

# DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

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# Chapter 3 **SECOND ORDER DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS**

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# INTRODUCTION

A second order differential equation has the form

$$F\left(x, y, \frac{dy}{dx}, \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}\right) = 0. \quad (0.1)$$

For example

$$(x^2 - 1)\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + x^3y^2\frac{dy}{dx} + e^x \sin y + xy + x^2 + 2 = 0.$$

- Newton's second law of motion

$$m\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = F\left(t, y, \frac{dy}{dt}\right)$$

governs the motion of a particle of mass  $m$  moving under the influence of a force  $F$ .

## 3.1 Existence and uniqueness of solution of linear second order differential equations

**Definition 1.1** A **linear** second-order differential equation is an equation that can be written in the form

$$a_2(x) \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x)y = b(x)$$

- Assume that  $a_0(x)$ ,  $a_1(x)$ ,  $a_2(x)$  and  $b(x)$  are continuous functions of  $x$  on an open interval  $I$  and  $a_2(x) \neq 0$  on  $I$ .

- The **standard form**

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + p(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + q(x)y = g(x).$$

Equation

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + p(x)\frac{dy}{dx} + q(x)y = 0 \quad (0.2)$$

is called the **homogeneous** equation associated with

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + p(x)\frac{dy}{dx} + q(x)y = g(x). \quad (0.3)$$

- We usually rewrite Equation (0.3) as

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

## Theorem 1.1 (Existence and uniqueness of solution)

Suppose  $p(x)$ ,  $q(x)$ , and  $g(x)$  are *continuous* on an interval  $(a, b)$  that contains the point  $x_0$ . Then for any choice of the initial values  $y_0$  and  $y_1$ , *there exists a unique solution*  $y(x)$  *on the whole interval*  $(a, b)$  *to the initial value problem*

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = g(x),$$

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

## 3.2 FUNDAMENTAL SOLUTIONS OF LINEAR HOMOGENEOUS EQUATIONS

- Consider the expression on the left-hand side of the equation

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

With each function  $y$  having two derivatives, we associate another function, denoted  $L[y]$ , by the relation:

$$L[y](x) = y''(x) + p(x)y'(x) + q(x)y(x).$$

$L$  is called a **differential operator**.

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**Example 1.2** Let

$$L[y](x) = y''(x) + xy(x).$$

If  $y(x) = \cos x$ , then  $L[y](x) = (x - 1) \cos x$ .

If  $y(x) = x^3$ , then  $L[y](x) = 6x + x^4$ .



**Theorem 2.1** (**Linearity of the differential operator  $L$** ) *Let*

$$L[y](x) = y''(x) + p(x)y'(x) + q(x)y(x). \quad (0.4)$$

*If  $y$ ,  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are any functions with continuous second derivatives on the interval  $I$ , and if  $c$  is any constant, then*

$$L[y_1 + y_2] = L[y_1] + L[y_2], \quad (0.5)$$

$$L[cy] = cL[y]. \quad (0.6)$$

*In (0.5) and (0.6) equality is meant in the sense of equal functions on  $I$ .*

An operator that satisfies properties (0.5) and (0.6) for any constant  $c$  and any functions  $y$ ,  $y_1$ , and  $y_2$  in its domain is called a **linear operator**.

Define

$$L[y](x) = y''(x) + p(x)y'(x) + q(x)y(x).$$

Then

$$y''(x) + p(x)y'(x) + q(x)y(x) = 0 \iff L[y] = 0.$$

**Theorem 2.2** (Linear combinations of solutions)

Let  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  be solutions to the homogeneous equation

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0. \quad (0.7)$$

Then **any** linear combination  $c_1y_1 + c_2y_2$  of  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ , where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are constants, is also a solution to (0.7).

**Example 2.1** Given that  $e^x$  and  $e^{2x}$  are solutions to the homogeneous equation

$$y'' - 3y' + 2y = 0, \quad (0.8)$$

find a solution to (0.8) that satisfies the initial conditions

$$y(0) = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad y'(0) = -1.$$

**Definition 2.1** For any two differentiable functions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ , the function

$$W[y_1, y_2](x) = y_1(x)y_2'(x) - y_1'(x)y_2(x) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1(x) & y_2(x) \\ y_1'(x) & y_2'(x) \end{vmatrix}$$

is called the **Wronskian determinant** (or shortly, **Wronskian**) of  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ .

**Definition 2.2** A pair of solutions  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  of

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

on  $(a, b)$  is called a **fundamental solution set** if

$$W[y_1, y_2](x_0) \neq 0$$

at some  $x_0$  in  $(a, b)$ .

### Theorem 2.3 (Representation of Solutions (Homogeneous Case))

Let  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  be two solutions on  $(a, b)$  of

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0, \quad (0.9)$$

where  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$  are continuous on  $(a, b)$ . If at **some** point  $x_0$  in  $(a, b)$  these solutions satisfy

$$W[y_1, y_2](x_0) = y_1(x_0)y_2'(x_0) - y_1'(x_0)y_2(x_0) \neq 0,$$

then **every solution** of Equation (0.9) on  $(a, b)$  can be expressed in the form

$$y(x) = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x),$$

where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are constants.

- We call the expression  $y(x) = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x)$  with arbitrary constant coefficients the **general solution** of (0.9).

In other words, Theorem 2.3 says that

*If  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  is a fundamental solution set of equation*

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0, \quad (0.10)$$

*then this equation has the general solution*

$$y(x) = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x), \quad c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}.$$

In other words, Theorem 2.3 says that

*If  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  is a fundamental solution set of equation*

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0, \quad (0.10)$$

*then this equation has the general solution*

$$y(x) = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x), \quad c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}.$$

**Important Remark:** To obtain the general solution of Equation (0.10), we must find a fundamental solution set  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  of this equation and then

$$y(x) = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x), \quad c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$

is its general solution.

**Example 2.2** Given that  $\cos 2x$  and  $\sin 2x$  are solutions to  $y'' + 4y = 0$  on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ , find a general solution to this equation.



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**Solution:** It is easy to check that  $y_1(x) := \cos 2x$  and  $y_2(x) := \sin 2x$  are solutions to  $y'' + 4y = 0$  on  $(-\infty, \infty)$ . Moreover, we have

$$W[y_1, y_2](x) = \begin{vmatrix} \cos 2x & \sin 2x \\ -2 \sin 2x & 2 \cos 2x \end{vmatrix} = 2((\cos 2x)^2 + (\sin 2x)^2) = 2.$$

Thus,  $\{y_1(x) := \cos 2x, y_2(x) := \sin 2x\}$  is a fundamental solution set of the given differential equation. So the general solution is given by

$$y(x) = c_1 \cos 2x + c_2 \sin 2x, \quad c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}.$$

## 3.2 FUNDAMENTAL SOLUTIONS OF LINEAR HOMOGENEOUS EQUATIONS

**Theorem 2.4** (**Existence of fundamental solution set**) *If  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$  are continuous on an open interval, then a fundamental set of solutions for the homogeneous equation*

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

*always exists.*

### 3.3 LINEAR INDEPENDENCE AND THE WRONSKIAN

**Definition 3.1** Two functions  $y_1(x)$  and  $y_2(x)$  are said to be **linearly dependent** on an interval  $I$  if there exist two constants  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$ , **not both zero**, such that

$$\alpha_1 y_1(x) + \alpha_2 y_2(x) = 0 \quad \text{for all } x \text{ in } I.$$

If two functions are not linearly dependent, they are said to be **linearly independent**.

