

Review of Chapter 3:

- ① Homogeneous second-order linear differential equations:
with constant coefficients:

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

We look at the corresponding characteristic equation:

$$ar^2 + br + c = 0.$$

Three cases arise.

Case 1: $b^2 - 4ac > 0 \Rightarrow$ 2 roots: r_1 and r_2

\therefore General solution of ODE is: $y = c_1 e^{r_1 t} + c_2 e^{r_2 t}$.

Case 2: $b^2 - 4ac = 0 \Rightarrow$ 1 double root $r_1 = r_2$

\therefore General solution of ODE is: $y = c_1 e^{r_1 t} + c_2 t e^{r_1 t}$.

Case 3: $b^2 - 4ac < 0 \Rightarrow$ 2 complex roots: $r = \lambda \pm i\mu$.

\therefore General solution is: $y = c_1 e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t) + c_2 e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t)$.

- ② Non-homogeneous second-order linear differential equations with constant coefficients:

$$ay'' + by' + cy = g(t).$$

General solution is: $y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2 + Y(t)$

Solution of homog. equation
(see ①)

For $Y(t)$, we make a guess.

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Three Special Cases

Case 1: $g(t) = a e^{\alpha t} \Rightarrow Y(t) = A t^{\Delta} e^{\alpha t}$, where

(i) A is to be determined

(ii) Δ = least positive integer such that no term of $t^{\Delta} e^{\alpha t}$ solves the homog. ODE.

Case 2: $g(t) = a \sin(\alpha t) + b \cos(\alpha t)$

$\Rightarrow Y(t) = t^{\Delta} (A \sin(\alpha t) + B \cos(\alpha t))$, where

(i) A and B are to be determined

(ii) Same as in case 1.

Case 3: $g(t) = a_n t^n + a_{n-1} t^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 t + a_0$, then

$Y(t) = t^{\Delta} (A_n t^n + A_{n-1} t^{n-1} + \dots + A_1 t + A_0)$, where

(i) $A_n, A_{n-1}, \dots, A_1, A_0$ are to be determined

(ii) Same as in case 1.

Other Special Cases: Combinations of case 1/2/and 3.

$\therefore Y$ = combination of Guesses.

③ Homogeneous second order linear differential equations with variable coefficients:

$$y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0.$$

Here we use the method of reduction of order to find the general solution.

This requires that you are given one solution y_1 ; to find the second solution y_2 , we assume that $y_2 = v(t)y_1$, for some $v(t)$.

To find $v(t)$, substitute in the original ODE.

Your equation should turn into a 1st order ODE by letting $w(t) = v'(t)$.

Once you find $w(t)$, you conclude $v(t) = \int w(t) dt$.

General solution is:

$$y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 v(t) y_1.$$

- ④ Non-homogeneous second order ODE's with ~~constant~~ coefficients: $ay'' + by' + cy = g(t)$ where $g(t)$ is NOT exponential, NOT sine/cosine, and NOT a polynomial.

Here, we begin by finding y_1 and y_2 (see 3 cases on page 3.1), then we calculate:

$$u_1 = - \int \frac{y_2(t) g(t)}{W[y_1, y_2]} dt ; u_2 = \int \frac{y_1(t) g(t)}{W[y_1, y_2]} dt.$$

General solution is:

$$y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2 + u_1(t) y_1 + u_2(t) y_2.$$

- ⑤ Finally, remember that $W[y_1, y_2] = y_1 y_2' - y_1' y_2$.

Also, $W[y_1, y_2] = C e^{-\int p(t) dt}$, given that $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0$