

MM2 Revision Lecture

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Module Evaluation Questionnaires

- This year's Module Evaluation Questionnaires have been released.
- Please fill in your MEQs to help us improve the format and content of the modules.

Lecture Summary

Resources

- DUO
 - Lecture notes
 - Weekly problems/solutions
 - Workshop problems/solutions
 - Mid-term progress test
 - Past exams (5 years)
 - Extra reading
- Text book
 - Mathematical Methods for Physics and Engineering
 - Riley, Hobson and Benoe

Exam

- Format for MM2
 - 7 short questions: 7×4 marks = 28 marks
 - 1 long question: 1×30 marks
 - Answer **all** questions
- Topics that are in past exams but not covered this year (you don't need to learn these)
 - **Frobenius method** (like Taylor, but for singular points rather than ordinary points)
 - **Reduction of order method** (finding a 2nd solution to a 2nd order ODE if you already know 1 solution)
 - **Spherical harmonics** (related to Legendre polynomials; solutions in polar coordinates)

Course Summary

- 1 objective – **solving ODEs and PDEs**
 - i.e. finding an expression for dependent variables that does not include any derivatives.
- **ODEs (one independent variable)**
 - 1st order
 - 2nd order and higher
 - E.g. - 2nd order, 3rd degree ODE, independent variable x,

$$\left(\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}\right)^3 + \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^4 + y = 2e^x$$

- **PDEs (two or more independent variables)**
 - E.g. - independent variables x and y,

$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial y} + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = e^{xy}$$

1st Order ODEs

- Techniques
 - Separation of variables [L1P3](#)
 - Exact equations [L1P4](#)
 - Inexact equations (integrating factors) [L1P5](#)
 - Homogeneous ODEs [L2P1](#)
 - Isobaric ODEs [L2P2](#)
 - Linear ODEs [L2P4](#)
 - Bernoulli ODEs [L2P5](#)

1st Order ODEs

- Choosing a method
 - Can you separate the variables?
 - Yes – separate and integrate
 - No – check the form of the equation or check if exact

- Forms

- Linear

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + p(x)y = q(x)$$

- Bernoulli

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + p(x)y = q(x)y^n \text{ where } n \neq 0 \text{ and } n \neq 1$$

- Homogeneous

$$\text{Form: } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{A(x,y)}{B(x,y)} = F\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \quad \text{Condition: } f(\lambda x, \lambda y) = \lambda^n f(x, y)$$

- Isobaric

$$\text{Form: } \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{A(x,y)}{B(x,y)} = F\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \quad \text{Condition: } f(\lambda x, \lambda^m y) = \lambda^{m-1} f(x, y)$$

1st Order ODEs

- Solutions to the forms

- Linear

$$y = \frac{1}{\mu(x)} \int \mu(x)q(x)dx \text{ where } \mu(x) = e^{\int p(x)dx}$$

- Bernoulli

Change of variable $z = y^{1-n}$ to linearise the problem

- Homogeneous – sub $y = vx$

- Isobaric – sub $y = vx^m$

1st Order ODEs

- Alternatively, check if the equation is exact
 - Exact:
 - Form: $A(x, y)dx + B(x, y)dy = 0$
 - Conditions: $\frac{\partial A}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial B}{\partial x}$, $du = \frac{\partial u}{\partial x}dx + \frac{\partial u}{\partial y}dy = A dx + B dy = 0$
 - Solve for $u = \text{constant}$ since $du = 0$
 - Not exact:
 - Form: $\mu(x, y)A(x, y)dx + \mu(x, y)B(x, y)dy = 0$
 - Conditions: $\frac{\partial A}{\partial y} \neq \frac{\partial B}{\partial x}$, determine integrating factor so that $\frac{\partial \mu A}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial \mu B}{\partial x}$
 - Solve for $u = \text{constant}$ after applying integrating factor

1st Order ODEs checklist

- Can you apply the method of separation of variables?
- Can you tell which method to apply based on the form of the ODE and any relevant conditions?
- Can you solve linear, Bernoulli, homogeneous and isobaric ODEs?
- Can you tell if an equation is exact and solve it?
- If an equation is not exact, can you find an integrating factor to make it exact and solve it?