**Remark:** *If*

$$\alpha_1 y_1(x) + \alpha_2 y_2(x) = 0, \forall x \in I \quad \implies \quad \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = 0$$

*then  $y_1, y_2$  are linearly independent.*

### 3.3 LINEAR INDEPENDENCE AND THE WRONSKIAN

**Example 3.1** Determine whether the following pairs of functions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are linearly dependent on  $(-2, 3)$ :

- (a)  $y_1(x) = e^x$ ,  $y_2(x) = x + 1$ ;
- (b)  $y_1(x) = \sin 2x$ ,  $y_2(x) = \cos x \sin x$ ;
- (c)  $y_1(x) = x$ ,  $y_2(x) = |x|$ .

**Example 3.2** Show that if  $\alpha \neq \beta$  then the functions  $y_1(x) = e^{\alpha x}$  and  $y_2(x) = e^{\beta x}$  are linearly independent on any interval.

### 3.3 LINEAR INDEPENDENCE AND THE WRONSKIAN

**Theorem 3.1**     *If  $f$  and  $g$  are differentiable and **linearly dependent** on an open interval  $I$ , then*

$$W(f, g)(x) = 0 \text{ for every point } x \text{ in } I.$$

### 3.3 LINEAR INDEPENDENCE AND THE WRONSKIAN

**Theorem 3.1**    If  $f$  and  $g$  are differentiable and *linearly dependent* on an open interval  $I$ , then

$$W(f, g)(x) = 0 \text{ for every point } x \text{ in } I.$$

So if

$$W(f, g)(x_0) \neq 0 \text{ for some point } x_0 \in I,$$

then  $f$  and  $g$  are linearly *independent* on  $I$ .

### 3.3 LINEAR INDEPENDENCE AND THE WRONSKIAN

**Theorem 3.2** *Let  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  be solutions of the differential equation  $y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$ , where  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$  are continuous on an open interval  $I$ . Then the Wronskian  $W(y_1, y_2)(x)$  is given by*

$$W(y_1, y_2)(x) = C \exp\left(-\int p(x) dx\right)$$

*where  $C$  is a certain constant that depends on  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ , but not on  $x$ .*

### 3.3 LINEAR INDEPENDENCE AND THE WRONSKIAN

**Theorem 3.2** *Let  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  be solutions of the differential equation  $y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$ , where  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$  are continuous on an open interval  $I$ . Then the Wronskian  $W(y_1, y_2)(x)$  is given by*

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where  $C$  is a certain constant that depends on  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ , but not on  $x$ .

**Corollary 3.1** *If  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are solutions of the differential equation  $y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$  on an interval  $I$ , then the Wronskian  $W(y_1, y_2)(x)$  of the two solutions is **either identically zero or never zero** on  $I$ . Furthermore, the Wronskian of two solutions is **identically zero if and only if the solutions are linearly dependent**.*



## 3.3 LINEAR INDEPENDENCE AND THE WRONSKIAN

We summarize the facts in

**Theorem 3.3** *Let  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  be solutions of the differential equation  $y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$  on an interval  $I$ . The following four statements are equivalent:*

- (a) *The functions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are a fundamental set of solutions on  $I$ .*
- (b) *The functions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are linearly independent on  $I$ .*
- (c)  *$W(y_1, y_2)(x_0) \neq 0$  for some  $x_0$  in  $I$ .*
- (d)  *$W(y_1, y_2)(x) \neq 0$  for all  $x$  in  $I$ .*

### 3.3 LINEAR INDEPENDENCE AND THE WRONSKIAN

**Example 3.3** Show that  $y_1(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  and  $y_2(x) = x^3$  are solutions to

$$x^2 y'' - xy' - 3y = 0$$

on the interval  $(0, \infty)$  and give a general solution.

**Example 3.4** Show that  $y_1(x) = x^3$  and  $y_2(x) = x^{-4}$  are solutions of the differential equation

$$x^2 y'' + 2xy' - 12y = 0$$

on the interval  $(0, \infty)$ . Find the solution that satisfies the initial conditions

$$y(1) = 4, \quad y'(1) = 5.$$

## 3.4 COMPLEX NUMBERS

The solution of a quadratic equation  $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$  is given by the formula

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \quad (0.11)$$

But if  $\Delta = b^2 - 4ac$  is negative, it is impossible to use (0.11) unless we introduce a new kind of numbers.

## 3.4.1 DEFINITION OF COMPLEX NUMBERS

The symbol  $i$  that has the property  $i^2 = -1$  is called **the imaginary unit**. We could also call  $i$  *the square root of  $-1$* ,  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ . Of course  $i$  is **NOT** a real number.

### 3.4.1 Definition of Complex Numbers

**Definition 4.1** A **complex number** is an expression of the form

$$a + ib \quad \text{or} \quad a + bi$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are **real numbers**, and  $i$  **is the imaginary unit**.

The **real part** of the complex number  $z = a + bi$  is the real number  $a$  and it is denoted by  $\text{Re}(z)$ . We call the real number  $b$  **the imaginary part** of  $z$  and it is denoted by  $\text{Im}(z)$ . So

$$\text{a complex number} = \text{Real part} + i(\text{Imaginary part})$$

## 3.4.1 DEFINITION OF COMPLEX NUMBERS

### Example 4.1

$$\operatorname{Re}(2 + \sqrt{3}i) = 2$$

$$\operatorname{Im}(2 + \sqrt{3}i) = \sqrt{3}$$

$$\operatorname{Re}(-4i) = \operatorname{Re}(0 + (-4)i) = 0$$

$$\operatorname{Im}(-4i) = -4$$

If  $a = 0$ , the complex number  $z = bi$  is said to be **purely imaginary**, and if  $b = 0$ , the complex number  $z = a$  is **purely real**.

## 3.4.2 ARITHMETICAL OPERATIONS

### Equality

**Definition 4.2** Two complex numbers are **equal** if their real parts are equal and their imaginary parts are equal.

$$a + bi = c + di \iff a = c \quad \text{and} \quad b = d$$

For example, if  $a - 5i = 7 + bi$  then  $a = 7$  and  $b = -5$ .

## Addition and Subtraction

**Definition 4.3** If  $z_1 = a + bi$  and  $z_2 = c + di$ , then we define

$$z_1 + z_2 = (a + c) + (b + d)i$$

$$z_1 - z_2 = (a - c) + (b - d)i$$

For instance

$$(5 + 7i) - (4 - 3i) = (5 - 4) + (7 - (-3))i = 1 + 10i.$$

## Multiplication and Division

The product of complex numbers is defined so that the usual communicative and distributive laws hold:

$$\begin{aligned}(a + bi)(c + di) &= a(c + di) + bi(c + di) \\ &= ac + adi + bci + bdi^2.\end{aligned}$$

Since  $i^2 = -1$ , this becomes

$$(a + bi)(c + di) = ac - bd + (ad + bc)i$$



## 3.4.2 ARITHMETICAL OPERATIONS

**Example 4.2** Determine

(a)  $(4 - 5i)(2 + i)$ ;

(b)  $(3 + 4i)(2 - 5i)(1 - 2i)$ .

- Note that

$$(a + bi)(a - bi) = a^2 + b^2$$

is entirely real.

