

Yesterday we showed that for

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0 \quad (1)$$

the corresponding Characteristic Equation was

$$ar^2 + br + c = 0. \quad (2)$$

If the roots to (2) are distinct real $r_1 \neq r_2$, then a general solution to (1) is given by $y = c_1 e^{r_1 t} + c_2 e^{r_2 t}$.

If the roots to (2) are repeated real r , then a general solution to (1) is given by $y = c_1 e^{rt} + c_2 t e^{rt}$.

And, if the roots to (2) are complex conjugates $r = \alpha \pm i\beta$ then a general solution to (1) is given by $y = c_1 e^{\alpha t} \cos \beta t + c_2 e^{\alpha t} \sin \beta t$.

1. Find a general solution for the following.

(a) 1 $y'' - y' - 6y = 0$ $r_1 = 3, r_2 = -2$

$$r^2 - r - 6 = 0$$

$$(r-3)(r+2) = 0$$

$$y = C_1 e^{3t} + C_2 e^{-2t}$$

(b) 1 $y'' + 6y' + 9y = 0$ $r = -3$

$$r^2 + 6r + 9 = 0$$

$$(r+3)^2 = 0$$

$$y = C_1 e^{-3t} + C_2 t e^{-3t}$$

(c) 1 $y'' + 25y = 0$ $r = \pm 5i$

$$r^2 + 25 = 0$$

$$y = C_1 \cos 5t + C_2 \sin 5t$$

(d) 1 $2y'' - y' - y = 0$ $r_1 = -1/2, r_2 = 1$

$$2r^2 - r - 1 = 0$$

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

$$y = C_1 e^{-t/2} + C_2 e^t$$

(e) 1 $9y'' - 6y' + y = 0$ $r = \pm 1/3$

$$9r^2 - 6r + 1 = 0$$

$$(3r-1)^2 = 0$$

$$y = C_1 e^{t/3} + C_2 t e^{t/3}$$

(f) 1 $y'' - 2y' + 10y = 0$ $r = 1 \pm 3i$

$$r^2 - 2r + 10 = 0$$

$$(r-1)^2 = -9$$

$$y = C_1 e^t \cos 3t + C_2 e^t \sin 3t$$

2. Consider the Mass-Spring system given by

$$y'' + 2y' + 2y = 0. \quad (3)$$

(a) [1] Find a general solution to (3).

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

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

$$r = -1 \pm i$$

$$y = C_1 e^{-t} \cos t + C_2 e^{-t} \sin t$$

(b) [1] If the Mass-Spring system given in (3) has initial conditions of $y(0) = 2$ and $y'(0) = 1$, find the solution to this initial value problem.

$$y(0) = C_1 = 2$$

$$y'(t) = -C_1 e^{-t} \cos t - C_1 e^{-t} \sin t - C_2 e^{-t} \sin t + C_2 e^{-t} \cos t$$

$$y'(0) = -C_1 + C_2 = 1 \quad \text{so} \quad C_2 = 3$$

$$y = 2e^{-t} \cos t + 3e^{-t} \sin t$$

3. [2] Finding solutions to higher order equations is similar to finding solutions to first and second order equations. Using what we developed for first and second order equations as a starting point, find a general solution to the fifth order equation

$$y^{(5)} = 16y'.$$

$$r^5 - 16r = 0$$

$$r(r^4 - 16) = 0$$

$$r_1 = 0$$

$$r_2 = 2$$

$$r_3 = -2$$

$$r_4 = 2i$$

$$r_5 = -2i$$

$$y = C_1 + C_2 e^{2t} + C_3 e^{-2t} + C_4 \cos 2t + C_5 \sin 2t$$