

Math 2150-01

2/19/25

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# Topic 6 continued...

For the remainder of topic 6  
We will be learning the theory  
of solving

2nd order linear ODE

$$a_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = b(x)$$

on some interval  $I$  where  
 $a_2(x), a_1(x), a_0(x), b(x)$  are  
continuous on  $I$  and  $a_2(x) \neq 0$   
on  $I$ . We will assume these  
conditions for the rest of topic 6.

Ex:  $x^2 y'' - 4xy' + 6y = \frac{1}{x}$

$\uparrow$   $a_2(x) = x^2$     $\uparrow$   $a_1(x) = -4x$     $\uparrow$   $a_0(x) = 6$     $\uparrow$   $b(x) = \frac{1}{x}$

$I = (0, \infty)$

**Fact 1:** If  $f_1(x)$  and  $f_2(x)$  are linearly independent solutions to the homogeneous equation

$$a_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = 0 \quad (*)$$

on  $I$ , then every solution to  $(*)$  on  $I$  is of the form

$$y_h = c_1 f_1(x) + c_2 f_2(x)$$

where  $c_1, c_2$  are constants.

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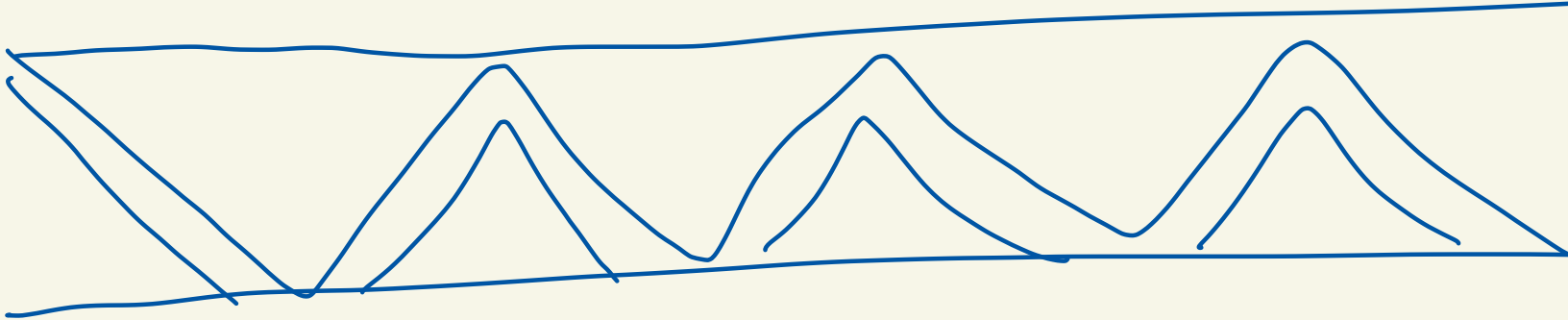
**Fact 2:** Suppose we can find a particular solution  $y_p$  to

$$a_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = b(x) \quad (**)$$

on  $I$ , then every solution to  $(**)$  on  $I$  is of the form

$$y = \underbrace{c_1 f_1(x) + c_2 f_2(x)}_{y_h} + y_p$$

homogeneous solution



Ex: Let's solve

$$y'' - 7y' + 10y = 24e^x$$

on  $I = (-\infty, \infty)$

Step 1: Solve the homogeneous equation:

$$y'' - 7y' + 10y = 0$$

Consider  $f_1(x) = e^{2x}$ ,  $f_2(x) = e^{5x}$ .

Last time we showed that  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are linearly independent. Let's show

they both solve  $y'' - 7y' + 10y = 0$

Let's plug them in.