## 3.4.2 ARITHMETICAL OPERATIONS

The division of two complex numbers is defined as follows

$$\frac{a + bi}{c + di} = \frac{(a + bi)(c - di)}{(c + di)(c - di)} = \frac{(a + bi)(c - di)}{c^2 + d^2}.$$

**Example 4.3** Express the number  $\frac{1+2i}{3-5i}$  in the form  $a + bi$ .

**Example 4.4** Find

$$\frac{(2 + 3i)(1 - 2i)}{3 + 4i}.$$

**Example 4.5** Find the real and imaginary parts of the complex number  $z + \frac{1}{z}$  for  $z = \frac{2+i}{1-i}$ .

## Conjugate numbers

**Definition 4.4** The **conjugate** or **complex conjugate** of a complex number  $z = a + bi$  is the complex number  $\bar{z} = a - bi$ .

- Some of the properties of the complex conjugate:

$$\overline{z + w} = \bar{z} + \bar{w} \quad \overline{zw} = \bar{z}\bar{w} \quad \overline{z^n} = (\bar{z})^n$$

**Definition 4.5** The **modulus** of a complex number  $z = a + bi$  is the nonnegative number

$$|z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$

## 3.4.2 ARITHMETICAL OPERATIONS

Notice that

$$z\bar{z} = (a + bi)(a - bi) = a^2 - b^2i^2 = a^2 + b^2$$

and so

$$z\bar{z} = |z|^2$$

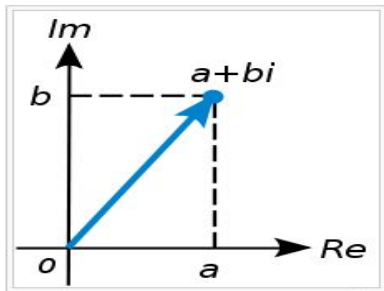
Therefore

$$\frac{z}{w} = \frac{z\bar{w}}{w\bar{w}} = \frac{z\bar{w}}{|w|^2}$$

*To divide one complex number by another, we multiply both numerator and denominator by the conjugate of the denominator.*

### 3.4.3 REPRESENTATION OF COMPLEX NUMBERS

We use the point with coordinates  $(a, b)$  to represent the complex number  $z = a + bi$ .



- The representation of complex numbers as points in a plane is called an **Argand diagram**.
- The set of all complex numbers, denoted  $\mathbb{C}$ , is often referred to as **the complex plane**. The x-axis is called the **real axis**, and the y-axis is called the **imaginary axis**.

**Example 4.6** Represent on the complex plane the numbers

(a)  $z = 3 + 2i$                       (b)  $z = -1 + 4i$                       (c)  $z = -3i$

- Note that the real part corresponds to the  $x$ -value and the imaginary part corresponds to the  $y$ -value.

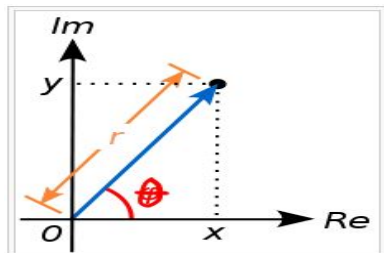
### 3.4.3 POLAR FORM

Any complex number  $z = a + bi$  can be written in the polar form

$$z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta) \quad (0.12)$$

where

$$r = |z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \tan \theta = \frac{b}{a}.$$



- The expression on the right side of (0.12) is called the **polar representation** or **polar form** of  $z$ .

- The angle  $\theta$  is called the **argument** of  $z$  and we write  $\theta = \arg(z)$
- $\arg(z)$  is not unique and the argument of the complex number  $0 = 0 + 0i$  is NOT defined.
- If we restrict  $\theta = \arg(z)$  to an interval of length  $2\pi$ , say,  $[0, 2\pi)$  or  $(-\pi, \pi]$ , then nonzero complex numbers will have unique arguments.
- We will call the value of  $\arg(z)$  in the interval  $-\pi < \theta \leq \pi$  the **principal argument** of  $z$  and denote it  $\text{Arg}(z)$ .



### 3.4.3 POLAR FORM

Principal argument of  $z = x + iy$

$$\theta = \text{Arg}(z) = \begin{cases} \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) & \text{if } x > 0 \\ \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) + \pi & \text{if } x < 0 \text{ and } y \geq 0 \\ \arctan\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) - \pi & \text{if } x < 0 \text{ and } y < 0 \\ \frac{\pi}{2} & \text{if } x = 0 \text{ and } y > 0 \\ -\frac{\pi}{2} & \text{if } x = 0 \text{ and } y < 0 \\ \text{indeterminate} & \text{if } x = 0 \text{ and } y = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\theta \in (-\pi, \pi]$$

**Example 4.7**

(a)  $z = 1 + i$

Write the following complex numbers in polar form

(b)  $z = -\sqrt{3} + i$ .

### 3.4.3 POLAR FORM

## Multiplication and Division in Polar Form

Let

$$z_1 = r_1(\cos \theta_1 + i \sin \theta_1) \quad \text{and} \quad z_2 = r_2(\cos \theta_2 + i \sin \theta_2)$$

be two complex numbers written in polar form. Then

$$z_1 z_2 = |z_1| |z_2| [\cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2) + i \sin(\theta_1 + \theta_2)]$$

• So

*to multiply two complex numbers, we multiply the moduli and add the arguments:*

$$|z_1 z_2| = |z_1| |z_2| \quad \text{and} \quad \arg(z_1 z_2) = \arg(z_1) + \arg(z_2)$$

### 3.4.3 POLAR FORM

Similarly,

$$\frac{z_1}{z_2} = \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|} [\cos(\theta_1 - \theta_2) + i \sin(\theta_1 - \theta_2)] \quad \text{if } z_2 \neq 0$$

This formula shows that

*to divide two complex numbers, we divide the moduli and subtract the arguments:*

$$\left| \frac{z_1}{z_2} \right| = \frac{|z_1|}{|z_2|} \quad \text{and} \quad \arg\left(\frac{z_1}{z_2}\right) = \arg(z_1) - \arg(z_2)$$

- In particular,

$$\text{If } z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta), \text{ then } \frac{1}{z} = \frac{1}{r}(\cos \theta - i \sin \theta)$$

### 3.4.3 POLAR FORM

**Example 4.8** Find the product of the complex numbers  $z_1 = 1 + \sqrt{3}i$  and  $z_2 = -1 - i$  in polar form.

**Example 4.9** If

$$z_1 = 4\left(\cos \frac{\pi}{4} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{4}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad z_2 = 5\left(\cos \frac{3\pi}{4} + i \sin \frac{3\pi}{4}\right),$$

find

$$\frac{z_1}{z_2} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{z_2}{z_1}.$$

### 3.4.4 POWERS AND ROOTS OF COMPLEX NUMBERS

## Powers of Complex Numbers

**Theorem 4.4 (De Moivre's theorem)** If  $z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$  and  $n$  is a positive integer, then

$$z^n = [r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)]^n = r^n(\cos n\theta + i \sin n\theta)$$

This says that

*to take the  $n$ th power of a complex number we take the  $n$ th power of the modulus and multiply the argument by  $n$ .*

**Example 4.10** Express  $(1 + i)^5$  and  $(1 + i)^{10}$  in the form  $a + bi$ .

### 3.4.4 POWERS AND ROOTS OF COMPLEX NUMBERS

## Roots of Complex Numbers

**Definition 4.6** An  **$n$ th root** of the complex number  $z$  is a complex number  $w$  such that  $w^n = z$ .

- Since  $(1 + i)^{10} = 32i$ ,  $w = 1 + i$  is a 10th root of  $32i$ .
- Writing  $z$  and  $w$  in polar form as

$$z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta) \quad \text{and} \quad w = s(\cos \phi + i \sin \phi)$$

and using De Moivre's theorem, we have

$$s^n = r, \quad \cos n\phi = \cos \theta, \quad \text{and} \quad \sin n\phi = \sin \theta.$$

### 3.4.4 POWERS AND ROOTS OF COMPLEX NUMBERS

Thus,  $s = r^{1/n}$  and  $n\phi = \theta + 2k\pi$ . Therefore,

$$w = r^{1/n} \left[ \cos \frac{\theta + 2k\pi}{n} + i \sin \frac{\theta + 2k\pi}{n} \right]$$

This expression gives exactly  $n$  different roots, corresponding to  $k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$ .

