

# Cauchy-Euler Equations (5A)

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*Homogeneous Linear Equations  
with variable coefficients*

# Cauchy-Euler Equation

## Second Order Linear Equations with Constant Coefficients

$$a_2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + a_1 \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0 y = g(x)$$

$$a_2 y'' + a_1 y' + a_0 y = g(x)$$

## Second Order Linear Equations with Variable Coefficients

$$a_2(x) \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x) y = g(x)$$

$$a_2(x) y'' + a_1(x) y' + a_0(x) y = g(x)$$

## Cauchy-Euler Equation

$$a_2 x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + a_1 x \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0 y = g(x)$$

$$a_2 x^2 y'' + a_1 x y' + a_0 y = g(x)$$

# Auxiliary Equation of Cauchy-Euler Equation

## Homogeneous Second Order Cauchy-Euler Equation

$$a x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} + b x \frac{d y}{d x} + c y = 0$$

$$a x^2 y'' + b x y' + c y = 0$$

try a solution  $y = x^m$

$$a x^2 \frac{d^2}{d x^2} \{x^m\} + b x \frac{d}{d x} \{x^m\} + c \{x^m\} = 0$$

$$a \{m(m-1)x^m\} + b \{m x^m\} + c \{x^m\} = 0$$

$$(a m^2 + (b-a)m + c) \cdot x^m = 0$$

$$a x^2 \{x^m\}'' + b x \{x^m\}' + c \{x^m\} = 0$$

$$a \{m(m-1)x^m\} + b \{m x^m\} + c \{x^m\} = 0$$

$$(a m^2 + (b-a)m + c) \cdot x^m = 0$$

auxiliary equation

$$(a m^2 + (b-a)m + c) = 0$$

$$(a m^2 + (b-a)m + c) = 0$$

# General Solution – $y_h$ of Cauchy-Euler Equations

## Homogeneous Second Order Cauchy-Euler Equation

$$a x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} + b x \frac{d y}{d x} + c y = 0$$

$$a x^2 y'' + b x y' + c y = 0$$

try a solution  $y = x^m$

auxiliary equation

$$(a m^2 + (b-a)m + c) = 0$$

$$m_1 = \{-(b-a) + \sqrt{(b-a)^2 - 4ac}\} / 2a$$

$$m_2 = \{-(b-a) - \sqrt{(b-a)^2 - 4ac}\} / 2a$$

(A)  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac > 0$  Real, distinct  $m_1, m_2$

(B)  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac = 0$  Real, equal  $m_1, m_2$

(C)  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac < 0$  Conjugate complex  $m_1, m_2$

$$y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_2}$$

$$y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_1} \ln x$$

$$y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_2} = C_1 x^{(\alpha+i\beta)} + C_2 x^{(\alpha-i\beta)}$$

**Homogeneous Second Order Cauchy-Euler Equation**

$$a x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} + b x \frac{d y}{d x} + c y = 0$$

$$a x^2 y'' + b x y' + c y = 0$$

auxiliary equation

try a solution  $y = x^m$ 

$$(a m^2 + (b-a)m + c) = 0$$

$$m_1 = \{-(b-a) + \sqrt{(b-a)^2 - 4ac}\} / 2a$$

$$m_2 = \{-(b-a) - \sqrt{(b-a)^2 - 4ac}\} / 2a$$

$$y_1 = x^{m_1}$$

$$y_2 = x^{m_2}$$

**(A)**  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac > 0$  Real, distinct  $m_1, m_2$

**(B)**  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac = 0$  Real, equal  $m_1, m_2$

**(C)**  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac < 0$

$$y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_2}$$

$$y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_1} \ln x$$

$$y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_2} = C_1 x^{(\alpha+i\beta)} + C_2 x^{(\alpha-i\beta)}$$

