

We start by reviewing some concepts from linear algebra needed in this chapter and the coming ones!

Def: Functions are called linearly independent (l.i. for short) on the interval I if

$$a_1 y_1(x) + a_2 y_2(x) + \dots + a_n y_n(x) = 0 \text{ for all}$$

$x \in I$ implies that $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_n = 0$

otherwise, we say that they are linearly dependant (l.d.)

Ex $y_1 = \sin^2 x$, $y_2 = \cos^2 x$, $y_3 = 1$ on $]-\infty, +\infty[$

We know that $\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = 1 \iff$

$$y_1(x) + y_2(x) - y_3(x) = 0 \text{ for all } x$$

So y_1, y_2, y_3 are l.d.

Ex $y_1 = z$, $y_2 = 1+x$, $y_3 = 1+x^2$

Prove that they are l.i.

Sol

$$a y_1 + b y_2 + c y_3 = 0$$

$$ay_1 + by_2 + cy_3 = 0$$

$$2a + b(1+x) + c(1+x^2) = 0$$

$$(2a + b + c) + bx + cx^2 = 0$$

Choose some values
for X

$$\underline{X = -1} \quad 2a + b + c - b + c = 0 \Rightarrow 2a + 2c = 0 \Rightarrow a + c = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\underline{X = 0} \quad 2a + b + c = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\underline{X = 1} \quad 2a + b + c + b + c = 0 \Rightarrow 2a + 2b + 2c = 0 \Rightarrow a + b + c = 0 \quad (3)$$

$$(1) \text{ and } (3) \Rightarrow \boxed{b = 0}$$

$$(2) \Rightarrow 2a + c = 0 \quad (4) ; \quad - (1) + (4) \Rightarrow \boxed{a = 0}$$

$$(2) \Rightarrow \boxed{c = 0}$$

Remark To check clear independence of
2 Functions y_1, y_2 :

$$\frac{y_1}{y_2} \text{ or } \frac{y_2}{y_1} \neq \text{constant} \Leftrightarrow y_1, y_2 \text{ are l.i.d}$$

$$\text{ex/ } \frac{y_1}{y_2} = z \text{ then } y_1 = zy_2 \Rightarrow \text{l.o.d}$$

$$\text{Ex/ } y_1 = e^{3x}, y_2 = e^{-2x}$$

Ex/ $y_1 = e^{3x}$, $y_2 = e^{-2x}$

$$\frac{y_1}{y_2} = \frac{e^{3x}}{e^{-2x}} = e^{5x} \neq \text{constant} \Rightarrow y_1, y_2 \text{ are l. ind.}$$

Ex/ $y_1 = \sin x$, $y_2 = \cos x$

$$\frac{y_1}{y_2} = \frac{\sin x}{\cos x} = \tan x \neq \text{constant} \Rightarrow \{ \sin x, \cos x \} \text{ l. ind.}$$

Ex/ $y_1 = e^{3x+2}$, $y_2 = e^{3x}$

$$\frac{y_1}{y_2} = \frac{e^{3x+2}}{e^{3x}} = \frac{e^{3x} \cdot e^2}{e^{3x}} = e^2 = \text{constant} \Rightarrow y_1, y_2 \text{ are l. d.}$$

Definition A second order linear and homogeneous ODE has the form:

$$a_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = 0$$

We call this homogeneous because the right hand side is $\ll 0 \gg$

Ex/ $\frac{e^x}{1+x^2} y'' + 2y' - (\tan(x))y = 0$

Important facts about (H) :

① IF y_1, y_2 are 2 solutions of (H), then $y_1 + y_2$ is also a solution!

② If y is a solution of (H) and $C \in \mathbb{R}$, then Cy is also a solution of (H)

So the set of all solutions of (H) is a vector space!

Theorem : The set of all solutions to (H) is a vector space of dimension 2

The theorem tells us how to find the general solution of (H)

① Find 2 l. ind solutions y_1 and y_2 of (H)

② The general solution of (H) is

$$y = C_1 y_1 + C_2 y_2$$

Ex / consider the following ODE:

$$y'' - 5y' + 4y = 0$$

① Show that $y_1 = e^x$, $y_2 = e^{4x}$ are solutions to (H)

② Find the general solution to (H)

Sol ① $y_1 = e^x \Rightarrow y_1' = e^x \Rightarrow y_1'' = e^x$

$$y_1'' - 5y_1' + 4y_1 = e^x - 5e^x + 4e^x = 0 \checkmark \quad y_1 = e^x \text{ is a sol}$$

$$y_2 = e^{4x} \Rightarrow y_2' = 4e^{4x} \Rightarrow y_2'' = 16e^{4x}$$

$$y_2'' - 5y_2' + 4y_2 = 16e^{4x} - 20e^{4x} + 4e^{4x} = 0 \checkmark \Rightarrow y_2 \text{ is a solution!}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \frac{y_2}{y_1} = \frac{e^{4x}}{e^x} = e^{3x} \neq \text{constant} \Rightarrow y_1, y_2 \text{ are l. ind.}$$

The general sol of (H) is $y = c_1 e^x + c_2 e^{4x}$

We start the discussion with the case of constant coefficients.

① Second-Order linear homogeneous ODE's with constant coefficients

$$\underbrace{a_2}_{\text{Constants}} y'' + \underbrace{a_1}_{\text{Constants}} y' + \underbrace{a_0}_{\text{Constants}} y = 0 \quad (H)$$

Dividing by a_2 : $y'' + \frac{a_1}{a_2} y' + \frac{a_0}{a_2} y = 0$ or

$$y'' + a y' + b y = 0 \quad (H)$$

The previous example suggests we try solutions of type, $y = e^{\lambda x}$ where $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ (constant)

$$y' = \lambda e^{\lambda x}, \quad y'' = \lambda^2 e^{\lambda x} \quad \text{back into (H):}$$

$$\lambda^2 e^{\lambda x} + a \lambda e^{\lambda x} + b e^{\lambda x} = 0 \Rightarrow e^{\lambda x} (\lambda^2 + a\lambda + b = 0)$$

This is called the Characteristic Equation of (H)

3 possibilities for the roots of the charc. Eq.

① Two distinct real roots λ_1, λ_2

② one Double real root $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = \lambda$

③ Two complex conjugate roots
 $\lambda_1 = \alpha + i\beta$ and $\lambda_2 = \alpha - i\beta$