

**Paragraph 3.3 (Z&W)** (p 112)**Homogeneous linear DEs with const coefficients**

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0$$

**Example 1:**  $y'' + 6y' + 5y = 0$ Try test solution,  $y = e^{mx}$ , and sub into DE:

$$y = e^{mx}; \quad y' = me^{mx}; \quad y'' = m^2e^{mx}$$

$$\Rightarrow m^2e^{mx} + 6me^{mx} + 5e^{mx} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow m^2 + 6m + 5 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (m + 5)(m + 1) = 0 \Rightarrow m = -1 \text{ or } m = -5$$

Therefore two solutions:  $y = e^{-x}$  and  $y = e^{-5x}$ Show that **both** solutions satisfy the DE!

**Principle of superposition:** If both  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are solutions of  $ay'' + by' + cy = 0$ , then any linear combination  $y = c_1y_1 + c_2y_2$  is also a solution

*Proof:*

$$y = c_1y_1 + c_2y_2; \quad y' = c_1y_1' + c_2y_2'; \quad y'' = c_1y_1'' + c_2y_2''$$

$$\begin{aligned} ay'' + by' + cy &= a(c_1y_1'' + c_2y_2'') + b(c_1y_1' + c_2y_2') \\ &\quad + c(c_1y_1 + c_2y_2) \\ &= c_1 \underbrace{(ay_1'' + by_1' + cy_1)}_{=0} \\ &\quad + c_2 \underbrace{(ay_2'' + by_2' + cy_2)}_{=0} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

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**Example 1 (cont'd):** Find the specific solution of  $y'' + 6y' + 5y = 0$  with the initial conditions:

$$y(0) = 3; \quad y'(0) = -1$$

General solution according to the principle of superposition:

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

$$\Rightarrow y'(x) = -c_1 e^{-x} - 5c_2 e^{-5x}$$

Substitute initial conditions and show that:

$$c_1 = \frac{7}{2}; \quad c_2 = -\frac{1}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow y(x) = \frac{7}{2} e^{-x} - \frac{1}{2} e^{-5x}$$

**Example 2:**  $y'' + 4y' + 13y = 0$

Try test solution,  $y = e^{mx}$ , and sub into DE:

Auxiliary eqn:  $m^2 + 4m + 13 = 0 \Rightarrow m = -2 \pm 3i$

Two solutions:  $y = e^{(-2+3i)x}$  and  $y = e^{(-2-3i)x}$

Superposition:  $y = e^{-2x} [c_1 e^{3ix} + c_2 e^{-3ix}]$

Euler's formula:

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta \quad (\theta \text{ real})$$

$$\begin{aligned} y(x) &= e^{-2x} [c_1(\cos 3x + i \sin 3x) \\ &\quad + c_2(\cos 3x - i \sin 3x)] \\ &= e^{-2x} [(c_1 + c_2) \cos 3x + i(c_1 - c_2) \sin 3x] \\ &= e^{-2x} [d_1 \cos 3x + d_2 \sin 3x] \end{aligned}$$

**Example 3:**  $y'' - 10y' + 25y = 0$

Try test solution,  $y = e^{mx}$ , and sub into DE:

$$\text{Aux eqn: } m^2 - 10m + 25 = 0 \Rightarrow m = 5 \text{ (twice)}$$

Only one solution:  $y_1 = e^{5x}$

Construct second solution:  $y_2 = xe^{5x}$

General solution:  $y = c_1e^{5x} + c_2xe^{5x}$

**Example 4** (Very important DEs):

$$\boxed{\frac{d^2 X}{dt^2} = +\omega^2 X}$$

Test sol:  $X = e^{Pt} \Rightarrow P^2 = \omega^2 \Rightarrow P = \pm\omega$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Gen sol: } X &= c_1 e^{\omega t} + c_2 e^{-\omega t} \\ &= d_1 \cosh \omega t + d_2 \sinh \omega t \end{aligned}$$

(Memorize!)

$$\boxed{\frac{d^2 X}{dt^2} = -\omega^2 X}$$

Test sol:  $X = e^{Pt} \Rightarrow P^2 = -\omega^2 \Rightarrow P = \pm i\omega$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Gen sol: } X &= c_1 e^{i\omega t} + c_2 e^{-i\omega t} \\ &= d_1 \cos \omega t + d_2 \sin \omega t \end{aligned}$$

(Memorize!)

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