

# Details for Sept 15

## Rocket Equations - with some simplifications

Newton's Law: Net force = Rate of change of momentum

$$F_{\text{net}} = \frac{d}{dt}(mv) \quad (1)$$

$m$  = mass of object (not constant! rocket uses up fuel)

$v$  = velocity (upwards is taken as positive direction.)

$$(1) \Rightarrow \frac{d(mv)}{dt} = -mg - \text{drag force} + \text{thrust}$$

$$= -mg - kv + F_T$$

acts downwards

acts upwards

here we made a simplifying assumption that drag is proportional to velocity (makes ODE linear)

• Assume mass of fuel is burned off at constant rate  $\beta$ ,

then mass of rocket satisfies (2)  $\frac{dm}{dt} = -\beta$   $m(0) = m_0$

$$(2) \Rightarrow m(t) = m_0 - \beta t \quad \text{for } t \geq m_0/\beta$$

initial mass with fuel

• Assume thrust force is proportional to fuel burn rate  $\beta$  and speed of exhaust, here taken to be a constant ( $c$ )

$$F_T = c\beta \quad (3)$$

Then (1,3)  $\Rightarrow$

$$\frac{d(mv)}{dt} = -mg - kv + c\beta$$

(product rule)

$$\left( m \frac{dv}{dt} + v \frac{dm}{dt} \right) = -mg - kv + c\beta$$

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = -\beta$$

$$m \frac{dv}{dt} - \beta v + kv = -mg + c\beta$$

$$\frac{dv}{dt} + \frac{(k-\beta)v}{m} = -g + \frac{c\beta}{m}$$

$$\frac{dv}{dt} + \frac{(k-\beta)v}{(m_0 - \beta t)} = -g + \frac{c\beta}{(m_0 - \beta t)}$$

Here we have put the ODE in standard form for integrating factor method.

And, Integrating factor is then

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(t) &= \exp \left[ \int \frac{k-\beta}{m_0-\beta t} dt \right] = \exp \left[ (k-\beta) \frac{\ln(m_0-\beta t)}{-\beta} \right] \\ &= \exp \left[ \left(1-\frac{k}{\beta}\right) \ln(m_0-\beta t) \right] \\ &= \exp \left[ \ln \left( (m_0-\beta t)^{\left(1-\frac{k}{\beta}\right)} \right) \right] = \boxed{(m_0-\beta t)^{\frac{1-k}{\beta}}} \end{aligned}$$

↑  
 $\mu(t)$

The ODE can be written

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} (v(t)\mu(t)) &= \left( -g + \frac{c\beta}{m_0-\beta t} \right) \mu(t) \\ &= -g(m_0-\beta t)^{\frac{1-k}{\beta}} + c\beta(m_0-\beta t)^{-\frac{k}{\beta}} \end{aligned}$$

integrate both sides

$$v(t)\mu(t) = \int ( \quad ) dt + K$$

This is straightforward integration - Note:

$$\begin{aligned} \int (m_0-\beta t)^q dt \\ = -\frac{(m_0-\beta t)^{q+1}}{\beta(q+1)} \end{aligned}$$

$$v(t)\mu(t) = \frac{g(m_0-\beta t)^{\frac{2-k}{\beta}}}{\beta(2-\frac{k}{\beta})} - \frac{c(m_0-\beta t)^{\frac{1-k}{\beta}}}{1-\frac{k}{\beta}} + K$$

$$\Rightarrow v(t) = \frac{g(m_0-\beta t)}{\beta(2-\frac{k}{\beta})} - \frac{c}{1-\frac{k}{\beta}} + K(m_0-\beta t)^{-\left(1-\frac{k}{\beta}\right)}$$

Now divide both sides by  $\mu(t)$

Those of us still willing to do some more work can use the initial condition to find the arbitrary constant  $K$