

2nd Differential Equation And Reduction of Order

The nth Order Initial Value Problem

$$a_n(x) \frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + a_{n-1}(x) \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dx^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x)y = g(x)$$

$$y(x_0) = y_0, \quad y'(x_0) = y_1, \quad y''(x_0) = y_2, \quad \dots \dots \dots$$

$$\dots \dots \dots \quad y^{(n-1)}(x_0) = y_{n-1}$$

initial condition

Boundary Value Problem (BVP)

BVP: At different points

Initial conditions are specified at the same points

Example: $a_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x) = g(x)$

subject to $y(a) = y_0, \quad y(b) = y_1$

or $y'(a) = y_0, \quad y(b) = y_1$

or $\begin{cases} \alpha_1 y(a) + \beta_1 y'(a) = \gamma_1 \\ \alpha_2 y(b) + \beta_2 y'(b) = \gamma_2 \end{cases}$

An n^{th} order linear DE with n boundary conditions may have a unique solution, no solution, or infinite number of solutions.

Example

$$y'' + 16y = 0$$

solution: $y = c_1 \cos(4x) + c_2 \sin(4x)$

(1) $y(0) = 0 \quad y(\pi/2) = 0$

$y = c_2 \sin(4x)$ c_2 is any constant (**infinite number of solutions**)

(2) $y(0) = 0 \quad y(\pi/8) = 0$

$y = 0$ (**unique solution**)

Homogeneous Equations

$$a_n(x) \frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + a_{n-1}(x) \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dx^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x)y = g(x)$$

$g(x) = 0 \longrightarrow$ homogeneous

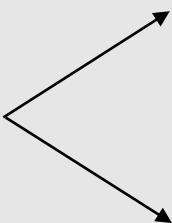
$g(x) \neq 0 \longrightarrow$ nonhomogeneous

- Important Term: Associated homogeneous equation

The associated homogeneous equation of a nonhomogeneous DE:

Setting $g(x) = 0$

- Review: solving the 1st order nonhomogeneous linear DE



Solution of the Homogeneous Equation

For an n^{th} order homogeneous **linear** DE $L(y) = 0$, if

- ① $y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t)$ are the solutions of $L(y) = 0$
- ② $y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t)$ are **linearly independent**

then any solution of the homogeneous linear DE can be expressed as:

$$c_1 y_1(t) + c_2 y_2(t) + \dots + c_n y_n(t)$$

An n^{th} order homogeneous linear DE has n linearly independent solutions.

Find n linearly independent solutions

== Find all the solutions of an n^{th} order homogeneous linear DE

fundamental set of solutions

$$y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t)$$

general solution of the homogenous linear DE

$$y(t) = c_1 y_1(t) + \dots + c_n y_n(t)$$

Linear Dependence / Independence

If there is no solution other than $c_1 = c_2 = \dots = c_n = 0$ for the following equality

then $y_1(t), y_2(t), \dots, y_n(t)$ are said to be [linearly independent](#).

Otherwise, they are [linearly dependent](#).

One way to determine linearly independent property: [Wronskian](#)

Wronskian

$$W(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) = \det \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & \cdots & y_n \\ y_1' & y_2' & \cdots & y_n' \\ \dots & \dots & \cdots & \dots \\ y_1^{(n)} & y_2^{(n)} & \cdots & y_n^{(n)} \end{bmatrix}$$

$W(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) \neq 0 \longrightarrow$ linearly independent

