

Lecture 6

- 3.8 Solving Initial Value Problems
- 3.9 The Method of Variation of Parameters
- 3.10 Higher Order Linear ODEs





Remark

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To solve this IVP, the method is:

I Find the general solution to ay'' + by' + cy = 0;



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- I Find the general solution to ay'' + by' + cy = 0;
- 2 Find a particular solution to ay'' + by' + cy = g(t):
 - I if g(t) does not solve the homogeneous equation, then your ansatz should look like g(t);
 - 2 if g(t) does solve the homogeneous equation, then "multiply by t" (repeat as necessary);



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- **3** 1+2;
- I Find c_1 and c_2 .



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You must do step 4 last. If you try to find c_1 and c_2 before doing the other steps, you may get the wrong answer.



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Example

Solve

$$\begin{cases} y'' - y = 2e^t \\ y(0) = 1 \\ y'(0) = 2. \end{cases}$$



Correct Solution:

First we consider y'' - y = 0. The characteristic equation $r^2 - 1 = 0$ has roots $r_1 = 1$ and $r_2 = -1$. Hence the general solution is $y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t}$.



2 Next we need to find a particular solution. Since Ae^t solves the homogeneous equation, we must "multiply by t". We try the ansatz $Y(t) = Ate^t$ and we calculate that

$$Y' = Ae^{t} + Ate^{t},$$

$$Y'' = 2Ae^{t} + Ate^{t}$$

and

$$2e^{t} = Y'' - Y$$

$$= 2Ae^{t} + Ate^{t} - Ate^{t}$$

$$= 2Ae^{t}.$$

We must have A = 1. Therefore $Y(t) = te^t$ is a particular solution.



3 Thus

$$y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t} + t e^t$$

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4 Finally we must satisfy the initial conditions. Since

$$y'(t) = c_1 e^t - c_2 e^{-t} + e^t + t e^t$$

we have

$$1 = y(0) = c_1 + c_2 + 0$$

$$2 = y'(0) = c_1 - c_2 + 1 + 0$$

which implies that $c_1 = 1$ and $c_2 = 0$. Therefore the solution to the IVP is

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Incorrect Solution:

First we consider y'' - y = 0. The characteristic equation $r^2 - 1 = 0$ has roots $r_1 = 1$ and $r_2 = -1$. Hence the general solution is $y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t}$.

$y(t) = e^t + te^{t'}$



4 Next we find c_1 and c_2 . Since

$$y'(t) = c_1 e^t - c_2 e^{-t}$$

we have

$$1 = y(0) = c_1 + c_2$$
$$2 = y'(0) = c_1 - c_2$$

which implies that $c_1 = \frac{3}{2}$ and $c_2 = -\frac{1}{2}$. Thus

$$y(t) = \frac{3}{2}e^t - \frac{1}{2}e^{-t}.$$

$y(t) = e^t + te^t$



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We must have A = 1. Therefore $Y(t) = te^t$ is a particular solution.

$y(t) = e^t + te^t$



3 Finally we add our solutions together to get

$$y(t) = \frac{3}{2}e^{t} - \frac{1}{2}e^{-t} + te^{t}$$

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$$y(t) = \frac{3}{2}e^t - \frac{1}{2}e^{-t} + te^t$$

which is **WRONG!!!** This function does not satisfy the initial conditions.



Example

Solve

$$\begin{cases}
-y'' + 6y' - 16y = 1 + 6e^{3t}\sin(2t) \\
y(0) = \frac{15}{16} \\
y'(0) = -1.
\end{cases}$$
(1)

(This is an exam question from 2013: Students had 30 minutes to solve this.)



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$$y(t) = c_1 e^{3t} \sin(\sqrt{7}t) + c_2 e^{3t} \cos(\sqrt{7}t).$$



Next consider -y'' + 6y' - 16y = 1.



