

# Today

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- Finish up undetermined coefficients (on the midterm, on WW3)
- Physics applications - mass springs (not on midterm, (on WW4)
- Undamped, over/under/critically damped oscillations (maybe Thurs)

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- **Example 4.** Define the operator  $L[y] = y'' + 2y' - 3y$ . Find the general solution to  $L[y] = e^{2t}$ . That is,  $y'' + 2y' - 3y = e^{2t}$ .

- Step 1: Solve the associated homogeneous equation

$$y'' + 2y' - 3y = 0.$$

$$y_h(t) = C_1 e^t + C_2 e^{-3t}$$

- Step 2: What do you have to plug in to  $L[\cdot]$  to get  $e^{2t}$  out?

- Try  $y_p(t) = Ae^{2t}$ .

$$\bullet L[y_p(t)] = L[Ae^{2t}] = \begin{cases} \text{(A) } 5e^{2t} & \text{(C) } 4e^{2t} \\ \star \text{(B) } 5Ae^{2t} & \text{(D) } 4Ae^{2t} \end{cases}$$

- A is an **undetermined coefficient** (until you determine it).

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- **Example 4.** Define the operator  $L[y] = y'' + 2y' - 3y$ . Find the general solution to  $L[y] = e^{2t}$ . That is,  $y'' + 2y' - 3y = e^{2t}$ .

- Summarizing:

- We know that, for any  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ ,

$$L[C_1e^t + C_2e^{-3t}] = 0$$

- We also know that

$$L[Ae^{2t}] = 5Ae^{2t}$$

- Finally, by linearity, we know that

$$L[C_1e^t + C_2e^{-3t} + Ae^{2t}] = 0 + 5Ae^{2t}$$

- So what's left to do to find our general solution? Pick  $A = 1/5$ .

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- **Example 5.** Find the general solution to the equation  $y'' - 4y = e^t$ .

- What is the solution to the **associated homogeneous equation**?

★ (A)  $y_h(t) = C_1 e^{2t} + C_2 e^{-2t}$

(B)  $y_h(t) = C_1 \cos(2t) + C_2 \sin(2t)$

(C)  $y_h(t) = C_1 e^{2t} + C_2 t e^{2t}$

(D)  $y_h(t) = C_1 \cos(2t) + C_2 \sin(2t) + e^t$

(E) Don't know.

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- **Example 5.** Find the general solution to the equation  $y'' - 4y = e^t$ .

- What is the form of the particular solution?

(A)  $y_p(t) = Ae^{2t}$

(B)  $y_p(t) = Ae^{-2t}$

★ (C)  $y_p(t) = Ae^t$

(D)  $y_p(t) = Ate^t$

(E) Don't know

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- **Example 5.** Find the general solution to the equation  $y'' - 4y = e^t$ .
  - What is the value of A that gives the particular solution  $(Ae^t)$  ?
    - (A)  $A = 1$
    - (B)  $A = 3$
    - (C)  $A = 1/3$
    - ★ (D)  $A = -1/3$
    - (E) Don't know.

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- **Example 7.** Find the general solution to the equation  $y'' - 4y = e^{2t}$ .

- What is the solution to the associated homogeneous equation?

★ (A)  $y_h(t) = C_1 e^{2t} + C_2 e^{-2t}$

(B)  $y_h(t) = C_1 \cos(2t) + C_2 \sin(2t)$

(C)  $y_h(t) = C_1 e^{2t} + C_2 e^{-2t}$

Same as the last example

(D)  $y_h(t) = C_1 e^{2t} + C_2 e^{-2t} + e^t$

(E) Don't know.

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- **Example 7.** Find the general solution to the equation  $y'' - 4y = e^{2t}$ .

- What is the form of the particular solution?

