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homogeneous linear differential equation

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The linear differential equation

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

is called <http://planetmath.org/HomogeneousLinearDifferentialEquationhomogeneous> iff $b(x) \equiv 0$. If $b(x) \not\equiv 0$, the equation (1) is *inhomogeneous*.

If (1) is <http://planetmath.org/HomogeneousLinearDifferentialEquationhomogeneous>, then the sum of any solutions is a solution and any solution multiplied by a constant is a solution.

The special case

$$c_n x^n y^{(n)} + c_{n-1} x^{n-1} y^{(n-1)} + \dots + c_1 x y' + c_0 y = 0$$

of (1), where the c_i 's are constants, can via the substitution $x = e^t$ be transformed into a homogeneous linear differential equation of the same order but with constant coefficients.