

MATH1903/1907 Lectures

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Linear 2nd order DE's with constant coefficients

$$ay'' + by' + cy = f(t) \quad (t \in \mathbb{R}, a, b, c \text{ constants})$$

↑ Inhomogeneity

Corresponding homogeneous equation

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0$$

Equation is linear in y, y', y''

Superposition principle:

If u, v are solutions, then every linear combination $Au + Bv$ is a solution (A, B constants)

$$\begin{aligned} & a(Au + Bv)'' + b(Au + Bv)' + c(Au + Bv) \\ &= a(Au'' + Bv'') + b(Au' + Bv') + c(Au + Bv) \\ &= A \underbrace{(au'' + bu' + cu)}_{=0 \text{ (} u, v \text{ are solutions)}} + B \underbrace{(av'' + bv' + cv)}_{=0} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Try to find a solution of the form $e^{\lambda t}$, λ to be determined.

Substitute into the equation:

$$a(e^{\lambda t})'' + b(e^{\lambda t})' + ce^{\lambda t} = 0$$

$$a\lambda^2 e^{\lambda t} + b\lambda e^{\lambda t} + ce^{\lambda t} \overset{\text{want}}{=} 0$$

As $e^{\lambda t} \neq 0$ we can divide the equation by $e^{\lambda t}$:

$$\boxed{a\lambda^2 + b\lambda + c = 0} \quad \text{"auxiliary equation"}$$

This equation determines all values of λ so that $e^{\lambda t}$ is a solution.

To obtain the auxiliary equation replace $y^{(k)}$ by λ^k

Example

$$y'' + 3y' - 10y = 0$$

auxiliary equation: $\lambda^2 + 3\lambda - 10 = (\lambda + 5)(\lambda - 2) = 0$

Solutions: $\lambda_1 = -5$, $\lambda_2 = 2$

Solutions of de: $e^{\lambda_1 t} = e^{-5t}$ and $e^{\lambda_2 t} = e^{2t}$

General solution is a superposition (linear combination)

$$y(t) = A e^{-5t} + B e^{2t}$$

This is a second order equation, so we need two initial conditions:

$$y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = -1$$

$$y(0) = A e^{-5 \cdot 0} + B e^{2 \cdot 0} = 1 = A + B$$

$$y'(t) = -5A e^{-5t} + 2B e^{2t}$$

$$y'(0) = -5A + 2B = -1$$

We obtain a system of two equations for A, B:

$$\begin{aligned} A + B &= 1 \\ -5A + 2B &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

Linear system. We can write it as

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -5 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} A \\ B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Use method from linear algebra to solve the system.

Row reduce augmented matrix:

$$\left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -5 & 2 & -1 \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow R_2 + 5R_1} \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 7 & 4 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\xrightarrow{R_2 \rightarrow \frac{R_2}{7}} \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{4}{7} \end{array} \right] \xrightarrow{R_1 \rightarrow R_1 - R_2} \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & 0 & \frac{3}{7} \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{4}{7} \end{array} \right]$$

Hence $A = \frac{3}{7}$, $B = \frac{4}{7}$

$$\text{Solution } y(t) = \frac{3}{7} e^{-5t} + \frac{4}{7} e^{2t}$$

Alternative solution: solve for A, B using substitution method.

Example:

$$y'' - 4y' + 13y = 0$$

auxiliary equation: $\lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 13 = 0$

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{2} (4 \pm \sqrt{4^2 - 4 \times 13})$$

$$= 2 \pm \sqrt{4 - 13} = 2 \pm \sqrt{-9} = 2 \pm 3i$$

Pair of complex conjugate roots $\lambda = 2 \pm 3i$

$e^{(2+3i)t}$, $e^{(2-3i)t}$ are complex valued!

How to differentiate complex valued functions?

$$f: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

$$f(t) = u(t) + i v(t) \quad , \quad u, v \text{ real valued.}$$

$$f'(t) = u'(t) + i v'(t)$$

Exponential form before:

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= e^{(2+3i)t} = e^{2t} e^{3it} = e^{2t} (\cos 3t + i \sin 3t) \\ &= \underbrace{e^{2t} \cos 3t}_{u(t)} + i \underbrace{e^{2t} \sin 3t}_{v(t)} \end{aligned}$$

Differentiate:

$$\begin{aligned} f'(t) &= u'(t) + i v'(t) \\ &= 2e^{2t} \cos 3t - 3e^{2t} \sin 3t \\ &\quad + i(2e^{2t} \sin 3t + 3e^{2t} \cos 3t) \\ &= (2+3i) \left(\frac{e^{2t} \cos 3t + i e^{2t} \sin 3t}{(2+3i)t} \right) \\ &= (2+3i) e^{(2+3i)t} \end{aligned}$$

