

2nd Order Equations

2nd Order linear O.D.E take the form

$$y'' + py' + qy = \begin{cases} 0 & \leftarrow \text{Homogeneous} \\ g(t) & \leftarrow \text{Nonhomogeneous} \end{cases} \quad (\text{this is just math lingo})$$

How to solve? It depends on many things, so will go case by case.

1) Homogeneous w/ Constant Coefficients

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0 \text{ where } a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}$$

Consider the solution $y = \exp(\lambda t)$, if we plug this in, we obtain

$$\exp(\lambda t) (a\lambda^2 + b\lambda + c) = 0$$

The exponential function is never zero, so this will work if

$$a\lambda^2 + b\lambda + c = 0 \quad (\text{this is called the characteristic equation})$$

Remember the roots of a quadratic are given by

$$\lambda_{\pm} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

This produces 3 types of solutions depending on $b^2 - 4ac = \Delta$ (discriminant)

① If $\Delta > 0 \Rightarrow$ the roots are real, so $y(t) = A \exp(\lambda_+ t) + B \exp(\lambda_- t)$, where $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$

② If $\Delta < 0 \Rightarrow$ the roots are complex, thus by Euler's formula:

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= Ae^{\lambda_+ t} + Be^{\lambda_- t} = \exp\left(\frac{-b}{2a}t\right) \left(A \exp\left(\frac{i\sqrt{4ac-b^2}}{2a}t\right) + B \exp\left(-\frac{i\sqrt{4ac-b^2}}{2a}t\right) \right) \\ &= \exp\left(\frac{-b}{2a}t\right) \left(\tilde{A} \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{4ac-b^2}}{2a}t\right) + \tilde{B} \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{4ac-b^2}}{2a}t\right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

We'll deal with the 3rd case later on.

Ex (3.1-#15) Solve: $y'' + 8y' + 9y = 0$, $y(1) = 1$, $y'(1) = 0$

By the above formula, $\Delta > 0$, so $\lambda_{\pm} = -4 \pm \sqrt{100} = -4 \pm 5$

$$\Rightarrow y(t) = Ae^{-4t} + Be^{-9t}$$

Now we find A & B w/ the initial data.

$$y(1) = 1 \Rightarrow 1 = Ae^{-4} + Be^{-9}, \quad y'(1) = 0 \Rightarrow 0 = -4Ae^{-4} - 9Be^{-9} \Rightarrow 1 = 10Be^{-9} \Rightarrow B = \frac{e^9}{10}$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 = Ae + \frac{1}{10} \Rightarrow \frac{9}{10}e = A \quad \therefore \boxed{y(t) = \frac{1}{10}(9e^{t+1} + e^{9-t})}$$

Basically the formula does all the work!

$$\text{Ex (3.3-#22)} \text{ Solve: } y'' + 2y' + 2y = 0, y\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = 2, y'\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = -2$$

By the above formula, $\Delta < 0$, so

$$y(t) = \exp(-t) \left(\tilde{A} \sin(t) + \tilde{B} \cos(t) \right)$$

$$y\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = 2 \Rightarrow \exp\left(-\frac{\pi}{4}\right) \left(\frac{\tilde{A} + \tilde{B}}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = 2, \quad y'\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = -2 \Rightarrow -\exp\left(-\frac{\pi}{4}\right) \left(\frac{\tilde{A} + \tilde{B}}{\sqrt{2}} \right) + \exp\left(-\frac{\pi}{4}\right) \left(\frac{\tilde{A} - \tilde{B}}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = -2$$

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{B} = \sqrt{2} \exp\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{A} = \sqrt{2} \exp\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right)$$

$$\therefore y(t) = \sqrt{2} \exp\left(\frac{\pi}{4}-t\right) \left(\sin(t) + \cos(t) \right)$$

Ex (3.3-#31) (Euler Equations) Let's try to solve:

$$t^2 y'' + \alpha t y' + \beta y = 0 \text{ where } \alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}, t > 0 \text{ (this is called an Euler Eq.)}$$

a) change variables by $t \rightarrow \ln(t) = x$, we need to calculate y' , y'' in terms of x by chain rule

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{1}{t}, \quad \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \frac{1}{t} \right) = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \frac{1}{t^2} - \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{1}{t^2}$$

If we plug this in we obtain

$$t^2 \left(\frac{1}{t^2} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \frac{1}{t} \right) + \alpha t \left(\frac{1}{t} \frac{dy}{dx} \right) + \beta y = 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + (\alpha - 1) \frac{dy}{dx} + \beta y = 0$$