We have:

$$f_1 = e^{2x}, \quad f_1' = 2e^{2x}, \quad f_1'' = 4e^{2x}$$

$$f_2 = e^{5x}, \quad f_2' = 5e^{5x}, \quad f_2'' = 25e^{5x}$$

Plug them in to get:

$$\begin{aligned} f_1'' - 7f_1' + 10f_1 &= 4e^{2x} - 7(2e^{2x}) + 10(e^{2x}) \\ &= (4 - 14 + 10)e^{2x} \end{aligned}$$

$$= 0$$

And,

$$\begin{aligned} f_2'' - 7f_2' + 10f_2 &= 25e^{2x} - 7(5e^{5x}) + 10(e^{5x}) \\ &= (25 - 35 + 10)e^{5x} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Summary: Since  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are linearly independent solutions to  $y'' - 7y' + 10y = 0$  that means that all solutions to  $y'' - 7y' + 10y = 0$  are of the form

$$y_h = \underbrace{c_1 e^{2x} + c_2 e^{5x}}_{c_1 f_1 + c_2 f_2}$$

where  $c_1, c_2$  are any constants

Example solutions are

$$y_h = 10e^{2x} - 1000e^{5x}$$

$$y_h = \frac{1}{2}e^{2x} + 0e^{5x} = \frac{1}{2}e^{2x}$$

Step 2: Let's now solve

$$y'' - 7y' + 10y = 24e^x$$

on  $I = (-\infty, \infty)$ .

Consider

$$y_p = 6e^x$$

We will learn  
how to find  
this later

Let's verify that  $y_p$  solves

$$y'' - 7y' + 10y = 24e^x$$

We get

$$y_p = 6e^x, \quad y_p' = 6e^x, \quad y_p'' = 6e^x$$

So,

$$\begin{aligned} & y_p'' - 7y_p' + 10y_p \\ &= 6e^x - 7(6e^x) + 10(6e^x) \\ &= (6 - 42 + 60)e^x \\ &= 24e^x \end{aligned}$$

Answer: Every solution to

$y'' - 7y' + 10y = 24e^x$   
on  $I = (-\infty, \infty)$ , is of the form

$$y = \underbrace{c_1 e^{2x} + c_2 e^{5x}}_{\text{general solution } y_h \text{ to the homogeneous } y'' - 7y' + 10y = 0} + \underbrace{6e^x}_{\text{particular solution } y_p \text{ to } y'' - 7y' + 10y = 24e^x}$$

general solution  $y_h$   
to the homogeneous  
 $y'' - 7y' + 10y = 0$

particular  
solution  $y_p$  to  
 $y'' - 7y' + 10y = 24e^x$



Ex: Let's find all the solutions to

$$x^2 y'' - 4xy' + 6y = \frac{1}{x}$$

on  $I = (0, \infty)$

Step 1: First solve the homogeneous equation

$$x^2 y'' - 4xy' + 6y = 0$$

Consider

$$f_1(x) = x^2$$

$$f_2(x) = x^3$$

We will see how to find these later

First we check that  $f_1, f_2$  are linearly independent.

We have

$$W(f_1, f_2) = \begin{vmatrix} f_1 & f_2 \\ f_1' & f_2' \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} x^2 & x^3 \\ 2x & 3x^2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (x^2)(3x^2) - (2x)(x^3)$$

