

For the linear, second order equation

$$a(x)y'' + b(x)y' + c(x)y = g(x)$$

we would like to have a way to compute all/general solutions for any equation of the form given.

What does a solution look like?

Ex: $y'' + 4y = 0$

$$\begin{cases} y_1 = \cos(2x) \\ y_1' = -2\sin(2x) \\ y_1'' = -4\cos(2x) \end{cases} \Rightarrow y_1'' + 4y_1 = -4\cos(2x) + 4(\cos(2x)) = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\begin{cases} y_2 = \sin(2x) \\ y_2' = 2\cos(2x) \\ y_2'' = -4\sin(2x) \end{cases} \Rightarrow y_2'' + 4y_2 = -4\sin(2x) + 4(\sin(2x)) = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

What about combination of the two?

$$y = c_1 \cos(2x) + c_2 \sin(2x)$$

$$y' = -2c_1 \sin(2x) + 2c_2 \cos(2x)$$

$$y'' = -4c_1 \cos(2x) - 4c_2 \sin(2x)$$

$$y'' + 4y$$

$$= (-4c_1 \cos(2x) - 4c_2 \sin(2x))$$

$$+ 4(c_1 \cos(2x) + c_2 \sin(2x))$$

$$= (-4 + 4)c_1 \cos(2x)$$

$$+ (-4 + 4)c_2 \sin(2x)$$

$$= 0 + 0 = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

Def: Suppose y_1, y_2, \dots, y_N are functions defined on the same interval (α, β) then for any constants c_1, c_2, \dots, c_N the sum

$$c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x) + \dots + c_N y_N(x)$$

is called a linear combination of the functions.

Ex: $y'' + 4y = 0$

$$\begin{cases} y_1 = \cos(2x) \\ y_2 = \sin(2x) \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1 \cos(2x) + c_2 \sin(2x) = y(x)$$

$$y = 4 \cos(2x) + 7 \sin(2x)$$

The idea is we will work with functions that are solutions of an ODE.

Theorem: (Superposition): Any linear combination of solutions to a second order homogeneous linear differential equation is a solution to the given homogeneous ODE.

If y_1, y_2, y_3 are solutions of the same linear homogeneous differential equation on some interval, (α, β) then

$$y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2 + c_3 y_3$$

is also a solution.

Function Pairs and Linear Independence.

$$\{y_1, y_2\} \Rightarrow c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x) \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

If only $c_1 = c_2 = 0$ satisfies the equation, the functions are linearly independent. If the functions are not linearly independent they are linearly dependent.

Ex: $y_1 = x^2, y_2 = 1, y_3 = 4x^2 + 2$

$$c_1 x^2 + c_2 (1) + c_3 (4x^2 + 2)$$

$$= c_1 x^2 + c_2 + 4c_3 x^2 + 2c_3$$

$$= (c_1 + 4c_3)x^2 + (c_2 + 2c_3) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1 = -4, c_3 = 8$$

$$\Rightarrow (c_1, c_2, c_3) \neq (0, 0, 0)$$

\Rightarrow linearly dependent.

Pairs of Functions

$$\{y_1, y_2\}$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow y_1 = -\frac{c_2}{c_1} y_2$$

\Rightarrow If $c_1 \neq 0$, y_1 is a constant multiple of y_2

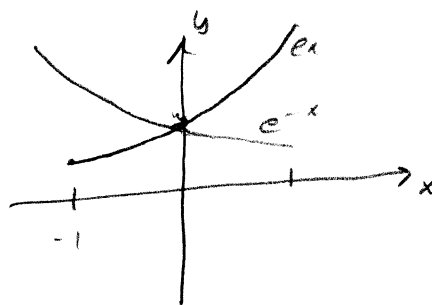
The other side of this is:

(4)

$$c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2 = 0 \Rightarrow y_2 = -\frac{c_1}{c_2} y_1$$

and if $c_2 \neq 0$, then y_2 must be a constant multiple of y_1 .

Ex: $\{e^x, e^{-x}\}$ on $(-1, 1)$



They are clearly independent at all but one point, $x=0$. We want to consider functions on intervals.

Lemma: Consider the initial value problem

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0, \quad y(x_0) = A, \text{ and } y'(x_0) = B.$$

over the interval (α, β) with $a \neq 0$ on (α, β) . Then the IVP has a unique solution. Moreover,...

Ex: $\{y_1, y_2\} = \{\cos(x), \sin(x)\}$

So, y_1 and y_2 are solutions of

$$y'' + y = 0$$

$$y(0) = A$$

$$y'(0) = B$$

on $[-4\pi, 4\pi]$. Then consider two points

$$x = \pi/2 \Rightarrow y_1 = 0, y_2 = 1$$

$$x = \pi \Rightarrow y_1 = -1, y_2 = 0$$

When we do this for

$$y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$$

$$x = \pi/2 \Rightarrow y = c_1 \cdot 0 + c_2 (1) = \underline{c_2} = 0$$

$$x = \pi \Rightarrow y = c_1 (-1) + c_2 (0) = \underline{-c_1} = 0$$

Both must be zero $\Rightarrow y_1$ and y_2 are linearly independent.

Theorem: Let (α, β) be some open interval and suppose we have a second order linear homog. ODE

$$a y'' + b y' + c y = 0$$

where a, b, c are all continuous in (α, β) and a is never zero. Then the following are all true.

- i.) Fundamental sets of solutions for the given ODE exist.
- ii.) Every fundamental set of solutions consists of a pair of functions.
- iii.) If $\{y_1, y_2\}$ is any linearly independent pair of particular solutions over (α, β) , then

Define Fund. Set. of Solns
page 285

(a) $\{y_1, y_2\}$ is a fundamental set of solutions.

(b) A general solution to the DE is given by

$$y(x) = C_1 y_1(x) + C_2 y_2(x)$$

where C_1 and C_2 are arbitrary constants

(c) Given a point $x_0 \in (\alpha, \beta)$ and any two fixed values A and B , then there is exactly one ordered pair of constants $\{C_1, C_2\}$ such that

$$y = C_1 y_1 + C_2 y_2$$

also satisfies the initial conditions

$$y(x_0) = A, \quad y'(x_0) = B$$