac{1}{3} \\ P &= \left( \frac{\sqrt{t^3} + 3\sqrt{2} - 1}{3} \right)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Thus the particular solution for  $\frac{dP}{dt} = \sqrt{Pt}$  with the initial condition  $P(1) = 2$  is

$$P(t) = \frac{1}{9} \left( \sqrt{t^3} + 3\sqrt{2} - 1 \right)^2$$

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<sup>1</sup>Stewart, *Calculus, Early Transcendentals*, p. 605, #16.