2nd+ Order Linear ODEs

- General form of 2nd order linear ODE **L3P1**

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

- Classification **L3P1**

- Constant or variable coefficients
- Homogeneous $f(x) = 0$ or inhomogeneous $f(x) \neq 0$

- Complementary function **L3P1**

- Solution to LHS (homogeneous problem)

- Particular integral **L3P2**

- Solution to non-zero RHS (inhomogeneous problem)

2nd+ Order Linear ODEs

- Techniques
 - Solving ODE with constant coefficients
 - Auxiliary equation to find complementary function [L3P2](#)
 - Method of trial functions/undetermined coefficients to find particular integral [L3P2](#)
 - Laplace transform method [L4P1](#)
 - Solving ODE with variable coefficients
 - Legendre linear equations [L4P4](#)
 - Euler linear equations [L4P5](#)
 - Wronskian/variation of parameters method [L5](#)
 - Green's function method [L6](#)
 - Series solutions
 - Identifying ordinary/singular points [L7](#)
 - Taylor series solutions [L8](#)
 - Special functions
 - Legendre's differential equation/Legendre polynomials [L9](#)

2nd+ Order ODEs: Const. coeff.

- General solution

- Complementary function

- Auxiliary function – sub $y = Ae^{\lambda x}$

- Obtain polynomial from ODE

$$a_n \lambda^n + a_{n-1} \lambda^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 \lambda + a_0 = 0$$

- Check roots for standard solutions

- Real, distinct: $y_c = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 x} + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 x}$

- Real, repeat: $y_c = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 x} + x c_2 e^{\lambda_1 x}$

- Complex: $y_c = c_1 e^{(a+ib)x} + c_2 e^{(a-ib)x}$

- Particular integral (when $RHS \neq 0$)

- Trial functions – try a general function that matches the RHS, e.g.

- $f(x) = 3e^x$ try solution $y_p = Ae^x$

- $f(x) = 2x^3$ try solution $y_p = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$

- General solution

$$y = y_c + y_p$$

2nd+ Order ODEs: Const. coeff.

- Laplace transform method

- Change an ODE into an algebraic equation, solve it, reverse the transform

- Laplace transform definition

$$\bar{f}(s) \equiv \int_0^{\infty} e^{-sx} f(x) dx$$

- Laplace transform of nth derivative

$$\begin{aligned} & \overline{f^n}(s) \\ &= s^n \bar{f}(s) - s^{n-1} f(0) - s^{n-2} f'(0) - \dots - s f^{(n-2)}(0) \\ & \quad - f^{(n-1)}(0) \end{aligned}$$

- May require you to solve partial fractions
- You do not need to memorise the table of standard transforms (for MM2 at least...)
 - E.g. $f(t) = e^{at}$ becomes $\bar{f}(s) = \frac{1}{s-a}$

2nd+ Order ODEs: Var. coeff.

- Legendre and Euler eqns

- Legendre 2nd order linear eqn

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

- Solved by subbing $(\alpha x + \beta) = e^t$
- Find $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dt}{dx} \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha x + \beta} \frac{dy}{dt}$ and $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\alpha^2}{(\alpha x + \beta)^2} \left(\frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} - \frac{dy}{dt} \right)$

- Euler 2nd order linear eqn (Legendre special case)

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

- Solved by subbing $x = e^t$
- Find $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dt}{dx} \frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{1}{e^t} \frac{dy}{dt}$ and $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{e^{2t}} \left(\frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} - \frac{dy}{dt} \right)$

2nd+ Order ODEs: Var. coeff. - Wronskian

- Wronskian can be used to check solutions are linearly independent

$$W = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y'_1 & y'_2 \end{vmatrix} = y_1 y'_2 - y_2 y'_1$$

- Solutions are linearly independent if $W \neq 0$
- Wronskian/variation of parameters method finds a y_p constructed from same solutions as y_c

$$y_c = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2 \text{ and } y_p = k_1 y_1 + k_2 y_2$$

$$k_1 = - \int \frac{y_2 f(x)}{W} dx \text{ and } k_2 = \int \frac{y_1 f(x)}{W} dx$$

- $f(x) = \text{RHS of ODE}$
- Note; No need to add y_c to y_p here, y_p IS the general solution

2nd+ Order ODEs: Var. coeff.

- Green's function method

- Green's function is useful because it allows us to find the solution to any RHS, given boundary conditions
- If L is a linear differential operator acting on $y(x)$ such that

$$Ly(x) = f(x)$$

then Green's function satisfies

$$LG(x, z) = \delta(x - z)$$

where $\delta(x - z)$ is the Dirac delta function, and

$$y(x) = \int_a^b G(x, z)f(z)dz$$

where z is the integration variable.

- Check the boundary conditions to form equations in the regions $x < z$ and $x > z$.

2nd+ Order ODEs: Var. coeff.

