

Section 9: Method of Undetermined Coefficients

The context here is linear, constant coefficient, nonhomogeneous equations

$$a_n y^{(n)} + a_{n-1} y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_0 y = g(x)$$

where g comes from the restricted classes of functions

- ▶ polynomials,
- ▶ exponentials,
- ▶ sines and/or cosines,
- ▶ and products and sums of the above kinds of functions

Recall $y = y_c + y_p$, so we'll have to find both the complementary and the particular solutions!

We'll consider cases

Using superposition as needed, begin with assumption:

$$y_p = y_{p_1} + \cdots + y_{p_k}$$

where y_{p_i} has the same **general form** as $g_i(x)$.

Case I: y_p as first written has no part that duplicates the complementary solution y_c . Then this first form will suffice.

Case II: y_p has a term y_{p_i} that duplicates a term in the complementary solution y_c . Multiply that term by x^n , where n is the smallest positive integer that eliminates the duplication.

Find the form of the particular solution

$$y''' - y'' + y' - y = \cos x + x^4 - 7x^2$$

The characteristic equation $m^3 - m^2 + m - 1 = 0$ factors as $(m - 1)(m^2 + 1) = 0$. So the roots are $m_1 = 1$ and $m_{2,3} = \pm i$.

$$y_1 = e^x, \quad y_2 = e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x), \quad y_3 = e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x) \quad \alpha=0, \beta=1$$

$$y_c = c_1 e^x + c_2 \cos x + c_3 \sin x$$

Letting $g_1(x) = \cos x$, look for y_{p1}

set $y_{p1} = A \cos x + B \sin x$ Duplicates part of y_c

$$y_{p1} = (A \cos x + B \sin x)x = Ax \cos x + Bx \sin x$$

Correct form

Letting $g_2(x) = x^4 - 7x^2$

$$y_{p_2} = Cx^4 + Dx^3 + Ex^2 + Fx + G$$

correct form

$$y_p = y_{p_1} + y_{p_2}$$

$$y_p = Ax \cos x + Bx \sin x + Cx^4 + Dx^3 + Ex^2 + Fx + G$$

Find the form of the particular solution

$$y'' - 2y' + 5y = e^x + 7\sin(2x)$$

The characteristic equation is $m^2 - 2m + 5 = 0$ with roots, $m = 1 \pm 2i$.

$$y_1 = e^x \cos(2x) \quad , \quad y_2 = e^x \sin(2x)$$

$$y_c = c_1 e^x \cos(2x) + c_2 e^x \sin(2x)$$

Letting $g_1(x) = e^x$ $y_{p1} = Ae^x$

Letting $g_2(x) = 7\sin(2x)$ $y_{p2} = B\sin(2x) + C\cos(2x)$

$$y_p = A e^x + B \sin(2x) + C \cos(2x)$$

Section 10: Variation of Parameters

We are still considering nonhomogeneous, linear ODEs. Consider equations of the form

$$y'' + y = \tan x, \quad \text{or} \quad x^2 y'' + xy' - 4y = e^x.$$

The method of undetermined coefficients is not applicable to either of these. We require another approach.

$\tan x$ is not the right kind of right hand side

The 2nd equation is not constant coefficient.

Variation of Parameters

For the 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. We seek a particular solution of the form

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

where u_1 and u_2 are functions we will determine (in terms of y_1 , y_2 and g).

$$y_c = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x)$$

This method is called **variation of parameters**.

Variation of Parameters: Derivation of y_p

$$y'' + P(x)y' + Q(x)y = g(x)$$

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

We have 2 unknowns u_1 and u_2 , but only one equation. We'll introduce a second equation in such a way as to simplify the work.

Differentiate

$$y_p' = u_1 y_1' + u_2 y_2' + \underbrace{u_1' y_1 + u_2' y_2}_{\text{set to zero}}$$

Remember that $y_i'' + P(x)y_i' + Q(x)y_i = 0$, for $i = 1, 2$

Our 2nd equation will be

$$u_1' y_1 + u_2' y_2 = 0$$

$$y_p = u_1 y_1 + u_2 y_2$$

$$y_p' = u_1 y_1' + u_2 y_2'$$

$$y_p'' = u_1' y_1' + u_2' y_2' + u_1 y_1'' + u_2 y_2''$$

$$y_p'' + P(x) y_p' + Q(x) y_p = g(x)$$

$$u_1' y_1' + u_2' y_2' + u_1 y_1'' + u_2 y_2'' + P(x) (u_1 y_1' + u_2 y_2') + Q(x) (u_1 y_1 + u_2 y_2) = g(x)$$

Collected by $u_1, u_2, u_1',$ and u_2'

$$u_1 \left(\underset{0''}{y_1''} + P(x)y_1' + Q(x)y_1 \right) + u_2 \left(\underset{0''}{y_2''} + P(x)y_2' + Q(x)y_2 \right) + u_1' y_1 + u_2' y_2 = g(x)$$

Since y_1 and y_2 solve the homogeneous equation

The 2 equations for u_1 and u_2 are

$$u_1' y_1 + u_2' y_2 = 0$$

$$u_1' y_1 + u_2' y_2' = g$$

Will solve with Cramer's rule.

In matrix form, the system is

$$\begin{pmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u_1' \\ u_2' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ g \end{pmatrix}$$

Let $W_1 = \begin{vmatrix} 0 & y_2 \\ g & y_2' \end{vmatrix} = 0 - g y_2 = -g y_2$

$$W_2 = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & 0 \\ y_1' & g \end{vmatrix} = y_1 g - 0 = g y_1$$

$$W = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{vmatrix} \quad \text{The wronskian of } y_1, y_2$$

By linear independence, we know $W \neq 0$.

$$\text{Then } u_1' = \frac{W_1}{W} \quad \text{and} \quad u_2' = \frac{W_2}{W}$$

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

$$y_p = u_1 y_1 + u_2 y_2$$

Example:

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

Need y_c : $y_c'' + y_c = 0$ $m^2 + 1 = 0$
 $m^2 = -1 \Rightarrow m = \pm i$
 $\alpha = 0, \beta = 1$

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

We need g and W .

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

$$W = \begin{vmatrix} \cos x & \sin x \\ -\sin x & \cos x \end{vmatrix} = \cos x (\cos x) - \sin x (-\sin x)$$

$$= \cos^2 x + \sin^2 x = 1$$

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

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

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

$$= \int \tan x \cos x dx$$

well finish later.