

# Goal and idea - Module 15 ↴

## **GOAL:**

To this point, we can really only solve linear differentiation equations with constant coefficients (though they could now be homogeneous or nonhomogeneous). Here we examine another type of linear ODE that we can solve. We will

- introduce Cauchy-Euler equations; and
- learn to solve such differential equations.

## **IDEA:**

In the constant coefficient case we input the function  $e^{mx}$  and solved for  $m$ . Here we consider  $x^m$ .

# Cauchy - Euler Equations

A Cauchy - Euler equation has the form

$$a_n x^{(n)} y + a_{n-1} x^{(n-1)} y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_1 x y' + a_0 y = 0$$

where  $a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n$  are constants

## Note

- Is a linear differential equation
- Can be  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order

## Key Take Away

The presents of the  $n^{\text{th}}$ -derivative we have  $x^n$  on the  $n-1$  derivative we have  $x^{n-1}$ , so whatever that order of the derivative is we have the exact order powered polynomial right in-front of it.

## Example

$$(a) 3x^3 y^{(3)} + \pi x^2 y^{(2)} - x y' + 3y = 0$$

$$3x^3 y^{(3)} + \pi x^2 y^{(2)} - x y' + 3y = 0$$

Is a Cauchy - Euler equation

$$(b) 2xy^{(2)} - 3xy' + 5y = 0$$

OFF BY ONE ~~2xy<sup>(2)</sup>~~ - 3xy' + 5y = 0

Is not a Cauchy - Euler equation

# Module 15 SUBJECT: Solving Cauchy-Euler Equations DATE: 2020 / 12 / 01 PAGE NO: 01/01

To Solve Such Equations

- 1) Take  $y = x^m$
- 2) Plug into the differential equation
- 3) Solve for "m"!

I.e., similar to the constant coefficient method (Module 12: where we used  $y = e^{mx}$ )

Here we take the derivative of " $x^m$ " we get  $mx^{m-1}$  and then gather up some other stuff as you go

We'll look at 2<sup>nd</sup>-Order, and in particular case getting:

- Two distinct real "m" \*focus\*
- One repeated "m" \*focus\*
- Two complex (conjugate)

Works for higher order as well  
Higher the order the harder it gets to just find the roots of the polynomial that comes out

**Ex** | Solve  $x^2y'' + 3xy' - 4y = 0$

Solution

$$\underline{x^2y'' + 3xy'} \quad \underline{-4y = 0} \quad \text{Need two derivatives}$$

1) Take  $y = x^m$

$$y = x^m, y' = mx^{m-1}, y'' = m(m-1)x^{m-2}$$

Big Idea: This is why we need the " $x^2$ " next to the " $y''$ " is when we plug-in  $y'' = m(m-1)x^{m-2}$  we add " $x^{m-2}$ " when we multiply that by " $x^2$ " we add exponents  $x^2y'' = m(m-1)x^{m-2} \cdot x^2 \cdot (x^{m-2+2})$  it gives us back  $x^m$  and is similar for the first derivative.

$$\underline{x^2y'' + 3xy' - 4y = 0}$$

$$y = x^m, y' = mx^{m-1}, y'' = m(m-1)x^{m-2}$$

2) Plug into the differential equation

$$\text{This gives: } x^2(m(m-1)x^{m-2}) + 3x(mx^{m-2}) - 4x^m = 0$$

$$x^2(m(m-1)x^{m-2}) + 3x(mx^{m-2}) - 4x^m = 0$$

Factor out " $x^m$ "

$$\rightarrow x^m(m(m-1)) + 3x^m m - 4x^m = 0$$

Simplify

$$\rightarrow x^m(m^2 - m + 3m - 4) = 0$$

So long " $x$ " isn't zero we require the parenthetical piece if " $x$ " equals zero and it works then " $y$ " equals zero and we'd have the trivial solution.

$$\rightarrow m^2 - m + 3m - 4 = 0$$

$$\rightarrow m^2 + 2m - 4 = 0$$

3) Solve for "m"! Quadratic formula

$$\rightarrow \begin{cases} m_1 = \frac{-2 + \sqrt{4+16}}{2} = -1 + \frac{\sqrt{20}}{2} = -1 + \frac{2\sqrt{5}}{2} = -1 + \sqrt{5} \\ m_2 = -1 - \sqrt{5} \end{cases}$$

Two distinct real roots "m"

Thus, the general solution is

$$y = C_1 x^{-1+\sqrt{5}} + C_2 x^{-1-\sqrt{5}}$$

What happens when you have repeated roots?

**Ex** | Solve  $x^2y'' - 3xy' + 4y = 0$

Solution

$y = x^m$  plugged-in gives

$$x^m(m^2 - 4m + 4) = 0$$

$$\rightarrow (m-2)^2 = 0$$

So  $y_1 = x^2$  works ✓

How do we find the other one?

Technically by Reduction of Order

$$\bar{y}_2 = x^2 \int \frac{e^{-SP}}{(x^2)^2} dx$$

$$\text{Reduction of Order formula} \\ y_2 = y_1(x) \int \frac{e^{-SP(x)} dx}{(y_1(x))^2} dx$$

To calculate "P" we need to look back to

$x^2y'' - 3xy' + 4y = 0$  our "P" isn't  $-3x$  it's actually

$P = \frac{-3x}{x^2} = \frac{-3}{x}$  to get "P" we need the DE in Standard Form. We need the leading term to have a coefficient of one.

$$\bar{y}_2 = x^2 \int \frac{e^{-SP}}{(x^2)^2} dx$$

$$\rightarrow x^2 \int \frac{e^{-\frac{3}{x}}}{x^4} dx$$

$$\rightarrow x^2 \int \frac{e^{\frac{3\ln|x|}{x}}}{x^4} dx$$

$$\rightarrow x^2 \int \frac{e^{\frac{\ln|x|^3}{x}}}{x^4} dx$$

$$\rightarrow x^2 \int \frac{x^3}{x^4} dx$$

$$\rightarrow x^2 \int \frac{1}{x} dx \rightarrow x^2 \ln|x|$$

$$\text{So, } y_2 = x^2 \ln|x| \quad \checkmark$$

What we learn is whatever we get from  $y_1$  Reduction of Order will add on a natural log of  $x$

Thus, the general solution is

$$y = C_1 x^2 + C_2 x^2 \ln|x|$$

\*Note 1: If  $m_1 = \alpha + i\beta$  and  $m_2 = \alpha - i\beta$  are complex roots, then have  $y = x^\alpha [C_1 \cos(\beta \ln|x|) + C_2 \sin(\beta \ln|x|)]$  is the general solution.

\*Note 2: If have differential equation of the form  $a_2 x^2 y'' + a_1 x y' + a_0 y = g(x)$  then we would use Variation of Parameters for  $Y_P$ .

# Expectation checklist

## - Module 15 ↴

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

- Be able to find the general solution for 2nd-order Cauchy-Euler equations which stem from
  - two distinct real roots, or
  - one repeated root;
- Be able to solve some nonhomogeneous differential equations whose underlying homogeneous equation is a Cauchy-Euler equation via the utilization of the methods of this section along with variation of parameter.
- Know where reduction of order is utilized, even if we omit its steps.

**Coming up next, we:**

- Study the Laplace Transform!