

Nonhomogeneous Linear Equations

$$ay'' + by' + cy = F(x) \quad (*)$$

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0 \quad (**)$$

(*) is a nonhomogeneous, second order DE with constant coefficients.

↓
RHS = $F(x)$.

The solution to (*) is closely related to the solution of (**) so let's start with an example.

Ex 1. $y'' - 2y' - 3y = 0$

$$r^2 - 2r - 3 = 0$$

$$(r-3)(r+1) = 0 \Rightarrow r_1 = 3, r_2 = -1$$

$$y = c_1 e^{3x} + c_2 e^{-x}$$

Thm. Let y_c be the most general solution of (**), then the solution of (*) has the form

$$y(x) = y_c(x) + y_p(x)$$

where y_p is some particular solution of (*). The above is the general solution to (*).

Ex. 2. Consider the differential equation,

$$y'' - 2y' - 3y = e^x$$

Show that $y_p(x) = -\frac{1}{4}e^x$ is a particular solution. Compute the general solution of the above as well.

$$\begin{array}{l} y_p = -\frac{1}{4}e^x \\ y_p' = -\frac{1}{4}e^x \\ y_p'' = -\frac{1}{4}e^x \end{array} \left| \begin{array}{l} y_p'' - 2y_p' - 3y_p = -\frac{1}{4}e^x - 2\left(-\frac{1}{4}e^x\right) - 3\left(-\frac{1}{4}e^x\right) \\ = -\frac{1}{4}e^x + \frac{2}{4}e^x + \frac{3}{4}e^x \\ = \left(-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{2}{4} + \frac{3}{4}\right)e^x = e^x \end{array} \right.$$

Now to compute the general solution, let's compute y_c , which is the general solution of,

$$y'' - 2y' - 3y = 0$$

From example 1 we know that,

$$y_c = c_1 e^{3x} + c_2 e^{-x}$$

So the general solution to $y'' - 2y' - 3y = e^x$ is,

$$y = y_p + y_c$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{4}e^x + c_1 e^{3x} + c_2 e^{-x}$$

So now our goal is to learn methods for solving for y_p . There are two ways to go about this:

1. Method of undetermined coefficients
2. Method of variation of parameters.

Method of undetermined coefficients.

$F(x) = \text{polynomial}$.

Guess at what $y_p(x)$ is. Our guess will be a polynomial that is the same degree of $F(x)$.

↳ because if y is a polynomial of deg n then so is $ay'' + by' + cy$.

Ex3. Solve for the particular solution to

$$y'' - y = x^2 + x$$

We see that $F(x) = x^2 + x$ is a polynomial of degree 2. So we make the guess,

Also a polynomial of deg=2.

$$y_p = \underbrace{A}_{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{undetermined} \\ \text{coefficients we will} \\ \text{determine.}}} x^2 + \underbrace{B}_{\uparrow} x + \underbrace{C}_{\uparrow}$$

$$y_p' = 2Ax + B$$

$$y_p'' = 2A$$

$$y_p'' - y_p = 2A - Ax^2 - Bx - C$$

$$= -Ax^2 - Bx + (2A - C) = x^2 + x$$

Want to assign A, B, C so that this is true.

$$-A = 1 \Rightarrow A = -1$$

$$-B = 1 \Rightarrow B = -1$$

$$2A - C = 0 \Rightarrow -2 - C = 0$$

$$C = -2$$

So we see that

$$y_p = -x^2 - x - 2 \quad (\text{the particular solution}).$$

Exercise. Solve for the general solution to
 $y'' - y = x^2 + x$.

Answer. $y = c_1 e^x + c_2 e^{-x} - x^2 - x - 2$.

F(x) = exponential.

Ex 4. Solve for the particular solution to
 $y'' + y' = e^{2x}$

Since $F(x)$ is an exponential, we should guess an exponential (w/ the same exponent).

$$y_p = \underbrace{A}_{\substack{\text{undetermined} \\ \text{coefficient}}} e^{2x}$$

$$\begin{array}{l|l}
 y_p = Ae^{2x} & y_p'' + y_p' = 4Ae^{2x} + 2Ae^{2x} = 6Ae^{2x} = e^{2x} \\
 y_p' = 2Ae^{2x} & \Rightarrow 6A = 1 \\
 y_p'' = 4Ae^{2x} & \Rightarrow A = \frac{1}{6}
 \end{array}$$

So the particular solution is, $y_p = \frac{1}{6}e^{2x}$.

Exercise. Compute the general solution of $y'' + y' = e^{2x}$

Answer. $y = c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 + \frac{1}{6}e^{2x}$.

Try the following: (*) do at end.

