

Handout with contact details / office hours / course outline etc.

## § 0. Introduction

Differential equations allow us to express the rate of change of any given quantity. For example, recall Newton's 2nd Law applied to a point particle:

$$F = ma,$$

where  $a$  is the acceleration of the particle,  $m$  is its mass, and  $F$  is the force applied.

We know that  $a$  is the rate of change of the velocity,  $v$ , which itself is the rate of change of the position,  $x$ . Therefore,

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt} \quad \text{and} \quad v = \frac{dx}{dt} \quad \text{and} \quad a = \frac{d^2x}{dt^2}.$$

We often denote differentiation w.r.t time with a "dot":

$$a = \dot{v}, \quad v = \dot{x}, \quad a = \ddot{x}.$$

Therefore,  $F = ma$  is the same as:

$$m\ddot{x} = m\dot{v} = ma = F \quad (\otimes)$$

We can imagine that  $F$  might be constant, or

both  $m\ddot{x} = F$  and  $m\dot{v} = F$  are differential eqns.

### Example

Let's consider motion in a constant gravitational field. Then,  $F = -mg$ , where  $g$  is the acceleration due to gravity. Then,  $\textcircled{A}$  simplifies to:

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = \ddot{x} = -g.$$

We know how to integrate once:

$$v = \dot{x} = \frac{dx}{dt} = -gt + C$$

where  $C$  is a constant of integration.

We may integrate once more:

$$x(t) = -\frac{1}{2}gt^2 + ct + B$$

where  $B$  is another constant.

To find  $C$  and  $B$  we need initial conditions. These provide added content to the physical situation.

For example, suppose that the particle is at rest <sup>at  $x=0$</sup>  when  $t=0$ . This tells us that:

$$x(0) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \dot{x}(0) = v(0) = 0.$$

But,  $v = -gt + C$ . So  $v(0) = 0 \Rightarrow C = 0$ .

Then,  $x = -\frac{1}{2}gt^2 + B$ , so  $x(0) = 0 \Rightarrow B = 0$ .

HO  $\frac{1}{2}gt^2$  CONDN

## Example

In reality, a particle experiences drag as it falls. A good model of this drag is to assume that there is an added force proportional to  $v^2$ . In this case, (\*) becomes:

$$m\dot{v} = -mg + kv^2, \quad k = \text{const.} \quad (\dagger)$$

We don't have the tools to solve this yet, but we can investigate the steady state. This occurs when there is no rate of change of  $v$ , i.e.  $\dot{v} = 0$ . The velocity at which this occurs is called the terminal velocity, and is found by solving  $(\dagger)$  when  $\dot{v} = 0$ .

ie:

$$m\dot{v} = -mg + kv_T^2 = 0$$

where  $v_T \equiv$  terminal velocity. Rearranging, we find:

$$v_T = \pm \sqrt{\frac{mg}{k}}. \quad \text{But } g \text{ acts downwards, so } v_T = -\sqrt{\frac{mg}{k}}.$$

## § 0.1 Terminology of D.E.S

### Def<sup>n</sup>

A linear ordinary differential equation (linear ODE) for the function  $y(x)$  is a relation of the form:

$$a_n(x) \frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + a_{n-1}(x) \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dx^{n-1}} + \dots + a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x)y = f(x)$$

- The order of the ODE is  $n$ .
- The ODE is linear because none of the terms

depend on powers of  $y$  or its derivatives  
(eg  $y^2$ ,  $(\frac{dy}{dx})^2$ ,  $\sin(y)$ ).

- If  $f=0$ , then the ODE is homogeneous.
- If the  $a_i(x)$  are in fact constant (do not depend on  $x$ ), then the ODE is constant coefficient.

## §1 Linear, First Order ODEs

We will start with linear, first order ODEs. These provide a good starting point, and highlight some key features of ODEs that will be important later when we consider nonlinear first order ODEs and ODEs of higher order.

### §1.1 Homogeneous, constant coeff. first order linear ODE

These are ODEs of the form:

$$a \frac{dy}{dx} + by = 0 \quad \text{where } a \neq 0 \text{ and } b \text{ are constants.}$$

For differentiation wrt space,  $x$ , we often write

$$y' \equiv \frac{dy}{dx}, \quad y'' \equiv \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \text{ etc.}$$

Let's simplify and write:

$$y' + ky = 0, \quad \text{where } k = b/a.$$

## Observation

When  $k = -1$ , we obtain  $y' = y$  (or  $\frac{dy}{dx} = y$ ). Recall that this relation in fact defines the exponential function  $\exp(x)$ , or the exponent of the number  $e$ , i.e.  $e^x$ .

Therefore,  $y_p(x) = e^x$  solves  $y_p' = y_p$ , and is a particular solution.

However, it is not the general solution, since every function of the form  $y(x) = Ae^x$ , for some constant  $A$ , are solutions. " $A$ " is in fact a constant of integration: see later. This is also the only type of solution (see later), and hence is the general solution.

To determine  $A$ , we need a boundary condition.

Eg. If  $y(0) = y_0$  where  $y_0 = \text{const}$ , then we require

$$y(0) = Ae^0 = A = y_0 \Rightarrow A = y_0 \text{ so that}$$

the soln is  $y(x) = y_0 e^x$ .

GRAPH 1  $\rightarrow$  vary  $y_0$

## Remarks

- An  $n$ -th order linear ODE has a general solution with  $n$  constants of integration. (see later  $n=1,2$ )
- To determine  $n$  unknown constants, we require

$n$  initial or boundary conditions. (ICs or BCs)

• The solution  $y(x) = y_0 e^x$  satisfies the ODE and the BC.

To demonstrate that  $Ae^x$  is the general solution, we need only show that  $y(x) = y_0 e^x$  is unique.

---

What about general  $k$ ? It is reasonable to hypothesize that the exp. function will again be important. We start with some definitions:

Def<sup>n</sup> A differential operator is an operation that may be applied to a differentiable function  $y(x)$  and is written:

$$D = a_n \frac{d^n}{dx^n} + a_{n-1} \frac{d^{n-1}}{dx^{n-1}} + \dots + a_1 \frac{d}{dx} + a_0,$$

and is understood through its action on  $y(x)$ :

$$D[y] := a_n \frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + a_{n-1} \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dx^{n-1}} + \dots + a_1 \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0 y.$$

Then, our general ~~ODE~~ <sup>ODE</sup> is written compactly as

$$D[y] = f, \text{ for some function } f(x).$$

Then, we have:

• The ODE is homogeneous if  $f=0$ , and so  $y=0$  is a solution. (Though not the general solution).

• The ODE is linear if the differential operator  $D$  is linear in the sense that for all functions  $y_1(x), y_2(x)$  and all constants  $a$  and  $b$ , we have:

$$D[ay_1 + by_2] = aD[y_1] + bD[y_2]$$

and so we require that  $a_i(x)$  depend on  $x$  only (and not  $y$ ).

Def<sup>n</sup>

Let  $D$  be a linear differential operator. Then, the function  $y(x)$  is an eigenfunction of  $D$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda$  if

$$D[y] = \lambda y.$$

[c.f. eigenvectors / eigenvalues of matrices]

Observation

The function  $y(x) = e^{-\lambda x}$  is an eigenfunction of the differential operator  $D = \frac{d}{dx}$ , since

$$D[y] = \frac{d}{dx} [e^{-\lambda x}] = \lambda (e^{-\lambda x}) = \lambda y.$$

Idea

Since  $e^{-\lambda x}$  is (relatively) unchanged by  $\frac{d}{dx}$ , let's try it as an ansatz (fancy German term that

mathematicians use to mean "educated guess") for the solution to an ODE.

### Example

Solve  $y' + ky = 0$  with ~~BC~~  $y(0) = y_0$ .

Sol<sup>n</sup>

Let's try the ansatz  $y(x) = e^{-\lambda x}$ . Then,  
 $y' + ky = \lambda e^{-\lambda x} + k e^{-\lambda x} = (\lambda + k) e^{-\lambda x} = 0$ .

So we have a soln if  $\lambda + k = 0$  (since  $e^{-\lambda x} \neq 0$ )

Hence,  $\lambda = -k$ .

Then general solution to the ODE is therefore

$y(x) = A e^{-kx}$  some constant  $A$ .

The ~~BC~~  $y(0) = y_0 \Rightarrow A = y_0$ . So the soln is:  
 $y(x) = y_0 e^{-kx}$ .

### Example

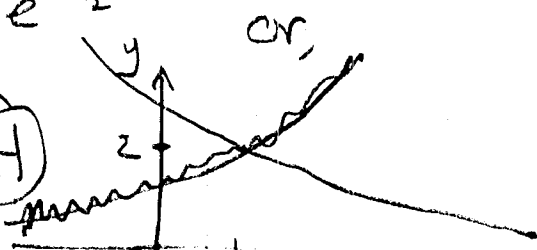
Solve  $2y' + 3y = 0$  with ~~BC~~  $y(1) = 2$ .

Sol<sup>n</sup> Gen. soln is  $y = A e^{-\frac{3}{2}x}$  since  $y' + \frac{3}{2}y = 0$   
(so  $k = \frac{3}{2}$ ). Then,  $y(1) = A e^{-\frac{3}{2}} = 2$ . So

$A = 2 e^{\frac{3}{2}}$  and  $y(x) = 2 e^{\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{3}{2}x}$

$y(x) = 2 e^{-\frac{3}{2}(x-1)}$

GRAPH





## § 1.2 Inhomogeneous, <sup>linear</sup> const. coeff. first order ODEs

These take the form:

$$y' + ky = f(x).$$

We will consider various  $f(x)$ . For compactness let's write  $D[y] := y' + ky$ , so that the ODE is  $D[y] = f$ .

### Observation

Suppose that the function  $y_p(x)$  satisfies the ODE, i.e. that  $D[y_p] = f$ . Then  $y_p(x)$  is called a particular solution.

How do we find the general solution?

Note that unlike for the homogeneous case, we cannot multiply  $y_p$  by a constant, since:

$$\begin{aligned} D[Ay_p] &= A y_p' + A k y_p = A(y_p' + k y_p) \\ &= A f \neq f \quad (\text{unless } A=1). \end{aligned}$$

and so  $Ay_p$  does not solve the ODE.

However, if  $y_h(x)$  is a solution to the homogeneous problem,  $D[y_h] = 0$ , then  $y(x) = y_p(x) + y_h(x)$  solves the ODE.

$$\begin{aligned} D[y_p + y_h] &= D[y_p] + D[y_h] && \text{since } D \\ &= f + 0 && \text{linear} \end{aligned}$$

In this case, we know that  $y_h(x) = Ae^{-kx}$ , for some constant  $A$ .

Hence, the general soln to  $D[y] = f$  is:  
 $y(x) = y_p(x) + Ae^{-kx}$ , where  $y_p(x)$  is any solution.