**Theorem 4.5** *Let  $z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$  and let  $n$  be a positive integer. Then  $z$  has the  $n$  distinct  $n$ th roots*

$$w_k = r^{1/n} \left[ \cos \frac{\theta + 2k\pi}{n} + i \sin \frac{\theta + 2k\pi}{n} \right], \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$$

The root

$$w_0 = |z|^{1/n} \left( \cos \frac{\theta}{n} + i \sin \frac{\theta}{n} \right)$$

is called the **principal**  $n$ th root of  $z$ .

### 3.4.4 POWERS AND ROOTS OF COMPLEX NUMBERS

**Example 4.11** Find the 4th roots of  $z = -4$ .

**Solution:** We rewrite  $z$  in the polar form  $z = 4(\cos \pi + i \sin \pi)$ .



### 3.4.4 POWERS AND ROOTS OF COMPLEX NUMBERS

**Example 4.11** Find the 4th roots of  $z = -4$ .

**Solution:** We rewrite  $z$  in the polar form  $z = 4(\cos \pi + i \sin \pi)$ . Then the 4th roots of  $z = -4$  are given by

$$w_0 = 4^{1/4} \left( \cos \frac{\pi}{4} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{4} \right) = \sqrt{2} \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + i \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) = 1 + i.$$

### 3.4.4 POWERS AND ROOTS OF COMPLEX NUMBERS

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$$w_1 = 4^{1/4} \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi}{2} \right) + i \sin \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \right) = \sqrt{2} \left( -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + i \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) = -1 + i.$$

### 3.4.4 POWERS AND ROOTS OF COMPLEX NUMBERS

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$$w_1 = 4^{1/4} \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi}{2} \right) + i \sin \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \right) = \sqrt{2} \left( -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + i \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) = -1 + i.$$

$$w_2 = 4^{1/4} \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \pi \right) + i \sin \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \pi \right) \right) = \sqrt{2} \left( -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} - i \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) = -1 - i.$$

### 3.4.4 POWERS AND ROOTS OF COMPLEX NUMBERS

**Example 4.11** Find the 4th roots of  $z = -4$ .

**Solution:** We rewrite  $z$  in the polar form  $z = 4(\cos \pi + i \sin \pi)$ . Then the 4th roots of  $z = -4$  are given by

$$w_0 = 4^{1/4} \left( \cos \frac{\pi}{4} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{4} \right) = \sqrt{2} \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + i \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) = 1 + i.$$

$$w_1 = 4^{1/4} \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi}{2} \right) + i \sin \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi}{2} \right) \right) = \sqrt{2} \left( -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} + i \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) = -1 + i.$$

$$w_2 = 4^{1/4} \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \pi \right) + i \sin \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \pi \right) \right) = \sqrt{2} \left( -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} - i \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) = -1 - i.$$

$$w_3 = 4^{1/4} \left( \cos \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{3\pi}{2} \right) + i \sin \left( \frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{3\pi}{2} \right) \right) = \sqrt{2} \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} - i \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) = 1 - i.$$

## 3.4.5 EXPONENTIAL FORM OF A COMPLEX NUMBER

Recall that for any **real number**  $x$

$$e^x = 1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \cdots$$

(**exponential function with real variable**)

If we now define

$$e^z = 1 + z + \frac{z^2}{2!} + \frac{z^3}{3!} + \frac{z^4}{4!} + \cdots$$

then this **complex exponential function** has the same properties as the real exponential function  $e^x$ . In particular,

$$e^{z_1+z_2} = e^{z_1}e^{z_2}.$$

### 3.4.5 EXPONENTIAL FORM OF A COMPLEX NUMBER

When  $\theta$  is a real number, we have **Euler's formula**:

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$$

Therefore  $z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$  can be written as  $z = re^{i\theta}$ . This is called the **exponential form** of the complex number.

- Note that in the exponential form, the angle must be in **radians**.

## 3.4.5 EXPONENTIAL FORM OF A COMPLEX NUMBER

For instance,  $2(\cos 60^\circ + i \sin 60^\circ) = 2(\cos \frac{\pi}{3} + i \sin \frac{\pi}{3}) = 2e^{i\frac{\pi}{3}}$ .

- Since  $e^{\alpha+i\beta} = e^\alpha e^{i\beta}$ ,

$$e^{\alpha+i\beta} = e^\alpha (\cos \beta + i \sin \beta)$$

**Example 4.12** Evaluate (a)  $e^{\frac{3\pi i}{4}}$  (b)  $e^{2+\frac{3\pi i}{2}}$

The three ways of expressing a complex number are:

- ▶ (a)  $z = a + bi$
- ▶ (b)  $z = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$  Polar form
- ▶ (c)  $z = re^{i\theta}$  Exponential form

# Solving equations with constant coefficients

## 3.5 REAL AND COMPLEX ROOTS OF THE CHARACTERISTIC EQUATION

Consider the homogeneous equation with **constant coefficients**

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0, \quad (0.13)$$

where  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are **real constants** and  $a \neq 0$ .

We see that  $y = e^{rx}$  is a solution of (0.13) if and only if

$$\boxed{ar^2 + br + c = 0} \quad (0.14)$$

Equation (0.14) is called the **characteristic equation** of (0.13). Its roots are

$$r_1 = \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \quad \text{and} \quad r_2 = \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}.$$



## 3.5.1 DISTINCT REAL ROOTS

If the characteristic equation has **distinct real roots**  $r_1$  and  $r_2$ , then the general solution is

$$y(x) = c_1 e^{r_1 x} + c_2 e^{r_2 x}$$

where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are arbitrary constants.

