

## Practice Problems - Week #5

### Nonhomogeneous Linear DEs

### Solutions

**Note:** we use the notation  $y_p$  or  $y_{NH}$  interchangeably for a single solution that satisfies a non-homogeneous equation. These stand for “particular” or “non-homogenous”, both of which are common names for that part of the differential equation solution.

For Questions 1 to 8, find a single solution that satisfies the non-homogeneous differential equation.

1.  $y'' + 16y = e^{3x}$

Given the RHS of  $e^{3x}$ , we would prefer to use  $y_{NH} = Ae^{3x}$ .

For  $y_c$ , we solve  $r^2 + 16 = 0$  which gives  $r = \pm 4i$  and  $y_c = c_1 \cos(4x) + c_2 \sin(4x)$ . There is no overlap between  $y_c$  then and the preferred form of  $y_{NH}$ , so we can use it as-is:

Let  $y_{NH} = Ae^{3x}$ . Then

$$y'_{NH} = 3Ae^{3x} \text{ and}$$

$$y''_{NH} = 9Ae^{3x}$$

Subbing in  $y_{NH}$  and its derivatives into the DE,

$$9Ae^{3x} + 16Ae^{3x} = e^{3x}$$

$$25A = 1$$

$$A = \frac{1}{25}$$

So our particular solution is  $y_{NH} = \frac{1}{25}e^{3x}$ .

2.  $y'' - y' - 2y = 3x + 4$

Given the RHS of  $3x + 4$ , we would prefer to use  $y_{NH} = A + Bx$ .

For  $y_c$ , we solve  $r^2 - r - 2 = 0$  or  $(r - 2)(r + 1) = 0$  which gives  $r = 2, -1$  and  $y_c = c_1 e^{2x} + c_2 e^{-x}$ . There is no overlap between  $y_c$  then and the preferred form of  $y_{NH}$ , so we can use it as-is:

Let  $y_{NH} = A + Bx$ . Then

$$y'_{NH} = B \text{ and}$$

$$y''_{NH} = 0$$

Subbing in  $y_{NH}$  and its derivatives into the DE,

$$-(B) - 2(A + Bx) = 3x + 4$$

$$-2Bx + (-B - 2A) = 3x + 4$$

$$\text{Equating const coeffs: } -B - 2A = 4$$

$$\text{Equating } x \text{ coeffs: } -2B = 3$$

$$\text{so } B = \frac{-3}{2}$$

$$\text{and } A = \frac{-1}{2}(-4 + B) = \frac{-5}{4}$$

So our particular solution is  $y_{NH} = \frac{-5}{4} - \frac{3}{2}x$

$$3. \ y'' - y' - 6y = 2 \sin(3x)$$

Similar to the last two problems, we would want  $y_{NH} = A \sin(3x) + B \cos(3x)$ .

The homogeneous aux. equation has  $r = 3, -2$ , so  $y_c = c_1 e^{3x} + c_2 e^{-2x}$ , so there is no overlap with our desired  $y_{NH}$  form.

$$\begin{aligned} y_{NH} &= A \sin(3x) + B \cos(3x) \\ y'_{NH} &= 3A \cos(3x) - 3B \sin(3x) \\ y''_{NH} &= -9A \sin(3x) - 9B \cos(3x) \end{aligned}$$

Subbing into the DE,

$$\begin{aligned} (-9A \sin(3x) - 9B \cos(3x)) - (3A \cos(3x) - 3B \sin(3x)) - 6(A \sin(3x) + B \cos(3x)) &= 2 \sin(3x) \\ \text{Equating sin coeffs: } -15A + 3B &= 2 \\ \text{Equating cos coeffs: } -3A - 15B &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Solving gives  $A = \frac{-5}{39}, B = \frac{1}{39}$ , so

$$y_{NH} = \frac{-5}{39} \sin(3x) + \frac{1}{39} \cos(3x)$$

$$4. \ 2y'' + 4y' + 7y = x^2$$

We would want  $y_{NH} = A + Bx + Cx^2$ .

