

Lets go back to the original linear, 2nd order ODE

$$(*) \quad L[y] = y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t)$$

where p , q , and g are all continuous on some open interval I , and $g(t) \neq 0$ (the non-homogeneous case)

Caution: $(*)$ is linear but Superposition does NOT hold here!

Thm Suppose $Y_1(t)$ solves $L[y] = g_1(t)$ and $Y_2(t)$ solves $L[y] = g_2(t)$.

Then $Y_1 + Y_2$ solves $L[y] = g_1(t) + g_2(t)$.

pr. $L[y]$ is linear, so

$$L[Y_1 + Y_2] = L[Y_1] + L[Y_2] = g_1(t) + g_2(t) \quad \square$$

Corollary Suppose $Y_1(t)$ and $Y_2(t)$ both solve

$$L[y] = g(t). \Rightarrow Y_1(t) - Y_2(t) \text{ solves } L[y] = 0.$$

II

Using this, we can construct solutions to $L[y] = g(t)$.

Let $L[y] = g(t)$ be non-homogeneous, and

$Y_1(t), Y_2(t)$ be 2 solutions.

Let $c_1 y_1(t) + c_2 y_2(t)$ be a fundamental set of solutions to the homogeneous $L[y] = 0$.

By Corollary, $Y_2(t) - Y_1(t)$ is also a solution to $L[y] = 0$, so

① $Y_2 - Y_1 = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$ for some choice of constants $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$, and

② $Y_2 = \underbrace{c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2}_{\substack{\text{fund set of} \\ \text{solutions to} \\ L[y] = 0}} + \underbrace{Y_1}_{\substack{\text{a solution to} \\ L[y] = g(t)}}$

any other solution to $L[y] = g(t)$.

We use this to construct a general solution to $L[y] = g(t)$.

III

Then the general solution to $L[y] = g(t)$ is

$$y(t) = c_1 y_1(t) + c_2 y_2(t) + \mathcal{Y}(t)$$

where y_1, y_2 form a fundamental set of solutions to $L[y] = 0$, and $\mathcal{Y}(t)$ is ANY particular solution to $L[y] = g(t)$.

This gives us a method for solving a nonhomogeneous 2nd order linear ODE $L[y] = g(t)$:

- (I) First, solve $L[y] = 0$
- (II) Find any solution to $L[y] = g(t)$
- (III) Put these together to construct the general solution.

The new part here is (II), which can be hard.

But there are ways in limited cases.

Here, we highlight 2 ways. (Both involve guessing!)

Undetermined Coefficients.

Suppose $L(y) = g(t)$ has the following form:

- ① homogeneous part has constant coefficients
- ② $g(t)$ is a sum of products of
 - Ⓐ exponentials
 - Ⓑ sines and cosines
 - Ⓒ polynomials

Then you can assume a solution $\mathbb{Y}(t)$ is of the same type (written out with appropriate unknown coefficients and constants).

Substitute $\mathbb{Y}(t)$ into the $L(y) = g(t)$ and try to solve for the coefficients and constants.

ex1 $y'' - 2y' - 3y = 3e^{2t}$. Here, a fund. set of solutions to homogeneous part is $e_1 e^{3t} + e_2 e^{-t}$

Assume $\mathbb{Y}(t) = Ae^{2t}$. Then $\frac{d^2}{dt^2}(Ae^{2t}) - 2\frac{d}{dt}(Ae^{2t}) - 3(Ae^{2t}) = 3e^{2t}$

$$\Rightarrow 4Ae^{2t} - 4Ae^{2t} - 3Ae^{2t} = 3e^{2t}.$$

This is solved for $A = -1$. Hence

$\mathcal{I}(t) = -e^{2t}$ is a solution to $L(y) = 3e^{2t}$.

Thus the general solution to $y'' - 2y' + 3y = 3e^{2t}$

$$\text{is } y(t) = c_1 e^{3t} + c_2 e^{-t} - e^{2t}$$

ex2 Solve $y'' - 2y' - 3y = 3\sin 3t$

Here homogeneous part is same as ex1. Assume

$$\mathcal{I}(t) = A \sin 3t + B \cos 3t. \text{ (Why?)} \quad \text{!)$$

Because of derivatives $\mathcal{I}'$ and $\mathcal{I}''$!

Then

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}(\mathcal{I}(t)) - 2 \frac{d}{dt}(\mathcal{I}(t)) - 3\mathcal{I}(t) = 3\sin 3t$$

$$-9A \sin 3t - 9B \cos 3t - 2(3A \cos 3t - 3B \sin 3t) - 3(A \sin 3t + B \cos 3t) = 3\sin 3t$$

Here there are 2 equations to solve:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{sine eqn: } -9A + 6B - 3A = 3 \\ \text{cosine eqn: } -9B - 6A - 3B = 0 \end{array} \right\} \begin{cases} -12A + 6B = 3 \\ -6A - 12B = 0 \end{cases}$$

Solved by $A = -\frac{1}{5}, B = \frac{1}{10}$.

Hence find set of solns "

$$y(t) = c_1 e^{3t} + c_2 e^{-t} - \frac{1}{5} \sin 3t + \frac{1}{10} \cos 3t$$

Here are many warnings here.

The chart on page 182 gives the general rules for constructing the assumption $\Sigma(t)$ for given $g(t)$.

Notes ① When $g(t)$ actually looks like one of the pieces of the fundamental set of solutions to $Ly=0$, one must choose $\Sigma(t)$ accordingly.

② If RHS $g(t)$ includes a polynomial, one must include unknown constants for every intermediate degree monomial.

③ Be careful of the S . When $g(t)$ has a piece that looks like one of the fund set of solns to $Ly=0$, one must mult by t^s where s is the smallest positive power that removes the problem.