Given the BC  $y_0 = y_0$ , we see that

$$y_p(0) + Ae^{-0} = y_p(0) + A = y_0$$

and so  $A = y_0 - y_p(0)$ , and the soln is:

$$y(x) = y_p(x) + (y_0 - y_p(0))e^{-kx}$$

## Idea

Provided that we can find any function  $y_p(x)$  that solves  $D[y_p] = f$ , then the ODE can be solved by adding the homogeneous general soln  $y_h(x)$  to  $y_p(x)$ .

It is often correct to choose an ansatz for  $y_p$  that has the same functional form as  $f(x)$ . "Method of undetermined coeffs".

## Example

Solve  $y' + ky = B$  for some constant  $B$  and  $y_0 = y_0$

Try  $y_p(x) = C = \text{const.}$

Then  $D[y_p] = y_p' + ky_p = 0 + kC = B$

So  $C = B/k$  and  $y_0 = B/k$ .

Then, the full soln is:

$$y(x) = \frac{B}{k} + \left(y_0 - \frac{B}{k}\right) e^{-kx}.$$

Example

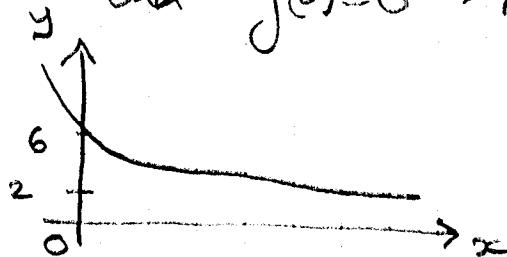
Solve  $y' + 2y = 4$ ,  $y(0) = 6$ .

Then try  $y_p = C$ . So  $y_p' + 2y_p = 0 + 2C = 4$ .

So  $C = 2$ .

Then,  $y(x) = 2 + Ae^{-2x}$  and  $y(0) = 6 \Rightarrow A = 4$ .

So  $y(x) = 2 + 4e^{-2x}$ .



Example

Solve  $y' + ky = 2x$  and  $y(0) = y_0$ .

We try (incorrectly)  $y_p = Bx$ ,  $B = \text{const}$ .

Then,  $y_p' + ky_p = B + Bkx = 2x$ .

Recall: Two polynomials are equal if their coeffs. match

So, OK if  $B = 0$  and  $Bk = 2$  !!!

There is no choice of  $B$  that solves this for all  $x$ .

Problem:  $y_p'$  brings a constant term ( $B$ ), which cannot be cancelled elsewhere in the equation.

Sol<sup>n</sup>: Instead, try  $y_p(x) = Bx + C$ ,  $B, C = \text{const}$ .

Then,  $y_p' + ky_p = B + k(Bx + C) = 2x$ .

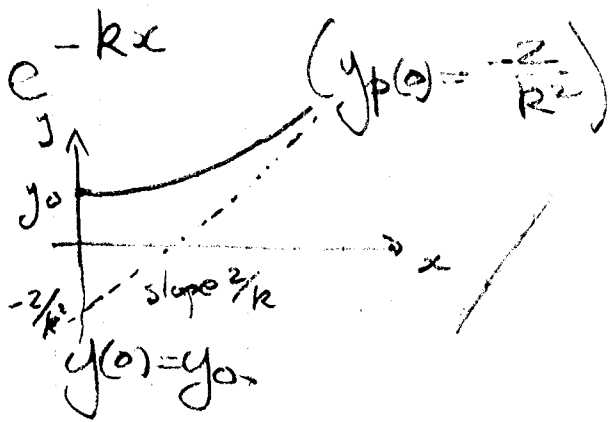
We can choose B and C for this to be valid for all x. Equating coefficients:

Coeff.  $x^1$  equal:  $kB = 2 \Rightarrow B = 2/k$

Coeff.  $x^0$  equal:  $B + kC = 0 \Rightarrow C = -\frac{B}{k} = -\frac{2}{k^2}$   
(constants)

Hence,  $y_p(x) = \frac{2}{k}x - \frac{2}{k^2}$ , and solution is

$$y(x) = \frac{2}{k}x - \frac{2}{k^2} + \left(y_0 + \frac{2}{k^2}\right) e^{-kx}$$



Example

Solve  $y' + ky = 3x^2$  and  $y(0) = y_0$

Try  $y_p(x) = Bx^2 + Cx + D$ .

Example

Solve  $y' + ky = 3x^2 + 2x + 1$  and  $y(0) = y_0$

Try  $y_p(x) = Bx^2 + Cx + D$ .

Example

Solve  $y' + ky = \sin(3x)$  and  $y(0) = y_0$ .

If we try  $y_p(x) = B \sin(3x)$ , we run into trouble.

Should instead try  $y_p(x) = B \sin(3x) + C \cos(3x)$ .

Then,  $y_p' + ky_p = 3B \cos(3x) - 3C \sin(3x) + k(B \sin(3x) + C \cos(3x)) = \sin(3x)$

For this to be valid for all  $x$ , we equate coeffs:

$$\text{Coeff } \sin(3x) : -3C + kB = 1 \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Coeff } \cos(3x) : 3B + kC = 0 \quad (2)$$

Then, (2)  $\Rightarrow C = -3B/k$  so

$$(1) \Rightarrow -3 \left( \frac{-3B}{k} \right) + kB = 1$$

$$\text{or, } B \left( \frac{9}{k} + k \right) = 1 \Rightarrow B = \frac{1}{\frac{9}{k} + k} = \frac{k}{9+k^2}$$

$$\text{and } C = -\frac{3B}{k} = -\frac{3}{9+k^2}$$

$$\text{Hence, } y_p(x) = \frac{k \sin(3x)}{9+k^2} - \frac{3 \cos(3x)}{9+k^2}$$

$$\text{So } y(x) = y_p + \left( y_0 - \frac{3}{9+k^2} \right) e^{-kx}$$

Example

Solve  $y' + ky = e^{-ax}$  and  $y(0) = y_0$  where  $a \neq k$ .

Try  $y_p(x) = Be^{-ax}$ . Then  $y_p' + ky_p = -aBe^{-ax} + kB e^{-ax} = e^{-ax}$ .

For this to hold for all  $x$ , we equate coeffs of  $e^{-ax}$ :

$$\text{i.e. } -aB + kB = 1 \Rightarrow B = \frac{1}{k-a}$$

Observation

This doesn't work if  $k=a$ ! This is because

$Be^{-kx}$  is an eigenfunction of  $D$  with zero e-value:  
 $D[Be^{-kx}] = \frac{d}{dx}(Be^{-kx}) + kBe^{-kx}$   
 $= -Bke^{-kx} + kBe^{-kx} = 0$ .

[c.f. attempting to solve the matrix eqn  $Ax = b$  where  $b$  is an e-vector of  $A$  with zero e-value]

There is still a solution, but we have to do more work.

Physically, this is related to the problem of forcing a system at its resonant frequency (see later)

It seems reasonable that  $e^{-kx}$  is still relevant to  $y' + ky = e^{-kx}$ . We can try instead the general form:

$y_p(x) = g(x)e^{-kx}$  and see what happens.

This is called the "method of variation of parameters".

$$\text{Then, } y_p' + ky_p = g'e^{-kx} - kge^{-kx} + kge^{-kx} \\ = g'(x)e^{-kx} = e^{-kx}$$

So,  $g'(x) = 1$  and  $g(x) = x + C$ , and so

$$y_p(x) = (x + C)e^{-kx}. \text{ Note that } Ce^{-kx} \propto y_h(x)$$

so we can set  $C = 0$ , and find  $y_p(x) = xe^{-kx}$ .

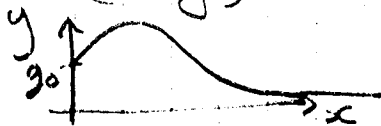
(since  $y_h(x)$  already accounted for).

$$\text{Then, } y(x) = y_p(x) + y_h(x) = xe^{-kx} + Ae^{-kx}$$

The BC  $y(0) = y_0$  gives

$$0 + A = y_0 \Rightarrow A = y_0 \text{ and hence}$$

$$y(x) = xe^{-kx} + y_0 e^{-kx} = (x + y_0) e^{-kx}$$



Example

Solve  $y' + ky = xe^{-ax}$  with  $y(0) = y_0$  and  $k \neq a$ .

Try  $y_p = \cancel{Ae^{-ax}} (Bx + C)e^{-ax}$ .

Example

Solve  $y' + ky = xe^{-kx}$  with  $y(0) = y_0$ .

Try  $y_p = (Bx^2 + Cx + D)e^{-kx}$ .

Example

Solve  $y' + ky = (x^2 + 2x + 4)e^{-ax}$  with  $y(0) = y_0$ .

If  $a \neq k$  try  $y_p = (Bx^2 + Cx + D)e^{-ax}$ .

If  $a = k$  try  $y_p = (Ex^3 + Bx^2 + Cx + D)e^{-kx}$ .

In general: need to go one power of  $x$  higher if  $a = k$ .

Example

In a radioactive rock, isotope A decays to isotope B with rate  $\propto a$ , # nuclei A. Isotope B decays to isotope C with <sup>different</sup> rate  $\propto b$ , # nuclei B. ~~And so on.~~

Initially,  $a = a_0$  and  $b = 0$ . Find  $b(t)$ .

$$\frac{da}{dt} = -k_A a \Rightarrow a = a_0 e^{-k_A t}$$

$$\frac{db}{dt} = k_A a - k_B b, \quad k_A \neq k_B.$$

$$\frac{db}{dt} + k_B b = k_A a_0 e^{-k_A t} \quad \text{--- } k_B b.$$

Hom. sln is  $b_h(t) = A e^{-k_B t}$ .

Try particular sln  $b_p(t) = B e^{-k_A t}$ . Find

$$\frac{db_p}{dt} + k_B b = -k_A B e^{-k_A t} + \cancel{B k_B} e^{-k_A t} = k_A a_0 e^{-k_A t}$$

$$\text{So, } B(k_B - k_A) = k_A a_0$$

$$\Rightarrow B = \frac{k_A a_0}{k_B - k_A}.$$

Hence,  $b(t) = b_p(t) + b_h(t)$

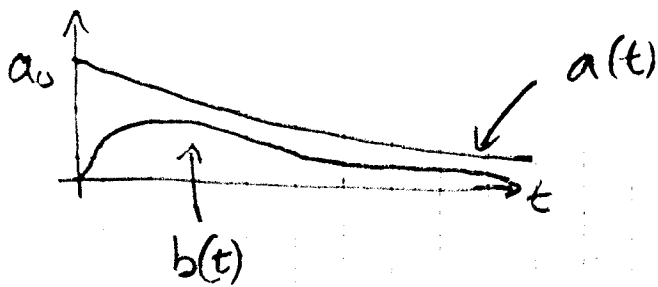
$$\Rightarrow b(t) = \frac{k_A a_0}{k_B - k_A} e^{-k_A t} + A e^{-k_B t}.$$

$$\text{Then, } b(0) = 0 \Rightarrow 0 = \frac{k_A a_0}{k_B - k_A} + A$$

so  $A = -B$  and "B"

$$b(t) = \frac{k_A a_0}{k_B - k_A} (e^{-k_A t} - e^{-k_B t})$$





Suppose a geologist doesn't know  $a_0$ . We have

$$\frac{b(t)}{a(t)} = \frac{k_A}{k_B - k_A} (1 - e^{(k_A - k_B)t}).$$

So, the rock can be dated based on the ratio of the two slopes A and B.