The homogeneous aux. equation has complex roots, so  $y_c$  is made up of exponentials and sines and cosines, so there is no overlap with our desired  $y_{NH}$  form.

$$\begin{aligned} y_{NH} &= A + Bx + Cx^2 \\ y'_{NH} &= B + 2Cx \\ y''_{NH} &= 2C \end{aligned}$$

Subbing into the DE,

$$\begin{aligned} 2(2C) + 4(B + 2Cx) + 7(A + Bx + Cx^2) &= x^2 \\ \text{Equating } x^2 \text{ coeffs: } 7C &= 1 \\ \text{Equating } x \text{ coeffs: } 8C + 7B &= 0 \\ \text{Equating const coeffs: } 4C + 4B + 7A &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Solving gives  $C = \frac{1}{7}, B = \frac{-8}{49}, A = \frac{4}{343}$ , so

$$y_{NH} = \frac{3}{343} - \frac{8}{49}x + \frac{1}{7}x^2$$

$$5. \ y^{(5)} + 5y^{(4)} - y = 17$$

Our desired form is  $y_{NH} = A$  (constant).

We can't find the roots for  $y_c$  easily for this case, *but* we can be sure that  $r^5 + 5r^4 - 1 = 0$  does not have an  $r = 0$  root. This means that  $y_c$  does not contain a  $e^{0x}$ /constant solution, so there is no overlap between  $y_c$  and our desired  $y_{NH}$  form.

$$\begin{aligned} y_{NH} &= A \\ y'_{NH} &= 0 \text{ as do all the other derivatives.} \end{aligned}$$

Subbing into the DE,

$$0 + 0 - A = 17$$

Solving gives  $A = -17$ , so

$$y_{NH} = -17$$

$$6. \quad y^{(5)} + 2y^{(3)} + 2y'' = 3x^2 - 1$$

Our preferred form is  $y_{NH} = A + Bx + Cx^2$ .

The homogeneous aux. equation has  $r^5 + 2r^3 + 2r^2 = 0$  or  $r^2(r^3 + 2r + 2) = 0$ .

This means  $r = 0, 0$  and 3 other non-zero roots. The repeated real  $r = 0$  roots mean  $y_c = c_1 + c_2x + \dots$  other terms. This **does** overlap our desired form for  $y_{NH}$ . To avoid the overlap, we try adding term one after the other, and multiplying it by  $x$  until it is neither in  $y_c$  nor the earlier terms of  $y_{NH}$ . This gives

$$y_{NH} = Ax^2 + Bx^3 + Cx^4 \text{ (three terms, as our original, and neither repeats itself nor is in } y_c)$$

$$y'_{NH} = 2Ax + 3Bx^2 + 4Cx^3$$

$$y''_{NH} = 2A + 6Bx + 12Cx^2$$

$$y^{(3)}_{NH} = 6B + 24Cx$$

$$y^{(4)}_{NH} = 24C$$

$$y^{(5)}_{NH} = 0$$

Subbing into the DE,

$$0 + 2(6B + 24Cx) + 2(2A + 6Bx + 12Cx^2) = 3x^2 - 1$$

$$\text{Equating } x^2 \text{ coeffs: } 24C = 3$$

$$\text{Equating } x \text{ coeffs: } 48C + 12B = 0$$

$$\text{Equating const coeffs: } 12B + 4A = -1$$

Solving gives  $A = \frac{5}{4}, B = \frac{-1}{2}, C = \frac{1}{8}$ , so

$$y_{NH} = \frac{5}{4}x^2 - \frac{1}{2}x^3 + \frac{1}{8}x^4$$

$$7. \quad y^{(3)} - y = e^x + 7$$

Our preferred form for  $y_{NH}$  is  $y_{NH} = A + Be^x$ .

The homogeneous aux. equation has  $r^3 - 1 = 0$  or  $(r - 1)(r^2 + r + 1) = 0$ .

