



Reduction of Order:(D'Alembert Method)

Suppose that we know one solution  $y_1(t)$ , not everywhere zero, of

To find a second solution, let

then

and

Substituting for  $y$ ,  $y'$ , and  $y''$  in equation and collecting terms, we find that

Since  $y_1$  is a solution of the equation, the coefficient of  $v$  in equation is zero so that equation becomes

which is a first-order differential equation for the function  $v'$ . Solve for  $v$  and find the second solution.

Question:

$xy'' - y' + 4x^3y = 0, y_1 = \sin x^2$

$y = vy_1 = v \sin x^2$

$xy'' - y' + 4x^3y = 0$

$x(vy_1)'' - (vy_1)' + 4x^3(vy_1) = 0$

$x(v''y_1 + 2v'y_1' + vy_1'') - (v'y_1 + vy_1') + 4x^3vy_1 = 0$

$v(x y_1'' - y_1' + 4x^3 y_1) + x v'' y_1 + 2x v' y_1' - v' y_1 = 0$

$0$  - b/c  $y_1$  is a solution

$x(v'' y_1 + 2v' y_1') - v' y_1 = 0$

$x(v'' \sin x^2 + 2v' \cos x^2 \cdot 2x) - v' \sin x^2 = 0$

$xv'' \sin x^2 + 4x^2 v' \cos x^2 - v' \sin x^2 = 0$

$v''(x \sin x^2) + v'(4x^2 \cos x^2 - \sin x^2) = 0$

let  $w = v'$ ,

$w'(x \sin x^2) = w(\sin x^2 - 4x^2 \cos x^2)$

$w' = \frac{dw}{dx} \quad \int \frac{dw}{w} = \int \frac{\sin x^2 - 4x^2 \cos x^2}{x \sin x^2} dx$

$\log w = \int \frac{1}{x} - 4x \cdot \frac{\cos x^2}{\sin x^2} dx$

$\log w = \log x - 2 \log(\sin x^2) + C$

$w = e^{\log x - 2 \log(\sin x^2)}$

$= e^{\log x} \cdot e^{-2 \log(\sin x^2)}$

$= x \cdot \frac{1}{(\sin x^2)^2} = \frac{x}{(\sin x^2)^2}$

$w = \frac{x}{(\sin x^2)^2}$

$v' = \frac{x}{(\sin x^2)^2}$

$v = \int \frac{x}{(\sin x^2)^2} dx = -\frac{1}{2} \cot x^2$

$y_2 = vy_1 = -\frac{1}{2} \cot x^2 \cdot \sin x^2 = -\frac{1}{2} \cos x^2$

at  $y_1 = \sin x^2, y_2 = -\frac{1}{2} \cos x^2$  form a fundamental set of soln of the

check using Wronskian.

If  $y_2(t) = C y_1(t)$  where  $C$  is a const then  $y_1, y_2$  not form fundamental set of soln.

$y = C_1 y_1 + C_2 y_2$

$y_1(t) = e^{rt}$   
 $y_2(t) = t e^{rt}$   
If you are given 2 solutions and not sure if they form fundamental set of soln.  $\rightarrow$  Wronskian.