

Homework 7 (differential equations)

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December 3, 2024

Unless otherwise specified, you may assume that any differential equations defined below are sufficiently nice that the existence and uniqueness theorems apply.

1. In this problem, we'll use homotopy continuation to give a proof of the quadratic formula. It may be helpful to use the homotopy continuation notebook to plot the problem.

Let $f(x) = x^2 + ax + b$ a quadratic function where a, b are real numbers such that $a^2 > 4b$ and $a \neq 0$. Let $g(x) = f(x) - f(0) = x^2 + ax$.

a) Find the two real roots of g .

b) Determine the standard homotopy $H(x, t)$.

c) Use the homotopy to write down the standard homotopy differential equation

$$x'(t) = -\frac{H_t}{H_x}.$$

d) Make the change of variable $y = 2x + a$ and solve the resulting differential equation. Don't forget the initial condition $y(0) = 2x(0) + a$, where $x(0)$ is one of the two roots from (a).

e) Determine the paths $x(t)$ and the values $x(1)$, which should match the usual quadratic formula.

f) Explain the paths in terms of the quadratic formula. Point out what this proof and the standard proof of the quadratic formula have in common.

Solution.

(a)

Proof. Given $g(x) = x^2 + ax$, set $g(x) = 0$.

$$\Rightarrow x^2 + ax = 0 \Rightarrow x(x + a) = 0$$

Therefore, the two real roots are $x = 0, -a$. □

(b)

Proof. The standard homotopy transition from $g(x)$ to $f(x)$ as t goes from 0 to 1. Since $f(x) = g(x) + b$, the homotopy is:

$$H(x, t) = x^2 + ax + tb$$

at $t = 0$:

$$H(x, 0) = x^2 + ax = g(x)$$

at $t = 1$:

$$H(x, 1) = x^2 + ax + b = f(x)$$

□

(c)

Proof. First, compute the partial derivatives:

$$H_x = \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} = 2x + a, \quad H_t = \frac{\partial H}{\partial t} = b.$$

The standard homotopy differential equation is:

$$x'(t) = -\frac{H_t}{H_x} = -\frac{b}{2x + a}.$$

□

(d)

Proof. With $y = 2x + a$, we have:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 2x'(t)$$

Substitute $x'(t)$ from part (c):

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = 2 \left(-\frac{b}{2x + a} \right) = -\frac{2b}{y} \Rightarrow y dy = -2b dt \Rightarrow \int y dy = \int -2b dt \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} y^2 = -2bt + C \Rightarrow y^2 = -4bt + C$$

Apply the initial condition, If we choose $x(0) = 0$, then:

$$y(0) = 2x(0) + a = a$$

Sub $t = 0$ and $y(0) = a$ into the equation:

$$a^2 = -4b \cdot 0 + C \Rightarrow a^2$$

Hence,

$$y^2 = a^2 - 4bt$$

□

(e)

Proof. From the expression $y^2 = a^2 - 4bt$, we solve for y :

$$\Rightarrow y = \pm \sqrt{a^2 - 4bt}$$

Recall $y = 2x + a$, so:

$$2x + a = \pm \sqrt{a^2 - 4bt} \Rightarrow x(t) = \frac{-a \pm \sqrt{a^2 - 4bt}}{2}$$

At $t = 1$:

$$x(1) = \frac{-a \pm \sqrt{a^2 - 4b}}{2}$$

This is exactly the quadratic formula for the roots for $f(x) = x^2 + ax + b$

□

(f)

The path $x(t)$ represent the continuous transformation of the roots from the simpler quadratic $g(x)$ to the original quadratic $f(x)$ as t increases from 0 to 1. Each path follows the equation:

$$x(t) = \frac{-a \pm \sqrt{a^2 - 4bt}}{2}$$

At $t = 0$, the roots are those of $g(x)$, and at $t = 1$, they are roots of $f(x)$ given quadratic formula,. This homotopy-based proof indicates the standard proof in that both derive the quadratic formula by manipulating the equation to isolate x . The homotopy method provides a dynamic point of view, showing how the roots evolve compare to standard “static” proof.

2. Suppose f is differentiable on (a, b) . Show that the mean value theorem implies the fundamental theorem of the derivative:

MVT: given x, y in (a, b) there is some z in (a, b) such that

$$\frac{f(x) - f(y)}{x - y} = f'(z).$$

FTD: if $f' = 0$ on (a, b) then f is constant.

Observe that the FTD is a simple example of the uniqueness theorem for differential equations.

Solution.

Proof. Let f be a differentiable function on (a, b) such that $f'(x) = 0, \forall x \in (a, b)$. For any two point $x, y \in (a, b)$, where $x \neq y$, the MVT states that there exists some z between x and y (i.e. $z \in (a, b)$). Also noting that $f'(z) = 0$ for all $z \in (a, b)$, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} f'(z) &= \frac{f(x) - f(y)}{x - y} = 0 \\ \Rightarrow f(x) - f(y) &= 0 \Rightarrow f(x) = f(y) \end{aligned}$$

In this case, since the value of f does not depend of choice of $x \in (a, b)$, f must be a constant function on (a, b) . \square

3. Define a mystery function f by the initial value problem:

$$f'' = f \quad f(0) = 0, \quad f'(0) = 1,$$

and $g = f'$. From this definition, verify the following identity:

$$f(x + y) = f(x)g(y) + f(y)g(x)$$

without explicitly determining f and g .