This means  $r = 1$  is a root so  $y = e^x$  is one of the solutions in  $y_c$ . This **does** overlap our desired form for  $y_{NH}$ . To avoid the overlap, we try adding term one after the other, and multiplying it by  $x$  until it is neither in  $y_c$  nor the earlier terms of  $y_{NH}$ . NOTE: only the  $e^x$  term is duplicated in  $y_c$ . The constant term is not duplicated, so it should remain unchanged.

$$y_{NH} = A + Bxe^x \text{ (two terms, as our original, and neither repeats itself nor is in } y_c)$$

$$y'_{NH} = B(xe^x + e^x)$$

$$y''_{NH} = B(xe^x + 2e^x)$$

$$y^{(3)}_{NH} = B(xe^x + 3e^x)$$

Subbing into the DE,

$$B(xe^x + 3e^x) - (A + Bxe^x) = e^x + 7$$

Note the  $Bxe^x$  terms cancel.

$$\text{Equating } e^x \text{ coeffs: } 3B = 1$$

$$\text{Equating const coeffs: } -A = 7$$

Solving gives  $A = -7, B = \frac{1}{3}$ , so

$$y_{NH} = -7 + \frac{1}{3}xe^x$$

8.  $4y'' + 4y' + y = 3xe^x$

We would want  $y_{NH} = Axe^x + Be^x$ .

The homogeneous aux. equation has  $r = -0.5, -0.5$ , so  $y_c = c_1e^{-x/2} + c_2xe^{-x/2}$ , so there is no overlap with our desired  $y_{NH}$  form.

$$y_{NH} = Axe^x + Be^x$$

$$y'_{NH} = A(xe^x + e^x) + Be^x$$

$$y''_{NH} = A(xe^x + 2e^x) + Be^x$$

Subbing into the DE,

$$4(A(xe^x + 2e^x) + Be^x) + 4(A(xe^x + e^x) + Be^x) + (Axe^x + Be^x) = 3xe^x$$

$$\text{Equating } e^x \text{ coeffs: } 12A + 9B = 0$$

$$\text{Equating } xe^x \text{ coeffs: } 9A = 3$$

Solving gives  $A = \frac{1}{3}, B = \frac{-4}{9}$ , so

$$y_{NH} = \frac{1}{3}xe^x - \frac{4}{9}e^x$$

For Questions 9-12, find the appropriate form for a single solution to each non-homogeneous equation. You do not need to solve for the undetermined coefficients.

9.  $y'' - 2y' + 2y = e^x \sin(x)$

Roots of auxiliary equation are  $r = 1 \pm i$  so  $e^x \sin(x)$  and  $e^x \cos(x)$  are solutions to the homogeneous DE.

To avoid overlap with these solutions, we must select

$$y_p = Axe^x \sin(x) + Bxe^x \cos(x)$$

10.  $y^{(5)} - y^{(3)} = e^x + 2x^2 - 5$

Based on the RHS, we would select 4 terms in  $y_{NH}$ :  $e^x, 1, x, x^2$ .

The auxiliary equation is  $r^5 - r^3 = 0$ , or  $r^3(r^2 - 1) = 0$ , or  $r^3(r - 1)(r + 1) = 0$ .

Roots of auxiliary equation are therefore  $r = 0, 0, 0, 1$ , and  $-1$ .

Simple solutions in  $y_c$  then are  $1, x, x^2, e^x$ , and  $e^{-x}$ .

To keep the same number of terms as our original form of  $y_{NH}$ , but still avoid overlap with the  $y_c$  solutions, we must select the following form for  $y_{NH}$ :

$$y_{NH} = \underbrace{Ax^3 + Bx^4 + Cx^5}_{\text{boosted } 1, x, x^2 \text{ to avoid } y_c} + \underbrace{Dxe^x}_{\text{to avoid } e^x \text{ in } y_c}$$

11.  $y'' + 4y = 3x \cos(2x)$

Based on the RHS, we would select 4 terms in  $y_{NH}$ :  $x \cos(2x), x \sin(2x), \cos(x), \sin(x)$ .

Roots of the auxiliary equation are  $r = \pm 2i$ , so  $\cos(2x)$  and  $\sin(2x)$  are in  $y_c$ .

To keep the same number of terms as our original form of  $y_{NH}$ , but still avoid overlap with the  $y_c$  solutions, we must select

$$y_{NH} = Ax^2 \cos(2x) + Bx^2 \sin(2x) + Cx \cos(2x) + Dx \sin(2x)$$

$$12. y^{(3)} - y'' - 12y' = x - 2xe^{-3x}$$

Based on the RHS, we would select 4 terms in  $y_{NH}$ :  $x, 1, xe^{-3x}, e^{-3x}$ .

