

~~Math~~ 110.302 Lecture 10: 9/23/15 I
I will relegate the discussion of Section
2.8 to a worksheet posted. The theory
can be deep (though very interesting).

But the main takeaway is its usefulness in

- ① seeing where a 1st order ODE is "nice"
- ② Understanding the intricacies of the
theory even at this early stage.

Section 3.1 The general form for
a 2nd order ODE is

$$(*) \quad y'' = f(t, y, y')$$

for some function f .

Def A 2nd order ODE is called linear if it can be written

$$y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t)$$

(so that $f(t, y, y') = g(t) - p(t)y' - q(t)y$ in (x))

(***) (actually $P(t)y'' + Q(t)y' + R(t)y = G(t) \dots$)

Notes ① f needs to be linear in both y and y' .

② If ODE is not linear, it is called non-linear.

Def If $g(t) \equiv 0$, then a linear ODE is called homogeneous.

Def An IVP with a 2nd order ODE contains 2 pieces of initial data, usually

$$y(t_0) = y_0, \quad y'(t_0) = y'_0$$

Q: Why?

In general, it is hard or impossible to solve
a 2nd order ODE

Even linear is very difficult in general!

One type that is solvable: Constant coefficients

Let $(**)$ have $P(t) \equiv a$, $Q(t) \equiv b$, $R(t) \equiv c$,
and suppose $Q(t) \equiv 0$ (homogeneous).

Then ODE is $ay'' + by' + cy = 0$ (A)

Q: First think, what kinds of functions would possibly be solutions to this kind of ODE?

- Polynomials? Power Functions?
- Trig functions?
- Exponentials?
- Logarithms?

ex Suppose $a=1, b=0, c=-1$. Then (**) is $y'' - y = 0$, or $y'' = y$.

Solutions? Here $y(t) = e^t$ and $y(t) = e^{-t}$ both solve $y'' - y = 0$.

How about $e^t + e^{-t}$? $2e^t - 3e^{-t}$?

Here $y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t}$ is a solution for any choice of $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$.

What if IVP was $y'' - y = 0, y(0) = 3, y'(0) = 4$?

Then $y(0) = 3 = c_1 e^0 + c_2 e^{-0} = c_1 + c_2$

and $y'(0) = 4 = c_1 e^0 - c_2 e^{-0} = c_1 - c_2$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} 3 = c_1 + c_2 \\ 4 = c_1 - c_2 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} c_1 = \frac{7}{2} \\ c_2 = -\frac{1}{2} \end{array}$$

And the particular solution to IVP is

$$y(t) = \frac{7}{2} e^t - \frac{1}{2} e^{-t}.$$

ex 2 $2y'' + 8y' - 10y = 0$

Here $y(t) = e^t$ and $y(t) = e^{-5t}$ both work! Check this....

AND so does $y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-5t}$.

Is there a pattern?

For $ay'' + by' + cy = 0$, assume the solution is exponential (is this a good idea?) and looks like $y(t) = ~~e^{\gamma t}~~ e^{\gamma t}$ where γ is an unknown parameter.

Then substituting $y(t)$ and its derivatives into the ODE, we get

$$a\gamma^2 e^{\gamma t} + b\gamma e^{\gamma t} + c e^{\gamma t} = 0$$

(*) or $a\gamma^2 + b\gamma + c = 0$. Any valid values for γ must satisfy $\gamma = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$.

Recognize this?

For a 2nd-order homogeneous ODE with constant coefficients, (A) is called the characteristic equation

Important: When the two roots r_1, r_2 of the char. eqn are real and distinct, then the general solution to the ODE is

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

(we will need to make sure this is the case later)

ex1. $y'' - y = 0$. Here $a=1, b=0, c=1$, and characteristic eqn is $r^2 - 1 = 0$, with roots $r = -1, 1$. Gen soln is

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

ex2 char eqn is $2r^2 + 8r - 10 = 0$ which

factor to $(2r-2)(r+5) = 0$, so $r = 1, -5$

$$y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-5t}$$