

## Linear ODEs of Second and Higher order

- How can we solve 2<sup>nd</sup> order linear ODEs.
- Can we extend such techniques to Higher order linear ODEs.
- Can we solve 2<sup>nd</sup> and higher order non-linear ODEs.

### Definition of Linear ODEs

$$a(x)y' + b(x)y = c(x) \rightarrow \text{1st order}$$

$a(x) \neq 0$

Notation:

$$y' = \frac{dy}{dx}; \quad y'' = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$$

$$y^{(n)} = \frac{d^n y}{dx^n}$$

To solve it we write

$$y' + p(x)y = q(x)$$

IF  $u(x) = e^{\int p(x)dx}$

$$y(x)u(x) = \int q(x)u(x)dx + C$$

$$a_0(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_2(x)y = F(x) \text{ where } a_0(x) \neq 0 \rightarrow \text{2nd order linear ODE}$$

standard form:

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = F(x)$$

Imp.

$$n^{\text{th}} \text{ order ODEs} \div f(x, y, y', y'', y^{(3)}, \dots, y^{(n)}) = 0$$

### n<sup>th</sup> order linear ODE

$$a_0(x)y^{(n)} + a_1(x)y^{(n-1)} + a_2(x)y^{(n-2)} + \dots + a_{n-1}(x)y' + a_n(x)y = F(x)$$

where  
 $a_0(x) \neq 0$  on I

n<sup>th</sup> order linear ODE is called homogeneous

If RHS function  $F(x) \equiv 0$  on I.

Sol.  $y$  is called response of given  $F(x)$

↳ input term / forcing term / control / driving term

## Some other ways for writing Linear ODEs

Consider  $n^{\text{th}}$  order linear ODE

$$a_0 y^{(n)} + a_1 y^{(n-1)} + a_2 y^{(n-2)} + \dots + a_{n-1} y' + a_n y = F(x)$$

where  $a_i$ 's are functions of  $x$ ;

$x \in I = [a, b]$  and  $i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n$

→ at some places, we write

$$a_0 D^n y + a_1 D^{n-1} y + a_2 D^{n-2} y + \dots + a_{n-1} D y + a_n y = F(x)$$

i.e.  $D^n y = \frac{d^n y}{dx^n} = y^{(n)}$

OR, we write

$$(a_0 D^n + a_1 D^{n-1} + a_2 D^{n-2} + \dots + a_{n-1} D + a_n) y = F(x)$$

OR in short we write

$$\boxed{L y = F}$$

where

$$L = a_0 D^n + a_1 D^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} D + a_n$$

is an operator that  
involves derivatives.

Remember our favorite equation of linear Algebra  
 $Ax = b$ ;

In  $Ax = b$ ; for a given  $b$ , we find  $x$ .

In ODE also; for a given  $F$ , we find  $y$   
s.t.  $L y = F$

e.g.  
 $L = x^2 D^2 + 2 D + x^3$   
and  $y = x^4$

then

$$\begin{aligned}
L y &= x \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot x^2 + 2 \cdot 4 x^3 + x^7 \\
&= 12 x^3 + 8 x^3 + x^7
\end{aligned}$$

The only difference is,  
in  $Ax = b$ ;  $x$  and  $b$  are vectors in  
finite dimensional spaces

and in  $Ly = F$ ;  $y$  and  $F$  are functions in  
some function space.

Otherwise both equations are same as  
far as linearity is concerned.

$Ax = b$	$Ly = F$
<p>① <math>A</math> is a linear operator i.e.  <math>A(\alpha_1 x_1 + \alpha_2 x_2)</math>  <math>= \alpha_1 A x_1 + \alpha_2 A x_2</math>  <math>\forall \alpha_1, \alpha_2</math> scalars <math>\in \mathbb{R}</math>  <math>x_1, x_2</math> vectors.</p>	<p>① <math>L</math> is a linear operator  <math>L(\alpha_1 y_1 + \alpha_2 y_2)</math>  <math>= \alpha_1 L y_1 + \alpha_2 L y_2</math>  <math>\forall \alpha_1, \alpha_2</math> scalars  <math>y_1, y_2</math> vectors (the functions).</p>
<p>e.g. <math>L = D+2</math> then  <math>(D+2)(\alpha_1 y_1 + \alpha_2 y_2) = D(\alpha_1 y_1 + \alpha_2 y_2) + 2(\alpha_1 y_1 + \alpha_2 y_2)</math>  <math>= \alpha_1(D+2)y_1 + \alpha_2(D+2)y_2 = \alpha_1 L y_1 + \alpha_2 L y_2</math></p>	<p>due to the fact that differentiation is a linear operator</p>
<p>② General solution of  <math>Ax = b</math>  is <math>x = x_n + x_p</math></p> <p>where <math>Ax_n = 0</math>  and <math>x_p</math> is any  (particular) solution  of <math>Ax = b</math>  i.e. <math>Ax_p = b</math></p>	<p>② General solution of  <math>Ly = F</math> is  <math>y = y_c + y_p</math>  where <math>L y_c = 0</math>  and <math>L y_p = F</math></p> <p><math>y_c</math> → Complement-ary function  <math>y_p</math> → particular solution.</p> <p><math>y_c</math> is solution of corresponding homogeneous equation  and <math>y_p</math> is a particular solution of <math>Ly = F</math>.</p>