This has constant coefficients so $y(x) = y(\ln(t)) \Rightarrow y(t) = A + \tilde{\lambda}_+ t + \tilde{\lambda}_- t^{-1}$ where $\tilde{\lambda}_{\pm} = \frac{1-\alpha \pm \sqrt{(\alpha-1)^2 - 4\beta}}{2}$

$$\text{Ex (3.3-#40) Solve: } t^2 y'' + 7t y' + 10y = 0, t > 0$$

By the above we try $y = t^\lambda$, this implies $t^\lambda (\lambda(\lambda-1) + 7\lambda + 10) = 0$, but $t^\lambda \neq 0$, so...

$$\lambda^2 + 6\lambda + 10 = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = -3 \pm \sqrt{9-10} = -3 \pm i \Rightarrow y(t) = \frac{1}{t^3} (A t^i + B t^{-i}) = \frac{1}{t^3} (\tilde{A} \sin(\ln(t)) + \tilde{B} \cos(\ln(t)))$$

Now for theory: Theorem: If we have $y'' + p y' + q y = g(t)$ w/ $y(t_0) = y_0$, $y'(t_0) = y'_0$ and p, q, g are continuous in some interval I that contains t_0 . Then there's one solution to the equation above in I .

No proof, but it basically means these equations have answers (may not be pretty or even analytic)

$$\text{Ex (3.2-#9) Where is the largest interval where the solution exists? } t(t-4)y'' + 3t y' + 4y = 2, y(3) = 0, y'(3) = -1$$

write in s.f. $\Rightarrow y'' + \frac{3}{t-4} y' + \frac{4}{t(t-4)} y = \frac{2}{t(t-4)}$, we need $3 \notin I$, and there are blow ups at $t=0$ & $t=4$, so

$$I = (0, 4)$$

Wronskian: A tool for linear independence. It is defined as $W(y_1, y_2) = \det \begin{pmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y'_1 & y'_2 \end{pmatrix} = y_1 y'_2 - y'_1 y_2$

Notice it is a function of t if y is a function of t .

Theorem: y_1 & y_2 are linearly independent $\Leftrightarrow W(y_1, y_2)(t) \neq 0 \quad \forall t$ defined.

Thus, if y_1 & y_2 solve a 2nd order linear equation & $W(y_1, y_2)(t) \neq 0 \Rightarrow y = A y_1 + B y_2$ is the general solution.

Theorem: (Abel's) If y_1, y_2 solve $y'' + p y' + q y = 0$ w/ p & q , continuous on "I" then

$$W(y_1, y_2)(t) = A \exp \left[- \int p(t) dt \right]$$

Proof: $W = y_1 y'_2 - y'_1 y_2 \Rightarrow W' = y_1 y''_2 - y''_1 y_2$, if we plug in the O.D.E, we see

$$W' + pW = 0 \Rightarrow W = A \exp \left[- \int p(t) dt \right]$$

Ex (3.2-#28) Consider $y'' - y' - 2y = 0$

a) By the characteristic Eq, we know $y_1 = e^t$ & $y_2 = e^{2t}$.

Notice that $W(y_1, y_2) = y_1 y'_2 - y'_1 y_2 = 2e^t + e^{2t} = 3e^t \neq 0 \Rightarrow y_1$ & y_2 are fundamental!

b) If $y_3 = -2e^{2t}$, $y_4 = y_1 + 2y_2$, $y_5 = 2y_1 - 2y_3$

Are these solutions to the O.D.E? Yes, by linearity (superposition)

c) Are the following sets fundamental?

$[y_1, y_3]?$ Yes, $W(y_1, y_3) \neq 0$, $[y_2, y_3]?$ No, since $W(y_2, y_3) = 0$

$[y_1, y_4]?$ Yes, $W(y_1, y_4) \neq 0$ $[y_4, y_5]?$ No, since:

$$y_5 = 2y_1 + 4y_2, y_4 = y_1 + 2y_2 \Rightarrow y_5 = 2y_4 \Rightarrow W(y_4, y_5) = 0$$

Ex (3.2-#41) (Exact 2nd Order)

$$P(x)y'' + Q(x)y' + R(x)y = 0 \text{ exact} \Leftrightarrow [P(x)y']' + [f(x)y]' = 0$$

Can integrate to first order: $P(x)y' + f(x)y = \text{const}$

$$\text{Notice that } [Py']' + [fy]' = P'y' + P'y'' + f'y + f'y' = P(x)y'' + (P' + f)y' = 0$$

$\Rightarrow f' = R \Rightarrow f = \int R(x) dx$, what about Q ? $Q = P' + \int R(x)$ This implies we need

$$P'' - Q' + R = 0 \text{ for exactness.}$$

Quiz Question: What is $W(y_1, y_2)$ for y_1, y_2 s.t. they solve $(1+t)y'' - y' + y = 0$