**Example 5.1** Find the general solution of the equation

$$y'' - 3y' + 2y = 0.$$

**Example 5.2** Solve the initial value problem

$$y'' + 4y' - 2y = 0, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = -1.$$

## 3.5.2 COMPLEX ROOTS

If  $\Delta = b^2 - 4ac < 0$ , then the characteristic equation

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

has **two conjugate complex roots**

$$r = \alpha \pm i\beta \quad \text{where} \quad \alpha = -\frac{b}{2a} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta = \frac{\sqrt{4ac - b^2}}{2a}$$

and the differential equation

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

has two complex solutions

$$z_1 = e^{(\alpha+i\beta)x} \quad \text{and} \quad z_2(x) = e^{(\alpha-i\beta)x}.$$

## 3.5.2 COMPLEX ROOTS

**Lemma 5.1**    Let  $z(x) = u(x) + iv(x)$  be a solution to equation

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0, \quad (0.15)$$

where  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are real constants. Then *the real part  $u(x)$  and the imaginary part  $v(x)$  are real-value solutions of (0.15).*

It follows from Lemma 5.1 that

*If the characteristic equation has complex conjugate roots  $\alpha \pm i\beta$ , then two **linearly independent solutions** of the differential equation are*

$$e^{\alpha x} \cos \beta x \quad \text{and} \quad e^{\alpha x} \sin \beta x$$

*and the general solution is*

$$y(x) = c_1 e^{\alpha x} \cos \beta x + c_2 e^{\alpha x} \sin \beta x$$

*where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are arbitrary constants.*

## 3.5.2 COMPLEX ROOTS

**Example 5.3** Find a general solution to

$$y'' + y' + y = 0.$$

**Example 5.4** Find the solution of the initial value problem

$$y'' + 2y' + 4y = 0, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 2.$$

### 3.5.3 EQUAL ROOTS

- If  $\Delta = b^2 - 4ac = 0$ , then the characteristic equation  $ar^2 + br + c = 0$  has **real equal roots**  $r_1 = r_2 = r = -b/2a$  so we obtain only one solution

$$y_1(x) = e^{rx} = e^{-\frac{b}{2a}x}.$$

### 3.5.3 EQUAL ROOTS

- If  $\Delta = b^2 - 4ac = 0$ , then the characteristic equation  $ar^2 + br + c = 0$  has **real equal roots**  $r_1 = r_2 = r = -b/2a$  so we obtain only one solution

$$y_1(x) = e^{rx} = e^{-\frac{b}{2a}x}.$$

We find a solution  $y_2(x)$  such that  $y_1(x)$  and  $y_2(x)$  are **linearly independent**.

- 

Expressing

$$y_2(x) = u(x)y_1(x) = u(x)e^{rx},$$

where the nonconstant function  $u$  is to be determined. Choosing  $u(x) = x$ , it is easy to check that  $y_2(x) = xe^{rx}$  is an expected solution to  $ay'' + by' + c = 0$ .

### 3.5.3 EQUAL ROOTS

If the characteristic equation has a **repeat root**  $r$ , then the general solution of the differential equation is

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

where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are arbitrary constants.

**Example 5.5** Find the general solution to

$$y'' + 2y' + y = 0.$$

### 3.5.4 EQUATIONS WITH NONCONSTANT COEFFICIENTS

We have no general method for solving the homogeneous equation with nonconstant coefficients

$$L[y] = y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0. \quad (0.16)$$



### 3.5.4 EQUATIONS WITH NONCONSTANT COEFFICIENTS

We have no general method for solving the homogeneous equation with nonconstant coefficients

$$L[y] = y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0. \quad (0.16)$$

However, if we already know one nonzero solution  $y_1(x)$  of Equation (0.16), then we can find its general solution by using the Wronskian.

- The Wronskian of  $y_1$  and any solution  $y$  of Equation (0.16) is

$$W[y_1, y] = y'y_1 - y_1'y = c_1 e^{-\int p(x)dx},$$

where  $c_1$  is a constant.

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$$W[y_1, y] = y' y_1 - y_1' y = c_1 e^{-\int p(x) dx},$$

where  $c_1$  is a constant. Dividing by  $y_1^2 \neq 0$  we get

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{y}{y_1} \right) = \frac{c_1}{y_1^2} e^{-\int p(x) dx}.$$

Thus

$$y = y_1 \left\{ \int c_1 \frac{\exp \left( -\int p(x) dx \right)}{y_1^2(x)} dx + c_2 \right\}$$

**Important remark:** If  $y_1$  is a solution of (0.16) then  $y_1$  and

$$y_2 := y_1 \left\{ \int \frac{\exp \left( - \int p(x) dx \right)}{y_1^2(x)} dx \right\}$$

are linearly independent solutions. So the general solution is given by

$$y(x) = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x), \quad c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}.$$

## 3.5.4 EQUATIONS WITH NONCONSTANT COEFFICIENTS

**Example 5.6** Given that  $y_1(t) = t$  is a solution of

$$(1 - t^2)y'' + 2ty' - 2y = 0,$$

find the solution of the initial value problem

$$(1 - t^2)y'' + 2ty' - 2y = 0, \quad y(0) = 3, \quad y'(0) = -4.$$

**Example 5.7** Given the equation

$$x^2y'' + 3xy' + y = 0; \quad x > 0,$$

- (a) Find a solution of the form  $y = x^\alpha$ , where  $\alpha$  is a real number.
- (b) Find the general solution of the differential equation.

## 3.6 NONHOMOGENEOUS EQUATIONS; METHOD OF UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENTS

### 3.6.1 THE GENERAL SOLUTION OF NONHOMOGENEOUS EQUATIONS

Consider the **nonhomogeneous equation**

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = g(x), \quad (0.17)$$

where  $p$ ,  $q$ , and  $g$  are given continuous function on an interval  $I$ . The equation

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \quad (0.18)$$

is called the **homogeneous equation** corresponding to Equation (0.17).

## 3.6.1 THE GENERAL SOLUTION OF NONHOMOGENEOUS EQUATIONS

### Lemma 6.1

*The difference of any two solutions of the nonhomogeneous equation (0.17) is a solution of the homogeneous equation (0.18).*

### 3.6.1 THE GENERAL SOLUTION OF NONHOMOGENEOUS EQUATIONS

#### Theorem 6.2

Let  $y_p(x)$  be a particular solution to the nonhomogeneous equation

$$L[y] = y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = g(x), \quad (0.19)$$

on the interval  $(a, b)$  and let  $y_1(x)$ ,  $y_2(x)$  be linearly independent solutions on  $(a, b)$  of the corresponding homogeneous equation

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

Then **every** solution of (0.19) on the interval  $(a, b)$  can be expressed in the form

$$y = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x) + y_p(x) \quad (0.20)$$

- Expression (0.20) is called the **general solution** of (0.19).

### 3.6.1 THE GENERAL SOLUTION OF NONHOMOGENEOUS EQUATIONS

**Example 6.1** Given that  $y_p(x) = x$  is a particular solution of the equation

$$y'' + y = x,$$

find the general solution of this equation.



### 3.6.1 THE GENERAL SOLUTION OF NONHOMOGENEOUS EQUATIONS

#### **Theorem 6.3** (Superposition Principle)

*Let  $y_1$  be a solution of the differential equation*

$$L[y](x) = g_1(x)$$

*and let  $y_2$  be a solution of*

$$L[y](x) = g_2(x),$$

*where  $L$  is a linear differential operator. Then  $y_1 + y_2$  is a solution of the differential equation*

$$L[y](x) = g_1(x) + g_2(x).$$

### 3.6.1 THE GENERAL SOLUTION OF NONHOMOGENEOUS EQUATIONS

**Example 6.2** Given that  $y_1(x) = 5xe^x$  is a solution to

$$y'' - y' = 5e^x,$$

and  $y_2(x) = -(1/10)\cos 2x + (1/5)\sin 2x$  is a solution to

$$y'' - y' = -\sin 2x,$$

find a solution to

$$y'' - y' = 5e^x - \sin 2x.$$

## 3.6.2 METHOD OF UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENTS

Consider a nonhomogeneous equation

$$L[y] = ay'' + by' + cy = g(x),$$

where  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are constants.