- Identifying singular points

- Recall the 2nd order linear equation

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

- For a complex point $z = z_0$, evaluate the nature of z_0 by testing $p(z)$ and $q(z)$.
 - Both converge (give finite answer) – **ordinary point**
 - One or both diverge (to infinity) – **singular point**
- If point is singular, test nature again
 - Find $(z - z_0)p(z)$ and $(z - z_0)^2q(z)$
 - Both converge – **regular singular point**
 - One or both diverge – **irregular singular point**
- Singular points at infinity
 - Use a change of variable $z = 1/w$ where $w \rightarrow \infty$

2nd+ Order ODEs: Var. coeff.

- Identifying singular points

- Recall the 2nd order linear equation

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

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 - Both converge – **regular singular point**
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- Singular points at infinity
 - Use a change of variable $z = 1/w$ where $w \rightarrow \infty$

2nd+ Order ODEs: Var. coeff.

- Taylor series

- Taylor series can be used to find solutions at ordinary points
- Any real function can be expressed as the sum of an infinite polynomial
- Taylor series

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= f(a) + f'(a)(x - a) \\ &+ \frac{f''(a)}{2!}(x - a)^2 + \frac{f^{(3)}(a)}{3!}(x - a)^3 + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(a)}{n!}(x - a)^n + \dots \end{aligned}$$

- Maclaurin series

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) &= f(0) + f'(0)x + \frac{f''(0)}{2!}x^2 + \frac{f^{(3)}(0)}{3!}x^3 + \dots + \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!}x^n + \dots \end{aligned}$$

2nd+ Order ODEs: Var. coeff.

- Taylor series

- Taylor series solution

$$y(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(z_0)}{n!} (z - z_0)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n (z - z_0)^n$$

- Maclaurin series solution

$$y(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{f^{(n)}(0)}{n!} z^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n z^n$$

- Derivatives

$$y'(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n a_n z^{n-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+1) a_{n+1} z^n$$

$$y''(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n(n-1) a_n z^{n-2} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n+2)(n+1) a_{n+2} z^n$$

2nd+ Order ODEs: Var. coeff.

- Taylor series

- The technique is to sub the series solutions into the equation and find a recurrence relation for a_n
- With luck you can express the solution as a sum of odd and even series or some similar combination
- Frobenius series is an extension to this idea that allows you to find solutions for singular points – not required this year

2nd+ Order ODEs: Var. coeff.

- Legendre polynomials

- The Legendre differential equation is a special function, one that occurs frequently in physics

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

- and has a set of standard solutions – Legendre polynomials

- E.g. $P_2(x) = \frac{1}{2}(3x^2 - 1)$

- These can be calculated with Rodrigues' formula

$$P_\ell(x) = \frac{1}{2^\ell \ell!} \frac{d^\ell}{dx^\ell} (x^2 - 1)^\ell$$

- Note: this is only the first of two solutions required for our 2nd order Legendre ODE. Finding the second is a more complex process and was not covered

2nd+ Order ODEs checklist

- Can you classify higher order ODEs?
- Can you use the auxiliary function and trial functions to solve homogeneous and inhomogeneous equations?
- Can you use Laplace transforms to solve 2nd order ODEs with constant coefficients?
- Can you identify and solve Legendre and Euler equations?
- Can you use the Wronskian to demonstrate solutions are linearly independent?
- Can you use the Wronskian to solve equations?
- Can you identify the nature of singular/ordinary points?
- Can you use Taylor/Maclaurin series to find solutions at an ordinary point?
- Can you identify Legendre differential equations and find Legendre polynomials using the Rodrigues formula?

PDEs

- The general form of a 2nd order PDE is

$$au_{xx} + bu_{xy} + cu_{yy} + du_x + eu_y + fu = g(x, y)$$

- u is the variable we will solve for
- Most of the problems we look at do not have all 7 terms
- The technique you apply largely depends on which combination of terms you have

PDEs

- Techniques
 - Separation of variables [L11,L12,L13](#)
 - E.g. diffusion/heat equation
 - General solutions
 - 1st order PDEs
 - 1 derivative [L14P1](#)
 - 2 derivatives [L14P3](#)
 - With boundary conditions [L14P3](#)
 - With a non-derivative term [L15P1](#)
 - Homogeneous/inhomogeneous [L15P3](#)
 - 2nd order PDEs
 - $f(p)$ where $p = p(x, y)$ [L16](#)
 - With boundary conditions [L17P1](#)
 - E.g. wave equation, Laplace equation

PDEs

– Separation of variables

- Can you express the following?

