1 Differential Equations

Def **Differential Equation** (DE)
Equation relating unknown f to derivatives $f^{(i)}$ at *same* x.

Def **Ordinary Differential Equation** (ODE)
DE s.t. $f : I \to \mathbb{R}$ is in one variable.

Def **Partial Differential Equation** (PDE)
DE s.t. $f : I^d \to \mathbb{R}$ is in multiple variables.

Notation $f^{(i)}$ or $y^{(i)}$ instead of $f^{(i)}(x)$ for brevity.

Def **Order** $\text{ord}(F) := \max_{i \geq 0}\{i \mid f^{(i)} \in F,\ f^{(i)} \neq 0\}$

Remark Any F s.t. $\text{ord}(F) \geq 2$ can be reduced to $\text{ord}(F') = 1$, but using functions of higher dimensions.

Solutions to ODEs

$\forall F : \mathbb{R}^2 \to \mathbb{R}$ s.t. F is cont. diff. and $x_0, y_0 \in \mathbb{R}$:

$$\exists f : I \to \mathbb{R}$$
$$\text{s.t. } \forall x \in I : f'(x) = F(x, f(x)) \text{ and } f(x_0) = y_0$$

s.t. I is open and maximal.

Intuition: Solutions always exist (locally!) for *nice enough* equations.

1.1 Linear Differential Equations

Def **Linear Differential Equation** (LDE)

$$y^{(k)} + a_{k-1}y^{(k-1)} + \ldots + a_1 y' + a_0 y = b$$

$I \subset \mathbb{R}$ is open, $\quad k \geq 1, \quad \forall i < k : a_i : I \to \mathbb{C}$

Def Homogeneity of LDEs

Homogeneous $\overset{\text{def}}{\iff} b = 0$

Inhomogeneous $\overset{\text{def}}{\iff} b \neq 0$

Remark $D(y) := y^{(k)} + \ldots + a_0 y$ is a linear operation:

$$D(z_1 f_1 + z_2 f_2) = z_1 D(f_1) + z_2 D(f_2)$$

$\forall z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}, \quad f_1, f_2$ k-times differentiable

Def **Homogeneous Solution Space**
$\mathcal{S}(F) := \{f : I \to \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ solves } F, f \text{ is } k\text{-times diff.}\}$

Remark $\mathcal{S}(F)$ is the Nullspace of a lin. map: f to $D(f)$:

$$D(f) = z_1 D(f_1) + z_2 D(f_2) = 0$$

$\forall z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}, \quad f_1, f_2 \in \mathcal{S}$

Solutions for complex homogeneous LDEs

F s.t. $a_0, \ldots, a_{k-1}$ continuous and complex-valued

1. $\mathcal{S}$ is a complex vector space, $\dim(\mathcal{S}) = k$
2. $\mathcal{S}$ is a subspace of $\{f \mid f : I \to \mathbb{C}\}$
3. $\forall x_0 \in I, (y_0, \ldots, y_{k-1}) \in \mathbb{C}^k$ a unique sol. exists

Solutions for real homogeneous LDEs

F s.t. $a_0, \ldots, a_{k-1}$ continuous and real-valued

1. $\mathcal{S}$ is a real vector space, $\dim(\mathcal{S}) = k$
2. $\mathcal{S}$ is a subspace of $\{f \mid f : I \to \mathbb{R}\}$
3. $\forall x_0 \in I, (y_0, \ldots, y_{k-1}) \in \mathbb{R}^k$ a unique sol. exists

Def **Inhomogeneous Solution Space**
$\mathcal{S}_b(F) := \{f + f_0 \mid f \in \mathcal{S}(F),\ f_0 \text{ is a particular sol.}\}$
Note: This is only a vector space if $b = 0$, where $\mathcal{S}_b = \mathcal{S}$.

Solutions for real inhomogeneous LDEs

F s.t. $a_0, \ldots, a_{k-1}$ continuous, $b : I \to \mathbb{C}$

1. $\forall x_0 \in I, (y_0, \ldots, y_{k-1}) \in \mathbb{C}^k$ a unique sol. exists
2. If b, a_i are real-valued, a real-valued sol. exists.

Remark **Applications of Linearity**
If f_1 solves F for b_1, and f_2 for b_2: $f_1 + f_2$ solves $b_1 + b_2$.
Follows from: $D(f_1) + D(f_2) = b_1 + b_2$.

