

# DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

## Solution of First Order Differential Equations Differential Equations

A differential equation is an equation containing a derivative (or differential quotient).

e.g.  $y \frac{dy}{dx} + 2xy = x$  is a **first order** differential equation

$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} - 3 \frac{dy}{dx} + 4 = \sin x$  is a **second order** differential equation

To solve differential equations :-

- we find a function  $y$  which satisfies the original equation
- we use integration

Differential equations may have a **general solution** :-

e.g.  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x + 3$

$$\Rightarrow \int dy = \int (2x + 3) dx$$

$$\Rightarrow y = x^2 + 3x + C$$

or the same differential equation may have a **particular solution**, if **initial conditions** are given :-

e.g. Solve  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2x + 3$  , given that  $y=6$  when  $x=1$

integrate  $y = \int (2x+3) dx$

$y = x^2 + 3x + c$   
 When  $x=1$ ,  $y=6$  so  $6 = 1+3+c$   
 $c=2$

Solution  $y = x^2 + 3x + 2$

Maths in Action Book 2 p74 Exercise 6 Questions 1(a), (d), (e), (f), (j), (k)  
 2(a), (c), (e) 3, 4, 5, 6

## Type 1 - Variables Separable

If the parts of the differential equation involving  $x$  and  $y$  can be separated from each other to give

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = f(x)g(y)$$

then we can rearrange to give

all  $y$ 's on this side

$$\frac{dy}{g(y)} = f(x)dx$$

all  $x$ 's on this side

and integrate both sides.

### Examples

1. Solve  $(x-1)\frac{dy}{dx} = y$

Rearrange  $\frac{dy}{y} = \frac{dx}{x-1}$

integrate  $\int \frac{dy}{y} = \int \frac{dx}{x-1}$

$$\ln y = \ln |x-1| + c$$

\* To get rid of logs we can let

$$c = \ln k$$

$$\ln y = \ln |x-1| + \ln k$$

$$\ln y = \ln k|x-1|$$

$$y = k|x-1|$$

\* Always get  
 answer in the form  
 $y = \dots$

2. Find the general solution of  $\frac{dy}{dx} = e^{2x-3y}$  giving  $y$  in terms of  $x$ .

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = e^{2x} e^{-3y}$$

$$e^{3y} dy = e^{2x} dx$$

Integrate

$$\int e^{3y} dy = \int e^{2x} dx$$

$$\frac{1}{3} e^{3y} = \frac{1}{2} e^{2x} + c$$

$$e^{3y} = \frac{3}{2} e^{2x} + d$$

Take logs

$$\ln e^{3y} = \ln \left( \frac{3}{2} e^{2x} + d \right)$$

$$3y = \ln \left( \frac{3}{2} e^{2x} + d \right)$$

$$y = \frac{1}{3} \ln \left( \frac{3}{2} e^{2x} + d \right)$$

p77 Ex8  
①

3. Find the particular solution of  $x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} = 1$ , given that  $y=3$  when  $x=1$ .

