

4.2 Homogeneous Equations with Constant Coefficients

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- Consider the n^{th} order linear homogeneous DE

$$L[y] = a_0 y^{(n)} + a_1 y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_{n-1} y' + a_n y = 0, \dots \quad \square$$

where a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n are real constants.

- Assuming an exponential solution e^{rt} to equation \square : Then

$$L[e^{rt}] = e^{rt} [a_0 r^n + a_1 r^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} r + a_n] = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\underbrace{a_0 r^n + a_1 r^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} r + a_n}_{Z(r)} = 0$$

- The polynomial $Z(r)$ is called the characteristic polynomial.
- The equation $Z(r) = 0$ is called the characteristic equation of \square .
- By the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra, a polynomial of degree n has n roots: r_1, r_2, \dots, r_n . Hence,

$$Z(r) = a_0 (r - r_1)(r - r_2) \dots (r - r_n)$$

A Real and Unequal Roots

- If the roots of the characteristic equation are real and unequal, then there are n distinct solutions $e^{r_1 t}, e^{r_2 t}, \dots, e^{r_n t}$ of Eq. \square .
- If these functions are linearly independent, then the general solution of Eq. \square is $y(t) = c_1 e^{r_1 t} + c_2 e^{r_2 t} + \dots + c_n e^{r_n t}$.
- The Wronskian can be used to determine linear independence of solutions.

Example: Find the general solution of the IVP:

$$y^{(4)} + 2y''' - 13y'' - 14y' + 24y = 0, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = -1, \quad y''(0) = 0, \quad y'''(0) = -1.$$

• Assuming an exponential solution $y(t) = e^{rt}$, then the characteristic equation is $r^4 + 2r^3 - 13r^2 - 14r + 24 = 0 \iff$

$$(r-1)(r+2)(r-3)(r+4) = 0 \iff$$

• The general solution $y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-2t} + c_3 e^{3t} + c_4 e^{-4t}$

• Using the initial conditions:

$$y(0) = 1 \implies c_1 + c_2 + c_3 + c_4 = 1$$

$$y'(0) = -1 \implies c_1 - 2c_2 + 3c_3 - 4c_4 = -1$$

$$y''(0) = 0 \implies c_1 + 4c_2 + 9c_3 + 16c_4 = 0$$

$$y'''(0) = -1 \implies c_1 - 8c_2 + 27c_3 - 64c_4 = -1$$

• Solve the system above to get $c_1 = \frac{1}{2}, c_2 = \frac{4}{5}, c_3 = -\frac{11}{70}, c_4 = -\frac{1}{7}$

• Thus, $y(t) = \frac{1}{2} e^t + \frac{4}{5} e^{-2t} - \frac{11}{70} e^{3t} - \frac{1}{7} e^{-4t}$

B Complex Roots

• If the characteristic equation has complex roots, then must occur in conjugate pairs $\lambda \pm i\mu$.

• Note that not all the roots need to be complex.

• Solutions corresponding to complex roots have the form

$$e^{(\lambda+i\mu)t} = e^{\lambda t} \cos \mu t + i e^{\lambda t} \sin \mu t$$

$$e^{(\lambda-i\mu)t} = e^{\lambda t} \cos \mu t - i e^{\lambda t} \sin \mu t$$

• As in Section 3.4, we use the real-valued solutions

$$e^{\lambda t} \cos \mu t, e^{\lambda t} \sin \mu t$$

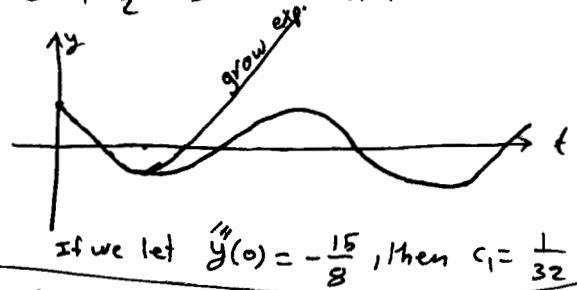
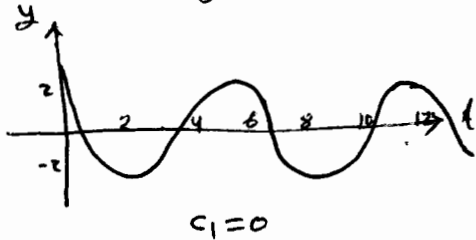
Example: Find the general solution for the IVP:

$$y^{(4)} - y = 0, \quad y(0) = \frac{7}{2}, \quad y'(0) = -4, \quad y''(0) = \frac{5}{2}, \quad y'''(0) = -2$$

