

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO  
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING  
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ECE 204 *Numerical methods*

**Approximating solutions to systems of  
higher-order initial-value problems**

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Approximating solutions to systems of higher-order initial-value problems

## Introduction

- In this topic, we will
  - Discuss converting systems of higher-order initial-value problems into a system of 1<sup>st</sup>-order initial-value problems
  - Look at an example

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## System of two 2<sup>nd</sup>-order initial-value problems


- We will show this by example:
 
$$y^{(2)}(t) + 2y^{(1)}(t) + y(t) + z(t) = \sin(t)$$

$$z^{(2)}(t) + z^{(1)}(t) + z(t) + y(t) = \cos(t)$$
- This requires four initial conditions:
 
$$y(t_0) = y_0$$

$$y^{(1)}(t_0) = y_0^{(1)}$$

$$z(t_0) = z_0$$

$$z^{(1)}(t_0) = z_0^{(1)}$$



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## System of two 2<sup>nd</sup>-order initial-value problems

- We will represent:
 
$$y(t) = w_0(t)$$

$$y^{(1)}(t) = w_1(t)$$


$$z(t) = w_2(t)$$

$$z^{(1)}(t) = w_3(t)$$
- We can immediately translate the initial conditions:
 
$$y(t_0) = y_0 \quad w_0(t_0) = y_0$$

$$y^{(1)}(t_0) = y_0^{(1)} \quad w_1(t_0) = y_0^{(1)}$$

$$z(t_0) = z_0 \quad w_2(t_0) = z_0$$

$$z^{(1)}(t_0) = z_0^{(1)} \quad w_3(t_0) = z_0^{(1)}$$



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## System of two 2<sup>nd</sup>-order initial-value problems

- We also immediately note that:
 
$$w_0^{(1)}(t) = y^{(1)}(t) = w_1(t)$$


$$w_2^{(1)}(t) = z^{(1)}(t) = w_3(t)$$
- That leaves us with determining  $w_1^{(1)}(t), w_3^{(1)}(t)$ 

$$y^{(2)}(t) = \sin(t) - 2y^{(1)}(t) - y(t) - z(t)$$

$$z^{(2)}(t) = \cos(t) - z^{(1)}(t) - z(t) - y(t)$$

$$w_1^{(1)}(t) = \sin(t) - 2w_1(t) - w_0(t) - w_2(t)$$

$$w_3^{(1)}(t) = \cos(t) - w_3(t) - w_2(t) - w_0(t)$$

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## System of two 2<sup>nd</sup>-order initial-value problems

- Thus, we have:
 
$$\mathbf{w}^{(1)}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} w_1(t) \\ \sin(t) - 2w_1(t) - w_0(t) - w_2(t) \\ w_3(t) \\ \cos(t) - w_3(t) - w_2(t) - w_0(t) \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{w}(t_0) = \begin{pmatrix} y_0 \\ y_0^{(1)} \\ z_0 \\ z_0^{(1)} \end{pmatrix}$$
- We can write this as a function:
 

```
vector f( double t, vector w ) {
    return vector{ 4, (double[]){
        w(1),
        std::sin(t) - 2*w(1) - w(0) - w(2),
        w(3),
        std::cos(t) - w(3) - w(2) - w(0)
    } };
}
```

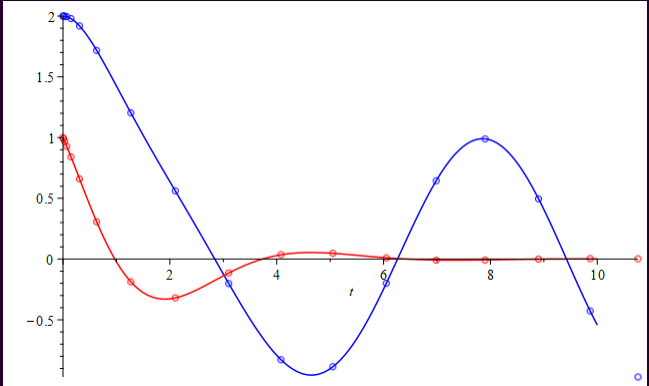
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## System of two 2<sup>nd</sup>-order initial-value problems

- Plotting the actual solution versus the




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## System of two 2<sup>nd</sup>-order initial-value problems

