

Mathematical methods and its applications
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Lecture – 03
Solution of second order homogenous linear differential
equation with constant coefficients

Hello friends, welcome. In this lecture I will discuss Solution of Second Order Homogenous Linear Differential Equation with Constant Coefficients. This topic will be covered in 2 lectures. We will cover in this lecture and the next lecture. Now let us define a homogenous linear differential equation of second order with constant coefficients. This, such an equation is given by $y'' + ay' + by = 0$, where a and b are some real constants and x is any real number belonging to \mathbb{R} .

(Refer Slide Time: 00:43)

Homogeneous second order equations with constant coefficients

The homogeneous linear differential equation of second order with constant coefficient is

$$y''(x) + a y'(x) + b y(x) = 0, \quad \dots(1)$$

where a and b are real constants and x is any real number.

Since the equation

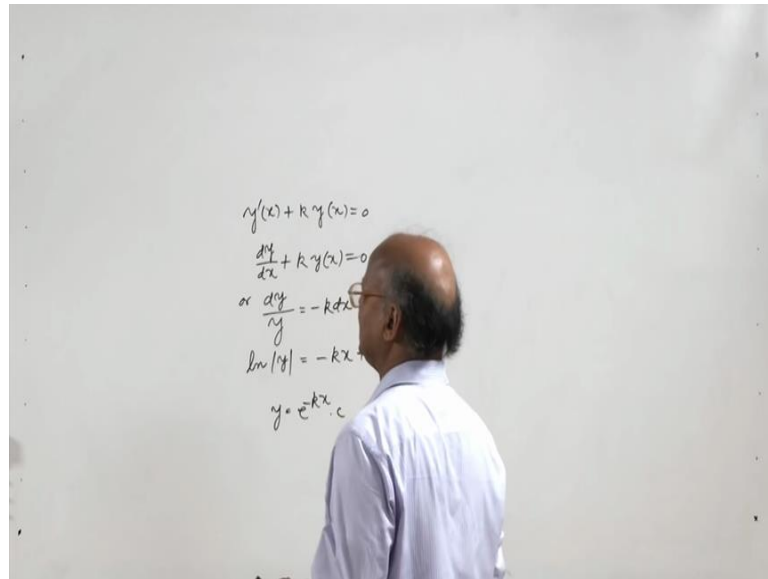
$$y'(x) + k y(x) = 0,$$

where k is a constant, possesses the exponential solution $y = ce^{-kx}$.

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Now, let us look at this. We shall be finding solution of this second order homogenous linear differential equation, by with the help of this solution of first order linear differential equation with constant coefficients.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:24)



So, let us look at this equation $y' + k y = 0$. We know that it possesses an exponential solution, $y = e^{-kx}$. You can write it as, or we can write it as, now integrating both sides. So, we can write $\ln|y| = -kx + c$ or we can write $y = e^{-kx} \cdot c$. So, $y = c e^{-kx}$. Here c is an arbitrary constant.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:23)

So the question arises:

Whether exponential solutions exist for homogeneous linear higher order differential equations or not?

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Now, the question arises whether exponential solutions exist for homogeneous linear higher order differential equation or not. So, we will see that the solutions of higher order

homogenous linear differential equations are also either exponential functions or they are constructed out of exponential function. Let us substitute y equal to e to the power x e to the power m x in the second order homogenous linear differential equation with constant coefficients.

(Refer Slide Time: 02:49)

All the solutions of such equations are either exponential functions or are constructed out of exponential functions.

So, let us substitute the function $y=e^{mx}$ in (1), then we get

$$(m^2+am+b)e^{mx}=0,$$

Since $e^{mx} \neq 0$ for $x \in \mathbb{R}$, it is clear that $y=e^{mx}$ is a solution of (1) provided m is chosen as a root of the equation

$$m^2+am+b=0. \quad \dots(2)$$

This equation is called the auxiliary equation (or characteristic equation) of (1).

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$y'' + ay' + by = 0$
 Let us put
 $y = e^{mx}$
 $y' = m e^{mx}$
 $y'' = m^2 e^{mx}$
 $(m^2 + am + b)e^{mx} = 0$
 Since $e^{mx} \neq 0$ for any $x \in \mathbb{R}$
 we have $m^2 + am + b = 0$
 $\Rightarrow m_1 = \frac{-a + \sqrt{a^2 - 4b}}{2}, m_2 = \frac{-a - \sqrt{a^2 - 4b}}{2}$

$y_1 = \frac{e^{m_1 x}}{x^2} = e^{(m_1 - m_2)x}$
 $y_2 = \frac{e^{m_2 x}}{x^2} = e^{(m_2 - m_1)x}$
 The general solution of $y'' + ay' + by = 0$
 is $y = c_1 e^{m_1 x} + c_2 e^{m_2 x}$

$y'' + ay' + by = 0$. This our second order homogenous linear differential equation with constant coefficients a and b. So, let us put y equal to e to the power m x in this. We get y dash equal to m times e to the power m x, y double

dash equal to m square e to the power $m x$. So, substituting the values of y dash and y double dash in the equation y double dash plus $a y$ dash plus $b y$ equal to 0, we get m square plus $a m$ plus b into e to the power $m x$ equal to 0.

