

## Formulas Cullen Zill AEM Chapters 3

I. (Linear, Homogeneous, Constant Coefficients)

$ay'' + by' + cy = 0$   $\Rightarrow$  try  $y = e^{rx}$  Characteristic Equation  $ar^2 + br + c = 0$  has roots  $r_1, r_2$ . Discriminant:  $\Delta = b^2 - 4ac$ . Three Cases:

1.  $\Delta > 0$  Real distinct roots  $r_1 \neq r_2 \Rightarrow$  (general solution)  $y = c_1 e^{r_1 x} + c_2 e^{r_2 x}$
2.  $\Delta = 0$  Real double root  $r = r_1 = r_2 \Rightarrow$  (general solution)  $y = c_1 e^{rx} + c_2 x e^{rx}$
3.  $\Delta < 0$  Complex roots  $r = \alpha \pm i\beta \Rightarrow$  (general solution)  $y = c_1 e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x) + c_2 e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x)$

II. (Euler Equation,  $x > 0$ )  $ax^2 y'' + bxy' + cy = 0 \Rightarrow$  try  $y = x^r$

Characteristic Equation  $ar^2 + (b-a)r + c = 0$  has roots  $r_1, r_2$ .

Three Cases:

1. Real distinct roots  $r_1 \neq r_2 \Rightarrow$  (general solution)  $y = c_1 x^{r_1} + c_2 x^{r_2}$
2. Real double root  $r = r_1 = r_2 \Rightarrow$  (general solution)  $y = c_1 x^r + c_2 \ln(x) x^r$
3. Complex roots  $r = \alpha \pm i\beta \Rightarrow$  (general solution)  $y = c_1 x^\alpha \cos(\beta \ln(x)) + c_2 x^\alpha \sin(\beta \ln(x))$

III. (Nonhomogeneous Linear)  $y'' + P(x)y' + Q(x)y = R(x)$  General solution:  $y = y_c + y_p$

$y_c$ is the general solution of $y'' + P(x)y' + Q(x)y = 0$	and	$y_p$ is any particular solution of $y'' + P(x)y' + Q(x)y = R(x)$
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There are two methods:

A. (Undetermined Coefficients) Guess the form of  $y_p$  from  $R(x)$ . This method requires that  $P$  and  $Q$  to be constants and  $R$  is a sum of terms of the form  $x^k, x^k e^{\alpha x}, x^k e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x)$  or  $x^k e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x)$ .

B. (Variation of Parameters) Look for a particular solution in the form  $y_p = uy_1 + vy_2$ . This approach leads to

$$y_p(x) = -y_1(x) \int \frac{y_2(s)R(s)}{W(s)} ds + y_2(x) \int \frac{y_1(s)R(s)}{W(s)} ds, \quad W(s) = \det \begin{bmatrix} y_1(s) & y_2(s) \\ y_1'(s) & y_2'(s) \end{bmatrix}$$

IV. (Reduction of Order) Suppose that  $y_1$  is a solution of  $y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$ . A second

solution can be found in the form  $y_2 = y_1 \int \frac{1}{y_1^2(x)} \exp\left(-\int p(x) ds\right) dx$ .

A homogeneous linear differential equation with constant real coefficients of order  $n$  has the form

$$\boxed{y^{(n)} + a_{n-1}y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_0y = 0. \quad (*)}$$

We can introduce the notation  $D = \frac{d}{dx}$  and write the above equation as

$$P(D)y \equiv \left( D^n + a_{n-1}D^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_0 \right) y = 0.$$

By the fundamental theorem of algebra we can factor  $P(D)$  as

$$\boxed{(D - r_1)^{m_1} \dots (D - r_k)^{m_k} (D^2 - 2\alpha_1 D + \alpha_1^2 + \beta_1^2)^{p_1} \dots (D^2 - 2\alpha_\ell D + \alpha_\ell^2 + \beta_\ell^2)^{p_\ell},}$$

where  $\sum_{j=1}^k m_j + 2 \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} p_j = n$ .

