
Q: Find a one-parameter family of solutions for the following first-order differential equation:

$$\left(x^3 + y^2\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}\right) dx - \left(xy\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}\right) dy = 0 \quad (1)$$

A: We start by solving this for $\frac{dy}{dx}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{x^3 + y^2\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}{xy\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} \\ &= \frac{x^2}{y\sqrt{x^2 + y^2}} + \frac{y}{x} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Let us rewrite y in terms of a new function v

$$y = vx \quad (3)$$

Differentiating each side of (3) using the product rule gives'

$$y' = v'x + v \quad (4)$$

Substituting (3) and (4) into (2) results in

$$v'x + v = \frac{x^2}{vx\sqrt{x^2 + v^2x^2}} + v \quad (5)$$

This simplifies nicely to

$$v'x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + v^2}} \quad (6)$$

Which is a separable differential equation

$$\sqrt{1 + v^2} dv = \frac{dx}{x} \quad (7)$$

The left side is a famous integral which can be found in tables. Integrating both sides results in

$$\frac{1}{2}v\sqrt{v^2 + 1} + \frac{1}{2}\sinh^{-1}(v) = \ln|x| + C \quad (8)$$

Or

$$\boxed{\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right)\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{y}{x}\right)^2} + \frac{1}{2}\sinh^{-1}\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) = \ln|x| + C}$$