### § 1.3 Non-constant coeff. linear first-order ODEs

These are eqns of the form

$$a(x)y' + b(x)y = c(x).$$

Let's divide through by  $a(x)$  and consider:

$$y' + p(x)y = f(x), \quad p(x) = \frac{b(x)}{a(x)}, \quad f(x) = \frac{c(x)}{a(x)}.$$

#### Observation

In § 1.2, when  $p(x) = k = \text{const}$ , we had

$y' + ky = f(x)$ . The LHS can be written as:

$$y' + ky = (e^{kx}y)' e^{-kx}, \quad \text{since:}$$

$$e^{-kx} \frac{d}{dx} (e^{kx}y) = e^{-kx} \left[ y \frac{d}{dx} e^{kx} + e^{kx} \frac{dy}{dx} \right] \\ = ky + \underline{dy}$$

$$\text{Therefore, } e^{-kx} (e^{kx} y)' = f(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow (e^{kx} y)' = e^{kx} f(x). \quad (*)$$

$$\text{Hence } e^{kx} y = \int e^{kx} f(x) dx.$$

$$\Rightarrow y(x) = e^{-kx} \int e^{kx} f(x) dx.$$

Is another way to get the solution.

Example

$$\text{When } f(x) = 1, \text{ we have } y(x) = e^{-kx} \int e^{kx} dx.$$

$$= e^{-kx} \left( \frac{1}{k} e^{kx} + C \right) = \frac{1}{k} + C e^{-kx}$$

where  $C$  is the ~~integrating factor~~ constant of integration.

This is the same as for §1.2.

Note that we had to multiply through by  $e^{kx}$ .

Idea

For general  $p(x)$ , can we find a function  $q(x)$  such that, after multiplying the ODE by  $q(x)$ , we reduce it to  $\frac{d}{dx} [q(x) y] = q(x) f(x)$ , as in  $(*)$ ?

Def<sup>n</sup> If we can find  $q(x)$  such that

$y' + p(x)y = f(x) \Leftrightarrow (q(x)y)' = q(x)f(x)$ , then we call  $q(x)$  an integrating factor.

If we find such a function  $q(x)$ , then the soln to the ODE can be found:

$$(qy)' = qf \Rightarrow qy = \int q(x)f(x) dx$$

and so  $y(x) = \frac{1}{q(x)} \int q(x)f(x) dx$ .

How do we find  $q(x)$ ? Multiply through:

$$y' + p(x)y = f(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow q(x)y' + q(x)p(x)y = q(x)f(x)$$

Want  $q(x)y' + q(x)p(x)y = (q(x)y)'$   $\oplus$

But, from chain rule,  $(q(x)y)' = q'(x)y + q(x)y'$

Putting into  $\oplus$ , we get

$$\frac{dq}{dx} = q(x)p(x).$$

or  $\frac{1}{q} \frac{dq}{dx} = p \Rightarrow \int \frac{1}{q} \frac{dq}{dx} dx = \int p dx$

But, change of variables in ~~the~~ integral with  $s = q(x)$

gives ~~the~~  $ds = \frac{dq}{dx} dx$ .

so  $\int \frac{1}{q} \frac{dq}{dx} dx = \int \frac{1}{s} ds = \log s = \log(q)$

Hence,  $\log(q) = \int p dx \Rightarrow q = \exp(\int p dx)$ .

### Example

$$\text{Let } xy' + (1-x)y = 1.$$

$$\text{Then, } y' + \left(\frac{1}{x} - 1\right)y = \frac{1}{x}.$$

$$\text{So, } p(x) = \frac{1}{x} - 1, \text{ and so } \int p(x) dx = \int \frac{1}{x} - 1 dx \\ = \log x - x.$$

$$\text{Hence, } q(x) = e^{\log x - x} = e^{\log x} e^{-x} = xe^{-x} \quad (\text{no const.})$$

$$\text{Then, } (qy)' = qf, \text{ i.e. } (xe^{-x}y)' = xe^{-x} \cdot \frac{1}{x} = e^{-x}.$$

$$\text{Hence, } xe^{-x}y = C - e^{-x}$$

$$\Rightarrow y = \frac{Ce^x - 1}{x}.$$

Now suppose that  $y$  is finite at  $x=0$ . Then  $C=1$  since

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - 1}{x} = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow y = \frac{e^x - 1}{x}.$$

## §2. Nonlinear, first order ODEs

Nonlinear first order ODEs are of the form:

$$Q(x, y) \frac{dy}{dx} + P(x, y) = 0.$$

Examples

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y^2, \quad y \frac{dy}{dx} = 1, \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \sin(y),$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = y^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$(y^2 + 2x) \frac{dy}{dx} = y^3(x + \sin(x))$$

etc.

## § 2.1 Separable ODEs

A first-order ODE is separable if it can be written as:

$$q(y) \frac{dy}{dx} = p(x).$$

In this case, we may integrate both sides:

$$\int q \frac{dy}{dx} dx = \int p dx$$

or 
$$\int q dy = \int p dx.$$

and this leads to the solution.

Example

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y}{x} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{y} dy = \frac{1}{x} dx$$

Then, 
$$\int \frac{1}{y} dy = \int \frac{1}{x} dx.$$

$$\Rightarrow \log y = \log x + c, \quad c = \text{const.}$$

$$\Rightarrow y = Ax, \quad A = e^c.$$

(This eqn is in fact linear).

Example

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = xy^2 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{y^2} dy = x dx.$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \frac{1}{y^2} dy = \int x dx \Rightarrow -\frac{1}{y} = \frac{1}{2}x^2 + c.$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{y} = c - \frac{1}{2}x^2 \Rightarrow y = \frac{1}{c - \frac{1}{2}x^2}.$$

Example

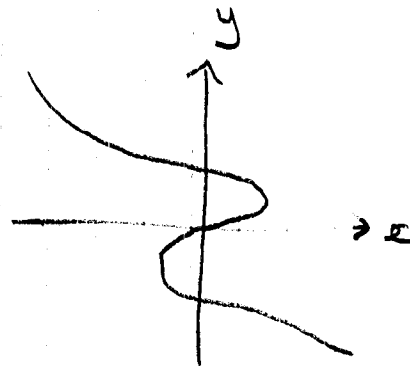
$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x^2}{1-y^2} \Rightarrow (1-y^2) dy = x^2 dx.$$

$$\Rightarrow \int (1-y^2) dy = \int x^2 dx \Rightarrow y - \frac{1}{3}y^3 = \frac{1}{3}x^3 + C.$$

$$\Rightarrow y^3 - 3y + x^3 = A, \quad A = -3C.$$

implicit equation for y.

Eg let  $y(0) = 0$ . Then  $A = 0$  and  
 $y^3 - 3y + x^3 = 0$



Example

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x}{y} \quad \text{with } y(0) = 1.$$

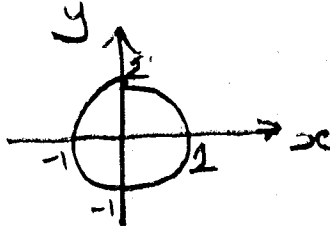
$$\Rightarrow y dy = -x dx. \Rightarrow \int y dy = \int -x dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2}y^2 = -\frac{1}{2}x^2 + C.$$

$$\Rightarrow y^2 + x^2 = 2C$$

Then  $y(0) = 1 \Rightarrow 1^2 + 0^2 = 2C \Rightarrow C = \frac{1}{2}$  and

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1$$



## Example

Let's return to motion in a constant gravitational field, with drag.  
Recall that the velocity  $v$  satisfies

$$m \dot{v} = -mg + kv^2, \quad k = \text{const.}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{m}{kv^2 - mg} dv = dt$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \frac{m}{kv^2 - mg} dv = \int dt = t + c.$$

$$\text{Now, } \frac{m}{kv^2 - mg} = \frac{m}{k} \cdot \frac{1}{v^2 - \frac{mg}{k}} = \frac{m}{k} \cdot \frac{1}{v^2 - v_T^2}$$

where  $v_T \equiv$  terminal velocity ( $\dot{v}=0$ ),  $-mg + kv_T^2 = 0 \Rightarrow v_T = \sqrt{\frac{mg}{k}}$

$$= \frac{-m}{2v_T k} \cdot \left( \frac{1}{v+v_T} - \frac{1}{v-v_T} \right).$$

$$\text{So } \int \frac{+m}{kv^2 - mg} dv = \frac{-m}{2v_T k} \int \left( \frac{1}{v+v_T} - \frac{1}{v-v_T} \right) dv$$

$$= \frac{-m}{2v_T k} \left( \log|v+v_T| - \log|v-v_T| \right)$$

$$= \frac{+m}{2v_T k} \log \left| \frac{v+v_T}{v-v_T} \right| = t + c.$$

$$\text{So } \left| \frac{v+v_T}{v-v_T} \right| = \exp\left(\frac{+m}{2v_T k} (t+c)\right) = A e^{\frac{+m}{2v_T k} t}$$

$$\Rightarrow |v+v_T| = |v-v_T| A e^{\frac{+m}{2v_T k} t}$$

~~$v-v_T = A e^{-\frac{m}{2v_T k} t} \Rightarrow v = v_T (1 + A e^{-\frac{m}{2v_T k} t})$~~

$$V = \frac{-k_T (1 + A e^{-\frac{mt}{2\sqrt{gk}}})}{1 + A e^{-\frac{mt}{2\sqrt{gk}}}}$$

Suppose that  $v(0) = 0$  then

$$0 = \frac{-k_T (1 + A)}{1 + A}$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 + A = 1 + A \Rightarrow A = 1$$

$$\text{So } v + v_T = (v - v_T) e^{-\frac{mt}{2\sqrt{gk}}}$$

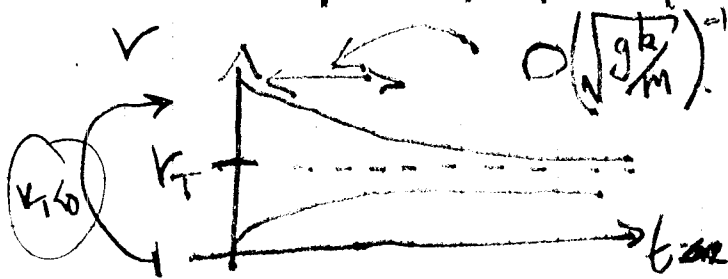
~~$$v - v_T = (v + v_T) e^{-\frac{mt}{2\sqrt{gk}}} = (v + v_T) e^{-\frac{mt}{2\sqrt{gk}}} A$$~~

So as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ , RHS  $\rightarrow 0$ , so  $v \rightarrow v_T$

for all  $A$ , i.e. regardless of IC.

