

Differential equations involving complex numbers

Starter

1. (Review of last lesson)

Find the complementary function of the second order differential equations:

(a) $4\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 4\frac{dy}{dx} - 15 = \tan x$

(b) $49\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 56\frac{dy}{dx} + 16y = 2$

2. Find the complementary function of the differential equation $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 8\frac{dy}{dx} + 65 = \sin x$.

3. (Review of previous material)

Let $z = x + iy$. Find: (a) $z + z^*$ (b) $z - z^*$ (c) $i(z - z^*)$

Notes

In question 2 of the starter the complementary function included terms such as $e^{(\alpha+i\beta)x}$.

Using basic laws of indices: $e^{(\alpha+i\beta)x} = e^{\alpha x} \times e^{i\beta x}$ but what does $e^{i\beta x}$ equal?

E.g. 1 The standard Maclaurin series for e^x is $1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2!} + \frac{x^3}{3!} + \frac{x^4}{4!} + \frac{x^5}{5!} + \dots + \frac{x^r}{r!} + \dots$

(a) Find the Maclaurin series for $e^{i\theta}$.

(b) By considering the Maclaurin series for $\cos \theta$ and $\sin \theta$, express $e^{i\theta}$ in terms of $\cos \theta$ and $\sin \theta$.

(c) Hence express $y = Ae^{(4+7i)x} + Be^{(4-7i)x}$ in a factorised form.

E.g. 2 If $z = 2 + 3i$, write down an expression in terms of cosine and sine for e^z .

E.g. 3 (a) Express $y = Ae^{(4+7i)x} + Be^{(4-7i)x}$ in a factorised form.

(b) From question 2 of the starter, the complementary function was

$y = Ae^{(4+7i)x} + Be^{(4-7i)x}$. Given that $y = 1$ and $\frac{dy}{dx} = 1$ when $x = 0$, find the values of A and B . What do you notice about their values?

Hint: Use $\frac{d(e^{(\alpha+i\beta)x})}{dx} = (\alpha + i\beta)e^{(\alpha+i\beta)x}$

Working:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(a)} \quad y &= Ae^{(4+7i)x} + Be^{(4-7i)x} \\ &= Ae^{4x} \times e^{i7x} + Be^{4x} \times e^{-i7x} \\ &= e^{4x} \left(A \cos 7x + i \sin 7x + B \cos(-7x) + i \sin(-7x) \right) \\ &= e^{4x} \left(A \cos 7x + iA \sin 7x + B \cos 7x - iB \sin 7x \right) \\ &= e^{4x} \left((A+B)\cos 7x + i(A-B)\sin 7x \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{(b)} \quad \text{When } x = 0, y = 1: \quad A + B &= 1 \\ \frac{dy}{dx} &= A(4+7i)e^{(4+7i)x} + B(4-7i)e^{(4-7i)x} \\ \text{When } x = 0, \frac{dy}{dx} &= 1: \quad A(4+7i) + B(4-7i) = 1 \\ B = 1 - A: \quad A(4+7i) + (1-A)(4-7i) &= 1 \\ 14Ai + 4 - 7i &= 1 \\ -3 + 7i &= 7 - 3i \\ A &= \frac{-3 + 7i}{7 + 3i} = \frac{14i}{14} \\ B = 1 - A: \quad B &= 1 - \frac{14i}{14} = \frac{7 - 3i}{14} \end{aligned}$$

The values of A and B are complex conjugate pairs. Hence, $A + B$ and $i(A - B)$ are both real.

Proof when $b^2 - 4ac < 0$

Let the complex roots of the auxiliary equation be $\lambda = \alpha \pm ib$.

The complementary function is $y = Ae^{(\alpha+i\beta)x} + Be^{(\alpha-i\beta)x}$.

Since $e^{i\beta} = \cos \beta x + i \sin \beta x$:

$$e^{(\alpha+i\beta)x} = e^{\alpha x} \times e^{i\beta x} = e^{\alpha x}(\cos \beta x + i \sin \beta x)$$

and $e^{(\alpha-i\beta)x} = e^{\alpha x} \times e^{-i\beta x} = e^{\alpha x}(\cos(-\beta x) + i \sin(-\beta x)) = e^{\alpha x}(\cos \beta x - i \sin \beta x)$

The complementary function is

$$\begin{aligned} y &= Ae^{\alpha x}(\cos \beta x + i \sin \beta x) + Be^{\alpha x}(\cos \beta x - i \sin \beta x) \\ &= (A+B)e^{\alpha x} \cos \beta x + i(A-B)e^{\alpha x} \sin \beta x \\ &= e^{\alpha x} \left((A+B)\cos \beta x + i(A-B)\sin \beta x \right) \end{aligned}$$

Since A and B are complex conjugate pairs, $A + B$ and $i(A - B)$ are both real.

Hence $y = e^{\alpha x}(C \cos \beta x + D \sin \beta x)$

E.g. 4 Find the complementary function for the differential equation $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 6\frac{dy}{dx} + 13 = 4x$.

For the second order differential equation with auxiliary equation $a\lambda^2 + b\lambda + c = 0$:

Discriminant	Root(s)	Complementary function
$b^2 - 4ac > 0$	α and β	$y = Ae^{\alpha x} + Be^{\beta x}$
$b^2 - 4ac = 0$	α (repeated)	$y = (Cx + D)e^{\alpha x}$
$b^2 - 4ac < 0$	$\alpha \pm i\beta$	$y = e^{\alpha x}(C \cos \beta x + D \sin \beta x)$

E.g. 5 Find the complementary function for the differential equation $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dx} + 5 = \cosh x$.

Video: [Homogenous linear second order differential equations](#)

[Solutions to Starter and E.g.s](#)

Exercise

p232 10C Qu 2, 6

Summary

$$e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta \quad \text{and} \quad re^{i\theta} = r(\cos \theta + i \sin \theta)$$

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