Example

$$y''' - 6y'' + 11y' - 6y = 0$$

$y_1 = e^x$, $y_2 = e^{2x}$, and $y_3 = e^{3x}$ are three of the solutions

Since

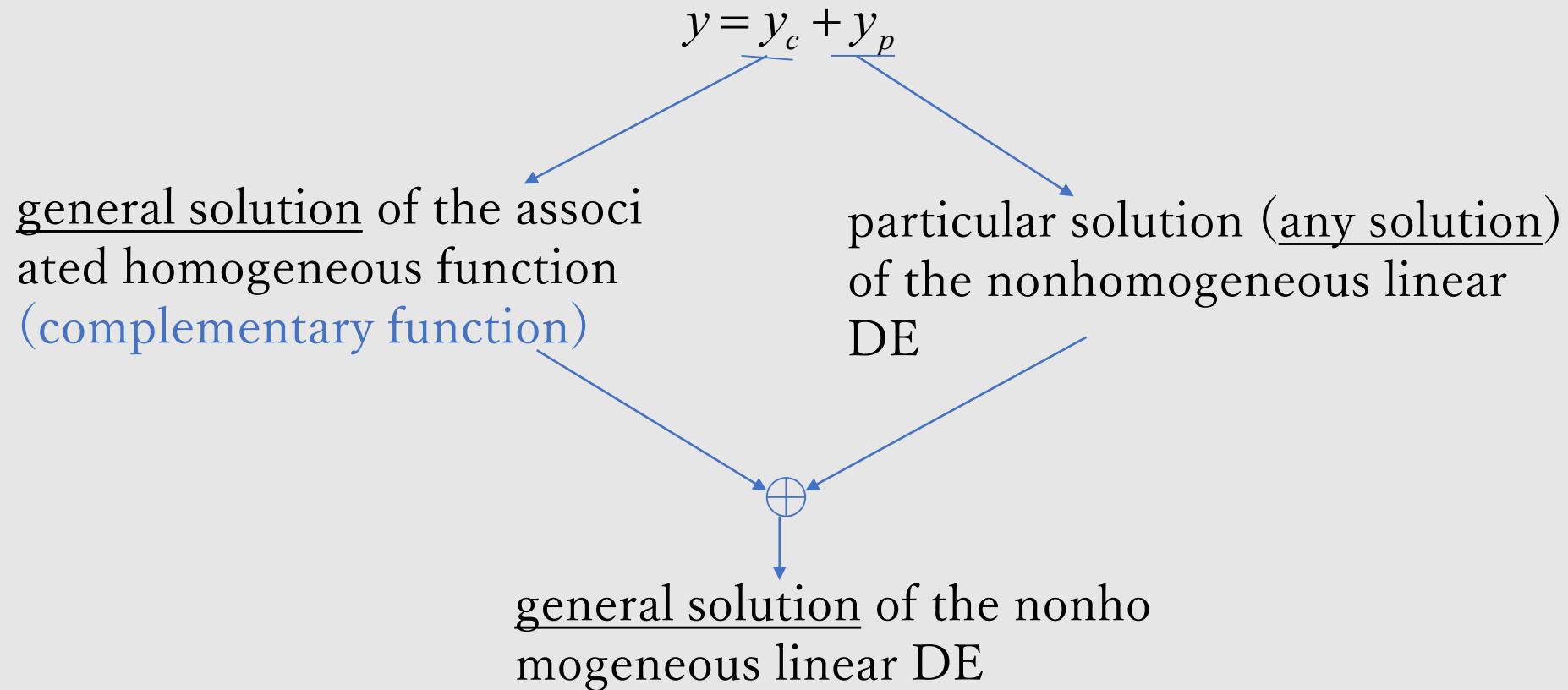
$$\det \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & y_3 \\ y'_1 & y'_2 & y'_3 \\ y''_1 & y''_2 & y''_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} e^x & e^{2x} & e^{3x} \\ e^x & 2e^{2x} & 3e^{3x} \\ e^x & 4e^{2x} & 9e^{3x} \end{bmatrix} = e^{x+2x+3x} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 4 & 9 \end{bmatrix} = 2e^{6x} \neq 0$$

Therefore, y_1 , y_2 , and y_3 are linear independent for any x

general solution:

$$y = c_1 e^x + c_2 e^{2x} + c_3 e^{3x} \quad x \in (-\infty, \infty)$$

General Solution of a Nonhomogeneous Linear DE



Example

$$y''' - 6y'' + 11y' - 6y = 3x$$

$$y''' - 6y'' + 11y' - 6y = 0$$

Three linearly independent solutions

$$e^x, \quad e^{2x}, \quad e^{3x}$$

$$y_p = -\frac{11}{12} - \frac{1}{2}x$$

Check by Wronskian (Example 9)

$$\begin{vmatrix} e^x & e^{2x} & e^{3x} \\ e^x & 2e^{2x} & 3e^{3x} \\ e^x & 4e^{2x} & 9e^{3x} \end{vmatrix} = 2e^{6x}$$

General solution: $y = c_1 e^x + c_2 e^{2x} + c_3 e^{3x} - \frac{11}{12} - \frac{1}{2}x$

Reduction of Order

Reduction of Order

(1) (2) (3)

Suitable for the 2nd order linear homogeneous DE

$$a_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = 0$$

(4) One of the solution $y_1(x)$ has been known.

