



# Mech 221 Mathematics Component

## Differential Equations

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Lectures 14-17

## Outline

### Lecture 14

Second Order Linear DE Applications  
General Discussion  
Some Theory

### Lecture 15

Homogeneous Linear Constant Coefficient Equations  
Real Roots  
Complex Roots

### Lecture 16

Inhomogeneous Problems  
Examples

### Lecture 17

Method of Reduction of Order  
Examples

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## Second Order DE Applications

### General Linear Second Order DE

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

where  $p(t)$ ,  $q(t)$ , and  $g(t)$  are given functions.

In particular, we will look (again) at a simpler class of linear equations where the coefficients are constants:

$$A\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + B\frac{dy}{dt} + Cy = g(t)$$

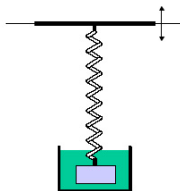
( $A \neq 0$ ). Even these simpler DEs occur in many applications.

## Second Order DE Applications-II

### Applications

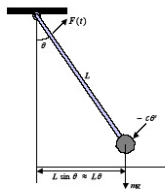
Damped spring systems:

$$m \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + \beta \frac{dx}{dt} + kx = f(t)$$



Small oscillations of a pendulum:

$$mL^2 \frac{d^2 \theta}{dt^2} + cL \frac{d\theta}{dt} + mgL\theta = F(t)$$



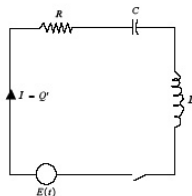


## Second Order DE Applications-III

### Applications (cont.)

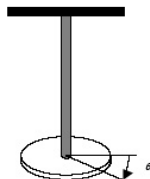
LRC series circuits:

$$L \frac{d^2 Q}{dt^2} + R \frac{dQ}{dt} + \frac{1}{C} Q = E(t)$$



Torsional motion of a weight  
on a twisted shaft:

$$I \frac{d^2 \theta}{dt^2} + c \frac{d\theta}{dt} + k\theta = T(t)$$



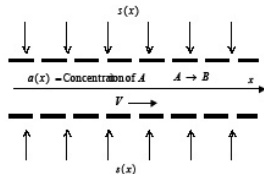


## Second Order DE Applications-IV

### Applications (cont.)

Combined diffusion, convection and reaction of a chemical in a permeable channel.

$$D \frac{d^2 a}{dx^2} - V \frac{da}{dx} - ka - s(x) = 0$$



# General Discussion

## IVP

The second order linear problem

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

must also have initial data  $a$  and  $b$  specified:

$$y(t_0) = a$$

$$y'(t_0) = b$$

The DE and initial data together make an Initial Value Problem (IVP).



## General Discussion-II

### IVP (cont.)

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

with  $y(t_0)$  and  $y'(t_0)$  given.

**Q:** Why two pieces of data?

1. To solve the problem for  $y$  you have to “integrate” twice.
2. If  $y$  were a position then the DE gives the acceleration. To specify position given acceleration you need to know the initial position and velocity.

**Theory:** The IVP above has a unique solution defined in an interval around  $t_0$  up to values of  $t$  (if any) where  $p$ ,  $q$  or  $g$  have singularities.

## General Discussion-III

### Superposition

If  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  solve the linear problems below (same DE, different RHS):

$$\frac{d^2 y_1}{dt^2} + p(t) \frac{dy_1}{dt} + q(t)y_1 = g_1(t)$$

$$\frac{d^2 y_2}{dt^2} + p(t) \frac{dy_2}{dt} + q(t)y_2 = g_2(t)$$

Then the linear combination  $w = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$  solves

$$\frac{d^2 w}{dt^2} + p(t) \frac{dw}{dt} + q(t)w = c_1 g_1(t) + c_2 g_2(t)$$

(same DE, linear combination of the RHS).

In particular, linear combinations of complementary (homogeneous) solutions (with zero RHS) are also complementary solutions. We could say that complementary solutions form a linear subspace of functions.

