

## Standard Form of Second Order Linear Differential Equation

$$P(x) \ddot{y} + Q(x) \dot{y} + R(x)y = G(x)$$

Special Case:  $G(x) = 0$  (Homogeneous)

$$P(x) \ddot{y} + Q(x) \dot{y} + R(x)y = 0$$

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### Theorem:

If  $y_1(x)$  and  $y_2(x)$  are both solutions of  
 $P(x) \ddot{y} + Q(x) \dot{y} + R(x)y = 0$  ← Homogeneous  
and  $C_1, C_2$  are constants or any constants,  
then

$$y(x) = C_1 y_1(x) + C_2 y_2(x)$$

is also a solution

Two solutions are linearly independent if they are not constant multiples of each other.

Theorem:

If  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are linear independent solutions of  
$$P(x)y'' + Q(x)y' + R(x)y = 0$$
Homogeneous  
then any solution,  $y(x)$  can be expressed as  
$$y = C_1 y_1 + C_2 y_2$$

for some constants  $C_1$  &  $C_2$

## Constant Coefficients

$$a\ddot{y} + b\dot{y} + cy = 0$$

( $a, b, c$  are constants, and equation is homogeneous)

Is there some  $y(x)$ , for which

$$a\ddot{y} + b\dot{y} + cy = 0?$$

guess:  $y(x) = e^{rx}$ , for some  $r$ .

$$\dot{y} = re^{rx}$$

$$\ddot{y} = r^2 e^{rx}$$

$$a\ddot{y} + b\dot{y} + cy = (ar^2 + br + c)e^{rx}$$

Can we find  $r$  such that:

$$(ar^2 + br + c)e^{rx} = 0?$$

We know that  $e^{rx}$  cannot be zero.  
So it must come from the characteristic equation!

$$(ar^2 + br + c)$$

Knowing that, let's set it equal to zero,  
and solve for  $r$ !

Example:

$$\ddot{y} + \dot{y} - 6y = 0$$

make guess

$$(r^2 + r - 6)e^{rx} = 0$$

$$(r+3)(r-2) = 0$$

$$\text{So } r = -3, r = 2$$

$$\text{So let } y_1 = e^{-3x}$$

$$y_2 = e^{2x}$$

(We can actually check our solution if desired!

$$y_1 = -3e^{-3x}, \quad \dot{y}_1 = 9e^{-3x}$$

(plug in)

$$9e^{-3x} - 3e^{-3x} - 6e^{-3x} = 0$$

$$\text{So } e^{-3x}$$

is

a

solution!

(Homogeneous Answer!)

Note:  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are L.I.  $\left( \frac{y_2}{y_1} = \frac{e^{2x}}{e^{-3x}} = e^{5x} \right)$

So,

$$y(x) = c_1 e^{-3x} + c_2 e^{2x}$$

NOT  
constant

going From DE problem  $\xrightarrow{\text{to}}$  Algebra problem

w/tn guesses!

Getting r:

Best Case Scenario.

The discriminant is  $> 0$  ( $b^2 - 4ac$ )

Roots are real.

Next Case Scenario

The discriminant is  $0$  ( $b^2 - 4ac = 0$ )  
or you only have one root!

$$y_1 = e^{rx}$$

Solution One

$$y_2 = x e^{rx}$$

Solution Two

Solutions had to be L.I.!

Solutions Can't Dupe!

only one real root here!

$$y_1 = C_1 e^{rx} + C_2 x e^{rx}$$

### Final Case

The discriminant is negative

$$(b^2 - 4ac < 0)$$

We get two complex roots

$$r_1 = \alpha + i\beta, \quad r_2 = \alpha - i\beta$$

... and they are conjugates!

### Solutions

$$y_1 = e^{r_1 x}, \quad y_2 = e^{r_2 x}$$

### General Solution

$$y = C_1 e^{(\alpha + i\beta)x} + C_2 e^{(\alpha - i\beta)x}$$

...

... Some clever identities later

$$y = e^{\alpha x} (C_1 \cos \beta x + C_2 \sin \beta x)$$



## Initial and Boundary-Value Problems

Example: Solve  $\ddot{y} + y = 0$  with the initial conditions  $y(0) = 2$  and  $\dot{y}(0) = 3$

Char Eqn:  $r^2 + 1 = 0$

$$r = \sqrt{-1} = \pm 1 = 0 \pm 1i$$
$$\alpha \pm \beta i$$

General Solution:

$$y = e^{0x} [C_1 \cos 1x + C_2 \sin 1x]$$

$$y = C_1 \cos x + C_2 \sin x$$

Apply IC's  $y(0) = 2$

$$C_1 \cos(0) + C_2 \sin(0) = C_1 \cdot 1 + C_2 \cdot 0 = C_1$$

$$C_1 = 2$$

and if we do the same for  $C_2$ ..

$$C_2 = 3$$

Thus...

$$y(x) = 2 \cos x + 3 \sin x$$

Example: Solve  $\ddot{y} + 2\dot{y} + 1 = 0$  with the boundary  
conditions  $y(0) = 1, y(1) = 3$

Char eq:  $r^2 + 2r + 1 = 0$   
 $(r+1)^2 = 0$   
 $r = -1$

General solution for one real root

$$y = C_1 e^{-x} + C_2 x e^{-x}$$

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Apply BC's

$$y(0) = 1 \quad y(0) = C_1 e^0 + C_2 \cdot 0 \cdot e^0 = C_1$$

So  $C_1 = 1$

$$y(1) = 3 \quad y(1) = C_1 e^{-1} + C_2 \cdot 1 \cdot e^{-1} = \frac{1 + C_2}{e}$$
$$\frac{1 + C_2}{e} = 3$$
$$C_2 = 3e - 1$$

Thus

$$y = e^{-x} + (3e - 1) x e^{-x}$$