

Let the differential equation  $(-x^n y')' = \lambda x^m y$  subject to the initial condition  $y(0) = 1$  be given. Subtracting the  $\lambda x^m y$  term from both sides yields:

$$(-x^n y')' - \lambda x^m y = 0$$

Now, taking the first derivative, we have:

$$-x^n y'' - nx^{n-1} y' - \lambda x^m y = 0$$

Next, let  $m = 1$  and  $n = 3$ . Then, we have:

$$-x^3 y'' - 3x^2 y' - \lambda x y = 0$$

Now, suppose the solutions are of the form  $y = x^r$ . Then,  $y' = rx^{r-1}$  and  $y'' = r(r-1)x^{r-2}$ . Plugging the derivatives we just took back into the original differential equation, we have:

$$-x^3(r(r-1)x^{r-2}) - 3x^2(rx^{r-1}) - \lambda x(x^r) = 0$$

$$-x^3(-x^2 \cdot x^r \cdot r(r-1)) - 3x^2(x^{-1} \cdot x^r \cdot r) - \lambda x^1 \cdot x^r = 0$$

$$(-x \cdot x^r \cdot r(r-1)) - 3(x \cdot x^r \cdot r) - \lambda x^1 \cdot x^r = 0$$

$$x^r \left[ (-x \cdot r(r-1)) - 3(x \cdot r) - \lambda x \right] = 0$$

$$r(r-1) + 3r + \lambda = 0, \text{ which is our characteristic equation}$$

Now, in order to find the roots of our characteristic equation, we use the quadratic formula:

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{3^2 - 4(1)(\lambda)}}{2(1)} \\ \implies & \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{9 - 4\lambda}}{2} \\ \implies & \frac{-3 \pm \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - \lambda}}{2} \\ \implies & -\frac{3}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - \lambda} \end{aligned}$$

Now, if we recall that we supposed that our solutions were of the form  $y = x^r$  and denote our two solutions as  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ , we have:

$$y_1(x) = x^{r_1} = x^{-\frac{3}{2} + \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - \lambda}} = x^{-\frac{3}{2}} x^{\sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - \lambda}}$$

$$y_2(x) = x^{r_2} = x^{-\frac{3}{2} - \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - \lambda}} = x^{-\frac{3}{2}} x^{-\sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - \lambda}}$$

So, in general, the equation for our general solution will take the form:

$$y(x) = c_1 x^{r_1} + c_2 x^{r_2}$$

Substituting back in for  $x^{r_1}$  and  $x^{r_2}$ , we have:

$$y(x) = c_1 x^{-\frac{3}{2}} x^{\sqrt{\frac{9}{4}-\lambda}} + c_2 x^{-\frac{3}{2}} x^{-\sqrt{\frac{9}{4}-\lambda}}$$

Next, if we use the initial condition  $y(0) = 1$ , we get:

$$y(0) = c_1 (1)^{-\frac{3}{2}} (1)^{\sqrt{\frac{9}{4}-\lambda}} + c_2 (1)^{-\frac{3}{2}} (1)^{-\sqrt{\frac{9}{4}-\lambda}}$$

$$y(x) = c_1 + c_2$$

Now, consider, specifically,  $\sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - \lambda}$  :

$$\sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - \lambda} = \sqrt{(-1)\left(\lambda - \frac{9}{4}\right)} = i\sqrt{(-1)\left(\lambda - \frac{9}{4}\right)}$$

In this case, we want to only consider the real roots, so we have to extract them using Euler's formula:

$$\text{let } x^{\alpha i} = (e^{\ln(x)})^{\alpha i} = e^{\alpha \ln(x) i}$$

using  $e^{\alpha \ln(x) i}$  and  $\alpha = \sqrt{\lambda - \frac{9}{4}}$ , we have:

$$\cos(\alpha \ln(x)) + i \sin(\alpha \ln(x)) = \cos\left(\sqrt{\lambda - \frac{9}{4}} \ln(x)\right) + i \sin\left(\sqrt{\lambda - \frac{9}{4}} \ln(x)\right)$$

Now, earlier, we had shown our two solutions were:

$$y_1(x) = x^{-\frac{3}{2}} x^{\sqrt{\frac{9}{4}-\lambda}}$$

$$y_2(x) = x^{-\frac{3}{2}} x^{-\sqrt{\frac{9}{4}-\lambda}}$$

However, if we now update our solutions using the results from apply Euler's formula, we have:

$$y_1(x) = x^{-\frac{3}{2}} \cos\left(\sqrt{\lambda - \frac{9}{4}} \ln(x)\right)$$

$$y_2(x) = x^{-\frac{3}{2}} \sin\left(\sqrt{\lambda - \frac{9}{4}} \ln(x)\right)$$