One method of representing the relationship established by a system between its **input** and **output** signals is a **differential equation** that approximately describes the interplay of the physical quantities within the system.

Example:

$$\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + 3x(t)\frac{dy}{dt} + y(t) - 2x(t) = 0$$

Many physical components have mathematical models that involve Integral and differential relationships between signals.



Ideal inductor:

$$v_L(t) = L \frac{di_L(t)}{dt}$$



Ideal capacitor:

$$i_C(t) = L \frac{dv_C(t)}{dt}$$

Example 2.4 Differential equation for simple RC circuit

Find a differential equation between the input signal x(t) and the output signal y(t) to serve as a mathematical model for the first-order RC circuit



Example 2.5 Another RC circuit

Find a differential equation between the input signal x(t) and the output signal y(t) to serve as a mathematical model for the first-order RC circuit



Example 2.6 Differential equation for RLC circuit

Find a differential equation between the input signal x(t) and the output signal y(t) to serve as a mathematical model for the first-order RLC circuit



2.4 Constant-coefficient ordinary differential equations

General constant-coefficient differential equation for a CTLTI system

$$a_{N} \frac{d^{N} y(t)}{dt^{N}} + a_{N-1} \frac{d^{N-1} y(t)}{dt^{N-1}} + \dots + a_{1} \frac{dy(t)}{dt} + a_{0} y(t) = b_{M} \frac{d^{M} x(t)}{dt^{M}} + b_{M-1} \frac{d^{M-1} x(t)}{dt^{M-1}} + \dots + b_{1} \frac{dx(t)}{dt} + b_{0} x(t)$$

Constant-coefficient ordinary differential equation in closed summation form

$$\sum_{k=0}^{N} a_k \frac{d^k y(t)}{dt^k} = \sum_{k=0}^{M} b_k \frac{d^k x(t)}{dt^k}$$

We need to know $y(t_0)$,, $\left. \frac{d^{N-1} y(t)}{dt^{N-1}} \right|_{t=t_0}$ to find the solution for $t > t_0$

2.4 Constant-coefficient ordinary differential equations

Example 2.7 Checking linearity and time invariance of a differential equation

Determine whether the first-order constant-coefficient differential equation

$$\frac{dy(t)}{dt} + a_0 y(t) = b_0 x(t)$$

Represents a CTLTI system.

2.4 Constant-coefficient ordinary differential equations

The differential equation

$$\sum_{k=0}^{N} a_k \frac{d^k y(t)}{dt^k} = \sum_{k=0}^{M} b_k \frac{d^k x(t)}{dt^k}$$

Represents a CTLTI system provided that all initial conditions are equal to zeros

$$y(t_0) = 0, \quad \frac{dy(t)}{dt}\Big|_{t=t_0} = 0, \quad \dots, \quad \frac{d^{N-1}y(t)}{dt^{N-1}}\Big|_{t=t_0} = 0$$

It is typical, but not required, to have t0 = 0.

2.5 Solving Differential Equations 2.5.1 Solution of the first-order differential equation

The first-order differential equation (represents a *first-order CTLTI* system)

$$\frac{dy(t)}{dt} + \alpha y(t) = r(t) \qquad \qquad y(t_0): \text{ specified}$$

Is solved as
$$y(t) = e^{-\alpha(t-t_0)}y(t_0) + \int_{t_0}^t e^{-\alpha(t-\tau)}r(\tau)d\tau$$

Note:

♦ This result is only applicable to a first-order differential equation.
 ♦ It is also useful for working with higher order system through the use of *state-space* models.

Example 2.8 Unit-step response of the simple RC circuit



Consider the simple RC circuit as shown above. Let the element value be $R = 1\Omega$, and C = 1/4F. Assume the initial value of the output at time = 0 is y(0) = 0. Determine the response of the system to an input signal in the form of a unit-step function, i.e. x(t) = u(t).

Example 2.8 Unit-step response of the simple RC circuit







Determine the response of the RC circuit to a rectangular pulse signal $x(t) = A\Pi(t/w)$

Element values for the circuit are $R = 1\Omega$, and C = 1/4F. The initial value of the output signal at time t = -w/2 is y(-w/2) = 0.





Example 2.10 Pulse response of the simple RC circuit

Rework the problem in Ex. 2.9 by making use of the unit-step response found in Ex. 2.8 along with the linearity and time-invariance properties of the RC circuit.



