

Section 4.4: Method of Undetermined Coefficients

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

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

Consider y_c : $y'' - 2y' + 5y = 0$

$$m^2 - 2m + 5 = 0$$

$$m^2 - 2m + 1 + 4 = 0 \Rightarrow (m-1)^2 + 4 = 0$$

$$(m-1)^2 = -4$$

$$m-1 = \pm 2i$$

$$m = 1 \pm 2i$$

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

$$\Leftarrow \alpha=1, \beta=2$$

$$\text{So } y_c = C_1 e^x \cos(2x) + C_2 e^x \sin(2x)$$

$$\text{Let } g_1(x) = e^x \quad \text{and} \quad g_2(x) = 7 \sin(2x)$$

$$y_{p_1} = A e^x$$

works as
written

$$y_{p_2} = B \sin(2x) + C \cos(2x)$$

works as written

$$\text{Hence } y_p = A e^x + B \sin(2x) + C \cos(2x).$$

Solve the IVP

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = 8x - 4 \quad y(0) = 3, \quad y'(0) = -2$$

Find y_c : $y'' - 4y' + 4y = 0$

$$m^2 - 4m + 4 = 0$$

$$(m-2)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow m=2 \text{ repeated}$$

$$y_1 = e^{2x}, \quad y_2 = x e^{2x}$$

and $y_c = C_1 e^{2x} + C_2 x e^{2x}$

Find y_p : Use Undetermined Coefficients

$$f(x) = 8x - 4 \quad \text{assume } y_p = Ax + B$$

Doesn't solve
the
homogeneous
eqn.

$$y_p = Ax + B, \quad y_p' = A, \quad y_p'' = 0$$

$$y_p'' - 4y_p' + 4y_p = 8x - 4$$

$$0 - 4(A) + 4(Ax + B) = 8x - 4$$

$$\underline{4Ax} + (\underline{-4A + 4B}) = \underline{8x} - \underline{4}$$

$$4A = 8 \Rightarrow A = 2$$

$$-4A + 4B = -4 \Rightarrow B = \frac{1}{4}(-4 + 4A) = \frac{4}{4} = 1$$

$$y_p = 2x + 1$$

The general solution to the ODE is

$$y = C_1 e^{2x} + C_2 x e^{2x} + 2x + 1$$

Now, impose $y(0) = 3$, $y'(0) = -2$.

$$y' = 2C_1 e^{2x} + C_2 e^{2x} + 2C_2 x e^{2x} + 2$$

$$y(0) = C_1 e^0 + C_2 \cdot 0 e^0 + 2 \cdot 0 + 1 = 3$$

$$C_1 + 1 = 3 \Rightarrow C_1 = 2$$

$$y'(0) = 2C_1 e^0 + C_2 e^0 + 2C_2 \cdot 0 e^0 + 2 = -2$$

$$4 + C_2 + 2 = -2$$

$$C_2 = -2 - 2 - 4 = -8$$

The solution to the IVP is

$$y = 2e^{2x} - 8xe^{2x} + 2x + 1.$$

Solve the IVP

$$y'' - y = 4e^{-x} \quad y(0) = -1, \quad y'(0) = 1$$

Find y_c : $y'' - y = 0$

$$m^2 - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow m^2 = 1, \quad m = \pm 1$$

$$m_1 = 1, \quad m_2 = -1$$

$$y_1 = e^x, \quad y_2 = e^{-x}$$

$$y_c = C_1 e^x + C_2 e^{-x}$$

Find y_p : $y(x) = 4e^{-x}$

$$y_p = (Ae^{-x})x = Axe^{-x}$$

*Solves
the homogeneous
eqn*

*This is
correct..*

$$y_p = A x e^{-x}, \quad y_p' = A e^{-x} - A x e^{-x}, \quad y_p'' = -A e^{-x} - A e^{-x} + A x e^{-x}$$

$$y_p'' - y_p = 4 e^{-x}$$

$$-2A e^{-x} + A x e^{-x} - A x e^{-x} = 4 e^{-x}$$

$$-2A e^{-x} = 4 e^{-x} \Rightarrow -2A = 4 \Rightarrow A = -2$$

$$\text{Hence } y_p = -2x e^{-x}$$

The general solution to the ODE is

$$y = C_1 e^x + C_2 e^{-x} - 2x e^{-x}$$

Impose $y(0) = -1$, $y'(0) = 1$

$$y' = c_1 e^x - c_2 e^{-x} - 2e^{-x} + 2xe^{-x}$$

$$y(0) = c_1 e^0 + c_2 e^0 - 2 \cdot 0 e^0 = -1$$

$$c_1 + c_2 = -1$$

$$y'(0) = c_1 e^0 - c_2 e^0 - 2e^0 + 2 \cdot 0 e^0 = 1$$

$$c_1 - c_2 - 2 = 1$$

$$c_1 + c_2 = -1$$

$$c_1 - c_2 = 3$$

add equations $2C_1 = 2 \Rightarrow C_1 = 1$

$$C_2 = -1 - C_1 = -1 - 1 = -2$$

The solution to the IVP is

$$y = e^x - 2e^{-x} - 2xe^{-x}.$$