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Wronskian  $\Rightarrow$

Suppose  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n$  possesses at least  $n-1$  derivatives, then the determinant

$$W(f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n) = \begin{vmatrix} f_1 & f_2 & \dots & f_n \\ f_1' & f_2' & \dots & f_n' \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ f_1^{(n-1)} & f_2^{(n-1)} & \dots & f_n^{(n-1)} \end{vmatrix},$$

where the primes denotes differentiation with respect to  $x$ , is called Wronskian of the functions.

Theorem  $\Rightarrow$  Let  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$  be  $n$  solutions of homogeneous linear  $n$ th-order differential equation

$$a_n(x) \frac{d^ny}{dx^n} + \dots + a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x)y = f(x).$$

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then the set of solutions is linearly independent on interval  $I$  if & only if  $W(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) \neq 0$ , for every  $x$  in interval  $I$ .

Example 2 The functions  $y_1 = e^x$ ,  $y_2 = e^{2x}$ ,  $y_3 = e^{3x}$  are the solutions of  $y''' - 6y'' + 11y' - 6y = 0$ .

Since

$$\begin{aligned}
 W(y_1, y_2, y_3) &= \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 & y_3 \\ y_1' & y_2' & y_3' \\ y_1'' & y_2'' & y_3'' \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} e^x & e^{2x} & e^{3x} \\ e^x & 2e^{2x} & 3e^{3x} \\ e^x & 4e^{2x} & 9e^{3x} \end{vmatrix} \\
 &= e^x \begin{vmatrix} 2e^{2x} & 3e^{3x} \\ 4e^{2x} & 9e^{3x} \end{vmatrix} - e^{2x} \begin{vmatrix} e^x & 3e^{3x} \\ e^x & 9e^{3x} \end{vmatrix} + e^{3x} \begin{vmatrix} e^x & 2e^{2x} \\ e^x & 4e^{2x} \end{vmatrix} \\
 &= e^x [18e^{2x+3x} - 12e^{2x+3x}] - e^{2x} [9e^{x+3x} - 3e^{x+3x}] + e^{3x} [4e^{x+2x} - 2e^{x+2x}]
 \end{aligned}$$



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$$W(y_1, y_2, y_3) = 6e^{6x} - 6e^{6x} + 2e^{6x} = 2e^{6x} \neq 0$$

Thus  $y_1, y_2, y_3$  are linearly independent & form a fundamental set.

Theorem  $\Rightarrow$  General solution - Nonhomogeneous equations.

Let  $y_p$  be any particular solution of the homogeneous linear  $n$ th-order differential equation (1) on an interval  $I$  and let  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n$  be a fundamental set of solutions of associated homogeneous equation

$$a_n(x) \frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + \dots + a_0(x) y = 0, \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

then the general solution of the

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equation (1) is given by

$$y = c_1 y_1(x) + c_2 y_2(x) + \dots + c_n y_n(x) + \underline{y_p} \quad (3)$$

where  $c_i$ 's are arbitrary constants.

Example  $y''' - 6y'' + 11y' - 6y = 3x$ , ——— (i)

has a particular solution  $y_p = -\frac{11}{2} - \frac{x}{2}$ .

The associated homogeneous equation

$$y''' - 6y'' + 11y' - 6y = 0$$

has a solution

$$y_c = c_1 e^x + c_2 e^{2x} + c_3 e^{3x}.$$

Hence general solution of (i) is

$$y = y_c + y_p = c_1 e^x + c_2 e^{2x} + c_3 e^{3x} + \frac{11}{2} - \frac{x}{2}.$$



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Theorem  $\Rightarrow$  Superposition principle (Non homogeneous equation).

Let  $y_{p1}, y_{p2}, \dots, y_{pk}$  be  $k$  particular

Solutions of the nonhomogeneous linear

$n$ th-order DE  $a_n(x) \frac{d^n y}{dx^n} + a_{n-1}(x) \frac{d^{n-1} y}{dx^{n-1}} + \dots + a_1(x) \frac{dy}{dx} + a_0(x)y = g(x)$  on an interval  $I$  corresponding,

in turn, to  $k$  distinct ftns  $g_1, g_2, \dots, g_k$ .

that is, suppose  $y_{pi}$  denotes a particular solution of the corresponding DE

$$a_n(x)y^n + a_{n-1}(x)y^{n-1} + \dots + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = g_i(x)$$

Where  $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$  then

$$y_P = y_{p1}(x) + y_{p2}(x) + \dots + y_{pk}(x)$$

is a particular solution of

$$a_n(x)y^n + a_{n-1}(x)y^{n-1} + \dots + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y$$

$$= g_1(x) + g_2(x) + \dots + g_k(x).$$

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## Reduction of order $\Rightarrow$

Suppose that  $y_1$  denotes a nontrivial solution

$$a_2(x)y'' + a_1(x)y' + a_0(x)y = 0. \quad \text{---} \rightarrow \textcircled{1}$$

We seek a second solution,  $y_2$  so that

$y_1, y_2$  is a linearly independent set on  $I$ .

