

# Differential Equations Review Sheet 1, Fall 2017

## I. First Order DEs

### (a) Separable

Form:  $\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x)g(y)$

To solve: arrange it like so:  $\frac{dy}{g(y)} = f(x) dx$ , integrate both sides!

Don't forget the **lost solutions**  $y = c$ , where  $g(c) = 0$ .

### (b) Linear

General Form:  $a(x)y' + b(x)y = c(x)$

**Standard form:**  $y' + p(x)y = f(x)$

To solve:

- Put in standard form (by dividing by  $a(x)$  if necessary).
- Compute the homogeneous solution:  $y_h(x) = e^{-\int p(x)dx}$ .
- Use the variation of parameters formula:  $y(x) = y_h(x)(\int \frac{q(x)}{y_h(x)} dx + C)$ .
- There is also the definite integral solution:  $y(x) = y_h(x)(\int_a^x \frac{q(u)}{y_h(u)} du + C)$ , where  $C = y(a)/y_h(a)$ .

## II. Linear Constant Coefficient Homogeneous DEs

### (a) Linear, Constant Coefficient

1. What does it look like? Well, it's linear, and has constant coefficients. :)

We write it as  $P(D)x = 0$ , where  $P(r)$  is a polynomial.

2. How do I solve it?

Get the **characteristic polynomial**: replace  $y$  by 1,  $y'$  by  $r$ ,  $y''$  by  $r^2$  etc. (This comes from guessing  $y = e^{rt}$  as a trial solution.)

3. Solve for the roots of the equation containing  $r$  (= **characteristic equation**).
4. Take roots,  $r_1, r_2$  etc. and arrange as:  $y = c_1 e^{r_1 t} + c_2 e^{r_2 t} + \dots$
5. If roots are complex in the form of  $a \pm bi$ , and you want a **real valued solution**, then make them:  $y = c_1 e^{at} \cos(bt) + c_2 e^{at} \sin(bt) + \dots$
6. If  $r$  is a double root, then  $e^{rt}$  and  $te^{rt}$  are both homogeneous solutions.

### (b) Damping (for $my'' + by' + ky = 0$ )

1. **Underdamping** when  $b^2 - 4mk < 0$ , so roots are complex, solutions oscillate.
2. **Overdamping** when  $b^2 - 4mk > 0$ , so roots are real, solutions are exponentials.
3. **Critical damping** when  $b^2 - 4mk = 0$ , so roots are repeated, solution is  $y = c_1 e^{-bt/2m} + c_2 t e^{-bt/2m}$ .

### (c) Stability

1.  $y(t) = 0$  is the equilibrium solution.
2. Physics: the system is stable (really asymptotically stable) if the output to the unforced system always goes to the equilibrium as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .
3. Math: the system is stable if all characteristic roots have negative real part.
4. Equivalently: the system is **stable** if all homogeneous solutions to the DE go to 0 as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .
5. For  $my'' + by' + ky = 0$  the system is stable exactly when  $m, b$  and  $k$  all have the same sign (usually positive).

## III. Complex Numbers

- (a) **Euler formula:**  $e^{i\theta} = \cos(\theta) + i \sin(\theta)$ .

- (b) **Polar form:**  $a + ib = re^{i\theta}$ ,  $r = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$ ,  $\tan \theta = b/a$ . (Remember how to draw the

polar triangle!)

- (c)  $n^{\text{th}}$  roots of  $re^{i\theta}$ :  $z = r^{\frac{1}{n}} e^{\frac{i\theta}{n} + \frac{i2\pi k}{n}}$ ,  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n-1$ .
- (d) **Complexification**: e.g. to solve  $P(D)x = F_0 \cos(\omega t)$  solve  $P(D)\tilde{x} = F_0 e^{i\omega t}$  and then decomplexify:  $x = \text{Re}(\tilde{x})$ , or  $\int e^{-x} \sin(\omega x) dx = \text{Im}(\int e^{(-1+i\omega)x} dx)$ .

#### IV. Linear Constant Coefficient Inhomogeneous DEs

##### (a) Preliminaries

1. I'm assuming you can solve the homogeneous part,  $P(D)y = 0$ , already.
2. **Inhomogeneous CC linear DEs** are of the form  $P(D)y = f$ , with a function  $f(t) \neq 0$ .
3. The general solution to  $P(D)y = f$  is  $y = y_p + y_h$ .  
( $y_p$  = particular solution,  $y_h$  = general homogeneous solution.)

##### (b) **Exponential response formula (ERF)**, also called **exponential input theorem**

1. For solving  $P(D)x = Be^{at}$ .
2. **Usual version**:  $x(t) = \frac{Be^{at}}{P(a)}$ , if  $P(a) \neq 0$ .  
Note:  $a$  is allowed to be complex.
3. **Extended version**: if  $P(a) = 0$  then the solution is  $x(t) = \frac{Bte^{at}}{P'(a)}$ , if  $P'(a) \neq 0$ .
4. How do you prove the ERF?  
• Try the solution  $ce^{at}$ . After substitution you find this works with  $c = B/P(a)$ .

##### (c) **Sinusoidal response formula (SRF)**

1. For solving  $P(D)x = B \cos \omega t$ .
2. **Usual version**:  $x(t) = \frac{B \cos(\omega t - \phi)}{|p(i\omega)|}$ , if  $P(i\omega) \neq 0$ .  
Here  $\phi = \text{Arg}(P(i\omega))$ . When writing  $\phi$  using  $\tan^{-1}$  don't forget to give the quadrants where  $P(i\omega)$  might lie.
3. How do you prove the SRF?  
• Complexify  $P(D)x = B \cos(\omega t)$  to  $P(D)\tilde{x} = Be^{i\omega t}$ . Then use the ERF.
4. **Extended version**: if  $P(i\omega) = 0$  then you find the solution by complexifying  $P(D)x = B \cos(\omega t)$  to  $P(D)\tilde{x} = Be^{i\omega t}$ . Then use the extended ERF.

