

# Ordinary Differential Equations

## First-order ODEs

They are of the form:

$F(x, y, y') = 0$  or in explicit form  $y' = f(x, y)$

involving the derivative  $y' = dy/dt$  of an unknown function  $y$ , given functions of  $x$ , and/or  $y$  itself. A first-order ODE usually has a **general solution**; a solution involving an arbitrary constant, which is denoted by  $c$ . In applications we usually have to find a unique solution by determining a value of  $c$  from an **initial condition** of  $y(x_0) = y_0$ . Together with the ODE this is called an **initial value problem** with the following mathematical expression:

$y' = f(x, y), \quad y(x_0) = y_0 \quad (x_0, y_0 \text{ given numbers})$

and its solution is a **particular solution** of the ODE. A **separable ODE** is one that we can put into the form:

$g(y) \, dy = f(x) \, dx$

by algebraic manipulations (possibly combined with transformations, such as  $y/x = u$ ) and solve by **integrating** on both sides. An **exact ODE**, on the other hand, is of the form

$M(x, y) \, dx + N(x, y) \, dy = 0$

where  $M \, dx + N \, dy$  is the **differential** for and,

$du = u_x dx + u_y dy$

of a function  $u(x, y)$ , so that from  $du = 0$  we immediately get the implicit general solution  $u(x, y) = c$ . The solution to  $u$  can be attained using two (2) ways:

$u = \int M \, dx + k(y) \quad \text{or} \quad u = \int N \, dy + l(x)$

Linear ODE's of the form:

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

are very important. Their solutions are given by the integral formula

$y(x) = e^{-h} \left( \int e^h r \, dx + c \right), \quad h = \int p(x) \, dx$

Certain nonlinear ODEs can be transformed to linear form in terms of new variables.

## Second-order ODEs

A second-order ODE is called **linear** if it can be written as:

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

The above equation is called **homogeneous** if  $r(x)$  is zero for all  $x$  considered, usually in some open interval, this is written  $r(x) = 0$ . Then, this equation becomes:

$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0.$

The above equation is called **non-homogeneous** if  $r(x) \neq 0$  (meaning  $r(x)$  is not zero for some  $x$  considered). For the homogeneous ODE we have the important **superposition principle** that a linear combination of two solutions is again a solution.

Two **linearly independent** solutions  $y_1, y_2$  on an open interval  $I$  form a **basis** (or **fundamental system**) of solutions. and  $y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$  with arbitrary constants  $c_1, c_2$  a **general solution**. From it, we obtain a **particular**

**solution** if we specify numeric values (numbers) for  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ , usually by prescribing two (2) **initial conditions**:

$y(x_0) = K_0, \quad y'(x_0) = K_1 \quad (x_0, K_0, K_1 \text{ are given}).$

This forms an **initial value problem**. For a nonhomogeneous ODE, a **general solution** is of the form

$y = y_h + y_p$

Here  $y_h$  is a **general** solution and  $y_p$  is a **particular** solution of. Such a  $y_p$  can be determined by a general method or in many practical cases by the *method of undetermined coefficients*. The latter applies when the above has constant coefficients  $p$  and  $q$ , and  $r(x)$  is a power of  $x$ , sine, cosine, etc. (Table 3) Then we write (1) as

$y'' + ay' + by = r(x)$

Another large class of ODEs solvable "algebraically" consists of the **Euler-Cauchy equations**:

$x^2 y'' + ax y' + by = 0$

These have solutions of the form  $y = x^m$ , where  $m$  is a solution of the auxiliary equation

$m^2 + (a - 1)m + b = 0.$

Depending of the roots different solutions can be derived (Table 6). A homogeneous ODE of

$y'' + ay' + by = 0$

can be solved by deriving its **characteristic** equation in the form:

$\lambda^2 + a\lambda + b = 0$

Depending of its roots of this equation different solutions can be derived (Table 5)

## Higher-order ODEs

A higher order system is of the form:

$F(x, y, y', \dots, y^{(n)}) = 0,$

Which through substitutions (i.e.,  $y^{iv} \rightarrow \lambda = y''$ ) it can be reduced to lower order forms. From there on, all principles from 2nd order ODEs can be applied.

