

# ODEs - Week 4 - Monday (I)

Now we're going to talk about general linear differential equations (not just first order ones). Mostly we'll focus on second-order equations, like ~~Example~~

$$a_n(x)y^{(n)} + \dots + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = g(x)$$

$$p(t)y'' + q(t)y' + r(t)y = g(t) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Second} \\ \text{order} \\ \text{example} \end{array}$$

and often times we'll just look at the case where the functions  $p$ ,  $q$  and  $r$  are constants. And we'll look at an even easier case of homogeneous differential equations where  $g(t) = 0$ . (If  $g(t) \neq 0$  it's nonhomogeneous). This is completely different than the previous "homogeneous". So

$$\begin{array}{l} ay'' + by' + cy = 0 \\ \text{OR } y'' + \frac{b}{a}y' + \frac{c}{a}y = 0 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Don't restrict} \\ \text{to 2nd order here} \end{array}$$

Before solving these things, we've gotta introduce the idea of linear independence of functions. A collection of functions  $\{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n\}$  are linearly independent if ~~with~~ the only time a linear combination of them equals ~~zero~~ zero

$$c_1 f_1(x) + c_2 f_2(x) + \dots + c_n f_n(x) = 0$$

is when each of the  $c_i$  is zero.

write literal examples  
 $f_1(x) = x+1$   
 $f_2(x) = x^2$

## ODEs - Week 4 - Monday (2)

Said another way, those functions are linearly independent if you cannot write any one of them as a linear combination of the others. If some set of functions are not linearly independent, the ~~case~~ will say they're linearly dependent (one depends on the others).

Example: The functions  $y_1(t) = e^t$  and  $y_2(t) = e^{-t}$  are linearly independent. If you have a linear combination of them <sup>equal 0</sup> like

$$c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t} = 0$$

Then

$$c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 = 0$$

$$\rightarrow c_2 = -c_1 e^{2t}$$

But  $-c_1 e^{2t}$  is never ~~zero~~ <sup>constant unless  $c_1=0$</sup> , so the only solution here is  $c_1 = c_2 = 0$ .

Example: The three functions  $f_1(x) = x+1$   $f_2(x) = x+x^2$   $f_3(x) = x^2-1$  are not linearly independent. Write it down

$$c_1(x+1) + c_2(x+x^2) + c_3(x^2-1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1(x+1) + c_2(x)(1+x) + c_3(x-1)(x+1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow c_1 + c_2 x + c_3(x-1) = 0$$

So we need

$$\begin{cases} c_1 - c_3 = 0 \\ c_2 + c_3 = 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{so} \quad \begin{cases} c_1 = c_3 = 1 \\ c_2 = -1 \end{cases} \quad \checkmark$$

## ODEs - Week 4 - Monday (3)

So now that we've talked about that, let's solve a nice example DE to give you an idea of why we talked about that.

(\*) "By inspection, find some solutions to the DE  $y'' - 9y = 0$ ."  
 $y(0) = 2$     $y'(0) = -1$

It may help to recall that homework problem where the solutions to  $y' = ky$  was  $y = e^{kt}$ . .....

Some solutions are  $y = e^{3t}$  and  $y = e^{-3t}$ . Verify these!

Also, any linear combinations of these solutions will be a solution! So  $y = c_1 e^{3t} + c_2 e^{-3t}$  is a solution. Verify this!

This suggests the following major theorem:

Theorem:

• (Principal of Superposition)

If  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are solutions to a linear homogeneous differential equation, then so is  $y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$ .

• An  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order linear homogeneous differential equation has exactly  $n$  linearly independent solutions. If  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$  are such linearly independent solutions, then

$$y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2 + \dots + c_n y_n$$

will be the general solution to the DE.

"Solve the IVP (\*) with  $y(0) = 2$   $y'(0) = -1$ ."

## ODEs - Week 4 - Monday (4)

"Solve the IVP (\*) with  $y(0)=2$  &  $y'(0)=-1$ ."

Notice that the previous theorem, along with that exercise telling us  $e^{-kt}$  and  $e^{kt}$  are linearly independent, tells us  $y = c_1 e^{3t} + c_2 e^{-3t}$  is the general solution to our DE. To find the particular solution (solve for  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ ) we've just got to take a single derivative of our general solution and use those initial conditions

$$\begin{cases} y = c_1 e^{3t} + c_2 e^{-3t} \\ y' = 3c_1 e^{3t} - 3c_2 e^{-3t} \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} 2 = c_1 e^{3(0)} + c_2 e^{-3(0)} \\ -1 = 3c_1 e^{3(0)} - 3c_2 e^{-3(0)} \end{cases}$$
$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} 2 = c_1 + c_2 \\ -1 = 3c_1 - 3c_2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} c_1 = 5/6 \\ c_2 = 7/6 \end{cases}$$

So we get  $y = \frac{5}{6} e^{3t} + \frac{7}{6} e^{-3t}$ .

