

★ Introduction to 2nd Order Linear Equations

Warm up: What is the solution to:

$$y' - ry = 0?$$

where r is a const

1st order, linear, rewrite

$$y' = ry \rightarrow \text{separable}$$

$$\int \frac{dy}{y} = \int r dx$$

$$e^{\ln y} = e^{rx + C}$$

$$y(x) = Ae^{rx}$$

I. 2nd Order Linear Eqn:

Def: A 2nd order linear ODE can be written in the form:

$$(*) \quad A(x)y'' + B(x)y' + C(x)y = F(x)$$

If $F(x) \equiv 0$, then the ODE is called homogeneous - 2nd order
- linear

Otherwise, if $F(x) \neq 0$, then it is called non-homogeneous

Note: Unfortunately 2 definitions of homogeneous

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \text{vs. } \frac{dy}{dx} = F\left(\frac{y}{x}\right) \\ \text{--- 1st order} \\ \text{--- nonlinear} \end{array} \right)$$

BUT - use context clues to determine which

Special case:

Assume:

$$A(x) = a$$

$$B(x) = b$$

$$C(x) = c$$

{ all constants

and

$$F(x) = 0$$

Then:

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

... that (□) has constant coefficients

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0$$

We say that (0) has constant coefficients

Strategy: Look for solutions of the form $y(x) = e^{rx}$ — r constant unknown.

Ex: $y'' + 2y' - 8y = 0$

$$a=0 \quad c=-8 \\ b=+2$$

Ansatz: $y = e^{rx}$

plug into the ODE

$$y' = r e^{rx}$$

$$y'' = r^2 e^{rx}$$

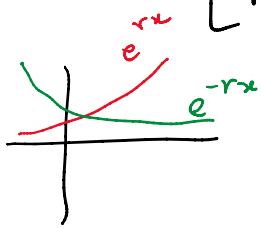
$$[r^2 e^{rx}] + 2[r e^{rx}] - 8[e^{rx}] = 0$$

pull out e^{rx}

$$e^{rx} [r^2 + 2r - 8] = 0$$

never zero

must be zero



$$r^2 + 2r - 8 = 0$$

called the characteristic equation of the ODE

Find the roots of char. eq:

$$(r+4)(r-2) = 0$$

Roots: $r = -4$ and $r = +2$

Solutions had their form $y(x) = e^{rx}$

When $r = -4$, we get one solution

$$y_1(x) = e^{-4x}$$

Check that y_1 solves the ODE:
 $y_1 = e^{-4x}$ $y_1' = -4e^{-4x}$ $y_1'' = 16e^{-4x}$

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plug into ODE $y'' + 2y' - 8y \stackrel{?}{=} 0$

$$[16e^{-4x}] + 2[-4e^{-4x}] - 8[e^{-4x}] \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$e^{-4x} [16 - 8 - 8] \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$0 \stackrel{\checkmark}{=} 0$$

so yes $y_1(x)$ solves the ODE

Similarly, when $r = +2$

$$y_2(x) = e^{2x} \text{ solves the ODE.}$$

The general solution to the ODE is a linear combination of the 2 solutions

$$y(x) = C_1 y_1(x) + C_2 y_2(x)$$

$$y(x) = C_1 e^{-4x} + C_2 e^{2x}$$

Principle of Superposition:

If $y_1(x)$ and $y_2(x)$ solve (*) then $y(x) = C_1 y_1(x) + C_2 y_2(x)$, where C_1 and C_2 are constants, also solves (*)

Note: Only true if the ODE is linear

Ex: Consider the IVP: $y'' + 2y' - 8y = 0$, $y(0) = 3$, $y'(0) = -1$

Note: A 2nd order ODE will have 2 initial conditions

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our general solution
 $y(x) = C_1 e^{-4x} + C_2 e^{2x}$