The  $v = v_T$  steady state is thus stable.

Go back:  $|v - v_T| = |v + v_T| A e^{-\frac{mt}{2\sqrt{gk}}} = |v + v_T| A e^{-\left(\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{m}{gk}}\right)t}$



[c.f. half-life]

## § 2.2 Autonomous Equations and Stability

An autonomous ODE is one that does not depend on the differentiation variable.

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$$



A fixed point is a solution to  $f(y) = 0$ , i.e.  $\frac{dy}{dt} = 0$ .

### Example

Again  $m\dot{v} = -mg + kv^2 \Rightarrow$  fixed point  $v = \pm v_T$ .

### Def<sup>n</sup>

Let  $y = a$  be a fixed point of  $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(y)$ , i.e.  $f(a) = 0$ .  
The point  $a$  is stable if, when you slightly perturb away from  $a$ , you return to  $a$ .

Mathematically, given IC  $y(0) = a + \epsilon_0$ , we say

$a$  is stable if  $y \rightarrow a$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$

unstable "  $y \rightarrow a$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ,

when  $\epsilon_0$  is "small".

To see if  $a$  is stable or not, let

$$y(t) = a + \epsilon(t) \quad \text{and} \quad \epsilon(0) = \epsilon_0.$$

$$\text{Then, } \frac{dy}{dt} = f(y) \Rightarrow \frac{d\epsilon}{dt} = f(a + \epsilon(t))$$

But,  $\epsilon$  small, so  $f(a + \epsilon(t)) = f(a) + \epsilon f'(a) + O(\epsilon^2)$ .

But  $f(a) = 0$ , so  $f(a + \epsilon(t)) = \epsilon f'(a) + O(\epsilon^2)$ .

$$\text{Then, } \frac{d\epsilon}{dt} \approx \epsilon f'(a) = b\epsilon \quad b = f'(a).$$

$$\text{Then, } \epsilon = \epsilon_0 e^{bt} \rightarrow \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } b > 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } b < 0 \end{cases}$$

So, the soln  $y=a$  is stable if  $f'(a) < 0$   
 unstable if  $f'(a) > 0$ .

### Example

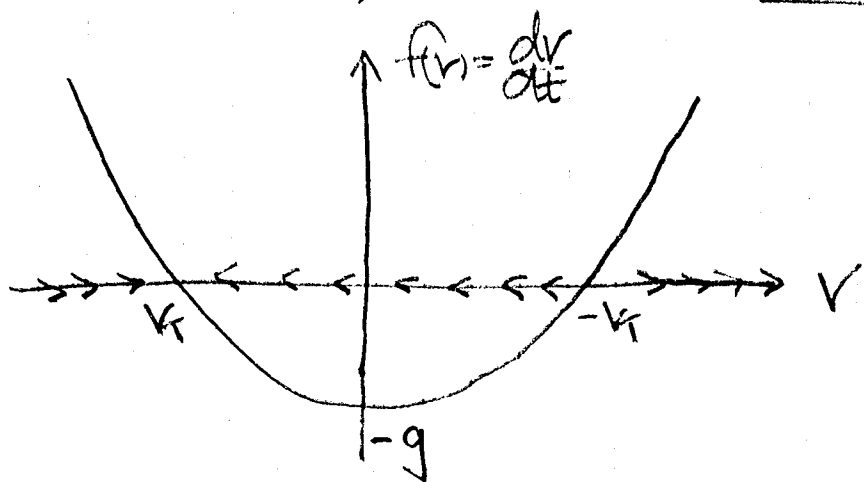
Again,  $m\ddot{v} = -mg + kv^2$  so  $f(v) = -g + \frac{k}{m}v^2$ .

and  $f(\pm v_T) = 0$  where  $v_T = \sqrt{\frac{mg}{k}}$ .

Then,  $f'(v) = \frac{2kv}{m}$  so  $f'(\pm v_T) = \pm \frac{2k}{m} \sqrt{\frac{mg}{k}}$

so  $f'(v_T) < 0$  and  $f'(-v_T) > 0$ .

So,  $v = v_T$  is stable,  $v = -v_T$  is unstable.



### Example

Population of sheep,  $y = \#$  sheep. Birth rate  $\alpha y$ ,  
 death rate  $\beta y$ .

So,  $\frac{dy}{dt} = (\alpha - \beta)y \Rightarrow y = y_0 e^{(\alpha - \beta)t}$

So exp. growth or decay if  $\alpha \gtrless \beta$ .

However, as pop. grows, there is competition. Probability of food being found  $\propto \frac{1}{y}$ . Prob. two individuals find same food  $\propto$

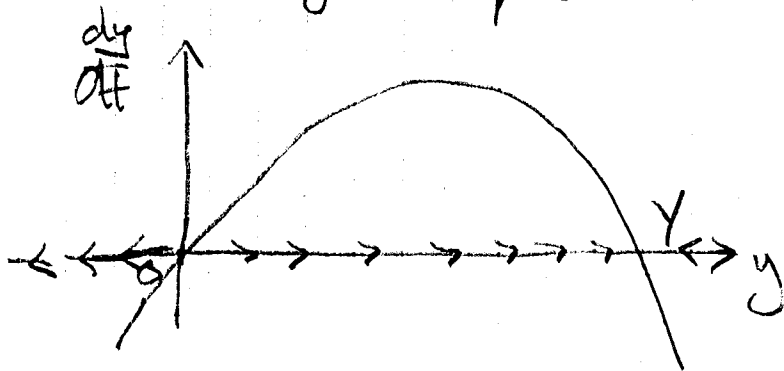
So, if food is scarce, extra death rate  $\propto y^2$ .

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dt} = (\alpha - \beta)y - \gamma y^2.$$

Let  $r = \alpha - \beta$ ,  $Y = r/\gamma$ . Then,

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = ry \left(1 - \frac{y}{Y}\right) \equiv f(y).$$

This is the logistic eqn. (differential)



Fixed points  $y=0$ ,  $y=Y$ .

$$f'(y) = r - \frac{2ry}{Y}$$

So  $f'(0) = r > 0 \Rightarrow$  u.s.

$f'(Y) = -r < 0 \Rightarrow$  stable.

## \*\* § 2.3 Discrete Eqns.

In reality, ~~population unit~~ ~~continuous~~ birth and death occur discretely (births in spring, deaths in winter). A better model might be  $x_{n+1} = \lambda x_n (1 - x_n)$

For the population  $x$  at time  $n$

Discrete maps are  $x_{n+1} = f(x_n)$

They have fixed points:  ~~$x_n = f(x_n)$~~

$$x_{n+1} = x_n \Rightarrow x_n = f(x_n)$$

In this case,  $x_n = \lambda x_n (1 - x_n)$

$$\Rightarrow x_n = 0 \text{ or } x_n = 1 - \frac{1}{\lambda}.$$

We can look at stability: let  $x_n = X$  be a fixed point.

but  $f(x + \epsilon_n) \approx f(x) + \epsilon_n f'(x) + O(\epsilon_n^2)$ .

So  $\epsilon_{n+1} \approx \epsilon_n f'(x) = \epsilon_{n-1} (f'(x))^2 = \epsilon_{n-2} (f'(x))^3$

etc.

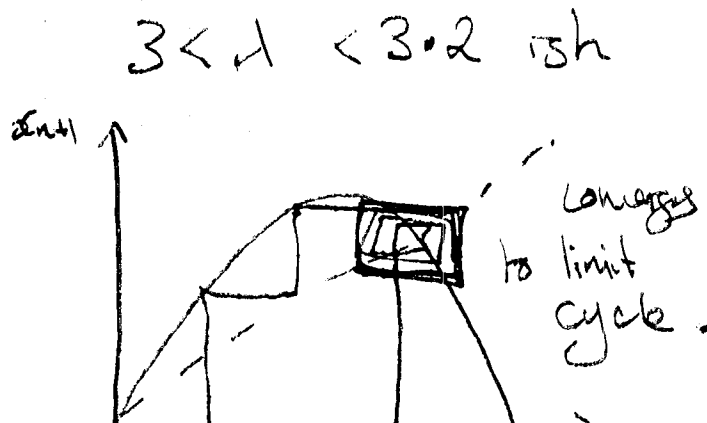
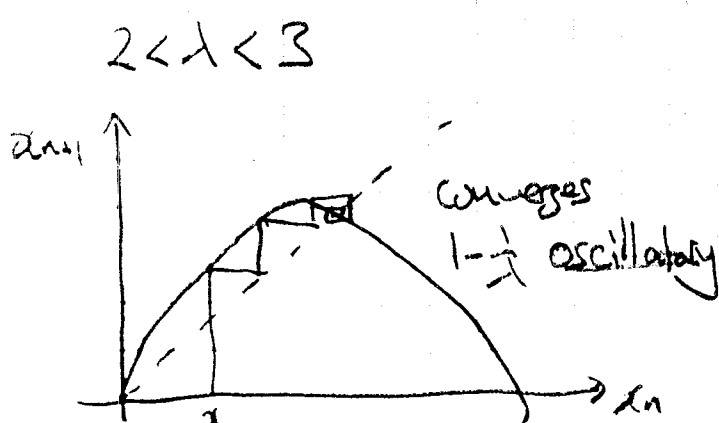
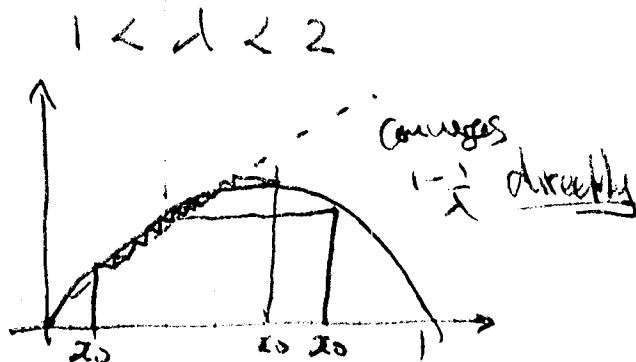
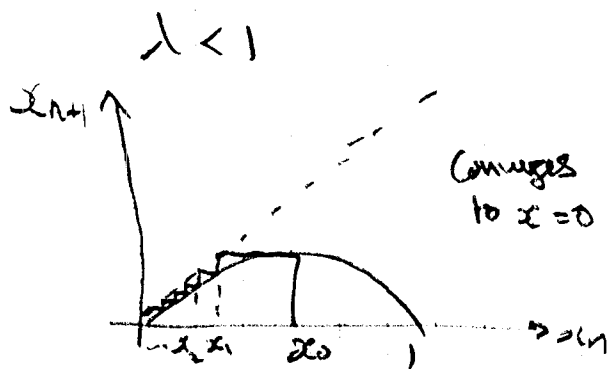
So  $\epsilon_n = [f'(x)]^n \epsilon_0$ .

and  $|\epsilon_n| \rightarrow \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } |f'(x)| > 1 \\ 0 & \text{if } |f'(x)| < 1 \end{cases}$

For logistic map,  $f(x) = \lambda x(1-x)$ , so  $f'(x) = 1-2\lambda x$ .

