

# Goal and idea - Module

## 13 ↴

### **GOAL:**

In the last module, we learned how to solve *homogeneous* linear differential equations with constant coefficients. We turn to finding solutions for such *nonhomogeneous* differential equations. However, we won't be able to solve all such equations. In this module, we

- recall nonhomogeneous linear differential equations with constant coefficients; and
- learn to solve such differential equations in the case the nonhomogeneous portion consists of
  - polynomials,
  - $\sin(x)$ ,  $\cos(x)$ , and
  - terms of  $x^k e^{mx}$ .

### **IDEA:**

We take the needed particular solution to be a linear combination of the terms above, plug into the differential equation, and find the appropriate constants.

# Solving Nonhomogeneous Linear DEs via Undetermined Coefficients

Module 13  
SUBJECT:

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## Step 1 | Find $y_h$

Then we consider three cases where we can find  $y_p$ :

**Case 1**  $f(x)$  is a polynomial Since order 2 DE

**Step 1** Then take  $y_p = Ax^2 + Bx + C$ , undetermined coefficients

where  $A, B, C$  are constants

**Step 2** Plug-in this  $y_p$  (need derivatives)

**Step 3** Solve for  $A, B, C$

The idea is we are taking a guess as we are using the fact that  $f(x)$  is of a polynomial then the particular solution is probably itself going to be some polynomial type situation. In which case you can plug it in and just figure out what are the coefficients of that polynomial.

If your  $y_h$  contains some polynomial terms (say  $y_h$  has an  $x^2$ ) then you can actually omit the  $x^2$  in  $Ax^2 + Bx + C$  and just consider the remaining aspects, but it wouldn't hurt you to include it either.

**Example** Solve  $y'' + 3y' + 2y = 2x^2 + 2x - 6$

When we are given homogeneous we notice a polynomial, So undermined coefficients might be a great approach.

## Solution

**1** Take  $y_p = Ax^2 + Bx + C$

**2** Then we need our derivatives because we need to plug this in

$$y_p = Ax^2 + Bx + C$$

$$y_p' = 2Ax + B$$

$$y_p'' = 2A$$

Gives:

$$y'' + 3y' + 2y = 2x^2 + 2x - 6$$

$$\rightarrow 2A + 3(2Ax + B) + 2(Ax^2 + Bx + C) = 2x^2 + 2x - 6$$

The idea is that now we have a polynomial on both the left and right side, and we need to equate the coefficients allowing us to solve for  $A, B$ , and  $C$ .

So what ends up happening here is that we can regroup all "x<sup>2</sup>" terms, "x" terms, and then all of the constants together.

$$2A + 3(2Ax + B) + 2(Ax^2 + Bx + C) = 2x^2 + 2x - 6$$

$$\rightarrow 2Ax^2 + (6A + 2B)x + (2A + 3B + 2C) = 2x^2 + 2x - 6$$

**3** Solve for  $A, B, C$ : then what we need

$$x^2 (\text{LHS} = \text{RHS}), x (\text{LHS} = \text{RHS}), \text{constants} (\text{LHS} = \text{RHS})$$

$$2Ax^2 + (6A + 2B)x + (2A + 3B + 2C) = 2x^2 + 2x - 6$$

$$\rightarrow 2A = 2, 6A + 2B = 2, 2A + 3B + 2C = -6$$

Thus,  $A = 1, B = -2, C = -1$

$$y_p = Ax^2 + Bx + C$$

$$= x^2 - 2x - 1$$

Lets first consider the homogeneous part General solution for  $y'' + 3y' + 2y = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} & \xrightarrow{1} \text{Plug in } y = e^{mx} \\ & \xrightarrow{2} \text{Find } m \end{aligned}$$

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

## Recall - Module 10

### General Solutions for Nonhomogeneous Linear Differential Equations

Given ( $a, b, c$  are constants)

$$(*) ay'' + by' + cy = f(x)$$

with  $f(x) \neq 0$ , the general solution is of the form

$$y = y_h + y_p$$

Where

  $\rightarrow y_h$  is the general solution of  
We are familiar with  
finding the general  
solution of the  
homogeneous piece

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

This is true for  
higher order as well

  $\rightarrow y_p$  is a particular solution of  $(*)$

**Case 2**  $f(x)$  consists of  $\sin(x)$  and/or  $\cos(x)$  terms.

Any sines or cosines (not products of them i.e.  $\sin^2$  or  $\cos^2$ )

**Step 1** Then consider  $y_p = A\cos(x) + B\sin(x)$

**Step 2** Plug-in this  $y_p$  (need derivatives)

**Step 3** Solve for  $A, B, C$

The idea is when  $f(x)$  has some particular form what are we guessing? We don't know how much they are going to occur, but the reason for this is that the derivative of cosine or sine is some cosine or sine and then its derivative are cosines or sines (its plus or minus cosines and sines).

So really the question is: If you have a cosine or sine occurring in that  $f(x)$  term it means its derivatives of themselves, but how many of them do you need? And that's where the  $A$  &  $B$  come in.

**Case 3**  $f(x)$  has a  $x^k e^{mx}$  form

$k, m$  are integers, but  $k$  is a non-negative integer

**Step 1** Then take all derivatives of  $x^k e^{mx}$

Take the derivative, take the derivative of what you just gotten, the derivative of that... If it's a 2<sup>nd</sup>-order differential equation then you'd want to take that many derivatives and see what pops up in this process. At some point there's no new terms being introduced, and then include (with unknown constants) in the  $y_p$ .