1. $y'' + 4y = 2(x+1)$

$$y = c_1 \cos(2x) + c_2 \sin(2x) + \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{1}{2}$$

3. $y'' - 2y' = e^{2x}$

$$y = c_1 e^{2x} + c_2 + \frac{1}{2}x e^{2x}$$

2. $y'' + 5y' + 6y = 18x + 6e^x$

$$y = c_1 e^{-3x} + c_2 e^{-2x} + 3x - \frac{5}{2} + \frac{1}{2}e^x.$$

Let's summarize what we've determined so far,

Method of undetermined coefficients:

(*) guess the ~~value~~ of form of y_p and plug it ~~it~~ into the differential equation to determine the coefficients.

$$(1) F(x) = \underbrace{a_n x^n}_{\downarrow} + \underbrace{a_{n-1} x^{n-1}}_{\downarrow} + \dots + \underbrace{a_1 x^1}_{\downarrow} + \underbrace{a_0}_{\downarrow}$$

known - given in the problem.

$$y_p(x) = \underbrace{A x^n}_{\downarrow} + \underbrace{B x^{n-1}}_{\downarrow} + \dots + \underbrace{C x}_{\downarrow} + \underbrace{D}_{\downarrow}$$

unknown - what we solve for.

$$(2) F(x) = a e^{kx} \rightsquigarrow y_p(x) = \underbrace{A}_{\downarrow} e^{kx}$$

unknown.

$F(x) = \text{exponential}$. more.

There are some exceptions to the rule above, let's see one.

Ex 5. Compute the particular solution to

$$y'' - y = e^x$$

Based on what we've discussed, we should guess

$$y_p = Ae^x$$

$$\begin{array}{l|l} y'_p = Ae^x & y''_p - y_p = Ae^x - Ae^x = 0 \neq e^x \\ y''_p = Ae^x & \quad \quad \quad \uparrow \\ & \text{can't happen.} \end{array}$$

What happened for this to fail? Well $F(x) = e^x$ is a solution to the corresponding homogeneous problem, $y'' - y = 0$.

If this happens we should instead guess,

$$y_p = Axe^x \quad \uparrow \text{ multiply by } x.$$

$$\begin{array}{l|l} y'_p = Ae^x + Axe^x & y''_p - y_p = 2Ae^x + Axe^x - Axe^x \\ y''_p = 2Ae^x + Axe^x & = 2Ae^x = e^x \\ & 2A = 1 \Rightarrow A = \frac{1}{2} \end{array}$$

So the particular solution of $y'' - y = e^x \Rightarrow$

$$y_p = \frac{1}{2} x e^x$$

Computing the general solution of (*):

1. Compute the general solution of (**)
2. Find a particular solution.

Exb. Find the general solution of

$$y'' + 3y' + 2y = 6x^2$$

1. Find the general solution to $y'' + 3y' + 2y = 0$.

$$r^2 + 3r + 2 = (r+2)(r+1) = 0, \quad r_1 = -2, r_2 = -1.$$

$$y_c = c_1 e^{-2x} + c_2 e^{-x}$$

2. Find particular solution:

$$y_p = Ax^2 + Bx + C$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} y_p' = 2Ax + B \\ y_p'' = 2A \end{array} \right| \begin{array}{l} y_p'' + 3y_p' + 2y_p = 2A + 3(2Ax + B) \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad + 2(Ax^2 + Bx + C) \\ = 2Ax^2 + (6A + 2B)x + (2A + 3B + 2C) \end{array}$$

$$2Ax^2 + (6A + 2B)x + (2A + 3B + 2C) = 6x^2$$

$$2A = 6 \Rightarrow A = 3$$

$$6A + 2B = 0$$

$$18 + 2B = 0 \Rightarrow B = -9$$

$$2A + 3B + 2C = 0$$

$$6 - 27 + 2C = 0 \Rightarrow C = \frac{21}{2}$$

So $y_p = 3x^2 - 9x + \frac{21}{2}$ and the general solution of $y'' + 3y' + 2y = x^2$ is,

$$y = c_1 e^{-2x} + c_2 e^{-x} + 3x^2 - 9x + \frac{21}{2}$$

Find the general solution of the following,

1. $y'' + 9y = 3e^{3x}$ ($y = c_2 \sin(3x) + c_1 \cos(3x) + \frac{1}{6} e^{3x}$)

2. $y'' + 2y' + y = x$ ($y = c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 x e^{-x} + x - 2$)

$F(x) = \sin$ or \cos .

Our guess for y_p should be a linear combination of sin's and cos's.

↑ even if only one is in $F(x)$.

