

# Lesson 45: Practice Problems

## Method of Undetermined Coefficients

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### Part A: Basic Non-Resonant Cases (5 problems)

1. Solve:  $y'' - 5y' + 6y = 12$
2. Solve:  $y'' + y' - 2y = 4t - 6$
3. Solve:  $y'' - 4y = 3e^{-t}$
4. Solve:  $y'' + 9y = 5\cos(2t)$
5. Solve:  $y'' - 2y' + y = t^2 + 1$

### Part B: Resonance Cases (5 problems)

6. Solve:  $y'' - 4y = e^{2t}$
7. Solve:  $y'' + 4y = \sin(2t)$
8. Solve:  $y'' - 6y' + 9y = e^{3t}$
9. Solve:  $y'' + y = \cos(t) + \sin(t)$
10. Solve:  $y''' - y' = e^t$

### Part C: Products and Combinations (5 problems)

11. Solve:  $y'' - 3y' + 2y = te^t$
12. Solve:  $y'' + 4y = e^{-t} \sin(t)$
13. Solve:  $y'' - y = t^2 e^t$
14. Solve:  $y'' + 2y' + 5y = e^{-t} \cos(2t)$
15. Solve:  $y''' - y'' = t^2 + e^t$

## Part D: Superposition Problems (5 problems)

16. Solve:  $y'' - 4y' + 3y = 2e^t + 3e^{2t}$
17. Solve:  $y'' + y = t + \sin(t)$
18. Solve:  $y'' - y' - 6y = 8e^{3t} - 5\sin(t)$
19. Solve:  $y'' + 4y = 3\cos(2t) + 4\sin(3t)$
20. Solve:  $y''' - y' = 2t + 3e^{-t} + \cos(t)$

## Part E: Initial Value Problems (5 problems)

21. Solve:  $y'' - 3y' + 2y = e^{3t}$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y'(0) = 2$
22. Solve:  $y'' + 4y = 8t$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(0) = 1$
23. Solve:  $y'' + y = \sin(2t)$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(\pi/4) = 1$
24. Solve:  $y'' - 4y' + 4y = t^2e^{2t}$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(0) = 0$
25. Solve:  $y''' - y' = 4$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(0) = 0$ ,  $y''(0) = 2$

## Part F: Exam-Style Problems (5 problems)

26. (Prof. Ditkowski style) Consider  $y'' + 2y' + y = f(t)$ .
  - (a) If  $f(t) = e^{-t}$ , explain why standard undetermined coefficients fails. Find the particular solution  $y_p$ .
  - (b) What physical phenomenon does this represent?
27. A mass-spring system satisfies  $y'' + \omega_0^2 y = F_0 \cos(\omega t)$ .
  - (a) Find the general solution when  $\omega \neq \omega_0$ .
  - (b) Find the general solution when  $\omega = \omega_0$  (resonance).
  - (c) Describe the behavior as  $\omega \rightarrow \omega_0$ .
28. Find all values of  $a$  for which  $y'' - 4y' + 4y = e^{at}$  has a particular solution of the form  $y_p = Ae^{at}$ .
29. For the equation  $y'' + py' + qy = e^{rt}$ , derive conditions on  $p, q$ , and  $r$  that determine whether resonance occurs.
30. Solve  $y^{(4)} + 2y'' + y = \cos(t)$  and explain why this represents a doubly resonant system.

