

Section 10: Variation of Parameters

For the second order equation in standard form

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + P(x)\frac{dy}{dx} + Q(x)y = g(x),$$

suppose $\{y_1(x), y_2(x)\}$ is a fundamental solution set for the associated homogeneous equation.

Variation of parameters provides a particular solution in the form

$$y_p(x) = u_1(x)y_1(x) + u_2(x)y_2(x).$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + P(x)\frac{dy}{dx} + Q(x)y = g(x)$$

$$y_p(x) = u_1(x)y_1(x) + u_2(x)y_2(x)$$

where

$$u_1 = \int \frac{-g(x)y_2(x)}{W} dx \quad \text{and} \quad u_2 = \int \frac{g(x)y_1(x)}{W} dx$$

and $W = W(y_1, y_2)(x)$ is the Wronskian of the solutions of the associated homogeneous equation.

Example:

Solve the ODE $y'' + y = \tan x$.

Solve the homogeneous equation $y'' + y = 0$.

Characteristic equation $m^2 + 1 = 0$

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

$$\alpha = 0, \beta = 1$$

$$y_1 = \cos x, \quad y_2 = \sin x$$

The ODE is in standard form, so $g(x) = \tan x$

We need the Wronskian

$$W(y_1, y_2)(x) = \begin{vmatrix} \cos x & \sin x \\ -\sin x & \cos x \end{vmatrix} = \cos^2 x - (-\sin^2 x) = 1$$

Using variation of parameters

$$y_p = u_1(x)y_1(x) + u_2(x)y_2(x) \quad \text{where}$$

$$u_1 = \int \frac{-g(x)y_2(x)}{w} dx = \int \frac{-\tan x \sin x}{1} dx$$

and

$$u_2 = \int \frac{g(x)y_1(x)}{w} dx = \int \frac{\tan x \cos x}{1} dx$$

Completing u_2

$$u_2 = \int \tan x \cos x dx = \int \sin x dx = -\cos x$$

$$u_1 = \int -\tan x \sin x dx = \int -\frac{\sin^2 x}{\cos x} dx$$

$$= - \int \frac{(1 - \cos^2 x)}{\cos x} dx = \int (\cos x - \sec x) dx$$

$$= \sin x - \ln |\sec x + \tan x|$$

$$y_p = u_1(x) y_1(x) + u_2(x) y_2(x)$$

$$= (\sin x - \ln |\sec x + \tan x|) \cos x - \cos x \sin x$$

$$= \sin x \cos x - \cos x \ln |\sec x + \tan x| - \cos x \sin x$$

$$y_p = -\cos x \ln|\sec x + \tan x|$$

The general solution is

$$y = c_1 \cos x + c_2 \sin x - \cos x \ln|\sec x + \tan x|$$

Example:

Solve the ODE

$$x^2 y'' + xy' - 4y = \ln x,$$

given that $y_c = c_1 x^2 + c_2 x^{-2}$ is the complementary solution.

From the given y_c , we have $y_1 = x^2$, $y_2 = x^{-2}$.

We need the ODE in standard form to identify $g(x)$.

$$y'' + \frac{1}{x} y' - \frac{4}{x^2} y = \frac{\ln x}{x^2} \quad g(x) = \frac{\ln x}{x^2}.$$

The Wronskian

$$W(y_1, y_2)(x) = \begin{vmatrix} x^2 & x^{-2} \\ 2x & -2x^{-3} \end{vmatrix} = -2x^{-1} - 2x^{-1} = -4x^{-1}$$

Then $y_p = u_1 y_1 + u_2 y_2$ where

$$u_1 = \int \frac{-g(x) y_2(x)}{w} dx \quad u_2 = \int \frac{g(x) y_1(x)}{w} dx$$

$$= \int \frac{-\left(\frac{\ln x}{x^2}\right) x^{-2}}{-4x^{-1}} dx \quad u_2 = \int \frac{\left(\frac{\ln x}{x^2}\right) x^2}{-4x^{-1}} dx$$

$$u_1 = \int \frac{1}{4} (\ln x) x^{-4} \cdot x dx = \int \frac{1}{4} (\ln x) x^{-3} dx$$

Integrate by parts with $u = \ln x$, $dv = x^{-3} dx$

$$du = \frac{1}{x} dx, \quad v = \frac{x^{-2}}{-2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \left(-\frac{1}{2} x^{-2} \ln x - \frac{1}{4} x^{-2} \right) = -\frac{1}{8} x^{-2} \ln x - \frac{1}{16} x^{-2}$$

$$u_2 = \int \frac{-1}{4} (\ln x) x^{-2} \cdot x^2 \cdot x \, dx = \int \frac{-1}{4} x \ln x \, dx$$

