

3.6 Variation of Parameters

Solve $y'' - 2y' + y = e^t \ln(t)$

1.) Find homogeneous solutions: Solve $y'' - 2y' + y = 0$

Guess: $y = e^{rt}$, then $y' = re^{rt}$, $y'' = r^2 e^{rt}$, and

$$r^2 e^{rt} - 2r e^{rt} + e^{rt} = 0 \text{ implies } r^2 - 2r + 1 = 0$$

$(r - 1)^2 = 0$, and hence $r = 1$

General homogeneous solution: $y = c_1 e^t + c_2 t e^t$

since we have two linearly independent solutions: $\{e^t, t e^t\}$

2.) Find a non-homogeneous solution:

Sect. 3.5 method: Educated guess

Sect. 3.6: Guess $y = u_1(t)e^t + u_2(t)t e^t$ and solve for u_1 and u_2

$$u_1(t) = \int \begin{vmatrix} 0 & \phi_2 \\ 1 & \phi_2' \end{vmatrix} g(t) dt = - \int \frac{\phi_2(t)g(t)}{W(\phi_1, \phi_2)} dt = - \int \frac{(te^t)(e^t \ln(t))}{e^{2t}} dt$$

$$= - \int t \ln(t) dt = - \left[\frac{t^2 \ln(t)}{2} - \int \frac{t}{2} dt \right] = - \frac{t^2 \ln(t)}{2} + \frac{t^2}{4}$$

$$u_2(t) = \int \begin{vmatrix} \phi_1 & 0 \\ \phi_1' & 1 \end{vmatrix} g(t) dt = \int \frac{\phi_1(t)g(t)}{W(\phi_1, \phi_2)} dt = \int \frac{(e^t)(e^t \ln(t))}{e^{2t}} dt = \int \ln(t) dt = t \ln(t) - t$$

$$W(\phi_1, \phi_2) = \begin{vmatrix} \phi_1 & \phi_2 \\ \phi_1' & \phi_2' \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} e^t & te^t \\ e^t & e^t + te^t \end{vmatrix}$$

$$u = \ln(t) \quad dv = t dt$$

$$du = \frac{dt}{t} \quad v = \frac{t^2}{2}$$

General solution: $y = c_1 e^t + c_2 t e^t + \left(-\frac{t^2 \ln(t)}{2} + \frac{t^2}{4}\right) e^t + (t \ln(t) - t) t e^t$
 which simplifies to $y = c_1 e^t + c_2 t e^t + \left(\frac{\ln(t)}{2} - \frac{3}{4}\right) t^2 e^t$

Solve $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t)$ where $y = c_1 \phi_1(t) + c_2 \phi_2(t)$ is solution to homogeneous equation $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0$

Guess $y = u_1(t)\phi_1(t) + u_2(t)\phi_2(t)$

$$y = u_1 \phi_1 + u_2 \phi_2 \text{ implies } y' = u_1 \phi_1' + u_1' \phi_1 + u_2 \phi_2' + u_2' \phi_2$$

Two unknown functions, u_1 and u_2 , but only one equation ($y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t)$). Thus might be OK to choose 2nd eq'n.

Avoid 2nd derivative in y'' : Choose $u_1' \phi_1 + u_1' \phi_2 = 0$

$$y' = u_1 \phi_1' + u_2 \phi_2' \text{ implies } y'' = u_1 \phi_1'' + u_1' \phi_1' + u_2 \phi_2'' + u_2' \phi_2'$$

Plug into $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t)$:

$$u_1 \phi_1'' + u_1' \phi_1' + u_2 \phi_2'' + u_2' \phi_2' + p(u_1 \phi_1' + u_2 \phi_2') + q(u_1 \phi_1 + u_2 \phi_2) = g$$

$$u_1 \phi_1'' + u_1' \phi_1' + u_2 \phi_2'' + u_2' \phi_2' + p u_1 \phi_1' + p u_2 \phi_2' + q u_1 \phi_1 + q u_2 \phi_2 = g$$

$$u_1 \phi_1'' + p u_1 \phi_1' + q u_1 \phi_1 + u_1' \phi_1' + u_2 \phi_2'' + p u_2 \phi_2' + q u_2 \phi_2 + u_2' \phi_2' = g$$

$$u_1(\phi_1'' + p \phi_1' + q \phi_1) + u_1' \phi_1' + u_2(\phi_2'' + p \phi_2' + q \phi_2) + u_2' \phi_2' = g$$

ϕ_1, ϕ_2 are homogeneous solutions. Thus $\phi_i'' + p \phi_i' + q \phi_i = 0$.

$$\text{Hence } u_1(0) + u_1' \phi_1'(0) + u_2(0) + u_2' \phi_2'(0) = g$$

Thus we have 2 eqns to find 2 unknowns, the functions u_1 and u_2 :

$$u_1' \phi_1' + u_2' \phi_2' = 0 \text{ implies } \begin{bmatrix} \phi_1 & \phi_2 \\ \phi_1' & \phi_2' \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1' \\ u_2' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ g \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{Cramer's rule: } u_1'(t) = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} 0 & \phi_2 \\ g & \phi_2' \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} \phi_1 & \phi_2 \\ \phi_1' & \phi_2' \end{vmatrix}} \text{ and } u_2'(t) = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} \phi_1 & 0 \\ \phi_1' & \phi_2' \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} \phi_1 & \phi_2 \\ \phi_1' & \phi_2' \end{vmatrix}}$$