$$x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} = 1$$

$$dy = \frac{1}{x^2} dx$$

Integrate

$$\int dy = \int x^{-2} dx$$

$$y = \frac{x^{-1}}{-1} + c$$

$$y = -\frac{1}{x} + c$$

When  $x=1$ ,  $y=3$

$$3 = -1 + c$$

$$c = 4$$

$$\text{So } y = 4 - \frac{1}{x}$$

4. Find the particular solution of  $\frac{dy}{dx} = xy - 2x$ , given that  $y=5$  when  $x=0$ .

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = xy - 2x$$

Factorise first  $\frac{dy}{dx} = x(y-2)$

$$\frac{dy}{y-2} = x dx$$

$$\int \frac{dy}{y-2} = \int x dx$$

$$\ln|y-2| = \frac{x^2}{2} + c$$

When  $x=0$ ,  $y=5$   
 $\ln 3 = c$

so  $\ln|y-2| = \frac{x^2}{2} + \ln 3$

$$\ln \frac{|y-2|}{3} = \frac{x^2}{2}$$

$$\frac{y-2}{3} = e^{\frac{x^2}{2}}$$

$$y = 3e^{\frac{x^2}{2}} + 2$$

Usually easier to  
find  $c$  before  
rearranging to find  
 $y$

5. Find the particular solution of  $(1+x^2)\frac{dy}{dx} = 4e^y$ , given that  $y=0$  when  $x=0$ .

$$(1+x^2)\frac{dy}{dx} = 4e^y$$

$$\frac{dy}{4e^y} = \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx$$

Integrate  $\int \frac{dy}{4e^y} = \int \frac{1}{1+x^2} dx$

$$-\frac{1}{4}e^{-y} = \tan^{-1}x + c$$

When  $x=0, y=0$

$$-\frac{1}{4} = \tan^{-1}0 + c$$

$$c = -\frac{1}{4}$$

$$-\frac{1}{4}e^{-y} = \tan^{-1}x - \frac{1}{4}$$

$$e^{-y} = 1 - 4\tan^{-1}x$$

$$-y = \ln|1 - 4\tan^{-1}x|$$

$$y = -\ln|1 - 4\tan^{-1}x|$$

#### **Tips for success.....**

- If solving a first order d.e. i.e. only contains  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  (not  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$ ) try separating variables so y's are on one side and x's on other.
- Integrate + c.
- Final answer must be written as  $y = \dots$
- If given initial conditions find c first before rearranging.

Maths in Action Book 2 ~~page 74; Exercise 6; Q1e, f, g; Q2c, e; Q4.~~  
page 76; Exercise 7; Q1c, d, h; Q2a, b, e.  
✱ page 77; Exercise 8; Q1a, c, e, g, h; Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5,  
Q6, Q7, Q10.

## Type 2 Linear First Order Differential Equations

Linear first order differential equations are those that can be written in the form

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + \overset{\text{y's}}{P(x)y} = \overset{\text{y's only}}{Q(x)}$$

where  $P(x)$  and  $Q(x)$   
are expressions in  $x$ .

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + \text{term with plain } y$$

**How to Solve**

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = Q(x)$$

We multiply through by  $e^R$  where  $R = \int P(x)dx$

← what is intent of  $y$

This gives

$$e^R \frac{dy}{dx} + e^R P(x)y = e^R Q(x)$$

The left hand side is now an exact derivative.

$$\frac{d}{dx}(e^R y) = e^R Q(x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx}(e^R y) &= e^R \frac{dy}{dx} + y e^R \frac{dR}{dx} \\ &= e^R \frac{dy}{dx} + e^R P(x) \cdot y \end{aligned}$$

since  $R = \int P(x)dx$   
 $\frac{dR}{dx} = P(x)$

Integrate

$$e^R y = \int e^R Q(x)dx + c$$

# Advanced Higher Maths : Unit 1

## 1.4 Applying Calculus Skills to Solve Differential Equations

- ✖ Note  $e^R$  converts the whole of the left side into the derivative of the one function and it is called the integrating factor.

### Learn

Method 1. Put the equation into the form  $\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y = Q(x)$

2. Multiply through by  $e^{\int P(x)dx}$

3. Put LHS =  $\frac{d}{dx} (e^{xy})$  integrating factor.

4. Integrate

### Examples

1. Solve  $\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{y}{x} = 1$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{1}{x} y = 1$$

Integrating factor

$$e^{\int \frac{1}{x} dx} = e^{\ln x} = x$$

what's in front of y

Linear since

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + y = \dots$$

VERY IMPORTANT  
- don't put constant of integration in here.  
It is taken care of later