Now since e to the power $m x$ is not 0, is never 0 for any x belonging to \mathbb{R} . We have m square plus $a m$ plus b equal to 0 which is a quadratic equation of second order in m . This equation is called as the characteristic equation or auxiliary equation. So, by obtaining the roots of this equation say the roots are m_1 and m_2 . We can say that we get solutions y equal to e to the power $m_1 x$ and e to the power $m_2 x$ of the given differential equation.

Now, there arise the following values of m_1 and m_2 . So, this gives you m_1 equal to $\frac{-a + \sqrt{a^2 - 4b}}{2}$ and m_2 equal to $\frac{-a - \sqrt{a^2 - 4b}}{2}$; now whether m_1 and m_2 are distinct, or they are complex conjugate or they are equal to depends on the discriminant. And discriminant of the given second order equation m square plus $a m$ plus b equal to 0. So, there arise 3 cases. We shall get 2 distinct real roots provided the discriminant a square minus $4 b$ is greater than 0. 2 complex conjugate roots provided a square minus $4 b$ is less than 0 and a real double root when a square minus $4 b$ equal to 0. So, we shall discuss these 3 cases one by one.



(Refer Slide Time: 05:14)

Roots of a characteristic equation

Its roots are $m_1 = \frac{-a + \sqrt{a^2 - 4b}}{2}$ and $m_2 = \frac{-a - \sqrt{a^2 - 4b}}{2}$.

Since a and b are real, the auxiliary equation may have the following cases.

- Two distinct real roots ($a^2 - 4b > 0$).
- Two complex conjugate roots ($a^2 - 4b < 0$).
- A real double root ($a^2 - 4b = 0$).


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5

In the case of 2 distinct real roots, we find 2 solutions corresponding to the 2 values of m_1 and m_2 . So, y_1 equal to e to the power $m_1 x$ and y_2 equal to e to the power $m_2 x$.

(Refer Slide Time: 05:43)

Case 1: Two distinct real roots

In this case, we find two solutions $y_1 = e^{m_1 x}$ and $y_2 = e^{m_2 x}$ which are linearly independent because $\frac{y_1}{y_2}$ is not a constant on any interval.

Example:

$$y'' + y' - 2y = 0.$$

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Now, y_1 and y_2 are linearly independent because y_1 upon y_2 is equal to the e to the power m_1 minus m_2 into x . Since m_1 is not equal to m_2 , e to the power m_1 minus m_2 into x is not a constant and therefore, y_1 and y_2 are linearly independent.

(Refer Slide Time: 06:53)

$y'' + y' - 2y = 0$

The auxiliary equation is

$$m^2 + m - 2 = 0$$
$$m^2 + 2m - m - 2 = 0$$
$$m(m+2) - 1(m+2) = 0$$
$$\Rightarrow m = -2, 1$$