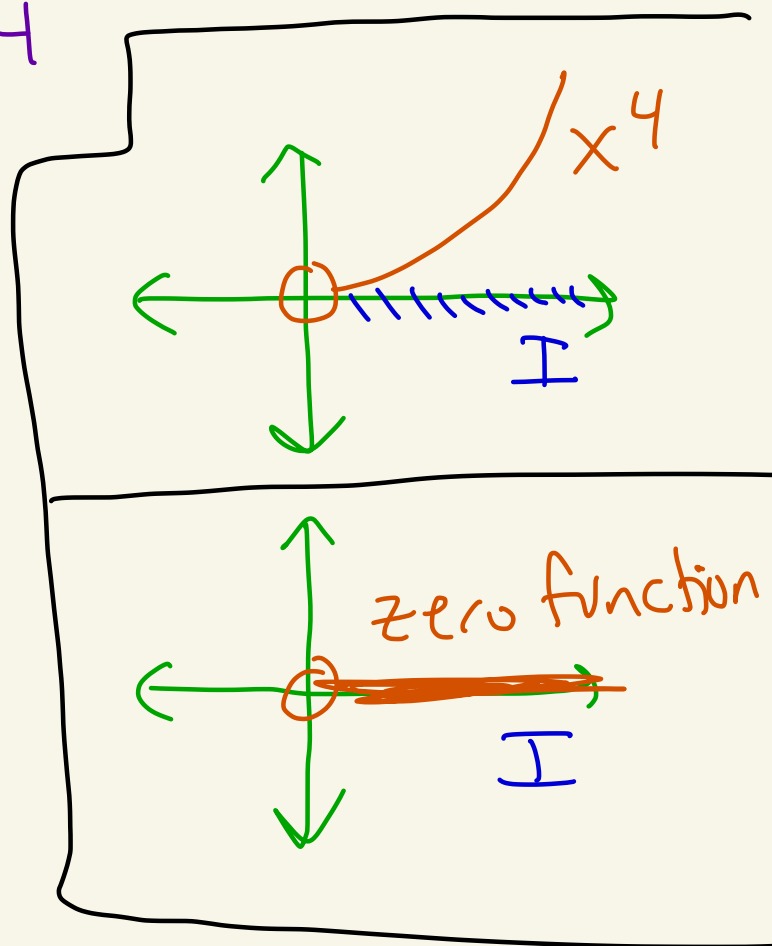
$$= x^4$$

This is not  
the zero  
function  
on  $I = (0, \infty)$ .

So,  $f_1, f_2$  are

linearly  
independent

on  $I = (0, \infty)$



Now we check that  $f_1, f_2$   
solve  $x^2 y'' - 4xy' + 6y = 0$ .

We have

$$f_1 = x^2, f_1' = 2x, f_1'' = 2$$

$$f_2 = x^3, f_2' = 3x^2, f_2'' = 6x$$

Plugging in we get:

$$\begin{aligned} & x^2 f_1'' - 4x f_1' + 6f_1 \\ &= x^2(2) - 4x(2x) + 6(x^2) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

And,

$$\begin{aligned} & x^2 f_2'' - 4x f_2' + 6f_2 \\ &= x^2(6x) - 4x(3x^2) + 6(x^3) \end{aligned}$$

$$= 0$$

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Summary: Since  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  are linearly independent solutions to

$$x^2 y'' - 4xy' + 6y = 0$$

on  $I$ , we know every solution on  $I$  is of the form

$$y_h = \underbrace{c_1 x^2 + c_2 x^3}$$

$$c_1 f_1 + c_2 f_2$$

where  $c_1, c_2$  are any constants

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Step 2: Now we need a particular solution  $y_p$  to

$$x^2 y'' - 4xy' + 6y = \frac{1}{x}$$

on  $I = (0, \infty)$ .

Let's try

$$y_p = \frac{1}{12x} = \frac{1}{12} x^{-1}$$

Will find in topic 10

We plug it in.

$$y_p = \frac{1}{12} x^{-1}$$

$$y_p' = -\frac{1}{12} x^{-2}$$

$$y_p'' = \frac{2}{12} x^{-3} = \frac{1}{6} x^{-3}$$

We have:

$$\begin{aligned} & x^2 y_p'' - 4x y_p' + 6y_p \\ &= x^2 \left( \frac{1}{6} x^{-3} \right) - 4x \left( -\frac{1}{12} x^{-2} \right) + 6 \left( \frac{1}{12} x^{-1} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{6} x^{-1} + \frac{1}{3} x^{-1} + \frac{1}{2} x^{-1} \\ &= x^{-1} = \frac{1}{x} \end{aligned}$$

It's a solution!

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Answer: Every solution to

$x^2 y'' - 4x y' + 6y = \frac{1}{x}$   
on  $I = (0, \infty)$  is of the form

$$y = \underbrace{C_1 x^2 + C_2 x^3}_{\text{general solution } y_h \text{ to homogeneous}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{12} x^{-1}}_{\text{particular solution } y_p \text{ to } x^2 y'' - 4x y' + 6y = \frac{1}{x}}$$

$$x^2 y'' - 4xy' + 6y = 0$$

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