Next consider -y'' + 6y' - 16y = 1. Trying the ansatz Y(t) = C, we see that

$$1 = -Y'' + 6Y' - 16Y = -16C.$$

We must choose $C = -\frac{1}{16}$. Hence $Y(t) = -\frac{1}{16}$.



Now consider $-y'' + 6y' - 16y = 6e^{3t}\sin(2t)$.

Now consider $-y'' + 6y' - 16y = 6e^{3t}\sin(2t)$. We try the ansatz $Y(t) = Ae^{3t}\cos 2t + Be^{3t}\sin 2t$ and find that $6e^{3t}\sin 2t = -Y'' + 6Y' - 16Y$ $= -e^{3t} \Big((5A + 12B)\cos 2t + (5B - 12A)\sin 2t \Big)$ $+6e^{3t}((3A+2B)\cos 2t + (3B-2A)\sin 2t)$ $-16e^{3t}(A\cos 2t + B\sin 2t)$ $=e^{3t}\cos 2t(-5A-12B+16A+12B-16A)$ $+e^{3t}\sin 2t(-5B+12A+18B-12A-16B)$ $=e^{3t}\cos 2t(-5A) + e^{3t}\sin 2t(-3B).$

Now consider $-y'' + 6y' - 16y = 6e^{3t}\sin(2t)$. We try the ansatz $Y(t) = Ae^{3t}\cos 2t + Be^{3t}\sin 2t$ and find that

$$\begin{aligned} 6e^{3t}\sin 2t &= -Y'' + 6Y' - 16Y \\ &= -e^{3t}\Big((5A + 12B)\cos 2t + (5B - 12A)\sin 2t\Big) \\ &+ 6e^{3t}\Big((3A + 2B)\cos 2t + (3B - 2A)\sin 2t\Big) \\ &- 16e^{3t}\big(A\cos 2t + B\sin 2t\big) \\ &= e^{3t}\cos 2t\big(-5A - 12B + 16A + 12B - 16A\big) \\ &+ e^{3t}\sin 2t\big(-5B + 12A + 18B - 12A - 16B\big) \\ &= e^{3t}\cos 2t\big(-5A\big) + e^{3t}\sin 2t\big(-3B\big). \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we need A = 0 and B = -2. Hence

$$Y(t) = -2e^{3t}\sin 2t.$$



Next we add these 3 solutions together. Therefore, the general solution to the ODE is

$$y(t) = c_1 e^{3t} \sin(\sqrt{7}t) + c_2 e^{3t} \cos(\sqrt{7}t) - \frac{1}{16} - 2e^{3t} \sin(2t).$$



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The final step is to choose c_1 and c_2 to satisfy the initial conditions.



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$$\frac{15}{16} = y(0) = 0 + c_2 - \frac{1}{16} - 0 \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad c_2 = 1.$$

$$-1 = y'(0)$$

$$= 3c_1 e^{3t} \sin(\sqrt{7}t) + \sqrt{7}c_1 e^{3t} \cos(\sqrt{7}t) + 3e^{3t} \cos(\sqrt{7}t)$$

$$- \sqrt{7}e^{3t} \sin(\sqrt{7}t) - 6e^{3t} \sin(2t) - 4e^{3t} \cos(2t)\big|_{t=0}$$

$$= 0 + \sqrt{7}c_1 + 3 - 0 - 0 - 4 \implies c_1 = 0.$$



Therefore, the solution to the IVP is

$$y(t) = e^{3t}\cos(\sqrt{7}t) - \frac{1}{16} - 2e^{3t}\sin(2t).$$



Remark

$$ay'' + by' + cy = g(t)$$

The method of undetermined coefficients works well if g(t) is a nice function: e^{kt} , $\sin kt$, $t^3 + 2t^2 + 3t + 4$, $e^{at} \cosh kt$, ...

However if g(t) is a less nice function, then we may need a different method to find a particular solution.