There are two types of factors  $(D - r)^k$  and  $(D^2 - 2\alpha D + \alpha^2 + \beta^2)^k$  :

$$\boxed{\text{The general solution of } (D - r)^k y = 0 \text{ is } y = \left( c_1 + c_2 x + \dots + c_k x^{(k-1)} \right) e^{rx}}$$

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} &\text{The general solution of } (D^2 - 2\alpha D + \alpha^2 + \beta^2)^k y = 0 \text{ is} \\ &y = \left( c_1 + c_2 x + \dots + c_k x^{(k-1)} \right) e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x) + \left( d_1 + d_2 x + \dots + d_k x^{(k-1)} \right) e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x). \end{aligned}}$$

The general solution contains one such term for each term in the factorization.

We can also argue as before and seek solutions of  $(*)$  in the form  $y = e^{rx}$  to get a characteristic polynomial

$$r^n + a_{n-1}r^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_0 = 0.$$

In either case we find that the general solution consists of a sum of  $n$  expressions  $\{y_j\}_{j=1}^n$  where each like  $x^k$ ,  $x^k e^{rx}$ ,  $x^k e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x)$  or  $x^k e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x)$ . The  $y_j$  are linearly independent and the general solution is  $y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2 + \dots + c_n y_n$ . In the case  $n = 3$  the Wronskian of three functions  $y_1, y_2, y_3$  is

$$W = W(y_1, y_2, y_3) = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & y_3 \\ y_1' & y_2' & y_3' \\ y_1'' & y_2'' & y_3'' \end{bmatrix}.$$

If the functions are solutions of a linear homogeneous ODE then the functions are linearly independent on an interval  $I$  if and only if the wronskian is not zero at a single  $x \in I$  (and therefore for all  $x \in I$ ).

## Nonhomogeneous Linear Equation with Constant Coefficients

Our goal is to find the general solution of  $ay'' + by' + cy = f(x)$  (\*)

The general solution of (\*) is obtained as  $y = y_c + y_p$  where

1.  $y_c$  is the general solution of the homogeneous problem, i.e.  $y_c = c_1y_1 + c_2y_2$  where  $y_1, y_2$  are two linearly independent solutions of  $ay'' + by' + cy = 0$ .
2.  $y_p$  is (any) particular solution of the nonhomogeneous problem (\*).

The main problem then is to find  $y_p$ .

### Remarks on the *Method of Undetermined Coefficients*

**Remark:**

1. The general solution of the homogeneous problem is given as a sum of numbers times terms of the form

$$p(x), \quad p(x)e^{\alpha x}, \quad p(x)e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x), \quad p(x)e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x) \tag{1}$$

where  $p(x)$  is a polynomial in  $x$ . No other types of solutions are possible!

2. This remains true for the nonhomogeneous problem (\*) provided the right hand side  $f(x)$  is also given as a sum of terms of the form (1).
3. The main thing is to find  $y_p$  and here we consider the case of  $f(x)$  in the form (1).

We consider  $p(x) = Cx^m + \dots$  is a polynomial of degree  $m$ .

$$ay'' + by' + cy = p(x)e^{r_0x} \Rightarrow y_p = x^s(A_mx^m + \dots + A_1x + A_0)e^{r_0x}$$

1.  $s = 0$  if  $r_0$  is not a root of the characteristic polynomial  $ar^2 + br + c = 0$  (†).
2.  $s = 1$  if  $r_0$  is a simple root of (†).
3.  $s = 2$  if  $r_0$  is a double root of (†).

**N.B.** The above case includes the case  $r_0 = 0$  in which case the right side is  $p(x)$ .

$$ay'' + by' + cy = \begin{cases} p(x)e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x) \\ \text{or} \\ p(x)e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x) \end{cases} \Rightarrow y_p = x^s(A_mx^m + \dots + A_1x + A_0)e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x) + x^s(B_mx^m + \dots + B_1x + B_0)e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x)$$

1.  $s = 0$  if  $r_0 = \alpha + i\beta$  is not a root of (†).
2.  $s = 1$  if  $r_0 = \alpha + i\beta$  is a simple root of (†).