Now if  $y_1$  &  $y_2$  are linearly independent then their quotient  $y_2/y_1$  is nonconstant on  $I$ .

Suppose  $y_2/y_1 = u(x)$  or  $\boxed{y_2 = u(x)y_1}$

The function  $u(x)$  can be found by

substituting  $y_2 = u(x)y_1$  into the DE  $\textcircled{1}$ .

This method is called reduction of order.



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Example. Given that  $y_1 = e^x$  is a solution of  $y'' - y = 0$ . Use reduction of order to find a second solution.

Solution. Given that  $y'' - y = 0$ , ——— (1)

Let  $y_2 = u(x)y_1$  or  $y_2(x) = u(x)e^x$ . ——— (2)

Then  $y' = u(x)e^x + u'(x)e^x$

&  $y'' = u(x)e^x + u'(x)e^x + u'(x)e^x + u''(x)e^x$  } ——— (3)

Putting (2) & (3) in (1) we have

$$u(x)e^x + 2u'(x)e^x + u''(x)e^x - u(x)e^x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (u'' + 2u')e^x = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow u'' + 2u' = 0. \longrightarrow (4)$$

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$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Let } U'(x) = \omega \\ \text{then } U''(x) = \frac{d\omega}{dx} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow (5)$$

Using (5) in (4) we get

$$\frac{d\omega}{dx} + 2\omega = 0 \rightarrow (6)$$

$$\text{I-F} = u(x) = e^{\int P(x) dx} = e^{\int (2) dx} = e^{2x} \rightarrow (7)$$

Multiplying (7) by (6) we get

$$e^{2x} \frac{d\omega}{dx} + 2\omega e^{2x} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dx} [e^{2x} \omega] = 0 \quad \text{integrating we have}$$

$$e^{2x} \omega = C_1$$

$$\Rightarrow \omega = C_1 e^{-2x} \rightarrow (8)$$

Using (5) again we get



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$$U'(x) = C_1 e^{-2x}$$

Integrating we get

$$U(x) = \frac{C_1 e^{-2x}}{(-2)} + C_2$$

$$\Rightarrow U(x) = -\frac{C_1}{2} e^{-2x} + C_2 \longrightarrow 9$$

Choosing  $C_2 = 0$  &  $C_1 = -2$  we have

$$U(x) = e^{-2x}$$

Thus (2) implies  $y_2 = e^{-2x}$   $y_1 = e^{-2x} e^x$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{y_2(x) = e^{-x}}$$

Thus, the general solution of (1) is

$$y = C_1 e^x + C_2 e^{-x} \quad \text{Ans.}$$

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Example  $y'' - 6y' + 9y = 0 \rightarrow \textcircled{1} y_1 = e^{3x}$

Let  $y(x) = u(x)y_1 = u(x)e^{3x}$

$$y' = 3u(x)e^{3x} + u'(x)e^{3x}$$

$$y'' = 9u(x)e^{3x} + 3u'(x)e^{3x} + u''(x)e^{3x} + 3u'(x)e^{3x}$$

$$y'' = 9ue^{3x} + 3u'e^{3x} + 3u'e^{3x} + u''e^{3x}$$

$$y'' = 9ue^{3x} + 6u'e^{3x} + u''e^{3x}$$

Thus  $\textcircled{1}$  implies:

$$9ue^{3x} + 6u'e^{3x} + u''e^{3x} = 18ue^{3x} + 6u'e^{3x} + 9u(x)e^{3x} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow u''e^{3x} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow u'' = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{u(x) = C_1x + C_2}$$



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Choosing  $c_2 = 0$  &  $c_1 = 1$  we have

$$u(x) = x$$

Thus  $y_a = x e^{3x}$

GS is  $y = c_1 e^{3x} + c_2 x e^{3x}$  Ans.

\* Reduction of order formula  $\Rightarrow$

$$y_2(x) = y_1(x) \int \frac{e^{-\int p(x) dx}}{y_1^2(x)} dx. \longrightarrow (A)$$

Example 2 Solve  $y'' + 36y = 0$ ,  $y_1 = \cos 6x$ .