2.5.2 Solution of the general differential equation

$$\sum_{k=0}^{N} a_k \frac{d^k y(t)}{dt^k} = \sum_{k=0}^{M} b_k \frac{d^k x(t)}{dt^k}$$

Initial conditions:

$$y(t_0), \quad \frac{dy(t)}{dt}\Big|_{t=t_0}, \quad \dots, \quad \frac{d^{N-1}y(t)}{dt^{N-1}}\Big|_{t=t_0}$$

General solution:

 $y(t) = y_h(t) + y_p(h)$

♦ y_p(t): is the particular solution of the differential equation
 ♦ y(t) = y_h(t) + y_p(t) is the forced solution of the differential equation forced response

Homogeneous differential equation:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{N} a_k \frac{d^k y(t)}{dt^k} = 0$$

First-order homogeneous differential equation:

$$\frac{dy(t)}{dt} + \alpha y(t) = 0$$

Where α is any arbitrary constant

solution:

$$y(t) = c e^{-\alpha t}$$

The constant *c* must be determined based on the desired initial value y(t) at $t = t_0$

Justification:

$$\frac{dy(t)}{dt} + \alpha y(t) = 0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \frac{dy(t)}{y} = -\alpha dt$$

Integrating both sides leads to

$$\int \frac{dy(t)}{y} = -\int \alpha \, dt \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad \ln(y) = -\alpha t + K$$



Example 2.11 Natural response of the simple RC circuit



Consider the simple RC circuit as shown above. Let the element value be $R = 1\Omega$, and C = 1/4F. Let the input terminals of the circuit be connected to a battery that supplies the circuit with an input voltage of 5 V up to the time instant t = 0. Assuming the battery has been connected to the circuit for a lot time before t = 0, the capacitor voltage has remained at a steady-state value of 5 V. Let the switch be moved from position A to position B at t = 0 ensuring that x(t) = 0 for t >= 0. The initial value of capacitor voltage at time t = 0 is y(0) = 5 V. Find the output signal as a function of time.

Example 2.11 Natural response of the simple RC circuit



$$y_{h}\left(t\right)=5\,e^{-4t}\,u\left(t\right)$$



Example 2.12 Natural response of the simple RC circuit



Rework Ex. 2.11 with one minor change: The initial value of the output signal is specified at the time instant t = -0.5 seconds instead of at t = 0, and its value is y(-0.5) = 10.

General homogeneous differential equation:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{N} a_k \frac{d^k y(t)}{dt^k} = 0$$

Characteristic equation:

$$\sum_{k=0}^{N} a_k s^k = 0$$

To obtain the characteristic equation, substitute:

$$\frac{d^k y(t)}{dt^k} \to s^k$$

Write the characteristic equation in open form:

$$a_N s^N + a_{N-1} s^{N-1} + \dots + a_1 s + a_0 = 0$$

In factored form:

$$a_N(s-s_1)(s-s_2)...(s-s_N) = 0$$

Homogeneous solution:

$$y_h(t) = c_1 e^{s_1 t} + c_2 e^{s_2 t} + \dots + c_N e^{s_N t} = \sum_{k=1}^N c_k e^{s_k t}$$

Unknown coefficients $c_1, c_2, ..., c_N$ are determined from the *initial conditions*. Terms $e^{s_k t}$ are called the *modes of the system*.

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Example 2.14 Natural response of second-order system



Let the element values be $R = 5\Omega$, L = 1 H, and C = 1/6 F. At time = 0, the initial conductor current is i(0) = 2A and the initial capacitor voltage is y(0) = 1.5V. No external input signal is applied to the circuit. Therefore x(t)=0. Determine the output voltage y(t).

Choosing a *particular solution* for various input signals

Input signal	Particular solution
K (constant)	k_1
K e ^{at}	$k_1 e^{at}$
$K \cos(at)$	$k_1 \cos(at) + k_2 \sin(at)$
$K \sin(at)$	$k_1 \cos(at) + k_2 \sin(at)$
Kt^n	$k_n t^n + k_{n-1} t^{n-1} + \ldots + k_1 t + k_0$

The coefficient of the *particular solution* are determined from the Differential equation by assuming all initial conditions are equal to zero.



Example 2.16 Forced response of the first-order system for sinusoidal input



Example 2.16 Forced response of the first-order system for sinusoidal input



Complete solution:

