

Recall • 2nd order ODE w/
constant coefficients

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0$$

- Solutions typically have two constants

Ex: Let's try to solve

$$y'' - 9y = 0$$

We only changed the "1" in front of y to a "9", so we would guess that there are solutions of the form

$$e^{rx} \text{ for some } r.$$

Let's try to find r !

$$y = e^{rx}, \quad y' = r e^{rx}, \quad y'' = r^2 e^{rx}$$

$$\begin{aligned} y'' - 9y &= r^2 e^{rx} - 9e^{rx} \\ &= e^{rx} (r^2 - 9) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since we want this to be $= 0$ as a function (so for all x) we must have

$$r^2 - 9 = 0 \Leftrightarrow r = \pm 3.$$

Therefore

$$y_1 = e^{3x}, \quad y_2 = e^{-3x}$$

$$\text{So } y(x) = C_1 e^{3x} + C_2 e^{-3x}$$

is the general solution to $y'' - 9y = 0$.

Ex $y'' - 5y' + 6y = 0$.

Let's again look for solutions of the form $y = e^{rx}$.

$$y' = r e^{rx}, \quad y'' = r^2 e^{rx}.$$

$$\begin{aligned} y'' - 5y' + 6y &= r^2 e^{rx} - 5r e^{rx} + 6e^{rx} \\ &= e^{rx} (r^2 - 5r + 6) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

For the same reason as before we want

$$r^2 - 5r + 6 = 0$$

$$r = \frac{5}{2} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{5}{2}\right)^2 - 6}$$

$$= \frac{5}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{25 - 24}{4}}$$

$$= \frac{5}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2}$$

$$r_1 = 2, \quad r_2 = 3$$

so e^{2x} and e^{3x} are solutions.

General solution is

$$y(x) = C_1 e^{2x} + C_2 e^{3x}.$$

Ex: Solve the IVP

$$y'' - 3y' + 2y = 0$$

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

First look for solutions of the eqn of the form e^{rx} .

$$y = e^{rx}, \quad y' = r e^{rx}, \quad y'' = r^2 e^{rx}.$$

Then

$$y'' - 3y' + 2y = r^2 e^{rx} - 3r e^{rx} + 2e^{rx}$$

$$= e^{rx}(r^2 - 3r + 2) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r = \frac{3}{2} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^2 - 2} = \frac{3}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - \frac{8}{4}}$$

$$= \frac{3}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2}$$

$$r_1 = 1, r_2 = 2$$

e^x and e^{2x} are solutions

↪ General solution is

$$y = C_1 e^x + C_2 e^{2x}.$$

Initial values:

$$y(0) = C_1 e^0 + C_2 e^0 = C_1 + C_2 = 1$$

$$y'(x) = C_1 e^x + 2C_2 e^{2x}$$

$$y'(0) = C_1 + 2C_2 = 2$$

$$\begin{cases} C_1 + C_2 = -1 & (1) \\ C_1 + 2C_2 = 1 & (2) \end{cases}$$

(1) $C_1 = -1 - C_2$ Plug into (2)

$$\rightarrow -1 - C_2 + 2C_2 = -1 + C_2 = 1$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \boxed{C_2 = 2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{C_1 = -1 - 2 = -3}$$

Specific solution to the IVP
is therefore

$$\boxed{y(x) = -3e^x + 2e^{2x}}$$

Recall:

We are interested in solving 2nd order equations of the form

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0$$

a, b, c constants

Have seen that solutions are often of the form

$$y = C_1 e^{r_1 x} + C_2 e^{r_2 x}$$

Where r_1, r_2 are two constants determined by the equation.

Ex $y'' - 4y = 0$. Let's find solutions of the form e^{rx} .

$$y = e^{rx}, \quad y' = r e^{rx}, \quad y'' = r^2 e^{rx}$$

$$y'' - 4y = r^2 e^{rx} - 4e^{rx} = e^{rx}(r^2 - 4)$$

= 0 for all x

means $r^2 - 4 = 0$

$\Rightarrow r = \pm 2$, so both e^{2x} and e^{-2x} are solutions to

$y'' - 4y = 0$. More generally

$y = C_1 e^{2x} + C_2 e^{-2x}$ is the

general solution

In fact we can solve all equations in a similar way.

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0$$

then if we look for solutions

of the form $y=e^{rx}$ we get
 $y'=re^{rx}$, $y''=r^2e^{rx}$

$$ay''+by'+cy = ar^2e^{rx} + bre^{rx} + ce^{rx} \\ = e^{rx}(ar^2+br+c) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \boxed{ar^2+br+c=0}$$

So if r is a root of the polynomial ar^2+br+c then

$y=e^{rx}$ is a solution to

$$ay''+by'+cy=0.$$

The equation

$$ar^2+br+c=0 \text{ is}$$

called the "characteristic equation".

Ex: $2y'' - 3y' + y = 0$.

Characteristic eqn:

$$2r^2 - 3r + 1 = 0$$

$$r^2 - \frac{3}{2}r + \frac{1}{2} = 0$$

$$r = \frac{3}{4} \pm \sqrt{\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^2 - \frac{1}{2}}$$

$$= \frac{3}{4} \pm \sqrt{\frac{9}{16} - \frac{8}{16}} = \frac{3}{4} \pm \frac{1}{4}$$

$$r_1 = 1, \quad r_2 = \frac{1}{2}.$$

e^x and $e^{\frac{x}{2}}$ are solutions

to $2y'' - 3y' + y = 0$ &

$y = C_1 e^x + C_2 e^{\frac{x}{2}}$ is the general solution