

# MAE82

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## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Ordinary Differential Equations</b>	<b>2</b>
	First Order ODEs . . . . .	2
	Mathematical Models . . . . .	4
<b>2</b>	<b>Linear 2nd Order ODEs</b>	<b>5</b>
	Homogenous 2nd Order ODEs . . . . .	5
	Undertermined Coefficients . . . . .	5
	Variation of Parameters . . . . .	7
	Mechanical Vibrations . . . . .	7
<b>3</b>	<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>8</b>

## §1 Ordinary Differential Equations

All ODEs are going to be in the form

$$a_n(x) \frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + a_{n-1} \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dx^{n-1}} + \cdots + a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x)y = F(x)$$

where  $y$  is a function of  $x$ . Note that all ODEs will have

1. only one independent variable
2. only ordinary derivatives

For a lot of ODEs, the simple solve is by guessing and then plugging in.

### First Order ODES

To start, we will only be focusing on first-order ODEs, or differential equations with only  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ . There is a specific type of solvable first order ODE, a separable ODE by the form of

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = p(x)q(y)$$

which we can solve by rewriting as

$$\frac{1}{q(y)} dy = p(x) dx$$

and then integrate on both sides.

**Example —** Solve

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x-5}{y^2}$$

*Solution.* This is equivalent to writing

$$\begin{aligned} y^2 dy &= (x-5) dx \\ \int y^2 dy &= \int (x-5) dx \\ \frac{y^3}{3} + c_1 &= \frac{x^2}{2} - 5x + c_2 \end{aligned}$$

□

**Definition —** A first order linear differential equation is one in the form

$$a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x)y = b(x)$$

Solving these will fall into three categories:

Case 1:

$$a_0(x) = 0$$

This would mean we would get a separable diff by the form of

$$a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x)y = b(x)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{b(x)}{a_1(x)}$$

$$y(x) = \int \frac{b(x)}{a_1(x)} dx + C$$

Case 2:

$$a_0(x) = a_1'(x)$$

Note that this yields, by manipulation

$$\begin{aligned} b(x) &= a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x)y \\ &= a_1(x)y' + a_1'(x)y \\ &= \frac{d}{dx}[a_1(x)y] \end{aligned}$$

and integrating both sides gives us

$$y = \frac{1}{a_1(x)} \int b(x) dx$$

**Solutions for General First Order Linear DE** — Given a differential equation of the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = Q(x)$$

the solution is

$$y(x) = \frac{1}{\mu(x)} \int \mu(x)Q(x) dx$$

$$\mu(x) = e^{\int P(x) dx}$$

The  $\mu(x)$  is called an *integrating factor*.

*Proof.* Let both sides of the general form DE be multiplied by a certain  $\mu(x)$ . We get

$$\mu \frac{dy}{dx} + \mu P y = \mu Q$$

Note that if

$$\begin{aligned} \mu P &= \mu' \\ \frac{1}{\mu} d\mu &= P dP \\ \ln(\mu) + C &= \int P dP \\ \mu &= e \end{aligned}$$

□

**Definition** — The differential form  $M(x, y) dx + N(x, y) dy = 0$  is exact if there is a function  $F(x, y)$  such that

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial x} = M \quad \& \quad \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} = N$$

This implies that

$$F(x, y) = C$$

is the solution for this DE.

Note that with exact equations,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial F}{\partial xy} &= \frac{\partial F}{\partial yx} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \underbrace{\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}}_M &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \underbrace{\frac{\partial F}{\partial y}}_N \end{aligned}$$

This means that we can just check if

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial y} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}$$

to check if its an exact equation, and we can reverse it to solve for  $F(x, y)$ .

**Bernoulli Substitution** — Given an equation of the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = Q(x)y^n$$

by letting a certain

$$V = y^{1-n}$$

we can rewrite this equation into the linear DE

$$\frac{1}{1-n} \frac{dV}{dx} + P(x)V = Q(x)$$

Note that this is a very specific form; when  $n = 0, 1$ , it simplifies to a seperable/linear function. By dividing by  $y^n$  on both sides, we get the equation of the form

$$y^{-n} \frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y^{1-n} = Q(x)$$

Seeing that the derivative

$$\frac{dy^{1-n}}{dx} = (1-n)y^{-n} \frac{dy}{dx}$$

through chain rule, this gives us motivation for our solution.

