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5. The Wronskian :

Definition : The Wronskian of n functions $y_1(x)$, $y_2(x)$ $y_n(x)$ is denoted by $w(x)$ or $w(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n)$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & \dots & y_n \\ y_1' & y_2' & \dots & y_n' \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ y_1^{(n-1)} & y_2^{(n-1)} & \dots & y_n^{(n-1)} \end{vmatrix}$$

Wronskian of second order DE

Let $a_0(x) y'' + a_1(x) y' + a_2(x) y = 0$

Where $a_0(x)$, $a_1(x)$, $a_2(x)$ are continuous and $a_0(x) \neq 0 \quad \forall$
 x

If $y_1(x)$ and $y_2(x)$ are solution

$$\text{Then } w(y_1, y_2) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{vmatrix} = y_1 y_2' - y_2 y_1'$$

Able's Formula:

Let $a_0(x) y'' + a_1(x) y' + a_2(x) y = 0$

Where $a_0(x)$, $a_1(x)$, $a_2(x)$ are continuous and $a_0(x) \neq 0 \forall x$

$w(y_1, y_2) = Ae^{-\int \frac{a_1(x)}{a_0(x)} dx}$ is called Able's formula.

RESULTS:

- (1) If $w(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) \neq 0$ then y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n are L.I. solution.
- (2) If $w(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) = 0$ then y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n are LD solution.
- (3) Wronskian is either identically zero or non-zero.
- (4) If Wronskian is non – zero at least one point then Wronskian is identically non – zero
- (5) If Wronskian is zero at least one point then Wronskian is identically zero
- (6) Wronskian can never change its sign

Q2. Consider two solution $x(t) = x_1(t)$ and $x(t) = x_2(t)$ of differential equation $\frac{d^2 x(t)}{dt^2} + x(t) = 0, t > 0$ such that

$$x_1(0) = 1, \left. \frac{dx_1(t)}{dt} \right|_{t=0} = 0, x_2(0) = 0, \left. \frac{dx_2(t)}{dt} \right|_{t=0} = 1 \quad \text{the}$$

Wronskian $W(t) = \begin{vmatrix} x_1(t) & x_2(t) \\ \frac{dx_1(t)}{dt} & \frac{dx_2(t)}{dt} \end{vmatrix}$ and at $t = \pi/2$ is

(a) 1

(b) -1

(c) 0

(d) $\pi/2$

Q3. Let $y_1(x)$ and $y_2(x)$ be two linearly independent solution of the differential equation $x^2 y''(x) - 2xy'(x) - 4y(x) = 0$ for $x \in [1, 10]$. Considered the wronskian $W(x) = y_1(x)y_2'(x) - y_2(x)y_1'(x)$. If $W(1) = 1$, then $W(3) - W(2)$ equals

(a) 1

(b) 2

(c) 3

(d) 5



Q4. Let $y_1(x)$ and $y_2(x)$ be the linearly independent solutions of $xy'' + 2y' + xe^x y = 0$. If $W(x) = y_1(x)y_2'(x) - y_2(x)y_1'(x)$ with $W(1) = 2$ find $W(5)$

(a) $\frac{2}{25}$

(b) $\frac{1}{25}$

(c) $\frac{2}{5}$

(d) None of the above

Q.5. Consider the ODE

$$u''(t) + P(t)u'(t) + Q(t)u(t) = R(t), t \in [0,1]$$

There exist continuous function P, Q and R defined on $[0,1]$ and two solutions u_1 and u_2 of the ODE such that the Wronskian W of u_1 and u_2 is

- (a) $W(t) = 2t - 1, 0 \leq t \leq 1$
- (b) $W(t) = \sin 2\pi t, 0 \leq t \leq 1$
- (c) $W(t) = \cos 2\pi t, 0 \leq t \leq 1$
- (d) $W(t) = 1, 0 \leq t \leq 1$

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Q.6. Consider the ordinary DE $y'' + P(x)y' + Q(x)y = 0$,
Where P and Q are smooth functions. Let y_1 and y_2 be
any two solution of the ODE. Let $w(x)$ be the Wronskian.
Then which of the following is always true.