$$u(x, t) = X(x)T(t)$$

- Partial derivatives you may need

$$u_x = X'T, u_t = XT', u_{xx} = X''T, u_{tt} = XT''$$

- Sub these into your PDE and divide to separate the variables (all X one side of equation, all T the other)
- Equate both sides to a constant, the separation constant
 - E.g. $\frac{X''}{X} = \frac{1}{k^2} \frac{T'}{T} = \mu$
- Separate this equation into two ODEs and solve them
- Multiply the solutions to obtain general solution

PDEs

– Separation of variables

- To apply boundary conditions examine cases where

$$\mu < 0, \mu = 0, \mu > 0$$

- Add the solutions as a Fourier series

$$u(x, t) = u_{\mu=0} + \sum u_{\mu<0} + \sum u_{\mu>0}$$

- General Fourier

$$f(x) = \frac{a_0}{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos \frac{2n\pi x}{L} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin \frac{2n\pi x}{L}$$

- Fourier coefficients

$$a_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L f(x) dx,$$

$$a_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \cos \frac{2n\pi x}{L} dx, \quad b_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin \frac{2n\pi x}{L} dx$$

PDE general solutions

– 1st order PDEs

- Seek a function made from a combination of independent variables
- You need to be able to reproduce the **derivations** of these solutions
- For **$u(x,y)$** seek **$u(p)$** where **$p=p(x,y)$**
- General equation

$$A(x,y) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + B(x,y) \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + C(x,y)u = R(x,y)$$

- There are slightly different methods for the cases
 - $A=0$ or $B=0$
 - $C=0$ and $R=0$
 - $R=0$
 - No terms are zero

PDE general solutions

– 1st order PDEs

- $A=0$ or $B=0$

$$A(x, y) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + C(x, y)u = R(x, y)$$

- Solve as a 1st order ODE

$$u = \frac{1}{\mu(x, y)} \int \mu(x, y) q(x, y) dx \quad \text{where } \mu(x, y) = e^{\int p(x, y) dx}$$

- $C=0$ and $R=0$

$$A(x, y) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + B(x, y) \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} = 0$$

- p here is equal to any multiple of the constant of integration of

$$\frac{dx}{A(x, y)} = \frac{dy}{B(x, y)}$$

- Solution: $u(x, y) = f(p)$

PDE general solutions

– 1st order PDEs

- $R=0$

$$A(x, y) \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + B(x, y) \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + C(x, y)u = 0$$

- p here is equal to any multiple of the constant of integration of

$$\frac{dx}{A(x, y)} = \frac{dy}{B(x, y)}$$

- Solution: $u(x, y) = h(x, y)f(p)$
- h is any non-trivial solution to the PDE
- The previous two techniques can be used to solve the **homogeneous problem** (i.e. when $R=0$)
- No terms are zero (**inhomogeneous problem**)
 - Find any solution that gives correct RHS, by inspection or integration (ignoring unrequired terms)
- Analogous to complementary function and particular integral in ODEs

PDE general solutions

– 1st order PDEs

- Applying boundary conditions
 - Sub in the conditions and note effect on the function
 - Try $f(z)$ to find relation between function argument and the RHS, where $z = p|_{BC}$
 - If there is more than one way to write down the solution you will need an additional $g(x,y)$ term in your solution
 - This typically happens for BCs at a point, rather than along a line, as there is usually a lot of choice when picking a solution that works

PDE general solutions

– 2nd order PDEs

- Simplified general 2nd order equation

$$Au_{xx} + Bu_{xy} + Cu_{yy} = R(x, y)$$

- Again, you should be able to reproduce the **derivation involving f(p)** here
- Solutions $u(x, y) = f(x + \lambda_1 y) + g(x + \lambda_2 y)$
- where $\lambda = \frac{-B \pm (B^2 - 4AC)^{1/2}}{2C}$
- Limitation of method
 - Only works for derivatives of same order (e.g. wave equation)
 - Cannot mix 1st and 2nd order derivatives (e.g. diffusion equation)

PDEs checklist

- Can you apply the separation of variables method?
- Can you apply the 4 1st order methods that depend on which terms are present?
- Can you apply boundary conditions to PDEs?
- Can you find the solution to 2nd order PDEs?
- Can you show how the quadratic solution to 2nd order PDEs is derived?
- Can you show how the form of the $f(p)$ term is eliminated from the derivations for the 1st and 2nd order solutions?

General tips

- You don't need to memorise most of the formulae in this course, with the exception of equation forms
 - i.e. You need to be able to identify types of equations
 - Can you tell an Euler from a Legendre?
 - Can you tell a linear from a Bernoulli?
 - Etc
- E-mail me or come and see me if you're unsure about anything