

# MAT 350

## ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS

Higher Order ODEs  
UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENTS  
Variation of parameters

**Lecture: 7**

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$$a_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = g(x), \quad (1)$$

By dividing by the leading coefficient  $a_2(x)$

$$y'' + P(x)y' + Q(x)y = f(x) \quad (2)$$

In (2) we suppose that coefficient functions  $P(x)$ ,  $Q(x)$ , and  $f(x)$  are continuous on some common interval  $I$ .

The complementary solution is.

$$y_c = c_1y_1(x) + c_2y_2(x), \quad (3)$$

We assume that the particular solution is of the same type-

$$y_p(x) = u_1(x)y_1(x) + u_2(x)y_2(x)$$

Using the Product Rule to differentiate  $y_p$  twice, we get

$$y'_p = u_1y'_1 + y_1u'_1 + u_2y'_2 + y_2u'_2$$

$$y''_p = u_1y''_1 + y'_1u'_1 + y_1u''_1 + u'_1y'_1 + u_2y''_2 + y'_2u'_2 + y_2u''_2 + u'_2y'_2.$$

Substituting (3) and the foregoing derivatives into (2) and grouping terms yields

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_p'' + P(x)y_p' + Q(x)y_p &= u_1 \overbrace{[y_1'' + Py_1' + Qy_1]}^{\text{zero}} + u_2 \overbrace{[y_2'' + Py_2' + Qy_2]}^{\text{zero}} \\
 &\quad + y_1 u_1'' + u_1' y_1' + y_2 u_2'' + u_2' y_2' + \\
 &\quad P[y_1 u_1' + y_2 u_2'] + y_1' u_1' + y_2' u_2' \\
 &= \frac{d}{dx} [y_1 u_1'] + \frac{d}{dx} [y_2 u_2'] + P[y_1 u_1' + y_2 u_2'] + y_1' u_1' + y_2' u_2' \\
 &= \frac{d}{dx} [y_1 u_1' + y_2 u_2'] + P[y_1 u_1' + y_2 u_2'] + y_1' u_1' + y_2' u_2' = f(x).
 \end{aligned}$$

We also assume,

that the functions  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  satisfy  $y_1 u_1' + y_2 u_2' = 0$ .

We now have our desired two equations for  $u_1'$  and  $u_2'$

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 u_1' + y_2 u_2' &= 0 \\ y_1' u_1' + y_2' u_2' &= f(x) \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

By Cramer's Rule, the solution of the system can be expressed in terms of determinants:

$$\boxed{u_1' = \frac{W_1}{W}} \quad \boxed{u_2' = \frac{W_2}{W}} \tag{5}$$

$$\text{where } W = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{vmatrix}, \quad W_1 = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & y_2 \\ f(x) & y_2' \end{vmatrix}, \quad W_2 = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & 0 \\ y_1' & f(x) \end{vmatrix}. \tag{6}$$

The functions  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  are found by integrating the results in (5).

The determinant  $W$  is recognized as the Wronskian of  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ .

### Example-1:

$$\text{Solve } y'' - 4y' + 4y = (x + 1)e^{2x}.$$

Solution: The Auxiliary equation is

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

The complementary solution is.

$$y_c = c_1 e^{2x} + c_2 x e^{2x}.$$

With the identifications  $y_1 = e^{2x}$  and  $y_2 = x e^{2x}$ ,  
we compute the Wronskian as

$$W(e^{2x}, x e^{2x}) = \begin{vmatrix} e^{2x} & x e^{2x} \\ 2e^{2x} & 2x e^{2x} + e^{2x} \end{vmatrix} = e^{4x}.$$

We identify,

$$f(x) = (x + 1)e^{2x}.$$

Then,

$$W_1 = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & xe^{2x} \\ (x+1)e^{2x} & 2xe^{2x} + e^{2x} \end{vmatrix} = -(x+1)xe^{4x},$$

$$W_2 = \begin{vmatrix} e^{2x} & 0 \\ 2e^{2x} & (x+1)e^{2x} \end{vmatrix} = (x+1)e^{4x},$$

$$u_1' = -\frac{(x+1)xe^{4x}}{e^{4x}} = -x^2 - x,$$

$$u_2' = \frac{(x+1)e^{4x}}{e^{4x}} = x + 1.$$

It follows that  $u_1 = -\frac{1}{3}x^3 - \frac{1}{2}x^2$  and  $u_2 = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + x$ .