If there's still time,  
talk about determinants...

ODEs - Week 4 - ~~Monday~~ Tuesday (1)

Now suppose that you have an  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order linear homogenous DE, and I hand you  $n$  functions  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  and tell you that these are each a solution to your DE. You can check yourselfs that each one is a solution, but how do you know that's all the solutions? How do you know that  $c_1 f_1 + \dots + c_n f_n$  is the general solution? How do you know if the  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  are linearly independent? (Note that ~~these~~ if you can answer one of these, you're answered them all). For this, we'll need to develop some linear algebra.

Do y'all know how to calculate the determinant of a matrix?

- $\det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = ad - bc$  I think it would be fine to spend more time on determinants. In fact, do this first in lecture.
- $\det \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{pmatrix} = a \det \begin{pmatrix} e & f \\ h & i \end{pmatrix} - b \det \begin{pmatrix} d & f \\ g & i \end{pmatrix} + c \det \begin{pmatrix} d & e \\ g & h \end{pmatrix}$   
 $= a(ei - fh) - b(di - fg) + c(dh - eg)$

Or you could expand on any other row too, just gotta remember the sign.

$\begin{pmatrix} + & - & + \\ - & + & - \\ + & - & + \end{pmatrix}$  and the pattern continues for larger matrices.

$\det \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 5 & 6 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} ?$

ODEs - week 4 - ~~Monday (5)~~ Tuesday (2)

You can take determinants of matrices with functions as their entries too.

" Calculate the determinant of the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} e^t & \cos^2(t) \\ e^t & \sin^2(t) \end{pmatrix} . \quad "$$

Given a set of functions  $\{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$  that each have  $n-1$  derivatives, the Wronskian of that set is the determinant

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} f_1 & f_2 & \dots & f_n \\ f_1' & f_2' & \dots & f_n' \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ f_1^{(n-1)} & f_2^{(n-1)} & \dots & f_n^{(n-1)} \end{pmatrix}$$

" Calculate the Wronskian of the set of functions of  $x$  given by the expressions  $\{x, x^2, x^3\}$ . "

Theorem

If  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  are solutions to an  $n^{\text{th}}$  order linear homogeneous differential equation, then these solutions are linearly independent if and only if their Wronskian is not identically zero.

## ODEs - week 4 - Tuesday (3)

"Example: verify that  $y = c_1 \cos(2x) + c_2 \sin(2x)$  is the general solution to the differential equation  $y'' + 4y = 0$ ."

- Check that it is a solution
- Check there are enough
- Check for linear independence w/ Wronskian.

You may ask why  $c_1 e^{2ix} + c_2 e^{-2ix}$  isn't the general solution, but that's just a rewritten form of the other solution using the identities

$$i \sin(\theta) = \frac{e^{i\theta} - e^{-i\theta}}{2} \quad \cos(\theta) = \frac{e^{i\theta} + e^{-i\theta}}{2}$$

Needs  $i$  because  
 $4$  is positive...

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos(\theta) + i \sin(\theta) \quad \left( e^{i\pi} = -1 \right)$$

Complex stuff will start to appear in the course now. Be aware though, that when asking for a solution to a DE, the implication is ~~that~~ ~~that~~ for a real solution.

## ODEs - Week 4 - Tuesday (4)

Just some justification for the Wronskian, without too much linear algebra. Suppose you have some  $n$ th-order linear homogeneous DE with ~~general~~ solutions  $y_1, \dots, y_n$ , but you don't know if they're linearly independent. Suppose too that this is some initial value problem with initial conditions

$$y(x_0) = y_0 \quad y'(x_0) = y'_0 \quad \dots \quad y^{(n-1)}(x_0) = y_0^{(n-1)}$$