The Method of Variation of Parameters



Example

Find a particular solution to

$$y'' + 4y = 3\csc t \tag{2}$$



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The homogeneous equation y'' + 4y = 0 has general solution $y = c_1 \cos 2t + c_2 \sin 2t$. The idea is:



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The homogeneous equation y'' + 4y = 0 has general solution $y = c_1 \cos 2t + c_2 \sin 2t$. The idea is:

Replace the constants c_1 and c_2 by functions $u_1(t)$ and $u_2(t)$:

$$Y(t) = u_1(t)\cos 2t + u_2(t)\sin 2t.$$



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Find a particular solution to

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The homogeneous equation y'' + 4y = 0 has general solution $y = c_1 \cos 2t + c_2 \sin 2t$. The idea is:

Replace the constants c_1 and c_2 by functions $u_1(t)$ and $u_2(t)$:

$$Y(t) = u_1(t)\cos 2t + u_2(t)\sin 2t.$$

2 Try to find u_1 and u_2 so that Y solves (2). There will be lots of u_1 and u_2 that we can use, so we will be free to add an extra condition.



So suppose that

$$Y = u_1 \cos 2t + u_2 \sin 2t.$$



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Then

$$Y' = u_1' \cos 2t - 2u_1 \sin 2t + u_2' \sin 2t + 2u_2 \cos 2t$$



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$$Y' = u_1' \cos 2t - 2u_1 \sin 2t + u_2' \sin 2t + 2u_2 \cos 2t$$

At this point, it is getting complicated so we will use our chance to add a condition: Suppose that

$$u_1' \cos 2t + u_2' \sin 2t = 0 \tag{3}$$



So suppose that

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At this point, it is getting complicated so we will use our chance to add a condition: Suppose that

$$u_1' \cos 2t + u_2' \sin 2t = 0 \tag{3}$$

So

$$Y' = -2u_1\sin 2t + 2u_2\cos 2t$$

$$Y'' = -2u_1' \sin 2t - 4u_1 \cos 2t + 2u_2' \cos 2t - 4u_2 \sin 2t.$$



Then

$$3\csc t = Y'' + 4Y$$

$$= (-2u'_1\sin 2t - 4u_1\cos 2t + 2u'_2\cos 2t - 4u_2\sin 2t)$$

$$+ 4(u_1\cos 2t + u_2\sin 2t)$$

$$= -2u'_1\sin 2t + 2u'_2\cos 2t$$



Then

$$3\csc t = Y'' + 4Y$$

$$= (-2u'_1\sin 2t - 4u_1\cos 2t + 2u'_2\cos 2t - 4u_2\sin 2t)$$

$$+ 4(u_1\cos 2t + u_2\sin 2t)$$

$$= -2u'_1\sin 2t + 2u'_2\cos 2t$$

We want to find $u_1(t)$ and $u_2(t)$ which satisfy

$$\begin{cases} 3\csc t = -2u_1'\sin 2t + 2u_2'\cos 2t \\ u_1'\cos 2t + u_2'\sin 2t = 0 \end{cases}$$



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From the latter condition, we have $u_2' = -u_1' \frac{\cos 2t}{\sin 2t}$.



$$\begin{cases} 3\csc t = -2u'_1\sin 2t + 2u'_2\cos 2t \\ u'_1\cos 2t + u'_2\sin 2t = 0 \end{cases}$$

From the latter condition, we have $u_2' = -u_1' \frac{\cos 2t}{\sin 2t}$. Putting this into the first condition, we calculate that

$$3\csc t = -2u_1'\sin 2t + 2\left(-u_1'\frac{\cos 2t}{\sin 2t}\right)\cos 2t$$
$$3\csc t \sin 2t = -2u_1'\sin^2 2t - 2u_1'\cos^2 2t = -2u_1'$$
$$u_1' = \frac{-3\csc t \sin 2t}{2} = \frac{-3\sin 2t}{2\sin t} = -3\cos t$$

$$u_2' = \frac{3\cos t \cos 2t}{\sin 2t} = \frac{3\cos t(1-\sin^2 t)}{2\sin t \cos t} = \frac{3}{2}\csc t - 3\sin t.$$



