Chapter 9 Additional and Advanced Exercises

Theory and Applications

1. **Transport through a cell membrane** Under some conditions, the result of the movement of a dissolved substance across a cell's membrane is described by the equation

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = k\frac{A}{V}(c - y).$$

In this equation, y is the concentration of the substance inside the cell and dy/dt is the rate at which y changes over time. The letters

k, A, V, and c stand for constants, k being the *permeability coefficient* (a property of the membrane), A the surface area of the membrane, V the cell's volume, and c the concentration of the substance outside the cell. The equation says that the rate at which the concentration changes within the cell is proportional to the difference between it and the outside concentration.

a. Solve the equation for $y(t)$, using y_0 to denote $y(0)$.

b. Find the steady-state concentration, $\lim_{t\to\infty} y(t)$. (Based on *Some Mathematical Models in Biology*, edited by R. M. Thrall, J. A. Mortimer, K. R. Rebman, and R. F. Baum, rev. ed., Dec. 1967, PB-202 364, pp. 101–103; distributed by N.T.I.S., U.S. Department of Commerce.)

2. Oxygen flow mixture Oxygen flows through one tube into a liter flask filled with air, and the mixture of oxygen and air (considered well stirred) escapes through another tube. Assuming that air contains 21% oxygen, what percentage of oxygen will the flask contain after 5 L have passed through the intake tube?

3. Carbon dioxide in a classroom If the average person breathes 20 times per minute, exhaling each time 100 in^3 of air containing 4% carbon dioxide, find the percentage of carbon dioxide in the air of a 10,000 ft^3 closed room 1 hour after a class of 30 students enters. Assume that the air is fresh at the start, that the ventilators admit 1000 ft^3 of fresh air per minute, and that the fresh air contains 0.04% carbon dioxide.

4. Height of a rocket If an external force F acts upon a system whose mass varies with time, Newton's law of motion is

$$\frac{d(mv)}{dt} = F + (v + u)\frac{dm}{dt}.$$

In this equation, m is the mass of the system at time t, v its velocity, and $v + u$ is the velocity of the mass that is entering (or leaving) the system at the rate dm/dt. Suppose that a rocket of initial mass m_0 starts from rest, but is driven upward by firing some of its mass directly backward at the constant rate of $dm/dt = -b$ units per second and at constant speed relative to the rocket $u = -c$. The only external force acting on the rocket is $F = -mg$ due to gravity. Under these assumptions, show that the height of the rocket above the ground at the end of t seconds (t small compared to m_0/b) is

$$y = c\left[t + \frac{m_0 - bt}{b}\ln\frac{m_0 - bt}{m_0}\right] - \frac{1}{2}gt^2.$$

5. a. Assume that $P(x)$ and $Q(x)$ are continuous over the interval $[a, b]$. Use the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, Part 1 to show that any function y satisfying the equation

$$v(x)y = \int v(x)Q(x)\,dx + C$$

for $v(x) = e^{\int P(x)\,dx}$ is a solution to the first-order linear equation

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = Q(x).$$

b. If $C = y_0 v(x_0) - \int_{x_0}^{x} v(t)Q(t)\,dt$, then show that any solution y in part (a) satisfies the initial condition $y(x_0) = y_0$.

6. (*Continuation of Exercise 5.*) Assume the hypotheses of Exercise 5, and assume that $y_1(x)$ and $y_2(x)$ are both solutions to the first-order linear equation satisfying the initial condition $y(x_0) = y_0$.

a. Verify that $y(x) = y_1(x) - y_2(x)$ satisfies the initial value problem

$$y' + P(x)y = 0, \quad y(x_0) = 0.$$

b. For the integrating factor $v(x) = e^{\int P(x)\,dx}$, show that

$$\frac{d}{dx}\left(v(x)[y_1(x) - y_2(x)]\right) = 0.$$

Conclude that $v(x)[y_1(x) - y_2(x)] \equiv \text{constant}$.

c. From part (a), we have $y_1(x_0) - y_2(x_0) = 0$. Since $v(x) > 0$ for $a < x < b$, use part (b) to establish that $y_1(x) - y_2(x) \equiv 0$ on the interval (a, b). Thus $y_1(x) = y_2(x)$ for all $a < x < b$.