*Case 1:*  $g(x) = P_n(x) = a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0$

## 3.6.2 METHOD OF UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENTS

Consider a nonhomogeneous equation

$$L[y] = ay'' + by' + cy = g(x),$$

where  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  are constants.

Case 1:  $g(x) = P_n(x) = a_nx^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1x + a_0$

- If  $c \neq 0$ , we seek a particular solution  $y_p(x)$  of the form

$$y_p(x) = A_nx^n + A_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \cdots + A_1x + A_0.$$

- If  $c = 0$  and  $b \neq 0$ , we must take  $y_p(x)$  as a polynomial of degree  $n + 1$ :

$$y_p(x) = x[A_nx^n + A_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \cdots + A_1x + A_0].$$

If  $c = b = 0$ , we must take  $y_p(x)$  as a polynomial of degree  $n + 2$ :

$$y_p(x) = x^2[A_nx^n + A_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \cdots + A_1x + A_0].$$

## 3.6.2 METHOD OF UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENTS

**Example 6.3** Find a particular solution of

$$y'' + y' + y = x^2.$$

**Example 6.4** Determine the form of a particular solution of

$$y'' - 7y' = x^3 + 2x + 10.$$

## 3.6.2 METHOD OF UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENTS

Case 2:

$$g(x) = P_n(x)e^{\alpha x} = (a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0)e^{\alpha x}.$$

## 3.6.2 METHOD OF UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENTS

Case 2:

$$g(x) = P_n(x)e^{\alpha x} = (a_n x^n + a_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 x + a_0)e^{\alpha x}.$$

Then equation  $L[y] = P_n(x)e^{\alpha x}$  has a particular solution  $y_p(x)$  of the form

- (i)  $y_p(x) = Q_n(x)e^{\alpha x} = (A_n x^n + A_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + A_1 x + A_0)e^{\alpha x}$  if  $\alpha$  is not a root of the characteristic equation;
- (ii)  $y_p(x) = xQ_n(x)e^{\alpha x} = x(A_n x^n + A_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + A_1 x + A_0)e^{\alpha x}$  if  $\alpha$  is a single root of the characteristic equation;
- (iii)  $y_p(x) = x^2 Q_n(x)e^{\alpha x} = x^2(\sum_{i=0}^n A_i x^i)e^{\alpha x}$  if  $\alpha$  is a double root of the characteristic equation.

## 3.6.2 METHOD OF UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENTS

**Example 6.5** Find a particular solution of the equation

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

**Example 6.6** Find a particular solution of

$$y'' - y' = e^x(x + 1).$$

**Example 6.7** Find the general solution of the equation

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = 6e^{2x}.$$



## 3.6.2 METHOD OF UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENTS

Case 3:  $g(x) = P_n(x)e^{\alpha x} \times \begin{cases} \cos \beta x \\ \sin \beta x \end{cases}$

- (i) If the complex number  $\alpha + i\beta$  is not a root of the characteristic equation, then

$$\begin{aligned} y_p(x) &= [Q_n(x) \cos \beta x + R_n(x) \sin \beta x] e^{\alpha x} \\ &= \left[ (A_n x^n + A_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + A_1 x + A_0) \cos \beta x \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (B_n x^n + B_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + B_1 x + B_0) \sin \beta x \right] e^{\alpha x}. \end{aligned}$$

- (ii) If  $\alpha + i\beta$  is a root of the characteristic equation, then

$$\begin{aligned} y_p(x) &= x [Q_n(x) \cos \beta x + R_n(x) \sin \beta x] e^{\alpha x} \\ &= x \left[ (A_n x^n + A_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + A_1 x + A_0) \cos \beta x \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (B_n x^n + B_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + B_1 x + B_0) \sin \beta x \right] e^{\alpha x}. \end{aligned}$$

## 3.6.2 METHOD OF UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENTS

**Example 6.8** Find a particular solution of

$$y'' + y' - 2y = e^x(\cos x - 7 \sin x).$$

**Example 6.9** Find a particular solution of

$$y'' + y = 2 \sin x.$$

## 3.6.2 METHOD OF UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENTS

The form of a particular solution  $y_p(x)$  of  $L[y](x) = g(x)$  when  $L[y]$  has constant coefficients

$g(x)$	$y_p(x)$
$P_n(x) = \sum_{k=0}^n a_k x^k$	$x^s (A_n x^n + A_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + A_1 x + A_0)$
$P_n(x) e^{\alpha x}$	$x^s (A_n x^n + A_{n-1} x^{n-1} + \cdots + A_1 x + A_0) e^{\alpha x}$
$P_n(x) e^{\alpha x} \times \begin{cases} \cos \beta x \\ \sin \beta x \end{cases}$	$x^s [Q_n(x) \cos \beta x + R_n(x) \sin \beta x] e^{\alpha x}$

**Note** Here  $s$  is the number of times 0 is a root of the characteristic equation,  $\alpha$  is a root of the characteristic equation, and  $\alpha + i\beta$  is a root of the characteristic equation.

## 3.6.2 METHOD OF UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENTS

**Example 6.10** Solve the equation

$$y'' - y' = 5e^x - \sin 2x.$$

**Example 6.11** Find the general solution of the equation

$$y'' - y = 2e^{-x} - 4xe^{-x} + 10 \cos 2x.$$

## 3.7 VARIATION OF PARAMETERS

There is another method of finding a particular solution of a nonhomogeneous equation, called **variation of parameters**.

- Consider the nonhomogeneous linear second order equation

$$L[y](x) = y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = g(x),$$

and let  $\{y_1(x), y_2(x)\}$  be a fundamental set of solutions for the corresponding homogeneous equation.

$$L[y](x) = y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0. \quad (0.21)$$

- The general solution of the homogeneous equation (0.21) is

$$y_h(x) = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x),$$

where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are constants.

## 3.7 VARIATION OF PARAMETERS

- We find two functions  $u_1(x)$  and  $u_2(x)$  such that the expression

$$y_p(x) = u_1(x)y_1(x) + u_2(x)y_2(x)$$

is a solution of the nonhomogeneous equation  $L[y] = g$ .

Then  $u'_1$  and  $u'_2$  satisfy the linear system of equations:

$$u'_1 y_1 + u'_2 y_2 = 0$$

$$u'_1 y'_1 + u'_2 y'_2 = g$$

Using Cramer's rule immediately gives

$$u'_1(x) = \frac{-g(x)y_2(x)}{W[y_1, y_2](x)}, \quad u'_2(x) = \frac{g(x)y_1(x)}{W[y_1, y_2](x)}.$$

## 3.7 VARIATION OF PARAMETERS

### METHOD OF VARIATION OF PARAMETERS

To determine a particular solution of  $y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = g(x)$ :

- Step 1. Find a fundamental set of solutions  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  for the corresponding homogeneous equation and take

$$y_p(x) = u_1(x)y_1(x) + u_2(x)y_2(x).$$

- Step 2. Determine  $u_1(x)$  and  $u_2(x)$  by solving the linear system

$$u_1'y_1 + u_2'y_2 = 0$$

$$u_1'y_1' + u_2'y_2' = g$$

for  $u_1'(x)$  and  $u_2'(x)$  and integrating.

