

General solution of the homogeneous linear 2nd-order ODEs
with constant coefficients.

We want to find the general solution to

$$a_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = 0 \quad \text{with } a_2 \neq 0, a_1, a_0 \in \mathbb{R}$$

① Write the characteristic equation

$$M_2(\lambda) = a_2\lambda^2 + a_1\lambda + a_0 = 0$$

② Find the roots of $M_2(\lambda) = 0$

$$\lambda_{1,2} = \frac{-a_1 \pm \sqrt{a_1^2 - 4a_0a_2}}{2a_2}$$

③ (A) If $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{R}, \lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$

$$y_{\text{gh}}(x) = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 x} + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 x}$$

with $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$
arbitrary constants

(B) If $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{C}, \lambda_1 = \alpha + i\beta, \lambda_2 = \alpha - i\beta$

with $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}, \beta \neq 0$

$$y_{\text{gh}}(x) = e^{\alpha x} (A \cos \beta x + B \sin \beta x)$$

with $A, B \in \mathbb{R}$
arbitrary
constants

or

$$y_{\text{gh}}(x) = c_1 e^{(\alpha + i\beta)x} + c_2 e^{(\alpha - i\beta)x}$$

with $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{C}$
arbitrary
constants

(c) If $\lambda_1 \in \mathbb{R}$ is the $M_2(\lambda) = 0$ with multiplicity two

$$\boxed{y_{\text{og}}(x) = e^{\lambda_1 x} (c_1 x + c_2)} \quad \text{with } c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$

In case (c) you can show that

$$y_1 = x e^{\lambda_1 x}, \quad y_2 = e^{\lambda_1 x}$$

$$a_2 y'' + a_1 y' + a_0 y = 0$$

such that the characteristic equation is

$$a_2 \lambda^2 + a_1 \lambda + a_0 = a_2 (\lambda - \lambda_1)^2 = 0$$

$$a_2$$

$$a_1 = -2a_2$$

$$a_0 = a_2$$

Examples

$$y'' - 4y' + 3y = 0$$

$$a_2 y'' + a_1 y' + a_0 y = 0$$

$$a_2 = 1, \quad a_1 = -4, \quad a_0 = 3$$

① Characteristic equation

$$\boxed{M_2(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 3 = 0}$$

② Find the roots $\Pi_2(\lambda) = 0$

$$\lambda = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{16 - 12}}{2} = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{4}}{2} = \begin{cases} \frac{4+2}{2} = 3 & \lambda_1 = 3 \\ \frac{4-2}{2} = 1 & \lambda_2 = 1 \end{cases}$$

③ $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{R} \quad \lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$

$$y_{\text{og}}(x) = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 x} + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 x}$$

$$y_{\text{og}}(x) = c_1 e^{3x} + c_2 e^x$$

$$c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$

Example

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

① Write characteristic equation

$$\Pi_2(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1 = 0$$

$$\Pi_2(\lambda) = (\lambda - 1)^2 = 0$$

② Find the roots

$$\lambda = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{4 - 4}}{2} = 1$$

$$\lambda = 1$$

③ (c) $\lambda_1 \in \mathbb{R}$ with $\Pi_2(\lambda_1) = 0$ with multiplicity two

$$y_{\text{og}}(x) = e^{\lambda_1 x} (c_1 x + c_2)$$

$$y_{\text{og}}(x) = e^x (c_1 x + c_2)$$

c_1, c_2
real

Example

$$\frac{1}{2}y'' + y' + y = 0$$

① Write the characteristic equation

$$\boxed{M_2(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2}\lambda^2 + \lambda + 1 = 0}$$

② Find the roots

$$\lambda = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{1 - 4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot 1}}{2 \cdot \frac{1}{2}} = -1 \pm \sqrt{-1} = \begin{cases} -1+i \\ -1-i \end{cases}$$

$$\lambda_1 = -1+i \quad \lambda_2 = -1-i$$

$$\lambda_1 = \alpha + \beta i \quad \lambda_2 = \alpha - \beta i$$

$$\alpha = -1$$

$$\beta = 1$$

③ (B) The general solution is

$$y_{\text{og}}(x) = e^{\alpha x} (A \cos \beta x + B \sin \beta x)$$

$$\boxed{y_{\text{og}}(x) = e^{-x} (A \cos x + B \sin x)}$$

$$A, B \in \mathbb{R}$$

or

$$y_{\text{og}}(x) = c_1 e^{(\alpha + \beta i)x} + c_2 e^{(\alpha - \beta i)x}$$

$$\boxed{y_{\text{og}}(x) = c_1 e^{(-1+i)x} + c_2 e^{(-1-i)x}}$$

$$c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{C}$$

The IVP of the homogeneous linear 2^{nd} -order ODEs with constant coefficient.