Integrating gives

$$u_1(t) = \int u_1'(t) dt = \int -3\cos t dt = -3\sin t$$

$$u_2(t) = \int u_2'(t) dt = \int \frac{3}{2}\csc t - 3\sin t dt$$

$$= \frac{3}{2}\ln|\csc t - \cot t| + 3\cos t$$



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$$= \frac{3}{2}\ln|\csc t - \cot t| + 3\cos t$$

Therefore a particular solution is

$$Y(t) = u_1(t)\cos 2t + u_2(t)\sin 2t$$

$$= -3\sin t\cos 2t + \frac{3}{2}\ln|\csc t - \cot t|\sin 2t + 3\cos t\sin 2t$$

$$= 3\sin t + \frac{3}{2}\ln|\csc t - \cot t|\sin 2t.$$



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Suppose that $c_1y_1 + c_2y_2$ is the general solution of L[y] = 0.



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- 1 Guess $Y = u_1(t)y_1 + u_2(t)y_2$;
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- 5 Integrate to get u_1 and u_2 ;



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Suppose that $c_1y_1 + c_2y_2$ is the general solution of L[y] = 0.

- 1 Guess $Y = u_1(t)y_1 + u_2(t)y_2$;
- 2 Make the extra condition $u'_1y_1 + u'_2y_2 = 0$;
- Put Y into L[y] = g(t);
- I Find u'_1 and u'_2 ;
- 5 Integrate to get u_1 and u_2 ;

Then Y is a particular solution to L[y] = g(t).



Example

Find a particular solution to $y'' - 2y' + y = e^t \ln t$.



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The characteristic equation, $0 = r^2 - 2r + 1 = (r - 1)^2$ has roots $r_1 = r_2 = 1$. Hence the general solution of the homogeneous equation is $y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 t e^t$.



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Therefore we guess that $Y = u_1(t)e^t + u_2(t)te^t$.



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Therefore we guess that $Y = u_1(t)e^t + u_2(t)te^t$.

We make the extra condition that

$$u'_1y_1 + u'_2y_2 = 0$$

$$u'_1e^t + u'_2te^t = 0$$

$$u'_1 + u'_2t = 0.$$



Then we calculate that

$$Y' = u'_1 e^t + u_1 e^t + u'_2 t e^t + u_2 e^t + u_2 t e^t$$

$$= Y'' =$$

$$=$$

$$e^t \ln t = Y'' - 2Y' + Y$$

$$=$$



Then we calculate that

$$Y' = u_1'e^t + u_1e^t + u_2'te^t + u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

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$$Y'' = u_1'e^t + u_1e^t + u_2'e^t + u_2e^t + u_2'te^t + u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

$$=$$

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Then we calculate that

$$Y' = u_1'e^t + u_1e^t + u_2'te^t + u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

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$$=$$

$$e^t \ln t = Y'' - 2Y' + Y$$

$$=$$



Then we calculate that

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$$Y'' = y_1'e^t + u_1e^t + u_2'e^t + u_2e^t + y_2'te^t + u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

$$= u_1e^t + u_2'e^t + 2u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

and

$$e^t \ln t = Y'' - 2Y' + Y$$

$$=$$

30 of 44



Then we calculate that

$$Y' = y_1'e^t + u_1e^t + y_2'te^t + u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

$$= u_1e^t + u_2e^t + u_2te^t,$$

$$Y'' = y_1'e^t + u_1e^t + u_2'e^t + u_2e^t + y_2'te^t + u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

$$= u_1e^t + u_2'e^t + 2u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

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

$$= (u_{1}e^{t} + u'_{2}e^{t} + 2u_{2}e^{t} + u_{2}te^{t}) - 2(u_{1}e^{t} + u_{2}e^{t} + u_{2}te^{t})$$