# Solutions

## Part A: Basic Non-Resonant Cases

1. Homogeneous:  $r^2 - 5r + 6 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 2, 3$   
 $y_h = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{3t}$   
*Trial* :  $y_p = A$  (constant)  
Substitute:  $6A = 12 \Rightarrow A = 2$   
General solution:  $y = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{3t} + 2$
2. Homogeneous:  $r^2 + r - 2 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 1, -2$   
 $y_h = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-2t}$   
*Trial* :  $y_p = At + B$   
 $y'_p = A, y''_p = 0$   
Substitute:  $0 + A - 2(At + B) = 4t - 6$   
 $-2At + (A - 2B) = 4t - 6$   
 $A = -2, B = 2$   
General solution:  $y = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-2t} - 2t + 2$
3. Homogeneous:  $r^2 - 4 = 0 \Rightarrow r = \pm 2$   
 $y_h = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{-2t}$   
*Trial* :  $y_p = Ae^{-t}$   
 $y'_p = -Ae^{-t}, y''_p = Ae^{-t}$   
*Substitute* :  $Ae^{-t} - 4Ae^{-t} = 3e^{-t}$   
 $-3A = 3 \Rightarrow A = -1$   
General solution:  $y = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{-2t} - e^{-t}$
4. Homogeneous:  $r^2 + 9 = 0 \Rightarrow r = \pm 3i$   
 $y_h = c_1 \cos(3t) + c_2 \sin(3t)$   
*Trial*:  $y_p = A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t)$   
 $y''_p = -4A \cos(2t) - 4B \sin(2t)$   
Substitute:  $5A \cos(2t) + 5B \sin(2t) = 5 \cos(2t)$   
 $A = 1, B = 0$   
General solution:  $y = c_1 \cos(3t) + c_2 \sin(3t) + \cos(2t)$
5. Homogeneous:  $(r - 1)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow r = 1$  (double)  
 $y_h = (c_1 + c_2 t)e^t$   
*Trial*:  $y_p = At^2 + Bt + C$   
 $y'_p = 2At + B, y''_p = 2A$   
Substitute:  $2A - 2(2At + B) + (At^2 + Bt + C) = t^2 + 1$   
 $At^2 + (B - 4A)t + (2A - 2B + C) = t^2 + 1$   
 $A = 1, B = 4, C = 7$   
General solution:  $y = (c_1 + c_2 t)e^t + t^2 + 4t + 7$

## Part B: Resonance Cases

6. Homogeneous:  $r = \pm 2$ , so  $y_h = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{-2t}$   
*Resonance! Trial*:  $y_p = A t e^{2t}$   
 $y_p' = A e^{2t} + 2A t e^{2t}$   
 $y_p'' = 4A e^{2t} + 4A t e^{2t}$   
*Substitute*:  $4A e^{2t} = e^{2t} \Rightarrow A = 1/4$   
 General solution:  $y = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{-2t} + \frac{1}{4} t e^{2t}$
7. Homogeneous:  $r = \pm 2i$ , so  $y_h = c_1 \cos(2t) + c_2 \sin(2t)$   
*Resonance! Trial*:  $y_p = t[A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t)]$   
 After substitution:  $-4A \sin(2t) + 4B \cos(2t) = \sin(2t)$   
 $A = -1/4, B = 0$   
 General solution:  $y = c_1 \cos(2t) + c_2 \sin(2t) - \frac{1}{4} t \cos(2t)$
8. Homogeneous:  $(r - 3)^2 = 0$ , so  $y_h = (c_1 + c_2 t) e^{3t}$   
*Doubleresonance! Trial*:  $y_p = A t^2 e^{3t}$   
*After substitution*:  $2A e^{3t} = e^{3t} \Rightarrow A = 1/2$   
 General solution:  $y = (c_1 + c_2 t) e^{3t} + \frac{1}{2} t^2 e^{3t}$
9. Homogeneous:  $r = \pm i$ , so  $y_h = c_1 \cos(t) + c_2 \sin(t)$   
*Resonance! Trial*:  $y_p = t[A \cos(t) + B \sin(t)]$   
 After substitution:  $-2A \sin(t) + 2B \cos(t) = \cos(t) + \sin(t)$   
 $A = -1/2, B = 1/2$   
 General solution:  $y = c_1 \cos(t) + c_2 \sin(t) + \frac{1}{2} [-\cos(t) + \sin(t)]$
10. Homogeneous:  $r(r^2 - 1) = 0 \Rightarrow r = 0, \pm 1$   
 $y_h = c_1 + c_2 e^t + c_3 e^{-t}$   
*Resonance! Trial*:  $y_p = A t e^t$   
 After substitution:  $2A e^t = e^t \Rightarrow A = 1/2$   
 General solution:  $y = c_1 + c_2 e^t + c_3 e^{-t} + \frac{1}{2} t e^t$