This is the pythagorean identity for the hyperbolic trig functions. The solution should have *no* geometry (unless you want to develop it from first principles).

Solution.

Proof. Let

$$H(x, y) = f(x + y) - [f(x)g(y) + f(y)g(x)]$$

We aim to show that $H(x, y) = 0$ for all x, y . First, let's differentiate H w.r.t. x :

$$\frac{\partial H}{\partial x} = f'(x + y) - [f'(x)g(y) + f(y)g'(x)] = g(x + y) - [g(x)g(y) + f(y)f'(x)].$$

Differentiate again with respect to x :

$$\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x^2} = g'(x + y) - [g'(x)g(y) + g(x)g'(y) + f(y)f''(x) + f'(y)f'(x)].$$

Using $g' = f$ and $f'' = g$, this simplifies to:

$$\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x^2} = f(x + y) - 2[f(x)g(y) + f(y)g(x)].$$

Substituting the definition of $H(x, y)$:

$$\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x^2} = H(x, y) - [f(x)g(y) + f(y)g(x)].$$

Thus:

$$\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x^2} - H(x, y) = -[f(x)g(y) + f(y)g(x)].$$

Given that $H(x, y) = f(x + y) - [f(x)g(y) + f(y)g(x)]$, substitute it back leads to:

$$\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x^2} - H(x, y) = -H(x, y) \Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x^2} = 0.$$

The general solution to $\frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x^2} = 0$ is:

$$H(x, y) = A(y)x + B(y),$$

where $A(y)$ and $B(y)$ are functions of y only.

Now, we need to evaluate $H(x, y)$ and its first derivative at $x = 0$:

1. At $x = 0$:

$$H(0, y) = f(y) - [f(0)g(y) + f(y)g(0)] = f(y) - [0 \cdot g(y) + f(y) \cdot 1] = f(y) - f(y) = 0.$$

Thus:

$$B(y) = 0.$$

2. First Derivative at $x = 0$:

$$\left. \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} \right|_{x=0} = g(y) - [g(0)g(y) + f(y)f(0)] = g(y) - [1 \cdot g(y) + f(y) \cdot 0] = g(y) - g(y) = 0.$$

From the general solution:

$$\left. \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} \right|_{x=0} = A(y).$$

Thus:

$$A(y) = 0.$$

With $A(y) = 0$ and $B(y) = 0$, the general solution simplifies to:

$$H(x, y) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x, y.$$

Therefore:

$$f(x + y) = f(x)g(y) + f(y)g(x).$$

□

4. Derivatives aren't very different for complex numbers. In particular, it's still true that

$$\frac{d}{dx}e^{rx} = re^{rx}$$

when r is a complex number. The usual differential equation $f' = f, f(0) = 1$ still defines e^x and the existence and uniqueness theorems apply in the complex setting.

Other exponent identities like $(e^x)^r = e^{rx}$ and $e^{x+a} = e^x e^a$ also work (can be established with the same proofs, using existence and uniqueness, if you want).

a) Verify the following identities

$$\sin(x) = \frac{e^{ix} - e^{-ix}}{2i},$$

$$\cos(x) = \frac{e^{ix} + e^{-ix}}{2}.$$

b) Combine those identities into

$$e^{ix} = \cos(x) + i \sin(x).$$

c) Use that to establish De Moivre's formula,

$$(\cos(x) + i \sin(x))^n = \cos(nx) + i \sin(nx).$$

d) Take $n = 2$ in De Moivre's formula and observe that it furnishes a quick simultaneous proof of the double-angle identities for \sin and \cos (and an easy way to remember them). Remark: in spite of what you may have heard in other courses, calculators don't use power series to evaluate trig functions, but rather (more or less) from a version of this identity.

Solution.

5. Consider the differential equation

$$x' = 6x^2 - 5 \arctan(x), \quad x(0) = 1.$$

a) Write down the first three terms of its Taylor series around $t = 0$.

b) Estimate $x(1)$.

c) Estimate $x(0.5)$.

d) Use your estimate for $x(0.5)$ to estimate the first three terms of a Taylor series for $x(t)$ centered at $t = 0.5$.

e) Estimate $x(1)$ again, but using this second series. Compare to (b). What do you think is happening?

Solution.

6. Consider the system of differential equations:

$$X' = -5X + 9Y$$

$$Y' = -4X + 7Y$$

with initial condition $X(0) = 1$ and $Y(0) = 1$.

Here's a Jordan decomposition

$$\begin{bmatrix} -5 & 9 \\ -4 & 7 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

where

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

a) Solve this differential equation exactly.

b) Use (a) to determine $X(2)$ and $Y(2)$.

c) Estimate $X(2)$ and $Y(2)$ using Euler's method two ways: one step and two steps.

Solution.

7. [Bonus] Let A and B be $n \times n$ matrices.

a) Prove that

$$e^{A+B} = e^A e^B$$

when $AB = BA$.

b) Give an example where

$$e^{A+B} \neq e^A e^B.$$

Solution.