## Superposition principle of Linear ODEs.

Consider  $n^{\text{th}}$  order linear equation

$$Ly = F \quad \text{where } L = a_0 D^n + a_1 D^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} D + a_n$$

If  $y_1$  is a solution of  $Ly = f_1$ ,

and  $y_2$  is a solution of  $Ly = f_2$

then  $c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$  solves  $Ly = c_1 f_1 + c_2 f_2$   
where  $c_1, c_2$  are scalars

$\xrightarrow{Pf}$

Given

$$Ly_1 = f_1 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$Ly_2 = f_2 \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Now

$$\begin{aligned} L(c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2) &= c_1 Ly_1 + c_2 Ly_2 \\ &= c_1 f_1 + c_2 f_2 \end{aligned}$$

OR we can write

If  $y_1$  is a solution of  $Ly = F$  for input  $f_1$ ,

and  $y_2$  is a solution of  $Ly = F$  for input  $f_2$

then  $c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$  is response of  $Ly = F$  for input  $c_1 f_1 + c_2 f_2$   
where  $c_1, c_2$  are constants

Engineers like the keyword superposition principle

Mathematicians love to say that  $L$  is a linear operator

$\hookrightarrow$  Both are  
same things  
as clear from proof.

Now, let us continue to read the table of similarities b/t  $Ax=b$  and  $Ly=f$

$Ax=b; A \in mxn; \text{rank}(A)=\sigma$	$Ly=F; L = q_0 D^n + q_1 D^{n-1} + \dots + q_{n-1} D + q_n I$
① $A$ is a linear operator	① $L$ is a linear operator.
② General sol. of $Ax=b$ $x = x_n + x_p$ Here, $AX_n = 0$ i.e. $x_n = c_1 x_1 + c_2 x_2 + \dots + c_p x_p$ where $p+\sigma=n$ and $\{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p\}$ is a basis of null space of $A$ .	② General sol. of $Ly=F$ is $y = y_c + y_p$ $Ly_c = 0$ $y_c \rightarrow$ complementary function $Ly_p = F$ $y_p \rightarrow$ particular solution and $y_c = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2 + \dots + c_n y_n$ where $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$ are $n$ LI solutions of homogeneous equation $Ly = 0$ and $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n$ are arbitrary real constants.

Note:  $Ly=0$  is an ODE of order  $n$   
to solve it, somehow we have to do  $n$  integrations, so general solution of  $Ly=0$  (OR  $Ly=F$ ) is an  $n$ -parameter family. All  $n$ -parameters are part of  $y_c$ .  $y_p$  does not contain any parameters. so why name is particular sol. for  $y_p$

See  $1^{\text{st}}$  order linear ODE  
 $y' = p y + q(x)$ ; In case  $p$  is constant, remember solution formula  $y(t) = e^{\int p(t-s) ds} y_0 + \int e^{\int p(t-s) ds} q(s) ds$  where  $y(t_0) = y_0$

check  $y_c$  solve hom.-equation  
 $y' = p y$   $y_c$  is  $y_p + y_p$  is a particular solution.

Some Interesting results for

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \quad (*)$$

Thi Let  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  be two solutions of  $(*)$ . Then  
 $y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$ ;  $c_1, c_2$  are arbitrary constants,  
is also a solution of  $(*)$ .