(A)  $y_p(t) = Ae^{2t}$

$$(Ae^{2t})'' - 4Ae^{2t} = 0 !$$

(B)  $y_p(t) = Ae^{-2t}$

★ (C)  $y_p(t) = Ate^{2t}$

(D)  $y_p(t) = Ae^t$

(E)  $y_p(t) = Ate^t$

- Simpler example in which the RHS is a solution to the homogeneous problem.

$$y' - y = e^t$$

$$e^{-t}y' - e^{-t}y = 1$$

$$y = te^t + Ce^t$$

- General rule: when your guess at  $y_p$  makes LHS=0, try multiplying it by t.



# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- **Example 7.** Find the general solution to the equation  $y'' - 4y = e^{2t}$ .
  - What is the value of A that gives the particular solution  $(Ate^{2t})$ ?

(A)  $A = 1$

$$(Ate^{2t})' = Ae^{2t} + 2Ate^{2t}$$

(B)  $A = 4$

$$(Ate^{2t})'' = 2Ae^{2t} + 2Ae^{2t} + 4Ate^{2t}$$

(C)  $A = -4$

$$= 4Ae^{2t} + 4Ate^{2t}$$

★ (D)  $A = 1/4$

$$(Ate^{2t})'' - 4(Ate^{2t}) = 4Ae^{2t}$$

(E)  $A = -1/4$

Need:  $= e^{2t}$

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- **Example 8.** Find the general solution to  $y'' - 4y = \cos(2t)$ .

- What is the form of the particular solution?

★ (A)  $y_p(t) = A \cos(2t)$

(B)  $y_p(t) = A \sin(2t)$

★ (C)  $y_p(t) = A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t)$

(D)  $y_p(t) = t(A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t))$

(E)  $y_p(t) = e^{2t}(A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t))$

Challenge: What small change to the DE makes (D) correct?

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- **Example 8.** Find the general solution to  $y'' + y' - 4y = \cos(2t)$ .

- What is the form of the particular solution?

(A)  $y_p(t) = A \cos(2t)$

(B)  $y_p(t) = A \sin(2t)$

★ (C)  $y_p(t) = A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t)$

(D)  $y_p(t) = t(A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t))$

(E)  $y_p(t) = e^{2t}(A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t))$

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- **Example 9.** Find the general solution to  $y'' - 4y = t^3$ .

- What is the form of the particular solution?

(A)  $y_p(t) = At^3$


(B)  $y_p(t) = At^3 + Bt^2 + Ct$

★ (C)  $y_p(t) = At^3 + Bt^2 + Ct + D$

(D)  $y_p(t) = At^3 + Be^{2t} + Ce^{-2t}$

(E) Don't know.

waste of time including  
solution to homogeneous eq.



# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- When RHS is sum of terms:

$$y'' - 4y = \cos(2t) + t^3$$

$$y_p(t) = A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t) + Ct^3 + Dt^2 + Et + F$$

or

$$y_{p_1}(t) = A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t)$$

$$y_{p_2}(t) = Ct^3 + Dt^2 + Et + F$$

$$y_p(t) = y_{p_1}(t) + y_{p_2}(t)$$

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- **Example.** Find the general solution to  $y'' + 2y' = e^{2t} + t^3$ .

- What is the form of the particular solution?

(A)  $y_p(t) = Ae^{2t} + Bt^3 + Ct^2 + Dt$

(B)  $y_p(t) = Ae^{2t} + Bt^3 + Ct^2 + Dt + E$

★ (C)  $y_p(t) = Ae^{2t} + (Bt^4 + Ct^3 + Dt^2 + Et)$   
 $y_p(t) = Ae^{2t} + t(Bt^3 + Ct^2 + Dt + E)$

(D)  $y_p(t) = Ae^{2t} + Be^{-2t} + Ct^3 + Dt^2 + Et + F$

(E) Don't know / still thinking.

For each wrong answer, for what DE is it the correct form?

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- **Example.** Find the general solution to  $y'' - 4y = t^3 e^{2t}$ .