## General Discussion-IV

### Complementary and Particular Solutions

If  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  solve the same linear problem (same DE, same RHS):

$$\frac{d^2 y_1}{dt^2} + p(t) \frac{dy_1}{dt} + q(t)y_1 = g(t)$$

$$\frac{d^2 y_2}{dt^2} + p(t) \frac{dy_2}{dt} + q(t)y_2 = g(t)$$

Then their difference  $w = y_1 - y_2$  solves

$$\frac{d^2 w}{dt^2} + p(t) \frac{dw}{dt} + q(t)w = 0$$

This is the complementary (homogeneous) problem. This shows that any solution  $y$  of

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

can be written as

$$y = y_c + y_p$$

# Some Theory

## Fundamental Solutions

Consider the homogeneous equation:

$$\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + p(t)\frac{dy}{dt} + q(t)y = 0$$

Let

- $y_1$  be a solution with  $y_1(0) = 1$ ,  $y_1'(0) = 0$ .
- $y_2$  be a solution with  $y_1(0) = 0$ ,  $y_1'(0) = 1$ .

Now,  $y = ay_1 + by_2$  solves the homogeneous problem above and satisfies the initial conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} y(0) &= a \\ y'(0) &= b \end{aligned}$$

We have shown that the space of homogeneous solutions is two dimensional.



## Some Theory-II

### Wronskian

**Q:** Can the fundamental solutions solve the homogeneous IVP specified at other times?

$$y(t_0) = a$$

$$y'(t_0) = b$$

Let's see. Try  $c_1y_1 + c_2y_2$  in these initial conditions.



## Some Theory-III

### Wronskian (cont.)

$$W(t) = y_1 y_2' - y_2 y_1'$$

We know that  $W(0) = 1$ . We want to show that  $W \neq 0$  for other  $t$ .



# Some Theory-IV

## Wronskian (cont.)



## Some Theory-V

### Wronskian (cont.)

In fact, if  $W = 0$  at any value of  $t$  then  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  must be the same function (possibly multiplied by a constant).





# Some Theory-VI

## Wronskian (cont.)



# Some Theory-VII

## Summary

$$\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + p(t)\frac{dy}{dt} + q(t)y = 0$$

- Look for two different solutions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ .
- The general solution is  $c_1y_1 + c_2y_2$ .
- Any initial conditions at any value of  $t$  can be matched by this general solution.

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# Homogeneous Linear Constant Coefficient Equations

## Exponential Solutions

$$A \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + B \frac{dy}{dt} + Cy = 0$$

( $A \neq 0$ ). From the discussion last lecture, we expect 2 different solutions to this problem. First order linear, constant coefficient, homogeneous problems had exponential solutions, so let's look for exponential solutions here also:

$$y = e^{rt}$$

# Homogeneous Linear Constant Coefficient Equations-II

## Auxilliary Equation

The auxilliary (characteristic) equation

$$Ar^2 + Br + C = 0$$

with solutions

$$r = r_{1,2} = \frac{-B \pm \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2A}$$

Three cases:

- Two distinct real roots if  $B^2 - 4AC > 0$ .
- A single (repeated) real root if  $B^2 - 4AC = 0$ .
- Distinct complex conjugate roots if  $B^2 - 4AC < 0$ .

# Real Roots

## Case of Two Distinct Real Roots

$$A \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + B \frac{dy}{dt} + Cy = 0$$

Auxilliary Equation

$$Ar^2 + Br + C = 0$$

has two real roots  $r_1$  and  $r_2$ . Thus,  $y_1(t) = e^{r_1 t}$  and  $y_2(t) = e^{r_2 t}$  are (different) solutions so the general solution is

$$y(t) = c_1 e^{r_1 t} + c_2 e^{r_2 t}$$



## Real Roots-II

### Example 1

Find the general solution of

$$y'' - 2y' - 2y = 0$$



## Real Roots-III

### Example 2

Solve the IVP

$$y'' + 3y' + 2y = 0 \quad \text{with } y(0) = 1, y'(0) = -1$$



## Real Roots-IV

### Real Repeated Root

$$r = r_{1,2} = \frac{-B \pm \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2A}$$

In the case of a repeated root, the root is  $r = -B/(2A)$  and  $B^2 - 4AC = 0$ . One homogeneous solution is

$$y_1(t) = e^{rt}$$

We need another solution. It can be shown that in this case,

$$y_2(t) = te^{rt}.$$



# Real Roots-V

## Real Repeated Root (cont.)



# Real Roots-VI

## Example 3

Solve the IVP

$$y'' - 6y' + 9y = 0 \quad \text{with } y(0) = -1, y'(0) = 1$$

# Real Roots-VI

## Large Time Qualitative Behaviour

In general we could have any combination of real exponents:

- If  $0 < r_1 \leq r_2$  then the solution grows exponentially and at large times the term  $c_2 e^{r_2 t}$  (or  $c_2 t e^{r_2 t}$  for repeated root) will dominate at large times.
- If  $r_1 \leq r_2 < 0$  then the solution decays exponentially to zero. The first term decays faster and so the solution will be dominated by the term  $c_2 e^{r_2 t}$  (or  $c_2 t e^{r_2 t}$  for repeated root)
- If  $r_1 < 0 < r_2$  then in general the solution grows exponentially and will be dominated by  $c_2 e^{r_2 t}$  at large times. However, for initial conditions that give  $c_2 = 0$  exactly, the solution will decay exponentially. However, in applications, noise will always generate the exponentially growing behaviour.

## Complex Roots

$$A \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + B \frac{dy}{dt} + Cy = 0$$

Auxilliary Equation

$$Ar^2 + Br + C = 0$$

Complex roots occur when  $B^2 - 4AC < 0$ , then

$$r_1 = a + ib$$

$$r_2 = a - ib$$

where

$$a = -\frac{B}{2A}$$

$$b = \frac{\sqrt{4AC - B^2}}{2A}$$

## Complex Roots-II

### Complex Exponentials

Our solutions are

$$y_1(t) = e^{(a+ib)t}$$

$$y_2(t) = e^{(a-ib)t}$$

We need to make sense of the complex exponential to proceed:

$$e^{a+ib} = e^a(\cos b + i \sin b)$$

(definition). This satisfies all the properties of the “real” exponential

- $e^{a_1+b_1i} e^{a_2+b_2i} = e^{(a_1+a_2)+(b_1+b_2)i}$
- This justifies our use of the complex exponential solution:

$$\frac{d}{dt} e^{(a+ib)t} = (a+ib)e^{(a+ib)t}$$

# Complex Roots-III

## Solution

Complex solutions:

$$y_1(t) = e^{(a+ib)t} = e^{at}(\cos bt + i \sin bt)$$

$$y_2(t) = e^{(a-ib)t} = e^{at}(\cos bt - i \sin bt)$$

are not nice to use to solve “real” problems. We can take linear combinations of these:

$$\frac{y_1(t) + y_2(t)}{2} = e^{at} \cos bt$$

$$\frac{y_1(t) - y_2(t)}{2i} = e^{at} \sin bt$$

(like a change of basis). Thus, the general solution of the complex root case can be written

$$y(t) = c_1 e^{at} \cos bt + c_2 e^{at} \sin bt$$



# Complex Roots-IV

## Example 1

Solve the IVP

$$y'' + 2y' + 5y = 0 \quad \text{with } y(0) = 1, y'(0) = -1$$





# Complex Roots-V

## Example 2

Solve the IVP

$$y'' + 9y = 0 \quad \text{with } y(0) = 0, y'(0) = 3$$

# Complex Roots-VI

## Large Time Qualitative Behaviour

$$r_{1,2} = a \pm ib$$

$$y(t) = c_1 e^{at} \cos bt + c_2 e^{at} \sin bt$$

- $a < 0$  exponentially decaying periodic oscillation.
- $a = 0$  sustained periodic oscillation.
- $a > 0$  exponentially growing periodic oscillation.

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## Inhomogeneous Problems

Consider linear, second order constant coefficient problems with nonzero right hand sides (external forcing):

$$A \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + B \frac{dy}{dt} + Cy = g(t)$$

where  $g(t)$  is given. Remember that the general solution  $y(t)$  can be written as

$$y(t) = y_p(t) + y_c(t)$$

where  $y_p(t)$  is any particular solution of the equation and  $y_c(t)$  is the general solution of the homogeneous (complementary) equation, which we learned how to find in the last section.

## Inhomogeneous Problems-II

### Method of Undetermined Coefficients

$$A \frac{d^2 y}{dt^2} + B \frac{dy}{dt} + Cy = g(t)$$

If  $g(t)$  has one of the following forms, the Method of Undetermined Coefficients can be used to find the particular solution:

$g(t)$  is a polynomial in  $t$  of order  $n$ : take  $y_p(t)$  to also be a polynomial in  $t$  of order  $n$ .