(a) If y_1 & y_2 are LD then $\exists x_1, x_2$ s.t. $w(x_1) = 0$ and $w(x_2) \neq 0$

(b) If y_1 & y_2 are LI then $w(x) = 0 \forall x$

(c) If y_1 & y_2 are LD then $w(x) \neq 0 \forall x$

(d) If y_1 & y_2 are LI then $w(x) \neq 0 \forall x$

Q.7. Let P, Q be continuous real valued functions defined on $[-1, 1]$ and $u_i : [-1, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, i = 1, 2$ be solutions of the

ODE: $\frac{d^2 u}{dx^2} + P(x) \frac{du}{dx} + Q(x)u = 0, x \in [-1, 1]$ satisfying

$u_1 \geq 0, u_2 \leq 0$ and $u_1(0) = u_2(0) = 0$. Let w denote the Wronskian of u_1 and u_2 , then

(a) u_1 and u_2 are linearly independent

(b) u_1 and u_2 are linearly dependent

(c) $w(x) = 0$ for all $x \in [-1, 1]$

(d) $w(x) \neq 0$ for some $x \in [-1, 1]$

Q.8. Let $Y_1(x)$ and $Y_2(x)$ defined on $[0,1]$ be twice continuously differentiable functions satisfying $Y''(x) + Y'(x) + Y(x) = 0$. Let $W(x)$ be the Wronskian of Y_1 and Y_2 and satisfy $W\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = 0$. Then

- (a) $W(x) = 0$ for $x \in [0,1]$
- (b) $W(x) \neq 0$ for $x \in [0,1/2) \cup (1/2,1]$
- (c) $W(x) > 0$ for $x \in (1/2,1]$
- (d) $W(x) < 0$ for $x \in [0,1/2)$



Q.9. Let $y_1(x)$ and $y_2(x)$ be two solutions of $(1-x^2)\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2x\frac{dy}{dx} + \sec x \cdot y = 0$ with Wronskian $W(x)$. If

$$y_1(0) = 1, \left(\frac{dy_1}{dx}\right)_{x=0} = 0 \text{ and } W\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{3}, \text{ then } \left(\frac{dy_2}{dx}\right)_{x=0}$$

equals

(a) $1/4$

(b) 1

(c) $3/4$

(d) $4/3$

Q.10. Let $y = \phi(x)$ and $y = \psi(x)$ be solutions of $y'' - 2xy' + (\sin x^2)y = 0$ such that $\phi(0) = 1, \phi'(0) = 1$ and $\psi(0) = 1, \psi'(0) = 2$. Then the value of the Wronskian $W(\phi, \psi)$ at $x = 1$ is

(a) 0

(b) 1

(c) e

(d) e^2

Q.11. Consider the ordinary DE $y'' + P(x)y' + Q(x)y = 0$

Where P and Q are smooth function. Let y_1 and y_2 be any two solution of the ODE. Let $w(x)$ be the Wronskian. Then which of the following is always true.

- (a) If y_1 & y_2 are LD then $\exists x_1, x_2$ s.t. $w(x_1)=0$ & $w(x_2) \neq 0$
- (b) If y_1 & y_2 are LI then $w(x) = 0 \forall x$
- (c) If y_1 & y_2 are LD then $w(x) \neq 0 \forall x$
- (d) If y_1 & y_2 are LI then $w(x) \neq 0 \forall x$

Q.12 The wronskian of two solutions of the differential equation $t^2y'' - t(t+2)y' + (t+2)y = 0$ satisfies $W(1) = 1$ is

(a) t^2e^t

(b) t^2e^{t-1}

(c) $t e^t$

(d) $t e^{t-1}$



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- Lives in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India
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