Multiply by x

$$x \frac{dy}{dx} + y = x$$

becomes

$$\frac{d}{dx} (xy) = x$$

Integrating factor xy

Integrate both sides

$$xy = \int x dx$$

$$xy = \frac{x^2}{2} + c$$

$$y = \frac{x}{2} + \frac{c}{x}$$

remember +c

rearrange to get y

2. Solve  $x \frac{dy}{dx} - (x-2)y = \frac{1}{x}$

\* Make plain  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  first \*

$$\frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{x-2}{x} y = \frac{1}{x^2}$$

linear

Integrating factor

$$e^{\int -\frac{x-2}{x} dx}$$

$$= e^{\int (\frac{2}{x} - 1) dx}$$

\* Note take negative with term in front of y

$$= e^{2 \ln x - x}$$

$$= e^{2 \ln x}$$

$$= \frac{1}{e^x}$$

$$= \frac{e^{\ln x^2}}{e^x}$$

$$= \frac{x^2}{e^x}$$

Multiply by integrating factor

$$\frac{x^2}{e^x} \frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{x^2(x-2)}{e^x x} y = \frac{1}{e^x}$$

becomes  $\left\{$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{x^2}{e^x} y \right) = \frac{1}{e^x}$$

$\uparrow$  integrating factor  $\times y$

Integrate both sides

$$\frac{x^2}{e^x} y = \int \frac{1}{e^x} dx$$

$$\frac{x^2}{e^x} y = -e^{-x} + c$$

$$\frac{x^2}{e^x} y = c - \frac{1}{e^x}$$

$$y = \frac{c e^x}{x^2} - \frac{1}{x^2}$$

(p114 Ex1 Q3)



3. Find the particular solution of

$$x(x+1)\frac{dy}{dx} + y = (x+1)^2 e^x \quad \text{given that } x=1 \text{ when } y=0$$

Make plain  $\frac{dy}{dx}$ 

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{1}{x(x+1)} y = \frac{x+1}{x} e^x \quad (*)$$

Integrating factor  $e^{\int \frac{1}{x(x+1)} dx}$ 

partial fractions

$$\frac{1}{x(x+1)} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{x+1}$$

$$1 = A(x+1) + Bx$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{let } x=0 & A=1 \\ x=-1 & B=-1 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } e^{\int \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x+1} dx} \\ &= e^{\ln x - \ln(x+1)} \\ &= e^{\ln \frac{x}{x+1}} \\ &= \frac{x}{x+1} \end{aligned}$$

Multiply (\*) by  $\frac{x}{x+1}$ 

$$\frac{x}{x+1} \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{1}{(x+1)^2} y = e^x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{x}{x+1} y \right) = e^x$$

$$\text{Integrate } \frac{x}{x+1} y = e^x + C$$

$$\text{When } y=0 \text{ at } x=1, \quad 0 = e + C \Rightarrow C = -e$$

$$\text{So } \frac{x}{x+1} y = e^x - e$$

$$y = \frac{x+1}{x} (e^x - e)$$

**Tips for success.....**

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + \text{---} y = \text{---} \Rightarrow \text{linear type .}$$

- make sure plain  $\frac{dy}{dx}$
- find integrating factor  $e^{\int (\text{bit in front of } y) dx}$
- multiply by integrating factor so LHS =  $\frac{d}{dx} (\text{integrating factor} \times y)$
- Integrate
- Find C if appropriate
- write answer as  $y =$

## Applications of First Order Differential Equations

A large number of situations where *rates of change* are involved can be modelled using differential equations.

Common applications include :-

- Populations: growth and decay
- Law of cooling: where the rate at which an object cools is proportional to the temperature difference between it and its surroundings.

Given the situation we must first construct a model (in the form of a differential equation) and then use the usual procedures to solve.

### Note

1. Remember  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  means rate of change of  $y$  with  $x$ .

2. Rate of change of  $P$  with  $t$  varies directly as  $t$  means

$$\frac{dP}{dt} \propto t \quad \text{ie} \quad \frac{dP}{dt} = kt \quad (k = \text{constant})$$

3. Rate of change of  $Q$  with  $r$  varies inversely as  $r$  means

$$\frac{dQ}{dr} \propto \frac{1}{r} \quad \text{ie} \quad \frac{dQ}{dr} = \frac{k}{r}$$

4. For motion of a body in a straight line

$$v = \frac{ds}{dt} \quad a = \frac{dv}{dt}$$

**Example 1**

The rate at which a radioactive material decays at any instant is proportional to the mass remaining at any instant. Given that there are  $x$  grams present after  $t$  days, the differential equation in  $x$  is modelled by :-

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -kx$$

The half-life (i.e. the time taken for half the mass to decay) of the radioactive material is 25 days.

