

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

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ROLL NO. 87

TOPIC:

**Linear Differential Equations with constant coefficients**

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# Introduction:

Linear differential equation occur so frequently in applications as to call for a somewhat detailed treatment which we propose to do.

The general form of a linear equation of n-th order is

$$\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + P_1 \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dx^{n-1}} + \dots + P_{n-1} \frac{dy}{dx} + P_n y = Q$$

Where  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_{n-1}, P_n$  and  $Q$  are constants or functions of  $x$ . In the present chapter, however, we shall assume that the coefficient  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_{n-1}, P_n$  are constants. We shall consider simpler equations where  $Q$  is supposed to be 0.

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## Equations of First Order

### The Simple Case

In let us take  $n=1$  and  $Q=0$  we then obtain

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + p_1 y = 0$$

Separating the variables we easily get  $y = Ae^{-p_1 x}$ , where  $A$  is an arbitrary constant.

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## Equation with right-hand member zero

Let the equation be

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + p_1 \frac{dy}{dx} + p_2 y = 0 \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Let us take  $y = ce^{mx}$  ( $\neq 0$ ) be the non-trial solution.

Then if we put  $y=ce^{mx}$  in the left side of (1), it must satisfy the equation, i.e. ,we must have

$$C(m^2+p_1+p_2)e^{mx} =0$$

Or, since  $ce^{mx} \neq 0$ ,  $m^2+p_1+p_2=0$ .....(2)

The equation (2) is called the Auxiliary equation (1)

Then ,  $y=ce^{m_1x}$  and  $y = ce^{m_2x}$  are obvious solution of (2).

Also, it can be easily verified by direction substitution that  $y=c_1e^{m_1x}$  ,  $y=c_2e^{m_2x}$  and satisfy the equation (1) and such are solution of (1).

We shall now consider the nature the nature the general solution of (1) according as the roots of the auxiliary equation (2) are real distinct real and equal and imaginary.

## Method of Variation of Parameters

We have already introduced the method of Variation Parameters in solving linear equation of first order and first degree. Let us extend this case to a second order linear differential equation of higher order.

To discuss the solution of an  $n^{th}$  order linear differential equation of the form

$$\frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + P_1 \frac{d^{n-1}y}{dx^{n-1}} + \dots + P_{n-1} \frac{dy}{dx} + P_n = R(x)$$

by the method of variation of parameters .

let,  $y_1(x)$  ,  $y_2(x)$ , .....,  $y_n(x)$  be a set of n linearly independent solution to the associated homogeneous differential equation –that is the equation (1) itself with R.H.S.  $R(x) = 0$  . The C.F. is

$$C_1y_1 + C_2y_2 + \dots + C_ny_n$$

where  $C_1, C_2, C_3, \dots, C_n$  are arbitrary constants . Here  $p_1(x), p_2(x), \dots, p_n(x)$  need not constant only

A particular solution  $y_p$  to (1) is

$$Y_p = v_1y_1 + v_2y_2 + \dots + v_ny_n$$

Where  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$  are unknown function to be determine.

As before these can be found by solving

$$v_1'y_1 + v_2'y_2 + \dots + v_n'y_n = 0$$

$$v_1'y_1' + v_2'y_2' + \dots + v_n'y_n' = 0$$

.....

$$v_1'y_1^{n-2} + v_2'y_2^{n-2} + \dots + v_n'y_n^{n-2} = 0$$

$$v_1'y_1^{n-1} + v_2'y_2^{n-1} + \dots + v_n'y_n^{n-1} = 0$$

Since from these equation we obtain  $v_1', v_2', \dots, v_n'$  and by integration we have the values  $v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n$ .

Thus the general solution is given by

$$Y = C_1y_1 + C_2y_2 + \dots + C_ny_n + Y_p$$

**Example:** Solve by the method of variation of parameter:

$$(D^2 + a^2) y = \tan ax$$

**Solution:** To find C.F.

Auxiliary equation is  $(m^2+a^2)=0$  which gives  $m=\pm ia$ ,

The C.F. is  $C_1\cos ax+C_2\sin ax$

To find P.I.

call  $y_1=\cos ax$ ,  $y_2=\sin ax$  and it has observed that  $y_1, y_2$ , are independent solutions. Also the particular solution will be of the form

$$Y_p=v_1(x)\cos ax+v_2(x)\sin ax$$

$$Dy_p=-av_1(x)\sin ax+av_2(x)\cos ax+v_1'(x)\cos ax+v_2'(x)\sin ax$$

Next proceed as before where  $v_1'(x)$ ,  $v_2'(x)$  can be found from

$$v_1'(x)\cos ax+v_2'(x)\sin ax=0$$

$$(D^2+a^2)y_p=-av_1'(x)\sin ax+av_2'(x)\cos ax$$

$$\tan ax=-av_1'(x)\sin ax+av_2'(x)\cos ax$$

The Wronskians of  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  is

$$W(y_1, y_2) = \begin{vmatrix} \cos ax & \sin ax \\ -a\sin ax & a\cos ax \end{vmatrix} = a \neq 0$$

$$v_1(x) = \int (-\sin ax \tan ax / a) dx = -(1/a^2) \log |\sec ax + \tan ax| + (1/a^2) \sin ax$$

$$v_2(x) = \int (\cos ax \tan ax / a) dx = -(1/a^2) \cos ax$$

$$Y_p = (-1/a^2) \cos ax \log |\sec ax + \tan ax|$$

Complete solution is  $y = C_1\cos ax + C_2\sin ax - (1/a^2)\cos ax \log |\sec ax + \tan ax|$

## References

- 1 : M.D.Raisihania: Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations
- 2 : R.K.Ghosh and K.C. Maity: An Introduction to Differential Equations
- 3 : Chakraborty and Ghosh : Differential Equations.
- 4 : Murray : Differential Equations.
- 5 : Piaggio : Differential Equations.