## Homogeneous Second Order Cauchy-Euler Equation

$$a x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} + b x \frac{d y}{d x} + c y = 0$$

$$a x^2 y'' + b x y' + c y = 0$$

auxiliary equation

try a solution  $y = x^m$

$$(a m^2 + (b-a)m + c) = 0$$

$$(b-a)^2 - 4ac = 0$$

$$m_1 = \{-(b-a) + \sqrt{(b-a)^2 - 4ac}\} / 2a$$

$$m_2 = \{-(b-a) - \sqrt{(b-a)^2 - 4ac}\} / 2a$$

$$m_1 = -(b-a) / 2a$$

$$m_2 = -(b-a) / 2a$$

$$x^{m_1} = x^{m_2} = x^{-\frac{(b-a)}{2a}}$$

(A)  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac > 0$  Real, distinct  $m_1, m_2$

(B)  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac = 0$  Real, equal  $m_1, m_2$

(C)  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac < 0$

$$y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_2}$$

$$y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_1} \ln x$$

$$y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_2} = C_1 x^{(\alpha+i\beta)} + C_2 x^{(\alpha-i\beta)}$$



# (C) Complex Conjugate Roots Case (Cauchy-Euler Equation)

## Homogeneous Second Order Cauchy-Euler Equation

$$a x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{d x^2} + b x \frac{d y}{d x} + c y = 0$$

$$a x^2 y'' + b x y' + c y = 0$$

auxiliary equation

try a solution  $y = x^m$



$$(a m^2 + (b-a)m + c) = 0$$

$$(b-a)^2 - 4ac = 0$$



$$m_1 = \{-(b-a) + \sqrt{4ac - (b-a)^2} i\} / 2a$$



$$m_1 = \alpha + i\beta$$

$$y_1 = x^{m_1} = x^{\alpha+i\beta}$$

$$m_2 = \{-(b-a) - \sqrt{4ac - (b-a)^2} i\} / 2a$$



$$m_2 = \alpha - i\beta$$

$$y_2 = x^{m_2} = x^{\alpha-i\beta}$$

(A)  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac > 0$  Real, distinct  $m_1, m_2$

$$y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_2}$$

(B)  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac = 0$  Real, equal  $m_1, m_2$

$$y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_1} \ln x$$

(C)  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac < 0$

$$y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_2} = C_1 x^{(\alpha+i\beta)} + C_2 x^{(\alpha-i\beta)}$$

# Complex Exponential Conversion (Cauchy-Euler Equation)

## Homogeneous Second Order Cauchy-Euler Equation

$$a x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b x \frac{dy}{dx} + c y = 0$$

$$a x^2 y'' + b x y' + c y = 0$$

$$m_1 = \{-(b-a) + \sqrt{4ac - (b-a)^2} i\} / 2a$$



$$m_1 = \alpha + i\beta$$

$$y_1 = x^{m_1} = x^{\alpha+i\beta}$$

$$m_2 = \{-(b-a) - \sqrt{4ac - (b-a)^2} i\} / 2a$$



$$m_2 = \alpha - i\beta$$

$$y_2 = x^{m_2} = x^{\alpha-i\beta}$$

$$\begin{cases} x^{m_1} = x^\alpha \cdot x^{+i\beta} = x^\alpha \cdot e^{+i\beta \ln x} \\ x^{m_2} = x^\alpha \cdot x^{-i\beta} = x^\alpha \cdot e^{-i\beta \ln x} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} x = e^{\ln x} \\ x^{i\beta} = e^{+i\beta \ln x} \end{cases}$$

$$y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_2} = C_1 x^\alpha \cdot e^{+i\beta \ln x} + C_2 x^\alpha \cdot e^{-i\beta \ln x}$$

