

# MA-240 Review

Jacob Sigman

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# Chapter 1: Introduction to Differential Equations

## 1.1: Definitions and Terminology

**Differential Equation** An equation containing the derivatives of one or more dependent variables with respect to one or more independent variables.

**Classification by Order** The order of the highest derivative in the equation.

**Classification by Type** Whether the differential equation has partial derivatives in it. If it does, it's called a Partial Differential Equation, otherwise it's called an Ordinary Differential Equation.

**Classification By Linearity** A differential equation is linear if it can be put in the form

$$a_n(x)\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + a_{n-1}(x)\frac{d^{n-1}y}{dx^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_0 y = g(x)$$

where  $a_i(x)$  and  $g(x)$  depend at most on the independent variable.

**Solutions** Suppose  $\phi$  is a function defined on some interval. If substituting  $\phi$  into the ODE reduces the equation to an identity, then  $\phi$  solves the ODE on the interval. The graph of  $\phi$  is called a Solution Curve.

**Particular Solution** In general, an  $n^{\text{th}}$  order Ordinary Differential Equation will be solved by an  $n$ -parameter family of solutions. A solution of a differential equation that is free of arbitrary parameters is said to be particular.

**Singular Solution** A particular solution which does not belong to an  $n$ -parameter family of solutions.

**General Solution** If the  $n$ -parameter family contains all the solutions, then the  $n$ -parameter family is said to be the general solution.

## 1.2: Initial-Value Problems

An Initial-Value Problem is an  $n^{\text{th}}$  order Ordinary Differential Equation paired with conditions for the solution and its first  $(n - 1)$  derivatives. Below is an example of an Initial-Value Problem.

$$y'' + 3y' - y = \sin x \quad y(\pi) = 1 \quad y'(\pi) = 3$$

Picard's Theorem discusses the existence of a unique solution. Suppose  $R$  is a region in the  $xy$ -plane containing  $(x_0, y_0)$ . If  $f(x, y)$  and  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}$  are continuous on  $R$ , there exists some interval  $I$  which belongs to  $x_0$  such that  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x, y)$  has one and only one solution passing through  $x_0$ .

## 1.3: Differential Equations as Mathematical Models

**Population Dynamics** The rate at which population grows at a certain time is proportional to the total population of the country at that time:  $\frac{dP}{dt} = kP$

**Radioactive Decay** The rate at which the nuclei of a substance decays is proportional to the amount of substance remaining at a given time:  $\frac{dA}{dt} = kA$

**Newton's Law of Cooling** The rate at which the temperature of a body changes is proportional to the difference between the temperature of the body and the temperature of the surrounding medium:  $\frac{dT}{dt} = k(T - T_m)$

**Mixtures** The mixing of two salt solutions of differing concentrations results in a first-order differential equation for the amount of salt contained in a mixture:  $\frac{dA}{dt} = R_{in} - R_{out}$

## Chapter 2: First-Order Differential Equations

### 2.1: Solution Curves Without a Solution

It's not always easy to solve a differential equation, we may just want to know what they look like. This is where Direction Fields come in. They provide a visual representation of solutions. Evaluate some  $y' = f(x, y)$  on a dense grid.

An Autonomous first-order differential equation is a differential equation which is only a function of  $y$ :  $y' = f(x, y) = f(y)$ . The points at which  $f(x, y) = 0$  are called Critical Points. A constant solution of an Autonomous differential equation is called an Equilibrium Solution. A Phase Portrait depicts the behavior of the differential equation on certain intervals. When two arrowheads of a phase portrait point towards each other, it is said to be an attractor, which is stable. When two arrowheads of a phase portrait point away from each other, it is said to be a repeller.

### 2.2: Seperable Equations

A first-order equation of the following form is said to be separable.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = g(x)h(y)$$

This equation can be solved by integration.

$$\int p(y)y' dx = \int g(x)dx \rightarrow \int p(y)dy = \int g(x)dx$$

### 2.3: Linear Equations

Recall that a differential equation is linear if it can be put in the following form:

$$a_n(x)\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + a_{n-1}(x)\frac{d^{n-1} y}{dx^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_0 y = g(x) \text{ where } y' = P(x)y$$

We look for a function  $\mu$  by multiplying by  $\mu$  on both sides of  $y'$ . We will get a derivative on one side.

$$\text{Let } \mu(x) = e^{\int P(x)dx} \rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} [\mu(x)y] = f(x)e^{\int P(x)dx}$$

For a linear differential equation, if  $f(x) = 0$  we call the differential equation homogeneous,  $f(x)$  is sometimes called a forcing function.

The error function and complimentary error function are defined as follows.

$$\operatorname{erf}(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^x e^{-t^2} dt \quad \operatorname{erfc}(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_x^\infty e^{-t^2} dt$$

### 2.4: Exact Equations

Consider a differential equation of the following form:

$$\mathbf{M}(x, y)dx + \mathbf{N}(x, y)dy = 0 \rightarrow \mathbf{M}(x, y) + \mathbf{N}(x, y)y' = 0$$

If  $z = f(x, y)$  is a 2-variable function with continuous partials in some region  $R$ , then on  $R$ , the total differential of  $z$  is said to be:

$$dz = f_x dx + f_y dy$$

of particular interest to us is the case where  $f(x, y) = c$  so  $f_x dx + f_y dy = 0$ .  $f(x, y) = c$  is a family of functions defined by the parameter  $c$ .

An expression  $\mathbf{M}dx + \mathbf{N}dy$  is an exact differential form if there exists a function on a region  $R$  such that  $\mathbf{M} = f_x$  and  $\mathbf{N} = f_y$  are continuous. A differential equation is exact if:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{M}}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{N}}{\partial x}$$

If  $\mathbf{M}_y \neq \mathbf{N}_x$ , then multiply both sides by a factor  $\mu$  such that  $(\mu \mathbf{M})_y = (\mu \mathbf{N})_x$ .

$$\mu_x + \left( \frac{\mathbf{N}_x - \mathbf{M}_y}{\mathbf{N}} \right) \mu = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \mu_y + \left( \frac{\mathbf{M}_y - \mathbf{N}_x}{\mathbf{M}} \right) \mu = 0$$

## 2.5: Solutions by Substitutions

A function  $f$  is homogeneous if  $f(tx, ty) = t^\alpha f(x, y)$  for all  $t, x, y$  of degree  $\alpha$ . A differential equation  $\mathbf{M}dx + \mathbf{N}dy = 0$  is homogeneous if  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{N}$  are homogeneous of the same degree. Substitutions for  $y$  and  $x$  are made as follows:

$$y = ux \quad \text{or} \quad x = vy$$

Bernoulli's Equation is as follows.

$$y' + P(x)y = f(x)y^n \quad \text{Substitution: } u = y^{1-n}$$

# Chapter 3: Modeling with First-Order Differential Equations

## 3.1: Linear Models

**Growth and Decay**

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = kx$$

**Newton's Law of Cooling**

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = k(T - T_m)$$

**Mixtures**

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = R_{in} - R_{out}$$

**Series Circuits**

$$L \frac{di}{dt} + Ri = E(t) \quad R \frac{dq}{dt} + \frac{1}{C} q = E(t)$$

# Chapter 4: Higher-Order Differential Equations

## 4.1: Preliminary Theory - Linear Equations

An  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem is defined as

$$\sum_{i=0}^n a_i(x)y^{(i)}(x) = g(x) \text{ such that } y(x_0) = y_0, y'(x_0) = y_1, \dots, y^{(n-1)}(x_0) = y_{n-1}$$

Let  $a_i$  be continuous on  $I$ .  $a_n(x) \neq 0$  for all  $x \in I$ , then there is a unique solution to the  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem on  $I$ . A boundary-value problem is defined as

$$a_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = g(x) \text{ such that } y(c) = y_0 \text{ and } y(b) = y_1$$

If  $g(x) = 0$  in an  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem, the differential equation is homogeneous. Otherwise, it's not homogeneous. The differential operator is defined as follows:

$$Df = f'$$

If  $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^k$  are solutions to the homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem, then

$$\sum_{i=1}^k c_i y_i$$

is also a solution to the homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem. This is called the superposition principle.

A set of functions  $\{f_i\}_{i=1}^n$  is linearly independent if

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c_i f_i(x) = 0$$

This implies  $c_i = 0$  for all  $i$  otherwise it's linearly dependent. This means that there exists a set of constants  $\{c_i\}$  that are not all zero such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c_i f_i(x) = 0$$

.

Let  $F$  be a set of functions. If  $0 \in F$ , then  $F$  is linearly dependent.  $F = \{f_1, f_2\}$  is linearly dependent if and only if  $f_1 = kf_2$ . The Wronskian of a set of functions  $\{f_i\}_{i=1}^n$  where  $f_i$  are differentiable up to  $n-1$  degrees is:

$$W(f_1, \dots, f_n) = \begin{vmatrix} f_1 & f_2 & \cdots & f_n \\ f_1' & f_2' & \cdots & f_n' \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ f_1^{(n-1)} & f_2^{(n-1)} & \cdots & f_n^{(n-1)} \end{vmatrix}$$

A set of  $n$  solutions to the homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem is linearly independent if and only if the Wronskian is nonzero everywhere. If  $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^n$  are solutions to the homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem, then  $W(y_1, \dots, y_n)$  is always or never zero on  $I$ . A set of linearly independent solutions to the homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem  $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^n$  is called a fundamental set. There is always a fundamental set for the homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem.

If  $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^n$  are solutions to the homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem and  $y_p$  is a solution to the non-homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem then

$$\sum_{i=1}^n c_i y_i + y_p$$

is a solution to the non-homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem. If  $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^n$  are a fundamental set for the homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem and  $y_p$  solves the non-homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem, then the general solution of the non-homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem is

$$y = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i y_i + y_p$$

To solve a non-homogeneous  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order Initial-Value Problem, solve for the homogeneous case first, find the particular solution, then find the general solution. Say that  $y_{p_j}$  solves

$$\sum_{i=0}^n a_i(x) y_i^{(i)} = g_j(x) \text{ for } j = 1, \dots, m$$

then

$$\sum_{j=1}^m y_{p_j} \text{ solves } \sum_{i=0}^n a_i(x) y_i^{(i)} = \sum_{j=1}^m g_j(x)$$

## 4.2: Reduction of Order

Say  $y_1$  is a known solution of

$$y'' + P(x)y' + Q(x)y = f(x)$$

If  $y_2$  is another solution and  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  is a fundamental set, then we've found our solution. Use the following to find the second solution.

$$y_2(x) = u(x)y_1(x)$$

Below is the formula the textbook provides for reduction of order.

$$y_2(x) = y_1(x) \int \frac{e^{-\int P(x)dx}}{y_1(x)^2} dx$$

## 4.3: Homogeneous Linear Equations with Constant Coefficients

The equation that is trying to be solved is

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

The characteristic equation of the above equation can be written as follows

$$am^2 + bm + c = 0$$

There are three cases that can be analyzed based on the discriminant ( $b^2 - 4ac$ ) of the above characteristic equation. The first case is when the discriminant is greater than zero, and the characteristic equation has two distinct real roots  $m_1$  and  $m_2$ .

$$y = c_1 e^{m_1 x} + c_2 e^{m_2 x}$$

The second case is when the discriminant is equal to zero, and the characteristic equation has a repeated root  $m$ .

$$y = c_1 e^{mx} + c_2 x e^{mx}$$

The third case is when the discriminant is less than zero, and the characteristic equation has complex conjugate roots  $m_1 = \alpha + i\beta$  and  $m_2 = \alpha - i\beta$ .

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

## 4.4: Undetermined Coefficients - Superposition Approach

The Method of Undetermined Coefficients is one way of determining a particular solution. In solving differential equations, find the complementary solution, then find the particular solution, then put them both together using the superposition principle.

Guess a solution based on the non-homogeneous component of the differential equation and determine the coefficients of the guessed particular solution. Below are some examples of some guesses.

$g(x)$	Form of $y_p$
1	$A$
$5x + 7$	$Ax + B$
$3x^2 - 2$	$Ax^2 + Bx + C$
$\sin(4x)$	$A \cos(4x) + B \sin(4x)$
$e^{5x}$	$Ae^{5x}$
$(9x - 2)e^{5x}$	$(Ax + B)e^{5x}$
$(x^2)e^{5x}$	$(Ax^2 + Bx + C)e^{5x}$
$e^{3x} \sin(4x)$	$Ae^{3x} \cos(4x) + Be^{3x} \sin(4x)$
$xe^{3x} \sin(4x)$	$(Ax + B)e^{3x} \cos(4x) + (Cx + D)e^{3x} \sin(4x)$

## 4.6: Variation of Parameters

Variation of Parameters is another approach to determining a particular solution. The formula below is used:

$$y_p = y_1 \int \frac{y_1 f(x)}{W(y_1, y_2)} dx + y_2 \int \frac{y_2 f(x)}{W(y_1, y_2)} dx$$

