

4.2 Reduction of Order, 2nd order ODE Existence & Uniqueness

Lets go back to variable coefficients

$$p(t)y'' + q(t)y' + r(t)y = 0$$

Q: Given a soln to this ODE, y_1 , can we find the second solution? y_2 .

(*) We will assume that $y_2(t) = v(t)y_1(t)$, a modification to the known solution y_1 .

This is a bit of a sketch. From 4.1 we know if two solns exist for a 2nd order ODE and they are linearly independent then that solution forms a set $\{y_1, y_2\}$ that we call the Fundamental Solution Set. That is where we then form the general solution:

$$y(t) = c_1 y_1(t) + c_2 y_2(t)$$

and no other solutions need be sought after.

EX We know that $y_1(t) = t^{-1}$ is a solution $\textcircled{2}$

to the Euler-Cauchy ODE:

$$2t^{\textcircled{2}} y^{\textcircled{11}} + t^{\textcircled{1}} y^{\textcircled{1}} - 3t^{\textcircled{0}} y^{\textcircled{0}} = 0$$

{ when the power of the polynomial = the degree of derivatives for all terms in an ODE it is called an Euler-Cauchy ODE }

• Let $y_2 = v(t)t^{-1}$, $t > 0$

then $y_2' = -t^{-2}v + t^{-1}v'$

and $y_2'' = 2t^{-3}v - 2t^{-2}v' + t^{-1}v''$

product rule

• Insert these into the ODE { combine order of derivatives }

$$2t^2(2t^{-3}v - 2t^{-2}v' + t^{-1}v'') + t(-t^{-2}v + t^{-1}v') - 3vt^{-1} = 0$$

• group orders of v :

$$(v'')(2t^2 \cdot t^{-1}) + v'(-4t^0 + t^0) + v(4t^{-1} - t^{-1} - 3t^{-1}) = 0$$

$= 0$ always.

$$\Rightarrow 2tv'' - 3v' = 0$$

Note that we do not see v by itself.

• So let $w(t) = v'(t)$ then $w'(t) = v''(t)$ and the above ODE in v becomes

$$2tw' - 3w = 0$$

"Reduction of order"
from 2 to 1 derivative

• Let's solve the ODE in w : use separation (3)
 $2t dw = 3w dt \div 2t \Rightarrow \boxed{\frac{dw}{w} = \frac{3}{2} \frac{dt}{t}}$

• Integrate: $\ln |w| = \frac{3}{2} \ln |t| + C$

• Raise as powers of e :

$$|w| = |t|^{3/2} \cdot C \quad \text{but } t > 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{w(t) = C t^{3/2}}$$

• Back out of our substitutions:

(i) $v(t) = \int w(t) dt$ since $w \equiv v'$

$$v(t) = \int C t^{3/2} dt \Rightarrow \boxed{v(t) = C t^{5/2} + K}$$

• But (ii) $y_2 = v \cdot y_1$ so

$$y_2 = [C t^{5/2} + K] t^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{y_2(t) = C t^{3/2} + K t^{-1}} ; y_1(t) = t^{-1}$$

• So the gen. solution $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \uparrow \\ \text{same} \end{array} \right.$

$$\boxed{y(t) = C_1 t^{3/2} + C_2 t^{-1}} \text{ the general solution.}$$

$$\text{to } 2t^2 y'' + t y' - 3y = 0$$

Def: let $W \equiv \begin{vmatrix} f(t) & g(t) \\ f'(t) & g'(t) \end{vmatrix}$ be the (4)
Wronskian of the two functions f & g .

Thm: If $W \neq 0$ then f & g are linearly independent. That is, $f(t)$ is not a disguised $g(t)$.

EX: Are e^t and $\sinh(t)$ Lin. Indep?

$$W = \begin{vmatrix} \sinh(t) & e^t \\ \cosh(t) & e^t \end{vmatrix} = e^t \sinh(t) - e^t \cosh(t)$$

$$= e^t \left(\frac{e^t - e^{-t}}{2} \right) - e^t \left(\frac{e^t + e^{-t}}{2} \right)$$

$= -1$, since not zero, yes $\sinh(t)$ & e^t are Lin. Indep.