- Assuming an exponential solution e^{rt} , then the characteristic equation is $r^4 - 1 = 0 \iff (r^2 - 1)(r^2 + 1) = 0 \iff$ The roots are

$$r_1 = 1, r_2 = -1, r_3 = i, r_4 = -i \quad \boxed{\lambda = 0} \quad \boxed{\mu = 1}$$

- The general solution of is $y(t) = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t} + c_3 \cos t + c_4 \sin t$
- Using the initial conditions, we obtain $c_1 = 0, c_2 = 3, c_3 = \frac{1}{2}, c_4 = -1$
- Thus, the general solution is $y(t) = 3e^{-t} + \frac{1}{2} \cos t - \sin t$



C Repeated Roots

- If a root r_k of the characteristic equation is a repeated root with multiplicity s , then the linearly independent solutions corresponding to this repeated root have the form:

$$e^{r_k t}, t e^{r_k t}, t^2 e^{r_k t}, \dots, t^{s-1} e^{r_k t}$$

- If a complex root $\lambda + i\mu$ is repeated s times, then so is its conjugate $\lambda - i\mu$. There are $2s$ corresponding linearly independent solutions derived from real and imaginary parts of:

$$e^{(\lambda + i\mu)t}, t e^{(\lambda + i\mu)t}, t^2 e^{(\lambda + i\mu)t}, \dots, t^{s-1} e^{(\lambda + i\mu)t}$$

$$e^{\lambda t} \cos \mu t, e^{\lambda t} \sin \mu t, t e^{\lambda t} \cos \mu t, t e^{\lambda t} \sin \mu t, \dots, t^{s-1} e^{\lambda t} \cos \mu t, t^{s-1} e^{\lambda t} \sin \mu t$$

Example: Find the general solution of the ODE

$$\ddot{y} + 2\dot{y}'' + y = 0$$

- Assuming $y = e^{rt}$, then the characteristic equation is

$$r^4 + 2r^2 + 1 = 0 \Leftrightarrow (r^2 + 1)^2 = 0 \Leftrightarrow (r^2 + 1)(r^2 + 1) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{The roots are } r_1 = i, r_2 = i, r_3 = -i, r_4 = -i. \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \lambda = 0 \\ \mu = 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

- Thus, the general solution is $y(t) = c_1 \cos t + c_2 \sin t + c_3 t \cos t + c_4 t \sin t$

Example: Find the general solution of the DE $\overset{(4)}{y} + \overset{(2)}{y} = 0$

- If $y = e^{rt}$, then the characteristic equation is $r^4 + r^2 = 0 \Leftrightarrow$

$$r^2(r^2 + 1) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \text{The roots are } r_1 = r_2 = 0, r_3 = i, r_4 = -i$$

- Thus, the general solution is $y(t) = c_1 + c_2 t + c_3 \cos t + c_4 \sin t$
 $\quad \quad \quad \downarrow c_1 e^{0t} \quad \downarrow c_2 e^{0t}(t)$

Example: Find the general solution of the DE: $\overset{(iv)}{y} - \overset{(iii)}{y} - \overset{(ii)}{y} + y' = 0$

- If $y = e^{rt}$, then the characteristic equation is $r^4 - r^3 - r^2 + r = 0$

$$\Leftrightarrow r[r^3 - r^2 - r + 1] = 0 \Leftrightarrow r[r^2(r-1) - (r-1)] = 0 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$r(r-1)(r^2-1) = 0 \Leftrightarrow \text{The roots are } r_1 = 0, r_2 = r_3 = 1, r_4 = -1$$

- Thus, the general solution is $y(t) = c_1 + c_2 e^t + c_3 t e^t + c_4 e^{-t}$

Example: Write the complex number $-1 + \sqrt{3}i$ in the form

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$$

$2\left(-\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i\right)$ cos is negative and sin is positive, $r=2, \theta=120^\circ$, the polar angle is $120^\circ = \frac{2\pi}{3}$

$$2\left(\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{3} + 2\pi m\right) + i \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{3} + 2\pi m\right)\right) = 2 e^{i\left(\frac{2\pi}{3} + 2\pi m\right)}$$

Example*: Find the general solution of $y^{(4)} + y = 0$

• If $y = e^{rt}$, then the characteristic equation is

$$r^4 + 1 = 0.$$

• To solve this equation we must compute the four roots of -1 .

