

# Chapter 3 Higher Order ODE's

(1)

## 3.1 Homogeneous linear ODE's

An  $n^{\text{th}}$  order non-homog. ODE (linear) can be generally expressed as:

$$y^{(n)} + P_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)} + \dots + P_1(x)y' + P_0(x)y = r(x) \quad \text{, } y^{(n)} = \frac{dy^n}{dx^n}$$

where  $P_0, P_1, \dots, P_{n-1}, P_n$  and  $r(x)$  are any given functions of  $(x)$ .

The derivative  $y^{(n)}$  has a coefficient of 1. This is the standard form.

Note 1: For  $n=2$ , the ODE becomes 2nd order where  $P_1(x) = P(x)$  and  $P_0(x) = q(x) \Rightarrow y'' + P(x)y' + q(x)y = r(x)$ .

Note 2: For  $r(x) = 0$ , the ODE becomes homogen. and written as:

$$y^{(n)} + P_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)} + \dots + P_1(x)y' + P_0(x)y = 0$$

## 3.2 Homogeneous ODE's with constant coefficients

The  $n^{\text{th}}$  order linear homog. ODE has constant coefficients is:

$$y^{(n)} + a_{n-1}y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_1y' + a_0y = 0 \quad \text{, } y^{(n)} = \frac{dy^n}{dx^n}$$

To solve this ODE, let  $y(x) = e^{\lambda x}$  and substitute in the ODE, so:

$$\lambda^n + a_{n-1}\lambda^{n-1} + \dots + a_1\lambda + a_0 = 0 \quad \text{"characteristic eq'n"}$$

Based on the roots, we will have four cases

case 1: Real Distinct roots

If the roots of the ch. eq are all real and distinct

( $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ ), the solutions are

$$y_1(x) = e^{\lambda_1 x}, y_2(x) = e^{\lambda_2 x}, \dots, y_n(x) = e^{\lambda_n x}$$

Using the superposition principle, the general solution becomes:

$$y(x) = C_1 y_1(x) + C_2 y_2(x) + \dots + C_{n-1} y_{n-1}(x) + C_n y_n(x)$$

where  $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_{n-1}, C_n$  are constants to be determined from the initial conditions.

Example Solve  $y''' + 2y'' - y' + 2y = 0$

Sol. charact eq  $\Rightarrow \lambda^3 - 2\lambda^2 - \lambda + 2 = 0$

roots  $\lambda_1 = -1, \lambda_2 = 1, \lambda_3 = 2$

$$\text{Thus, } y(x) = C_1 e^{-x} + C_2 e^x + C_3 e^{2x}$$

$C_1, C_2$  and  $C_3 \Rightarrow$  From IC's.

## Case 2 Simple complex roots

For complex roots, and written in conjugate pairs ( $\lambda_n = \alpha \pm i\beta$ ),  $i = \sqrt{-1}$

the solutions would be:

$$y_1(x) = A e^{\alpha x} (\cos \beta x), \quad y_2(x) = B e^{\alpha x} (\sin x), \dots$$

the general sol. (superposition) becomes

$$y(x) = e^{\alpha x} (A \cos \beta x + B \sin \beta x) + \dots$$

Example:  $y''' - y'' + 100y' - 100y = 0$  ,  $y(0) = 4$ ,  $y'(0) = 11$  and  $y''(0) = 29$

Sol. char. Eqn  $\Rightarrow \lambda^3 - \lambda^2 + 100\lambda - 100 = 0$

roots  $\Rightarrow \lambda_1 = 1$  ,  $\lambda_2 = +10i$  ,  $\lambda_3 = -10i$

$\alpha = 0$   
 $\beta = 10$

$\hookrightarrow$  real  
 $y_1(x) = C_1 e^x$

$\hookrightarrow$  complex roots

$y_{2,3} = A \cos 10x + B \sin x$

Total sol.  $y(x) = C_1 e^x + A \cos 10x + B \sin x$

To find  $C_1$ ,  $A$  and  $B \Rightarrow$  we use IC's

therefore  $\Rightarrow C_1 = 1$ ,  $A = 3$ ,  $B = 1$

$y(x) = e^x + 3 \cos 10x + \sin 10x$

## Case 3: Multiple (repeated) real roots

If we have real double roots  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \lambda$ , then:

$y_1(x) = e^{\lambda x}$ ,  $y_2(x) = x e^{\lambda x}$

Generally, for "m" double roots ( $\lambda$ )

$y(x) = C_1 e^{\lambda x} + C_2 x e^{\lambda x} + C_3 x^2 e^{\lambda x} + \dots + C_n x^{m-1} e^{\lambda x}$