	$w_0(t) = y(t)$	$w_1(t) = y^{(1)}(t)$	$w_2(t) = z(t)$	$w_3(t) = z^{(1)}(t)$	
	< 1	-1	2	0	>
0	< 0.9899507	-1.0098008	1.9999005	-0.0198502	>
0.01	< 0.9695678	-1.0282224	1.9991135	-0.0586547	>
0.03	< 0.9277737	-1.0604838	1.9952704	-0.1327130	>
0.07	< 0.8408958	-1.1077690	1.9791628	-0.2669310	>
0.15	< 0.6599369	-1.1418081	1.9182831	-0.4828253	>
0.31	< 0.3072558	-1.0298129	1.7176558	-0.7357848	>
0.63	< -0.1870949	-0.4857930	1.2033141	-0.8119151	>
1.27	< -0.3197583	0.0966596	0.5615785	-0.7482154	>
2.1015668	< -0.1142981	0.2232183	-0.2015183	-0.7630420	>
18 3.1015668	< 0.0363239	0.0711120	-0.8282826	-0.4258318	>
4.0791478	< 0.0478470	-0.0300383	-0.8858265	0.3398003	>
5.0504978	< 0.0094451	-0.0317667	-0.1990892	0.9286665	>
6.0504978	< -0.0096116	-0.0052132	0.6446146	0.7403237	>
6.9858539	< -0.0081134	0.0075244	0.9883434	-0.0443953	>
7.9002755	< -0.0001790	0.0047968	0.4956264	-0.8559776	>
8.9002755	< 0.0035653	-0.0015659	-0.4269945	-0.8992590	>
9.8671404	< 0.0023111	-0.0031120	-0.9703157	-0.2322476	>
10.762308					

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## Other systems higher-order initial-value problems

- Thus, if we had four coupled ODEs:
 
$$u_1^{(4)}(t) = f_1(t, u_1(t), \dots, u_4^{(2)}(t))$$

$$u_2^{(2)}(t) = f_2(t, u_1(t), \dots, u_4^{(2)}(t))$$

$$u_3^{(2)}(t) = f_3(t, u_1(t), \dots, u_4^{(2)}(t))$$

$$u_4^{(3)}(t) = f_4(t, u_1(t), \dots, u_4^{(2)}(t))$$
- This requires eleven initial conditions
- This would require us to define a system of eleven 1<sup>st</sup>-order initial-value problems

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## Other systems higher-order initial-value problems

- Thus we would reformulate as follows:
 
$$u_1^{(4)}(t) = f_1(t, u_1(t), \dots, u_4^{(2)}(t))$$

$$u_2^{(2)}(t) = f_2(t, u_1(t), \dots, u_4^{(2)}(t))$$

$$u_3^{(2)}(t) = f_3(t, u_1(t), \dots, u_4^{(2)}(t))$$

$$u_4^{(3)}(t) = f_4(t, u_1(t), \dots, u_4^{(2)}(t))$$

$$w_0^{(1)}(t) = w_1(t)$$

$$w_1^{(1)}(t) = w_2(t)$$

$$w_2^{(1)}(t) = w_3(t)$$

$$w_3^{(1)}(t) = f_1(t, \mathbf{w}(t))$$

$$w_4^{(1)}(t) = w_5(t)$$

$$w_5^{(1)}(t) = f_2(t, \mathbf{w}(t))$$


$$w_6^{(1)}(t) = w_7(t)$$

$$w_7^{(1)}(t) = f_3(t, \mathbf{w}(t))$$

$$w_8^{(1)}(t) = w_9(t)$$



$$w_9^{(1)}(t) = w_{10}(t)$$

$$w_{10}^{(1)}(t) = f_4(t, \mathbf{w}(t))$$

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## Summary

- Following this topic, you now
  - Understand how to convert a system of higher-order initial-value problems into a system of 1<sup>st</sup>-order initial-value problems
  - Have seen an example and its solution

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## References

[1] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Initial\\_value\\_problem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Initial_value_problem)

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# Acknowledgments

None so far.

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# Colophon

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The photographs of flowers and a monarch butter appearing on the title slide and accenting the top of each other slide were taken at the Royal Botanical Gardens in October of 2017 by Douglas Wilhelm Harder. Please see <https://www.rbg.ca/> for more information.






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