

Review Notes: The General Case

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December 11, 2023

1 Linear 2nd order ODEs

$$Ax'' + Bx' + Cx = D \quad (1)$$

1.1 The characteristic equation

For a homogenous 2nd order equation, $Ax'' + Bx' + Cx = 0$, solutions may be obtained by substituting e^{rx} to obtain the characteristic equation $Ar^2 + Br + C = 0$. Since the CEQ is a quadratic equation, it will have two roots r_1 and r_2 . The form of the solution will depend on the roots.

1.1.1 Non-equal real roots $r_1 \neq r_2$, $r_{1,2} \in \mathbb{R}$

The solution takes the form: $C_1e^{r_1t} + C_2e^{r_2t}$

1.1.2 Equal real roots $r_1 = r_2 = r$, $r \in \mathbb{R}$

The solution takes the form: $(C_1 + C_2t)e^{rt}$

1.1.3 Complex roots $r_1 \neq r_2$, $r_{1,2} \in \mathbb{C}$

The roots r_1 and r_2 will be of the form $a \pm bi$, so we may write

$$\begin{aligned} & C_1(e^{at}e^{bit}) + C_2(e^{at}e^{-bit}) \\ &= C_1e^{at}(\cos(bt) + i\sin(bt)) + C_2e^{at}(\cos(bt) - i\sin(bt)) \\ &= (C_1 + C_2)e^{at}\cos(bt) + i(C_1 - C_2)e^{at}\sin(bt) \\ &= C_1e^{at}\cos(bt) + C_2e^{at}\sin(bt) \\ &= e^{at}(C_1\cos(bt) + C_2\sin(bt)) \end{aligned}$$

1.2 Non-homogenous equations

The solution of a non-homogenous equation will be the sum of it's compliment solution (solution with no homogenous term) and a paticular solution, calculated by the method of undetermined coefficients.

$$x(t) = x_c + x_p \quad (2)$$

2 Mass-Spring Systems (Harmonic Oscillators)

Mass spring systems, as well as other harmonic oscillators may be described by the 2nd order LDE with const coeff:

$$mx'' + cx' + kx = F(x) \quad (3)$$

Where m = mass, c = damping constant, k = spring constant, and $F(x)$ = damping force. By dividing out m and writing angular frequency $w_0 = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$, and $p = \frac{c}{2m}$, it may be written

$$x'' + 2px' + w_0^2 x = F(x) \quad (4)$$

2.1 No driving force – homogenous

2.1.1 Undamped

For an undamped system, the solution will be of the form $A \sin w_0 t + B \cos w_0 t$, which given initial values may be written (for analysis purposes):

$$C \cos(w_0 t - \alpha), \text{ where } C = \sqrt{A^2 + B^2}, \text{ and } \alpha = \begin{cases} \arctan(B/A) : A, B > 0 \\ \arctan(B/A) + \pi : A < 0 \\ \arctan(B/A) + \pi : B < 0, A > 0 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

Amplitude	C
Circular Frequency	w_0
Phase angle	α
Period and Frequency	$\frac{w_0}{2\pi}$ and $\frac{2\pi}{w_0}$
Time lag	$\delta = \frac{\alpha}{w_0}$

2.1.2 Damped

The behavior of this equation may be separated into three cases, determined by the relation of c^2 and $4km$. This is because this is the discriminant of the CEQ of the general equation. Its value will determine the nature of its roots – if they are unique, and complex or real

Underdamped	Critically Damped	Overdamped
$c^2 < 4km$	$c^2 = 4km$	$c^2 > 4km$
$r_{1,2} \in \mathbb{C} = -p \pm w_1 i$	$r_1 = r_2 = -p$	$r_{1,2} \in \mathbb{R}$
$e^{-pt}(A \cos(w_1 t) + B \sin(w_1 t))$	$e^{-pt}(c_1 + c_2 t)$	$c_1 e^{r_1 t} + c_2 e^{r_2 t}$
Passes thru eq ∞ times	Passes through eq at most once	Passes through eq at most once

2.2 More on underdamped

While the underdamped cases motion is not truly periodic, it is still useful to characterize it as such. Similarly to the undamped cases, we may write the sinusoid component as a single cosine with a phase angle α and amplitude $C = \sqrt{A^2 + B^2}$. The (pseudo) frequency w_1 is given by $\sqrt{w_0^2 - p^2}$.

$$C e^{-pt} (\cos(w_1 t - \alpha)) \quad (6)$$

It has a "time varying amplitude" of $\pm C e^{-pt}$, and will touch (reach max amplitude) when $w_1 t - \alpha = k\pi$ ($k \in \mathbb{R}$). w_1 and $\frac{2\pi}{w_1}$ are called pseudofrequency and pseudoperiod.

2.3 Sinusoidal Driving force

2.3.1 Undamped

2.3.2 Damped