

HOW TO SOLVE LINEAR DEQ'S VIA POWER SERIES:

Let me give the general idea: given a DEqⁿ we put all parts of the DEqⁿ into a power series representation (usually about x₀ = 0). Then we assume our solⁿ has the form $y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$. The coefficients a_n are undetermined at the beginning, but once we substitute the series into the DEqⁿ we find conditions on a_n. If the DEqⁿ is 1st order we'll be able to write all coefficients in terms of a single arbitrary coefficient (usually a₀). If it's 2nd order we'll end up with a₀, a₁ determining all other coefficients.

E158 Solve $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^3 \sin(x^2)$.

Assume $y = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^k$ then $\frac{dy}{dx} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k a_k x^{k-1}$ (k=0 trivial)

Now substitute and put in power series rep. of x³ sin(x²),

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k a_k x^{k-1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n+1)!} x^{4n+5}$$

Write out a few terms,

$$a_1 + 2a_2 x + 3a_3 x^2 + 4a_4 x^3 + 5a_5 x^4 + 6a_6 x^5 + \dots = \Rightarrow$$
$$\leftarrow = x^5 - \frac{1}{3} x^9 + \dots$$

Clearly a₁ = a₂ = a₃ = a₄ = a₅ = 0 ≠ a₆ = 1/6, a₇ = a₈ = a₉ = 0, a₁₀ = -1/30 etc. Actually, this problem's kinda tricky, the 4 in 4n+5 makes it hard to match up the terms. However, it is clear enough that

a₆, a₁₀, a₁₄, ..., a_{4n+6} ≠ 0 for n ≥ 0 otherwise a_k = 0 for k > 0.

$$a_6 = \frac{1}{6}, a_{10} = \frac{-1}{10 \cdot 3!}, a_{14} = \frac{1}{14 \cdot 5!}, \dots, a_{4n+6} = \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n+1)!(4n+6)}$$

Thus $y = a_0 + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n+1)!(4n+6)} x^{4n+6}$, note a₀ plays role of "C" in **E157**

Remark: E158 is a pretty awful example to start with. I probably skipped to E159 in lecture because it illustrates the method for homogeneous DEq^s, technically $\frac{dy}{dx} = x^3 \sin(x^2)$ is nonhomogeneous, also obviously E157 gives a better solⁿ to the problem.

E159 Solve $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2y$ with power series technique.

Assume $y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_n x^n$ then $\frac{dy}{dx} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n x^{n-1}$ substitute into $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2y$ to find, (switched n to k to make shift easier)

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n a_n x^{n-1} = 2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^k \Downarrow \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2 a_{n-1} x^{n-1}$$

$k = n-1$
 $n = k+1$
 $k = 0 \rightarrow n = 1$

\Rightarrow for $n \geq 1$ we find $n a_n = 2 a_{n-1}$,

This is a recurrence relation for a_n , it gives an iterative formula to determine a_n , we may or may not be able to solve a recurrence relation to yield an explicit general formula for a_n . It turns out we find a nice formula for a_n here,

$$a_n = \frac{2}{n} a_{n-1} \begin{cases} n=1 \rightarrow a_1 = 2 a_0 \\ n=2 \rightarrow a_2 = \frac{2}{2} a_1 = \frac{2^2}{2} a_0 \\ n=3 \rightarrow a_3 = \frac{2}{3} a_2 = \frac{2^3}{3 \cdot 2} a_0 \\ n=4 \rightarrow a_4 = \frac{2}{4} a_3 = \frac{2^4}{4!} a_0 \end{cases}$$

We observe a pattern here; $a_n = \frac{2^n}{n!} a_0$ for $n \geq 0$

Thus, $y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{a_0 2^n}{n!} x^n = a_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2x)^n}{n!} = a_0 e^{2x}$

Remark: this is not surprising, $y' = 2y \Rightarrow y' - 2y = 0$ yielding Char. Eqⁿ $\lambda - 2 = 0 \therefore \lambda = 2 \Rightarrow y = c_1 e^{2x}$. The a_0 is filling the same role as c_1 .

Remark: E159 intends to illustrate the method, obviously it is not the best way to solve $\frac{dy}{dx} = ay$. The real beauty of Chapter 8 is we can solve DEq^s which are not solved by previous methods.

E160 Solve $y'' + y = 0$ via power series. Again this is to illustrate the method on a nice (easy) example

Let $y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n x^n \Rightarrow y' = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n C_n x^{n-1} \Rightarrow y'' = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) C_n x^{n-2}$

Thus,

$$\underbrace{\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) C_n x^{n-2}}_{\substack{k = n-2 \\ n=2 \rightarrow k=0 \\ n = k+2}} + \underbrace{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n x^n}_{\substack{\text{let } n=k \\ \dots}} = 0$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \left((k+2)(k+1) C_{k+2} + C_k \right) x^k = 0$$