• Think of -1 as a complex number $-1 + 0i$

sin is zero and cos is -1 , Thus the polar Euler's formula angle is π

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$$

$$-1 = \cos \pi + i \sin \pi = e^{i\pi}$$

• The angle is determined only up to multiple of 2π since we have sin and cos with period $= 2\pi$.

$$-1 = \cos(\pi + 2\pi m) + i \sin(\pi + 2\pi m) = e^{i(\pi + 2\pi m)}$$

where m is any integer.

• Thus, $(-1)^{\frac{1}{4}} = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi m}{2}\right) + i \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi m}{2}\right) = e^{i\left(\frac{\pi}{4} + \frac{\pi m}{2}\right)}$

• The roots are when $m = 0, 1, 2, 3$

$$m = 0 \Rightarrow \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) + i \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{4}\right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} + i \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1+i}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$m = 1 \Rightarrow \frac{-1+i}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}i$$

$$m = 2 \Rightarrow \frac{-1-i}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}i$$

$$m = 3 \Rightarrow \frac{1-i}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}i$$

The general solution is then given by

$$y(t) = e^{\frac{t}{\sqrt{2}}}\left(c_1 \cos \frac{t}{\sqrt{2}} + c_2 \sin \frac{t}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + e^{-\frac{t}{\sqrt{2}}}\left(c_3 \cos \frac{t}{\sqrt{2}} + c_4 \sin \frac{t}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$$

Example: Express the given complex number in the form

$$R(\cos \Theta + i \sin \Theta) = R e^{i\Theta}$$

① $-1 + \sqrt{3}i$ $2\left(-\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i\right)$

Polar angle is $\Theta = \frac{2\pi}{3}$ 120

since $\cos \frac{2\pi}{3} = -\frac{1}{2}$ and $\sin \frac{2\pi}{3} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

$$2 \left[\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{3} + 2\pi m\right) + i \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{3} + 2\pi m\right) \right] = 2 e^{i\left(\frac{2\pi}{3} + 2\pi m\right)}$$

③ $-3 = -3 + 0i = 3(-1 + 0i)$

Polar angle is π since $\cos(\pi) = -1$ and $\sin(\pi) = 0$

$$3 \left[\cos(\pi + 2\pi m) + i \sin(\pi + 2\pi m) \right] = 3 e^{i(\pi + 2\pi m)}$$

Example: Follow the procedure of Example* to determine the two roots of $(1-i)^{\frac{1}{2}}$

We must compute the two roots of $1-i$

The complex number has the polar angle $-\frac{\pi}{4} = \frac{-\pi}{4} + 2\pi = \frac{7\pi}{4}$

$$1-i = \sqrt{2} \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}i \right)$$

$$1-i = \sqrt{2} \left[\cos\left(\frac{7\pi}{4} + 2\pi m\right) + i \sin\left(\frac{7\pi}{4} + 2\pi m\right) \right] = \sqrt{2} e^{i\left(\frac{7\pi}{4} + 2\pi m\right)}$$

$$(1-i)^{\frac{1}{2}} = (\sqrt{2})^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[\cos\left(\frac{7\pi}{8} + \pi m\right) + i \sin\left(\frac{7\pi}{8} + \pi m\right) \right] = 2^{\frac{1}{4}} e^{i\left(\frac{7\pi}{8} + \pi m\right)}$$

The two roots are when $m=0, -1$

$$m=0 \Rightarrow r_1 = 2^{\frac{1}{4}} e^{i\frac{7\pi}{8}} = 2^{\frac{1}{4}} \left[\cos \frac{7\pi}{8} + i \sin \frac{7\pi}{8} \right] = 2^{\frac{1}{4}} \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} - \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \right]$$

$$m=-1 \Rightarrow r_2 = 2^{\frac{1}{4}} e^{-\frac{\pi}{8}i} = \dots$$