

# 4.5 Inhomogeneous Equations:

The Method of  
Undetermined Coefficients

$$y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = f(t) \quad \text{inhomogeneous linear equation}$$

Thm 5.2: Suppose  $y_p$  is a particular solution to  $y'' + py' + qy = f$  and  $y_1, y_2$  form a fundamental set of solutions to

$$y'' + py' + qy = f$$

the general solution is given by

$$y = y_p + C_1 y_1 + C_2 y_2$$

where  $C_1$  &  $C_2$  are constants

note: if finding general solution to

$$y'' + py' + qy = f$$

1. find general solution  $y_h = C_1 y_1 + C_2 y_2$

• find particular solution  $y_p$

• the general solution is  $y = y_p + y_h$

Method of Undetermined Coefficients: if  $p, q$  are constant

$$y'' + py' + qy = f(t) \quad p, q \text{ are constant}$$

$p$  &  $q$  have to be CONSTANT for this to work

key idea: If forcing term  $f(t)$  has a form that is replicated under differentiation, then look for a solution w/ same general form as forcing term.

Exponential Forcing Terms:  $f(t) = e^{at}$   
 $f'(t) = ae^{at}$

Ex: Find particular solution to  $y'' - 3y' - 4y = 3e^{2t}$

look for solution

$$4ae^{2t} - 3(2ae^{2t}) - 4ae^{2t} = 3e^{2t}$$

$$-6ae^{2t} = 3e^{2t}$$

$$a = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$a$  is constant

$$y(t) = ae^{2t}$$

$$y'(t) = 2ae^{2t}$$

$$y''(t) = 4ae^{2t}$$

SAME FORM  
AS FORCING  
TERM

$$y(t) = -\frac{1}{2}e^{2t}$$

### Trigonometric Forcing Terms:

$$f(t) = A \cos \omega t + B \sin \omega t$$

$$f'(t) = (-\omega A) \sin \omega t + (\omega B) \cos \omega t$$

1<sup>st</sup> Method: look for solution  $y(t) = a \cos \omega t + b \sin \omega t$ ,  $a, b$  const. H.O.D

Ex: Find particular solution to  $y'' + 2y' - 3y = 5 \sin 3t$

$$y(t) = a \cos 3t + b \sin 3t$$

$$(-9a \cos 3t - 9b \sin 3t) + 2(-3a \sin 3t + 3b \cos 3t) - 3(a \cos 3t + b \sin 3t) = 5 \sin 3t$$

$$y'(t) = -3a \sin 3t + 3b \cos 3t$$

$$(-9a + 6b - 3a) \cos 3t + (-9b - 6a - 3b) \sin 3t = 0 \cos 3t + 5 \sin 3t$$

$$y''(t) = -9a \cos 3t - 9b \sin 3t$$

$$-12a + 6b = 0$$

$$a = -\frac{1}{6} \quad b = -\frac{1}{3}$$

$$-6a - 12b = 5$$

$$y(t) = -\frac{1}{6} \cos 3t - \frac{1}{3} \sin 3t$$

### Complex Method:

Euler's Formula

$$y'' + 2y' - 3y = 5 \sin 3t$$

$$\text{Recall } 5e^{3it} = (5 \cos 3t) + i(5 \sin 3t)$$

$$e^{(a+ib)t} = e^{at} (\cos bt + i \sin bt)$$

$$e^{(a-ib)t} = e^{at} (\cos bt - i \sin bt)$$

$$\text{look for solution to } z'' + 2z' - 3z = 5e^{3it}$$

If  $z(t) = x(t) + iy(t)$  is a solution to  $\uparrow$ , then

$$(x+iy)'' + 2(x+iy)' - 3(x+iy) = 5 \cos 3t + i(5 \sin 3t)$$

$$(x'' + 2x' - 3x) + i(y'' + 2y' - 3y) = 5 \cos 3t + i(5 \sin 3t)$$

SAME FORM AS FORCING TERM  $\uparrow$  Equate imaginary parts

$$y'' + 2y' - 3y = 5 \sin 3t$$

So  $y(t) = \text{Im}(z(t))$  is a solution

$$(-9ae^{3it}) + 2(3aie^{3it}) - 3(ae^{3it}) = 5 \sin 3t$$

$$(-12a + 6ai)e^{3it} = 5e^{3it}$$

$$-6a(2-i) = 5$$

$$a = -\frac{(2+i)}{6}$$

$$z(t) = -\frac{1}{6}(2+i)e^{3it}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{6}(2+i)(\cos 3t + i \sin 3t)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{6}[(2 \cos 3t - \sin 3t) + i(\cos 3t + 2 \sin 3t)]$$

$$y = \text{Im}(z) \quad \text{so}$$

$$y(t) = -\frac{1}{6} \cos 3t - \frac{1}{3} \sin 3t$$

The solution you look for has to be in SAME FORM

Polynomial Forcing Terms:

$$f(t) = a_0 t^n + a_1 t^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} t + a_n$$