A more general form:

$$y_p = \sum_{i=1}^n u_i y_i \quad \text{where} \quad u'_i = \frac{\Delta_i}{W(y_1, \dots, y_n)}$$

Where  $\Delta_i = W(y_1, \dots, y_n)$  where the  $i^{\text{th}}$  column is  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ f(x) \end{bmatrix}$

## 4.7: Cauchy-Euler Equation

The Cauchy-Euler Equation is a linear differential equation of the following form:

$$\sum_{i=0}^n a_i x^i y^{(i)}(x) = g(x)$$

The characteristic equation for a Cauchy-Euler Equation is

$$am(m-1) + bm + c = 0$$



There are three cases that can be analyzed based on the discriminant ( $b^2 - 4ac$ ) of the above characteristic equation. The first case is when the discriminant is greater than zero, and the characteristic equation has two distinct real roots  $m_1$  and  $m_2$ .

$$y = c_1 x^{m_1} + c_2 x^{m_2}$$

The second case is when the discriminant is equal to zero, and the characteristic equation has a repeated root  $m$ .

$$y = c_1 x^m + c_2 x^m \ln x$$

The third case is when the discriminant is less than zero, and the characteristic equation has complex conjugate roots  $m_1 = \alpha + i\beta$  and  $m_2 = \alpha - i\beta$ .

$$y = x^\alpha (c_1 \cos(\beta \ln x) + c_2 \sin(\beta \ln x))$$

## Chapter 5: Modeling with Higher-Order Differential Equations

### 5.1: Linear Models: Initial-Value Problems

Linear models can describe simple harmonic motion. The equation for the oscillator below is said to be undamped.

$$\frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + \omega^2 x = 0 \text{ where } \omega^2 = \frac{k}{m}$$

Sometimes, damping forces act on an oscillator. The equation for a damped oscillator with damping constant  $\beta$  is

$$\frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + 2\lambda \frac{dx}{dt} + \omega^2 x = 0 \text{ where } 2\lambda = \frac{\beta}{m} \text{ and } \omega^2 = \frac{k}{m}$$

Sometimes, driving forces act on an oscillator. The equation for a driven oscillator with driving force  $f(t)$  is

$$\frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + 2\lambda \frac{dx}{dt} + \omega^2 x = F(t) \text{ where } 2\lambda = \frac{\beta}{m}, \omega^2 = \frac{k}{m}, \text{ and } F(t) = \frac{f(t)}{m}$$

## Chapter 6: Series Solutions of Linear Equations

### 6.1: Review of Power Series

A power series centered at  $a$  is a series in the form:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (x - a)^n$$

**Convergence** A power series is convergent if its sequence of partial sums converges. The limit of the partial sums is:  $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{n=0}^N c_n (x - a)^n$ . If this limit doesn't exist, the power series is divergent.

**Interval of Convergence** The set of all real numbers  $x$  for which the series converges. The center of this interval is the center  $a$  of the series.

**Radius of Convergence** The radius  $R$  of the interval of convergence. If the series only converges at its center,  $R = 0$ , otherwise, a power series will converge for  $|x - a| < R$  and will diverge for  $|x - a| > R$ .

**Absolute Convergence** Within the interval of convergence, the power series converges absolutely.

One can test the convergence of a power series using the ratio test. Use the following limit:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left| \frac{c_{n+1}(x-a)^{n+1}}{c_n(x-a)^n} \right| = L$$

If  $L < 1$ , the series converges absolutely, if  $L > 1$  the series diverges, and if  $L = 1$  the test is inconclusive.

The derivatives of power series are defined as follows.

$$y' = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n n x^{n-1} \quad y'' = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} c_n n(n-1) x^{n-2}$$

If a power series is 0 for all numbers  $x$  in some open interval, then  $c_n = 0$  for all  $n$ . A function is analytic at  $a$  if it has a power series representation at  $a$ . Power series can also be combined through addition, multiplication, and division. You would do these as you would with polynomials. Below are some Maclaurin Series representations of common functions.