EX: Are $f = \underline{t^{-1}}$ & $g = e^{-\ln(t)} \rightarrow e^{\ln(t^{-1})} \rightarrow \underline{t^{-1}}$ Lin. Indep?

$$f' = -\frac{1}{t^2} \quad g' = e^{-\ln(t)} \cdot \left(-\frac{1}{t} \right)$$

$$W = \begin{vmatrix} t^{-1} & e^{-\ln(t)} \\ -\frac{1}{t^2} & -\frac{e^{-\ln(t)}}{t} \end{vmatrix} = \left(-\frac{e^{-\ln(t)}}{t^2} \right) - \left(-\frac{e^{-\ln(t)}}{t^2} \right)$$

$= 0$ Not Lin. Indep.

EX are $\{\sinh(t), e^{-t}, e^t\}$ Lin. Indp? (5)

$$W = \begin{vmatrix} f & g & h \\ f' & g' & h' \\ f'' & g'' & h'' \end{vmatrix} \text{ for 3 functions}$$

$$\text{So } W = \begin{vmatrix} \sinh(t) & e^{-t} & e^t \\ \cosh(t) & -e^{-t} & e^t \\ \sinh(t) & e^{-t} & e^t \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= +e^t \begin{vmatrix} \cosh(t) & -e^{-t} \\ \sinh(t) & e^{-t} \end{vmatrix} - e^t \begin{vmatrix} \sinh(t) & e^{-t} \\ \sinh(t) & e^{-t} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$+ e^t \begin{vmatrix} \sinh(t) & e^{-t} \\ \cosh(t) & -e^{-t} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= e^t [e^{-t} \cosh(t) + e^{-t} \sinh(t)] + e^t [-e^{-t} \sinh(t) - e^{-t} \cosh(t)]$$

$$= \cosh(t) + \sinh(t) - \sinh(t) - \cosh(t)$$

$$= \boxed{0} \text{ the 3 functions } \{\sinh(t), e^{-t}, e^t\}$$

are not Lin. Indp. That is because

$$\sinh(t) = \frac{e^t - e^{-t}}{2} \text{ i.e. } \sinh(t)$$

is created from e^{-t} & e^t , or, as we say

a Linear Combination of e^{-t} & e^t .

Ex Back to our ODE $2t^2y'' + ty' - 3y = 0$ (6)

we were given $y_1 = t^{-1}$ and via reduction of order we found $y_2 = t^{3/2}$

• Check Lin. Indep: for this solution set $\{t^{-1}, t^{3/2}\}$

$$W = \begin{vmatrix} t^{-1} & t^{3/2} \\ -t^{-2} & \frac{3}{2}t^{1/2} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (t^{-1})\left(\frac{3}{2}t^{1/2}\right) - (-t^{-2})(t^{3/2})$$

$$= \frac{3}{2}t^{-1/2} + t^{-1/2}$$

$\neq 0$ not identically zero, y_1, y_2 are L.I.

• So we were justified in forming the gen. soln from these two functions.

$$y(t) = C_1 t^{-1} + C_2 t^{3/2}$$

* Motivation for the Wronskian

7

Consider the I.V.P. $\begin{cases} P(t)y'' + q(t)y' + r(t)y = 0 \\ \text{with } y(t_0) = y_0, y'(t_0) = (y')_0 \end{cases}$

• Form $y(t) = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$ where y_1 & y_2 are solutions

• Apply I.C. (i) $y(t_0) = c_1 y_1(t_0) + c_2 y_2(t_0)$

diff't $y'(t) = c_1 y_1'(t) + c_2 y_2'(t)$ @ t_0

(ii) $y'(t_0) = c_1 y_1'(t_0) + c_2 y_2'(t_0)$

These result in two eqns of two unknowns.

$$\Rightarrow \left. \begin{aligned} c_1 \overbrace{y_1(t_0)}^a + c_2 \overbrace{y_2(t_0)}^b &= y_0 \\ c_1 \underbrace{y_1'(t_0)}_d + c_2 \underbrace{y_2'(t_0)}_f &= y_0' \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Via Cramer's Rule: Given $\begin{cases} ax + by = c \\ dx + fy = g \end{cases}$ then

$$x = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} c & b \\ g & f \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ d & f \end{vmatrix}} \quad \& \quad y = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} a & c \\ d & g \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ d & f \end{vmatrix}}$$

the solution of c_1 & c_2 relies on the

determinant $\begin{vmatrix} y_1(t_0) & y_2(t_0) \\ y_1'(t_0) & y_2'(t_0) \end{vmatrix}$

Wronskian

not being zero.
for a solution to exist.