Roots of the auxiliary equation are  $r = 0, -3, 4$ , so  $1, e^{-3x}$  and  $e^{4x}$  are solutions in  $y_c$ .

To keep the same number of terms as our original form of  $y_{NH}$ , but still avoid overlap with the  $y_c$  solutions, we must select

$$y_{NH} = Ax^2 + Bx + Cxe^{-3x} + Dx^2e^{-3x}$$

$$13. \text{ Solve the initial value problem where } y'' - 2y' - 3y = 3xe^{2x}, y(0) = 1, \text{ and } y'(0) = 0.$$

The characteristic equation is  $r^2 - 2r - 3 = (r - 3)(r + 1)$ , so the general solution to the corresponding homogeneous equation is  $C_1e^{3x} + C_2e^{-x}$ . Using the method of undetermined coefficients, we consider a solution of the form  $y_g(t) := A_1xe^{2x} + A_2e^{2x}$  for some constants  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ . It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} 3xe^{2x} &= y_g'' - 2y_g' - 3y_g \\ &= (4A_1xe^{2x} + 4A_1e^{2x} + 4A_2e^{2x}) - 2(2A_1xe^{2x} + A_1e^{2x} + 2A_2e^{2x}) - 3(A_1xe^{2x} + A_2e^{2x}) \\ &= -3A_1xe^{2x} + (2A_1 - 3A_2)e^{2x} \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we have  $A_1 = -1$  and  $A_2 = -\frac{2}{3}$ , so the general solution is  $C_1e^{3x} + C_2e^{-x} - xe^{2x} - \frac{2}{3}e^{2x}$ . Since  $\frac{d}{dx}(C_1e^{3x} + C_2e^{-x} - xe^{2x} - \frac{2}{3}e^{2x}) = 3C_1e^{3x} - C_2e^{-x} - 2xe^{2x} - e^{2x} - \frac{4}{3}e^{2x}$ , setting  $x = 0$  yields  $C_1 + C_2 - \frac{2}{3} = 1$  and  $3C_1 - C_2 - \frac{7}{3} = 0$ . Therefore, we have  $C_1 = 1, C_2 = \frac{2}{3}$ , and the solution is  $e^{3x} + \frac{2}{3}e^{-x} - xe^{2x} - \frac{2}{3}e^{2x}$ .

$$14. \text{ Find the particular solution to the IVP } y'' + 4y = 2x, y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 2.$$

$$y_c = c_1 \cos(2x) + c_2 \sin(2x)$$

$$y_{NH} = A + Bx$$

$$y'_{NH} = B$$

$$y''_{NH} = 0$$

Substituting into the DE gives  $A = \frac{1}{2}$  and  $B = 0$ , so the general solution is

$$y = y_c + y_{NH} = c_1 \cos(2x) + c_2 \sin(2x) + \frac{x}{2}$$

To find  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ , use the initial conditions:

$$y(0) = 1 : \quad 1 = c_1 + 0 + 0$$

$$y'(0) = 2 : \quad 2 = 0 + 2c_2 + \frac{1}{2}$$

Solving gives

$$y = 1 \cdot \cos(2x) + \frac{3}{4} \sin(2x) + \frac{x}{2}$$

$$15. \text{ Find the particular solution to the IVP } y'' + 9y = \sin(2x), y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 0.$$

$$y_c = c_1 \cos(3x) + c_2 \sin(3x)$$

$y_{NH} = A \cos(2x) + B \sin(2x)$ . Solving for  $A$  and  $B$  gives  $A = 0$  and  $B = \frac{1}{5}$ . The general solution is

$$y = c_1 \cos(3x) + c_2 \sin(3x) + \frac{1}{5} \sin(2x)$$

Using the initial conditions, we can solve for  $c_1 = 1$  and  $c_2 = -\frac{2}{15}$

$$y = \cos(3x) - \frac{2}{15} \sin(3x) + \frac{1}{5} \sin(2x)$$

## Applications

16. For a spring/mass system with  $m = 1$  kg,  $c = 6$  N/(m/s), and  $k = 45$ , approximately what frequency of external forcing would produce the largest amplitude steady-state vibration?