$\hookrightarrow (1)$   $\hookrightarrow (2)$

Putting (2) in (A) we have

$$\therefore y'' + p(x)y' + Q(x)y = 0. \longrightarrow (A_1)$$

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$$y_2(x) = \cos bx \int \frac{e^{-\int(x) dx}}{C_2^2 bx} dx$$

$$= \cos bx \int \frac{1}{C_2^2 bx} dx = \cos bx \int \frac{1}{C_2^2 bx} dx$$

$$= \cos bx \int \sec^2 bx dx = \cos bx \tan bx$$

$$= \cos bx \frac{\sin bx}{\cos bx} = \sin bx.$$

Thus GS of ① is

$$y = C_1 \cos bx + C_2 \sin bx. \text{ Ans.}$$

Q2.  $x^2 y'' - 3x y' + 5y = 0$ ,  $y_1 = x^2 \cos(\ln x)$   $\rightarrow$  ②

$\rightarrow$  ①

Transferring ① into standard form we have

$$y'' - \frac{3}{x} y' + \frac{5}{x^2} y = 0. \rightarrow \text{③}$$



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Comparing ③ with

$$y'' + p(x)y' + Q(x)y = 0$$

we get  $p(x) = -\frac{3}{x}$

so  $y_2(x) = y_1(x) \int \frac{e^{-\int p(x) dx}}{y_1^2(x)} dx$

$$y_2(x) = x^2 \cos(\ln x) \int \frac{e^{-\int (-\frac{3}{x}) dx}}{x^4 \cos^2(\ln x)} dx$$

$$= x^2 \cos(\ln x) \int \frac{e^{3 \ln x}}{x^4 \cos^2(\ln x)} dx$$

$$= x^2 \cos(\ln x) \int \frac{x^3}{x^4 \cos^2(\ln x)} dx$$

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$$y_2(x) = x^2 \cos(\ln x) \int \frac{x}{x^2 \cos(\ln x)} dx$$

Let  $\ln x = z$  then  $\frac{1}{x} dx = dz \Rightarrow e^{-z} dx = dz$   
 $\Rightarrow dx = e^z dz$   
 or  $x = e^z$   
 $\frac{1}{x} = e^{-z}$

$$y_2(x) = x^2 \cos(\ln x) \int \frac{e^{-z} e^z dz}{\cos^2 z}$$

$$= x^2 \cos(\ln x) \int \frac{dz}{\cos^2 z} = x^2 \cos(\ln x) \int \sec^2 z dz$$

$$= x^2 \cos(\ln x) \tan z = x^2 \cos(\ln x) \tan(\ln z)$$

$$= x^2 \sin(\ln x).$$

Thus  $y = C_1 x^2 \cos(\ln x) + C_2 x^2 \sin(\ln x) \rightarrow \text{Ans.}$



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Homogeneous Linear equation with constant coefficients

Auxiliary Equation

Consider the second order equation

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

where  $a, b$  &  $c$  are constants.

Suppose  $y = e^{mx}$  is a solution of (1). Then

$$y' = me^{mx} \quad \& \quad y'' = m^2 e^{mx} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Putting (2) in (1) we get

$$am^2 e^{mx} + bme^{mx} + ce^{mx} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (am^2 + bm + c)e^{mx} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow am^2 + bm + c = 0 \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Eq. (3) is called auxiliary equation or characteristic equation.

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Eq(3) is a quadratic equation, so by quadratic formula

$$m = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$\text{Thus } m_1 = \frac{-b + \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \text{ \& } m_2 = \frac{-b - \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

are the two roots of (3).

Case (1) Distinct Real roots  $\Rightarrow$

In this case  $b^2 - 4ac > 0$ , so (3) possesses two real and distinct roots  $m_1$  &  $m_2$ .

So the two solutions are  $y_1 = e^{m_1 x}$ ,  $y_2 = e^{m_2 x}$

Thus general solution of (1) is

$$y = C_1 e^{m_1 x} + C_2 e^{m_2 x}.$$



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Case (2): Repeated Real roots

In this case the two roots of (3) are real & equal so  $m_1 = m_2 = m$ , b/c  $b^2 - 4ac = 0$

Thus one solution is  $y_1 = e^{mx}$ .