## Part C: Products and Combinations

6. Homogeneous:  $r = 1, 2$ , so  $y_h = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{2t}$   
*Resonance! Trial*:  $y_p = t(At + B)e^t = (At^2 + Bt)e^t$   
 After substitution:  $A = -1, B = -2$   
 General solution:  $y = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{2t} - t(t + 2)e^t$
7. Homogeneous:  $r^2 + 4 = 0 \Rightarrow r = \pm 2i$   
*Trial*:  $y_p = e^{-t}[A \cos(t) + B \sin(t)]$   
 After substitution:  $A = -1/6, B = 1/6$   
 General solution:  $y = c_1 \cos(2t) + c_2 \sin(2t) + e^{-t} \frac{1}{6} [-\cos(t) + \sin(t)]$   
 Homogeneous:  $r = \pm 1$   
*Resonance! Trial*:  $y_p = t(At^2 + Bt + C)e^t$   
 After substitution:  $A = 1/6, B = 0, C = 0$   
 General solution:  $y = c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t} + \frac{1}{6} t^3 e^t$

Homogeneous:  $r = -1 \pm 2i$

Resonance! Trial:  $y_p = te^{-t}[A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t)]$

After substitution:  $A = 0, B = 1/4$

General solution:  $y = e^{-t}[c_1 \cos(2t) + c_2 \sin(2t)] + \frac{t}{4}e^{-t} \sin(2t)$

Homogeneous:  $r^2(r - 1) = 0 \Rightarrow r = 0$  (double),  $r = 1$

For  $t^2$ : Trial  $t^2(At^2 + Bt + C)$  due to double root at 0

For  $e^t$ : Trial  $Dte^t$  due to simple root at 1

Combined:  $y_p = At^4 + Bt^3 + Ct^2 + Dte^t$

After substitution:  $A = -1/12, B = 0, C = -1, D = -1$

General solution:  $y = c_1 + c_2t + c_3e^t - \frac{t^4}{12-t^2-te^t}$

## Part D: Superposition Problems

6. Homogeneous:  $r = 1, 3$

For  $2e^t$ : resonance, use  $y_{p1} = Ate^t \Rightarrow A = -1$

For  $3e^{2t}$ : *no resonance*, use  $y_{p2} = Be^{2t} \Rightarrow B = -3$

General solution:  $y = c_1e^t + c_2e^{3t} - te^t - 3e^{2t}$

7. Homogeneous:  $r = \pm i$

For  $t$ :  $y_{p1} = At + B \Rightarrow A = 1, B = 0$

For  $\sin(t)$ : resonance,  $y_{p2} = t[C \cos(t) + D \sin(t)] \Rightarrow C = 0, D = -1/2$

General solution:  $y = c_1 \cos(t) + c_2 \sin(t) + t - \frac{t}{2} \sin(t)$

8. Homogeneous:  $r = 3, -2$

For  $8e^{3t}$ : *resonance*,  $y_{p1} = Ate^{3t} \Rightarrow A = 8/5$

For  $-5 \sin(t)$ :  $y_{p2} = B \cos(t) + C \sin(t) \Rightarrow B = -1/2, C = 1/2$

General solution:  $y = c_1e^{3t} + c_2e^{-2t} + 8t \frac{e^{3t}}{5} - 1 \frac{\cos(t) + \frac{1}{2} \sin(t)}{2 \cos(t) + \frac{1}{2} \sin(t)}$

9. Homogeneous:  $r = \pm 2i$

For  $3 \cos(2t)$ : resonance,  $y_{p1} = t[A \cos(2t) + B \sin(2t)] \Rightarrow A = 0, B = 3/4$

For  $4 \sin(3t)$ :  $y_{p2} = C \cos(3t) + D \sin(3t) \Rightarrow C = 0, D = -4/5$

General solution:  $y = c_1 \cos(2t) + c_2 \sin(2t) + \frac{3t}{4} \sin(2t) - \frac{4}{5} \sin(3t)$