## System of ODEs

A system of ODEs (**linear**) can be written in the form:

$y' = Ay + g, \quad \text{where} \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix},$   
 $y = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad g = \begin{bmatrix} g_1 \\ g_2 \end{bmatrix}.$

If  $g = 0$ , the system is called **homogeneous** and is of the form

$y' = Ay$

If  $a_{11}, \dots, a_{22}$  are **constants**, it has solutions

$y = x e^{\lambda t},$

where  $\lambda$  is a solution of the quadratic equation

$\begin{vmatrix} a_{11} - \lambda & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = (a_{11} - \lambda)(a_{22} - \lambda) - a_{12}a_{21} = 0$

and  $x \neq 0$  has components  $x_1, x_2$  determined up to a **multiplicative constant** by:

$(a_{11} - \lambda)x_1 + a_{12}x_2 = 0.$

These  $\lambda$ 's are called the **eigenvalues** and these vectors  $x$  **eigenvectors** of the matrix **A**. To calculate the **characteristic equation**:

$\det(A - \lambda I) = \lambda_2 - (a_{11} + a_{22})\lambda + \det(A) = 0.$

where:

$p = a_{11} + a_{22}, \quad q = \det A, \quad \Delta = p^2 - 4q.$

or in another form:

$p = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2, \quad q = \lambda_1 \lambda_2, \quad \Delta = (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2$

The stability criterion are given in Table 4.

## Special Functions

The **power series method** gives solutions of linear ODEs:

$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$

with **variable coefficients**  $p$  and  $q$  in the form of a power series (with any centre  $x_0$ , e.g.,  $x_0 = 0$ )

$y(x) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m (x - x_0)^m$   
 $= a_0 + a_1(x - x_0) + a_2(x - x_0)^2 + \dots$

Legendre's differential equation:

$(1 - x^2)y'' - 2xy' + n(n + 1)y = 0$

with its polynomial solution:

$P_n(x) = \sum_{m=0}^M (-1)^m \frac{(2n - 2m)!}{2^n m!(n - m)!(n - 2m)!} x^{n - 2m}$   
 $= \frac{(2n)!}{2^n (n!)^2} x^n - \frac{(2n - 2)!}{2^n 1!(n - 1)!(n - 2)!} x^{n - 2} + \dots$

**Frobenius Method** states: Let  $b(x)$  and  $c(x)$  be any functions defined **analytic** at  $x = 0$ . Then the ODE:

$y'' + \frac{b(x)}{x}y' + \frac{c(x)}{x^2}y = 0 \tag{1}$

has **at least one solution** can be represented in the form:

$y(x) = x^r \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_m x^m$   
 $= x^r (a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots) \quad (a_0 \neq 0)$

where the exponent  $r$  may be any (real or complex) number (and  $r$  is chosen so that  $a_0 \neq 0$ ). It's **indicial equation** is:

$r(r - 1) + b_0 r + c_0 = 0$

Depending on the equations roots, we have the following three (3) cases:

**Case 1. Distinct Roots Not Differing by an Integer**  
A basis is

$y_1(x) = x^{r_1} (a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots)$

and

$y_2(x) = x^{r_2} (A_0 + A_1 x + A_2 x^2 + \dots)$

with coefficients obtained successively from Eq. (1) with  $r = r_1$  and  $r = r_2$ , respectively.