Example

$$y'' - y = 0$$

We have known that $y_1 = e^x$ is one of the solutions

$$y_2(x) = u(x)y_1(x)$$

General solution:

$$y_2(x) = e^{-x}$$

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

Second Solution

Assume $y_2(x) = u(x)y_1(x)$

First change DE into Standard form

$$y'' + P(x)y' + Q(x)y = 0$$

If $y(x) = u(x)y_1(x)$,

$$y' = uy'_1 + u'y_1 \quad y'' = uy''_1 + 2u'y'_1 + u''y_1$$

$$uy''_1 + 2u'y'_1 + u''y_1 + P(x)uy'_1 + P(x)u'y_1 + Q(x)uy_1 = 0$$

$$\underline{u(y''_1 + P(x)y'_1 + Q(x)y_1)} + 2u'y'_1 + u''y_1 + P(x)u'y_1 = 0$$

zero

$$u''y_1 + u'(2y'_1 + P(x)y_1) = 0 \quad \text{set } w = u'$$

$$\frac{dw}{dx}y_1 + w(2\frac{dy_1}{dx} + P(x)y_1) = 0$$

multiplied by $dx/(y_1 w)$

$$\frac{dw}{w} + 2\frac{dy_1}{y_1} + P(x)dx = 0$$

separable variable
(with 3 variables)

$$\int \frac{dw}{w} + 2 \int \frac{dy_1}{y_1} + \int P(x)dx = 0$$

$$\ln|w| + c_3 + 2\ln|y_1| + c_4 = -\int P(x)dx$$

$$\ln|w| + 2\ln|y_1| = \ln|w| + \ln|y_1|^2 = \ln|w||y_1|^2 = \ln|wy_1^2|$$

$$\ln|wy_1^2| = -\int P(x)dx + c$$

$$\ln|wy_1^2| = - \int P(x) dx + c$$

$$wy_1^2 = \pm e^{- \int P(x) dx + c}$$

$$w = c_1 e^{- \int P(x) dx} / y_1^2$$

$$u = \int w dx = c_1 \int \frac{e^{- \int P(x) dx}}{y_1^2} dx + c_2$$

$$y_2(x) = y_1(x) \int \frac{e^{- \int P(x) dx}}{y_1^2(x)} dx$$

We can set $c_1 = 1$ and $c_2 = 0$

(We calculate $u(x)$ only to find another solution which is independent to $y_1(x)$)

Example

$$y'' - y = 0$$

We have known that $y_1 = e^x$ is one of the solutions

$$P(x) = 0 \quad y_2(x) = e^x \int ce^{-2x} dx = -\frac{1}{2}ce^{-x}$$

Specially, set $c = -2$, (c can be assigned any value as long as $y_2(x)$ is independent of $y_1(x)$)

$$y_2(x) = e^{-x}$$

General solution: $y(x) = c_1 e^x + c_2 e^{-x}$

1. The following formula in the interval are linear dependent or not?
please explain.

(a) $e^{2x}, e^{-2x}; (-\infty < x < \infty)$

(b) $x + 1, x - 1; (0 < x < 1)$

(c) $\ln x, \ln x^2; (x > 0)$

2. Assumed $a_1 = -2 - 4x - 4x^2 - 2x^3$, $a_2 = -2x^2 - x^3$ and
 $a_3 = 2 + 4x^2 - 3x^3$, prove that a_1 , a_2 and a_3 are linear independent.
3. Prove that $\{x^{-2}, x^{-2} \ln x, x^{-2} (\ln x)^2\}$ is linear independent
when $x > 0$.

4. $y'' - 3y' + 2y = 0$, with general solution: $y(x) = c_1 e^x + c_2 e^{2x}$, please solve the initial value problem with $y(0) = -2, y'(0) = 3$

5. $y_1(x) = e^{-2x}$ is one solution of $y'' + 4y' + 4y = 0$.

Find the general solution.

6. $y_1(x) = x^2$ is one solution of $y'' - \left(\frac{3}{x}\right)y' + \left(\frac{4}{x^2}\right)y = 0$, when $x > 0$.
Find the general solution.