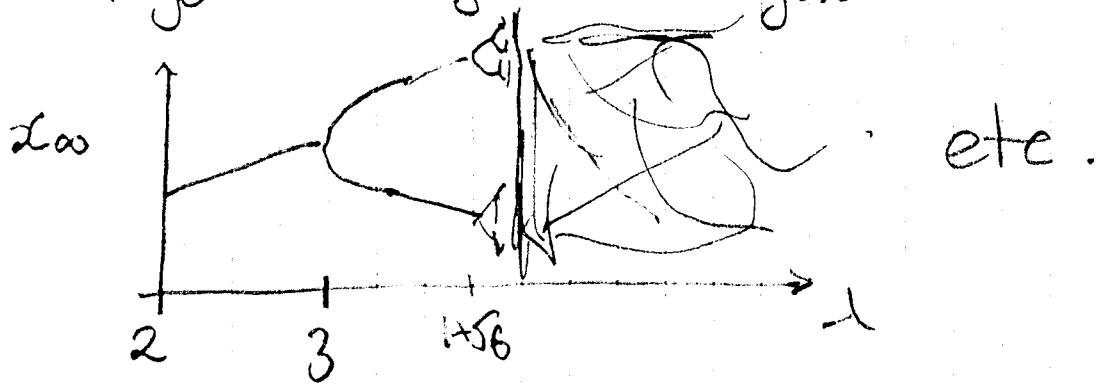
Then,  $f'(0) = \lambda$  so  $x=0$  is stable if  $|\lambda| < 1$   
 unstable if  $|\lambda| > 1$

$f'(1-\frac{1}{\lambda}) = 2-\lambda$   
 so  $x = 1-\frac{1}{\lambda}$  is stable if  $1 < \lambda < 3$   
 unstable if  $\lambda > 3$



2 cycle  $\rightarrow$  4 cycle at  $\lambda = 1 + \sqrt{6}$

4 cycle  $\rightarrow$  8 cycle  $\rightarrow$  16 cycle  $\rightarrow$  etc.



## \*\* § 2.4 Existence and Uniqueness

Every linear ODE with order  $n$ , with  $n$  ICs/BCs has a unique solution.

Some nonlinear equations also have unique solutions, but many do not:

Example (non-uniqueness)

$$y' = y^{1/3} \quad \text{and} \quad y(0) = 0.$$

$$\text{Then, } \frac{1}{y^{1/3}} dy = dx \Rightarrow \int \frac{1}{y^{1/3}} dy = \int dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{3}{2} \frac{2}{3} y^{2/3} = x + C$$

$$\Rightarrow y = \left[ \frac{2}{3}(x+C) \right]^{3/2}$$

$$\text{Then } y(0) = 0 \Rightarrow C = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad y = \left( \frac{2}{3}x \right)^{3/2}$$

However,  $y(x) = 0$  for all  $x$  is also a soln.

Also,  $y(x) = \begin{cases} 0 & 0 \leq x < x_0 \\ \left( \frac{2}{3}(x-x_0) \right)^{3/2} & x \geq x_0 \end{cases}$  are solns for all  $x_0$ !

Example (non-existence)

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = y^2 \text{ and } y(0) = 1.$$

$$\text{Then } \frac{1}{y} dy = dt \Rightarrow \int \frac{1}{y} dy = \int dt$$

$$\Rightarrow -\frac{1}{y} = t + c$$

$$\Rightarrow y = \frac{-1}{t+c}$$

$$\text{Then } y(0) = 1 \Rightarrow c = -1 \text{ so } y = \frac{1}{1-t}$$

as  $t \rightarrow 1$ ,  $y \rightarrow \infty$ , so there is no solution for  $t > 1$ . \*\*

### § 3. Linear 2nd-order, constant coeff. ODEs.

These are equations of the form:

$$ay'' + by' + cy = g(x), \quad a, b, c \neq \text{const.}$$

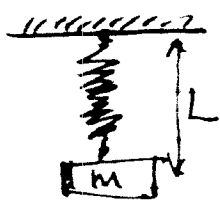
or, dividing through by  $a$ ,

$$y'' + py' + qy = f(x), \quad p = \frac{b}{a}, \quad q = \frac{c}{a}, \quad f(x) = \frac{g(x)}{a}$$

Such equations represent oscillations, vibrations, and can help explain resonance.

#### Example

Consider a mass  $m$  attached to a spring when the system is at rest and the spring has length  $L$ .



Then, the forces acting on the mass are

gravity:  $-mg$

Hooke's law:  $kL$

where  $k$  is the spring constant. Then, since the spring is at rest, there is no net force, i.e.  $0 = kL - mg$ .

So the resting length is  $L = \frac{mg}{k}$ .

Now suppose that we extend the spring by a length  $x$  in addition to  $L$ , and let go. What happens?

The forces acting are now:

Gravity:  $-mg$

Hooke's law:  $k(x + L)$ .

Since the spring will be in motion, we apply Newton's 2nd Law:

$$F = ma, \text{ or } m\ddot{x} = +mg - k(x + L)$$

$$= +mg - kL - kx$$

$$= -kx.$$

i.e.  $m\ddot{x} + kx = 0$ .

Then we apply initial conditions  $x(0) = x_0$ ,  $\dot{x}(0) = 0$ .

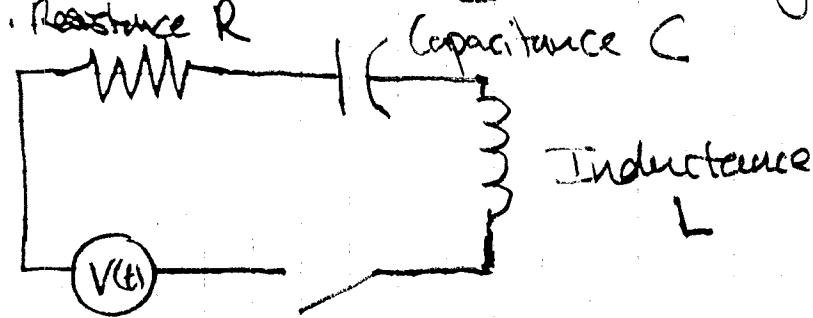
We will show that this has solution

$$x(t) = x_0 \cos\left(\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}} t\right) \rightarrow \text{oscillations!}$$

Oscillations don't decay  $\rightarrow$  damping needed.

## Example

Consider the following circuit diagram:



$$\text{Let } L > \frac{1}{4}CR^2.$$

Imposed  
Voltage  $V(t)$

The total ~~charge~~ current  $I$  is given by the rate of change of the ~~current~~ charge  $Q(t)$ ,  $I = \frac{dQ}{dt}$ .

Then, Kirchhoff's 2nd Law  $\Rightarrow$  sum of voltage drops equals impressed voltage.

Drop across resistor:  $IR$

Drop across capacitor:  $Q/C$

Drop across inductor:  $L \frac{dI}{dt}$

So,

$$L \frac{dI}{dt} + RI + \frac{1}{C} Q = V(t).$$

But,  $I = \frac{dQ}{dt}$  and so  $\frac{dI}{dt} = \frac{d^2Q}{dt^2}$ . Hence,

$$L \frac{d^2Q}{dt^2} + R \frac{dQ}{dt} + \frac{1}{C} Q = V(t).$$

We then have ICs:  $Q(0) = Q_0$  and  $\frac{dQ}{dt}(t=0) = I(0) = I_0$ .

When  $V(t) = 0$ , the solution is

$$Q(t) = e^{-\sigma t} (A \sin \omega t + B \cos \omega t) \rightarrow \text{decaying oscillations!}$$

with  $\sigma = \frac{R}{2L}$ ,  $\omega = \sqrt{R^2 + \frac{4}{L^2}}$ ,  $A = \frac{I_0}{\omega} + \frac{\sigma Q_0}{\omega}$ ,  $B = Q_0$ .



We can solve the ~~the~~ original ODE in two steps.

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = f(x).$$

Step 1. Solve homogeneous problem,  $\rightarrow f(x) = 0$ ,

$$y'' + py' + qy = 0$$

to find general homogeneous soln  $y_h(x)$ .

Step 2: Find particular solution  $y_p(x)$  to the full eqns.

Then, general soln is given by:

$$y(x) = y_h(x) + y_p(x),$$

just as for first-order ODEs.

### § 3.1 Homogeneous, linear, second-order, const/coeff, ODEs

First, we will show how to solve the homogeneous problem

$$y'' + py' + qy = 0 \quad \text{with } p, q = \text{const.}$$

Recall

$y = e^{-\lambda x}$  is an eigenfunction of  $D = \frac{d}{dx}$ :  
 $\frac{dy}{dx} = -\lambda e^{-\lambda x} = -\lambda y$ , with  $e$ -val  $-\lambda$

Observation

$y = e^{-\lambda x}$  is also an eigenfunction of  $D^2 = \frac{d^2}{dx^2}$ :  
 $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx}(-\lambda e^{-\lambda x}) = \lambda^2 e^{-\lambda x} = \lambda^2 y$  with  $e$ -val  $-\lambda^2$ .

## Idea

Solutions of the form  $e^{\lambda x}$  are likely still important here.

To solve  $y'' + py' + q = 0$ , let's try the ansatz:  $y = e^{-\lambda x}$

$$\text{Then, } y'' + py' + qy = \lambda^2 e^{-\lambda x} + p \lambda e^{-\lambda x} + q e^{-\lambda x} = 0$$

$$\text{Then, } e^{-\lambda x} \neq 0, \text{ so } \lambda^2 + p\lambda + q = 0. \quad (*)$$

This is the characteristic equation for  $\lambda$  of the ODE.

(\*) has two plus:

$$\lambda_{\pm} = \frac{-p \pm \sqrt{p^2 - 4q}}{2}.$$

~~Therefore~~ now

We therefore know that

$$y_1 = A e^{\lambda_+ x} \text{ and } y_2 = B e^{\lambda_- x} \text{ solve the ODE}$$

for any constants  $A, B$ , since the ODE is linear.

Also, since the ODE is linear, we also have the solution

$$y(x) = A e^{\lambda_+ x} + B e^{\lambda_- x}.$$

However, we don't yet know if this is the general solution.

There are three cases:

- 1) Both  $\lambda_+, \lambda_-$  real,  $\lambda_+ \neq \lambda_-$

3) Both  $\lambda_+, \lambda_-$  real and  $\lambda_+ = \lambda_- = \lambda$ .