Proof. Given :  $y_1'' + p(x)y_1' + q(x)y_1 = 0 \quad (1)$   
 $y_2'' + p(x)y_2' + q(x)y_2 = 0 \quad (2)$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Now } & (c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2)'' + p(x)(c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2)' + q(x)(c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2) \\ &= c_1(y_1'' + p(x)y_1' + q(x)y_1) + c_2(y_2'' + p(x)y_2' + q(x)y_2) \\ &= c_1 \cdot 0 + c_2 \cdot 0 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$  is a solution of  $(*)$ .

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Similar result you can easily prove for  $n^{\text{th}}$  order linear homogeneous ODEs

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Before next result, we recall one keyword from Linear algebra: Wronskian

If  $y_1(x)$  and  $y_2(x)$  are two function then their Wronskian is denoted by  $W(y_1, y_2)$  and is defined as

$$W(y_1, y_2) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1(x) & y_2(x) \\ y_1'(x) & y_2'(x) \end{vmatrix}$$
$$= y_1 y_2' - y_2 y_1'$$

See  
 $W(y_1, y_2)$  is a  
function of  $x$

Th. 2 Let  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  be two solutions of  
 $y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \quad (*)$   
on  $[a, b]$ . Then  $w(y_1, y_2)$  is either  
identically zero on  $[a, b]$  or never  
zero on  $[a, b]$ . Further:

$y_1$  and  $y_2$  are LD  
(linearly dependent) on  $[a, b]$   $\Leftrightarrow w(y_1, y_2) \equiv 0$  on  $[a, b]$

Pf  $w = w(y_1, y_2) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y'_1 & y'_2 \end{vmatrix} = y_1 y'_2 - y'_1 y_2 \quad (1)$   
 $\Rightarrow \frac{dw}{dx} = y_1 y''_2 + y'_1 y'_2 - y''_1 y_2 - y'_1 y''_2 = y_1 y''_2 - y''_1 y_2 \quad (2)$

Since  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are solution of  $(*)$ , we obtain

$$y''_1 + p y'_1 + q y_1 = 0 \quad (3)$$

$$\text{and } y''_2 + p y'_2 + q y_2 = 0 \quad (4)$$

$$y_2 \times (2) - y_1 \times (3) \Rightarrow (y_2 y''_1 - y_1 y''_2) + p(y_2 y'_1 - y_1 y'_2) = 0 \quad (4)$$

Using values of  $w$  and  $\frac{dw}{dx}$  from (1) and (2), respectively, in equation (4), we obtain

$$\frac{dw}{dx} + p w = 0$$

$c$  is arbitrary constant

$$w = c e^{-\int p(x) dx}$$

Thus

$$w = 0 \text{ if } c = 0$$

and  $w$  is never zero if  $c \neq 0$

$\because e^{-\int p(x) dx}$  is never zero for any  $x \in [a, b]$

Using this formula, we can find Wronskian of two solutions to any ODE upto multiplication of a constant.  
 $2x^4 y'' - 2x^3 y' - x^8 y = 0$ ;  $w(y_1, y_2) = c e^{-\int -\frac{2}{x^2} dx} = C x^2$

Now we prove second part of theorem

( $\Rightarrow$ ) Let  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  be LD.

Assume  $y_1 = \alpha y_2$  ( $\alpha$  is a scalar)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } w(y_1, y_2) &= y_1 y_2' - y_2 y_1' \\ &= \alpha y_2 y_2' - \alpha y_2 y_2' = 0 \quad \forall \alpha \in (a, b) \end{aligned}$$

i.e.  $w \equiv 0$  on  $(a, b)$

( $\Leftarrow$ ) Let  $w(y_1, y_2) \equiv 0$

$$\Rightarrow y_1 y_2' - y_2 y_1' = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{y_1 y_2' - y_2 y_1'}{(y_1)^2} = 0 \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{Assume } y_1 \text{ is never zero} \\ \text{on } (a, b) \end{array} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \left( \frac{y_2}{y_1} \right)' = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{y_2}{y_1} = \alpha \quad (\alpha \text{ is constant})$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{y_2 = \alpha y_1}$$

Imp. Remark

Let  $f_1(x)$  and  $f_2(x)$  be two differentiable functions on  $I$ .