Example: Solve  $y^{(5)} - 3y^{(4)} + 3y''' - y'' = 0$

Sol. char. Eqn  $\lambda^5 - 3\lambda^4 + 3\lambda^3 - \lambda^2 = 0$

Roots  $\lambda_1 = 0$ ,  $\lambda_2 = 0 \Rightarrow y_1(x) = C_1 e^x = C_1$ ,  $y_2(x) = C_2 x e^x = C_2 x$

$\lambda_3 = \lambda_4 = \lambda_5 = 1 \Rightarrow y_3(x) = C_3 e^x$ ,  $y_4(x) = C_4 x e^x$ ,  $y_5(x) = C_5 x^2 e^x$

$\Rightarrow y(x) = C_1 + C_2 x + e^x (C_3 + C_4 x + C_5 x^2) \neq$

## Case 4 Multiple (repeated) complex roots

If  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 = \alpha_0 \pm i\beta_0 \Rightarrow y_{1,2} = e^{\alpha_0 x} (A_0 \cos \beta_0 x + B_0 \sin \beta_0 x)$

and  $\lambda_{3,4} = \alpha_0 \pm i\beta_0 \Rightarrow y_{3,4} = x e^{\alpha_0 x} (A_1 \cos \beta_0 x + B_1 \sin \beta_0 x)$

$y(x) = e^{\alpha_0 x} [A_0 \cos \beta_0 x + B_0 \sin \beta_0 x] + x e^{\alpha_0 x} [A_1 \cos \beta_0 x + B_1 \sin \beta_0 x]$

or

$y(x) = e^{\alpha_0 x} [(A_0 + A_1 x) \cos \beta_0 x + (B_0 + B_1 x) \sin \beta_0 x]$

Practice: Problem set 3.2 page 116 (1  $\rightarrow$  3, 7, 9, 11, 13)  $\neq$

### 3.3 Non-Homogeneous ODE's

(3)

For  $n$ th order ODEs and non-homog. with variable coefficients:

$$y^{(n)} + P_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)} + \dots + P_1(x)y' + P_0(x)y = r(x), \quad r(x) \neq 0$$

Total Sol.  $y(x) = y_h(x) + y_p(x)$

$\hookrightarrow$  homog. sol'n       $\hookrightarrow$  Particular (non-homog) sol'n.

To find the  $y_p(x)$ :

- ① Method of undetermined coefficients
  - ② method of variation of parameters
- } as ch. 2

#### ① Undetermined coefficients

As in ch. 2, the solution of  $y_p(x)$  can be obtained as:

- 1- Find homog. sol'n  $y_h(x)$
- 2- Assume  $y_p(x)$ , see the table in ch. 2
- 3- For any repeated solution, we multiply by  $(x)$
- 4- Find the coefficients of  $y_p(x)$ .

Example Solve  $y^{iv} - y = 4.5e^{-2x}$

Sol. ① Homog. sol'n  $y_h(x) \Rightarrow y^{iv} - y = 0$

Charact. eq'n  $\Rightarrow \lambda^4 - 1 = 0$ , roots  $\Rightarrow \lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = -1, \lambda_3 = +i, \lambda_4 = -i$

$$\Rightarrow y_h(x) = C_1 e^x + C_2 e^{-x} + C_3 \cos x + C_4 \sin x$$

② Non-Homog. sol'n  $y_p(x) = C e^{-2x}$   $\leftarrow$  similar to  $r(x)$

Substitute in ODE  $y^{iv} - y = 4.5e^{-2x}$

$$(-2)^4 C e^{-2x} - C e^{-2x} = 4.5 e^{-2x}$$

$$\Rightarrow C = 0.3 \Rightarrow y_p(x) = 0.3 e^{-2x}$$

Total Sol.  $y(x) = y_h + y_p$

$$y(x) = C_1 e^x + C_2 e^{-x} + C_3 \cos x + C_4 \sin x + 0.3 e^{-2x}$$

If we have IC's  $\Rightarrow$  obtain  $C_1, C_2$  and  $C_3$

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Example Solve  $y''' - 3y'' + 3y' - y = 30e^x$

(4)

Sol. ① Homog. sol.  $\Rightarrow y''' - 3y'' + 3y' - y = 0$

Char. Eq'n  $\lambda^3 - 3\lambda^2 + 3\lambda - 1 = 0$

roots  $\Rightarrow \lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \lambda_3 = 1 \leftarrow$  Triple repeated roots

$$y_h(x) = c_1 e^x + c_2 x e^x + c_3 x^2 e^x$$

② Non-Homog. Sol'n  $y_p(x) = C \underline{x^3} e^x$   
 $\hookrightarrow$  because we need independ. Sol'n

Subst. in ODE

$$y''' - 3y'' + 3y' - y = 30e^x$$

we will get  $y_p(x) = 5x^3 e^x$  "C=5"

Total sol'n  $y(x) = y_h + y_p$

$$y(x) = c_1 e^x + c_2 x e^x + c_3 x^2 e^x + 5x^3 e^x$$

$c_1, c_2$  and  $c_3 \Rightarrow$  from IC's.

