

## 31.7 Higher-Order Homogeneous DE with Constant Coefficients

Notation:  $\frac{d^3 y}{dx^3} - 4 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + 5 \frac{dy}{dx} + y = f(x)$

$$y''' - 4y'' + 5y' + y = f(x)$$

$$D^3 y - 4D^2 y + 5Dy + y = f(x)$$

all mean exactly the same thing

A DE is homogeneous if  $f(x) = 0$

non-homogeneous "  $f(x) \neq 0$

Quick Ex: Rewrite  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + 5 \frac{dy}{dx} = e^x$

$$y'' + 5y' = e^x \quad \text{OR} \quad D^2 y + 5Dy = e^x$$

Is it homogeneous?

NO

Ex: Solve  $y'' - 7y' + 12y = 0$

"auxiliary equation"

$$m^2 - 7m + 12 = 0$$
$$(m-3)(m-4) = 0$$
$$m = 3, 4$$

General Solution to DE:

$$y = C_1 e^{m_1 x} + C_2 e^{m_2 x} + \dots + C_n e^{m_n x}$$

Here  $y = C_1 e^{3x} + C_2 e^{4x}$  ✓

Alternatively  $y = C_1 e^{4x} + C_2 e^{3x}$  ✓

Why does this work?

Check:

$$\begin{cases} y = C_1 e^{3x} + C_2 e^{4x} \\ y' = 3C_1 e^{3x} + 4C_2 e^{4x} \\ y'' = 9C_1 e^{3x} + 16C_2 e^{4x} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LS of DE} &= y'' - 7y' + 12y \\ &= (9C_1 e^{3x} + 16C_2 e^{4x}) - 7(3C_1 e^{3x} + 4C_2 e^{4x}) \\ &\quad + 12(C_1 e^{3x} + C_2 e^{4x}) \\ &= 9C_1 e^{3x} + 16C_2 e^{4x} - 21C_1 e^{3x} - 28C_2 e^{4x} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & +12C_1 e^{3x} + 12C_2 e^{4x} \\
 & = \boxed{0} C_1 e^{3x} + \boxed{0} C_2 e^{4x} \\
 & = 0 \\
 & = \text{RS of DE} \checkmark
 \end{aligned}$$

Auxiliary equation guarantees that  
 LS of DE = 0

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$y = C_1 e^{m_1 x} + C_2 e^{m_2 x} + \dots + C_n e^{m_n x}$  works when:  
 DE is homogeneous  
 Roots of auxiliary equation are real and distinct

Section 31.8 repeated or complex roots  
 31.9 nonhomogeneous DE

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Ex: Solve  $D^3 y = 4Dy$

$$\begin{aligned}
 y''' &= 4y' \\
 y''' - 4y' &= 0
 \end{aligned}$$

auxiliary equation

$$m^3 - 4m = 0$$

$$m(m^2 - 4) = 0$$

$$m(m-2)(m+2) = 0$$

$$m = 0, 2, -2$$

$$y = C_1 e^{m_1 x} + C_2 e^{m_2 x} + C_3 e^{m_3 x}$$

formula sheet

$$y = \cancel{C_1 e^{0x}} + C_2 e^{2x} + C_3 e^{-2x} \quad \checkmark$$

$$y = C_1 e^{2x} + C_2 e^{-2x} + C_3 \quad \checkmark$$

etc.

Ex: Solve  $y'' - 8y' = -5y$

$$y'' - 8y' + 5y = 0$$

$$m^2 - 8m + 5 = 0$$

Quadratic  
Formula

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$m$

★  
Know  
this

Quadratic  
Formula

$$m = \frac{8 \pm \sqrt{(-8)^2 - 4 \cdot 1 \cdot 5}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{8 \pm \sqrt{44}}{2} \quad \sqrt{4}^2 \sqrt{11}$$

$$= \frac{8 \pm 2\sqrt{11}}{2}$$

$$= 4 \pm \sqrt{11}$$

Give exact values  
(Use calculator to check)

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

$$y = C_1 e^{(4+\sqrt{11})x} + C_2 e^{(4-\sqrt{11})x}$$