Then  $f_1(x)$  and  $f_2(x)$  are LD on  $I \Rightarrow w(f_1, f_2) \equiv 0$  on  $I$ .

i.e.  $w(f_1, f_2) \neq 0$  on  $I \Rightarrow f_1(x)$  and  $f_2(x)$  are LI.

$$f_1(x) = 9 \cos 2x$$

$$f_2(x) = 2 \cos^2 x - 2 \sin^2 x$$

$$w(f_1, f_2) = 0 \quad (\text{check!})$$

so  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are LD

$$f_1(x) = x^2 \quad \text{on } [-1, 1] = I$$

$$f_2(x) = x^4$$

$$w(f_1, f_2) = \begin{vmatrix} x^2 & x^4 \\ 2x & 4x^3 \end{vmatrix} = 3x^5 \neq 0 \text{ on } I$$

so  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are LI on  $I$

Can  $x^2$  and  $x^4$  be two solutions to  $\ddot{x} + x = 0$  on  $I = [-1, 1]$ ? NO why??

### Th③ (w/p) Existence and uniqueness thm of linear ODEs

Consider the 2<sup>nd</sup> order linear ODE

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = r(x) \quad \#$$

If  $p$ ,  $q$  and  $r$  are continuous functions on  $[a, b]$  and  $x_0 \in [a, b]$ . Then  $\#$  has a unique solution on  $I$  s.t.

$$y(x_0) = C_0$$

$$y'(x_0) = C_1$$

If  $p$ ,  $q$  and  $r$  are continuous on  $I$ . If  $x_0 \in I$ . Then the following IVP has a unique solution on  $I$ .

$$\begin{cases} y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = r(x) \\ y(x_0) = C_0 \\ y'(x_0) = C_1 \end{cases}$$

Similar result holds for  $n^{\text{th}}$  order linear ODE. Let  $f_i(x)$  and  $a_i(x)$ 's be continuous functions on  $[a, b]$  ( $i=0, 1, 2, \dots, n$ ).

Let  $x_0 \in [a, b]$ . Then the following IVP has a

unique solution on  $I$

$$\begin{cases} a_0 y^{(n)} + a_1 y^{(n-1)} + a_2 y^{(n-2)} + \dots + a_{n-1} y' + a_n y = \\ f(x) \end{cases}$$

$$y(x_0) = C_0$$

$$y'(x_0) = C_1$$

$$y''(x_0) = C_2$$

$$y^{(n-1)}(x_0) = C_{n-1}$$

General solution of  $n^{\text{th}}$  order ODE has  $n$ -parameters. To find particular solution for general sol., we need  $n$ -conditions to find value of  $n$  parameters.

1st order case: Validate them from Picards

$$y' + p(x)y = q(x) \text{ so } f(x, y) = -p(x)y + q(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow y' = -p(x)y + q(x) \quad \text{If } p \text{ and } q \text{ are continuous on } I \text{ then } f \text{ and } \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$$

$$\text{Initial condition } y(x_0) = y_0$$

are bdd in nbhd of  $(x_0, y_0)$

Th④

Let  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  be two LI solutions of

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \quad (*)$$

on I. Then

- (a)  $y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$  is a solution of  $(*)$ , where  $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- (b) If  $y$  is a solution of  $(*)$  on I then  $\exists c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$ .

Hence, general solution of  $(*)$  is

$$y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$$

Pf: (part (a)) already proved in Th①

Just verify  $c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$ , where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are arbitrary constants, satisfies  $(*)$ . Part (a) is true for any two solutions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  of  $(*)$ .

Th① is true for any two solutions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ ; need not be LI.

(part (b)) Let  $y$  be a solution of  $(*)$  such that

$$y(x_0) = \alpha$$

$$\text{and } y'(x_0) = \beta$$

for some  $x_0 \in I$ .

First we show that  $\exists c_1$  and  $c_2$  s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 y_1(x_0) + c_2 y_2(x_0) &= \alpha \\ c_1 y'_1(x_0) + c_2 y'_2(x_0) &= \beta \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

i.e. system  $A \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{bmatrix}$  has unique solution, where  $A = \begin{bmatrix} y_1(x_0) & y_2(x_0) \\ y'_1(x_0) & y'_2(x_0) \end{bmatrix}$

Since  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are LI so determinant of  $A$  is non-zero and hence (1) has unique solution.

Thus, we have  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  such that solution  $c_1y_1 + c_2y_2$  satisfies conditions ①.