10. Homogeneous:  $r = 0, \pm 1$

For  $2t$ : double resonance at 0,  $y_{p1} = At^3 \Rightarrow A = -1/3$

For  $3e^{-t}$ : *resonance*,  $y_{p2} = Bte^{-t} \Rightarrow B = -3/2$

For  $\cos(t)$ :  $y_{p3} = C \cos(t) + D \sin(t) \Rightarrow C = -1/2, D = 0$

General solution:  $y = c_1 + c_2e^t + c_3e^{-t} - t^3 \frac{e^{-t}}{3 - \frac{3t}{2}} - 1 \frac{\cos(t)}{2 \cos(t)}$

## Part E: Initial Value Problems

6. General:  $y = c_1e^t + c_2e^{2t} + e^{3t}$

$y(0) = c_1 + c_2 + 1 = 1 \Rightarrow c_1 + c_2 = 0$

$y'(0) = c_1 + 2c_2 + 3 = 2 \Rightarrow c_1 + 2c_2 = -1$

Solving:  $c_2 = -1, c_1 = 1$

Solution:  $y = e^t - e^{2t} + e^{3t}$

7. General:  $y = c_1 \cos(2t) + c_2 \sin(2t) + 2t$   
 $y(0) = c_1 = 0$   
 $y'(0) = 2c_2 + 2 = 1 \Rightarrow c_2 = -1/2$   
 Solution:  $y = -\frac{1}{2} \sin(2t) + 2t$
8. General:  $y = c_1 \cos(t) + c_2 \sin(t) - \frac{1}{3} \sin(2t)$   
 $y(0) = c_1 = 0$   
 $y'(t) = -c_1 \sin(t) + c_2 \cos(t) - \frac{2}{3} \cos(2t)$   
 $y'(\pi/4) = c_2/\sqrt{2} = 1 \Rightarrow c_2 = \sqrt{2}$   
 Solution:  $y = \sqrt{2} \sin(t) - \frac{1}{3} \sin(2t)$
9. General:  $y = (c_1 + c_2 t)e^{2t} + \frac{t^4}{12}e^{2t}$   
 $y(0) = c_1 = 0$   
 $y'(0) = c_2 + 2c_1 = 0 \Rightarrow c_2 = 0$   
 Solution:  $y = \frac{t^4}{12}e^{2t}$
10. General:  $y = c_1 + c_2 e^t + c_3 e^{-t} - 2t^2$   
 $y(0) = c_1 + c_2 + c_3 = 0$   
 $y'(0) = c_2 - c_3 = 0$   
 $y''(0) = c_2 + c_3 - 4 = 2 \Rightarrow c_2 + c_3 = 6$   
 Solving:  $c_2 = c_3 = 3, c_1 = -6$   
 Solution:  $y = -6 + 3e^t + 3e^{-t} - 2t^2$

## Part F: Exam-Style Problems

11. (a)  $(r + 1)^2 = 0$ , so  $r = -1$  is a double root. Standard trial  $Ae^{-t}$  is already in  $y_h$ .  
 (b) Use  $y_p = At^2 e^{-t}$ . After substitution:  $A = 1/2$ . This represents critical damping with resonant forcing.
12. (a) Non-resonant:  $y = c_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + c_2 \sin(\omega_0 t) + \frac{F_0}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2} \cos(\omega t)$   
 (b) Resonant:  $y = c_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + c_2 \sin(\omega_0 t) + \frac{F_0 t}{2\omega_0} \sin(\omega_0 t)$   
 (c) As  $\omega \rightarrow \omega_0$ , amplitude  $\rightarrow \infty$  (beats phenomenon)
13.  $(r - 2)^2 = 0$  gives double root at  $r = 2$ .  
 $y_p = Ae^{at}$  works only if  $a \neq 2$ .  
 All values except  $a = 2$ .
14. Characteristic:  $r^2 + pr + q = 0$   
 Resonance occurs when  $r$  satisfies this, i.e.,  $r^2 + pr + q = 0$ .
15.  $(r^2 + 1)^2 = 0$  gives  $r = \pm i$  with multiplicity 2.  
 For  $\cos(t)$ : double resonance!  
 $y_p = t^2[A \cos(t) + B \sin(t)]$   
 After substitution:  $A = 0, B = 1/8$   
 $y = (c_1 + c_2 t) \cos(t) + (c_3 + c_4 t) \sin(t) + \frac{t^2}{8} \sin(t)$