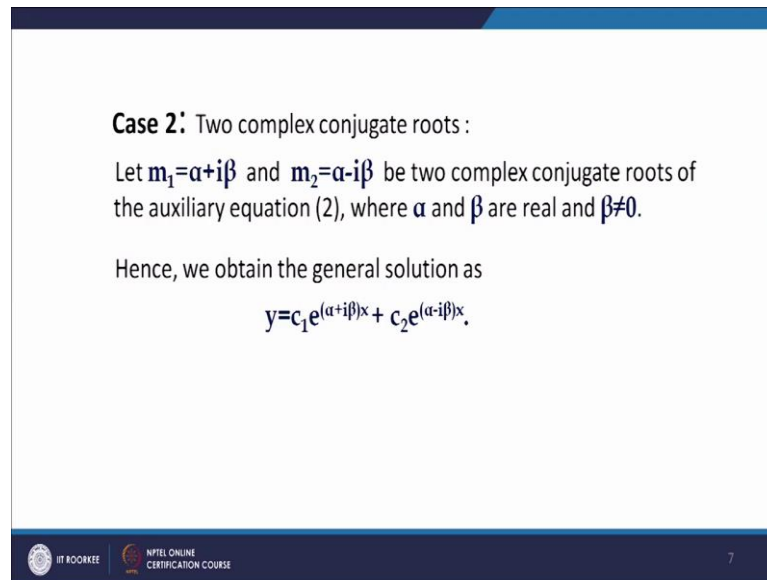
So the general solution is

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

So, in this case the general solutions of the equation is, y equal to $c_1 e$ to the power $m_1 x$ plus $c_2 e$ to the power $m_2 x$. For example, let us consider $y'' + y' - 2y = 0$. So, the auxiliary equation will be, $m^2 + m - 2 = 0$. And we can then see that $m = -2, 1$. So, we

can write $m^2 + 2m - m - 2 = 0$. This will give you the roots m equal to -2 and 1 , which are distinct roots. And so the general solution of the given equation will be $y = c_1 e^{-2x} + c_2 e^x$.

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Case 2: Two complex conjugate roots :

Let $m_1 = \alpha + i\beta$ and $m_2 = \alpha - i\beta$ be two complex conjugate roots of the auxiliary equation (2), where α and β are real and $\beta \neq 0$.

Hence, we obtain the general solution as

$$y = c_1 e^{(\alpha + i\beta)x} + c_2 e^{(\alpha - i\beta)x}.$$

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Now, let us consider the case of 2 complex conjugate roots. So, let us say m_1 is equal to $\alpha + i\beta$ and m_2 equal to $\alpha - i\beta$ be 2 complex conjugate roots of the auxiliary equation $m^2 + am + b = 0$. Where α and β are real numbers and β is not equal to 0. Then the general solution will be, since in applications with real solutions therefore, instead of complex exponentials here.

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$$y = C_1 e^{(\alpha+i\beta)x} + C_2 e^{(\alpha-i\beta)x}$$

By Euler's formula

$$y_1 = e^{(\alpha+i\beta)x} = e^{\alpha x} (\cos \beta x + i \sin \beta x)$$

$$y_2 = e^{(\alpha-i\beta)x} = e^{\alpha x} (\cos \beta x - i \sin \beta x)$$

$$\frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} = e^{\alpha x} \cos \beta x, \quad \frac{y_1 - y_2}{2i} = e^{\alpha x} \sin \beta x$$

The general solution is

$$y = (C_1 \cos \beta x + C_2 \sin \beta x) e^{\alpha x}$$

$$\frac{y_1}{y_2} = \frac{e^{(\alpha+i\beta)x}}{e^{(\alpha-i\beta)x}} = e^{2i\beta x}$$

The general solution of $y'' + ay' + b = 0$ is

$$y = C_1 e^{m_1 x} + C_2 e^{m_2 x}$$

$$m^2 + am + b = 0$$

$$y'' + ay' + by = 0$$

Since $\frac{e^{\alpha x} \cos \beta x}{e^{\alpha x} \sin \beta x}$ is not a constant,

Let us try to find the real solutions of the homogenous second order linear differential equation. So, let us recall the Euler's formula. The Euler's formula tells us that e to the power i theta is cos theta plus i sin theta. So, e to the power alpha plus i beta into x can be written as, let it be y 1. And y 2 be e to the power alpha minus i beta into x. Then we can write it as, so adding y 1 and y 2 we get and also y 1 minus y 2.

Now, we have already seen that in the case of a homogenous linear differential equation of nth order, if y 1 y 2 y k are solutions of that equation then c 1 y 1 plus c 2 y 2 and so on c k y k is also a solution. So, y 1 plus y 2 by 2 is a solution of the equation y double dash plus a y dash plus b y equal to 0. This is our second order differential equation. So, if y 1 and y 2 are solutions of this then y 1 plus y 2 by 2 is also a solution and y 1 minus y 2 by 2 i is also a solution. So, e to the power alpha x cos beta x is a solution of this differential equation. And e power alpha x into sin beta x is also a solution of this differential equation. Furthermore, we note that e to the power alpha x cos beta x divided by e to the power alpha x sin beta x is not a constant. So, e to the power alpha x cos beta x and e to the power alpha x sin beta x are 2 linearly independent solutions of this differential equation.

