

Note: Linear Independence

If $b^2 - 4km \neq 0$ then $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$

$$y(t) = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 t}$$

Since

$$W = \det \begin{pmatrix} e^{\lambda_1 t} & e^{\lambda_2 t} \\ \lambda_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} & \lambda_2 e^{\lambda_2 t} \end{pmatrix} = e^{\lambda_1 t} e^{\lambda_2 t} (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1) \neq 0$$

for $b^2 - 4km = 0$

$$y_2(t) = t e^{\lambda t} \Rightarrow m y_2'' + b y_2' + k y_2 =$$

$$= m(2e^{\lambda t} + \lambda^2 t e^{\lambda t}) + b(\lambda t e^{\lambda t} + e^{\lambda t}) +$$

$$+ k t e^{\lambda t} = \underbrace{(m\lambda^2 + b\lambda + k)}_{=0 \text{ by quad. eqn}} t e^{\lambda t} + (2\lambda m + b) e^{\lambda t} =$$

$$= \left(2 \left(\frac{-b}{2m} \right) \cdot m + b \right) e^{\lambda t} = (-b + b) e^{\lambda t} = 0$$

$\Rightarrow y_2$ is a soln

Also

$$W = \det \begin{pmatrix} e^{\lambda t} & t e^{\lambda t} \\ \lambda e^{\lambda t} & e^{\lambda t} + \lambda t e^{\lambda t} \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$= \lambda t e^{2\lambda t} - \lambda t e^{2\lambda t} + e^{2\lambda t} = e^{2\lambda t} \neq 0 \text{ for any } t.$$

$$\Rightarrow y(t) = c_1 e^{\lambda t} + c_2 t e^{\lambda t}$$

is the gen. soln