**Case 2. Double Root  $r_1 = r_2 = r$ .**  
A basis is

$y_1(x) = x^r (a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots) \quad [r = \frac{1}{2}(1 - b_0)]$

(of the same general form as before) and

$y_2(x) = y_1(x) \ln x + x^r (A_1 x + A_2 x^2 + \dots) \quad (x > 0)$

**Case 3. Roots Differing by an Integer.** A basis is

$y_1(x) = x^{r_1} (a_0 + a_1 x + a_2 x^2 + \dots)$

(of the same general form as before) and

$y_2(x) = k y_1(x) \ln x + x^{r_2} (A_0 + A_1 x + A_2 x^2 + \dots)$

where the roots are so denoted that  $r_1 - r_2 > 0$  and  $k$  may turn out to be zero. **Bessel's Equation** is of the form:

$x^2 y'' + xy' + (x^2 - \nu^2)y = 0$

It solution of first kind is:

$J_n(x) = x^n \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m x^{2m}}{2^{2m+n} m!(n + m)!} \quad (n \geq 0).$

Laplace Transform

The main purpose of Laplace transforms is the solution of differential equations and systems of such equations, as well as corresponding initial value problems. The Laplace transform  $F(s) = \mathcal{L}(f)$  of a function  $f(t)$  is defined by

F(s) = \mathcal{L}(f) = \int\_0^\infty e^{-st} f(t) dt

This definition is motivated by the property that the differentiation of  $f$  with respect to  $t$  corresponds to the multiplication of the transform  $F$  by  $s$ ; more precisely,

\mathcal{L}(f') = s\mathcal{L}(f) - f(0) \\ \mathcal{L}(f'') = s^2\mathcal{L}(f) - sf(0) - f'(0)

etc. Hence by taking the transform of a given differential equation

y'' + ay' + by = r(t) \quad \text{where } a, b \text{ const.}

and writing  $\mathcal{L}(y) = Y(s)$ , we obtain the subsidiary equation

(s^2 + as + b)Y = \mathcal{L}(r) + sf(0) + f'(0) + af(0).

Here, in obtaining the transform  $\mathcal{L}(r)$  we can get help from the Table 1. This is the first step. In the second step we solve the subsidiary equation algebraically for  $Y(s)$ . In the third step we determine the inverse transform  $y(t) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}(Y)$ , that is, the solution of the problem.

Linear Algebra

Fundamentals

A  $m \times n$  matrix  $A = [a_{jk}]$  is a rectangular array of numbers or functions arranged in  $m$  horizontal rows and  $n$  vertical columns. If  $m = n$ , the matrix is called square. A  $1 \times n$  matrix is called a row vector and an  $m \times 1$  matrix column vector.

The sum  $A + B$  of matrices of the same size (i.e., both  $m \times n$ ) is obtained by adding corresponding entries. The product of  $A$  by a scalar  $c$  is obtained by multiplying each  $a_{jk}$  by  $c$ .

The product  $C = AB$  of an  $m \times n$  matrix  $A$  by an  $r \times p$  matrix  $B = [b_{jk}]$  is defined only when  $r = n$ . It is associative, but is not commutative. If  $AB$  is defined,  $BA$  may not be defined, but even if  $BA$  is defined,  $AB \neq BA$  in general. Also  $AB = 0$  may not imply  $A = 0$  or  $B = 0$  or  $BA = 0$ .

The transpose  $A^T$  of a matrix  $A = [a_{jk}]$  is  $A^T = [a_{kj}]$ . rows become columns and conversely. Here,  $A$  need not be square. If it is and  $A = A^T$ , then  $A$  is called symmetric; if  $A = -A^T$ , it is called symmetric. For a product,  $(AB)^T = B^T A^T$ .

A main application of matrices concerns linear systems of equations

Ax = b

( $m$  equations in  $n$  unknowns  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ ;  $A$  and  $b$  given). The most important method of solution is the Gauss elimination, which reduces the system to "triangular" form by elementary row operations, which leave the set of solutions unchanged. The inverse  $A^{-1}$  of a square matrix satisfies  $AA^{-1} = A^{-1}A = I$ . It exists if and only if  $\det A \neq 0$ . It can be computed by the Gauss-Jordan elimination.