## ② Variation of Parameters

For a linear non-homog.  $n^{\text{th}}$  order ODE :-

$$y^{(n)} + p_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)} + \dots + p_1(x)y' + p_0(x)y = r(x), \quad r(x) \neq 0$$

we use the method of Variation of Parameters to find the Particular Solution ( $y_p(x)$ ), as:-

$$y_p(x) = y_1(x) \int \frac{W_1(x)}{W(x)} r(x) dx + y_2(x) \int \frac{W_2(x)}{W(x)} r(x) dx + \dots + y_n \int \frac{W_n(x)}{W(x)} r(x) dx$$

where  $y_1(x), y_2(x), \dots, y_n(x)$  are the solutions of the homogeneous ODE:

$$y^{(n)} + p_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)} + \dots + p_1(x)y' + p_0(x)y = 0 \leftarrow \text{homog.}$$

and  $W(x)$  is the Wronskian and  $W_i(x) \{i=1, 2, \dots, n\}$  is obtained by replacing  $i^{\text{th}}$  column of  $W(x)$  by  $[0 \ 0 \ \dots \ 1]^T$ . For example,  $n=2$  "2nd order ODE",

$$W(x) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{vmatrix}, \quad W_1(x) = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & y_2 \\ 1 & y_2' \end{vmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad W_2(x) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & 0 \\ y_1' & 1 \end{vmatrix} \neq$$

Example: Solve  $y''' - 2y'' - y' + 2y = \ln(x)$

Sol. ① Homog. Sol'n  $\Rightarrow y''' - 2y'' - y' + 2y = 0$

$$\text{charad Eq'n} \Rightarrow \lambda^3 - 2\lambda^2 - \lambda + 2 = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda_1 = -1, \lambda_2 = 1, \lambda_3 = 2 \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{real} \\ \text{Distinct} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\Rightarrow y_h(x) = C_1 \underbrace{e^{-x}}_{y_1} + C_2 \underbrace{e^x}_{y_2} + C_3 \underbrace{e^{2x}}_{y_3} \quad \text{or } r(x) = \ln(x)$$

Non-Homog. Sol'n ②  $y_p(x) = y_1(x) \int \frac{W_1(x)}{W(x)} r(x) dx + y_2 \int \frac{W_2(x)}{W(x)} r(x) dx + y_3 \int \frac{W_3(x)}{W(x)} r(x) dx$

$$W(x) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & y_3 \\ y_1' & y_2' & y_3' \\ y_1'' & y_2'' & y_3'' \end{vmatrix} \xleftarrow{\text{determinant}} = \begin{vmatrix} e^{-x} & e^x & e^{2x} \\ -e^{-x} & e^x & 2e^{2x} \\ e^{-x} & e^x & 4e^{2x} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$W(x) = 2e^x (e^{2x} + 2)$$

$$W_1(x) = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & y_2 & y_3 \\ 0 & y_2' & y_3' \\ 1 & y_2'' & y_3'' \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & e^x & e^{2x} \\ 0 & e^x & 2e^{2x} \\ 1 & e^x & 4e^{2x} \end{vmatrix}, \quad W_2(x) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & 0 & y_3 \\ y_1' & 0 & y_3' \\ y_1'' & 1 & y_3'' \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} e^{-x} & 0 & e^{2x} \\ -e^{-x} & 0 & 2e^{2x} \\ e^{-x} & 1 & 4e^{2x} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$W_3(x) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & 0 \\ y_1' & y_2' & 0 \\ y_1'' & y_2'' & 1 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} e^{-x} & e^x & 0 \\ -e^{-x} & e^x & 0 \\ e^{-x} & e^x & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

The final  $y_p \Rightarrow$

$$y_p(x) = e^{-x} \int \frac{W_1(x)}{W(x)} \ln(x) dx + e^x \int \frac{W_2(x)}{W(x)} \ln(x) dx + e^{2x} \int \frac{W_3(x)}{W(x)} \ln(x) dx$$

The total solution

$$y(x) = y_h + y_p$$

\* For another example, see example 2 - Page 119 "text book"

\* practice: Problem set 3.3 - Page 122 (1, 2, 8, 10)

End of chapter 3