

Lecture 2:

Recall:

1. Real world problems can be formulated into mathematical equations (usually involves derivatives);
2. Our main focus in Math 3310:
 - a. How to solve equations analytically and numerically;
 - b. Analyse the numerical algorithm (convergence to solution?)
 - c. Analyse the numerical approximation (accuracy?)

Analytic methods for solving differential equation

Note: Most differential equations do not have analytic (exact) solutions!

e.g.
$$-\frac{d}{dx} \left(\underbrace{c(x)}_{\text{complicated}} u(x) \right) = \underbrace{f(x)}_{\text{complicated}}$$
 DOESN'T have analytic sol!

↓ convert / approximation

$$-\frac{d}{dx} (x u(x)) = x^2$$

(Have analytic solution! Give a good initial guess for the sol. of the original equation!)

Three most basic techniques:

- (1) Integrating factor
- (2) Separation of variables
- (3) Analytic spectral (Fourier) method

(1) Integrating factor

(A) First order differential equation (involving first derivatives ONLY)

Consider: $(*) \frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y(x) = Q(x)$ (y is unknown function)

Let $M(x) = e^{\int_{s_0}^x P(s) ds}$ some constant. Then, it is easy to check:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dx} (M(x)y(x)) &= \frac{dM(x)}{dx} y(x) + M(x) \frac{dy}{dx} \\ &= \underbrace{e^{\int_{s_0}^x P(s) ds}}_{M(x)} P(x)y(x) + M(x) \frac{dy}{dx} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \frac{d}{dx} (M(x)y(x)) = M(x) \left(\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y(x) \right)$$

Multiply both sides of (*) by $M(x)$:

$$M(x) \left(\frac{dy}{dx} + P(x)y(x) \right) = M(x) Q(x)$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\frac{d}{dx}(M(x)y(x))}$

$$\therefore \int \frac{d}{dx}(M(x)y(x)) = \int M(x) Q(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow M(x)y(x) = \int M(x) Q(x) dx + C$$

$$y(x) = \left[\int \left(e^{\int_{s_0}^x P(s) ds} \right) Q(x) dx + C \right] \left(e^{-\int_{s_0}^x P(s) ds} \right)$$

Remark: $M(x)$ is called the integrating factor.

Example 1: Consider $= \frac{dy}{dx} - g(x)y(x) = 0$, $1 \leq x < \infty$ with $y(1) = 1$.

Suppose $g(x) \approx \frac{k}{x}$.

Find an approximated guess of $y(x)$.



Solution: Consider $= \frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{k}{x} y(x) = 0$

$$\text{Let } M(x) = e^{\int -\frac{k}{x} dx} = e^{-k \ln x} = x^{-k}$$

$$\text{Then: } M(x) \left(\frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{k}{x} y(x) \right) = 0 \cdot M(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} (M(x) y(x)) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow x^{-k} \approx M(x) y(x) = C \Rightarrow y(x) = C x^k$$

'∴' $y(1) = 1 \Rightarrow I = C$. ∴ $y(x) = x^k$ is an approximated guess of the solution.

Example 2: Consider:

$$f(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + g(x) y(x) = h(x), \quad 2 \leq x < \infty \text{ with } y(2) = 1$$

Suppose $f(x) \approx (x^2 - 1)$; $g(x) \approx 2x$; $h(x) \approx x$.

Find an approximated guess of $y(x)$.

Solution: Consider: $\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{2x}{x^2-1} y(x) = \frac{x}{x^2-1}$

$$\text{Let } M(x) = e^{\int \frac{2x}{x^2-1} dx} = e^{\ln(x^2-1)} = x^2 - 1$$

$$\text{Then: } M(x) \left(\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{2x}{x^2-1} y(x) \right) = M(x) \left(\frac{x}{x^2-1} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} (M(x) y(x)) = M(x) \frac{x}{x^2-1}$$

$$\therefore \int \frac{d}{dx} ((x^2-1)y(x)) = \int (x^2-1) \left(\frac{x}{x^2-1} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow (x^2-1)y(x) = \frac{x^2}{2} + C$$

$$\Rightarrow y(x) = \left(\frac{1}{2}x^2 + C \right) / (x^2-1)$$

$$y(2) = 1 \Rightarrow 1 = (C+2)/3 \Rightarrow C = 1.$$

$\therefore y(x) = \left(\frac{1}{2}x^2 + 1 \right) / (x^2-1)$ is an approximated guess of the solution.

(B) Second order differential equation (involving second derivatives)

Consider: $-c \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} + qu(x) = 0$ where $c > 0$, $q > 0$ are positive constants.

Let $M(x) = \frac{du}{dx}$ (integrating factor)

Then: $c \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} M(x) = qu(x) M(x)$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{d}{dx} \left(c \left(\frac{du}{dx} \right)^2 \right) = \frac{d}{dx} \left(q(u(x))^2 \right)$$

A possible solution of the above is:

$$c \left(\frac{du}{dx} \right)^2 = q(u(x))^2$$

$$\therefore \frac{du}{dx} = \pm \sqrt{\frac{q}{c}} u(x)$$

Using the integrating factor technique for 1st order differential eqn:

$$u(x) = K e^{\pm \sqrt{\frac{g}{c}} x} \text{ for some constant } K.$$

For general solution, $u(x) = \alpha_1 e^{\sqrt{\frac{g}{c}} x} + \alpha_2 e^{-\sqrt{\frac{g}{c}} x}$

where α_1 and α_2 are some constants determined by boundary conditions.

Example: Assume $u(0) = 0$ and $u(1) = 2$.

We get

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 &= 0 \\ \alpha_1 e^{\sqrt{\frac{g}{c}}} + \alpha_2 e^{-\sqrt{\frac{g}{c}}} &= 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_1 = -\alpha_2 = \frac{2}{e^{\sqrt{\frac{g}{c}}} - e^{-\sqrt{\frac{g}{c}}}}$$

Example: (Non-homogeneous case)

Consider:
$$(*) \begin{cases} -c \frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} + g u = g x^2 + 1 \\ \frac{du}{dx}(0) = 1, u(1) = 1 \end{cases}$$

Note that if $w(x)$ satisfies $(*)$, then:

$$u(x) = \underbrace{\alpha_1 e^{\sqrt{\frac{g}{c}}x} + \alpha_2 e^{-\sqrt{\frac{g}{c}}x}}_{\text{Homogeneous}} + \underbrace{w(x)}_{\text{particular}} \text{ for some constants}$$

α_1 and α_2 is a general sol.

In our case, $w(x) = x^2 + \left(\frac{2c+1}{g}\right)$ is a solution.

$$\therefore u(x) = \alpha_1 e^{\sqrt{\frac{g}{c}}x} + \alpha_2 e^{-\sqrt{\frac{g}{c}}x} + x^2 + \left(\frac{2c+1}{g}\right)$$

determined by boundary conditions.