$g(t) = \sin \omega t$  or  $g(t) = \cos \omega t$ : take

$$y_p(t) = a \sin \omega t + b \cos \omega t.$$

$g(t) = e^{bt}$ : take

$$y_p(t) = ae^{bt}.$$

## Inhomogeneous Problems-III

### Method of Undetermined Coefficients (cont.)

- combinations:** If the RHS is an additive or multiplicative combination of the forms above, take  $y_p$  to be the additive or multiplicative combination of the corresponding trial functions above. Additive combinations can be solved for separately.
- special case (resonance):** If any one of the terms in the form for the particular solution above is in the homogeneous solution, multiply the form of  $y_p(t)$  above by  $t$  until this is no longer true.
- solving for the coefficients:** Insert the form of  $y_p(t)$  into the differential equation and match functions of  $t$  to get a linear system for the undetermined coefficients in  $y_p(t)$ . After the coefficients are determined, then (and only then) find the complete solution  $y = y_o + y_p$  using the initial data.



# Examples

## Example 1

Find a particular solution of

$$y'' - 3y' - 4y = 2 \sin t$$



## Examples-II

### Example 2

Find a particular solution of

$$y'' - 3y' - 4y = te^{2t}$$





## Examples-III

### Example 3

Find a particular solution of

$$y'' - 3y' - 4y = te^{2t} + 2 \sin t$$



## Examples-IV

### Example 4

Find the general solution of

$$y'' + 5y' + 4y = e^{-4t}$$



## Examples-V

### Example 5

Find the solution of the IVP

$$y'' + 4y' + 4y = e^{-2t} \quad \text{with } y(0) = 0 \text{ and } y'(0) = 0$$



# Examples-VI

## Example 5 (cont.)



## Examples-VII

### Example 6

Find the solution of the IVP

$$y'' + 4y = \sin \omega t \quad \text{with } y(0) = 1 \text{ and } y'(0) = 0$$

as a function of  $\omega$  and  $t$ . For what values of  $\omega$  does the IVP have solutions that become unbounded as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ?



# Examples-VIII

## Example 6 (cont.)

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# Method of Reduction of Order

## Set-up

We are considering now non-homogeneous problems for linear equations that are not necessarily constant coefficient:

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

where  $p(t)$ ,  $q(t)$ , and  $g(t)$  are given functions.

- Suppose you know one (nonzero) solution  $y_1(t)$  of the *homogeneous* problem (given or guessed).
- The Method of Reduction of Order will find the general solution of the non-homogeneous problem.
- By setting  $g \equiv 0$  you can use the method to find a second homogeneous solution.



# Method of Reduction of Order-II

## Procedure

The method results in a formula, but not one that you will want to memorize. You should learn the procedure we'll work through below. The method starts by looking for a solution to the problem of the form

$$y(t) = u(t)y_1(t)$$

where  $u$  is to be determined. It is called the Method of Reduction of Order because it will be shown that  $u'$  solves a linear first order equation.



# Method of Reduction of Order-III

## Procedure (cont.)



# Method of Reduction of Order-IV

## Procedure (cont.)



# Method of Reduction of Order-V

## Procedure (cont.)

# Examples

## Example 1

$$y'' - 6y' + 9y = 0$$

has a homogeneous solution  $y_1(t) = e^{3t}$ . Use the Method of Reduction of Order to find a second homogeneous solution.

## Examples-II

### Example 2

Find the general solution of

$$y'' + y = \sin t$$

given that  $y_1(t) = \sin t$  is a solution of the homogeneous problem.



# Examples-III

## Example 2 (cont.)



## Examples-IV

### Example 3

Find the general solution of

$$t^2 y'' - 2ty' + 2y = 4t^2$$

given that  $y_1(t) = t$  is a solution of the homogeneous problem.





# Examples-V

## Example 3 (cont.)

## Examples-VI

### Example 4

Consider the equation

$$t^2 y'' - 2y = 3t^2 - 1$$

1. Show that the homogeneous equation has a solution of the form  $y = t^n$  ( $n$  to be determined).
2. Find the general solution.



# Examples-VII

## Example 4 (cont.)



# Examples-VIII

## Example 4 (cont.)