(this is weird notation since each  $y_0^{(i)}$  is a number and not a derivative but bear with me.) Applying these initial conditions to our alleged general solution  $c_1 y_1 + \dots + c_n y_n$  we get a system of equations  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} n \text{ equations} \\ n \text{ equations with } n \text{ unknowns } c_1, \dots, c_n \end{array} \right.$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} y_0 = c_1 y_1(x_0) + c_2 y_2(x_0) + \dots + c_n y_n(x_0) \\ y'_0 = c_1 y'_1(x_0) + c_2 y'_2(x_0) + \dots + c_n y'_n(x_0) \\ \vdots \\ y_0^{(n-1)} = c_1 y_1^{(n-1)}(x_0) + c_2 y_2^{(n-1)}(x_0) + \dots + c_n y_n^{(n-1)}(x_0) \end{array} \right.$$

This can be solved! The general method is called Cramer's rule, (you don't need to know that nor the details for that) But the idea is that when you solve for  $c_1, \dots, c_n$  each is a fraction, and the denominator is the Wronskian.



## ODEs - Week 4 - Wednesday (1)

So now that we've developed a tools to know when we have a solution to an ~~linear~~  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order linear homogeneous DE.

So your DE looks something like

$$a_n(x)y^{(n)} + a_{n-1}(x)y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = 0$$

Those  $a_i$  are generally functions of  $x$ , but we'll look at the easier case where they're constants first. Also, again remember to divide through by  $a_n$  to make life easier

$$y^{(n)} + a_{n-1}y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_1y' + a_0y = 0$$

Now we've solved examples of such DEs before by "inspection" or by "guessing smart." Recall  $y'' - 9y = 0$  had solutions like  $y = e^{3t}$  and  $y = e^{-3t}$ ? That's exactly how we're gonna solve these in general to (not each time though): let's just make a really wild guess that  $y = e^{\lambda x}$  is a solution to

$$y^{(n)} + \dots + a_1y' + a_0 = 0$$

for some number  $\lambda$ . Well, let's check if it's a solution.

## ODEs - Week 4 - Wednesday (2)

So if  $y = e^{\lambda x}$ , then  $y' = \lambda e^{\lambda x}$  and  $y'' = \lambda^2 e^{\lambda x}$ ,  
and so on. In general  $y^{(n)} = \lambda^n e^{\lambda x}$ .

$$\lambda^n e^{\lambda x} + a_{n-1} \lambda^{n-1} e^{\lambda x} + \dots + a_1 \lambda e^{\lambda x} + a_0 e^{\lambda x} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow e^{\lambda x} (\lambda^n + a_{n-1} \lambda^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 \lambda + a_0) = 0$$

Since  $e^{\lambda x} \neq 0$  ever, we must have that the polynomial we get on the right must be zero!

That is to say  $\lambda$  must be a root of the polynomial

$$\lambda^n + a_{n-1} \lambda^{n-1} + \dots + a_1 \lambda + a_0$$

(written with coefficients in  $\mathbb{R}$ ). More importantly, if  $\lambda$  is a root of this polynomial, then  $e^{\lambda t}$  is a solution to the original DE! This polynomial, having degree  $n$ , will have exactly  $n$  (potentially complex) roots each "corresponding" to a solution. Better yet, these will correspond to all of the solutions! (Recall an  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order linear homogeneous DE has  $n$  solutions). And we can easily find this polynomial, called the characteristic polynomial from the original DE.

# ODEs - Week 4 - Wednesday (3)

Let's see ~~some~~<sup>an</sup> examples before we talk about some of the subtleties here.

"Solve the differential equation ~~the~~  $2y'' - 2y' - 24y = 0$  where  $y(0) = 3$  and  $y'(0) = -2$ ."

First, what's the characteristic polynomial associated to this DE?

$$\begin{aligned} 2y'' - 2y' - 24y &= 0 \\ y'' - y' - 12y &= 0 \\ \text{the characteristic polynomial} &\Rightarrow \lambda^2 - \lambda - 12 = 0 \\ &(\lambda - 4)(\lambda + 3) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

The roots of the char poly are 4 and -3, giving us a general solution of  $y = c_1 e^{4t} + c_2 e^{-3t}$ . To find the values of  $c_1, c_2$  corresponding to the initial conditions we need to take a single derivative of our general solution  $y' = 4c_1 e^{4t} - 3c_2 e^{-3t}$  and get the system of equations

$$\begin{cases} y(0) = 3 = c_1 e^{4(0)} + c_2 e^{-3(0)} \\ y'(0) = -2 = 4c_1 e^{4(0)} - 3c_2 e^{-3(0)} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} 3 = c_1 + c_2 \\ -2 = 4c_1 - 3c_2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} c_1 = 1 \\ c_2 = 2 \end{cases}$$

$$y(t) = e^{4t} + 2e^{-3t}$$

## ODEs - Week 4 - Wednesday (4)

How does everyone feel?