## Mathematical Models

## §2 Linear 2nd Order ODEs

### Homogenous 2nd Order ODEs

**Homogenous 2nd Order ODE** — Homogenous 2nd Order ODEs take the form of

$$a \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0$$

Let a certain

$$\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

There are three cases for solutions (with  $C_1, C_2$  as arbitrary constants):

$b^2 - 4ac > 0$ :

$$y(x) = C_1 e^{\lambda_1 x} + C_2 e^{\lambda_2 x}$$

$b^2 - 4ac = 0$ :

$$y(x) = C_1 e^{\lambda x} + C_2 x e^{\lambda x}$$

$b^2 - 4ac < 0$ :

In this case, let

$$\lambda_1 = \alpha + \beta i$$

$$\lambda_2 = \alpha - \beta i$$

The solution become

$$\begin{aligned} y &= C_1 e^{(\alpha + \beta i)x} + C_2 e^{(\alpha - \beta i)x} \\ &= e^{\alpha x} (C_1 \cos(\beta x) + C_2 \sin(\beta x)) \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Note that the solutions of this equation lie in the form

$$y = e^{rt}$$

Plugging this into the equation yields

$$\begin{aligned} ar^2 e^{rt} + br e^{rt} + ce^{rt} &= 0 \\ (ar^2 + br + c)e^{rt} &= 0 \\ \implies e^{rt} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad ar^2 + br + c &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Other than the redundant solution of  $r = -\infty$ , the solutions of  $r$  can be given by

$$r = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

□

### Undertermined Coefficients

Solving the equation

$$a \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = f(t)$$

is a harder task; it depends on the type of function of  $f(t)$ . There are three cases:

1.  $f(t)$  is Polynomial
2.  $f(t)$  is Exponential
3.  $f(t)$  is Sinusoidal

**Polynomial** — Given the equation

$$ay'' + by' + cy = Ct^m$$

We plug in the equation

$$y(t) = A_mt^m + A_{m-1}t^{m-1} + \cdots + A_1t + A_0$$

and coefficient match to solve for the coefficients of  $y$ .

**Exponential** — Given the equation

$$ay'' + by' + cy = Ce^{mt}$$

Notice how  $y$  must be of the form

$$y(t) = Ae^{mt} \quad (\text{or} \quad y(t) = Ate^{mt} \quad y(t) = At^2e^{mt})$$

Plugging in and coefficient matching, we can solve for the coefficients of  $y$ .

Note: this doesn't always work – if our guess for the function  $y(t)$  is also a solution for the homogenous equation

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0$$

then our solution isn't valid. To fix this, we can edit our guessed function by multiplying it by  $t$ , giving us either

$$y(t) = Ate^{mt} \quad \text{or} \quad y(t) = At^2e^{mt}$$

**Sinusoidal** — Given the equation

$$ay'' + by' + cy = C \sin(mt)$$

Seeing how the derivative of sin is cos, and vice versa, we can plug

$$y(t) = A \sin(mt) + B \cos(mt)$$

into the equation, and coefficient match to get the coefficients of  $y$ .

When  $f(t)$  is a product of multiple cases, then the solution is a product of the individual roots.

**Theorem (Superposition Principle)**

If  $y_1(t)$  is a solution to

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

and  $y_2(t)$  is a solution to

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

then for any constants  $k_1, k_2$ ,  $k_1y_1(t) + k_2y_2(t)$  is a solution to

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

## Variation of Parameters

**Variation of Parameters** — To solve a more general differential equation

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + q\frac{dy}{dx} + ry = g(t)$$

given two complementary solutions  $y_1(t)$ ,  $y_2(t)$  for the homogenous counterpart, a particular solution is

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

$$W(y_1, y_2) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{vmatrix} = y_1 y_2' - y_2 y_1'$$

*Proof.*

□

## Mechanical Vibrations

**NOTE:** all of these methods find the *particular solution* to these non-homogenous equations, not the general solution. The theorem above gives us motivation to show the following:

To find the general solution, we have to find a particular solution to this equation, and combine it with the general solution to its homogenous counterpart.

## §3 Chapter 3