

Summary - Method undetermined coefficients

In the following, assume that $P_n(t)$ is a polynomial of degree n of the form

$$P_n(t) = A_0 + A_1t + A_2t^2 + \cdots + A_nt^n$$

1. We can summarize all the cases of the right hand side as follows

(a) **Polynomials**

To find a particular solution to

$$ay'' + by' + cy = g_i(t) = P_n(t)$$

use the form

$$y_p(t) = t^s(A_0 + A_1t + A_2t^2 \cdots + A_nt^n)$$

with

- i. $s = 0$ if 0 is not a root of the characteristic polynomial.
- ii. $s = 1$ if 0 is a simple root of the characteristic polynomial
- iii. $s = 2$ if 0 is a double root of the characteristic polynomial

(b) **Products of polynomials and exponentials**

To find a particular solution to

$$ay'' + by' + cy = g_i(t) = P_n(t)e^{rt}$$

where m is a non-negative integer, use the form

$$y_p(t) = t^s(A_0 + A_1t + A_2t^2 + \cdots + A_nt^n)e^{rt}$$

with

- i. $s = 0$ if r is not a root of the characteristic polynomial
- ii. $s = 1$ if r is a simple root of the characteristic polynomial
- iii. $s = 2$ if r is a double root of the characteristic polynomial

(c) **Products of polynomials, exponential and trigonometric functions**

To find a particular solution to

$$ay'' + by' + cy = P_n(t)e^{\alpha t} \cos(\mu t) \text{ or } P_n(t)e^{\alpha t} \sin(\mu t)$$

use the form

$$y_p(t) = t^s(A_0 + A_1t + \cdots + A_nt^n)e^{\alpha t} \cos(\mu t) + t^s(A_0 + A_1t + \cdots + A_nt^n)e^{\alpha t} \sin(\mu t)$$

with

- i. $s = 0$ if $\alpha + i\mu$ is not a root of the characteristic polynomial
- ii. $s = 1$ if $\alpha + i\mu$ is a root of the characteristic polynomial