Order Reduction of 2nd order ODEs

Equation

$$\frac{d^2c}{d\theta^2} = \Lambda^2 c^m \tag{1}$$

Order Reduction:

$$y(1) = c 2$$

$$y(2) = \frac{dc}{d\theta} = \frac{dy(1)}{d\theta}$$

Where, y is just an arbitrary letter and can also be p, q, s, etc.

So we are going from one 2^{nd} order equation to two 1^{st} order equations. The equation that defines the order reduction is:

$$\frac{dy(1)}{d\theta} = y(2)$$

Substituting eq. 4 → eq. 1 gives:

$$\frac{d^2c}{d\theta^2} = \frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\frac{dc}{d\theta} \right) = \frac{d}{d\theta} \left(\frac{dy(1)}{d\theta} \right) = \frac{dy(2)}{d\theta} = \Lambda^2 y(1)^m$$

The set of first order differential equations to be solved becomes:

The order reduction defining equation i.e. eq. 4
$$\Rightarrow$$

$$\frac{dy(1)}{d\theta} = y(2)$$
 The substituted equation i.e. eq. 5 \Rightarrow
$$\frac{dy(2)}{d\theta} = \Lambda^2 y(1)^m$$

Boundary Conditions:

