

# L21 Undetermined Coefficients

Note Title

8/10/2020

Slightly More Complicated Example

$$\ddot{y} + 3\dot{y} + 2y = t^2 e^{-4t}$$

Homogeneous Solution is

$$y_H = C_1 t^{-2} e^{-t} + C_2 t^{-1} e^{-t}$$

What is the form of  $y_P$ ?

$y_P$  = the most general expression

you can get by repeatedly

differentiating the forcing term.

Start with  $y_P = A t^2 e^{-4t} + \dots$

Differentiate  $y_P = 2t e^{-4t} - 8t^2 e^{-4t}$

I could add the whole derivative  
but it's simpler to just add the  
new term

$$y_P = \underbrace{2t e^{-4t}}_{\text{new term}} - \underbrace{8t^2 e^{-4t}}_{\text{old term}}$$

$$y_P = A t^2 e^{-4t} + B t e^{-4t} + \dots$$

\* purple means "not important"

$$y_p = A t e^{2-4t} + B t^2 e^{-4t} + ??$$

Now differentiate again. It's good enough to just differentiate the new term,

$$(t e^{-4t})' = \underbrace{e^{-4t}}_{\text{new term}} - 4 \underbrace{t e^{-4t}}_{\text{old term}}$$

Add the new term

$$y_p = A t e^{2-4t} + B t^2 e^{-4t} + C e^{-4t} + ??$$

Now differentiate again. It's good enough to just differentiate the new term

$$(e^{-4t})' = -4 \underbrace{e^{-4t}}_{\text{old term}}$$

No new term - I can stop! :

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$$y_p = A t e^{2-4t} + B t^2 e^{-4t} + C e^{-4t}$$

The calculation below does exactly the same thing as we did on the previous page. It's just organized as a diagram and there are fewer words.

$t^2 e^{-4t}$  ① Forcing Function = first term

$$\downarrow \frac{d}{dt}$$

$2t e^{-4t}$  ② second term old term - drop it

STOP

$$\downarrow \frac{d}{dt}$$

$-4e^{-4t}$  ③ third term old term - drop it

STOP

$$\downarrow$$

$-8e^{-4t}$  old term - drop it

STOP

$$y_p(t) = A t^2 e^{-4t} + B t e^{-4t} + C e^{-4t}$$

or

$$(A t^2 + B t + C) e^{-4t}$$

$$y_p = At^2e^{-4t} + Bte^{-4t} + Ce^{-4t}$$

Now substitute  $y_p$  into

$$\ddot{y}_p + 3\dot{y}_p + 2y_p = t^2e^{-4t}$$

and solve for  $A, B, C$

$$y_p = At^2e^{-4t} + Bte^{-4t} + Ce^{-4t}$$

$$\dot{y}_p = -4At^2e^{-4t} + (2A-4B)te^{-4t} + (B-4C)e^{-4t}$$

$$\ddot{y}_p = 16At^2e^{-4t} + (-16A+16B)te^{-4t} + (2A-8B+16C)e^{-4t}$$

Notice the way the terms are organized after each differentiation. Here is how I calculated  $y_p$ .

$$y_p = At^2e^{-4t} + Bte^{-4t} + Ce^{-4t}$$

$$\dot{y}_p = -4At^2e^{-4t} + 2At^{-4t} + -4Bte^{-4t} + Bt^{-4t} + -4Ce^{-4t}$$

$$\ddot{y}_p = -4At^2e^{-4t} + (2A-4B)te^{-4t} + (B-4C)e^{-4t}$$

We keep each of the terms,  $t^2e^{-4t}$ ,  $te^{-4t}$ ,  $e^{-4t}$  together.

Now use the DE)

$$\ddot{y}_P = 16At^2e^{-4t} + (-16A + 16B)t^2e^{-4t} + (2A - 8B + 16C)t^2e^{-4t}$$

$$2y_P = 2At^2e^{-4t} + 2Bt^2e^{-4t} + 2Ce^{-4t}$$

$$+ 3\dot{y}_P = -12At^2e^{-4t} + (CA - 12B)t^2e^{-4t} + (3B - 12C)t^2e^{-4t}$$

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$$t^2e^{-4t} = 6At^2e^{-4t} + (-16A - CB)t^2e^{-4t} + (2A - 5B + 6C)t^2e^{-4t}$$

$$6A = 1$$

$$-16A - CB = 0$$

$$2A - 5B + 6C = 0$$

$$A = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$B = -\frac{16}{36} = -\frac{4}{9}$$

$$C = \frac{-31}{12 \cdot 6}$$