

Math 2150-02

3/24/25



Recap from last time

Given: y_1, y_2 are linearly independent solutions to
 $y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = 0$

Result: A particular solution to

$$y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = b(x)$$

is given by

$$y_p = v_1 y_1 + v_2 y_2$$

where

$$v_1 = \int -\frac{y_2 b(x)}{W(y_1, y_2)} dx, v_2 = \int \frac{y_1 b(x)}{W(y_1, y_2)} dx$$

Ex: Solve

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = (x+1)e^{2x}$$

using variation of parameters

Step 1: Solve

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = 0$$

The characteristic equation is

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

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

$$r = 2 \quad \text{← repeated root}$$

$$y_h = C_1 e^{2x} + C_2 x e^{2x}$$

This gives us

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

to use in the next step

Step 2: Now we find y_p for

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = \underbrace{(x+1) e^{2x}}_{b(x)}$$

We use

$$y_p = v_1 y_1 + v_2 y_2$$

where

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

Let's calculate v_1 and v_2 .

We need the Wronskian!

$$W(y_1, y_2) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y'_1 & y'_2 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= (e^{2x})(e^{2x} + 2xe^{2x})$$

$$- (xe^{2x})(2e^{2x})$$

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

$$= e^{4x}$$

Then,

$$V_1 = \int \frac{-y_2 b(x)}{W(y_1, y_2)} dx$$

$$= \int \frac{-(x e^{2x}) \cdot (x+1) e^{2x}}{e^{4x}} dx$$

$$= \int \frac{-x(x+1) e^{2x} e^{2x}}{e^{4x}} dx$$

$$= \int \frac{(-x^2 - x) e^{4x}}{e^{4x}} dx$$

$$= \int (-x^2 - x) dx$$

$$= \boxed{-\frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^2}{2}}$$

And,

$$V_2 = \int \frac{y_1 b(x)}{W(y_1, y_2)} dx$$

$e^{2x} e^{2x} = e^{4x}$

$$= \int \frac{e^{2x} \cdot (x+1) e^{2x}}{e^{4x}} dx$$

$$= \int (x+1) dx$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{1}{2}x^2 + x}$$

Thus,

$$y_p = V_1 y_1 + V_2 y_2$$

$$= \left(-\frac{1}{3}x^3 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 \right) e^{2x} + \left(\frac{1}{2}x^2 + x \right) x e^{2x}$$

Step 3: The general solution to

$$y'' - 4y' + 4y = (x+1)e^{2x}$$

is

$$y = y_h + y_p$$

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

$$+ \left(-\frac{1}{3}x^3 - \frac{1}{2}x^2 \right) e^{2x} + \left(\frac{1}{2}x^2 + x \right) x e^{2x}$$

Ex: Let's solve

$$y'' + y = \tan(x)$$

Step 1: Solve

$$y'' + y = 0$$

The characteristic equation is

$$r^2 + 1 = 0$$

roots are

$$r = \frac{-0 \pm \sqrt{0^2 - 4(1)(1)}}{2(1)}$$

$$= \frac{\pm \sqrt{-4}}{2} = \frac{\pm \cancel{\sqrt{4}} \sqrt{-1}}{\cancel{2}}$$

$$= \pm \sqrt{-1} = \pm i$$

$$= \underbrace{0 \pm 1 \cdot i}_{\alpha \pm \beta i}$$

So,

$$y_h = c_1 e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x) + c_2 e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x)$$

$$y_h = c_1 \cos(x) + c_2 \sin(x)$$

$$e^{0x} = e^0 = 1$$

For next step

$$y_1 = \cos(x), y_2 = \sin(x)$$

Step 2: Find y_p for

$$y'' + y = \underbrace{\tan(x)}_{b(x)}$$

Use $y_1 = \cos(x)$, $y_2 = \sin(x)$.

We will need

$$W(y_1, y_2) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{vmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{vmatrix} \cos(x) & \sin(x) \\ -\sin(x) & \cos(x) \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \cos(x)\cos(x) - (\sin(x))(-\sin(x))$$

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

We get

$$\begin{aligned} V_1 &= \int \frac{-y_2 b(x)}{W(y_1, y_2)} dx \\ &= \int \frac{-\sin(x) + \tan(x)}{1} dx \\ &= \int -\sin(x) \cdot \frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)} dx \\ &= \int \frac{-\sin^2(x)}{\cos(x)} dx \\ &= \int \frac{\cos^2(x) - 1}{\cos(x)} dx \end{aligned}$$



$$\boxed{\sin^2(x) + \cos^2(x) = 1}$$

$$= \int \left(\frac{\cos^2(x)}{\cos(x)} - \frac{1}{\cos(x)} \right) dx$$

$$= \int (\cos(x) - \sec(x)) dx$$

V_1

$$= \boxed{\sin(x) - \ln |\sec(x) + \tan(x)|}$$

And,

$$V_2 = \int \frac{y_1 b(x)}{w(y_1, y_2)} dx$$

$$= \int \frac{\cos(x) + \tan(x)}{1} dx$$

$$= \int \cos(x) \cdot \frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)} dx$$

$$= \int \sin(x) dx = \boxed{-\cos(x)}$$

V₂

Thus,

$$y_p = V_1 y_1 + V_2 y_2$$

$$= (\sin(x) - \ln|\sec(x) + \tan(x)|) \cos(x)$$

$$- \cos(x) \cdot \sin(x)$$

$$y_p = -\ln|\sec(x) + \tan(x)| \cdot \cos(x)$$

Step 3: The general solution to
 $y'' + y = \tan(x)$ is

$$y = y_h + y_p$$

$$= C_1 \cos(x) + C_2 \sin(x)$$

$$- \ln|\sec(x) + \tan(x)| \cdot \cos(x)$$