$f(x)$	Maclaurin Series Representation
$e^x$	$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} x^n$
$\cos x$	$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n)!} x^{2n}$
$\sin x$	$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n+1)!} x^{2n+1}$
$\arctan x$	$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{2n+1} x^{2n+1}$
$\cosh x$	$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n)!} x^{2n}$
$\sinh x$	$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)!} x^{2n+1}$
$\ln(1+x)$	$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} x^n$
$\frac{1}{1-x}$	$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n$

## 6.2: Solutions about Ordinary Points

A point  $x = x_0$  is said to be an ordinary point of a differential equation if both  $P(x)$  and  $Q(x)$  are analytic at  $x_0$  in the differential equation below. A point that is not ordinary is said to be a singular point.

$$y'' + P(x)y' + Q(x)y = 0$$

If  $x_0$  is an ordinary point of the above equation, then we can always find two linearly independent solutions of the above equation on an interval containing  $x_0$  of the form

$$y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (x - x_0)^n \text{ on } |x - x_0| < R$$

Where the radius of convergence is the distance from  $x_0$  to the closest singular point. The general process is to combine all the series in a differential equation then to solve the recurrence relation once it's obtained.

## 6.3: Solutions about Singular Points

There are two types of singular points. A singular point is said to be a regular singular point if  $(x - x_0)P(x)$  and  $(x - x_0)^2Q(x)$  are both analytic at  $x_0$ . Otherwise, the point is said to be an irregular singular point.

Frobenius's Theorem states that if  $x = x_0$  is a regular singular point of the standard form of a differential equation then there exists at least one solution of the form

$$y = (x - x_0)^r \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n (x - x_0)^n$$

Where  $r$  is some constant. After substituting the power series solution into the differential equation and simplifying, the indicial equation is a quadratic equation in  $r$  that results from equating the total coefficient of the lowest power of  $x$  to zero. The values of  $r$ , or the indicial roots can be obtained and plugged into the recurrence relation.

# Chapter 7: The Laplace Transform

## 7.1: Definition of the Laplace Transform

Let  $k$  be a continuous function of two real variables, and  $g$  be a continuous function of one real variable. The integral transform with kernel  $k$  is defined as follows.

$$I_k(g) = \int_a^b k(s, t)g(t)dt = f(s)$$

Let  $f$  be a function defined for  $t \geq 0$ . The Laplace transform of  $f$  is

$$\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \int_0^{\infty} e^{-st} f(t)dt$$

The Laplace transform is a linear transform. A function  $f$  is said to be of exponential order if there exist constants  $c$ ,  $M > 0$ , and  $T > 0$  such that  $|f(t)| \leq Me^{ct}$  for all  $t > T$ . If  $f$  is piecewise continuous on  $[0, \infty)$  and of exponential order, then  $\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} = 0$ . Below are some common Laplace transforms.

$f(t)$	$\mathcal{L}\{s\}$
1	$\frac{1}{s}$
$t^n$	$\frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$
$e^{at}$	$\frac{1}{s-a}$
$\sin kt$	$\frac{k}{s^2+k^2}$
$\cos kt$	$\frac{s}{s^2+k^2}$
$\sinh kt$	$\frac{k}{s^2-k^2}$
$\cosh kt$	$\frac{s}{s^2-k^2}$

## 7.2: Inverse Transforms and Transforms of Derivatives

The Laplace transform can also be applied in reverse. Partial fractions play a key role in determining inverse Laplace transforms so that each term can be factored into distinct linear factors. Below are some common

inverse Laplace transforms.

$\mathcal{L}\{s\}$	$f(t)$
$\frac{1}{s}$	1
$\frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$	$t^n$
$\frac{1}{s-a}$	$e^{at}$
$\frac{k}{s^2+k^2}$	$\sin kt$
$\frac{s}{s^2+k^2}$	$\cos kt$
$\frac{k}{s^2-k^2}$	$\sinh kt$
$\frac{s}{s^2-k^2}$	$\cosh kt$

The transform of a derivative can be determined as well. If  $f, f', \dots, f^{(n-1)}$  are continuous on  $[0, \infty)$  and are of exponential order, and if  $f^{(n)}(t)$  is piecewise continuous on  $[0, \infty)$ , then

$$\mathcal{L}\{f^{(n)}(t)\} = s^n F(s) - s^{n-1}f(0) - s^{n-2}f'(0) - \dots - f^{(n-1)}(0)$$

**7.3: Operational Properties I**

**7.4: Operational Properties II**

**7.5: The Dirac Delta Function**

## **Chapter 11: Fourier Series**

**11.1: Orthogonal Functions**

**11.2: Fourier Series**

**11.3: Fourier Cosine and Sine Series**

## **Chapter 12: Boundary-Value Problems in Rectangular Coordinates**

**12.1: Seperable Partial Differential Equations**

**12.2: Classical PDEs and Boundary-Value Problems**

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