

2150-02

2/24/25



(Last part of topic 6...)

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Last time we showed that the general solution to

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

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

$$y = \underbrace{c_1 e^{2x} + c_2 e^{5x}}_{y_h} + \underbrace{6e^x}_{y_p}$$

where  $c_1, c_2$  are any constants.

This gives an infinite number of solutions. For example,

Some are:

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$$y = 3e^{2x} - 2e^{5x} + 6e^x$$

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$$\begin{cases} c_1 = 3 \\ c_2 = -2 \end{cases}$$

$$y = 0e^{2x} + 1 \cdot e^{5x} + 6e^x$$
$$= e^{5x} + 6e^x$$

$c_1 = 0$   
 $c_2 = 1$

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$$y = 6e^x$$

$c_1 = 0, c_2 = 0$

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If you constrain the problem to have initial conditions then you will get only one solution.

Ex: Solve

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

$$y(0) = 0, y'(0) = 1$$

We know any solution to

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

must be of the form

$$y = c_1 e^{2x} + c_2 e^{5x} + 6e^x$$

Let's make this function satisfy  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(0) = 1$ .

$$y = c_1 e^{2x} + c_2 e^{5x} + 6e^x$$

$$y' = 2c_1 e^{2x} + 5c_2 e^{5x} + 6e^x$$

$$\begin{aligned} y(0) &= 0 \\ y'(0) &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

→

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 e^{2(0)} + c_2 e^{5(0)} + 6e^0 &= 0 \\ 2c_1 e^{2(0)} + 5c_2 e^{5(0)} + 6e^0 &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$e^0 = 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 + c_2 + 6 &= 0 \\ 2c_1 + 5c_2 + 6 &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{cases} c_1 + c_2 = -6 & \textcircled{1} \\ 2c_1 + 5c_2 = -5 & \textcircled{2} \end{cases}$$

① gives  $c_1 = -6 - c_2$ .

Plug this into ② to get:

$$2(-6 - c_2) + 5c_2 = -5$$

$$\text{So, } -12 - 2c_2 + 5c_2 = -5$$

$$\text{So, } 3c_2 = 7$$

$$\text{So, } c_2 = 7/3$$

$$\text{Thus, } c_1 = -6 - c_2 = -6 - 7/3 = -25/3$$

Answer:

$$y = -\frac{25}{3}e^{2x} + \frac{7}{3}e^{5x} + 6e^x$$

In summary: Let  $I$  be an interval with  $a_2, a_1, a_0, b$  continuous on  $I$  and  $a_2(x) \neq 0$  on  $I$ , then

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

$$y(x_0) = y_0, \quad y'(x_0) = y_0'$$

(Where  $x_0$  is in  $I$ )

has only one solution.

Starting in topic 7 we learn the techniques to find the solutions to 2nd order equations.

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## Topic 7 - 2nd order linear homogeneous constant coefficient

We will learn how to solve equations of the form

$$a_2 y'' + a_1 y' + a_0 y = 0$$

where  $a_2, a_1, a_0$  are numbers where  $a_2 \neq 0$

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

$a_2 = 1$

$a_1 = -7$

$a_0 = 10$

Def: The characteristic  
equation of

$$a_2 y'' + a_1 y' + a_0 y = 0$$

is

$$a_2 r^2 + a_1 r + a_0 = 0$$

Ex: The characteristic eqn. of

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

is

$$r^2 - 7r + 10 = 0$$

It turns out that the roots of  
the characteristic equation



give you the solution to the differential equation

**Formula** Consider

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

where  $a_2, a_1, a_0$  are constants and  $a_2 \neq 0$ . There are three cases depending on the roots of the characteristic equation  $a_2 r^2 + a_1 r + a_0 = 0$ .

Case 1: If the characteristic equation has two distinct real roots  $r_1, r_2$ , then the solution to (\*) is

$$y_h = c_1 e^{r_1 x} + c_2 e^{r_2 x}$$

Case 2: If the characteristic equation has a repeated real root  $r$ , then the solution to (\*) is

$$y_h = C_1 e^{rx} + C_2 x e^{rx}$$

Case 3: If the characteristic equation has two complex roots  $\alpha \pm \beta i$ , then the solution to (\*) is

$$y_h = C_1 e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x) + C_2 e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x)$$

$\alpha \leftarrow$  alpha

$\beta \leftarrow$  beta

$$i = \sqrt{-1}$$

$$i^2 = -1$$

Ex: Consider

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

Characteristic equation:

$$r^2 - 7r + 10 = 0$$

The roots are:

$$r = \frac{-(-7) \pm \sqrt{(-7)^2 - 4(1)(10)}}{2(1)}$$

$$= \frac{7 \pm \sqrt{9}}{2} = \frac{7 \pm 3}{2}$$

$$= \frac{7+3}{2}, \frac{7-3}{2}$$

$$= \frac{10}{2}, \frac{4}{2}$$

$$= 5, 2$$

two distinct  
real roots  
 $r_1 = 5, r_2 = 2$

Answer:

$$y_h = c_1 e^{5x} + c_2 e^{2x}$$
$$c_1 e^{r_1 x} + c_2 e^{r_2 x}$$

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Ex: Consider

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = 0$$

The characteristic equation is

$$r^2 - 4r + 4 = 0$$

The roots are

$$r = \frac{-(-4) \pm \sqrt{(-4)^2 - 4(1)(4)}}{2(1)}$$

$$= \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{0}}{2} = \frac{4}{2} = 2$$

one real  
root  
 $r = 2$

Answer:

$$y_h = c_1 e^{2x} + c_2 x e^{2x}$$

$$c_1 e^{rx} + c_2 x e^{rx}$$

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