We find the recurrence relation $C_{k+2} = \frac{-1}{(k+2)(k+1)} C_k$ for $k \geq 0$. This links C_0, C_2, C_4, \dots together and also C_1, C_3, C_5, \dots . We expect two arbitrary constants since $y'' + y = 0$ is 2nd order,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} C_2 &= -C_0/2 = \frac{-C_0}{2!} \\ C_3 &= -C_1/3 \cdot 2 = \frac{-C_1}{3!} \\ C_4 &= -C_2/4 \cdot 3 = \frac{C_0}{4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2} = \frac{C_0}{4!} \\ C_5 &= -C_3/5 \cdot 4 = \frac{-C_1}{5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2} = \frac{-C_1}{5!} \\ C_6 &= -C_4/6 \cdot 5 = \frac{-C_0}{6!} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

we find the following pattern,
 $C_{2j} = \frac{(-1)^j C_0}{(2j)!}$ (even C_n)
 and,
 $C_{2j+1} = \frac{(-1)^j C_1}{(2j+1)!}$ (odd C_n)

Thus the general solⁿ can be written,

$$y = C_0 \underbrace{\left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{(2j)!} x^{2j} \right)}_{\cos(x)} + C_1 \underbrace{\left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{(2j+1)!} x^{2j+1} \right)}_{\sin(x)}$$

- (no surprise I hope) -

Remark: Solving nonhomogeneous problems is not much harder. The difference is that there will be a portion of the solⁿ which does not depend on arbitrary constants. That portion is the particular solⁿ.

E161 Solve $y'' + y = g(x)$, $g(x) = \begin{cases} \sin(x)/x & x \neq 0 \\ 1 & x = 0 \end{cases}$

Let $y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n x^n$ then $y' = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n C_n x^{n-1}$ and $y'' = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) C_n x^{n-2}$

Notice $\frac{\sin(x)}{x} = \frac{1}{x} (x - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \dots) = 1 - \frac{x^2}{3!} + \dots = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{(2j+1)!} x^{2j}$

Thus,

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} n(n-1) C_n x^{n-2} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n x^n = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{(2j+1)!} x^{2j}$$

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} [(k+2)(k+1) C_{k+2} + C_k] x^k = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{(2j+1)!} x^{2j}$$

We'll find the RHS coupler to the even C_k but not the odd k ,

odd $k = 2j+1$ for some $j \geq 0$

$$(2j+1+2)(2j+1+1) C_{2j+1+2} + C_{2j+1} = 0$$

$$C_{2j+3} = \frac{-C_{2j+1}}{(2j+3)(2j+2)} \quad \text{for } j \geq 0$$

Now $C_3 = \frac{-C_1}{3!}$ and $C_5 = \frac{-C_3}{5 \cdot 4} = \frac{C_1}{5!}$ etc... $C_{2j+1} = \frac{(-1)^j C_1}{(2j+1)!}$
(just like E160)

even $k = 2j$ for some $j \geq 0$

$$(2j+2)(2j+1) C_{2j+2} + C_{2j} = \frac{(-1)^j}{(2j+1)!} \quad \left(\text{equating coefficients of } x^{2j} \right)$$

$$C_{2j+2} = \frac{(-1)^j}{(2j+2)(2j+1)(2j+1)!} - \frac{C_{2j}}{(2j+2)(2j+1)}$$

Continued \rightarrow

E161 Continued: study formula for C_{2j+2} just found,

$$\underline{j=0} \quad C_2 = \frac{1}{(2)(1)} - \frac{C_0}{2!} \Rightarrow C_2 = \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} C_0 \right).$$

$$\underline{j=1} \quad C_4 = \frac{-1}{(4)(3)3!} - \frac{C_2}{4 \cdot 3} = \frac{-1}{72} - \frac{1}{12} \left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} C_0 \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow C_4 = \frac{-4}{72} + \frac{1}{4!} C_0.$$

$$\underline{j=2} \quad C_6 = \frac{1}{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 5!} - \frac{C_4}{6 \cdot 5} = \frac{1}{5 \cdot 6!} - \frac{1}{6 \cdot 5} \left(\frac{-4}{3 \cdot 4!} + \frac{1}{4!} C_0 \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow C_6 = \frac{1}{6!} \left(\frac{1}{5} + \frac{4}{3} \right) - \frac{1}{6!} C_0.$$

$$\Rightarrow C_6 = \frac{23}{(15)6!} - \frac{C_0}{6!}.$$

I'm not sure how to find a general formula for the terms above without C_0 ($1/2$, $-4/72$, $23/15 \cdot 6!$ etc...). We can deduce the solⁿ $y = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n x^n$ is as follows:

$$y = C_0 \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{(2j)!} x^{2j} \right) + C_1 \left(\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^j}{(2j+1)!} x^{2j+1} \right) + \frac{1}{2} x^2 - \frac{4}{72} x^4 + \dots$$

$$= \underbrace{C_0 \cos(x) + C_1 \sin(x)}_{y_h} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} x^2 - \frac{4}{72} x^4 + \frac{23}{15 \cdot 6!} x^6 + \dots}_{y_p}$$

We have calculated the first three nontrivial terms in the particular solⁿ. If we want higher order terms we can find them by examining $j=3, 4, \dots$. I can't see a nice formula for the general coefficients of the terms in y_p .