

Last time: Second order linear ODEs: (homogeneous for now)

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

We saw: If we have two linearly independent solutions y_1 and y_2 to a second order linear homogeneous ODE, then any other solution will be a linear combination of y_1 & y_2 . In other words, the general solution is

$$y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$$

First focus on the case of constant coefficients:

$$(1) \quad ay'' + by' + cy = 0 \quad (a, b, c \in \mathbb{R}; a \neq 0)$$

We looked for solutions of the form $y = e^{mx}$

$$\Rightarrow y' = me^{mx}$$

$$y'' = m^2 e^{mx}$$

Plugging back into eqn. (1):

$$(am^2 + bm + c)e^{mx} = 0$$

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

← The characteristic equation:

$$\Delta = b^2 - 4ac$$

A quadratic equation can have:

$$\Delta > 0$$

→ 2 distinct real solutions $m_1 \neq m_2 \in \mathbb{R}$

(last time: the general solution is then just $y = c_1 e^{m_1 x} + c_2 e^{m_2 x}$)

$$\Delta = 0$$

→ 1 repeated real root $m_1 = m_2 \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\Delta < 0$$

→ 2 complex roots $m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{C}$. (complex conjugates).

today

I. The case of repeated real roots $m_1 = m_2$ ($\Delta = 0$)

The issue here is that solving the char. eqn. only gives us one solution $e^{m_1 x}$, and we need two (indp.) solutions to form the general solution.

Example:

$$y'' + 4y' + 4y = 0 \quad (2)$$

Char. Eqn.: $m^2 + 4m + 4 = 0$

$$(m+2)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow m_1 = m_2 = (-2)$$

\Rightarrow This only produces one solution, $y_1 = e^{-2x}$.

We need to find another (indp. solution):

"Reduction of order" (producing a new solution from an old one).

Main idea (Jean d'Alembert, 18th century): We know that if y_1 is a solution, then so is $c y_1(x)$ for any constant c . BUT: we need a linearly independent solution! So, try: instead of a constant c , let's look for a solution of the form $u(x) \cdot y_1(x)$.

So: let's look for a solution of the form $y_2(x) = u(x) e^{-2x}$ to (2).

$$y_2 = u e^{-2x}$$

$$y_2' = u' e^{-2x} - 2u e^{-2x} = (u' - 2u) e^{-2x}$$

$$y_2'' = (u'' - 2u') e^{-2x} - 2(u' - 2u) e^{-2x} \\ = (u'' - 4u' + 4u) e^{-2x}$$

Substitute these for y, y', y'' in (2):

$$(u'' - 4u' + 4u) e^{-2x} + 4(u' - 2u) e^{-2x} + 4u e^{-2x} = 0$$

$$(u'' - 4u' + 4u + 4u' - 8u + 4u) e^{-2x} = 0$$

$$u'' e^{-2x} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad u'' = 0 \Rightarrow u' = C_1 \Rightarrow u = C_1 x + C_2$$

can never be 0

Take $c_1=1, c_2=0$ (we only need some function which works)

$$\Rightarrow \text{take } u(x)=x \Rightarrow y_2(x)=xe^{-2x}$$

(Clearly linearly independent from $y_1=e^{-2x}$)

\Rightarrow General solution:

$$y = c_1 e^{-2x} + c_2 x e^{-2x}$$

Generally: Suppose we have

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0 \text{ with } \Delta = b^2 - 4ac = 0$$

Then the quadratic equation (char. eqn.) $am^2 + bm + c = 0$ has one real repeated root:

$$m_1 = m_2 = \left(\frac{-b}{2a} \right)$$

This gives us one family of solutions: $y_1 = e^{-\frac{bx}{2a}}$

Same procedure as before: look for a solution

$$y_2(x) = u(x) e^{-\frac{bx}{2a}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow y_2' &= u' e^{-\frac{bx}{2a}} - u \frac{b}{2a} e^{-\frac{bx}{2a}} \\ &= \left(u' - \frac{b}{2a} u \right) e^{-\frac{bx}{2a}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow y_2'' &= \left(u'' - \frac{b}{2a} u' \right) e^{-\frac{bx}{2a}} - \frac{b}{2a} \left(u' - \frac{b}{2a} u \right) e^{-\frac{bx}{2a}} \\ &= \left(u'' - \frac{2b}{2a} u' + \frac{b^2}{4a^2} u \right) e^{-\frac{bx}{2a}} \end{aligned}$$

