

Term Test #2

6:10 - 7:00 pm

3 problems

higher order linear ODE's

Everything from 2nd order theory go

- Existence and uniqueness for IVP

- Wronskians

- constant coefficient equation

- reduction of order

- undetermined coefficients

- variation of parameters

Notation:  $y^{(k)} = \frac{d^k y}{dt^k}$  k-th derivatives

$L[y] = y^{(n)} + P_1 y^{(n-1)} + \dots + P_n y$

( $P_1, \dots, P_n$  function) n-th order linear diff. operation

Inhomogeneous equation  $L[y] = g$  (given function)

Homogeneous equation:  $L[y] = 0$

The general solution of  $L[y] = g$  is the sum of a particular solution of  $L[y] = g$  with the general solution of  $L[y] = 0$ .

(If  $L[y] = g$  and  $L[\tilde{y}] = g$

then  $L[y - \tilde{y}] = L[y] - L[\tilde{y}] = g - g = 0$ )

General solution of  $L[y] = 0$  will be given by  $n$  independent solutions  $y_1, \dots, y_n$ .

Need to make this precise.

Def: The Wronskian of function  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  is the function

$$W[f_1, \dots, f_n] = \begin{vmatrix} f_1 & \dots & f_n \\ f'_1 & \dots & f'_n \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ f_1^{(n-1)} & \dots & f_n^{(n-1)} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$W[f_1, \dots, f_n] = \begin{vmatrix} f_1 & \dots & f_n \\ f'_1 & \dots & f'_n \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ f_1^{(n-1)} & \dots & f_n^{(n-1)} \end{vmatrix}$$

When is the Wronskian zero?

If there exists  $c_1, \dots, c_n$ , not all 0, with  $c_1 f_1 + \dots + c_n f_n = 0$  (for all  $f$ ) then the Wronskian is zero:

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 f_1' + \dots + c_n f_n' &= 0 \\ c_1 f_1^{(n-1)} + \dots + c_n f_n^{(n-1)} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Converse is also true:

$W[f_1, \dots, f_n] = 0 \Leftrightarrow f_1, \dots, f_n$  are linearly dependent i.e. there exist  $c_1, \dots, c_n$  not all zero, with  $c_1 f_1 + \dots + c_n f_n = 0$ .

Thus,  $W \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow f_1, \dots, f_n$  linearly independent.

Def'n: If  $y_1, \dots, y_n$  are solution of  $L[y] = 0$ , then they are a fundamental set of solution if  $W[y_1, \dots, y_n] \neq 0$  (i.e. they are lin. indep.).

If  $y_1, \dots, y_n$  are a fund. set of solution of  $L[y] = 0$ , then the general solution of  $L[y] = 0$  is  $y = c_1 y_1 + \dots + c_n y_n$

Further properties

- Abel's formula

for  $W = W[y_1, \dots, y_n]$

$$W(t) = W(t_0) \exp \left( - \int_{t_0}^t p(s) ds \right)$$

$(L[y] = y^{(n)} + p_1 y^{(n-1)} + \dots + p_n y)$

In particular,  $W(t) \neq 0$   
for all  $t$

If  $y_1, \dots, y_n$  a solution of the general  $y = c$ ,

$\Leftrightarrow W(t_0) \neq 0$  for some  $t_0$

$$W = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_1' & y_1'' \\ y_2 & y_2' & y_2'' \\ y_3 & y_3' & y_3'' \end{vmatrix}$$

- Initial value problem (IVP)

If  $W[y_1, \dots, y_n] \neq 0$  then for all  $y_0, \dots, y_0^{(n-1)}$  there exists constants  $c_1, \dots, c_n$   $y = c_1 y_1 + \dots + c_n y_n$  solves the IVP

$$L[y] = 0, y(t_0) = y_0, y'(t_0) = y_0', \dots, y^{(n-1)}(t_0) = y_0^{(n-1)}.$$

$$W[f, g] = e^{6t}, f = e^{3t}, \text{ find } g.$$

### Constant coefficient equations

$$L[y] = a_0 y^{(n)} + a_1 y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_n y$$

$$\text{Hom. equations } L[y] = 0 \quad (a_0, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{R})$$

Trial solution:  $y(t) = e^{rt}$

$$y'(t) = r e^{rt}$$

$$y^{(k)}(t) = r^k e^{rt}.$$

Plug into  $L[y] = 0$

$$e^{rt} (a_0 r^n + a_1 r^{n-1} + \dots + a_n)$$

Thus  $e^{rt}$  is a solution  $\Leftrightarrow r$  is a root

of the char. equation

$$a_0 r^n + a_1 r^{n-1} + \dots + a_n = 0$$

This eqn. has  $n$  roots (some are complex), (counted with multiplication)

If  $r$  is a root, then  $e^{rt}$  is a solution. In case of  $r = \lambda + i\mu$ ,  $e^{rt}$  is a complex solution, then  $F = \lambda - i\mu$  is also a root.

(Can use  $e^{rt}$ ,  $e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t)$ ,  $e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t)$ ).

$$e^{rt} = e^{(\lambda + i\mu)t} = e^{\lambda t} e^{i\mu t}$$

$$e^{\lambda t} = \dots$$

If all roots are distinct, get fundamental set of solutions  $y_1(t) = e^{r_1 t}, \dots, y_n(t) = e^{r_n t}$

In some of multiplications, multiply by powers of  $t$ .

E.g. if root  $r$  has mult  $k$ , get solutions

$e^{rt}, t e^{rt}, \dots, t^{k-1} e^{rt}$  are solution.

$$\text{E.g. } y^{(3)} + y = 0$$

$$\text{char. eqn: } r^3 + 1 = 0 \quad (r = -1 \text{ is a root})$$

$$r^3 + 1 = (r+1)(r^2 - r + 1), r_2, r_3 = \frac{1}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} - 1} = \frac{1}{2} \pm i \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$