$$+ (u_{1}e^{t} + u_{2}te^{t})$$



Then we calculate that

$$Y' = y_1'e^t + u_1e^t + y_2'te^t + u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

$$= u_1e^t + u_2e^t + u_2te^t,$$

$$Y'' = y_1'e^t + u_1e^t + u_2'e^t + u_2e^t + y_2'te^t + u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

$$= u_1e^t + u_2'e^t + 2u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

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

$$= (u_{1}e^{t} + u'_{2}e^{t} + 2u_{2}e^{t} + u_{2}te^{t}) - 2(u_{1}e^{t} + u_{2}e^{t} + u_{2}te^{t})$$

$$+ (u_{1}e^{t} + u_{2}te^{t})$$

$$= u'_{2}e^{t}.$$



Then we calculate that

$$Y' = y_1'e^t + u_1e^t + y_2'te^t + u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

$$= u_1e^t + u_2e^t + u_2te^t,$$

$$Y'' = y_1'e^t + u_1e^t + u_2'e^t + u_2e^t + y_2'te^t + u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

$$= u_1e^t + u_2'e^t + 2u_2e^t + u_2te^t$$

and

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

$$= (u_{1}e^{t} + u'_{2}e^{t} + 2u_{2}e^{t} + u_{2}te^{t}) - 2(u_{1}e^{t} + u_{2}e^{t} + u_{2}te^{t})$$

$$+ (u_{1}e^{t} + u_{2}te^{t})$$

$$= u'_{2}e^{t}.$$

It follows that $u_2' = \ln t$ and thus $u_1' = -u_2't = -t \ln t$.



Next we integrate to find

$$u_1(t) = \int u_1'(t) dt = \int -t \ln t dt = -\frac{1}{2}t^2 \ln t + \frac{1}{4}t^2$$

$$u_2(t) = \int u_2'(t) dt = \int \ln t dt = t \ln t - t.$$



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and

$$u_2(t) = \int u'_2(t) dt = \int \ln t dt = t \ln t - t.$$

Therefore a particular solution is

$$Y(t) = u_1(t)e^t + u_2(t)te^t$$

$$= \left(-\frac{1}{2}t^2 \ln t + \frac{1}{4}t^2\right)e^t + (t \ln t - t)te^t$$

$$= \left(\frac{1}{2}\ln t - \frac{3}{4}\right)t^2e^t.$$



Isn't there an easier way?



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Theorem

Suppose that $y_1(t)$ and $y_2(t)$ form a fundamental set of solutions of y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0. Then a particular solution of y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t) is given by

$$Y(t) =$$



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Suppose that $y_1(t)$ and $y_2(t)$ form a fundamental set of solutions of y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0. Then a particular solution of y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t) is given by

$$Y(t) = -y_1 \int \frac{y_2 g}{W} + y_2 \int \frac{y_1 g}{W}$$
 (4)

where $W = W(y_1, y_2)$ is the Wronskian.



Example

Find a particular solution to $y'' - 2y' + y = e^t \ln t$.



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We calculate that

$$W = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} e^t & te^t \\ e^t & e^t + te^t \end{vmatrix} = e^{2t} + te^{2t} - te^{2t} = e^{2t}.$$



$$y_1 = e^t$$
 $y_2 = te^t$ $g = e^t \ln t$ $W = e^{2t}$

It follows that

$$Y(t) = -y_1 \int \frac{y_2 g}{W} + y_2 \int \frac{y_1 g}{W}$$

$$=$$

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 $_{34 \text{ of } 44}$ is a particular solution to the ODE.



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We can use the same ideas to solve higher order linear ODEs.



Example

Solve

$$\begin{cases} y^{(4)} + y''' - 7y'' - y' + 6y = 0 \\ y(0) = 1 \\ y'(0) = 0 \\ y''(0) = -2 \\ y'''(0) = -1. \end{cases}$$



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The characteristic equation is

$$r^4 + r^3 - 7r^2 - r + 6 = 0$$

which has roots $r_1 = 1$, $r_2 = -1$, $r_3 = 2$ and $r_4 = -3$.