The rank  $r$  of a matrix  $A$  is the maximum number of linearly independent rows or columns of  $A$  or, equivalently, the number of rows of the largest square sub-matrix of  $A$  with nonzero determinant. The system of equations has solutions if and only if  $\text{rank } A = \text{rank}[A \ b]$ , where  $[A \ b]$  is the augmented matrix. The homogeneous system

Ax = 0

has solutions  $x \neq 0$  ("nontrivial solutions") if and only if  $\text{rank } A < n$ , in the case  $m = n$  equivalently if and only if  $\det A = 0$ .

Eigenvalue Problems

The problems are defined by the vector equation

Ax = \lambda x.

$A$  is a given square matrix.  $\lambda$  is a scalar. To solve the problem means to determine values of  $\lambda$ , called eigenvalues (or characteristic values) of  $A$ , such that, the above expression, has a nontrivial solution  $x$  (that is,  $x \neq 0$ ), called an eigenvector of  $A$  corresponding to that  $\lambda$ . A  $n \times n$  matrix has at least one and at most  $n$  numerically different eigenvalues. These are the solutions of the characteristic equation

D(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) \\ = \begin{vmatrix} a\_{11} - \lambda & a\_{12} & \cdots & a\_{1n} \\ a\_{21} & a\_{22} - \lambda & \cdots & a\_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a\_{n1} & a\_{n2} & \cdots & a\_{nn} - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0.

$D(\lambda)$  is called the characteristic determinant of  $A$ . By expanding it we get the characteristic polynomial of  $A$ , which is of degree  $n$  in  $\lambda$ . Special matrices of importance are symmetric ( $A^T = A$ ), skew-symmetric ( $A^T = -A$ ), and orthogonal matrices ( $A^T = A^{-1}$ ). concerns the diagonalization of matrices and the transformation of quadratic forms to principal axes and its relation to eigenvalues. If an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  has a basis of eigenvectors, then

D = X^{-1}AX

is diagonal, with the eigenvalues of  $A$  as the entries on the main diagonal.

Here  $X$  is the matrix with these eigenvectors as column vectors. Also,

D^m = X^{-1}A^mX \quad (m = 2, 3, \dots).

Vector Calculus

All vectors of the form:

a = [a\_1, a\_2, a\_3] = (a\_1) \hat{x} + (a\_2) \hat{y} + (a\_3) \hat{z}

constitute the real vector space  $R^3$  with componentwise vector addition

[a\_1, a\_2, a\_3] + [b\_1, b\_2, b\_3] = [a\_1 + b\_1, a\_2 + b\_2, a\_3 + b\_3]

and componentwise scalar multiplication ( $c$  a scalar)

c[a\_1, a\_2, a\_3] = [ca\_1, ca\_2, ca\_3]

The inner product or dot product of two vectors is defined by

a \cdot b = |a||b| \cos \theta = a\_1b\_1 + a\_2b\_2 + a\_3b\_3

where  $\theta$  is the angle between  $a$  and  $b$ . This gives for the norm or length  $|a|$  of  $a$ :

|a| = \sqrt{a \cdot a} = \sqrt{a\_1^2 + a\_2^2 + a\_3^2}

as well as a formula for  $\theta$ . If  $a \cdot b = 0$ , we call  $a$  and  $b$  orthogonal. The vector product or cross product  $v = a \times b$  is a vector of length

a \times b = |a||b| \sin \theta

which can also be represented as a determinant.

a \times b = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{x} & \hat{y} & \hat{z} \\ a\_1 & a\_2 & a\_3 \\ b\_1 & b\_2 & b\_3 \end{vmatrix}

This multiplication is anticommutative, and is not associative.

a \times b = -b \times a

Gradient is defined as:

\nabla f = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \hat{x} + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \hat{y} + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \hat{z}

Divergence is defined as:

\nabla \cdot v = \frac{\partial v\_x}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v\_y}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial v\_z}{\partial z}.