1st initial condition
 $y(0) = 3 = [C_1 e^{-4x} + C_2 e^{2x}] \Big|_{x=0}$

$$3 = C_1 + C_2$$

2nd initial condition
calc y' : $y'(x) = -4C_1 e^{-4x} + 2C_2 e^{2x}$

$$y'(0) = -1 = [-4C_1 e^{-4x} + 2C_2 e^{2x}] \Big|_{x=0}$$

$$-1 = -4C_1 + 2C_2$$

So now, need to solve:

$$\begin{cases} 3 = C_1 + C_2 \\ -1 = -4C_1 + 2C_2 \end{cases}$$

system of linear algebraic equation

2 equations
2 unknowns
has a unique soln

$$C_1 = 3 - C_2$$

$$-1 = -4(3 - C_2) + 2C_2$$

$$-1 = -12 + 4C_2 + 2C_2 = -12 + 6C_2$$

$$11 = 6C_2 \quad C_2 = \frac{11}{6}$$

$$C_1 = 3 - \frac{11}{6} = \frac{18-11}{6} = \frac{7}{6}$$

particular solution

$$y(x) = \frac{7}{6} e^{-4x} + \frac{11}{6} e^{2x}$$

Here: started w/ ODE \longrightarrow solution y_1 and y_2
 \longleftarrow go in this direction

Ex: $y(x) = c_1 e^{2x} + c_2 e^{-x}$

Q: what ODE does it solve?

roots of characteristic eqn: $r=2, r=-1$

derive char eqn: $(r-2)(r+1) = 0$

expand this out $r^2 + r - 2r - 2 = 0$

char. eqn: $r^2 - r - 2 = 0$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (1)r^2 + (-1)r + (-2) = 0 \\ \parallel & \parallel & \parallel \\ a & b & c \end{array}$$

plug into (17)

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0$$

This an ODE that has that solution

$$\boxed{y'' - y' - 2y = 0}$$

NOT necessarily unique

multiply by 3

$$3y'' - 3y' - 6y = 0$$

has the same solution.

Recall

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0$$

Procedure:

1. Find the characteristic equation
 $ar^2 + br + c = 0$

2. Find the roots r_1 and r_2

(*) ... union two linearly independent solutions (*)

(*)
more
detail
next
lecture

2. Find ...

3. Write down two linearly independent solutions
 $y_1(x) = e^{r_1 x}$ $y_2 = e^{r_2 x}$

4. Use principle of superposition

general soln: $y(x) = C_1 e^{r_1 x} + C_2 e^{r_2 x}$

Q: What if the characteristic equation has a repeated root? ($r_1 = r_2$)?

Ex: $y'' + 2y' + y = 0$

1. Characteristic eqn:

$$r^2 + 2r + 1 = 0$$

2. Find the roots

$$(r+1)^2 = 0$$

$$r_1 = -1$$

$$r_2 = -1$$

repeated root

3. We have at least 1 solution

$$y_1(x) = e^{-x}$$

but, the 2nd solution is not linearly independent

$$y_2(x) = e^{-x}$$

Q: What happens if we take $y_2(x) = e^{-x}$
 $y'' + 2y' + y = 0$, $y(0) = 1$, $y'(0) = 2$

Let the general soln:

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

$$y'(x) = -C_1 e^{-x} - C_2 e^{-x}$$

initial conditions

$$x=0 \quad y=1$$

initial conditions

$$y(0) = 1 = [c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 e^{-x}]|_{x=0}$$

$$1 = c_1 + c_2$$

$$y'(0) = 2 = [-c_1 e^{-x} - c_2 e^{-x}]|_{x=0}$$

$$2 = -c_1 - c_2$$

want to solve:

$$1 = c_1 + c_2$$

$$2 = -c_1 - c_2$$

$$c_1 = 1 - c_2$$

$$2 = -[1 - c_2] - c_2 = -1 + \cancel{c_2} - c_2$$

$$2 = -1 \implies \Leftarrow$$

cannot find c_1 and c_2 to solve the IVP.