Okay, so let's talk about the ~~subtleties~~ <sup>subtleties</sup> I mentioned earlier.

- If the roots ~~are~~ of the characteristic equation are all real and all distinct, it's straightforward.
- But what if there are complex roots?
- What if there are repeated roots?

Not every polynomial factors completely over the real numbers  $\mathbb{R}$  but they do all factor over the complex numbers  $\mathbb{C}$  ( $\mathbb{C}$  is special this way. ~~we say that~~ this property that  $\mathbb{C}$  has is known as being algebraically closed.)

Anyways you might get complex roots !! Recall that these complex roots come in pairs though: If  $\lambda_1 = a + bi$  is a root of the characteristic equation, so is  $\lambda_2 = a - bi$ .

So what's our solution in this case (remember that we're demanding real solutions)? Well I'll tell you: it's

$$c_1 e^{at} \cos(bx) + c_2 e^{at} \sin(bx).$$

Lol but why?

## ODEs - Week 4 - Wednesday (5)

It's because of those goofy identities I told you once that relate trig functions to complex numbers

$$\cos \theta = \frac{e^{i\theta} + e^{-i\theta}}{2} \quad i \sin \theta = \frac{e^{i\theta} - e^{-i\theta}}{2}$$

$$e^{(a+bi)\theta} = e^{a\theta + bi\theta} = e^{a\theta} e^{bi\theta} = e^{a\theta} (\cos(b\theta) + i \sin(b\theta))$$

Supposing your general solution looks like  $C_1 e^{(a+bi)t} + C_2 e^{(a-bi)t}$ , you can rewrite this as:

$$\begin{aligned} & C_1 e^{at} e^{bit} + C_2 e^{at} e^{-bit} \\ &= e^{at} \left( C_1 (\cos(bt) + i \sin(bt)) + C_2 (\cos(-bt) + i \sin(-bt)) \right) \\ &= e^{at} \left( (C_1 + C_2) \cos(bt) + i(C_1 - C_2) \sin(bt) \right) \end{aligned}$$

Notice that  $\frac{C_3}{C_1 + C_2}$  and  $i \frac{C_4}{C_1 - C_2}$  are just constants, so we can replace them with new constants

$$C_3 e^{at} \cos(bt) + C_4 e^{at} \sin(bt) \quad \checkmark$$

ODEs - Week 4 - ~~Thu~~ Wednesday (6)

Perfect! Now what about duplicate roots? Say we're looking at the DE  $y'' + 6y' + 9y = 0$ . The characteristic polynomial factors as  $(\lambda + 3)(\lambda + 3) = 0$  giving us only one solution  $c_1 e^{-3t}$ . But the DE is degree 2, so there's another solution. Surprise! The other solution just has a mysterious factor of  $t$  hanging out on it:  $c_2 t e^{-3t}$ .

"Verify  $y = c_1 e^{-3t} + c_2 t e^{-3t}$  is a solution to  $y'' + 6y' + 9y = 0$ ."

We might see why this is later. 😊

Problems if there's time left over

Solve

$$y'' + 4y' = 0 \quad \text{complex w/} \\ \lambda_1 = 0$$

~~$y'' + 4y' = 0$~~

~~$y'' + 4y' = 0$  for duplicate roots~~

~~roots~~

~~$(\lambda + 2)^2$   
 $\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 4$   
 $y'' + 4y' + 4y = 0$~~

ODEs - Week <sup>4</sup> - Thursday (1)

## Reduction of Order

Okay now we're gonna discuss a general technique to solve  $n^{\text{th}}$ -order linear ~~homogeneous~~ homogeneous DEs that don't necessarily have constant coefficients. This method will also explain why we "add a factor of  $t$ " in that last section if the characteristic equation had repeated roots. We'll look at  $2^{\text{nd}}$ -order DEs, but this technique can work in general. Suppose your DE looks like

$$p(x)y'' + q(x)y' + r(x)y = 0$$

and further suppose you know a solution ~~already~~  $y_1(x)$  already (because someone told you it's a solution, or because you stared at the DE for a long time and figured it out).

The whole idea is that you guess that there's a second solution that is only a function times your first solution.

That is, guess that  $y_2(x) = \phi(x)y_1(x)$  is a solution too.

Then you can, using the fact that  $y_1$  is a solution, try to figure out  $\phi(x)$ .