Find the time taken for 100g of the material to decay to 20g.

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -kx$$

$$\frac{dx}{x} = -k dt$$

Integrate

$$\int \frac{dx}{x} = \int -k dt$$

$$\ln x = -kt + c$$

When  $t=0$ ,  $x=100 \Rightarrow \ln 100 = c$

$t=25$   $x=50 \Rightarrow \ln 50 = -25k + \ln 100$

$$\ln \frac{1}{2} = -25k$$

$$k = -\frac{1}{25} \ln \frac{1}{2}$$

So  $\ln x = \left( \frac{1}{25} \ln \frac{1}{2} \right) t + \ln 100$

When  $x=20$   $\ln 20 = \left( \frac{1}{25} \ln \frac{1}{2} \right) t + \ln 100$

$$\ln \frac{1}{5} = \left( \frac{1}{25} \ln \frac{1}{2} \right) t$$

$$t = \frac{25 \ln \frac{1}{5}}{\ln \frac{1}{2}}$$

$$= 58 \text{ days.}$$

### Example 2

An infectious disease spreads at a rate which is proportional to the product of the number infected and the number uninfected.

Initially one half of the population is infected and the rate of spread is found to be  $\frac{1}{48}$  of the population per day.

Calculate the proportion of the population which will be infected after 12 days.

let  $P$  = number of population (constant)  
 $x$  = number of people infected

so  $P-x$  = number uninfected

We have  $\frac{dx}{dt} = kx(P-x)$

proportional to  
product of number  
infected and  
uninfected

Initially  $t=0$   $\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{P}{48}$  and  $x = \frac{P}{2}$

$$\frac{P}{48} = k \frac{P}{2} \left( \frac{P}{2} \right)$$

$$P = 12kP^2$$

$$k = \frac{1}{12P}$$

(since  $P \neq 0$ )

so  $\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{1}{12P} x(P-x)$

$$\Rightarrow \int \frac{P}{x(P-x)} dx = \int \frac{1}{12} dt$$

↑ partial fractions

$$\frac{P}{x(P-x)} = \frac{A}{x} + \frac{B}{P-x}$$

$$P = A(P-x) + Bx$$

When  $x=0$   $A=1$

$x=P$   $B=1$

$$\text{so } \int \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{P-x} dx = \int \frac{1}{12} dt$$

$$\ln x - \ln (p-x) = \frac{1}{12}t + c$$

$$\ln \frac{x}{p-x} = \frac{1}{12}t + c$$

When  $t=0$   $x = \frac{1}{2}p$

$$\ln \left( \frac{\frac{1}{2}p}{\frac{1}{2}p} \right) = c$$

$$c = 0$$

So  $\ln \frac{x}{p-x} = \frac{1}{12}t$

$$\frac{x}{p-x} = e^{\frac{t}{12}}$$

When  $t=12$

$$\frac{x}{p-x} = e$$

$$x = pe - xe$$

$$x(1+e) = pe$$

$$\frac{x}{p} = \frac{e}{1+e}$$

$$= 0.731$$

$$= 73.1\%$$

(3s.f)

proportion infected

Maths in Action Book 2 page 81; Exercise 9A; Q1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10.  
page 83; Exercise 9B; Q1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 12.

**Tips for success.....**

- Remember to define any letters used if not given in question.
- varies directly  $\Rightarrow$  letter goes on top
- varies inversely  $\Rightarrow$  letter goes on bottom
- Solve as before.

## Solving Quadratic Equations when the Discriminant is Negative

We define  $\sqrt{-1} = i$

eg  $\sqrt{-4} = \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt{-1}$   
 $= 2i$

$$\sqrt{-81} = \sqrt{81} \times \sqrt{-1}$$

$$= 9i$$

These are called imaginary numbers.