Instead, let's take
 $y_2(x) = x e^{-x}$

← multiply by x

Exercise: check that y_2 solves the ODE

General soln: $y(x) = c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 x e^{-x}$

plug in init cond: $y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 2$

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

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

$$y(0) = 1 = [c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 x e^{-x}]|_{x=0}$$

$$1 = c_1 + 0 \rightarrow c_1 = 1$$

$$y'(0) = 2 = \left[(c_2 - c_1)e^{-x} - c_2 x e^{-x} \right] \Big|_{x=0}$$

$$2 = c_2 - c_1 + 0 = c_2 - 1$$

$$c_2 = 3$$

So the particular solution

$$y(x) = e^{-x} + 3xe^{-x}$$

Check that $y_2(x) = xe^{-x}$ solves $y'' + 2y' + y = 0$

$$y_2' = (1)e^{-x} + x(-e^{-x}) = (1-x)e^{-x}$$

$$y_2'' = (-1)e^{-x} + (1-x)(-e^{-x})$$

$$= [-1 - 1 + x]e^{-x} = [-2 + x]e^{-x}$$

plug into ODE

$$[-2+x]e^{-x} + 2[(1-x)e^{-x}] + [xe^{-x}] \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$e^{-x} [-2+x + 2(1-x) + x] \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$e^{-x} [-\cancel{2} + \cancel{x} + \cancel{2} - \cancel{2x} + \cancel{x}] \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$0 = 0_{-x}$$

so yes, $y_2(x) = xe^{-x}$ solves the ODE.

II. Linear Independence:

Def: Two functions $y_1(x)$ and $y_2(x)$ are linearly independent if, for k_1 and k_2 constants

$$k_1 y_1(x) + k_2 y_2(x) = 0$$

implies that $k_1 = k_2 = 0$.

Conversely, $y_1(x)$ and $y_2(x)$ are linearly dependent if $k_1 \neq 0$

Conversely, $y_1(x)$ and $y_2(x)$ are linearly dependent if there exists $k_1 \neq 0$ and $k_2 \neq 0$ such that $k_1 y_1(x) + k_2 y_2(x) = 0$.

