

## Differential equation with economic interpretation

If  $C$  is the total cost corresponding to a quantity produced  $x$ , it is known that the marginal cost is equal to the average cost. Show that the total cost is directly proportional to the quantity produced.

## Solution

The marginal cost is defined as:  $\frac{dC}{dx}$  and the average cost:  $C_m = C/x$ . So, having  $C' = C/x$ , we need to show that  $C = kx$ .

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dC}{dx} &= \frac{C}{x} \\ \frac{1}{C}dC &= \frac{1}{x}dx \\ \ln(C) &= \ln(x) + k \\ C &= e^{\ln(x)+k} \\ C &= xK\end{aligned}$$

In this way, we corroborate that  $C$  is directly proportional to the quantity  $x$ . We cannot know exactly the proportion as we do not have the value of  $w$ . For example, if  $w = 2$ , then the proportion is 2 to 1. A doubling of the quantity quadruples the cost.