Curl is defined as:

\nabla \times v = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{x} & \hat{y} & \hat{z} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \\ v\_x & v\_y & v\_z \end{vmatrix}

Standard Integration Forms

Basic Forms

\int x^n dx = \frac{1}{n+1} x^{n+1} \quad \int \frac{1}{x} dx = \ln |x| \\ \int u dv = uv - \int v du \quad \int \frac{1}{ax+b} dx = \frac{1}{a} \ln |ax+b|

Integrals of Rational Functions

\int \frac{1}{(x+a)^2} dx = -\frac{1}{x+a} \\ \int (x+a)^n dx = \frac{(x+a)^{n+1}}{n+1}, n \neq -1 \\ \int x(x+a)^n dx = \frac{(x+a)^{n+1}((n+1)x-a)}{(n+1)(n+2)} \\ \int \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx = \tan^{-1} x \\ \int \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx = \arctan x \\ \int \frac{1}{a^2+x^2} dx = \frac{1}{a} \tan^{-1} \frac{x}{a} \\ \int \frac{x}{a^2+x^2} dx = \frac{1}{2} \ln |a^2+x^2| \\ \int \frac{x^2}{a^2+x^2} dx = x - a \tan^{-1} \frac{x}{a} \\ \int \frac{x^3}{a^2+x^2} dx = \frac{1}{2} x^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^2 \ln |a^2+x^2| \\ \int \frac{1}{ax^2+bx+c} dx = \frac{2}{\sqrt{4ac-b^2}} \tan^{-1} \frac{2ax+b}{\sqrt{4ac-b^2}} \\ \int \frac{1}{(x+a)(x+b)} dx = \frac{1}{b-a} \ln \frac{a+x}{b+x}, a \neq b \\ \int \frac{x}{(x+a)^2} dx = \frac{a}{a+x} + \ln |a+x| \\ \int \frac{x}{ax^2+bx+c} dx = \frac{1}{2a} \ln |ax^2+bx+c| \\ - \frac{b}{a\sqrt{4ac-b^2}} \tan^{-1} \frac{2ax+b}{\sqrt{4ac-b^2}}

$f(t)$	$\mathcal{L}(f(t)) = F(s)$	$f(t)$	$\mathcal{L}(f(t)) = F(s)$	$f(t)$	$\mathcal{L}(f(t)) = F(s)$
1	$\frac{1}{s}$	$\frac{ae^{at} - be^{bt}}{a - b}$	$\frac{s}{(s - a)(s - b)}$	$\frac{e^{at} - e^{bt}}{a - b}$	$\frac{1}{(s - a)(s - b)}$
$e^{at}f(t)$	$F(s - a)$	$\cosh kt$	$\frac{s}{s^2 - k^2}$	$\sinh kt$	$\frac{k}{s^2 - k^2}$
$\mathcal{U}(t - a)$	$\frac{e^{-as}}{s}$	$e^{at}$	$\frac{1}{s - a}$	$\cos kt$	$\frac{s}{s^2 + k^2}$
$f(t - a)\mathcal{U}(t - a)$	$e^{-as}F(s)$	$\sin kt$	$\frac{k}{s^2 + k^2}$	$t^x \ (x \geq -1 \in \mathbb{R})$	$\frac{\Gamma(x + 1)}{s^{x+1}}$
$\delta(t)$	1	$t^n \ (n = 0, 1, 2, \dots)$	$\frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$	$\int_0^t f(x)g(t - x)dx$	$F(s)G(s)$
$\delta(t - t_0)$	$e^{-st_0}$	$t^n f(t)$	$(-1)^n \frac{d^n F(s)}{ds^n}$	$f'(t)$	$sF(s) - f(0)$
$f^{(n)}(t)$	$s^n F(s) - s^{(n-1)}f(0) - \dots - f^{(n-1)}(0)$	$te^{at}$	$\frac{1}{(s - a)^2}$	$t^n e^{at}$	$\frac{n!}{(s - a)^{n+1}}$
$e^{at} \sin kt$	$\frac{k}{(s - a)^2 + k^2}$	$e^{at} \cos kt$	$\frac{s - a}{(s - a)^2 + k^2}$	$e^{at} \sinh kt$	$\frac{k}{(s - a)^2 - k^2}$
$e^{at} \cosh kt$	$\frac{s - a}{(s - a)^2 - k^2}$	$t \sin kt$	$\frac{2ks}{(s^2 + k^2)^2}$	$t \cos kt$	$\frac{s}{(s^2 + k^2)^2}$
$t \sinh kt$	$\frac{2ks}{(s^2 - k^2)^2}$	$t \cosh kt$	$\frac{s}{(s^2 - k^2)^2}$	$\frac{\sin at}{t}$	$\arctan \frac{a}{s}$
$\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi t}} e^{-a^2/4t}$	$\frac{e^{-a\sqrt{s}}}{\sqrt{s}}$	$\frac{a}{2\sqrt{\pi t^3}} e^{-a^2/4t}$	$e^{-a\sqrt{s}}$	$\operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{a}{2\sqrt{t}}\right)$	$\frac{e^{-a\sqrt{s}}}{s}$