Since, e to the power alpha x cos beta x upon e to the power alpha x sin beta x is not a constant. The general solution in this case will be y equal to c 1 cos beta x plus c 2 plus sin beta x, into e to the power alpha x. So, in this case of 2 complex conjugated

roots m_1 equal to $\alpha + i\beta$ and m_2 equal to $\alpha - i\beta$. The general solution of the differential equation $y'' + ay' + by = 0$, will be written as $e^{\alpha x} (c_1 \cos \beta x + c_2 \sin \beta x)$.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:37)


By Euler's formula

$$y_1 = e^{(\alpha+i\beta)x} = e^{\alpha x}(\cos \beta x + i\sin \beta x)$$
$$y_2 = e^{(\alpha-i\beta)x} = e^{\alpha x}(\cos \beta x - i\sin \beta x)$$

Hence, the general solution is given by

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


where c_1 and c_2 are arbitrary constants.



Now, we go over to an example on this. So, this is Euler's formula the general solution is given by this one y equal to which we have already seen c_1 and c_2 are 2 arbitrary constants.

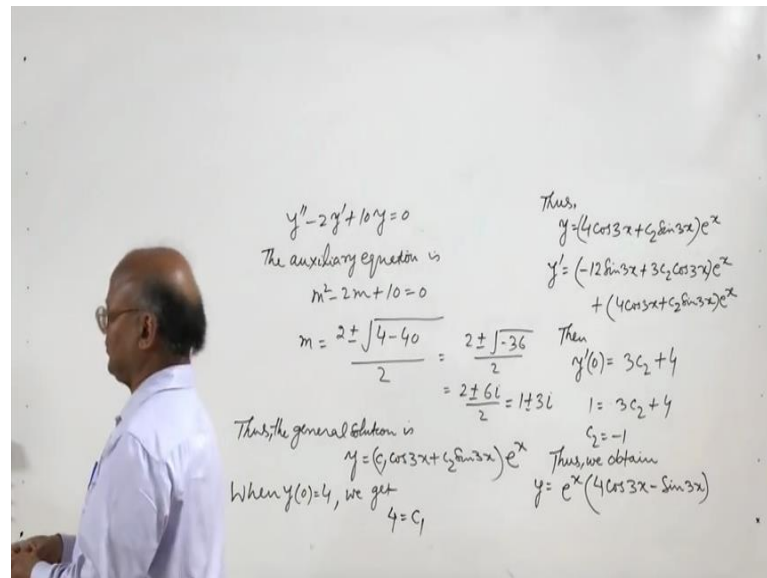
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Example: Solve the initial value problem

$$y'' - 2y' + 10y = 0, \quad y(0) = 4, \quad y'(0) = 1.$$


Let us now take up the problem $y'' - 2y' + 10y = 0$. This is an initial value problem we are given a homogenous second order linear differential equation with constant coefficients, along with 2 initial conditions. At x equal to 0 y is given as 4 and at x equal to 0, the derivative of y is given as 1. So, $y'' - 2y' + 10y = 0$.

(Refer Slide Time: 13:05)



So, these 2 initial conditions will determine a unique solution of the homogenous linear differential equation of second order. So, here auxiliary be auxiliary equation is $m^2 - 2m + 10 = 0$. So, we can find m . So, this is $2 \pm 6i$ at divided by 2, which is equal to $1 \pm 3i$.

So, if you compare it with $\alpha \pm i\beta$ α is 1 and β is 3. So, we can write the general solution, y equal to $e^{\alpha x} (c_1 \cos \beta x + c_2 \sin \beta x)$, where c_1 and c_2 are 2 arbitrary constants. Now with the given initial conditions we shall determine the values of c_1 and c_2 . So, let us first take $y(0) = 4$, when $y(0) = 4$, we get putting x equal to 0 here, we get 4 equal to c_1 because when x is equal to 0 $\cos 3x$ is 1 and $\sin 3x$ is equal to 0 and e to the power 0 is equal to 1. So, we have got the value of c_1 now let us use second initial condition to determine the value of c_2 . So, we will have to put $c_1 = 4$ here. So, we can say thus $y = 4 \cos 3x + c_2 \sin 3x$ into $e^{\alpha x}$. Let us differentiate it with respect to x . What do we get?

$y' = -12 \sin 3x + 3c_2$, the derivative of e to the power x is e to the power.

Now, let us put x equal to 0 in this. So, x equal to 0 when you put $\sin 3x$ will be 0 $\cos 3x$ will be 1. So, we get $3c_2$, this is 1, here when you put x equal to 0, this is 4 this is 0, so $3c_2$ plus 4. Now $y(0)$ is given equal to 1. So, we get c_2 equal to minus 1. And thus we have y equal to corresponding to the 2 initial conditions we have got the values of c_1 and c_2 arbitrary constants c_1 and c_2 . So, this is e to the power x times $4 \cos 3x$. So, this how we find the solutions of this initial value problem.

Thank you.