The second solution can be obtained with the help of reduction of order. Hence,

$$y_2 = y_1(x) \int \frac{e^{-\int p(x) dx}}{y_1^2(x)} dx. \quad \rightarrow (5)$$

The standard form of (1) is

$$y'' + \frac{b}{a} y' + \frac{c}{a} y = 0.$$

So  $p(x) = \frac{b}{a}$ . Thus (5)  $\Rightarrow$

$$y_2(x) = e^{mx} \int \frac{e^{-\int \frac{b}{a} dx}}{e^{2mx}} dx = e^{mx} \int \frac{e^{-\frac{b}{a}x}}{e^{2mx}} dx. \quad \rightarrow (6)$$

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Since  $m = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = -\frac{b}{2a}$

$$m = -\frac{b}{2a} \quad \text{or} \quad \boxed{\frac{b}{a} = -2m}$$

Thus, (6)  $\Rightarrow y_2 = e^{mx} \int \frac{e^{+2mx}}{e^{2mx}} dx$

$$\Rightarrow y_2(x) = x e^{mx}$$

Therefore, GS is  $\boxed{y = C_1 e^{mx} + C_2 x e^{mx}}$

Case (3): Conjugate Complex roots  $\Rightarrow$

If  $m_1$  &  $m_2$  are complex, then we can

write  $m_1 = \alpha + i\beta$  &  $m_2 = \alpha - i\beta$ ,

where  $\alpha$  &  $\beta > 0$  are real &  $i^2 = -1$ .

Thus, in this case we can write



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$$y = C_1 e^{(\alpha + i\beta)x} + C_2 e^{(\alpha - i\beta)x}.$$

$$\Rightarrow y = C_1 e^{\alpha x} e^{i\beta x} + C_2 e^{\alpha x} e^{-i\beta x}. \rightarrow (*)$$

Now, from Euler's formula  $e^{i\theta} = \cos\theta + i\sin\theta$ , so

$$e^{i\beta x} = \cos\beta x + i\sin\beta x, \quad e^{-i\beta x} = \cos\beta x - i\sin\beta x.$$

Therefore (\*) implies

$$y = e^{\alpha x} [C_1 (\cos\beta x + i\sin\beta x) + C_2 (\cos\beta x - i\sin\beta x)]$$

$$y = e^{\alpha x} [(C_1 + C_2) \cos\beta x + i(C_1 - C_2) \sin\beta x]$$

$$\Rightarrow y = e^{\alpha x} (C_1 \cos\beta x + C_2 \sin\beta x) \rightarrow (**)$$

$$\text{where } C_1 = C_1 + C_2 \quad \& \quad C_2 = i(C_1 - C_2).$$

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Example  $2y'' - 5y' - 3y = 0 \rightarrow \textcircled{1}$

Suppose  $y = e^{mx}$ , then ~~① implies~~  $y' = me^{mx}$ ,  $y'' = m^2 e^{mx}$

So  $\textcircled{1} \Rightarrow 2m^2 e^{mx} - 5me^{mx} - 3e^{mx} = 0$

$\Rightarrow (2m^2 - 5m - 3)e^{mx} = 0$

Thus, the auxiliary equation is

$$2m^2 - 5m - 3 = 0$$

~~$\Rightarrow 2m^2 - 5m - 3 = 0$~~

~~$\Rightarrow 2m(m-1) - 3(m-1)$~~

$\Rightarrow 2m^2 - 6m + m - 3 = 0$

$\Rightarrow 2m(m-3) + 1(m-3) = 0$



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$$(2m+1)(m-3)=0$$

$$\Rightarrow m_1 = -\frac{1}{2}, m_2 = 3$$

$$\text{So } y = c_1 e^{-x/2} + c_2 e^{3x}. \quad \text{Ans.}$$

Example  $y'' - 10y' + 25y = 0$ .

The auxiliary equation is  $m^2 - 10m + 25 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow m^2 - 2(5)m + (5)^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (m-5)^2 = 0$$

$$\therefore (a \pm b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 \pm 2ab$$

$$\Rightarrow m_1 = 5, m_2 = 5$$

$$\text{So } y = c_1 e^{5x} + c_2 x e^{5x}. \quad \text{Ans.}$$

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Q.  $y'' + 4y' + 7y = 0.$

The auxillary equation is

$$m^2 + 4m + 7 = 0$$

$$m = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{16 - 4(1)(7)}}{2(1)} = -2 \pm \sqrt{3}i$$

So  $m_1 = -2 + \sqrt{3}i = \alpha + \beta i$

$$m_2 = -2 - \sqrt{3}i = \alpha - \beta i$$

Thus,  $\alpha = -2, \beta = \sqrt{3}$

So  $y = e^{-2x} [c_1 \cos \sqrt{3}x + c_2 \sin \sqrt{3}x].$  Ans.