**Step 2** Plug-in this  $y_p$  (need derivatives)

**Step 3** Solve for  $A, B, C$

So the general solution is...

$$y = C_1 e^{-x} + C_2 e^{-2x} + x^2 - 2x - 1$$

**Case 3**)  $f(x)$  has a  $x^k e^{mx}$  form

$k$  &  $m$  are integers, but  $k$  is a non-negative integer

**Step 1**) Then take all derivatives of  $x^k e^{mx}$ ,  
and include (with unknown constants) in the  $Y_p$ .

**Step 2**) Plug-in this  $Y_p$  (need derivatives)

**Step 3**) Solve for A, B, C

**Example**) If  $f(x) = x^2 e^{2x}$ , then derivatives include:

**Step 1**) Then take all derivatives of  $x^k e^{mx}$ ,  
and include (with unknown constants) in the  $Y_p$ .

$$f(x) = x^2 e^{2x}$$

Recall Product Rule  
 $(UV)' = U'V + UV'$

$$\rightarrow 2xe^{2x}, 2x^2e^{2x}, 2e^{2x}$$

When finding the derivatives  
we don't care about the constants

So...The  $Y_p$  we would consider is

$$Y_p = Ax^2 e^{2x} + Bx e^{2x} + Ce^{2x}$$

Note: We create/write out the actual honest derivatives  
we made all the various terms that occur as we take the derivatives, the derivatives of the derivatives, and so on..

The nice thing is when you've done it a couple of times with  $x^k e^{mx}$  terms you'll realize what those terms always are:  $e^{2x}, xe^{2x}, x^2 e^{2x}$ , and all the way up to  $x^k$

$Y_{P_1}$ : Independently: We plug-in the left and then comparing it to the polynomial piece.

$$Y_{P_1} = C_1 e^{-x} + C_2 e^{-2x} + x^2 - 2x - 1$$

$$Y_{P_2} \quad Y'' + 3Y' + 2Y = 2x^2 + 2x - 6 + 2\cos(x) + 3xe^{2x}$$

$$Y_{P_2} = A\cos(x) + B\sin(x)$$

Cosine (LHS = RHS)  
Add up all cosine terms  
 $\rightarrow A + 3B = 2, -3A + B = 0$

$$Y_{P_2} = -A\sin(x) + B\cos(x)$$

$$\rightarrow A = \frac{1}{5}, B = \frac{3}{5}$$

$$Y_{P_2} = -A\cos(x) - B\sin(x), \quad \text{So } Y'' + 3Y' + 2Y$$

$$\rightarrow -A\cos(x) - B\sin(x) + 3(-A\sin(x) + B\cos(x)) + 2(A\cos(x) + B\sin(x)) = 2\cos(x)$$

**Case 4**) Combine all of the above

**Ex**) Solve  $y'' + 3y' + 2y = 2x^2 + 2x - 6 + 2\cos(x) + 3xe^{2x}$

$$Y'' + 3Y' + 2Y = 2x^2 + 2x - 6 + 2\cos(x) + 3xe^{2x}$$

Regular Homogeneous  
Not interesting

\* Is interesting \*

Case 1  
Polynomial

Case 2  
Sine or Cosine

Case 3  
 $x^k e^{mx}$  form

Soln

Lets first consider the homogeneous part

General solution for

$$Y'' + 3Y' + 2Y = 0$$

1) Plug-in  $y = e^{mx}$   
2) Find  $M$

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

Our  $Y_p$  will have the form:

$$Y_p = Y_{P_1} + Y_{P_2} + Y_{P_3}$$

$$Y_{P_1} = Ax^2 + Bx + C$$

$$Y_{P_2} = A\cos(x) + B\sin(x)$$

$$Y_{P_3} = Axe^{2x} + Be^{2x}$$

Then can compute each one independently  
(then add)

$$Y_{P_3} = Axe^{2x} + Be^{2x}$$

$$Y_{P_3}' = 2Axe^{2x} + (2B + A)e^{2x}$$

$$Y_{P_3}'' = 4Axe^{2x} + (4A + 4B)e^{2x}$$

Plugging in gives

$$12A = 3 \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\} A = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$7A + 12B = 0 \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\} B = \frac{7}{48}$$

$$\text{So, } Y_p = \frac{1}{4}xe^{2x} - \frac{7}{48}e^{2x}$$

Thus the general solution is

$$Y = C_1 e^{-x} + C_2 e^{-2x} + x^2 - 2x - 1 + \frac{1}{4}xe^{2x} + \frac{7}{48}\sin(x) + \frac{1}{4}xe^{2x} - \frac{7}{48}\cos(x)$$

# Expectation checklist

## - Module 13 ↴

**At the completion of this module, you should:**

- Be able to find the general solution for 2nd-order homogeneous linear differential equations with constant coefficients such that the nonhomogeneous term consists of:
  - a polynomial of degree  $k$ ;
  - a sum of  $\sin(x)$  and/or  $\cos(x)$ ;
  - of the form  $x^k e^{mx}$ ; or
  - a combination of the above terms.

**Coming up next, we:**

- Solve some nonhomogeneous linear differential equations of a different form, and with a different method, than those seen here.