- Step 3. Substitute  $u_1(x)$  and  $u_2(x)$  into the expression for  $y_p(x)$  to obtain a particular solution.

**Note** If the given equation is

$$a_2(x)y''(x) + a_1(x)y'(x) + a_0(x)y = b(x),$$

then it must be put in the form  $y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = g(x)$ .

## 3.7 VARIATION OF PARAMETERS

**Example 7.1** (a) Find the general solution of the equation

$$y'' + y = \frac{1}{\cos x}. \quad (0.22)$$

(b) Find the solution of (0.22) which satisfies the initial conditions  $y(0) = 1$  and  $y'(0) = 2$ .

**Example 7.2** Given the equation

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

- (a) Find a solution of the corresponding homogeneous equation of the form  $y_1(x) = x^\alpha$ .
- (b) Find the general solution of the homogeneous equation.
- (c) Find the general solution of the nonhomogeneous equation.



## 3.8 APPLICATIONS

### 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

- Consider the simple mechanical system consisting of a coil spring suspended from a rigid support with a mass  $m$  attached to the end of the spring.

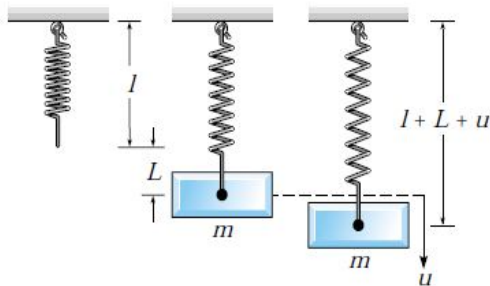


FIGURE 3.8.1 A spring-mass system.

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

**Dynamic problem:** Study the motion of the mass when it is acted on by an external force or is initially displaced.

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

**Dynamic problem:** Study the motion of the mass when it is acted on by an external force or is initially displaced.

- We need two laws of physics:
- Hooke's law:

*the spring exerts a restoring force opposite to the direction of elongation of the spring and with a magnitude directly proportional to the amount of elongation.*

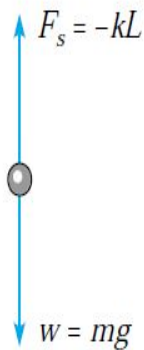
That is, the spring exerts a restoring force

$$F = -kx,$$

where  $x$  is the amount of elongation and  $k > 0$  is the **spring constant**.

- Newton's second law:

$$m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = ma = F\left(t, x, \frac{dx}{dt}\right)$$



**FIGURE 3.8.2** Force diagram for a spring–mass system.

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

- Choose a vertical coordinate axis passing through the spring, with the origin at the equilibrium position of the mass.
- Let  $x$  denote the displacement of the mass from its equilibrium position.
- **Gravity** The force of gravity

$$F_1 = mg.$$

- **Restoring Force** The spring exerts a restoring force

$$F_2 = -kx - mg.$$

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

- **Damping Force**

There is a damping or frictional force

$$F_3 = -b \frac{dx}{dt}, \quad b > 0,$$

where  $b$  is the **damping constant** given in units of mass/time (or force-time/length).

- **External Forces**

Any external forces acting on the mass will be denoted by  $F_4 = f(t)$ .

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

The total force acting on the mass  $m$  is  $F_1 + F_2 + F_3 + F_4$ :

$$\begin{aligned} F\left(t, x, \frac{dx}{dt}\right) &= mg - kx - mg - b\frac{dx}{dt} + f(t) \\ &= -kx - b\frac{dx}{dt} + f(t). \end{aligned}$$

Applying Newton's second law to the system gives

$$m\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + b\frac{dx}{dt} + kx = f(t)$$

- When  $b = 0$ , the system is said to be **undamped**; otherwise, it is **damped**. When  $f(x) \equiv 0$ , the motion is said to be **free**; otherwise the motion is **forced**.

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

### Undamped Vibrations (Free Vibrations)

Consider the **undamped, free** case in which  $b = 0$  and  $f(t) \equiv 0$ .

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + \omega^2 x = 0, \quad (0.23)$$

where  $\omega = \sqrt{k/m}$ .

The general solution to (0.23) is

$$x(t) = C_1 \cos \omega t + C_2 \sin \omega t$$

or

$$x(t) = A \sin(\omega t + \phi),$$

where

$$A = \sqrt{C_1^2 + C_2^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \tan \phi = \frac{C_1}{C_2}.$$



## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

- The motion of a mass in an undamped, free system is simply a sine wave called **simple harmonic motion**.
- $A$  is the **amplitude** of the motion and  $\phi$  is the **phase angle**. The motion is periodic with period  $T = 2\pi/\omega$  and **natural frequency**  $\omega/2\pi$ , where  $\omega = \sqrt{k/m}$ .

**Example 8.1** A spring is such that it would be stretched 6 inches (in.) by a 12-lb weight. Let the weight be attached to a spring and pulled down 4 in. below the equilibrium point. If the weight is started with an upward velocity of 2 ft/sec, describe the motion. No damping or impressed force is present.

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

### Damped Free Vibrations

Consider the motion of a system that is governed by

$$m \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + b \frac{dx}{dt} + kx = 0. \quad (0.24)$$

The auxiliary equation  $m^2 + br + k = 0$  has roots

$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4km}}{2m} = -\frac{b}{2m} \pm \frac{1}{2m} \sqrt{b^2 - 4km}$$

- The value  $b = 2\sqrt{km}$  is called **critical damping**, while for large values of  $b$  the motion is said to be **overdamped**.

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

- **Underdamped or Oscillatory Motion** ( $b^2 < 4km$ )

When  $b^2 < 4km$ , the general solution to (0.24) is

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

or

$$x(t) = Ae^{\alpha t} \sin(\beta t + \phi),$$

where  $A = \sqrt{C_1^2 + C_2^2}$  and  $\tan \phi = C_1/C_2$ .

- The factor  $Ae^{\alpha t} = Ae^{-(b/2m)t}$ , called the **damping factor**, will approach zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

- **Critically Damped Motion** ( $b^2 = 4km$ )

When  $b^2 = 4km$ , the general solution becomes

$$x(t) = (C_1 + C_2 t)e^{-(b/2m)t}.$$

Since  $x(t)$  dies off to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $x(t)$  does not oscillate.

- This special case when  $b^2 = 4mk$  is called **critically damped motion**, since if  $b$  were any smaller, oscillation would occur.

- **Overdamped Motion** ( $b^2 > 4km$ )

When  $b^2 > 4km$ , the general solution is

$$x(t) = C_1 e^{r_1 t} + C_2 e^{r_2 t}.$$

Since both  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are negative,  $x(t) \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

- This case is called **overdamped** motion.

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

**Example 8.2** Assume that the motion of a spring-mass system with damping is governed by

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + b\frac{dx}{dt} + 25x = 0; \quad x(0) = 1, \quad x'(0) = 0.$$

Find the equation of motion and sketch its graph for the three cases when  $b = 8$ ,  $10$ , and  $12$ .

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

### Forced Vibrations

Consider the vibrations of a spring-mass system when an external force is applied:

$$m \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + b \frac{dx}{dt} + kx = F_0 \cos \gamma t, \quad (0.25)$$

where  $F_0$ ,  $\gamma$  are nonnegative constants (and  $0 < b^2 < 4km$ ).

