

3. [8 points] A *Whiffle Ball* is a lightweight plastic ball with holes in at least one hemisphere. If we assume a viscous friction, the upward motion of a thrown or hit whiffle ball may be described in terms of its velocity  $v$  or vertical position  $y$  by  $v' = -\frac{c}{m}v - g$  or  $y'' = -\frac{c}{m}y' - g$ . In this problem we take  $c/m = 10$  and  $g = 10$  (that is, approximately  $9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ ). If we start with  $y(0) = 0$  and  $v(0) = 5 \text{ m/s}$ , find the velocity  $v$  and position  $y$  of the ball.

$$v = \frac{6e^{-10t} - 1}{5}$$

$$y = \frac{\frac{3}{5}(1 - e^{-10t}) - t}{5}$$

*Solution:* Solving for  $v$  using the method of integrating factors, we have  $v' + 10v = -10$ , or

$$e^{10t}(v' + 10v) = (ve^{10t})' = -10e^{10t}.$$

Thus, after integrating and applying the initial condition,

$$ve^{10t} = -e^{10t} + C = 6 - e^{10t}.$$

We may obtain the same solution by separating variables ( $dv/(v+1) = 10 dt$ , so that  $\ln|v+1| = 10t + k$ , etc.). We have  $v = 6e^{-10t} - 1$ . Integrating to find  $y$ , we have  $y = -\frac{3}{5}e^{-10t} - t + C$ , so that, for  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y = \frac{3}{5}(1 - e^{-10t}) - t$ .