Pick **two** homogeneous solution

$$y_1 = x^\alpha \{e^{+i\beta \ln x} + e^{-i\beta \ln x}\} / 2 = x^\alpha \cos(\beta \ln x) \quad (C_1 = +1/2, \quad C_2 = +1/2)$$

$$y_2 = x^\alpha \{e^{+i\beta \ln x} - e^{-i\beta \ln x}\} / 2i = x^\alpha \sin(\beta \ln x) \quad (C_1 = +1/2i, \quad C_2 = -1/2i)$$



$$y = C_3 x^\alpha \cos(\beta \ln x) + C_4 x^\alpha \sin(\beta \ln x) = x^\alpha (C_3 \cos(\beta \ln x) + C_4 \sin(\beta \ln x))$$

# Another Solution $y_2$ from $y_1$

## (Cauchy-Euler Equation)

We know one solution

$$y_1(x)$$

Suppose the other solution

$$y_2(x) = u(x)y_1(x)$$

$$a \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + c y = 0$$

$$a y'' + b y' + c y = 0$$

$$u = c_1 \int \frac{e^{-(b/a)x}}{y_1^2} dx + c_2$$

$$y_2 = y_1 \int \frac{e^{-(b/a)x}}{y_1^2} dx$$

$$a x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b x \frac{dy}{dx} + c y = 0$$

$$a x^2 y'' + b x y' + c y = 0$$

~~$$u = c_1 \int \frac{e^{-(bx/ax^2)x}}{(x^m)^2} dx + c_2$$~~

~~$$= c_1 \int \frac{e^{-(b/a)}}{x^{-2m_1}} dx$$~~

~~$$= c_1 \int \frac{e^{-(b/a)}}{x^{\frac{-(b-a)}{a}}} dx$$~~

$$y_1 = x^{-\frac{(b-a)}{2a}}$$

$$y_2 = x^{-\frac{(b-a)}{a}}$$

# Conditions for $y_2$

# (Cauchy-Euler Equation)

$$ax^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + bx \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0$$

$$ax^2 y'' + bxy' + cy = 0$$

$$\begin{cases} ax^2 y_2'' + bxy_2' + cy_2 = 0 \\ ax^2 y_1'' + bxy_1' + cy_1 = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} y_2 = uy_1 \\ y_2' = u'y_1 + uy_1' \\ y_2'' = u''y_1 + 2u'y_1' + uy_1'' \end{cases}$$

➔

$$\begin{cases} ax^2[u''y_1 + 2u'y_1' + uy_1''] + bx[u'y_1 + uy_1'] + cuy_1 = 0 \\ u[ax^2 y_1'' + bxy_1' + cy_1] + ax^2[u''y_1 + 2u'y_1'] + bx[u'y_1] = 0 \end{cases}$$

Condition for  $y_2(t)$  to be a solution

$$y_2(x) = u(x)y_1(x)$$



$$axu''y_1 + u'[2ax y_1' + by_1] = 0$$

We know one solution

$$y_1(x)$$

$$ax^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + bx \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0$$

Suppose the other solution

$$y_2(x) = u(x)y_1(x)$$

$$ax^2 y'' + bx y' + cy = 0$$

$$ax^2 y_2'' + bx y_2' + cy_2 = 0 \Rightarrow$$

$$ax u'' y_1 + u' [2ax y_1' + b y_1] = 0$$

$$w(x) = u'(x)$$

$$ax w' y_1 + w [2ax y_1' + b y_1] = 0$$

$$w' y_1 = -w \left[ 2y_1' + \frac{b}{ax} y_1 \right]$$

$$\frac{w'}{w} = -2 \frac{y_1'}{y_1} - \frac{b}{ax}$$

$$\frac{1}{w} \frac{dw}{dx} = -2 \frac{1}{y_1} \frac{dy_1}{dx} - \frac{b}{ax}$$

$$\int \frac{1}{w} \frac{dw}{dx} dx = -\int 2 \frac{1}{y_1} \frac{dy_1}{dx} dx - \int \frac{b}{ax} dx$$