Generalising to arbitrary $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ we get

$$\frac{d}{dt} e^{\lambda t} = \lambda e^{\lambda t} \quad (\text{similar to } \lambda \in \mathbb{R})$$

Consequence: Even if the auxiliary equation has complex roots λ , then $e^{\lambda t}$ solves the differential equation

In our example the roots were $\lambda_1 = 2+3i$, $\lambda_2 = 2-3i$

Hence $e^{(2+3i)t}$ and $e^{(2-3i)t}$
are solutions of the d.e.

By the superposition principle we can obtain other solutions:

$$\frac{1}{2} e^{(2+3i)t} + \frac{1}{2} e^{(2-3i)t} = e^{2t} \cos 3t$$

(real part of complex solution)

$$\frac{1}{2i} e^{(2+3i)t} - \frac{1}{2i} e^{(2-3i)t} = e^{2t} \sin 3t$$

(imaginary part of complex solution)

Hence we have the two real solutions

$$e^{2t} \cos 3t \text{ and } e^{2t} \sin 3t$$

$$\text{General solution } y(t) = A e^{2t} \cos 3t + B e^{2t} \sin 3t.$$

General solution:

If $\lambda = \mu \pm i\nu$ is a pair of complex conjugate solutions of the auxiliary equation of

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0,$$

then

$$y(t) = A e^{\lambda t} \cos \nu t + B e^{\lambda t} \sin \nu t$$
$$= e^{\lambda t} (A \cos \nu t + B \sin \nu t)$$

is the (real form) of the general solution.

Example:

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = 0$$

auxiliary equation: $\lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 4 = 0$
 $(\lambda - 2)^2 = 0$

Double root $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 2$, so our method only provides one solution

$$e^{2t}$$

For a second solution, try $y(t) = \underline{t} e^{2t}$

$$y'(t) = e^{2t} + 2t e^{2t}$$

$$y''(t) = 2e^{2t} + 2e^{2t} + 4te^{2t} = 4e^{2t} + 4te^{2t}$$

Substitute into de:

$$\begin{aligned} y'' - 4y' + 4y &= (4e^{2t} + 4te^{2t}) - 4(e^{2t} + 2te^{2t}) + 4te^{2t} \\ &= e^{2t}(4 - 4) + te^{2t}(4 - 8 + 4) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

The general solution is

$$y(t) = Ae^{2t} + Bte^{2t} = e^{2t}(A + Bt)$$

Summary

D.E. $ay'' + by' + cy = 0$ (a, b, c constants)

auxiliary equation: $a\lambda^2 + b\lambda + c = 0$

Case 1: λ_1, λ_2 two distinct real roots

general solution: $y(t) = Ae^{\lambda_1 t} + Be^{\lambda_2 t}$

Case 2: $\mu \pm i\omega$ pair of complex conjugate roots

general solution: $y(t) = e^{\mu t} (A \cos \omega t + B \sin \omega t)$

Case 3: $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \lambda$ double root (real)

general solution: $y(t) = e^{\lambda t} (A + Bt)$

Inhomogeneous second order equations

$$ay'' + by' + cy = f(t)$$

↑ inhomogeneity
or "forcing term"

Assume:

- $y_p(t)$ is one (arbitrary) particular solution
- $y_h(t)$ general solution of the corresponding homogeneous equation $ay'' + by' + cy = 0$

Then

$y(t) = y_p(t) + y_h(t)$
is the general solution of the inhomogeneous equation.

Verify this:

$$\begin{aligned} & a(y_p + y_h)'' + b(y_p + y_h)' + c(y_p + y_h) \\ &= a(y_p'' + y_h'') + b(y_p' + y_h') + c(y_p + y_h) \\ &= \underbrace{(ay_p'' + by_p' + cy_p)}_{= f(t)} + \underbrace{(ay_h'' + by_h' + cy_h)}_{= 0} \\ &= f(t) \end{aligned}$$

General solution of $ay'' + by' + cy = f(t)$:

$$y(t) = y_p(t) + y_h(t)$$

where

- y_p is a particular solution of the inhomogeneous eq.
- y_h is the general solution of the homogeneous eq.

Question: How to find a particular solution of the inhomogeneous equation?

Example:

$$y'' - 5y' + 4y = t^2$$

Since derivatives of polynomials are polynomials, we try a polynomial:

$$y_p(t) = A + Bx + Cx^2$$