1ST DEGREE  
SAME FORM  
AS FORCING  
TERM

Ex: Find particular solution to  $y'' + 3y' + 2y = 3t$ ,  $a \neq b \neq 0$

$$y(t) = at + b$$

$$0 + 3a + 2(at + b) = 3t$$

$$y'(t) = a$$

$$2at + 3a + 2b = 3t + 0$$

$$y''(t) = 0$$

$$2a = 3$$

$$a = \frac{3}{2}$$

$$3a + 2b = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$b = -\frac{9}{4}$$

$$y(t) = \frac{3}{2}t - \frac{9}{4}$$

Exceptional Cases:

$$\text{Ex: } y'' - y' - 2y = 3e^{-t}$$

Note that  $y(t) = ae^{-t}$  is a solution to associated homogeneous equation  $y'' - y' - 2y = 0$  bc  $\lambda^2 - \lambda - 2 = 0$ ,  $\lambda = -1, 2$

In exceptional cases, part or all of forcing term is a solution to associated homogeneous equation.

$$\text{Try } y(t) = ate^{-t}$$

$$y'(t) = ae^{-t} - ate^{-t}$$

$$y''(t) = -2ae^{-t} + ate^{-t}$$

$$y'' - y' - 2y = 3e^{-t}$$

$$(-2ae^{-t} + ate^{-t}) - (ae^{-t} - ate^{-t}) - 2ate^{-t} = 3e^{-t}$$

$$-3ae^{-t} = 3e^{-t}, \quad a = -1$$

$$\text{Solution: } y(t) = -te^{-t}$$

Multiply the usual  $ae^{-t}$  by  $t$ .  
If it fails multiply  $ae^{-t}$  by  $t^2$ .



# Combining Forcing Terms:

Thm 5.22: Suppose that  $y_s(t)$  is a solution to linear equation:

$$y_s'' + p y_s' + q y_s = f(t)$$

and  $y_g(t)$  is a solution to

$$y_g'' + p y_g' + q y_g = g(t)$$

Then  $y(t) = \alpha y_s(t) + \beta y_g(t)$  is a solution to

$$y'' + p y' + q y = \alpha f(t) + \beta g(t)$$

Ex: Find particular solution to  $y'' - 3y' - 4y = \underbrace{3e^{2t}} + \underbrace{2\sin t} - \underbrace{8e^t \cos 2t}$

split into 3 parts

$$y_1'' - 3y_1' - 4y_1 = 3e^{2t}$$

$$y_2'' - 3y_2' - 4y_2 = 2\sin t$$

$$y_3'' - 3y_3' - 4y_3 = -8e^t \cos 2t$$

more complicated, try  $y_3(t) = ae^t \cos 2t + be^t \sin 2t$

Solutions:

$$y_1(t) = -\frac{1}{2}e^{2t}$$

$$y(t) = y_1(t) + y_2(t) + y_3(t)$$

$$y_2(t) = -\frac{5}{17}\sin t + \frac{3}{17}\cos t$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}e^{2t} - \frac{5}{17}\sin t + \frac{3}{17}\cos t + \frac{10}{13}e^t \cos 2t + \frac{2}{13}e^t \sin 2t$$

$$y_3(t) = \frac{10}{13}e^t \cos 2t + \frac{2}{13}e^t \sin 2t$$

Ex: Find particular solution to  $y'' + 4y = \underbrace{\cos 2t} - \underbrace{\sin 2t}$

split

Problem:  $\cos 2t$  &  $\sin 2t$  are solutions to associated homogeneous equation

$$y_1'' + 4y_1 = \cos 2t$$

$$y_2'' + 4y_2 = -\sin 2t$$

$$y(t) = y_1(t) + y_2(t)$$

Complex Method:  $\cos 2t = \operatorname{Re}(e^{2it})$

$z'' + 4z = e^{2it}$  ← solution to associated homogeneous equation

$$z(t) = a t e^{2it}$$

$$z(t) = -\frac{1}{4} i t e^{2it} = -\frac{1}{4} i t (\cos 2t + i \sin 2t)$$

$$z'(t) = \dots$$

$$a = -\frac{1}{4}i$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} t \sin 2t + i(-\frac{1}{4} t \cos 2t)$$

$$z''(t) = \dots$$

$$y_1(t) = \operatorname{Re}(z(t)) = \frac{1}{4} t \sin 2t$$

note:  $\sin 2t = \text{Im}(e^{2it})$  so  $\mu(t) = \text{Im}(z(t)) = -\frac{1}{4}t \cos 2t$

solves  $u'' + 4u = \sin 2t$

$$-2(u'' + 4u) = \sin 2t$$

$$(-2u)'' + 4(-2u) = -2\sin 2t$$

$$y_2(t) = -2u = \frac{1}{2}t \cos 2t$$

$$y(t) = y_1(t) + y_2(t) = \frac{1}{4}t \sin 2t + \frac{1}{2}t \cos 2t$$

More Complex Forcing Terms:

$$f(t) = e^{rt} P(t) \cos \omega t + e^{rt} Q(t) \sin \omega t$$

$P(t)$  &  $Q(t)$  are polynomials