We will consider each in turn:

### Distinct, real roots

In case ①, we have  $\lambda_+, \lambda_-$  real, and  $\lambda_+ \neq \lambda_-$ .

Therefore,  $y = Ae^{\lambda_+ x} + Be^{\lambda_- x}$  is the general solution since  $e^{\lambda_+ x}$  and  $e^{\lambda_- x}$  are linearly independent, i.e.  $e^{\lambda_+ x}$  cannot be written as  $Ce^{\lambda_- x}$  for all  $x$ :

for all  $x$ :  $e^{\lambda_+ x} \neq Ce^{\lambda_- x}$  for all  $x$ .

for any  $C$ .

We need two ICs/BCs to solve fully:

### Example

$$y'' - 3y' + 2y = 0, \text{ with } y(0) = 1 \text{ and } y'(0) = 0.$$

Try  $y = e^{\lambda x}$ . Then,  $\lambda^2 - 3\lambda + 2 = 0 \Rightarrow (\lambda - 2)(\lambda - 1) = 0$ .

So,  $\lambda = 1$  or  $2$ . Then, the general soln is

$$y(x) = Ae^x + Be^{2x}, \text{ and } y'(x) = Ae^x + 2Be^{2x}$$

$$\text{The BCs give: } y(0) = 1 \Rightarrow A + B = 1 \quad (1)$$

$$y'(0) = 0 \Rightarrow A + 2B = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Then, } (2) \Rightarrow A = -2B, \text{ so } (1) \Rightarrow -2B + B = 1 \Rightarrow B = -1$$

$$\Rightarrow B = -1 \text{ and } A = -2B = 2.$$

$$\text{Hence, } u(x) = 2e^x - e^{2x}.$$

Example

$$y'' - 4y' + 13y = 0.$$

$$\text{Then } \lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 13 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = 2 \pm 3i$$

$$\text{So } y(x) = e^{2x} (A \cos 3x + B \sin 3x)$$

Example

$$y'' + 16y = 0$$

$$\text{Then } \lambda^2 + 16 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda = \pm 4i$$

$$\text{So } y(x) = A \cos 4x + B \sin 4x.$$

### Example

$$y'' - 3y' + 2y = 0, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y(1) = 0$$

We know  $y(x) = Ae^{x^1} + Be^{2x}$ . Then, BCs give:

$$y(0) = 1 \Rightarrow A + B = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad y(1) = 0 \Rightarrow Ae + Be^2 = 0.$$

$$\text{So, } A = -Be \quad \text{and} \quad -Be + B = 1 \Rightarrow B = \frac{1}{1-e}$$

$$\text{and } A = \frac{-e}{1-e}. \quad \text{So, } y(x) = \frac{-e}{1-e} e^x + \frac{1}{1-e} e^{2x}.$$

### Distinct, complex roots

In case (2), we have  $\lambda_+$ ,  $\lambda_-$  complex, and

$\lambda_+ = \overline{\lambda_-} = \sigma + i\omega$ . Then, the general solution is:

$$y(x) = Ae^{(\sigma+i\omega)x} + Be^{(\sigma-i\omega)x} \quad \text{with } A, B \text{ complex.}$$

But, we also have  $e^{(\sigma+i\omega)x} = e^{\sigma x} \cdot e^{i\omega x} = e^{\sigma x} (\cos \omega x + i \sin \omega x)$ .

$$\text{So, } y(x) = Ae^{\sigma x} (\cos \omega x + i \sin \omega x) + Be^{\sigma x} (\cos \omega x - i \sin \omega x)$$

$$= e^{\sigma x} [(A+B) \cos \omega x + (A-B)i \sin \omega x]$$

$$= e^{\sigma x} [C \cos \omega x + D \sin \omega x]$$

with  $C = A+B$ ,  $D = i(A-B)$  real (if BCs real)

This is OK because  $\cos \omega x$  and  $\sin \omega x$  are linearly independent

### Example

Return to the mass-spring system,

$$m\ddot{x} + kx = 0 \quad \text{with } x(0) = x_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \dot{x}(0) = 0.$$

$$\text{Try } x = e^{\lambda t}. \quad \text{Then, } m\lambda^2 + k = 0, \quad \text{so } \lambda = \pm i\sqrt{\frac{k}{m}}.$$

So  $\sigma = 0$  and  $\omega = \sqrt{\frac{R^2}{m}}$ . Then, the general solution is:

$$x(t) = A \cos \omega t + B \sin \omega t \text{ and } \dot{x}(t) = -A \omega \sin \omega t + B \omega \cos \omega t$$

$$\text{Then, } x(0) = x_0 \Rightarrow A + 0 = x_0 \Rightarrow A = x_0$$

$$\text{and } \dot{x}(0) = 0 \Rightarrow B \omega = 0 \Rightarrow B = 0.$$

$$\text{So, } x(t) = x_0 \cos \omega t.$$

### Example

Return to the RLC circuit (series), without forcing:

$$L \frac{d^2 Q}{dt^2} + R \frac{dQ}{dt} + \frac{1}{C} Q = 0 \text{ and } L > \frac{1}{4} CR^2.$$

$$\text{with } Q(0) = Q_0 \text{ and } \dot{Q}(0) = I_0.$$

$$\text{Try } Q = e^{\lambda t}. \text{ Then, } L\lambda^2 + R\lambda + \frac{1}{C} = 0$$

$$\text{So, } \lambda = \frac{-R \pm \sqrt{R^2 - 4L/C}}{2L} = \frac{-R}{2L} \pm i \sqrt{\frac{4L}{C} - R^2}$$

$$\text{so } \sigma = \frac{-R}{2L} \text{ and } \omega = \sqrt{\frac{4L}{C} - R^2}.$$

Then, the general soln is:

$$Q(t) = e^{\sigma t} [A \cos \omega t + B \sin \omega t]$$

$$\text{and } Q(0) = Q_0 \Rightarrow A = Q_0$$

$$\text{We have } \dot{Q}(0) = I_0 \Rightarrow \frac{-R}{2L} Q_0 + \omega B = I_0 \text{ (exercise).}$$

$$\text{so } B = \frac{I_0}{\omega} + \frac{R Q_0}{2L \omega}$$

$$\text{and } Q(t) = e^{-\frac{R}{2L} t} \left[ Q_0 \cos \omega t + \left( \frac{I_0}{\omega} + \frac{R Q_0}{2L \omega} \right) \sin \omega t \right]$$

## Repeated Real Roots

In case (3), we have  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  real and  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \lambda$ , say. Then, the "two" solutions we've found are:

$$y_1 = Ae^{\lambda x} \text{ and } y_2 = Be^{\lambda x}, \quad A, B = \text{const.}$$

But, these are not linearly independent! In fact,

$$y_1 = C y_2 \text{ where } C = \frac{B}{A} = \text{const.}$$

In reality, we've only found one solution,  $y = De^{\lambda x}$ .

## Recall

We struggled to solve  $y' + ky = e^{-kx}$  since  $y_h = Ae^{-kx}$ . But instead we tried  $y_p = g(x)e^{-kx}$  and found  $g(x) \propto x$ .

## Idea

The ODE clearly "likes"  $y = e^{\lambda x}$  as a solution. So let's try to find a second solution  $y_2(x) = g(x)y_1(x) = g(x)e^{\lambda x}$ .

## Example

Find the general solution to  $y'' + 4y' + 4 = 0$ .

Try  $y = e^{\lambda x}$ . Then  $\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 4 = 0 \Rightarrow (\lambda + 2)^2 = 0$

So  $\lambda = -2$  (twice).

So one solution is  $y_1(x) = Ae^{-2x}$ . Let's try  $y_2(x) = g(x)e^{-2x}$ .

Then,  $y_2' = g'e^{-2x} - 2ge^{-2x}$  by chain rule. Also,

$y_2'' = g''e^{-2x} - 4g'e^{-2x} + 4ge^{-2x}$

## Method of reduction of order

homogeneous

For the general linear second-order ODE:

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$$

How do we find  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  so that the general soln

$$\text{is } y = ay_1 + by_2.$$

We need at least one soln  $y_1(x)$ :  $y_1'' + py_1' + qy_1 = 0$ .

Then let  $y = g(x)y_1(x)$ . So  $y' = g'y_1 + gy_1'$  and

$$y'' = g''y_1 + 2g'y_1' + gy_1''$$

$$\text{Then, } y'' + py' + qy = g''y_1 + 2g'y_1' + \cancel{gy_1''} + pg'y_1 + \cancel{pgy_1'} + \cancel{qgy_1} = ggy_1'$$

$$= 0$$

Let  $h(x) = g'(x)$ . Then  $\frac{dh}{dx} y_1(x) + 2h(x)y_1'(x) + p(x)h(x)y_1(x) = 0$

$$\text{or, } \frac{1}{h(x)} \frac{dh}{dx} = -2 \frac{y_1'(x)}{y_1(x)} - p(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln(h) = -2 \ln(y_1) - \int p dx$$

$$\Rightarrow h = \frac{e^{-\int p dx}}{y_1^2} \Rightarrow g = \int \frac{e^{-\int p dx}}{y_1^2} dx \Rightarrow y_2 = gy_1$$

### Example

Let  $2x^2y'' + 3xy' - y = 0$ . Given that  $y_1(x) = \frac{1}{x}$  is a soln, find another: Let  $y_2(x) = \frac{g(x)}{x}$ .

We have  $y'' + \frac{3}{2x}y' - \frac{1}{2x^2}y = 0$  so  $p(x) = \frac{3}{2x}$  and

$$\int p dx = \frac{3}{2} \ln(x) = \ln(x^{3/2}). \text{ So } e^{-\int p dx} = x^{-3/2}.$$

$$\text{Then, } g = \int \frac{x^{-3/2}}{y_1^2} dx = \int x^{-3/2} x^{3/2} dx = \int x^{1/2} dx = \frac{2}{3} x^{3/2} + C$$

$$\text{So } y_2 = gy_1 = \left( \frac{2}{3} x^{3/2} + C \right) \cdot \frac{1}{x} = \frac{2}{3} x^{1/2} + \frac{C}{x} \text{ so } y_2 = x^{1/2}.$$



Substituting into the ODE we find:

$$\begin{aligned}y_2'' + 4y_2' + 4y_2 &= g''e^{-2x} - 4g'e^{-2x} + 4ge^{-2x} + 4g'e^{-2x} - 8ge^{-2x} + 4ge^{-2x} \\ &= g''e^{-2x} = 0.\end{aligned}$$

Then,  $e^{-2x} \neq 0$ , so  $g'' = 0$ .

