

Calc AB

Notes 6.3 Separation of Variables

Read Intro p.423

A function $f(x, y)$ is a homogeneous function of degree n if

$$f(tx, ty) = t^n f(x, y)$$

where n is any real number.

To test if a function is homogeneous, replace each variable in the equation by t times that variable.

Replace x with tx , and y with ty .

Simplify completely.

Attempt to factor out **all** remaining t 's as a Greatest Common Factor. (GCF)

If this is successful, then the function is homogeneous!

Read Example 4 p.423 for additional example

Ex1) Test each function to see if it is homogeneous:

a. $(x^2 + xy)dx + y^2 dy = 0$

b. $(x^2 + 1)dx + y^2 dy = 0$

Notes Continued with Newton's Law of Cooling