Complex numbers have a real part and an imaginary part. eg  $2 + 5i$  ,  $6 - 8i$

The set of complex numbers is denoted by  $\mathbb{C}$

All quadratic equations can be solved if we use complex numbers.

### Example

Solve  $x^2 + 2x + 5 = 0$

with  $x \in \mathbb{C}$

$$a = 1 \quad b = 2 \quad c = 5$$

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

$$= \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{4 - 4 \times 1 \times 5}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{-16}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{-2 \pm 4i}{2}$$

$$x = -1 \pm 2i$$

## Second Order Differential Equations

“Simple” Type:- i.e.  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = f(x)$

Solve these by integrating **twice**.

e.g.  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = x^2$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x^3}{3} + c$$

$$\Rightarrow y = \frac{x^4}{12} + cx + d$$

**Note that like all 2<sup>nd</sup> order differential equations the solution MUST have 2 arbitrary constants.**

## Second Order *Linear* Differential Equations

In general, these take the form :-  $a \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = Q(x)$

$\frac{dy}{dx}$  must be there  
ie  $a \neq 0$   
but  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  or  $y$  could  
be missing

### (a) Homogeneous 2<sup>nd</sup> Order Linear Differential Equations

Initially we will concentrate on the case when  $Q(x)=0$ .

This is known as a **homogeneous 2<sup>nd</sup> order differential equation**:-

$$a \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0 \quad \therefore \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (1)}$$

The differential equation  $b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0$  has a solution of the form  $y = Ae^{mx}$

$$\begin{aligned} y &= Ae^{mx} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} &= Ame^{mx} \\ \Rightarrow \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} &= Am^2 e^{mx} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} b \frac{dy}{dx} &= -cy \\ \frac{dy}{y} &= \frac{-c}{b} dx \\ \ln y &= \frac{-c}{b} x + k \\ y &= e^{\frac{-c}{b} x + k} \\ y &= e^k e^{\frac{-c}{b} x} \\ y &= Ae^{mx} \end{aligned}$$



Substituting  $\frac{dy}{dx}$  and  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$  into the original equation (1), gives :-

$$aAm^2e^{mx} + bAme^{mx} + cAe^{mx} = 0, \quad \text{dividing all by } Ae^{mx} \\ \text{(assuming } Ae^{mx} \neq 0)$$

we obtain  $am^2 + bm + c = 0$

This is known as the **Auxiliary Equation** and its solutions for  $m$  provide 2 values of  $m$  which make  $y = Ae^{mx}$  a valid solution for our original equation (1).

Distinguishing between the 2 roots of  $m$  using  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  give us 2 solutions for equation 1.

Conclusion  $a\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + b\frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0$  has auxiliary equation  $am^2 + bm + c = 0$

The roots of the Auxiliary Equation may take 3 forms :-

(i) **2 real distinct roots** ( $b^2 - 4ac > 0$ )

$m = m_1$  and  $m_2$  and the general solution of equation (1) is :-

$$y = Ae^{m_1x} + Be^{m_2x}$$

(ii) **Equal roots** ( $b^2 - 4ac = 0$ )

$m = m_1$  (twice) and the general solution of equation (1) is :-

$$y = Ae^{m_1x} + Bxe^{m_1x} = (A + Bx)e^{m_1x} \quad \text{see AH3 page 119}$$

(iii) **2 complex roots** ( $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ )

$m = m_1$  and  $m_2$ , but  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  are of the form  $p \pm qi$  and the general solution of equation (1) is :-

$$y = Ae^{px} \cos qx + Be^{px} \sin qx \quad \text{see AH3 page 121}$$

\* LEARN \*

**Example 1**

Find the general solution of :-

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + \frac{dy}{dx} - 6y = 0$$

Auxiliary equation

$$m^2 + m - 6 = 0$$

$$(m+3)(m-2) = 0$$

$$m = -3 \text{ or } m = 2 \quad (2 \text{ distinct roots})$$

General solution

$$y = Ae^{-3x} + Be^{2x}$$

**Example 2**

Solve  $\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dx} + 5y = 0$

auxiliary equation  $m^2 + 2m + 5 = 0$

doesn't factorise  $\Rightarrow$  use quadratic formula

$$m = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \quad a=1, b=2, c=5$$

$$m = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{2^2 - 20}}{2}$$

$$m = \frac{-2 \pm 4i}{2}$$

$$m = -1 \pm 2i$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{-16} &= \sqrt{16}\sqrt{-1} \\ &= 4i \\ \text{imaginary numbers} \\ \sqrt{-1} &= i \end{aligned}$$

