

3.5: Non-homogeneous linear differential equation

$$a(t)y'' + b(t)y' + c(t)y = g(t) \quad \text{where } g(t) \neq 0$$

Step 1: Find homogeneous general solution to $a(t)y'' + b(t)y' + c(t)y = 0$:

$$y = c_1\phi_1(t) + c_2\phi_2(t)$$

Step 2: Find one non-homogeneous solution to $a(t)y'' + b(t)y' + c(t)y = g(t)$:

Step 3: Combine these solutions to create general solution to the non-homogeneous linear DE:

$$y = c_1\phi_1(t) + c_2\phi_2(t) + \psi$$

Compare to linear algebra: non-homogeneous solution is a “shifted” version of the homogeneous solution (suppose solution space is 2-dimensional):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{0} &\Rightarrow \mathbf{x} = c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2\mathbf{v}_2 \\ \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{b} &\Rightarrow \mathbf{x} = c_1\mathbf{v}_1 + c_2\mathbf{v}_2 + \mathbf{w} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} a(t)y'' + b(t)y' + c(t)y = 0 &\Rightarrow y = c_1\phi_1(t) + c_2\phi_2(t) \\ a(t)y'' + b(t)y' + c(t)y = g(t) &\Rightarrow y = c_1\phi_1(t) + c_2\phi_2(t) + \psi \end{aligned}$$

Example 1: Solve $y'' - 4y' + 4y = e^{3t}$

Step 1: Solve homogeneous version:

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = 0 \Rightarrow r^2 - 4r + 4 = 0 \Rightarrow (r - 2)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 2, 2$$

Thus general solution to homogeneous DE is $y = c_1e^{2t} + c_2te^{2t}$

Step 2: Find ONE non-homogeneous solution to $y'' - 4y' + 4y = e^{3t}$

3.5 Method of undetermined coefficients – Educated guess: $y = Ae^{3t}$

Plug in to solve for undetermined coefficient A :

$$y = Ae^{3t} \Rightarrow y' = 3Ae^{3t} \Rightarrow y'' = 9Ae^{3t}$$

$$9Ae^{3t} - 4(3Ae^{3t}) + 4Ae^{3t} = e^{3t} \Rightarrow 9A - 12A + 4A = 1 \Rightarrow A = 1$$

Thus ONE non-homogeneous solution is $y = e^{3t}$

Step 3: Combine these solutions to create general solution to the non-homogeneous linear DE:

The general solution to nonhomogeneous DE is $y = c_1e^{2t} + c_2te^{2t} + e^{3t}$

Example 2: Solve $y'' - 4y' + 4y = 2\cos(3t)$

Step 1: Solve homogeneous version:

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = 0 \Rightarrow r^2 - 4r + 4 = 0 \Rightarrow (r - 2)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 2, 2$$

Thus general solution to homogeneous DE is $y = c_1e^{2t} + c_2te^{2t}$

Step 2: Find ONE non-homogeneous solution to $y'' - 4y' + 4y = 2\cos(3t)$

3.5 Method of undetermined coefficients – Educated guess: $y = A\cos(3t) + B\sin(3t)$

Plug in to solve for undetermined coefficient A : $y = A\cos(3t) + B\sin(3t)$

$$\Rightarrow y' = -3A\sin(3t) + 3B\cos(3t) \Rightarrow y'' = -9A\cos(3t) - 9B\sin(3t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} y'' &= -9A\cos(3t) - 9B\sin(3t) \\ -4y' &= -12B\cos(3t) + 12A\sin(3t) \quad - \text{Note switched order of } B \text{ and } A \text{ term} \\ +4y &= +4A\cos(3t) + 4B\sin(3t) \end{aligned}$$

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = (-9A - 12B + 4A)\cos(3t) + (-9B + 12A + 4B)\sin(3t)$$

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = (-5A - 12B)\cos(3t) + (12A - 5B)\sin(3t)$$

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = 2\cos(3t)$$

$$(-5A - 12B)\cos(3t) + (12A - 5B)\sin(3t) = 2\cos(3t)$$

$$-5A - 12B = 2 \text{ and } 12A - 5B = 0$$

From 2nd equation: $5B = 12A$ and $B = \frac{12A}{5}$

Plug into first equation: $-5A - 12(\frac{12A}{5}) = 2$

$$-25A - 144A = 10 \Rightarrow -169A = 10 \Rightarrow A = -\frac{10}{169}$$

$$\text{Hence } B = (\frac{12}{5})A = B = (\frac{12}{5})(-\frac{10}{169}) = -(\frac{12}{1})(\frac{2}{169}) = -\frac{24}{169}$$

Thus ONE non-homogeneous solution is $y = -\frac{10}{169}\cos(3t) - \frac{24}{169}\sin(3t)$

Step 3: Combine these solutions to create general solution to the non-homogeneous linear DE:

The general solution to nonhomogeneous DE is

$$y = c_1e^{2t} + c_2te^{2t} + -\frac{10}{169}\cos(3t) - \frac{24}{169}\sin(3t)$$

Give the form of the particular (nonhomogenous) solution with undetermined coefficients for

$$y'' + 4y' + 4y = \sin(3t)$$

$$Y(t) = \underline{\hspace{10em}} \quad (\text{Do NOT solve!})$$

Give the form of the particular (nonhomogenous) solution with undetermined coefficients for

$$y'' + 4y' + 4y = 4\sin(3t)$$

$$Y(t) = \underline{\hspace{10em}} \quad (\text{Do NOT solve!})$$

Give the form of the particular (nonhomogenous) solution with undetermined coefficients for

$$y'' + 4y' + 4y = \sin(3t) - 8\cos(3t)$$

$$Y(t) = \underline{\hspace{10em}} \quad (\text{Do NOT solve!})$$

Answers:

Give the form of the particular (nonhomogenous) solution with undetermined coefficients for

$$y'' + 4y' + 4y = \sin(3t)$$

$$Y(t) = \underline{y = A\cos(3t) + B\sin(3t)} \quad (\text{Do NOT solve!})$$

Give the form of the particular (nonhomogenous) solution with undetermined coefficients for

$$y'' + 4y' + 4y = 4\sin(3t)$$

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