##### (d) **Undetermined coefficients**

1. For solving  $P(D)x = \text{a polynomial}$ .
2. **Usual version**: guess a solution  $x(t) = \text{a polynomial of the same degree}$ . Then substitute and solve for the coefficients.
3. **Example**. Solve  $x'' + 8x' + 7x = 2t$ .  
**answer:** Try  $x = At + B$ .  
Substitution gives  $7At + (8A + 7B) = 2t$   
Now equate coefficients:  $7A = 2$ ,  $8A + 7B = 0$ . (So,  $A = 2/7$ ,  $B = -16/49$ .)
4. **Extended version**: If the DE doesn't go all the way to  $x$  then multiply the guess by the right power of  $t$
5. **Example**. Solve  $x^{(4)} + 8x''' = 2t$ .  
**answer:** This only goes to  $x'''$ , so multiply the guess by  $t^3$   
That is, guess  $x = At^4 + Bt^3$ .

#### V. Linear Operators in General

1. An operator  $T$  is linear if  $T(c_1 f + c_2 g) = c_1 T f + c_2 T g$  for all functions  $f, g$  and constants  $c_1, c_2$ .

2. Our main examples of linear operators are  $D$ ,  $P(D)$ .
3. Our main example of a non-linear operator is the squaring operator,  $Tf = f^2$ .
4. Linearity is almost always easy to check for.

## VI. Physical Models

1. **Exponential growth and decay**: DE is  $y' + ky = f(t)$ .
2. **Spring-mass-dashpot**: DE is  $my'' + by' + ky = F(t)$ ,  
where  $m$  = mass,  $b$  = damping,  $k$  = spring constant,  $F$  = external (driving) force.
3. **LRC circuit**: DE is  $LI'' + RI' + \frac{1}{C}I = E'$ ,  
where  $L$  = inductance,  $R$  = resistance,  $C$  = capacitance,  $E$  = input voltage.
4. **Mixing tanks**  
Remember work with amounts not concentrations.  
Rate of change = rate in - rate out.

## VII. Amplitude, Phase Lag, Resonance

1. Consider the system

$$my'' + by' + ky = kF_0 \cos(\omega t),$$

where **we have declared**  $F_0 \cos(\omega t)$  to be the **input**.

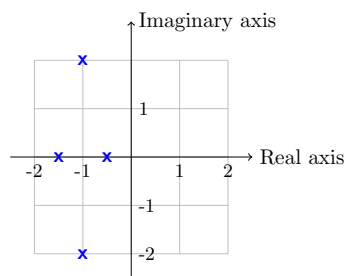
- The characteristic polynomial is  $P(r) = mr^2 + br + k$ .
  - The **input (angular) frequency** is  $\omega$ .
  - The **periodic solution** (response) is  $y_p = g(\omega)F_0 \cos(\omega t - \phi)$ .
  - The **natural frequency** of the system is  $\omega_0 = \sqrt{k/m}$ . This is the frequency of oscillation of the undamped unforced spring:  $mx'' + kx = 0$ .
  - $A = g(\omega)F_0$  is called the **amplitude**, where  $g(\omega) = k/|P(i\omega)|$ .  
The function  $g(\omega)$  is called the **gain** or **amplitude response** of the system. It depends on  $\omega$  (and  $m$ ,  $b$  and  $k$ ).
  - $\phi$  also depends on  $\omega$ . The function  $\phi(\omega)$  is called the **phase lag** or the **phase response** of the system.
  - **Practical resonance** occurs if  $g(\omega)$  has a maximum value at  $\omega_r$  (for  $\omega_r > 0$ ).  
If there is no such maximum then the system does not have practical resonance.
  - **Pure resonance** can only happen if  $b = 0$ . In this case, at  $\omega = \omega_0$  we say the gain  $g(\omega_0)$  is infinite. Really, when  $\omega = \omega_0$  the ERF gives  $y_p = \frac{t \sin \omega_0 t}{2m\omega_0}$ . This is not a sinusoid, rather it is a 'growing' oscillation.
2. Remember the gain depends on what we consider the input.  
For example, consider the DE:  $my'' + by' + ky = bF_0 \cos(\omega t)'$ ,  
but still consider  $F_0 \cos(\omega t)$  to be the input. Then the gain is  $g(\omega) = \frac{b\omega}{|P(i\omega)|}$ .  
There are many variations on this.

## VIII. Pole diagrams

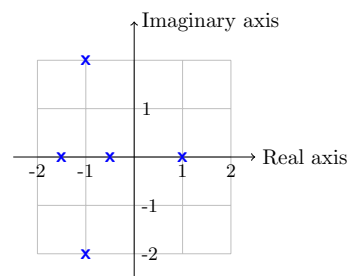
1. For our systems  $P(D)x = f$ , the **pole diagram** is drawn in the complex plane.  
The pole diagram tells us a lot about the homogeneous system.
  - We call the characteristic roots **poles**.
  - You put an  $\times$  at each pole.
  - By counting the poles you can determine the order of the system.
  - If all the poles are in the left half-plane then the system is stable because all the exponents in the homogeneous solutions have negative real part.
  - If there are complex poles then the system is **oscillatory**.

- For a stable system the exponential rate that the unforced (homogeneous) system returns to equilibrium is determined by the real part of the right-most pole.

## 2. Examples



4 poles, stable, oscillatory

5 poles, **unstable**, oscillatory