

ch2

2.1 1<sup>st</sup> order linear DE  
with variable coefficients  
(Method of Integrating factors)

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Recall that in ch1 we have solved any 1<sup>st</sup> order linear DE with constant coefficients of the form

$$y' = ay - b, \quad a \neq 0, \quad y(0) = y_0 \quad \dots \textcircled{A}$$

whose sol. is  $y(t) = \frac{b}{a} + (y_0 - \frac{b}{a})e^{at} \quad \dots A^*$

Exp How to solve 1<sup>st</sup> order linear DE with variable coefficients of the form:

$$y' + p(t)y = g(t) \quad \dots \textcircled{B}$$

- Note that the DE  $\textcircled{B}$  is more general than  $\textcircled{A}$ .
- This means that  $\textcircled{A}$  is special case of  $\textcircled{B}$ .
- If  $p(t)$  and  $g(t)$  are constants, then  $\textcircled{B}$  becomes  $\textcircled{A}$ .
- Hence, the sol. of  $\textcircled{B}$  will solve  $\textcircled{A}$ .

Here the method of calculus does not work, so we look for new method called Integrating factor.

The idea of this method is to multiply the DE  $\textcircled{B}$  by a positive function  $\mu(t)$  so that the resulting equation is easy to integrate:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(t) \frac{dy}{dt} + y \mu(t)p(t) &= \mu(t)g(t) \\ \left( \mu(t) y(t) \right)' &= \mu(t)g(t) \end{aligned}$$

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$\mu'(t) = \mu(t)p(t)$





$$\mu(t)y(t) = \int \mu(t)g(t) dt + c$$

Hence, the general sol. of the DE (B) is

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{\mu(t)} \left[ \int \mu(t)g(t) dt + c \right] \rightarrow \beta^*$$

$$\frac{\mu'(t)}{\mu(t)} = p(t)$$

$$\ln |\mu(t)| = \int p(t) dt$$

$$\ln(\mu(t)) = \int p(t) dt$$

$$\mu(t) = e^{\int p(t) dt}$$

integrating factor

Exp Solve the IVP:  $y' + 2y - 4 = 0$ ,  $y(0) = 1$

Sol. 1: This DE has the form of (A)  $\Rightarrow$

$$y' = -2y + 4 \quad \text{with } \left. \begin{matrix} a = -2 \\ b = -4 \end{matrix} \right\} \Rightarrow \frac{b}{a} = 2$$

• Apply  $A^* \Rightarrow$

$$y(t) = \frac{b}{a} + \left( y_0 - \frac{b}{a} \right) e^{at}$$

$$y(t) = 2 + (1 - 2)e^{-2t}$$

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

Note  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = 2 = \text{Eq. Sol.}$

Sol. 2 • We can write this DE in the form of (B)  $\Rightarrow$

$$y' + 2y = 4 \quad \text{with } p(t) = 2 \quad \text{and } g(t) = 4$$

$$\mu(t) = e^{\int p(t) dt} = e^{\int 2 dt} = e^{2t} \quad \text{is the integrating factor}$$

• The gen. sol.  $\beta^*$  is  $y(t) = \frac{1}{\mu} \left[ \int \mu g dt + c \right]$

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{e^{2t}} \left[ \int 4e^{2t} dt + c \right] = e^{-2t} \left[ 2e^{2t} + c \right]$$

$$y(t) = 2 + c e^{-2t} \quad \text{To find } c \text{ we use the IC } \Rightarrow$$

$$y(0) = 2 + c e^0 \Rightarrow \text{The sol. becomes}$$

$$1 = 2 + c$$

$$c = -1$$

$$y(t) = 2 - e^{-2t} \quad \checkmark$$

Exp Solve the IVP:

$$t y' - 2y = 5t^2, \quad t > 0, \quad y(1) = 2$$

• Since the DE is 1<sup>st</sup> order linear with variable coefficients  
⇒ we can only use  $\tilde{B}^*$  to solve it

• But first we arrange the DE of the form B to write  $p(t)$  and  $g(t)$  correctly:

$$y' - \frac{2}{t} y = 5t, \quad p(t) = \frac{-2}{t}, \quad g(t) = 5t$$

• Integrating factor  $M(t) = e^{\int p(t) dt} = e^{\int \frac{-2}{t} dt} = e^{-2 \ln|t|}$   
 $= e^{-2 \ln t} = e^{\ln t^{-2}} = t^{-2} = \frac{1}{t^2}$

• Apply  $\tilde{B}^* \Rightarrow y(t) = \frac{1}{M(t)} \left[ \int M(t) g(t) dt + C \right]$

$$y(t) = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{t^2}} \left[ \int \frac{1}{t^2} (5t) dt + C \right] = t^2 [5 \ln t + C]$$

• To find  $c$  we use the IC

$$\begin{aligned} y(1) &= 1^2 [5 \ln 1 + c] \\ 2 &= [0 + c] \\ 2 &= c \end{aligned}$$

• Hence, the gen. sol. is  $y(t) = t^2 (5 \ln t + 2)$



Exp Given the IVP:

$$y' - 2xy - x = 0, \quad y(0) = \alpha$$

Find  $\alpha$  so that the sol. approaches  $-\frac{1}{2}$  as  $x \rightarrow \infty$ .

- We need to find  $\alpha$  s.t.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) = -\frac{1}{2}$
- So first we find  $y(x) \Rightarrow$  Apply  $\textcircled{B}$  and  $\textcircled{B^*}$

$$y' - 2xy = x, \quad p(x) = -2x, \quad q(x) = x$$

- $M(x) = e^{\int p(x) dx} = e^{\int -2x dx} = e^{-x^2}$  is the integrating factor

$$\text{Apply } B^* \Rightarrow y(x) = \frac{1}{M(x)} \left[ \int M(x) q(x) dx + c \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{e^{-x^2}} \left[ \int e^{-x^2} (x) dx + c \right]$$

$$y(x) = e^{x^2} \left[ \frac{-1}{2} e^{-x^2} + c \right]$$

- To find  $c$  we use the IC  $\Rightarrow y(0) = e^0 \left[ \frac{-1}{2} e^0 + c \right] = \alpha$

$$-\frac{1}{2} + c = \alpha \Rightarrow c = \alpha + \frac{1}{2}$$

- The sol. becomes  $y(x) = e^{x^2} \left[ -\frac{1}{2} e^{-x^2} + \alpha + \frac{1}{2} \right]$

$$y(x) = \frac{-1}{2} + (\alpha + \frac{1}{2}) e^{x^2}$$

- But  $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} y(x) = \frac{-1}{2} = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \left( \frac{-1}{2} + (\alpha + \frac{1}{2}) e^{x^2} \right)$

$$0 = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} (\alpha + \frac{1}{2}) e^{x^2} \Leftrightarrow \alpha = -\frac{1}{2}$$