Therefore by existence and uniqueness thm

$$y = c_1y_1 + c_2y_2$$

Algorithm to find general solution to homogeneous ODE

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Step 1 Find two LI solutions  $y_1(x)$  and  $y_2(x)$  of (1) using homogeneous equation

Step 2 general solution to (1)

$$y(x) = c_1y_1(x) + c_2y_2(x) \quad \text{--- (*)}$$

where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are two arbitrary constants

Thus general solution to (1) is a two parameter family of curves

To find particular solution to IVP

$$\begin{aligned} & y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \\ & y(x_0) = \alpha \quad \xrightarrow{\text{Initial}} \\ & y'(x_0) = \beta \quad \xrightarrow{\text{conditions}} \end{aligned}$$

we put initial values in (\*) and find values of  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ .

Now, question is: how to find LI solutions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$   
of ODE  $\textcircled{P}$

To set the method, first we prove following  
two theorems.

Theorem A  $\div$

Let  $w(x) = u(x) + iv(x)$  be a complex solution  
of  $y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$ , —  $\textcircled{*}$

then  $u(x)$  and  $v(x)$  are two real solutions  
of  $\textcircled{*}$ .

Pf. Given:  $w = u+iv$  is a solution of  $\textcircled{*}$ .

Therefore  $(u+iv)'' + p(u+iv)' + q(u+iv) = 0$   
 $\Rightarrow (u'' + pu' + qu) + i(v'' + pv' + qv) = 0$

Thus, we obtain

$$u'' + pu' + qu = 0$$

$$\text{and } v'' + pv' + qv = 0$$

Hence  $u$  and  $v$  are two real solutions

of  $\textcircled{*}$ .

## Theorem B

If  $y_1(x)$  is a solution of

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0, \quad \text{--- } \textcircled{x}$$

then there exists a function  $u(x)$  such that  $y_2(x) = y_1(x) \cdot u(x)$  is also a solution of  $\textcircled{x}$ .

Pf. Given:  $y_1$  is a solution of  $\textcircled{x}$ , i.e.

$$y_1'' + p y_1' + q y_1 = 0 \quad \text{--- } \textcircled{1}$$

Now, If  $y_2 = y_1 \cdot u$  is a solution of  $\textcircled{x}$ , then

$$(y_1 u)'' + p(y_1 u)' + q(y_1 u) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (y_1'' u + 2y_1' u' + p y_1 u'') + p(y_1' u + y_1 u') + q y_1 u = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{(y_1'' + p y_1' + q y_1)u}_{\parallel 0 \text{ by } \textcircled{1}} + y_1 u'' + (2y_1' u' + p y_1 u') = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow y_1 u'' + (2y_1' + p y_1)u' = 0 \quad \text{--- } \textcircled{2}$$

$\Rightarrow y_1 u'' + (2y_1' + p y_1)u' = 0$  s.t.

Thus, If we are able to find a  $u$  s.t.  $\textcircled{2}$  holds then  $y_2 = y_1 u$  is also a solution of  $\textcircled{x}$ .

Take  $u' = F \quad \text{--- } \textcircled{3}$

Then  $\textcircled{2}$  reduces to

$$y_1 F' + (2y_1' + p y_1)F = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{F'}{F} = -\frac{2y_1'}{y_1} - p$$

By integration, we obtain

$$\ln F = -2 \ln y_1 - \int p(\eta) d\eta$$

$$\Rightarrow F \cdot y_1^2 = e^{-\int p(\eta) d\eta}$$

$$\Rightarrow F = \frac{1}{y_1^2} e^{-\int p(\eta) d\eta}$$

By using ③, we obtain

$$u'(\eta) = \frac{1}{y_1^2} e^{-\int p(\eta) d\eta}$$

$$\Rightarrow u(\eta) = \boxed{\int \frac{1}{y_1^2} e^{-\int p(\eta) d\eta} d\eta}$$

□.

### Remark

If we know that  $y_1(\eta)$  is a solution of  
 $y'' + p(\eta)y' + q(\eta)y = 0$  —  $\textcircled{*}$

Then  $y_2(\eta) = y_1(\eta)u(\eta)$  is also a solution of  $\textcircled{*}$

$$\text{where } u(\eta) = \int \frac{1}{y_1^2} e^{-\int p(\eta) d\eta} d\eta$$

↳ This is called  
method of order reduction   
*why?*

Remember If  $y_1$  is a solution of  $\textcircled{*}$ , then  $\alpha y_1$  ( $\alpha$  is constant) is always a solution of  $\textcircled{*}$ . But in Thm. B,  $u$  is a function of  $\eta$ . In Thm(B),  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are LI.