Ex: linearly dependent

(a) $y_1(x) = x$ $y_2(x) = 3x$

$$k_1 y_1 + k_2 y_2 = 0$$

$$k_1 x + k_2 (3x) = 0$$

$$(k_1 + 3k_2)x = 0$$

choose $k_2 = 1, k_1 = -3$

$$-3x + (1)3x = 0$$

→ linearly dependent

(b) $y_3(x) = e^x$ $y_4 = \frac{1}{2}e^x$

$$k_3 e^x + k_4 \left(\frac{1}{2}e^x\right) = 0$$

$$e^x \left[k_3 + \frac{k_4}{2} \right] = 0$$

$$k_4 = 2 \quad k_3 = -1$$

$$-e^x + 2\left(\frac{1}{2}e^x\right) = 0$$

so → linearly dependent

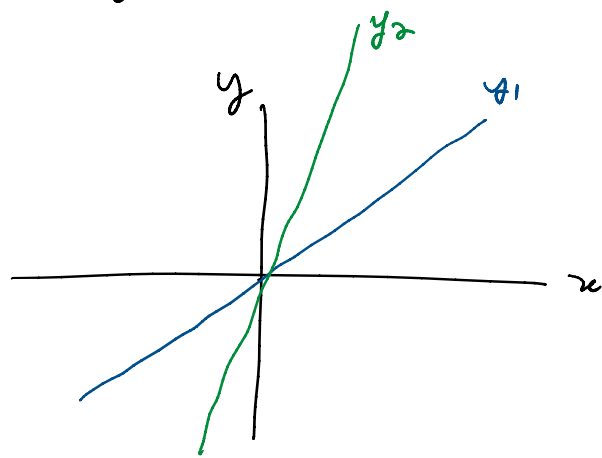
(c) $y_5 = 1+x$ $y_6 = -2-2x$

$$k_5(1+x) + k_6(-2-2x) \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

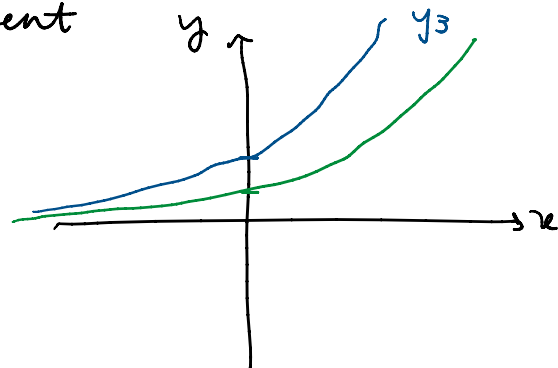
$$y_6 = -2y_5$$

$$k_6 = 1 \quad k_5 = -2$$

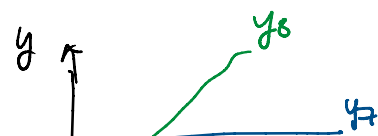
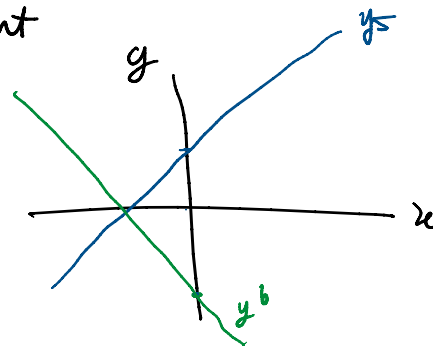
→ linearly dependent



y_2 looks like y_1 stretched



y_4 looks like y_3 squashed



Ex: Linearly Independent:

... ..

Ex: Linearly independent:

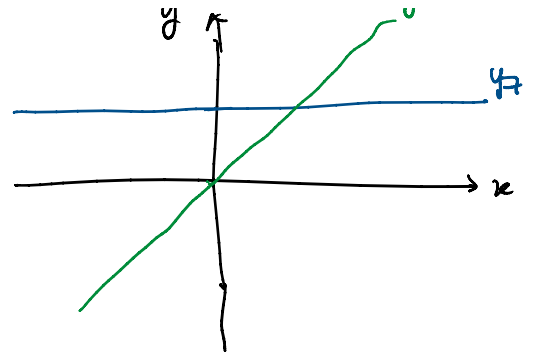
(d) $y_7 = 1$ $y_8 = x$

$$k_7(1) + k_8x \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$k_7 = -k_8x \Rightarrow \neq$$

no longer a constant

need $k_7=0$ and $k_8=0$
 \hookrightarrow linearly independent



(e) $y_9 = e^x$ $y_{10} = e^{2x}$

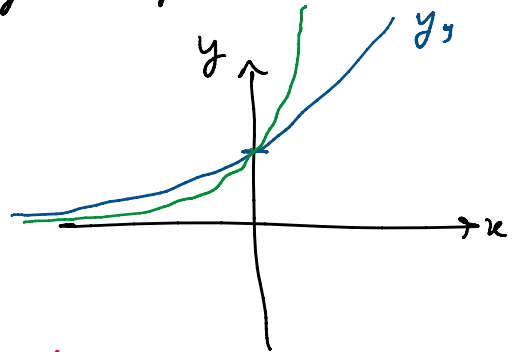
$$k_9 e^x + k_{10} e^{2x} \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$e^x [k_9 + k_{10} e^x] \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$k_9 = -k_{10} e^x \Rightarrow \neq$$

no longer a constant

$k_9=0$ and $k_{10}=0$
 \hookrightarrow linearly independent



linearly dependent

if $y_1 = k y_2$
 constant multiple

linearly independent

if $y_1 \neq k y_2$
 more than a constant multiple

Back to Example:

$$y_1 = e^{-x}$$

$$y_2 = e^{-x}$$

$y_1 = (1)y_2 \rightarrow$ linearly dependent

Fix:
 $y_1 = e^{-x}$

$$y_2 = x e^{-x}$$

$$k_1 e^{-x} + k_2 x e^{-x} \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$e^{-x} [k_1 + k_2 x] \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

$$k_1 = -k_2 x \Rightarrow \Leftarrow$$

no longer a constant

so $k_1 = 0$ and $k_2 = 0$

$\hookrightarrow y_1$ and y_2 are linearly independent.