General solution

$$y = Ae^{-x} \cos 2x + Be^{-x} \sin 2x$$

Maths in Action Book 3 page 119 Exercise 3 Question 1(a) (d) (e)  
 page 120 Exercise 4 Question 1(a) (d) (e)  
 page 122 Exercise 5 Question 1(a) (d) (e)

Advanced Higher Maths : Unit 1  
1.4 Applying Calculus Skills to Solve Differential Equations

**Example 3**

Given  $y(0) = 2$  and  $y'(0) = 9$ , solve the differential equation:-

$$\frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} - 6 \frac{dy}{dx} + 9y = 0.$$

auxiliary equation

$$m^2 - 6m + 9 = 0$$

$$(m-3)(m-3) = 0$$

$$m = 3$$

equal roots.

General equation

$$y = Ae^{3x} + Bxe^{3x} \quad (*)$$

↑  
need  $x$  here so this term is different from  $Ae^{3x}$

$$y(0) = 2$$

ie  $x=0, y=2$

$$\text{so } 2 = A$$

$$y'(0) = 9$$

ie  $x=0 \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = 9$

Differentiate (\*)

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 3Ae^{3x} + \underbrace{Bx \cdot 3e^{3x} + Be^{3x}}_{\text{product rule}}$$

When  $x=0 \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = 9$

$$\text{so } 9 = 3A + B$$

$$9 = 6 + B$$

$$B = 3$$

$$\text{Solution } y = 2e^{3x} + 3xe^{3x}$$

**Maths in Action Book 3** page 119 Exercise 3 Question 2(a) (d)  
page 120 Exercise 4 Question 2(a) (d)  
page 122 Exercise 5A Question 1(a) (d)  
page 122 Exercise 5B

## General Solution of a Non-Homogeneous Equation

We are now going to consider solving second order differential equations of the form

$$a \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = f(x) \quad \dots\dots\dots(1)$$

**First** we find the general solution to the corresponding homogeneous equation

$$a \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0 \quad \dots\dots\dots(2)$$

The solution is the form

$$y = Ag(x) + Bh(x)$$

This is called the complementary function C. F.

**Second** we find a particular solution (particular integral) P.I. of the non-homogeneous equation (1)

$$y = P(x)$$

The general solution we want is

$$y = Ag(x) + Bh(x) + P(x)$$

or

$y = C.F + P.I.$

Advanced Higher Maths : Unit 1  
1.4 Applying Calculus Skills to Solve Differential Equations

How to find the P.I.

Look at  $f(x)$  the right hand side of (1) and choose the correct P.I. from the list.

$f(x)$	Correct form for P.I.
$e^{px}$	$y = C e^{px}$ (p not a root of the auxiliary equation) $y = Cx e^{px}$ (p a non repeated root of the auxiliary equation) $y = Cx^2 e^{px}$ (p a repeated root of the auxiliary equation)
$H\cos px + K\sin px$ (or either of these by itself)	$y = C\cos px + D\sin px$ but if this is already the form of the C.F. then use $y = x(C\cos px + D\sin px)$
linear function $px + q$	$y = Cx + D$ (m = 0 not a root of the auxiliary equation) $y = x(Cx + D)$ (m = 0 a non-repeated root)
quadratic function $rx^2 + px + q$	$y = Cx^2 + Dx + E$ (m=0 not a root of the auxiliary equation) $y = x(Cx^2 + Dx + E)$ (m = 0 a non repeated root)

