

### Method of Undetermined Coefficients

To find a particular solution to

$$ay'' + by' + cy = P_m(t)e^{rt}$$

where  $P_m(t)$  is a polynomial of degree  $m$ , use the form

$$y_p(t) = t^s (A_m t^m + \dots + A_1 t + A_0) e^{rt};$$

if  $r$  is not a root of the associated auxiliary equation, take  $s = 0$ ; if  $r$  is a simple root, take  $s = 1$ ; and if  $r$  is a double root, take  $s = 2$ .

To find a particular solution to

$$ay'' + by' + cy = P_m(t)e^{\alpha t} \cos \beta t + Q_n(t)e^{\alpha t} \sin \beta t$$

where  $P_m(t)$  and  $Q_n(t)$  are polynomials of degree  $m$  and  $n$ , respectively, use the form

$$y_p(t) = t^s \left( A_k t^k + \dots + A_1 t + A_0 \right) e^{\alpha t} \cos \beta t + t^s \left( B_k t^k + \dots + B_1 t + B_0 \right) e^{\alpha t} \sin \beta t;$$

where  $k$  is the larger of  $m$  and  $n$ . If  $\alpha + i\beta$  is not a root of the associated auxiliary equation, take  $s = 0$ ; if so take  $s = 1$ .

- Find the appropriate form using the Method of Undetermined Coefficients for a particular solution to the following. **Do not** solve for the unknown constants.

(a)  $y'' - 4y' + 4y = t \sin 3t$   $y_p = (At + B) \sin 3t + (Ct + D) \cos 3t$   
 $r^2 - 4r + 4 = 0$   
 $(r-2)^2 = 0$

(b)  $y'' - 4y' + 4y = te^t + 3e^{4t}$   $y_p = (At + B)e^t + Ce^{4t}$

(c)  $y'' - y' - 6y = e^{3t} + 7t^2$   $y_p = At e^{3t} + Bt^2 + Ct + D$   
 $r^2 - r - 6 = 0$   
 $(r-3)(r+2) = 0$   
 $\hookrightarrow r = 3$

(d)  $y'' + 9y = \sin 3t$   $y_p = At \sin 3t + Bt \cos 3t$   
 $r = \pm 3i$

(e)  $y'' + 9y = e^{2t} \cos 3t$   $y_p = Ae^{2t} \cos 3t + Be^{2t} \sin 3t$   
 $r = \pm 3i$

**STOP!** Don't move on until you know these are correct.

2. Find a general solution for the following.

(a)  $y'' + y = 4$   $y_p = A$   
 $r^2 + 1 = 0$   $y_p' = y_p'' = 0$   ~~$y = C_1 e^t + C_2 e^{-t} + A$~~   
 $r = \pm i$   $\text{so } A = 4$   $y = C_1 \cos t + C_2 \sin t + 4$

(b)  $y'' + y = 4t$   $y_p = At + B$   
 $y_p' = A, y_p'' = 0$   ~~$y = C_1 e^t + C_2 e^{-t} + 4t$~~   
 $\text{so } 0 + At + B = 4t$   $y = C_1 \cos t + C_2 \sin t + 4t$

(c)  $y'' = 4$   $y_p = At^2$   
 $r^2 = 0$   $y_p' = 2At$   $y = C_1 + C_2 t + 2t^2$   
 $y_p'' = 2A$   $\text{so } A = 2$

(d)  $y'' + 6y' + 8y = 16 + 6e^{-2t}$   
 $r^2 + 6r + 8 = 0$   $y_p = A + Bte^{-2t}$   $\frac{t^0}{:} \quad 8A = 16 \quad \text{so } A = 2$   
 $(r+2)(r+4) = 0$   $y_p' = Be^{-2t} - 2Bte^{-2t}$   $\frac{e^{-2t}}{:} \quad 2B = 6 \quad \text{so } B = 3$   
 $r = -2, r = -4$   $y_p'' = -4Be^{-2t} + 4Bte^{-2t}$

Substituting gives

$$e^{-2t} [-4B + 4Bt] + e^{-2t} [6B - 12Bt] + 8A + e^{-2t} [8Bt] = 16 + 6e^{-2t}$$

$$y = C_1 e^{-2t} + C_2 e^{-4t} + 2 + 3te^{-2t}$$

(e)  $y'' + 6y' + 8y = \cos 2t$

$y_p = A \cos 2t + B \sin 2t$   $y = C_1 e^{-2t} + C_2 e^{-4t} + \frac{1}{40} \cos 2t + \frac{3}{40} \sin 2t$   
 $y_p' = -2A \sin 2t + 2B \cos 2t$   
 $y_p'' = -4A \cos 2t - 4B \sin 2t$

$$y_p'' + 6y_p' + 8y_p = \cancel{\cos 2t} [A + 12B - 32A] +$$

$$= \cos 2t [-4A + 12B + 8A] + \sin 2t [-4B - 12A + 8B] = \cos 2t$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \cos t : 4A + 12B = 1 \\ \sin t : 4B - 12A = 0 \end{array} \right\} A = \frac{1}{40}, B = \frac{3}{40}$$