



[Course](#) > [Unit 3:...](#) > [6 Deco...](#) > 3. Gen...

## 3. General solution to inhomogeneous systems

### Introduction to inhomogeneous system



4:02 / 4:22



2.0x



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Recall that an **inhomogeneous** first order  $n \times n$  linear system of ODEs is

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r}(t)$$

where  $\mathbf{A}$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix,  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  is a vector in  $n$ -dimensional space, and they both depend only on the independent variable  $t$ .

The general solution to such an inhomogeneous system is

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \underbrace{\mathbf{x}_h(t)}_{\text{homogeneous}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{x}_p(t)}_{\text{particular}},$$

where  $\mathbf{x}_h$  is the general solution to the associated homogeneous system:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_h = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_h,$$

and  $\mathbf{x}_p$  is one particular solution satisfying the full inhomogeneous equation:

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}}_p = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}_p + \mathbf{r}.$$

This is due to the linearity of the system and the superposition principle.

As before in this course, we will restrict ourselves to the case when  $\mathbf{A}$  is **constant**.

## Review: companion system

2/2 points (graded)

For the second order single ODE

$$\ddot{x} + x = \tan(t),$$

find the companion system with new variable  $\mathbf{y} = \dot{\mathbf{x}}$ :

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r} \quad \text{where } \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix},$$

by entering the companion matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  and the vector  $\mathbf{r}$  below

(Enter **[a,b;c,d]** for the matrix  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$ . That is, use commas to separate entries within the same row and **semicolon** to separate rows, and **square bracket** the entire matrix. Similarly for larger matrices.)

$\mathbf{A} =$   ✓ Answer: [0,1;-1,0]

$\mathbf{r} =$   ✓ Answer: [0;tan(t)]

**Solution:**

Let  $\mathbf{y} = \dot{\mathbf{x}}$ , then the companion system is

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\mathbf{x}} &= \mathbf{y} \\ \dot{\mathbf{y}} &= -\mathbf{x} + \tan(t). \end{aligned}$$

In matrix form, this is

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\mathbf{x}} &= \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r} \quad \text{where } \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \\ \mathbf{A} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \mathbf{r}(t) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \tan(t) \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

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You have used 1 of 3 attempts

**i** Answers are displayed within the problem

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