Table 1: Common Laplace transform operations.

Name	$\rho = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2$	$q = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$	$\Delta = (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2$	Comments
Node		$q > 0$	$\Delta \geq 0$	Real, same sign
Saddle Point		$q < 0$		Real, opposite signs
Centre	$\rho = 0$	$q > 0$		Pure imaginary
Spiral		$q \neq 0$	$\Delta < 0$	Complex (not pure imaginary)

Table 2: Criterion

Term in $r(x)$	Choice for $y_p(x)$
$ke^{\gamma x}$	$Ce^{\gamma x}$
$kx^n$ where $(n = 0, 1, \dots)$	$K_n x^n + K_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \dots + K_1 x + K_0$
$k \cos \omega x$ or $k \sin \omega x$	$K \cos \omega x + M \sin \omega x$
$ke^{\alpha x} \cos \omega x$ or $ke^{\alpha x} \sin \omega x$	$e^{\alpha x} (K \cos \omega x + M \sin \omega x)$

Table 3: Method of undetermined coefficients.

Type of Stability	$\rho = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2$	$q = \lambda_1 \lambda_2$
Stable and attractive	$q < 0$	$q > 0$
Stable	$q \leq 0$	$q > 0$
Unstable	either $q \leq 0$	or $q > 0$

Table 4: Stability criterion for critical points.

Case	Type	Roots	Basis	General Solution
I	Distict real	$(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$	$e^{\lambda_1 x}$ and $e^{\lambda_2 x}$	$y = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 x} + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 x}$
II	Real Double Root	$(\lambda = -\frac{1}{2}a)$	$e^{-a x/2}$ and $x e^{-a x/2}$	$y = (c_1 + c_2 x) e^{-ax/2}$
III	Complex Conjugate	$\lambda_{1,2} = -1/2a \pm j\omega$	$e^{-ax/2} \cos \omega x$ and $e^{-ax/2} \sin \omega x$	$y = e^{-ax/2} (A \cos \omega x + B \sin \omega x)$

Table 5: Possible roots of the characteristic equation based on the discriminant value.

Case	Type	Roots	General Solution
I	Distict real	$(m_1, m_2)$	$y = c_1 x^{m_1} + c_2 x^{m_2}$
II	Real Double Root	$m = \frac{1}{2}(1 - a)$	$y = c_1 x^m \ln x + c_2 x^m$
III	Complex Conjugate	$y = c_1 x^\alpha \cos(\beta \ln x) + c_2 x^\alpha \sin(\beta \ln x)$	
		$\alpha = \operatorname{Re}(m)$	
	$m_2 = \alpha - \beta j$	$\beta = \operatorname{Im}(m)$	

Table 6: Cases for solving Euler-Cauchy.