We consider IVP

$$\text{ODE: } a_2 y'' + a_1 y' + a_0 = 0$$

$$a_2, a_1, a_0 \in \mathbb{R} \\ a_2 \neq 0$$

$$\text{IC: } \begin{cases} y(x_0) = b_1 \\ y'(x_0) = b_2 \end{cases}$$

The IVP satisfies the hypothesis of the generalized Picard-Lindelöf theorem, i.e. the IVP has a unique solution everywhere, $x \in \mathbb{R}$

\Rightarrow The I.C. determines uniquely the two arbitrary constants in the general solution

Example

Solve the IVP

$$10y'' - y' - 3y = 0$$

$$\text{I.C. } \begin{cases} y(0) = 1 \\ y'(0) = 0 \end{cases}$$

① Characteristic equation

$$M_2(\lambda) = 10\lambda^2 - \lambda - 3 = 0$$

Solve the IVP for

$$10y'' - y' - 3y = 0$$

$$\begin{cases} y(0) = 1 \\ y'(0) = 0 \end{cases}$$

① Characteristic equation

$$M_2(\lambda) = 10\lambda^2 - \lambda - 3 = 0$$

② Finds the roots

$$\lambda = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 + 120}}{20} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{121}}{20} = \frac{1 \pm 11}{20} = \begin{cases} \frac{12}{20} = \frac{3}{5} \\ -\frac{10}{20} = -\frac{1}{2} \end{cases}$$

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{3}{5} \quad \lambda_2 = -\frac{1}{2}$$

③ General solution

$$y_g(x) = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 x} + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 x}$$

$$y_g(x) = c_1 e^{\frac{3}{5}x} + c_2 e^{-\frac{1}{2}x}$$

with $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$

④ Impose the I.C.

$$\begin{cases} y(0) = 1 \\ y'(0) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$y(x) = c_1 e^{\frac{3}{5}x} + c_2 e^{-\frac{1}{2}x}$$

$$y'(x) = \frac{3}{5}c_1 e^{\frac{3}{5}x} - \frac{1}{2}c_2 e^{-\frac{1}{2}x}$$

$$\begin{cases} 1 = y(0) = c_1 + c_2 \\ 0 = y'(0) = \frac{3}{5}c_1 - \frac{1}{2}c_2 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} 1 = c_1 + c_2 \\ 0 = \frac{3}{5}c_1 - \frac{1}{2}c_2 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} c_1 = 1 - c_2 \\ \frac{3}{5}(1 - c_2) - \frac{1}{2}c_2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

(2) Find the roots

$$\lambda = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 + 4 \cdot 30}}{20} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1 + 120}}{20} = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{121}}{20} = \frac{1 \pm 11}{20}$$

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{1 + 11}{20} = \frac{12}{20} = \frac{3}{5}$$

$$\lambda_2 = \frac{1 - 11}{20} = \frac{-10}{20} = -\frac{1}{2}$$

(3) General solution (B) $y_g(x) = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 x} + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 x}$

$$y_g(x) = c_1 e^{\frac{3}{5}x} + c_2 e^{-\frac{1}{2}x}$$

$$c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$

(4) Imposing the I.C.

$$\begin{cases} y(0) = 1 \\ y'(0) = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$y(x) = c_1 e^{\frac{3}{5}x} + c_2 e^{-\frac{1}{2}x}$$

$$y'(x) = c_1 \frac{3}{5} e^{\frac{3}{5}x} - c_2 \frac{1}{2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x}$$

$$1 = y(0) = c_1 e^0 + c_2 e^0 = c_1 + c_2$$

$$0 = y'(0) = c_1 \frac{3}{5} e^0 - c_2 \frac{1}{2} e^0 = \frac{3}{5} c_1 - \frac{1}{2} c_2$$

$$\begin{cases} 1 = c_1 + c_2 \\ 0 = \frac{3}{5} c_1 - \frac{1}{2} c_2 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} c_2 = 1 - c_2 \\ \frac{3}{5}(1 - c_2) - \frac{1}{2}c_2 = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} c_2 = 1 - c_2 \\ \frac{3}{5} - \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{5}\right)c_2 = 0 \end{cases},$$

$$\begin{cases} c_2 = 6/11 \\ c_2 = 1 - c_2 = 5/11 \end{cases}$$

$$c_2 = 5/11$$

$$c_2 = 6/11$$

The solution to the IVP

$$y(x) = \frac{5}{11} e^{3/5 x} + \frac{6}{11} e^{-1/2 x}$$