$$\ln|w| = -\ln|y_1|^2 - \frac{b}{a} \ln x + c$$

$$\ln|w| + \ln|y_1|^2 = -\frac{b}{a} \ln x + c$$

$$\ln|w y_1^2| = -\frac{b}{a} \ln x + c$$

$$|w y_1^2| = C x^{-(b/a)}$$

$$w y_1^2 = c_1 x^{-(b/a)}$$

$$w = c_1 x^{-(b/a)} / y_1^2$$

$$u' = c_1 x^{-(b/a)} / y_1^2$$

$$u = c_1 \int \frac{x^{-(b/a)}}{y_1^2} dx + c_2$$

# Another Solution $y_2$

# (Cauchy-Euler Equation)

We know one solution  $y_1(x)$

$$ax^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + bx \frac{dy}{dx} + cy = 0$$

Suppose the other solution

$$y_2(x) = u(x)y_1(x)$$

$$ax^2 y'' + bx y' + cy = 0$$

$$ax^2 y_2'' + bx y_2' + cy_2 = 0$$



$$ax u'' y_1 + u' [2ax y_1' + b y_1] = 0$$

$$u = c_1 \int \frac{x^{-(b/a)}}{y_1^2} dx + c_2$$



$$y_2 = y_1 \int \frac{x^{-(b/a)}}{y_1^2} dx$$

$$u = c_1 \int x^{-(b/a)} \cdot x^{-2m_1} dx + c_2$$

$$= \int \frac{x^{-(b/a)}}{x^{-((b-a)/a)}} dx + c_2$$

$$= \int \left( \frac{x^{-(b/a)}}{x^{-(b/a)} x^{(a/a)}} \right) dx + c_2$$

$$= c_1 \ln x + c_2$$

$$y_2 = c_1 y_1 \int \frac{x^{-(b/a)}}{y_1^2} dx + c_2 y_1 \quad (c_1=1, c_2=0)$$

$$y_2 = y_1 \ln x$$

$$y_1 = x^{-\frac{(b-a)}{2a}}$$

$$y_1^2 = x^{-\frac{(b-a)}{a}}$$

# General Solutions for the repeated roots case

$$y_2 = y_1 \int \frac{x^{-(b/a)}}{y_1^2} dx$$

$$\begin{aligned} m_1 &= \{-(b-a) + \sqrt{(b-a)^2 - 4ac}\}/2a \\ m_2 &= \{-(b-a) - \sqrt{(b-a)^2 - 4ac}\}/2a \end{aligned} \quad \Rightarrow \quad (b-a)^2 - 4ac = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} m_1 &= m_2 = -(b-a)/2a \\ x^{m_1} &= x^{m_2} = x^{-\frac{(b-a)}{2a}} \end{aligned}$$

$$y_1(x) = x^{-\frac{(b-a)}{2a}}$$

$$y_1^2 = x^{-\frac{(b-a)}{a}}$$

$$y_2 = x^{-\frac{b}{2a}} \int \frac{x^{-(b/a)}}{x^{-\frac{(b-a)}{a}}} dx = e^{-\frac{b}{2a}x} \int \frac{1}{x} dx \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{vmatrix} \neq 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_1(x) &= x^{-\frac{(b-a)}{2a}} \\ y_2(x) &= x^{-\frac{(b-a)}{2a}} \ln x \end{aligned}$$

$$y(x) = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_1(x) \ln x$$

# Constant v.s. Non-constant Coefficients

## Homogeneous Second Order DEs with Constant Coefficients

$$a \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + c y = 0$$

$$a y'' + b y' + c y = 0$$

- (A)  $b^2 - 4ac > 0$   $\implies y = C_1 e^{m_1 x} + C_2 e^{m_2 x}$
- (B)  $b^2 - 4ac = 0$   $\implies y = C_1 e^{m_1 x} + C_2 x e^{m_1 x}$
- (C)  $b^2 - 4ac < 0$   $\implies y = C_1 e^{\alpha x} e^{+i\beta x} + C_2 e^{\alpha x} e^{-i\beta x} = e^{\alpha x} (C_3 \cos(\beta x) + C_4 \sin(\beta x))$