Hence, the particular solution is:

$$y_p = \left(-\frac{1}{3}x^3 - \frac{1}{2}x^2\right)e^{2x} + \left(\frac{1}{2}x^2 + x\right)xe^{2x} = \frac{1}{6}x^3e^{2x} + \frac{1}{2}x^2e^{2x}$$

And, the general solution is

$$y = y_c + y_p = c_1e^{2x} + c_2xe^{2x} + \frac{1}{6}x^3e^{2x} + \frac{1}{2}x^2e^{2x}.$$

$$10. \quad y'' - 9y = \frac{9x}{e^{3x}}$$

The auxiliary equation is  $m^2 - 9 = 0$ , so  $y_c = c_1 e^{3x} + c_2 e^{-3x}$  and

$$W = \begin{vmatrix} e^{3x} & e^{-3x} \\ 3e^{3x} & -3e^{-3x} \end{vmatrix} = -6.$$

Identifying  $f(x) = 9x/e^{3x}$  we obtain  $u'_1 = \frac{3}{2}xe^{-6x}$  and  $u'_2 = -\frac{3}{2}x$ . Then

$$u_1 = -\frac{1}{24}e^{-6x} - \frac{1}{4}xe^{-6x},$$

$$u_2 = -\frac{3}{4}x^2$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} y &= c_1 e^{3x} + c_2 e^{-3x} - \frac{1}{24}e^{-3x} - \frac{1}{4}xe^{-3x} - \frac{3}{4}x^2 e^{-3x} \\ &= c_1 e^{3x} + c_3 e^{-3x} - \frac{1}{4}xe^{-3x}(1 - 3x). \end{aligned}$$



$$12. \quad y'' - 2y' + y = \frac{e^x}{1 + x^2}$$

The auxiliary equation is  $m^2 - 2m + 1 = (m - 1)^2 = 0$ , so  $y_c = c_1 e^x + c_2 x e^x$  and

$$W = \begin{vmatrix} e^x & x e^x \\ e^x & x e^x + e^x \end{vmatrix} = e^{2x}.$$

Identifying  $f(x) = e^x / (1 + x^2)$  we obtain

$$u_1' = -\frac{x e^x e^x}{e^{2x} (1 + x^2)} = -\frac{x}{1 + x^2}$$

$$u_2' = \frac{e^x e^x}{e^{2x} (1 + x^2)} = \frac{1}{1 + x^2}.$$

Then  $u_1 = -\frac{1}{2} \ln(1 + x^2)$ ,  $u_2 = \tan^{-1} x$ , and

$$y = c_1 e^x + c_2 x e^x - \frac{1}{2} e^x \ln(1 + x^2) + x e^x \tan^{-1} x.$$

$$19. \quad 4y'' - y = xe^{x/2}$$

$$y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 0.$$

The auxiliary equation is  $4m^2 - 1 = (2m - 1)(2m + 1) = 0$ ,

$$\text{so } y_c = c_1 e^{x/2} + c_2 e^{-x/2} \text{ and}$$

$$W = \begin{vmatrix} e^{x/2} & e^{-x/2} \\ \frac{1}{2}e^{x/2} & -\frac{1}{2}e^{-x/2} \end{vmatrix} = -1.$$

Identifying  $f(x) = xe^{x/2}/4$  we obtain  $u'_1 = x/4$  and  $u'_2 = -xe^x/4$ .

Then  $u_1 = x^2/8$  and  $u_2 = -xe^x/4 + e^x/4$ . Thus

$$\begin{aligned} y &= c_1 e^{x/2} + c_2 e^{-x/2} + \frac{1}{8}x^2 e^{x/2} - \frac{1}{4}xe^{x/2} + \frac{1}{4}e^{x/2} \\ &= c_3 e^{x/2} + c_2 e^{-x/2} + \frac{1}{8}x^2 e^{x/2} - \frac{1}{4}xe^{x/2} \end{aligned}$$

$$y' = \frac{1}{2}c_3e^{x/2} - \frac{1}{2}c_2e^{-x/2} + \frac{1}{16}x^2e^{x/2} + \frac{1}{8}xe^{x/2} - \frac{1}{4}e^{x/2}.$$

The initial conditions imply

$$c_3 + c_2 = 1$$

$$\frac{1}{2}c_3 - \frac{1}{2}c_2 - \frac{1}{4} = 0.$$

Thus  $c_3 = 3/4$  and  $c_2 = 1/4$ , and

$$y = \frac{3}{4}e^{x/2} + \frac{1}{4}e^{-x/2} + \frac{1}{8}x^2e^{x/2} - \frac{1}{4}xe^{x/2}.$$

Solve each differential equation by variation of parameters.

$$y'' + y = \tan x$$

$$y'' - 4y = \frac{e^{2x}}{x}$$

$$y'' + 3y' + 2y = \frac{1}{1 + e^x}$$

$$y'' + 2y' + y = e^{-t} \ln t$$

$$2y'' + 2y' + y = 4\sqrt{x}$$

solve each differential equation by variation of parameters, subject to the initial conditions  $y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 0$ .

$$4y'' - y = xe^{x/2}$$

$$2y'' + y' - y = x + 1$$

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = (12x^2 - 6x)e^{2x}$$