The natural frequency is found using the auxiliary equation  $r^2 + 6r + 45 = 0$ , giving  $r = -3 \pm 6i$ , so  $x_c = c_1 e^{-3t} \cos(6t) + c_2 e^{-3t} \sin(6t)$

Since this system's natural or intrinsic oscillations are at 6 rad/s, the spring/mass will show the largest amplitude response to an outside force if that outside force also has a frequency close to 6 rad/s.

17. For a spring/mass system with  $m = 1$  kg,  $c = 10$  N/(m/s), and  $k = 650$ , approximately what frequency of external forcing would produce the largest amplitude steady-state vibration?

$m = 1, c = 10, k = 650, F_0 = 100$ , so

$$x'' + 10x' + 650x = \cos(\omega t)$$

The natural frequency is found using the auxiliary equation  $r^2 + 10r + 650 = 0$ , giving  $r = -5 \pm 25i$ , so  $x_c = c_1 e^{-5t} \cos(25t) + c_2 e^{-5t} \sin(25t)$

It will show its largest amplitude response to stimuli with frequencies close to 25 rad/s.

18. Consider the undamped spring model  $y'' + \omega_0^2 y = \cos(\omega t)$ .

- (a) Solve  $y'' + \omega_0^2 y = \cos(\omega t)$  where  $\omega^2 \neq \omega_0^2$ .  
 (b) What does this predict will happen to the amplitude of the oscillations as the stimulus frequency  $\omega$  is brought closer and closer to the natural frequency  $\omega_0$ ?

- (a) The characteristic equation is  $r^2 + \omega_0^2 = (r - \omega_0 \sqrt{-1})(r + \omega_0 \sqrt{-1})$ , so the general solution to the corresponding homogeneous equation is  $C_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + C_2 \sin(\omega_0 t)$ . Using the method of undetermined coefficients, we consider a solution of the form  $y_g(t) := A_1 \cos(\omega t) + A_2 \sin(\omega t)$  for some constants  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ . It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \cos(\omega t) &= y_g'' + \omega_0^2 y_g = (-A_1 \omega^2 \cos(\omega t) - A_2 \omega^2 \sin(\omega t)) + \omega_0^2 (A_1 \cos(\omega t) + A_2 \sin(\omega t)) \\ &= (\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)(A_1 \cos(\omega t) + A_2 \sin(\omega t)) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $A_1 = \frac{1}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2}$  and  $A_2 = 0$ , the general solution is

$$C_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + C_2 \sin(\omega_0 t) + \frac{1}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \cos(\omega t).$$

- (b) As the stimulus frequency  $\omega$  approaches the natural frequency  $\omega_0$ , the amplitude given by  $\frac{1}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)} \rightarrow \infty$ . This corresponds to the result of resonance, when  $\omega = \omega_0$ , and the solutions change to  $y_c = At \cos(\omega t)$ , which has an linearly growing (unbounded) amplitude.

19. Consider the equation for the spring/mass system with  $m = 1$  kg,  $c = 4$  N/(m/s) and  $k = 4$  N/m, and which is being forced by an external periodic force of  $10 \cos(3t)$  N:

$$x'' + 4x' + 4x = 10 \cos(3t)$$

Find the formula for the steady-state oscillations, and find their amplitude.

The system is damped, so the  $x_c$  solution will have negative exponentials in it. i.e. that part of the solution will be **transient** because its contribution  $\rightarrow 0$  over time. That is why  $x_c$  is referred to as  $x_{\text{transient}}$  or  $x_{\text{tr}}$  throughout the problems in this section.

Since the RHS is pure cos/sine, its differential family will not overlap with the exp sin/cos in  $x_c$ . This means  $x_{NH}$  will be a simple linear combination of  $\cos(3t)$  and  $\sin(3t)$ .

Let  $x_{NH} = A \cos(3t) + B \sin(3t)$ .