Integrate by parts with $u = \ln x$, $dv = x \, dx$
 $du = \frac{1}{x} \, dx$, $v = \frac{x^2}{2}$

$$= \frac{-1}{4} \left(\frac{1}{2} x^2 \ln x - \frac{1}{4} x^2 \right) = -\frac{1}{8} x^2 \ln x + \frac{1}{16} x^2$$

$$y_p = u_1 y_1 + u_2 y_2$$

$$= \left(-\frac{1}{8} x^{-2} \ln x - \frac{1}{16} x^{-2} \right) x^2 + \left(-\frac{1}{8} x^2 \ln x + \frac{1}{16} x^2 \right) x^{-2}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{8} \ln x - \frac{1}{16} - \frac{1}{8} \ln x + \frac{1}{16}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{4} \ln x$$

The general solution is

$$y = C_1 x^2 + C_2 x^{-2} - \frac{1}{4} \ln x$$

Let's verify that our y_p is correct. Sub it into

$$x^2 y'' + x y' - 4y = \ln x$$

$$y_p = \frac{-1}{4} \ln x, \quad y_p' = \frac{-1}{4} \frac{1}{x}, \quad y_p'' = \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{1}{x^2} \right)$$

$$x^2 y_p'' + x y_p' - 4y_p =$$

$$x^2 \left(\frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{x^2} \right) + x \left(\frac{-1}{4} \frac{1}{x} \right) - 4 \left(\frac{-1}{4} \ln x \right) =$$

$$\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{4} + \ln x = \ln x$$

$$\ln x = \ln x \quad \checkmark$$

Solve the IVP

$$x^2 y'' + xy' - 4y = \ln x, \quad y(1) = -1, \quad y'(1) = 0$$

The general solution is $y = C_1 x^2 + C_2 x^{-2} - \frac{1}{4} \ln x$

Apply the I.C. $y' = 2C_1 x - 2C_2 x^{-3} - \frac{1}{4x}$

$$y(1) = C_1(1^2) + C_2(1^{-2}) - \frac{1}{4} \ln 1 = -1$$

$$C_1 + C_2 = -1$$

$$y'(1) = 2C_1(1) - 2C_2(1^{-3}) - \frac{1}{4(1)} = 0$$

$$2C_1 - 2C_2 = \frac{1}{4}$$

Solving the system

$$2c_1 + 2c_2 = -2$$

$$2c_1 - 2c_2 = \frac{1}{4}$$

add

$$\frac{4c_1 = -\frac{7}{4}}$$

$$c_1 = -\frac{7}{16}$$

subtract

$$4c_2 = -\frac{9}{4}$$

$$c_2 = -\frac{9}{16}$$

The solution to the IVP is

$$y = -\frac{7}{16}x^2 - \frac{9}{16}x^{-2} - \frac{1}{4}\ln|x|$$

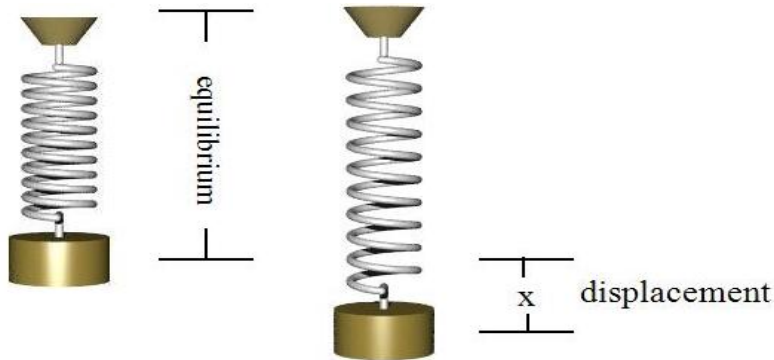
Section 11: Linear Mechanical Equations

Simple Harmonic Motion

We consider a flexible spring from which a mass is suspended. In the absence of any damping forces (e.g. friction, a dash pot, etc.), and free of any external driving forces, any initial displacement or velocity imparted will result in **free, undamped motion**—a.k.a. **simple harmonic motion**.

▶ Harmonic Motion gif

Building an Equation: Hooke's Law



At equilibrium, displacement $x(t) = 0$.

$$\text{Hooke's Law: } F_{\text{spring}} = k x$$

Figure: In the absence of any displacement, the system is at equilibrium. Displacement $x(t)$ is measured from equilibrium $x = 0$.

Building an Equation: Hooke's Law

Newton's Second Law: $F = ma$ Force = mass times acceleration

$$a = \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} \implies F = m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}$$

Hooke's Law: $F = kx$ Force exerted by the spring is proportional to displacement

The force imparted by the spring opposes the direction of motion.

$$m x'' + kx = 0 \implies x'' + \frac{k}{m} x = 0$$

$$m \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = -kx \implies x'' + \omega^2 x = 0 \quad \text{where} \quad \omega = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}$$

Convention We'll Use: Up will be positive ($x > 0$), and down will be negative ($x < 0$). This orientation is arbitrary and follows the convention in Trench.