ODEs - Week 4 - Thursday (2)

"Find the general solution to

$$2t^2 y'' + ty' - 3y = 0$$

given that  $y_1(t) = \frac{1}{t}$  is a solution."

First, sanity check, just make sure  $\frac{1}{t}$  really is a solution

$$y_1 = \frac{1}{t} \quad y_1' = -\frac{1}{t^2} \quad y_1'' = \frac{2}{t^3}$$

$$\text{and } 2t^2 \left( \frac{2}{t^3} \right) + t \left( -\frac{1}{t^2} \right) - 3 \left( \frac{1}{t} \right)$$

$$= \frac{4}{t} - \frac{1}{t} - \frac{3}{t} = 0 \quad \checkmark$$

Now let's guess that there's another solution of the form  $y_2 = \phi \frac{1}{t}$  for some function  $\phi(t)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} y_2 &= \phi \frac{1}{t} & y_2' &= -\frac{\phi}{t^2} + \frac{\phi'}{t} & y_2'' &= -\left( \frac{2\phi}{t^3} + \frac{\phi'}{t^2} \right) + \left( \frac{\phi''}{t} - \frac{\phi'}{t^2} \right) \\ & & & & &= \frac{\phi''}{t} - 2\frac{\phi'}{t^2} + 2\frac{\phi}{t^3} \end{aligned}$$

Then let's punch this into our DE with the dream of solving for  $\phi(t)$ .



ODEs - Week 4 - Thursday (3)

$$2t^2 y'' + ty' - 3y = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2t^2 \left( \frac{\phi''}{t} - 2 \frac{\phi'}{t^2} + 2 \frac{\phi}{t^3} \right) + t \left( \frac{\phi'}{t} - \frac{\phi}{t^2} \right) - 3 \left( \frac{\phi}{t} \right) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow 2t\phi'' - 4\phi' + 4 \frac{\phi}{t} + \phi' - \frac{\phi}{t} - 3 \frac{\phi}{t} = 0$$

Notice how the stuff in red goes away. This is because  $\frac{1}{t}$  was already a solution to the DE.

$$\Rightarrow 2t\phi'' - 3\phi' = 0$$

Then we can solve this DE with a quick substitution to reduce the order. Let  $\beta = \phi'$ , so  $\beta' = \phi''$ , and

$$2t\beta' - 3\beta = 0$$

which is generally linear (in this case it's separable!) and we can proceed.

ODEs - Week 4 - Thursday (4)

$$2t\beta' - 3\beta = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \frac{2}{\beta} d\beta = \int \frac{3}{t} dt$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln(\beta^2) = \ln(Ct^3)$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta^2 = Ct^{3/2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi' = Ct^{3/2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \phi = C_1 t^{5/2} + C_2 \quad \text{||}$$

So  $y_2 = \phi \frac{1}{t} = C_1 t^{3/2} + C_2 t^{-1}$  is another solution to the DE. And this constant  $C_2$  allows  $\frac{1}{t}$  to be part of this solution too.  $t^{3/2}$  and  $t^{-1}$  are linearly independent, so  $y = C_1 t^{3/2} + C_2 t^{-1}$  is our general solution!

How do y'all feel? ☺

Let's do one now

ODEs - Week 4 - Thursday (5)

"Find the general solution to  $t^2 y'' + 2ty' - 2y = 0$  given that  $y_1(t) = t$  is a solution."

So say we'll guess another solution  $y_2 = \omega t$

$$y_2 = \omega t \quad y_2' = \omega' t + \omega \quad y_2'' = \omega'' t + 2\omega'$$

And punch it in

$$t^2(\omega'' t + 2\omega') + 2t(\omega' t + \omega) - 2(\omega t) = 0$$

to first

$$\omega'' t^3 + 2\omega' t^2 + 2\omega' t^2 + \underline{\underline{2\omega t}} - \underline{\underline{2\omega t}} = 0$$

$$t\omega'' + 4\omega' = 0$$

$t \neq 0$

Let  $\gamma = \omega'$ , so  $\gamma' = \omega''$ .

$$t\gamma' = -4\gamma$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \frac{1}{\gamma} d\gamma = \int \frac{-4}{t} dt$$

$$\Rightarrow \gamma = \frac{C}{t^4} \Rightarrow \omega = \int \frac{C}{t^4} dt = \frac{C_1}{t^3} + C_2$$

So our general solution is  $y(t) = C_1 \frac{1}{t^2} + C_2 t$ .