

Note: $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(t, y)$ is a differential equation

$f(t, y)$ is not a differential equation, it's a function of two variables

Solution to $\frac{dy}{dt} = f(t, y)$ is $y(t)$.

UNDETERMINED COEFFICIENT METHOD

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = a(t)y + b(t)$$

$b(t)$
 e^{at}
 t^n

typical "guess" $y_p(t)$
 Ae^{at}
 $A_0 + A_1t + A_2t^2 + \dots + A_nt^n$

$\cos(at)$ or $\sin(at)$

$A \cos(at) + B \sin(at)$

$e^{at} \cos(bt)$ or $e^{at} \sin(bt)$

$Ae^{at} \cos(bt) + Be^{at} \sin(bt)$

Example: $\frac{dy}{dt} = 2y + e^t \cos(3t)$

$\frac{dy}{dt} = 2y$ has solution $y_h(t) = e^{2t}$

$y_p(t) = Ae^t \cos(3t) + Be^t \sin(3t)$

$\frac{dy_p}{dt} = Ae^t \cos(3t) - 3Ae^t \sin(3t) + Be^t \sin(3t) + 3Be^t \cos(3t)$

plug in to $\frac{dy}{dt} = 2y + e^t \cos(3t)$

$Ae^t \cos(3t) - 3Ae^t \sin(3t) + Be^t \sin(3t) + 3Be^t \cos(3t) = 2Ae^t \cos(3t) + 2Be^t \sin(3t) + e^t \cos(3t)$

cos: $A + 3B = 2A + 1$

sin: $-3A + B = 2B$

$-3A = B$

$A + 3(-3A) = 2A + 1$

$-3A = B$

$A - 9A = 2A + 1$

$-3(-\frac{1}{10}) = B$

$-8A = 2A + 1$

$\frac{3}{10} = B$

$-10A = 1$

$A = -\frac{1}{10}$

General solution to $\frac{dy}{dt} = 2y + e^t \cos(3t)$ is:

$y(t) = k e^{2t} - \frac{1}{10} e^t \cos(3t) + \frac{3}{10} \sin(3t)$

$k \cdot y_h(t)$

$y_p(t)$

