

Nonhomogeneous equations and the method of variation of parameters

§3.7

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The method of variation of parameters, due to Lagrange, applies much more generally than the method of undetermined coefficients studied in §3.6, but most often requires more work. It is not restricted to special forms of g .

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This can be used to our advantage, in selecting a relation between u_1 and u_2 that simplifies the calculations.

$$y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t)$$
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Choose u_1 so that

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We remember this constraint for later.

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$$\begin{aligned} g(t) = Y'' + p(t)Y' + q(t)Y &= \overbrace{u_1' y_1' + u_1 y_1'' + u_2' y_2' + u_2 y_2''}^{Y''} \\ &\quad + p(t)(u_1 y_1' + u_2 y_2') + q(t)(u_1(t)y_1(t) + u_2(t)y_2(t)) \\ &= u_1 \left(y_1'' + p(t)y_1' + q(t)y_1 \right) + u_2 \left(y_2'' + p(t)y_2' + q(t)y_2 \right) \end{aligned}$$

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 &\quad + u_1' y_1' + u_2' y_2' = u_1' y_1' + u_2' y_2' = g(t) ! \quad (6)
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Examples

$$y'' + y = \tan x; \quad \text{homog. eq. : } y'' + y = 0$$

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$$y_1 = \sin t; \quad y_2 = \cos t \quad (\text{nonhom.} = g(t) = \tan t)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} Y &= -y_1 \int \frac{g(t)y_2(t)}{W[y_1, y_2]} dt + y_2 \int \frac{g(t)y_1(t)}{W[y_1, y_2]} dt \\ &= \sin t \int \cos t \frac{\sin t}{\cos t} dt - \cos t \int \sin t \frac{\sin t}{\cos t} dt \quad (11) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sin t \int \overset{\downarrow}{\cos t} \frac{\sin t}{\underset{\uparrow}{\cos t}} dt - \cos t \int \sin t \frac{\sin t}{\cos t} dt \\ = \sin t \int \sin t dt - \cos t \int \frac{\sin^2 t}{\cos t} dt \end{aligned}$$

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& \sin t \int \overset{\downarrow}{\cos t} \frac{\overset{\uparrow}{\sin t}}{\cos t} dt - \cos t \int \sin t \frac{\sin t}{\cos t} dt \\
&= \sin t \int \sin t dt - \cos t \int \frac{\sin^2 t}{\cos t} dt \\
&= -\sin t \cos t - \cos t \int \frac{1 - \cos^2 t}{\cos t} dt \\
&= -\overset{\downarrow}{\sin t} \overset{\downarrow}{\cos t} + \overset{\downarrow}{\cos t} \overset{\downarrow}{\sin t} - \cos t \int \sec t dt
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&= \sin t \int \sin t dt - \cos t \int \frac{\sin^2 t}{\cos t} dt \\
&= -\sin t \cos t - \cos t \int \frac{1 - \cos^2 t}{\cos t} dt \\
&= -\overset{\downarrow}{\sin t} \overset{\downarrow}{\cos t} + \overset{\downarrow}{\cos t} \overset{\downarrow}{\sin t} - \cos t \int \sec t dt \\
&= -\cos t \ln(\sec t + \tan t)
\end{aligned}$$

(12)

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$$A \sin t + B \cos t - \cos t \ln(\sec t + \tan t) \quad (14)$$

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Particular solution

$$Y = -y_1 \int \frac{g(t)y_2(t)}{W[y_1, y_2]} dt + y_2 \int \frac{g(t)y_1(t)}{W[y_1, y_2]} dt$$

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$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2}e^x \int e^{-x} e^x dx - \frac{1}{2}e^{-x} \int e^x e^x dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2}xe^x - \frac{1}{4}e^{-x}e^{2x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2}e^x \int e^{-x} e^x dx - \frac{1}{2}e^{-x} \int e^x e^x dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2}xe^x - \frac{1}{4}e^{-x}e^{2x} \end{aligned}$$

General solution:

$$y = \frac{1}{2}xe^x + c_1e^x + c_2e^{-x}$$

Now we have to impose $y(0) = 0, y'(0) = 1$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2}e^x \int e^{-x}e^x dx - \frac{1}{2}e^{-x} \int e^x e^x dx \\ &= \frac{1}{2}xe^x - \frac{1}{4}e^{-x}e^{2x} \end{aligned}$$

General solution:

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