Ex 7. $y'' + 2y' - 3y = \sin(x)$ (Find the particular solution).

$$y_p = A \sin(x) + B \cos(x)$$

$$y_p' = A \cos(x) - B \sin(x)$$

$$y_p'' = -A \sin(x) - B \cos(x).$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -A\sin x - B\cos x + 2(A\cos x - B\sin x) - 3(A\sin x + B\cos x) \\
 & = (-A - 2B - 3A)\sin x + (-B + 2A - 3B)\cos x \\
 & = (-4A - 2B)\sin x + (-4B + 2A)\cos x = \sin x
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} -4A - 2B &= 1 \\ 2 \times (+2A - 4B &= 0) \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \begin{aligned} -4A - 2B &= 1 \\ \underline{4A - 8B} &= 0 \\ -10B &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

$$2A - 4\left(-\frac{1}{10}\right) = 0 \qquad B = -\frac{1}{10}$$

$$2A + \frac{2}{5} = 0 \Rightarrow A = -\frac{1}{5}$$

$$y_p = -\frac{1}{10}\cos x - \frac{1}{5}\sin x$$

↑ Notice that even though $F(x)$ just had $\sin x$, y_p involves both $\sin x$ and $\cos x$.

Exercise. Find the particular solution to,

$$y'' + 2y' = 4\cos(2x)$$

Answer. ~~$y'' + 2y' = 4\cos(2x)$~~ $y_p = \frac{1}{2}\sin(2x) - \frac{1}{2}\cos(2x)$.

F(x) = combination of things.

Ex 8. Find the particular solution to,

$$y'' + 2y = 3xe^x$$

polynomial * exponential.

Guess: $y_p = (\underline{A}x + \underline{B}) \cdot e^x$ ← no need to put a coefficient here
polynomial * exponential.

$$y_p = Axe^x + Be^x$$

$$y_p' = Ae^x + Axe^x + Be^x = Axe^x + (A+B)e^x$$

$$y_p'' = Axe^x + (2A+B)e^x$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_p'' + 2y_p &= Axe^x + (2A+B)e^x + 2(Axe^x + Be^x) \\ &= 3Axe^x + (2A+3B)e^x = 3xe^x \end{aligned}$$

$$3A = 3 \Rightarrow A = 1$$

$$2A + 3B = 0 \Rightarrow 2 + 3B = 0 \Rightarrow B = -\frac{2}{3}$$

$$y_p = xe^x - \frac{2}{3}e^x$$

Ex 9. Find the particular solution to

$$y'' + 4y' + 4y = x + e^{-x}$$

↑ ↖
polynomial + exponential.

$$y_p = Ax + B + Ce^{-x}$$

$$y_p' = A - Ce^{-x}$$

$$y_p'' = Ce^{-x}$$

$$Ce^{-x} + 4(A - Ce^{-x}) + 4(Ax + B + Ce^{-x})$$

$$= 4Ax + (4A + 4B) + (C - 4C + 4C)e^{-x} = x + e^{-x}$$

$$4A = 1 \Rightarrow A = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$4A + 4B = 0 \Rightarrow B = -\frac{1}{4}$$

$$C = 1$$

$$y_p = \frac{1}{4}x - \frac{1}{4} + e^{-x}$$

Again we can solve initial value problems & boundary value problems concerning these equations.

Ex 10. $y'' + y = x$, $y(0) = 1$, $y(\frac{\pi}{2}) = \pi$.

1. Solve for the general solution of $y'' + y = 0$.

$$r^2 + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow r = \pm i$$

$$y_c = C_1 \cos x + C_2 \sin x$$

2. Solve for the particular solution to

$$y'' + y = x$$

$$y_p = Ax + B$$

$$y_p'' = 0$$

$$y_p = x$$

$$y_p'' + y_p = Ax + B = x$$

$$A = 1$$

$$B = 0.$$

3. Solve the boundary value problems,

$$y = c_1 \cos x + c_2 \sin x + x$$

$$y(0) = 1 = c_1 \cos(0) + c_2 \sin(0) + 0$$

$$1 = c_1$$

$$y = \cos x + c_2 \sin x + x$$

$$y\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \pi = \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) + c_2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) + \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\pi = c_2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) + \frac{\pi}{2}$$

$$\frac{\pi}{2} = c_2$$

$$y = \cos x + \frac{\pi}{2} \sin x + x$$

Exercises.

1. $y'' + y = \sin(2x)$

2. $y'' + 2y' + y = x + 3e^{2x}$

3. $y'' + 4y' + 4y = x^2$, $y(0) = \frac{3}{8}$, $y'(0) = \frac{1}{2}$

Answers.

1. $y = c_1 \sin x + c_2 \cos x - \frac{1}{3} \sin(2x)$.

2. $y = c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 x e^{-x} + x - 2 + \frac{1}{3} e^{2x}$

3. $y = x e^{-2x} + \frac{1}{4} x^2 - \frac{1}{2} x + \frac{3}{8}$