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Differential Equation for UG Sem III  
Paper CC-5

## CLAIRAUT'S EQUATION

The equation of the form  $y = px + f(p)$  is called Clairaut's equation, where  $p = \frac{dy}{dx}$ .

W.R. Diffing the given equation w.r.t.  $x$ .

We will get one factor  $\frac{dp}{dx} = 0$ . After integrating it we will get  $p = c$ . Then eliminating  $p$  from the equation  $y = px + f(p)$ , we have

$y = cx + f(c)$  is called the general solution or complete solution.

Second solution, also we will get called singular solution.

If the complete solution is a quadratic Equation in  $c$ . Then find its discriminant ( $D$ ).

Then  $D = 0$ , is called the singular solution.

If the complete solution is not a quadratic Equation in  $c$ . Then differentiate it w.r.t. " $c$ " treating  $x$  and  $y$  as constant for some time. From this we get the value of  $c$ . Then eliminating  $c$  from the complete solution, we will get the singular solution.

Now we are going to solve some problems.

Problem ① Solve the differential equation

$y = px + a\sqrt{1+p^2}$  and also find the singular solution.

Solution: Given equation is

$y = px + a\sqrt{1+p^2}$  is a Clairaut's equation

Differentiating it w.r.t.  $x$ , we have

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = p + x \frac{dp}{dx} + a \cdot \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1+p^2}} \times 2p \frac{dp}{dx}$$

$$\Rightarrow p - p = \frac{dp}{dx} \left[ x + \frac{ap}{\sqrt{1+p^2}} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dp}{dx} \left[ x + \frac{ap}{\sqrt{1+p^2}} \right] = 0$$

Either  $\frac{dp}{dx} = 0$ , Integrating  $p = c$

Eliminating  $p$  from the given equation.  
The complete solution is

$$y = cx + a\sqrt{1+c^2} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

For singular solution

$$y - cx = a\sqrt{1+c^2}, \text{ Squaring}$$

$$(y - cx)^2 = a^2(1+c^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow y^2 - 2cxy + c^2x^2 = a^2 + a^2c^2$$

$$\Rightarrow c^2x^2 - a^2c^2 - 2cxy + y^2 - a^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (x^2 - a^2)c^2 - 2xy \cdot c + (y^2 - a^2) = 0$$

It is a quadratic equation in  $c$ .

$$\begin{aligned} c - \text{Discriminant} &= (-2xy)^2 - 4(x^2 - a^2)(y^2 - a^2) \\ &= 4[x^2y^2 - (x^2 - a^2)(y^2 - a^2)] \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore$  Singular solution is

$$4[x^2y^2 - (x^2y^2 - a^2x^2 - a^2y^2 + a^4)] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \cancel{x^2y^2} - \cancel{x^2y^2} + a^2x^2 + a^2y^2 - a^4 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow a^2(x^2 + y^2 - a^2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (x^2 + y^2 - a^2) = 0 \quad (\because a^2 \neq 0) \quad \text{Ans}$$

Problem 2 Solve the differential Equation  $y = px + \sin^{-1} p$ ,  
Also find its singular solution.

Ans: Given Equation is  $y = px + \sin^{-1} p$ , it is  
a Clairaut's equation.

Differentiating it w.r.t.  $x$ . We have

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = p + x \frac{dp}{dx} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-p^2}} \frac{dp}{dx}$$

$$\Rightarrow p - p = \frac{dp}{dx} \left[ x + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-p^2}} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dp}{dx} \left[ x + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-p^2}} \right] = 0$$

Either  $\frac{dp}{dx} = 0 \Rightarrow$  Integrating, we have  $p = c$

Eliminating  $p$  from the given Equation, The  
complete solution is  $y = cx + \sin^{-1} c$  Ans

For singular solution The equation ① is not a  
quadratic Equation in  $c$ .

Now differentiating ① w.r.t.  $c$  treating  $x$  and  $y$   
as constant for some time.

$$0 = 1 \cdot x + \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-c^2}} \Rightarrow -x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-c^2}}, \text{ square}$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 = \frac{1}{1-c^2} \Rightarrow 1-c^2 = \frac{1}{x^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow c^2 = 1 - \frac{1}{x^2} = \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow c = \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}{x}$$

Eliminating  $c$  from eq ①, The singular solution  
is

$$y = \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}{x} \cdot x + \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}{x} \right) = \sqrt{x^2 - 1} + \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}{x} \right)$$

Ans.

Problem (3) Solve the differential Equation  $\cos y \cos px + \sin y \sin px - p = 0$ , Also find its singular solution.

Ans given Equation is

$$\cos y \cos px + \sin y \sin px - p = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos y \cos px + \sin y \sin px = p$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos(y - px) = p$$

$$\Rightarrow y - px = \cos^{-1} p, \text{ or, } y = px + \cos^{-1} p,$$

It is a Clairauts equation. diffing it w.r.t. x

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = p + x \frac{dp}{dx} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-p^2}} \frac{dp}{dx}$$

Now solve it as problem (2).

Problem (4) Solve  $y'' + x' \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 - 2xy \frac{dy}{dx} = y \left( \frac{dx}{dy} \right)^2$

Ans given Equation is written as

$$y'' + x' p^2 - 2xy p = y \cdot \frac{1}{p^2}, \text{ where } p = \frac{dy}{dx}.$$

$$\Rightarrow (y - xp)^2 = \frac{y}{p^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow y - xp = \frac{2}{p} \Rightarrow y = px + \frac{2}{p} \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

It is Clairauts Equation. diffing it w.r.t. x

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = p + x \frac{dp}{dx} + 2 \cdot \left( -\frac{1}{p^2} \right) \frac{dp}{dx}$$

$$\Rightarrow p - p = \frac{dp}{dx} \left( x - \frac{2}{p^2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dp}{dx} \left( x - \frac{2}{p^2} \right) = 0$$

Either  $\frac{dp}{dx} = 0$ , Integrating  $p = c$ .

Eliminating p from equation (1), The Complete Solution is  $y = cx + \frac{2}{c}$  (2)

For singular solution from equation (2) we have

$$y = \frac{cx + 2}{c}$$

$$\Rightarrow cx + 2 = cy \Rightarrow cx - cy + 2 = 0$$

It is a quadratic equation in  $c$ .

$$c\text{-discriminant} = (-y)^2 - 4 \cdot 2 \cdot 2$$

$$= y^2 - 8x$$

$\therefore$  Singular solution is  $y^2 - 8x = 0$  Ans

More about singular solution:

Let  $f(x, y, p) = 0$  is a diff. Equation and its general solution is  $\phi(x, y, c) = 0$ . Both  $p$  and  $c$  discriminants contain the equation to the envelope, which is called singular solution.

More about locus of the envelopes

1. Tac locus: It will appear in  $p$ -des. and not in  $c$ -des. as  $c$  is different. The Tac locus does not give a solution.
2. Nodal locus: It will appear in  $c$ -discriminant only. Generally, nodal locus will not satisfy the diff. Equation.
3. Cuspidal locus: It will appear in  $c$ -discriminant as well as in  $p$ -discriminant. In general cuspidal locus will not satisfy the given diff. Equation.

Rule (i) The  $c$ -des. contains envelope once, nodal locus twice, cuspidal locus thrice. It does not contain tac locus.  
In short,  $c\text{-discriminant} = EN^2C^3$ .

(ii) The  $p$ -des. contains envelope once, tac locus twice and cuspidal locus once. It does not contain nodal locus.

In short,  $p\text{-des.} = ET^2C$ .

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