Replace y_2'', y_2', y_2 in the original eqn.:

$$\begin{aligned} a \left(u'' - \frac{b}{a} u' + \frac{b^2}{4a^2} u \right) e^{-\frac{bx}{2a}} + b \left(u' - \frac{b}{2a} u \right) e^{-\frac{bx}{2a}} \\ + c u e^{-\frac{bx}{2a}} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\left(au'' - \cancel{bu'} + \frac{b^2}{4a}u + \cancel{bu'} - \frac{b^2}{2a}u + cu \right) e^{-bx/2a} = 0$$

= 0

$$au'' + \left(\frac{b^2}{4a} - \frac{b^2}{2a} + c \right) u = 0$$

$$au'' + \left(-\frac{b^2}{4a} + c \right) u = 0$$

$$au'' + \left(-\frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a} \right) u = 0$$

→ this is Δ , which is 0!

$$\Rightarrow au'' = 0 \Rightarrow u'' = 0$$

$$u' = c_1$$

$$u = c_1x + c_2$$

⇒ As before, we have the new solution

$$y_2 = xe^{-bx/2a}$$

⇒ In case of a repeated root $m_1 = m_2$,

the general solution is:

$$y = c_1 e^{m_1 x} + c_2 x e^{m_2 x}$$

II. The case of two complex roots ($\Delta < 0$)

Complex Numbers (\mathbb{C}):

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

$$i^2 = -1$$

$$i^3 = -i$$

$$i^4 = 1$$

General complex number:

$$z = a + bi$$

$$a, b \in \mathbb{R}$$

real part

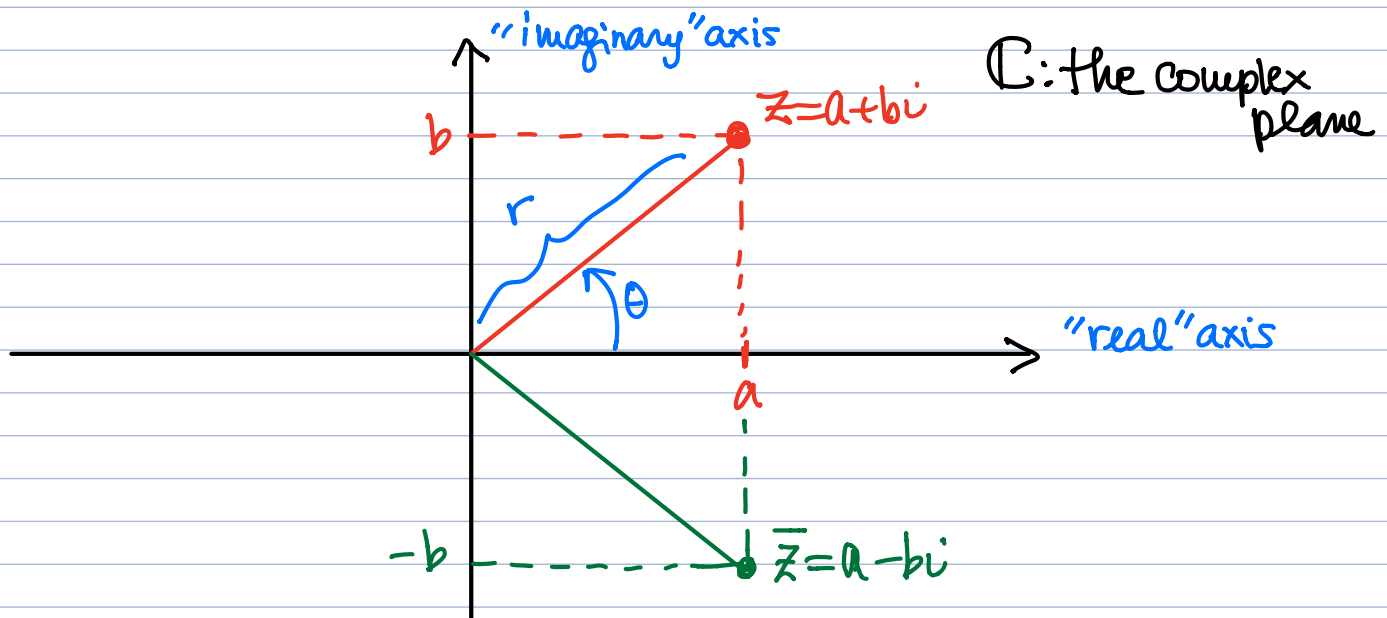
imaginary part

$$|z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} = |\bar{z}|$$

$$r = |z|$$

The complex conjugate:

$$\bar{z} = a - bi$$



$$r = |z| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} \Rightarrow$$

$$z = r \cos \theta + i r \sin \theta$$

$$a = r \cos \theta$$

$$b = r \sin \theta$$

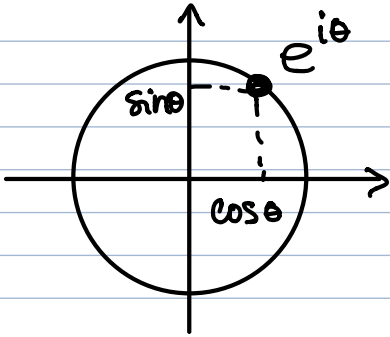
$$z = r (\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$$

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$$

Euler's Formula!

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$$

⇒ Can think of $e^{i\theta}$ as tracing out the unit circle as θ varies.



This comes from Maclaurin series:

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} = 1 + \frac{x}{1} + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \dots$$

$$\sin(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n+1}}{(2n+1)!} = \frac{x}{1} - \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^7}{7!} + \dots$$

$$\cos(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n x^{2n}}{(2n)!} = 1 - \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} + \dots$$

↓ Make x into $(i \cdot x)$ here:

$$\begin{aligned} e^{ix} &= 1 + \frac{i^1 x^1}{1!} + \frac{i^2 x^2}{2!} + \frac{i^3 x^3}{3!} + \frac{i^4 x^4}{4!} + \frac{i^5 x^5}{5!} + \frac{i^6 x^6}{6!} + \dots \\ &= 1 + i \frac{x}{1} - \frac{x^2}{2!} - i \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + i \frac{x^5}{5!} - \frac{x^6}{6!} - i \frac{x^7}{7!} + \frac{x^8}{8!} + \dots \\ &= (\cos x) + i (\sin x) \quad \text{!} \end{aligned}$$

In order to even define such a thing as an exponential function w/ complex exponent, one must appeal to the polynomial representation of the exponential:

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} \Rightarrow e^z, z \in \mathbb{C} \text{ is defined as: } e^z := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n!}$$

Back to our characteristic equation

$$am^2 + bm + c = 0; \quad \Delta = b^2 - 4ac < 0$$

The solutions then are complex conjugates

$$m_{1,2} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{\Delta}}{2a} = \alpha \pm i\beta$$

Our general solution is then

$$y = c_1 e^{(\alpha+i\beta)x} + c_2 e^{(\alpha-i\beta)x} \rightarrow \text{Not easy to work with!}$$

Easier formula: we have 2 linearly indep. solutions:

$$y_1 = e^{(\alpha+i\beta)x} = e^{\alpha x} \cdot e^{i\beta x} = e^{\alpha x} (\cos(\beta x) + i \sin(\beta x))$$

$$y_2 = e^{(\alpha-i\beta)x} = e^{\alpha x} \cdot e^{-i\beta x} = e^{\alpha x} (\cos(\beta x) - i \sin(\beta x))$$

If these are solutions, then any linear combination of y_1 & y_2 is also a solution:

$$\tilde{y}_1 := y_1 + y_2 = 2e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x)$$

$$\tilde{y}_2 := y_1 - y_2 = 2i e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x)$$

(only take real solutions for now in this class)

$$y = c_1 e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x) + c_2 e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x)$$

Example: $y'' + y' + y = 0$

Char. eqn.: $m^2 + m + 1 = 0$

$$\Delta = 1 - 4 = -3 \Rightarrow m_{1,2} = \frac{-1 \pm \sqrt{-3}}{2} = \frac{-1 \pm i\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

Complex roots: $m_1 = \frac{-1}{2} + i \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}; m_2 = \frac{-1}{2} - i \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$

\Rightarrow General Solution: $y = c_1 e^{-x/2} \cos\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}x\right) + c_2 e^{-x/2} \sin\left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}x\right)$

Summary of:

$$ay'' + by' + c = 0$$

Characteristic Eqn.: $am^2 + bm + c = 0$
 $\Delta = b^2 - 4ac$

① 2 distinct real roots $m_1 \neq m_2$ ($\Delta > 0$):

$$y = c_1 e^{m_1 x} + c_2 e^{m_2 x}$$

② 1 repeated real root $m_1 = m_2$ ($\Delta = 0$):

$$y = c_1 e^{m_1 x} + c_2 x e^{m_1 x}$$

③ 2 complex conjugate roots $\alpha \pm i\beta$ ($\Delta < 0$):

$$y = c_1 e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x) + c_2 e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x).$$