$x'_{NH} = -3A \sin(3t) + 3B \cos(3t)$

$$x''_{NH} = -9A \cos(3t) - 9B \sin(3t)$$

Substituting into the DE,

$$(-9A \cos(3t) - 9B \sin(3t)) + 4(-3A \sin(3t) + 3B \cos(3t)) + 4(A \cos(3t) + B \sin(3t)) = 10 \cos(3t)$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{sine coeffs:} & -9B - 12A + 4B = 0 \\ \text{cos coeffs:} & -9A + 12B + 4A = 10 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{l} -12A - 5B = 0 \\ -5A + 12B = 10 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} -60A - 25B = 0 \\ -60A + 144B = 120 \end{array}$$

$$-169B = -120$$

Solving gives  $A = \frac{-50}{169}$ ,  $B = \frac{120}{169}$ , so

$$x_{NH} = x_{sp} = \frac{-50}{169} \cos(3t) + \frac{120}{169} \sin(3t)$$

The amplitude of the sum  $A \cos(bt) + B \sin(bt)$  is given by  $C = \sqrt{A^2 + B^2}$ , so the amplitude here is  $\sqrt{\left(\frac{-50}{169}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{120}{169}\right)^2} \approx 0.77$  meters or 77 cm.

20. Consider the equation for the spring/mass system

$$x'' + 3x' + 5x = 4 \cos(5t)$$

Find the formula for the steady-state oscillations, and find their amplitude.

Again, because there is damping,  $x_c$  will have negative exponentials, and will fade away with time (transient part of the solution). Also, there is no overlap between the functions in the transient  $x_c$  and steady-state  $x_{NH}$ , so we can set the form of  $x_{NH}$  as a linear combination of  $\cos(5t)$  and  $\sin(5t)$ .

Let  $x_{NH} = A \cos(5t) + B \sin(5t)$  so

$$x'_{NH} = -5A \sin(5t) + 5B \cos(5t)$$

$$x''_{NH} = -25A \cos(5t) - 25B \sin(5t)$$

Substituting into the DE,

$$(-25A \cos(5t) - 25B \sin(5t)) + 3(-5A \sin(5t) + 5B \cos(5t)) + 5(A \cos(5t) + B \sin(5t)) = 4 \cos(5t)$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{sine coeffs:} & -25B - 15A + 5B = 0 \\ \text{cos coeffs:} & -25A + 15B + 5A = 4 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{l} -15A - 20B = 0 \\ -20A + 15B = 4 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} -60A - 80B = 0 \\ -60A + 45B = 12 \end{array}$$

$$-125B = 12$$

Solving gives  $A = \frac{16}{125}$ ,  $B = \frac{-12}{125}$  so

$$x_{NH} = x_{sp} = \frac{16}{125} \cos(5t) - \frac{12}{125} \sin(5t)$$

The amplitude of the sum  $A \cos(bt) + B \sin(bt)$  is given by  $C = \sqrt{A^2 + B^2}$ , so the amplitude here is  $\sqrt{\left(\frac{16}{125}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{-12}{125}\right)^2} = 0.16$  m, or 16 cm.

21. The charge at a point in an electrical circuit is called  $Q(t)$ . For a particular series circuit with a resistor, a conductor, and a capacitor,  $Q(t)$  satisfies the differential equation

$$2Q'' + 60Q' + 1/0.0025Q = 100e^{-t}$$

- (a) Given the initial conditions that  $Q(0) = 0$ ,  $Q'(0) = 0$ , find the particular solution for  $Q(t)$ .  
 (b) Knowing that  $I = Q'$  is the current in the circuit, find an expression for  $I(t)$ .