So when the set $\{y_1, y_2\}$ is Lin. Indp. ^(E)
we call it a fundamental Solution Set to
the ODE

[ex] $\{\sinh(t), e^{-t}, e^t\}$ are Lin. Dependent, ^{functions} {one function too many}

but $\{e^{-t}, e^t\}$ is Lin. Independent

or $\{\sinh(t), e^t\}$ Lin. Independent also

i.e. any two is a fundamental set.

Ex In the previous lecture we used

$y_1 = e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t)$ & $y_2 = e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t)$ as though

they were Lin. Indep. { Real & Imaginary parts of $e^{(\lambda \pm \mu i)t}$ }

prove this via the Wronskian.

$W = \begin{vmatrix} e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t) & e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t) \\ \lambda e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t) - \mu e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t) & \lambda e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t) + \mu e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t) \end{vmatrix}$

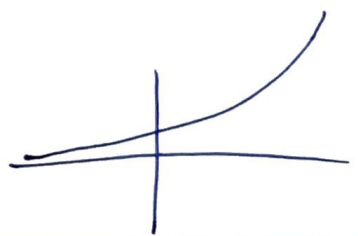
~~$= e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t) \lambda e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t) + e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t) \mu e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t)$~~

~~$- [e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t) \lambda e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t) - e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t) \mu e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t)]$~~

$= 2\mu e^{2\lambda t} \cos^2(\mu t) + 2\mu e^{2\lambda t} \sin^2(\mu t)$

$= 2\mu e^{2\lambda t} [\cos^2(\mu t) + \sin^2(\mu t)]$

$= 2\mu e^{2\lambda t} \neq 0$



So $\{ e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t), e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t) \}$ are indeed Lin. Independent.

So $y(t) = c_1 e^{\lambda t} \cos(\mu t) + c_2 e^{\lambda t} \sin(\mu t)$ is the gen. soln.

of the ode $ay'' + by' + cy = 0$ when

$ar^2 + br + c = 0$ yields roots $r = \lambda \pm \mu i$

Finally lets study (EX#3) from text

6

EX#3 text: We know $y_1 = \frac{\sin x}{\sqrt{x}}$ is a soln of
 $x^2 y'' + xy' + (x^2 - \frac{1}{4})y = 0$ on $(0, \pi)$

Find a second soln using the formula

• $\div x^2 \Rightarrow \underline{y'' + \frac{1}{x}y' + (1 - \frac{1}{4x^2})y = 0}$ $P = \frac{1}{x}$

• formula $y_2(x) = \left(\frac{\sin x}{\sqrt{x}}\right) \int \frac{e^{-\int \frac{1}{x} dx}}{\left(\frac{\sin x}{\sqrt{x}}\right)^2} dx$

$$= \frac{\sin x}{\sqrt{x}} \int \frac{x e^{\ln|x^{-1}|}}{\sin^2(x)} dx$$

$$= \frac{\sin x}{\sqrt{x}} \int \frac{x(x^{-1})}{\sin^2(x)} dx$$

$$= \frac{\sin x}{\sqrt{x}} \int \csc^2(x) dx$$

$$= \frac{\sin x}{\sqrt{x}} (-\cot x)$$

$$y_2 = -\frac{\cos x}{\sqrt{x}}$$

$$\left\{ y_1 = \frac{\sin x}{\sqrt{x}}, y_2 = \frac{\cos x}{\sqrt{x}} \right\}$$

these are lin Ind

$$\left\{ \text{by def: } c_1 \frac{\sin x}{\sqrt{x}} + c_2 \frac{\cos x}{\sqrt{x}} = 0 \Rightarrow c_1, c_2 = 0 \right\}$$