Therefore,  $g' = C$  and  $g = Cx + B$ ,  $C, B = \text{const.}$

$$\text{So } y_2 = (Cx + B)e^{-2x} = Cxe^{-2x} + Be^{-2x}.$$

Finally,  $Be^{-2x} \propto y_1$ , so we can set  $B = 0$  since  $y_1$  is already accounted for. Then, the general soln is:

$$y(x) = Ae^{-2x} + Cxe^{-2x} = (A + Cx)e^{-2x}.$$

In general

If  $\lambda_+ = \lambda_- = \lambda$ , the general soln is:

$$y(x) = (A + Bx)e^{-\lambda x}, \quad A, B = \text{const.}$$

## \*\* §3.2 Linear-Independence and the Wronskian

Fact

Two functions  $y_1(x)$  and  $y_2(x)$  are linearly independent

if the Wronskian  $W(y_1, y_2) \neq 0$ , where

$$W(y_1, y_2) = \det \begin{pmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{pmatrix} = y_1 y_2' - y_1' y_2.$$

If  $W \neq 0$  for some  $x$ , then  $W \neq 0$  for all  $x$ . (Abel's Thm)

Example

$$y_1(x) = e^{\lambda_1 x}, \quad y_2(x) = e^{\lambda_2 x} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then, } W(y_1, y_2) &= y_1 y_2' - y_1' y_2 = \lambda_2 e^{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)x} - \lambda_1 e^{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)x} \\ &= (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1) e^{(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)x} \\ &\neq 0 \quad \text{since } \lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2. \end{aligned}$$

Example

$$y_1(x) = \sin wx, \quad y_2(x) = \cos wx :$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then, } W(y_1, y_2) &= y_1 y_2' - y_1' y_2 = -w \sin^2 wx - w \cos^2 wx \\ &= -w \neq 0 \quad (\text{if } w \neq 0). \end{aligned}$$

Example

$$y_1(x) = e^{\lambda x}, \quad y_2(x) = x e^{\lambda x} :$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then, } W(y_1, y_2) &= y_1 y_2' - y_1' y_2 = e^{\lambda x} (\lambda x e^{\lambda x} + e^{\lambda x}) - \lambda e^{\lambda x} (x e^{\lambda x}) \\ &= e^{2\lambda x} \neq 0. \end{aligned}$$

\*\*\*-

### § 3.3 Inhomogeneous, linear, second-order, const/coeff. ODEs

We will now return to the ODEs of the form:

$$y'' + py' + qy = f(x), \quad p, q = \text{const}; \quad \text{or} \quad D[y] = f(x)$$

where  $D = \frac{d^2}{dx^2} + p \frac{d}{dx} + q$ .

We will search for solutions of the form

$$y(x) = y_h(x) + y_p(x) \quad \text{where } y_h \text{ solves } D[y_h] = 0$$

and  $y_p$  is a particular solution to  $D[y_p] = f$

Just as for first-order ODEs, we guess and ansatz for  $y_p(x)$  that is of the same functional form as  $f(x)$ :

$f(x)$	$y_p(x)$	
$e^{mx}$	$Ae^{mx}$	$m \neq \lambda_1$ or $\lambda_2$
$\sin kx$ or $\cos kx$	$A \sin kx + B \cos kx$	$ik \neq \lambda_1$ or $\lambda_2$
$\sin kx e^{mx}$ or $\cos kx e^{mx}$	$(A \sin kx + B \cos kx) e^{mx}$	$m \pm ik \neq \lambda_1$ or $\lambda_2$
polynomial degree $n$	$(Ax^n + Bx^{n-1} + \dots + Fx + G)$	
(polynomial degree $n$ ) $e^{mx}$	$(Ax^n + Bx^{n-1} + \dots + Fx + G) e^{mx}$	
$\neq y_h(x)$	$\propto y_h(x)$	

Let's consider  $y'' - 3y' + 2y = f(x)$ .

The homogeneous solution is  $y_h'' - 3y_h' + 2y_h = 0$ .

Trying  $y_h = e^{\lambda x}$  gives  $\lambda^2 - 3\lambda + 2 = 0$

So  $\lambda = 1$  or  $2$ , and  $y_h(x) = Ae^x + Be^{2x}$ .

Now let's consider various  $f(x)$ :

### Example

Solve  $y'' - 3y' + 2y = e^{3x}$  with  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y'(0) = 0$ .

We have  $y_h = Ae^{2x} + Be^{3x}$ , so  $f(x) = e^{3x}$  is not

part of the homogeneous soln. Therefore, we try

$y_p(x) = Ce^{3x}$ . Then,  $y_p'' - 3y_p' + 2y_p = 9Ce^{3x} - 9Ce^{3x} + 2Ce^{3x}$

So  $2C \cdot e^{3x} = e^{3x} \Rightarrow C = \frac{1}{2}$

Then, the general soln is:

$$y(x) = y_h(x) + y_p(x) = Ae^{2x} + Be^{3x} + \frac{1}{2}e^{3x}$$

with  $A, B = \text{const}$

We now apply BCs to  $y(x)$  (and not to  $y_h(x)$  or  $y_p(x)$ )

$$\text{So, } y(0) = 1 \Rightarrow A + B + \frac{1}{2} = 1 \quad (1)$$

$$y'(0) = 0 \Rightarrow A + 2B + \frac{3}{2} = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Now, } (1) \Rightarrow A = \frac{1}{2} - B, \text{ so}$$

$$(2) \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} - B + 2B + \frac{3}{2} = 0 \Rightarrow B = -2 \Rightarrow A = +\frac{5}{2}$$

$$\text{So } y(x) = +\frac{5}{2}e^{2x} - 2e^{3x} + \frac{1}{2}e^{3x}$$

### Example

$$\text{Solve } y'' - 3y' + 2y = e^{2x}, \text{ with } y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 0.$$

Here,  $f(x)$  is contained in  $y_h(x)$ , so  $y_p(x) = Ce^{2x}$  will not work.

Therefore, we try  $y_p(x) = Cxe^{2x}$ . Then,  $y_p' = 2Cxe^{2x} + Ce^{2x}$   
 $y_p'' = 4Cxe^{2x} + 4Ce^{2x}$

$$y_p'' - 3y_p' + 2y_p$$

$$= 4Cxe^{2x} + 4Ce^{2x} - 6Cxe^{2x} - 3Ce^{2x} + 2Cxe^{2x}$$
$$= Ce^{2x} = e^{2x}$$

$$\text{So } C = 1 \text{ and } y(x) = y_h(x) + y_p(x)$$

$$= Ae^{2x} + Be^{3x} + xe^{2x}$$

$$\text{Then, } y(0) = 1 \Rightarrow A + B = 1 \quad (1)$$

## Variation of parameters

For the general linear second-order inhomogeneous ODE:

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = f(x),$$

How do we find  $y_p(x)$ ? Let  $y_1(x), y_2(x)$  be linearly indep. solutions for  $f=0$ . So  $W(y_1, y_2) \equiv y_1 y_2' - y_2 y_1' \neq 0$ .

Try  $y_p(x) = u(x)y_1(x) + v(x)y_2(x)$ .

we choose  $u'y_1 + v'y_2 = 0$ .  $\otimes$

Then,  $y_p' = u'y_1 + uy_1' + v'y_2 + vy_2'$

and  $y_p'' = u'y_1' + uy_1'' + v'y_2' + vy_2''$ .

Then  $y_p'' + p y_p' + q y_p = u'y_1' + uy_1'' + v'y_2' + vy_2'' + puy_1' + pvy_2' + quy_1 + qvy_2$

So need  $u'y_1' + v'y_2' = f(x)$

Now  $\otimes \Rightarrow u' = -\frac{v'y_2}{y_1} \Rightarrow -\frac{v'y_2}{y_1} + v'y_2' = f$

$\Rightarrow v'(y_1 y_2' - y_1' y_2) = y_1 f \Rightarrow v' = \frac{y_1 f}{W} \Rightarrow u' = -\frac{y_2 f}{W}$

### Example

Solve  $y'' - 2y' + y = e^x$ . For  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  try  $y \propto e^{\lambda x}$ .  
 Then  $\lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = 1$  (twice). So  $y_1 = e^x$  and  $y_2 = x e^x$ .  
 (Ass  $y_p \propto x^2 e^x$ ). We have  $W(y_1, y_2) = e^x(e^x + x e^x) - x e^{2x} = e^{2x}$   
 So  $v' = \frac{y_1 f}{W} = 1 \Rightarrow v = x + C$ . Then  $u' = -\frac{y_2 f}{W} = -x \Rightarrow u = -\frac{1}{2}x^2 + B$ .

Then  $y_p(x) = \left(\frac{1}{2}x^2 + B\right)e^x + (x+C)x e^x$ .

$= \frac{1}{2}x^2 e^x + \underbrace{B e^x}_{y_1} + \underbrace{C x e^x}_{y_2} \Rightarrow B = C = 0$

so  $u(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^2$

• So, ①  $\Rightarrow A = 1 - B$

so ②  $\Rightarrow 1 - B + 2B + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow B = -2 \Rightarrow A = 3$

So  $y(x) = 3e^x - 2e^{2x} + xe^x$ .

Example  $f(x) = C = \text{const}$ . Try  $y_p(x) = D = \text{const}$ .

Example  $f(x) = \sin 2x$ . Try  $y_p(x) = C \cos 2x + D \sin 2x$ .

Then,  $y_p'' - 3y_p' + 2y_p = -4C \cos 2x - 4D \sin 2x + 6C \sin 2x - 6D \cos 2x + 2C \cos 2x + 2D \sin 2x$

$= (-2C - 6D) \cos 2x + (6C - 2D) \sin 2x = \sin 2x$

So,  $-2C - 6D = 0$  and  $6C - 2D = 1$

so  $C = -3D$  and  $6(-3D) - 2D = 1 \Rightarrow D = -\frac{1}{20}$

and  $C = \frac{3}{20}$

So,  $y(x) = y_h(x) + y_p(x) = Ae^x + Be^{2x} + \frac{3}{20} \cos 2x - \frac{1}{20} \sin 2x$

Now, we can apply BCs, if given.

Example  $f(x) = x^2$ . Try  $y_p(x) = Cx^2 + Dx + E$ .

### § 3-4 Beating, ~~and~~ Resonance, and Damping

We've seen that linear second-order ODEs can have oscillatory solns, when  $\lambda_+, \lambda_-$  are complex. When these solutions are forced, they can give rise to beating ~~and~~ or resonance. Also, resonance can be eliminated through damping.

To show these results, we'll start with the equation for free oscillations. This is also called a simple harmonic oscillator:

$$\ddot{y} + \omega_0^2 y = 0.$$

The mass-spring system is an example:  $m\ddot{x} + kx = 0$ .  
The general solution to this homogeneous equation is

$$y(t) = A \cos \omega_0 t + B \sin \omega_0 t.$$

Now let's force this system, with another oscillator:

$$\ddot{y} + \omega_0^2 y = \sin \omega t.$$

When  $\omega \neq \omega_0$  but  $\omega \approx \omega_0$ , we get beating.

When  $\omega = \omega_0$  we get resonance.

