

## Recall:

$$y' + ay = g(t) \quad \text{with } g(t) \neq 0$$

has the general solution

$$y = y_h + y_p \quad \text{where } y_h = Ce^{-at}$$

$y'_h + ay_h = 0$ , so we need  $y_p$  and its derivative to be related to  $g(t)$ .

Idea:

Make  $y_p$  a linear combination of all the functional forms contained in  $g(t)$  and all the functions obtained from differentiating  $g(t)$

# Method of Undetermined Coefficients

$$y' + ay = g(t)$$

ex:  $y' - y = t^3 \implies y_h = Ce^t$

To find  $y_p$ :

1. Find the functional forms obtained from differentiating  $g(t)$ .

ex:  $g(t) = t^3$

$$g' = 3\underline{t^2}$$

$$g'' = 6\underline{t}$$

$$g''' = \underline{6} \quad (\text{constant})$$

family of functional forms =  $\{t^3, t^2, t, \text{constant}\}$

2. Take a linear combination of all the functional forms you find.

$$y_p = At^3 + Bt^2 + Ct + D$$

# Method of Undetermined Coefficients

To find  $y_p$ :

1. Find the functional forms obtained from differentiating  $g(t)$ .
2. Take a linear combination of all the functional forms you find.
3. Plug the guess back into the ODE, solve for coefficients.

ex:  $y' - y = t^3$

$$y_p = At^3 + Bt^2 + Ct + D \quad y'_p = 3At^2 + 2Bt + C$$

plug into DE

$$\begin{aligned} y'_p - y_p &= 3At^2 + 2Bt + C - At^3 - Bt^2 - Ct - D = t^3 \\ -At^3 + (3A - B)t^2 + (2B - C)t + (C - D) &= t^3 \end{aligned}$$

# Method of Undetermined Coefficients

To find  $y_p$ :

1. Find the functional forms obtained from differentiating  $g(t)$ .
2. Take a linear combination of all the functional forms you find.
3. Plug the guess back into the ODE, solve for coefficients.

ex:  $y' - y = t^3$

$$-At^3 + (3A - B)t^2 + (2B - C)t + (C - D) = t^3$$

match coeffs. for each function of  $t$

$$\underline{t^3}: -A = 1 \implies \boxed{A = -1}$$

$$\underline{t^2}: 3A - B = 0 \implies \boxed{B = -3}$$

$$\underline{t^1}: 2B - C = 0 \implies \boxed{C = -6}$$

$$\underline{t^0}: C - D = 0 \implies \boxed{D = -6}$$

$$\boxed{y_p = -t^3 - 3t^2 - 6t - 6}$$

Find the general solution to  $y' - 5y = e^t$

$$y_h = Ce^{5t}$$

Family of functional forms:  $\{e^t\}$

$$\text{Guess: } y_p = Ae^t$$

$$\text{Substitute: } Ae^t - 5Ae^t = e^t$$

Solve for A:

$$-4Ae^t = e^t \Rightarrow A = -\frac{1}{4}$$

$$y_p = -\frac{1}{4}e^t$$

$$y = Ce^{5t} - \frac{1}{4}e^t$$

Find the general solution to  $y' + y = \sin(t)$

$$y_h = Ce^{-t}$$

Family of functional forms:  $\{\sin(t), \cos(t)\}$

$$\text{Guess: } y_p = A \sin(t) + B \cos(t)$$

Sub into DE:

$$A \cos(t) - B \sin(t) + A \sin(t) + B \cos(t) = \sin(t)$$

$$(A - B) \sin(t) + (A + B) \cos(t) = \sin(t)$$

Group by funcs of t:

$$\underline{\sin(t)} : A - B = 1$$

$$-2B = 1 \implies B = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$y_p = \frac{1}{2}(\sin(t) - \cos(t))$$

$$\underline{\cos(t)} : A + B = 0 \implies A = -B$$

$$\implies A = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$y(t) = Ce^{-t} + \frac{1}{2}(\sin(t) - \cos(t))$$

Find the general solution to  $y' - 5y = e^{5t}$

$$y_h = Ce^{5t}$$

Family of functional forms:  $\{e^{5t}\}$

Guess:  $y_p = Ae^{5t}$

Substitute:

$$A5e^{5t} - 5Ae^{5t} = e^{5t}$$

$$0 = e^{5t}$$

We are stuck :(

This is called mathematical resonance, one of the functional forms is proportional to  $y_h$ .

Guess:  $y_p = tAe^{5t}$

Compute Derivative':

$$y'_p = Ae^{5t} + 5tAe^{5t}$$

Substitute:

$$Ae^{5t} + 5tAe^{5t} - 5tAe^{5t} = e^{5t}$$

Solve for A:

$$Ae^{5t} = e^{5t} \Rightarrow A = 1$$

$$y_p = Ae^{5t}$$

$$y = Ce^{5t} + te^{5t}$$

# Summary of Lecture 3

Method of Undetermined Coefficients:

$$y' + ay = g(t)$$

General Solution:

$$y = y_h + y_p \quad \text{where } y_h = Ce^{-at}$$

1. Find the functional forms obtained from differentiating  $g(t)$ .
2. Take a linear combination of all the functional forms you find.
  - If any of the functional forms are  $e^{-at}$  swap for  $te^{at}$
3. Plug the guess back into the ODE, solve for coefficients.

Note: this will not work if there infinitely many functional forms.

- e.g.,  $g(t) = t^{-1}$       family =  $\{t^{-1}, t^{-2}, t^{-3}, \dots\}$