**Finally** substitute your P.I. as chosen above in the original differential equation to find constants C and D.

Example

Solve  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 3\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = 4x + 4$

auxiliary equation

$$m^2 + 3m + 2 = 0$$

$$(m+2)(m+1) = 0$$

$$m = -2 \text{ or } m = -1$$

C.F.  $y = Ae^{-2x} + Be^{-x}$

P.I. Consider RHS =  $4x + 4$

Try  $y = Cx + D$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = C$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 0$$

Substitute into  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 3\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = 4x + 4$

$$0 + 3C + 2(Cx + D) = 4x + 4$$

Equate coefficients

constant  $3C + 2D = 4 \quad \dots (1)$

x term  $2C = 4$

$$C = 2$$

In (1)  $6 + 2D = 4$

$$2D = -2$$

$$D = -1$$

P.I.  $y = 2x - 1$

General solution

$$y = C.F. + P.I.$$

$$y = Ae^{-2x} + Be^{-x} + 2x - 1$$

Example

Solve  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 6\frac{dy}{dx} + 10y = 30\sin 2x$

auxiliary equation

$$m^2 + 6m + 10 = 0$$

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

$$= \frac{-6 \pm \sqrt{36 - 40}}{2}$$

$$m = \frac{-6 \pm 2i}{2}$$

$$m = -3 \pm i$$

CF  $y = Ae^{-3x}\cos x + Be^{-3x}\sin x$

PI look at RHS =  $30\sin 2x$

Try  $y = C\cos 2x + D\sin 2x$

NB must have both trig bits.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -2C\sin 2x + 2D\cos 2x$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -4C\cos 2x - 4D\sin 2x$$

Substitute into

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 6\frac{dy}{dx} + 10y = 30\sin 2x$$

$$\begin{aligned} -4C\cos 2x + 4D\sin 2x - 12C\sin 2x + 12D\cos 2x + 10C\cos 2x \\ + 10D\sin 2x = 30\sin 2x \end{aligned}$$

Equate coefficients

( $\cos 2x$ )

$$-4C + 12D + 10C = 0$$

$$12D + 6C = 0$$

$$C = -2D$$



$(\sin 2x)$ 

$$-4C - 12C + 10D = 30$$

$$-4D + 24D + 10D = 30$$

$$30D = 30$$

$$D = 1$$

$$C = -2$$

$$\text{P.I. } y = -2\cos 2x + \sin 2x$$

$$\text{General solution } y = \text{CF} + \text{PI}$$

$$y = Ae^{-3x}\cos x + Be^{-3x}\sin x - 2\cos 2x + \sin 2x.$$

Example

Find the particular solution to the equation

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 3\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = e^x$$

given that  $x = 0$ ,  $y = 1$  and  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2$ 

auxiliary equation

$$m^2 - 3m + 2 = 0$$

$$(m-2)(m-1) = 0$$

$$m = 2 \text{ or } m = 1$$

$$\text{CF } y = Ae^{2x} + Be^x$$

$$\text{PI Try } y = Cxe^x$$

(since  $e^x$  in CF already)

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = Cxe^x + Ce^x$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} &= Cxe^x + Ce^x + Ce^x \\ &= Cxe^x + 2Ce^x \end{aligned}$$

Substitute into  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 3\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = e^x$

$$Cxe^x + 2Ce^x - 3(Cxe^x + Ce^x) + 2(Cxe^x) = e^x$$

$$Cxe^x + 2Ce^x - 3Cxe^x - 3Ce^x + 2Cxe^x = e^x$$

$$-Ce^x = e^x$$

$$C = -1$$

PI  $y = -xe^x$

General solution  $y = CF + PF$

$$y = Ae^{2x} + Be^x - xe^x \quad (*)$$

Now

When  $x=0, y=1 \Rightarrow 1 = A+B \dots (1)$

From (\*)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2Ae^{2x} + Be^x - (xe^x + e^x)$

When  $x=0, \frac{dy}{dx} = 2$  so  $2 = 2A + B - 1$   
 $2A + B = 3 \dots (2)$

(2) - (1) gives  $A=2$   
 $\Rightarrow B=-1$

Particular solution  $y = 2e^{2x} - e^x - xe^x$