- A particular solution of (0.25) is

$$x_p(t) = \frac{F_0}{(k - m\gamma^2)^2 + b^2\gamma^2} \{ (k - m\gamma^2) \cos \gamma t + b\gamma \sin \gamma t \}$$

or

$$x_p(t) = \frac{F_0}{\sqrt{(k - m\gamma^2)^2 + b^2\gamma^2}} \sin(\gamma t + \theta),$$

where  $\tan \theta = (k - m\gamma^2)/(b\gamma)$ .

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

Hence every solution of (0.25) must be of the form

$$x(t) = x_h(t) + x_p(t) = x_h(t) + \frac{F_0}{\sqrt{(k - m\gamma^2)^2 + b^2\gamma^2}} \sin(\gamma t + \theta),$$

where  $x_h(t)$  is a solution of the homogeneous equation.

Thus, the general solution to (0.25) in the case  $0 < b^2 < 4km$  is

$$x(t) = Ae^{-(b/2m)t} \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{4km - b^2}}{2m}t + \phi\right) + \frac{F_0}{\sqrt{(k - m\gamma^2)^2 + b^2\gamma^2}} \sin(\gamma t + \theta).$$

- $x_h$  is called a **transient** solution and  $x_p$  the **steady-state** solution.

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

**Example 8.3** A 10-kg mass is attached to a spring hanging from the ceiling. This causes the spring to stretch 2 m on coming to rest at equilibrium. At time  $t = 0$ , an external force  $f(t) = 20 \cos 4t$  N is applied to the system. The damping constant for the system is 3 N-sec/m. Determine the steady state solution for the system.



## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

- **Forced Free Vibrations**

Consider the undamped system ( $b = 0$ ) with periodic forcing term  $F_0 \cos \gamma t$ :

$$m \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + kx = F_0 \cos \gamma t. \quad (0.26)$$

- In the case  $\gamma \neq \omega = \sqrt{k/m}$ ,

$$x(t) = A \sin(\omega t + \phi) + \frac{F_0}{k - m\gamma^2} \sin(\gamma t + \theta)$$

## 8.1 MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS

When  $\gamma = \omega$  the general solution of (0.26) is

$$x(t) = A \sin(\omega t + \phi) + \frac{F_0}{2m\omega} t \sin \omega t.$$

The first term is a periodic function while the second term  $x_p(t)$  oscillates between  $\pm(F_0 t)/(2m\omega)$ . Hence as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , the maximum magnitude of  $x(t)$  approaches  $\infty$ .

*If the damping constant  $b$  is very small, the system is subject to large oscillations when the forcing function has a frequency near the resonance frequency for the system.*

## 8.2 ELEMENTARY ELECTRIC CIRCUITS

Consider an electromotive force, resistor, inductor, and capacitor in series. These circuits are called **RLC series circuits**.

- The current  $I$  (amperes) is a function of time  $t$ .
- The resistance  $R$  (ohms), the capacitance  $C$  (farads), and the inductance  $L$  (henrys) are all positive and constants.
- The impressed voltage  $E$  (volts) is a given function of time.
- The relation between total charge  $Q$  (coulombs) on the capacitor at time  $t$  and current  $I$  is

$$I = \frac{dQ}{dt}.$$

## 8.2 ELEMENTARY ELECTRIC CIRCUITS

- Two physical principles governing RLC series circuits are **Kirchhoff's laws**:
  - (I) *The current  $I$  passing through each of the elements (resistor, inductor, capacitor, or electromotive force) in the series circuit must be the same.*
  - (II) *The algebraic sum of the instantaneous change in potential (voltage drop) around a closed circuit must be zero.*
- The voltage drop across each element of the circuit:
  - (i) *The voltage drop across a resistance of  $R$  ohms equals  $RI$  (Ohm's law).*
  - (ii) *The voltage drop across an inductance of  $L$  henrys equal  $L(di/dt)$ .*
  - (iii) *The voltage drop across a capacitance of  $C$  farads equals  $Q/C$ .*

## 8.2 ELEMENTARY ELECTRIC CIRCUITS

Kirchhoff's second law gives

$$E_L + E_R + E_C = E(t)$$

or

$$L \frac{dI}{dt} + RI + \frac{1}{C} Q = E(t). \quad (0.27)$$

Since  $I(t) = dQ/dt$ , we see that

$$L \frac{d^2 Q}{dt^2} + R \frac{dQ}{dt} + \frac{1}{C} Q = E(t)$$

The initial conditions are

$$Q(t_0) = Q_0, \quad Q'(t_0) = I(t_0) = I_0.$$

## 8.2 ELEMENTARY ELECTRIC CIRCUITS

If we differentiate (0.27) with respect to  $t$  and substitute  $I$  for  $dQ/dt$ , we obtain

$$L \frac{d^2 I}{dt^2} + R \frac{dI}{dt} + \frac{1}{C} I = \frac{dE}{dt}$$

The initial conditions are

$$I(t_0) = I_0, \quad I'(t_0) = I'_0.$$

From (0.27) it follows that

$$I'_0 = \frac{E(t_0) - RI_0 - (1/C)Q_0}{L}.$$

## 8.2 ELEMENTARY ELECTRIC CIRCUITS

**Example 8.4** An RLC series circuit has an electromotive force given by  $E(t) = \sin 100t$  volts, a resistor of 0.02ohms, an inductor of 0.001 henrys, and a capacitor of 2 farads. If the initial current and the initial change on the capacitor are both zero, determine the current in the circuit for  $t > 0$ .

- In this example,
  - ◇  $I_h(t)$  is a **transient current** that tends to zero as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  and
  - ◇  $I_p(t)$  is a **steady-state current** that remains.

## 8.2 ELEMENTARY ELECTRIC CIRCUITS

If we had chosen to solve for the charge  $Q(t)$  in this example, we would also have found that there is a **transient charge**  $Q_h$  that dies off and a **steady-state charge**  $Q(t)$  that remains.

In general, the steady-state solutions  $Q(t)$  and  $I(t)$  that arise from the electromotive force  $E(t) = E_0 \sin \gamma t$  are

$$Q_p(t) = \frac{-E_0 \cos(\gamma t + \theta)}{\sqrt{(1/C - L\gamma^2)^2 + \gamma^2 R^2}},$$
$$I_p(t) = Q'(t) = \frac{E_0 \sin(\gamma t + \theta)}{\sqrt{R^2 + [\gamma L - 1/(\gamma C)]^2}},$$

where  $\tan \theta = (1/C - L\gamma^2)/(\gamma R)$ . The quantity  $\sqrt{R^2 + [\gamma L - 1/(\gamma C)]^2}$  is called the **impedance** of the circuit and is a function of the frequency  $\gamma$  of the electromotive force  $E(t)$ .



# Exercises and Assignments

<b>Pages</b>	<b>Exercises</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
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151-152	8, 14, 16, 26	8, 13, 15, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, 29, 35
158-159	1, 8, 9	2, 4, 10, 11, 13, 18, 20, 28
164-165	7, 9, 11, 16, 18, 20, 22	8, 13, 19, 23, 25, 26, 27, 38, 40
172-173	2, 9, 12, 18, 27, 34	4, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 25, 28, 36, 38,
184-186	3, 8, 15, 17, 20	2, 5, 14, 18, 21, 26, 28, 32
190-192	2, 7, 8, 15	4, 5, 6, 12, 14, 17, 19