

Question

Show that

$$(x^2 + y^2 - x)dx - ydy = 0$$

is not exact, but that it becomes exact if multiplied by $(x^2 + y^2)^{-1}$. Hence obtain the solution of the differential equation $y \frac{dy}{dx} = x^2 + y^2 - x$. (*)

Answer

$$p = x^2 + y^2 - x, \quad q = -y \Rightarrow \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} = 2y, \quad \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} = 0 \Rightarrow \text{Not exact.}$$

$$\text{Consider } (1 - \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2})dx - \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2}dy = 0, \Rightarrow p = 1 - \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2},$$

$$q = -\frac{y}{x^2 + y^2}, \quad \frac{\partial p}{\partial y} = \frac{2xy}{(x^2 + y^2)^2}, \quad \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} = \frac{2xy}{(x^2 + y^2)^2} \Rightarrow \text{exact.}$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = 1 - \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2} \Rightarrow F(x, y) = x - \frac{1}{2} \ln(x^2 + y^2) + f(y)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = \frac{-y}{x^2 + y^2} + \frac{df}{dy}$$

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = -\frac{y}{x^2 + y^2} \text{ hence } \frac{df}{dy} = 0, \quad f(y) = c$$

$$\text{so the solution is } x - \frac{1}{2} \ln(x^2 + y^2) = A$$