

# Chapter 4

- Test: Check original eqn for  
"lost" solutions (constraints,  
Vals you can't have later,  
like  $y=0$ )

## Second order Linear Equations

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

$x$ -independent

$y$ -dependent

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} a(t) \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + b(t) \frac{dx}{dt} + c(t) x = f(t) \\ t\text{-ind} \quad x\text{-dep} \end{array} \right.$$

### 1) IVP

→ # of initial conditions = order of eqn.

$$y(x_0) = y_0, \quad y'(x_0) = y_{0,2}$$

### 2) Existence/Uniqueness

for  $y^{(n)} = F(x, y, y', \dots, y^{(n-1)})$

check continuity of  $\boxed{F, F_y}$ ,  $F_{y'}, \dots, F_{y^{(n-1)}}$ ,  $F_{y^{(n)}}$   
Second order

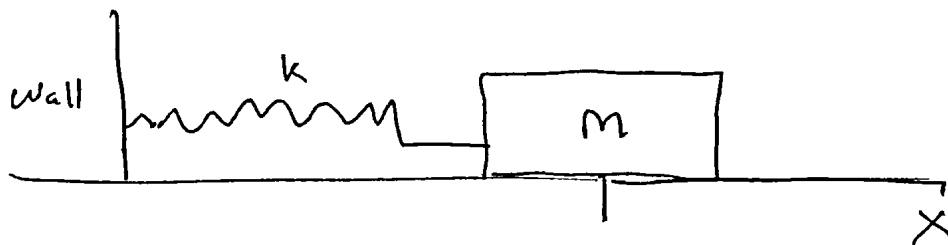
3)  $\left( \frac{b(x)}{a(x)}, \frac{c(x)}{a(x)} \right)$  If  $a(x)$ ,  $b(x)$ ,  $c(x)$ , and  $f(x)$  are continuous, and  $a(x) \neq 0$  (around initial value of  $x$ ), then the IVP will have unique solution

4) If  $a(x)$ ,  $b(x)$ ,  $c(x)$  and  $f(x)$  are continuous on  $\alpha < x < \beta$ , the solutions will exist throughout  $\alpha < x < \beta$

## Motivation:

### 1) Simple Mechanics

Mass-spring oscillator



$$\frac{\partial^2 x}{\partial t^2} = x'' = \text{acceleration}$$

$$-Kx = \text{spring force}$$

$$mx'' = -Kx$$

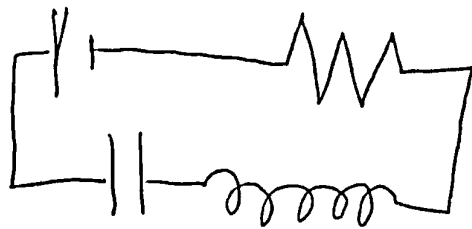
$$mx'' + Kx = 0 \quad \leftarrow \text{2nd-order ODE}$$

- Add dissipation

$$\rightarrow mx'' + bx' + Kx = 0$$

- Add ext force,  $f(t)$   $\rightarrow mx'' + bx' + Kx = f(t)$

## 2) Simple circuits



similar 2nd-order  
ODE's

(inductivity instead of  
mass, etc.)

Electrical and mechanical  
oscillations captured by same  
mechanism.

Start w/

$$a(x)y'' + b(x)y' + c(x)y = 0$$



Zip(list[self.cm1],  
list[self.cm2[1::]])

homogeneous

linear second-order equation

ignore  
r.h.s  
at first

Tough. But if

$a(x)$ ,  $b(x)$ , and  $c(x)$  are

constants, we get so-called linear homogeneous  
2nd-order eqns with constant coefficients,

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

$a, b, c = \text{constants}, a \neq 0$

① divide by  $a$  :  
 $\frac{b}{a} = p$        $\frac{c}{a} = q$

$$y'' + py' + qy = 0$$

Remark:  $a(x)y'' + b(x)y' + c(x)y = 0$

$y_1(x)$   
 $y_2(x)$  } two solutions

## Linear Equation

$C_1 y_1(x) + C_2 y_2(x)$  will also solve eqn.

If you know 2 solutions, and they're "good enough", you can construct more...

HW:  $\nearrow$  verify

② Try finding solutions of form

$$y = e^{rx}$$

③ substitute into eqn:

$$r^2 e^{rx} + p r e^{rx} + q e^{rx} = 0$$

④ factor out  $e^x$ :

$$(r^2 + \underbrace{q + pr}_{\text{never } 0}) e^{rx} = 0$$

⑤ solve for roots:  
(quadratic)

$$r^2 + pr + q = 0$$

⑥ if  $r$  is real solution of the quadratic,  $e^{rx}$  solves differential equation.

- the characteristic eqn. for (\*)

ex)  $y'' + 3y' + 2y = 0$

1)  $r^2 + 3r + 2 = 0$

2) Solve for  $r$ :  $(r+1)(r+2) = 0$

$r = -1, -2$  (roots  $r_1 = -2, r_2 = -1$ )

3) solutions  $e^{-2x}, e^{-x}$

solve original equation

4) check for more:

$$C_1 e^{-x} + C_2 e^{-2x}$$

Since  $\frac{e^{-2x}}{e^{-x}} \neq \text{const},$

$C_1 e^{-x} + C_2 e^{-2x}$

lists all solutions of (\*)

and is thus the general solution.

Order  
Linear

2:  $\downarrow$   
Constant  
Coefficients!

1:  $\downarrow$   
IF

$$y = e^{rx}$$

Quadratic (roots) real?  
 $\downarrow$  distinct?  $\downarrow$  Multiplicity?

$C_1 e^{rx} + C_2 x e^{rx} = 0$

general solution

Consider

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

$$r^2 + 2r + 1 = 0 \quad (\text{characteristic eqn})$$

$$(r+1)^2 = 0$$

$$r = -1 \quad \text{only 1 solution}$$

-1 is a Multiplicity 2 root.

$$r_1 = -1, \quad r_2 = -1 ?$$

~~$C_1 e^{-x} + C_2 x e^{-x}$~~  Meaningless!

We see that roots must be distinct for that method:

$$\frac{e^{-x}}{e^{-x}} = 1 = \text{constant} \leftarrow \text{not allowed!}$$

Direct Calculation  
shows that  $x e^{-x}$   
solves the equation.

$$C_1 e^{rx} + C_2 x e^{rx}$$

$$\frac{x e^{-x}}{1 e^{-x}} = x \neq \text{constant}$$

$C_1 e^{-x} + C_2 x e^{-x}$  is general solution

The way out!

ex]  $y'' + 2.1y' + y = 0$

$$r_1 \neq r_2$$

but they are nearby numbers

$$e^{r_1 x} \quad e^{r_2 x}$$

and  $r_2$  almost =  $r_1$

as  $r_2 \rightarrow r_1$ ,  $\frac{e^{r_2 x} - e^{r_1 x}}{r_2 - r_1}$  rate of difference

That's how Euler/Lagrange  
figured out the  $x e^r$

To Summarize:

$$y'' + p y' + r y = 0$$

if  $r^2 + p r + q = 0$  has a multiple real root,  $r$ ,  
the two basic solutions are  $e^{rx}$  and  $x e^{rx}$ ;

$$\frac{x e^{rx}}{e^{rx}} \neq \text{const}$$

$C_1 e^{rx} + C_2 x e^{rx}$  is a general solution