- What is the form of the particular solution?

(A)  $y_p(t) = (At^3 + Bt^2 + Ct + D)e^{2t}$

(B)  $y_p(t) = (At^3 + Bt^2 + Ct)e^{2t}$

(C)  $y_p(t) = (At^3 + Bt^2 + Ct)e^{2t} + (Dt^3 + Et^2 + Ft)e^{-2t}$

★ (D)  $y_p(t) = (At^4 + Bt^3 + Ct^2 + Dt)e^{2t}$   
 $y_p(t) = t(At^3 + Bt^2 + Ct + D)e^{2t}$

- (E) Don't know / still thinking.

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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$$y'' + 3y' - 10y = x^2 e^{-5x}$$

$$y_h(x) = C_1 e^{-5x} + C_2 e^{2x}$$

$$y_p(x) = Ax^2 e^{-5x}$$

$$y'_p(x) = 2Ax e^{-5x} - 5Ax^2 e^{-5x}$$

$$y''_p(x) = 2Ae^{-5x} - 10Ax e^{-5x} - 10Ax e^{-5x} + 25Ax^2 e^{-5x}$$

$$-10y_p(x) = \phantom{2Ae^{-5x} - 10Ax e^{-5x} - 10Ax e^{-5x} + 25Ax^2 e^{-5x}} - 10Ax^2 e^{-5x}$$

$$3y'_p(x) = \phantom{2Ae^{-5x} - 10Ax e^{-5x} - 10Ax e^{-5x} + 25Ax^2 e^{-5x}} 6Ax e^{-5x} - 15Ax^2 e^{-5x}$$

$$y''_p(x) = 2Ae^{-5x} - 20Ax e^{-5x} + 25Ax^2 e^{-5x}$$

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$$2Ae^{-5x} - 14Ax e^{-5x} + 0 = x^2 e^{-5x}$$

Can't find A that works! Need 3 unknowns to match all 3 terms.



# Method of undetermined coefficients

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$$y'' + 3y' - 10y = x^2 e^{-5x}$$

$$y_h(x) = C_1 e^{-5x} + C_2 e^{2x}$$

$$y_p(x) = Ax^2 e^{-5x} + Bx e^{-5x} + C e^{-5x}$$

$$y'_p(x) \text{ involves } x^2, x, 1$$

$$y''_p(x) \text{ involves } x^2, x, 1$$

But  $e^{-5x}$  gets killed by the operator so C disappears - only 2 unknowns for matching.

Need 3 unknowns but not including  $e^{-5x}$ .

$$\begin{aligned} y_p(x) &= Ax^3 e^{-5x} + Bx^2 e^{-5x} + Cx e^{-5x} \\ &= x(Ax^2 e^{-5x} + Bx e^{-5x} + C e^{-5x}) \end{aligned}$$

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- Summary - finding a particular solution to  $L[y] = g(t)$ .
  - Include all functions that are part of the  $g(t)$  family (e.g.  $\cos$  **and**  $\sin$ )
  - If part of the  $g(t)$  family is a solution to the homogeneous (h-)problem, use  $t \times$  ( $g(t)$  family).
  - If  $t \times$  (part of the  $g(t)$  family), is a solution to the h-problem, use  $t^2 \times$  ( $g(t)$  family). etc.
  - For sums, group terms into families and include a term for each. You can even find a  $y_p$  for each family separately and add them up.
  - Works for products of functions - be sure to include the whole family!
  - Never include a solution to the h-problem as it won't survive  $L[ ]$ . Just make sure you aren't missing another term somewhere.

# Method of undetermined coefficients

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- Do lots of these problems and the trends will become clear.
- Try different  $y_p$ s and see what goes wrong - this will help you see what must happen when things go right.
- Two crucial facts to remember
  - If you try a form and you can make LHS=RHS with some choice for the coefficients then you're done.
  - If you can't, your guess is most likely missing a term(s).