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The characteristic equation is

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which has roots $r_1 = 1$, $r_2 = -1$, $r_3 = 2$ and $r_4 = -3$. So the general solution to the ODE is

$$y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t} + c_3 e^{2t} + c_4 e^{-3t}.$$



Then

$$1 = y(0) = c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + c_4 + 4$$

$$0 = y'(0) = c_1 - c_2 + 2c_3 - 3c_4$$

$$-2 = y''(0) = c_1 + c_2 + 4c_3 + 9c_4$$

$$-1 = y'''(0) = c_1 - c_2 + 8c_3 - 27c_4$$



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$$c_1 = \frac{11}{8}$$

$$c_2 = \frac{5}{12}$$

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$$c_1 = \frac{8}{8}$$

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$$c_4 = -\frac{1}{8}$$

Therefore the solution to the IVP is

$$y = \frac{11}{8}e^t + \frac{5}{12}e^{-t} - \frac{2}{3}e^{2t} - \frac{1}{8}e^{-3t}.$$



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Solve

$$y^{(4)} - y = e^t$$



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The characteristic equation

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Solve

$$y^{(4)} - y = e^t$$

The characteristic equation

$$0 = r^4 - 1 = (r^2 - 1)(r^2 + 1)$$

has roots $r_1 = 1$, $r_2 = -1$, $r_3 = i$ and $r_4 = -i$. Therefore

$$y = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t} + c_3 \cos t + c_4 \sin t$$

is the general solution of the homogenous equation $y^{(4)} - y = 0$.



$$y^{(4)} - y = e^t$$

Next we need to find a particular solution.



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$$Y' = Ae^{t} + Ate^{t}$$

$$Y'' = Ae^{t} + Ae^{t} + Ate^{t} = 2Ae^{t} + Ate^{t}$$

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and

$$e^t = Y^{(4)} - Y = 4Ae^t + Ate^t - Ate^t = 4Ae^t \implies A = \frac{1}{4}.$$

Therefore $Y(t) = \frac{1}{4}te^t$ is a particular solution to the ODE.



The general solution to the ODE is therefore

$$y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t} + c_3 \cos t + c_4 \sin t + \frac{1}{4} t e^t.$$



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Any time the characteristic equation has a repeated root, just multiply by t.



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Any time the characteristic equation has a repeated root, just multiply by t. E.g. if the roots are $r_1 = 7$, $r_2 = 7$, $r_3 = 7$, $r_4 = 7$, $r_5 = 7$ and $r_6 = 8$, then the general solution is

$$y(t) = c_1 e^{7t} + c_2 t e^{7t} + c_3 t^2 e^{7t} + c_4 t^3 e^{7t} + c_5 t^4 e^{7t} + c_6 e^{8t}.$$



Example (Going backwards)

Find a linear, homogeneous ODEs with constant coefficients, which has general solution $y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 t e^t + c_3 e^{2t} \sin t + c_4 e^{2t} \cos t + c_5 e^{2t} t \sin t + c_6 e^{2t} t \cos t.$



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The first two terms correspond to a double root r=1. The last four terms correspond to a double complex root $r=2\pm i$. Consequently, the characteristic equation is

$$0 = (r-1)^{2}(r-2-i)^{2}(r-2+i)^{2}$$

$$= (r-1)^{2}(r^{2}-4r+5)^{2}$$

$$= r^{6} - 10r^{5} + 43r^{4} - 100r^{3} + 131r^{2} - 90r + 25.$$



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Then, a differential equation is

$$\frac{d^6y}{dt^6} - 10\frac{d^5y}{dt^5} + 43\frac{d^4y}{dt^4} - 100\frac{d^3y}{dt^3} + 131\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - 90\frac{dy}{dt} + 25y = 0.$$



Next Time

- 4.1 Definition of the Laplace Transform
- 4.2 Solving Initial Value Problems