- (a) Solving for  $Q_c$ , we solve  $2r^2 + 60r + 400 = 0$ , for  $r = -20, -10$

$$Q_c = c_1 e^{-20t} + c_2 e^{-10t}$$

Solving for  $Q_{NH}$ , we assume  $Q_{NH} = Ae^{-t}$ . Subbing into the DE gives  $2A - 60A + 400A = 100$  or  $A = 100/342 = 50/171$ .

$$Q_{NH} = \frac{50}{171} e^{-t}$$

This gives the general solution

$$Q = Q_c + Q_{NH} = c_1 e^{-20t} + c_2 e^{-10t} + \frac{50}{171} e^{-t}$$

Solving for  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  given  $Q(0) = 0$  and  $Q'(0) = 0$ , gives

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= c_1 + c_2 + \frac{50}{171} \\ 0 &= -20c_1 - 10c_2 - \frac{50}{171} \end{aligned}$$

Solving gives  $c_1 = 45/171 = 5/19$ ,  $c_2 = -95/171 = -5/9$ , so

$$Q = \frac{5}{19} e^{-20t} + \frac{-5}{9} e^{-10t} + \frac{50}{171} e^{-t}$$

- (b) Differentiating  $Q(t)$  to find  $I$  we obtain

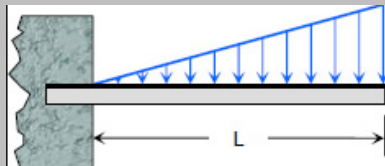
$$I = \frac{-100}{19} e^{-20t} + \frac{50}{9} e^{-10t} - \frac{50}{171} e^{-t}$$

22. A cantilevered beam which is  $L = 2$  m long, made out of a pine “2 by 4” has  $I = 2.23 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}^4$ ,  $E = 9.1 \times 10^9 \text{ N/m}^2$ , and its deformation satisfies the differential equation

$$EIy^{(4)} = p(x)$$

where  $p(x)$  is the loading on the beam in N/m, and boundary conditions  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y'(0) = 0$ ,  $y''(2) = 0$ , and  $y'''(2) = 0$ .

- (a) Find the formula for  $y(x)$  if the load applied is *triangular* (increases linearly), given by  $p(x) = 20x$  N/m. I.e. as  $x$  increases, moving away from the mounting point of the beam, the load increases, until at the tip of the beam ( $x = 2$ ), the load is 40 N/m.  
 (b) Find the amount of deflection of the beam at the tip under this load.





- (a) Since the corresponding homogeneous DE is simply  $EIy^{(4)} = 0$ , with roots to the characteristic equation of zero (repeated four times),  $y_c = c_1 + c_2x + c_3x^2 + c_4x^3$ .

Since the RHS =  $20x$ ,  $y_p$  would usually have been  $A + Bx$ . However, this is not linearly independent with the functions in  $y_c$ , so we boost by powers of  $x$  until it is, so we choose  $y_{NH} = Ax^4 + Bx^5$ .

Subbing  $y_{NH}$  into the DE and solving for  $A$  and  $B$ ,

$$EI \left( \underbrace{24A + 120Bx}_{y^{(4)}} \right) = 20x$$

const coeff's:  $A = 0$  and

$x$  coeff's:  $120EIB = 20$ , or  $B = \frac{1}{6EI}$

so  $y_P = \frac{1}{6EI}x^5$

This means the general solution is

$$y = \underbrace{c_1 + c_2x + c_3x^2 + c_4x^3}_{y_c} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{6EI}x^5}_{y_{NH}}$$

To solve for  $c_1, \dots, c_4$ , we use the boundary conditions.

$$\begin{aligned} y(0) = 0 &\implies 0 = c_1 \\ y'(0) = 0 &\implies 0 = c_2 \\ y''(2) = 0 &\implies 0 = 2c_3 + 6c_4(2) + \frac{1}{6EI}20(2)^3 \\ y'''(2) = 0 &\implies 0 = 6c_4 + \frac{1}{6EI}60(2)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Solving gives  $c_4 = \frac{-20}{3EI}$  and  $c_3 = \frac{80}{3EI}$ , so the particular solution, or the formula for the beam deflection at  $x$  is

$$y = \frac{1}{EI} \left( \frac{80}{3}x^2 - \frac{20}{3}x^3 + \frac{1}{6}x^5 \right)$$

- (b) The deflection at the tip,  $x = 2$ , is simply the value of  $y(2)$ :

$$y(2) = \frac{1}{EI} \left( \frac{80}{3}2^2 - \frac{20}{3}2^3 + \frac{1}{6}2^5 \right) \approx 0.00289$$

This means the tip of the beam deflects by 0.00289 m or roughly 3 mm under this load.