

Question

Classify, but do not solve, the equation $t^2 \frac{dx}{dt} + 2xt = 0$ under as many as possible of the following classifications:

separable, $\frac{dx}{dt} = f\left(\frac{x}{t}\right)$, exact, linear.

Answer

$$t^2 \frac{dx}{dt} + 2xt = 0$$

$$t^2 \frac{dx}{dt} + 2xt = \frac{d}{dt}(xt^2) \Rightarrow \text{exact No powers of } x^2 \text{ or } \left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right) \text{ etc } \Rightarrow \text{linear.}$$

Equation can be rewritten as $\frac{dx}{dt} = -2\frac{x}{t} \Rightarrow f(x, t) = f\left(\frac{x}{t}\right) = -2\frac{x}{t}$

$$t^2 \frac{dx}{dt} + 2xt = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} = (-2x) \left(\frac{1}{t}\right) = g(x)h(t) \Rightarrow \text{Separable}$$