### Beating

Let  $\omega \neq \omega_0$ . Then we try the particular solution

$$y_p(t) = C \cos \omega t + D \sin \omega t.$$

$$\text{Then } \dot{y}_p = -\omega C \sin \omega t + \omega D \cos \omega t$$

$$\text{and } \ddot{y}_p = -\omega^2 C \cos \omega t - \omega^2 D \sin \omega t.$$

$$\text{So, } \ddot{y}_p + \omega_0^2 y_p = -\omega^2 C \cos \omega t - \omega^2 D \sin \omega t + \omega_0^2 C \cos \omega t + \omega_0^2 D \sin \omega t = \sin \omega t$$

$$\text{So, coeff. } \cos \omega t: -\omega^2 C + \omega_0^2 C = 0 \Rightarrow C = 0$$

Hence,  $y_p(t) = \frac{1}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2} \sin \omega t,$

and  $y(t) = y_h(t) + y_p(t) = A \cos \omega_0 t + B \sin \omega_0 t + \frac{\sin \omega t}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2}.$

Let's choose ICs  $y(0) = 0$  and  $\dot{y}(0) = \frac{-1}{\omega_0 + \omega}$

Then  $y(0) = 0 \Rightarrow A = 0,$  and  $\dot{y}(0) = 0 \Rightarrow B = \frac{-1}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2}$

So  $y(t) = \frac{\sin \omega t - \sin \omega_0 t}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2}.$

We see that there are significant problems if  $\omega = \omega_0!$

Fact  $\sin a - \sin b = 2 \cos\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right) \sin\left(\frac{a-b}{2}\right).$

Therefore,  $y(t) = \frac{-2}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2} \cos\left(\frac{\omega + \omega_0}{2} t\right) \sin\left(\frac{\omega - \omega_0}{2} t\right).$

Let  $\Delta\omega = \omega_0 - \omega.$  Then  $\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 = (\omega_0 + \omega)(\omega_0 - \omega) = \Delta\omega(\omega_0 + \omega)$

Also,  $\omega + \omega_0 = \omega + \omega_0 + \omega_0 - \omega_0 = (\omega_0 + \omega) - (\omega_0 - \omega)$   
 $= 2\omega_0 - \Delta\omega.$

So,  $y(t) = \frac{2}{\Delta\omega(\omega_0 + \omega)} \cos\left(\left(\omega_0 - \frac{\Delta\omega}{2}\right)t\right) \sin\left(\frac{\Delta\omega t}{2}\right).$

If  $\omega \approx \omega_0,$  then  $\Delta\omega$  is very small and  $\frac{1}{\Delta\omega}$  is very large

Also,  $\cos\left(\left(\omega_0 - \frac{\Delta\omega}{2}\right)t\right) \approx \cos \omega_0 t.$

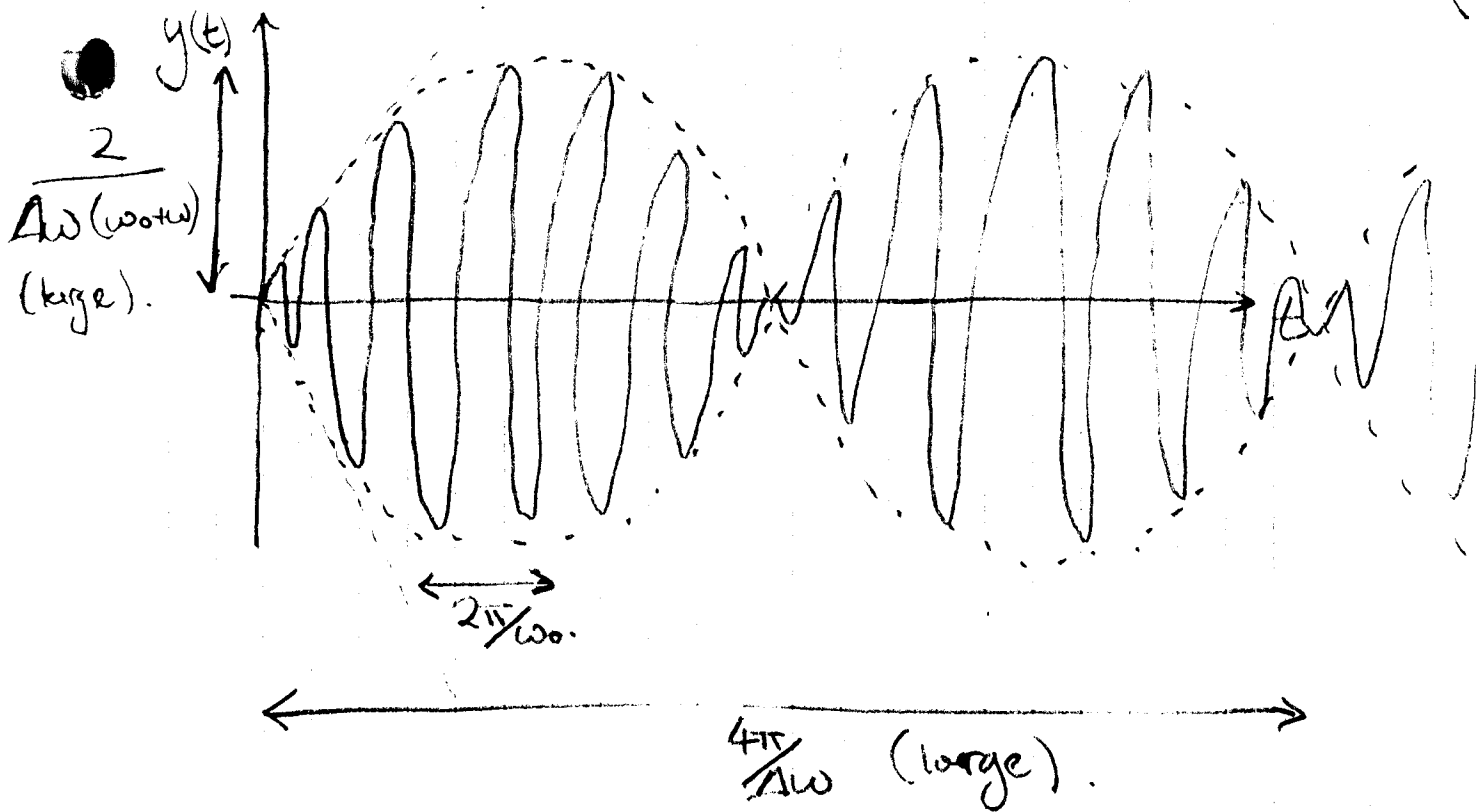
The <sup>period</sup> ~~wave length~~ of  $\cos \omega_0 t$  is  $\frac{2\pi}{\omega_0}.$

The <sup>period</sup> ~~wave length~~ of  $\sin \frac{\Delta\omega t}{2}$  is  $\frac{4\pi}{\Delta\omega}.$



Therefore, the solution looks like:

$$\dots = \pm \sin\left(\frac{\Delta\omega t}{2}\right)$$



This is beating!

### Resonance

As  $\Delta\omega \rightarrow 0$ , i.e. as  $\omega \rightarrow \omega_0$ , we get resonance.

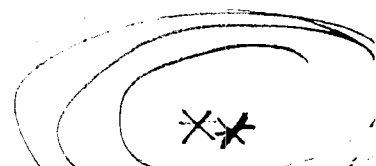
We have 
$$y(t) = \frac{-\#2}{\omega + \omega_0} \cdot \cos\left(\left(\omega - \frac{\Delta\omega}{2}\right)t\right) \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\Delta\omega t}{2}\right)}{\Delta\omega}$$

As  $\Delta\omega \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\cos\left(\left(\omega_0 - \frac{\Delta\omega}{2}\right)t\right) \rightarrow \cos \omega_0 t$

$$\frac{-\#2}{\omega + \omega_0} \rightarrow \frac{-\#1}{\omega_0}$$

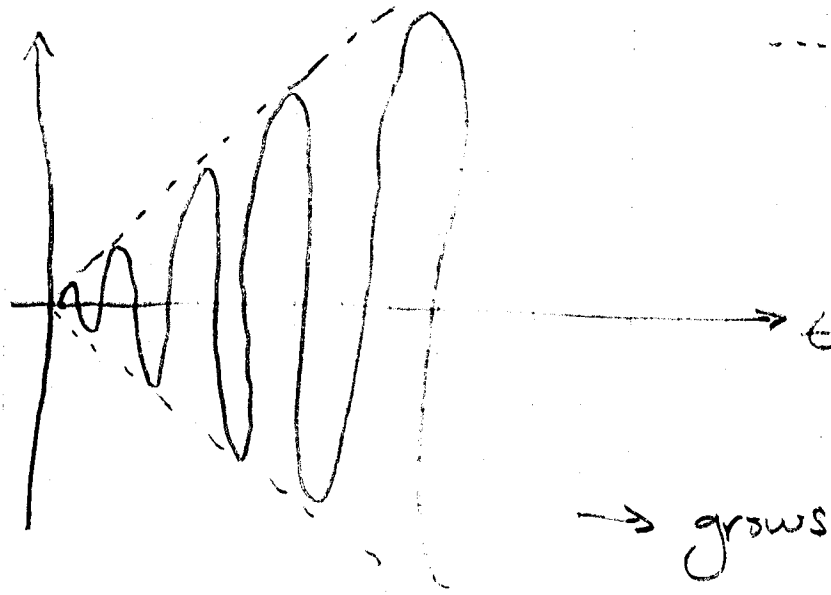
$$\frac{\sin\left(\frac{\Delta\omega t}{2}\right)}{\Delta\omega} \rightarrow \frac{t}{2}$$

So  $y(t) \rightarrow \frac{-\#1}{\omega_0} t \cos \omega_0 t$ .



We could also find this by trying  $y_p(t) = C t \cos \omega_0 t + D t \sin \omega_0 t$

Therefore, the solution looks like:



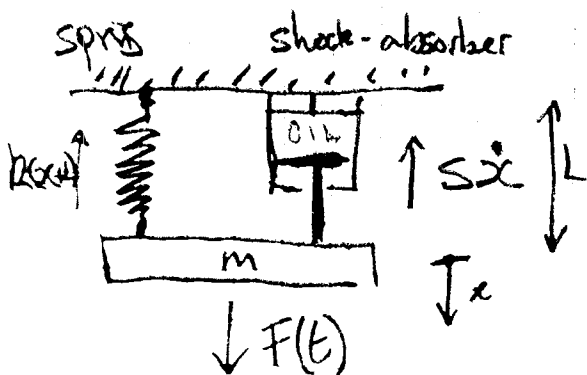
this is resonance!

## Damping

Often, mechanical/electrical systems have some form of damping, that reduces or eliminates the effect of beating and resonance. We'll look at one example:

### Example

Let's return to the mass-spring system, but add some damping.



Newton's 2nd Law gives:

$$m\ddot{x} = +mg - k(x+L) - S\dot{x} + F(t)$$

$$= \underbrace{mg - kL}_{=0} - kx - S\dot{x} + F(t)$$

$$\therefore S\dot{x} + kx = F(t)$$