## Homogeneous Second Order Cauchy-Euler Equation

$$a x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b x \frac{dy}{dx} + c y = 0$$

$$a x^2 y'' + b x y' + c y = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= e^{\ln x} \\ x^{i\beta} &= e^{+i\beta \ln x} \end{aligned}$$

- (A)  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac > 0$   $\implies y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_2}$
- (B)  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac = 0$   $\implies y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_1} \ln x$
- (C)  $(b-a)^2 - 4ac < 0$   $\implies y = C_1 x^\alpha \cdot e^{+i\beta \ln x} + C_2 x^\alpha \cdot e^{-i\beta \ln x} = x^\alpha (C_3 \cos(\beta \ln x) + C_4 \sin(\beta \ln x))$



# A Unifying View

## Constant Coefficients

$$a \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + c y = 0$$

## Non-constant Coefficients

$$a x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b x \frac{dy}{dx} + c y = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= e^{\ln x} \\ x^{i\beta} &= e^{+i\beta \ln x} \end{aligned}$$

$$(A) y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_2}$$

$$(B) y = C_1 x^{m_1} + C_2 x^{m_1} \ln x$$

$$\begin{aligned} (C) y &= C_1 x^\alpha \cdot e^{+i\beta \ln x} + C_2 x^\alpha \cdot e^{+i\beta \ln x} \\ &= x^\alpha (C_3 \cos(\beta \ln x) + C_4 \sin(\beta \ln x)) \end{aligned}$$

$$(A) y = C_1 e^{m_1 x} + C_2 e^{m_2 x}$$

$$(B) y = C_1 e^{m_1 x} + C_2 x e^{m_1 x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (C) y &= C_1 e^{\alpha x} e^{+i\beta x} + C_2 e^{\alpha x} e^{-i\beta x} \\ &= e^{\alpha x} (C_3 \cos(\beta x) + C_4 \sin(\beta x)) \end{aligned}$$

$x$

$$(A) y = C_1 e^{m_1 \ln x} + C_2 e^{m_2 \ln x}$$

$$(B) y = C_1 e^{m_1 \ln x} + C_2 e^{m_1 \ln x} \ln x$$

$$\begin{aligned} (C) y &= C_1 e^{\alpha \ln x} \cdot e^{+i\beta \ln x} + C_2 e^{\alpha \ln x} \cdot e^{+i\beta \ln x} \\ &= e^{\alpha \ln x} (C_3 \cos(\beta \ln x) + C_4 \sin(\beta \ln x)) \end{aligned}$$

$\ln x$

# Another Solution $y_2$ from $y_1$ (revisited)

We know one solution

$$y_1(x)$$

Suppose the other solution

$$y_2(x) = u(x)y_1(x)$$

$$a \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b \frac{dy}{dx} + c y = 0$$

$$a y'' + b y' + c y = 0$$

$$u = c_1 \int \frac{e^{-(b/a)x}}{y_1^2} dx + c_2$$

$$y_2 = y_1 \int \frac{e^{-(b/a)x}}{y_1^2} dx$$

$x$

$$a x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + b x \frac{dy}{dx} + c y = 0$$

$$a x^2 y'' + b x y' + c y = 0$$

$$y_1 = x^{-\frac{(b-a)}{2a}}$$

$$y_1^2 = x^{-\frac{(b-a)}{a}}$$

~~$$u = c_1 \int \frac{e^{-(bx/ax^2)x}}{(x^{m_1})^2} dx$$

$$= c_1 \int e^{-(b/a) \cdot x^{-2m_1}} dx$$~~

$$y_2 = y_1 \int \frac{e^{-(b/a) \ln x}}{y_1^2} dx$$

$\ln x$

$$= y_1 \int \frac{x^{-(b/a)}}{y_1^2} dx$$

## References

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