1.2 Linear Solutions: First Order

$I \subset \mathbb{R}, \quad a, b : I \to \mathbb{R}$

Form:

$$y' + ay = b$$

Approach:

1. Hom. Solution f_1 for: $y' + ay = 0$
   Note that $\mathcal{S}$ has $\dim(\mathcal{S}) = 1$, so $f_1 \neq 0$ is a Basis for $\mathcal{S}$
2. Part. Solution f_0 for $y' + ay = b$

Solutions: $f_0 + z f_1 \quad$ for $z \in \mathbb{C}$

Explicit Homogeneous Solution

$A(x)$ is a primitive of a, $f(x_0) = y_0$

$$f_1(x) = z \cdot \exp(-A(x))$$
$$f_1(x) = y_0 \cdot \exp(A(x_0) - a(x))$$

Variation of Constants: Treating z as $z(x)$ yields:

Explicit Inhomogeneous Solution

$A(x)$ is a primitive of a

$$f_0(x) = \underbrace{\left(\int b(x) \cdot \exp(A(x))\right)}_{z(x)} \cdot \exp\left(-A(x)\right)$$

Method **Educated Guess**
Usually, y has a similar form to b:

$b(x)$	Guess
$a \cdot e^{\alpha x}$	$b \cdot e^{\alpha x}$
$a \cdot \sin(\beta x)$	$c \sin(\beta x) + d \cos(\beta x)$
$b \cdot \cos(\beta x)$	$c \sin(\beta x) + d \cos(\beta x)$
$a e^{\alpha x} \cdot \sin(\beta x)$	$e^{\alpha x}\left(c \sin(\beta x) + d \cos(\beta x)\right)$
$b e^{\alpha x} \cdot \cos(\beta x)$	$e^{\alpha x}\left(c \sin(\beta x) + d \cos(\beta x)\right)$
$P_n(x) \cdot e^{\alpha x}$	$R_n(x) \cdot e^{\alpha x}$
$P_n(x) \cdot e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x)$	$e^{\alpha x}\left(R_n(x) \sin(\beta x) + S_n(x) \cos(\beta x)\right)$
$P_n(x) \cdot e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x)$	$e^{\alpha x}\left(R_n(x) \sin(\beta x) + S_n(x) \cos(\beta x)\right)$

Remark If α, β are roots of $P(X)$ with multiplicity j, multiply guess with a $P_j(x)$.

1.3 Linear Solutions: Constant Coefficients

Form:

$$y^{(k)} + a_{k-1}y^{(k-1)} + \ldots + a_1 y' + a_0 y = b$$

Where $a_0, \ldots, a_{k-1} \in \mathbb{C}$ are constants, $b(x)$ is continuous.

1.3.1 Homogeneous Equations

The idea is to find a Basis of $\mathcal{S}$:

Def **Characteristic Polynomial** $P(X) = \prod_{i=1}^{k}(X - \alpha_i)$

Remark The unique roots $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_l$ form a Basis:

$$\text{span}(\mathcal{S}) = \{x^j e^{\alpha_i x} \mid i \leq l, \quad 0 \leq j \leq v_i\}$$

$v_1, \ldots, v_k$ are the Multiplicities of $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_k$

Remark If $\alpha_j = \beta + \gamma i \in \mathbb{C}$ is a root, $\bar{\alpha_j} = \beta - \gamma i$ is too. To get a real-valued solution, apply:

$$e^{\alpha_j x} = e^{\beta x}\left(\cos(\gamma x) + i \sin(\gamma x)\right)$$

Explicit Homogeneous Solution

Using $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_k$ from $P(X)$ s.t. $\alpha_i \neq \alpha_j$, $z_i \in \mathbb{C}$ arbitrary

$$f(x) = \prod_{i=1}^{k} z_i \cdot e^{\alpha_i x} \quad \text{with} \quad f^{(j)(x)} = \prod_{i=1}^{k} z_i \cdot \alpha_i^j e^{\alpha_i x}$$

Multiple roots: same scheme, using the basis vectors of $\mathcal{S}$

Solutions exist $\forall Z = (z_1, \ldots, z_k)$ since that system's $\det(M_Z) \neq 0$.

1.3.2 Inhomogeneous Equations

Method **Undetermined Coefficients**: An educated guess.

1. $b(x) = cx^d \cdot e^{\alpha x} \implies f_p(x) = Q(x)e^{\alpha x}$
   $\deg(Q) \leq d + v_\alpha$, where v_α is α's multiplicity in $P(X)$
2. $\left.\begin{aligned} b(x) &= cx^d \cdot \cos(\alpha x) \\ b(x) &= cx^d \cdot \sin(\alpha x) \end{aligned}\right\} f_p = Q_1(x)\cos(\alpha x) + Q_2(x)\sin(\alpha x)$
   $\deg(Q_{1,2}) \leq d + v_\alpha$, where v_α is α's multiplicity in $P(X)$

Remark **Applying Linearity**
If $b(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} b_i(x)$, A solution for $b(x)$ is $f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_i(x)$
Sometimes called *Superposition Principle* in this context

1.4 Other Methods

Method **Change of Variable**
If $f(x)$ is replaced by $h(y) = f(g(y))$, then h is a sol. too.
Changes like $h(t) = f(e^t)$ may lead to useful properties.

Separation of Variables

Form:

$$y' = a(y) \cdot b(x)$$

Solve using:

$$\int \frac{1}{a(y)}\, \mathrm{d}y = \int b(x)\, \mathrm{d}x + c$$

Usually $\int 1/a(y)\, \mathrm{d}y$ can be solved directly for $\ln|a(y)| + c$.

2 Differential Calculus in $\mathbb{R}^n$