

First an example of reduction of order

Ex: $y'' + 6y' + 9y = x^2$

$$\Rightarrow r^2 + 6r + 9 = 0 \quad \text{Homogeneous Eqn}$$

$$\Rightarrow (r+3)^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{r = -3} \Rightarrow y_1 = e^{-3x} \text{ is a solution. So, reduction of order}$$

$$\Rightarrow y = e^{-3x} \cdot u$$

$$\hookrightarrow y' = -3e^{-3x}u + e^{-3x}u'$$

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

So, $y'' + 6y' + 9y = (9e^{-3x}u - 6e^{-3x}u' + e^{-3x}u'') + 6(-3e^{-3x}u + e^{-3x}u') + 9e^{-3x}u$

$$= e^{-3x}u'' = x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow u'' = x^2 e^{3x}$$

Off we go into the world of integration by parts.

$$u' = \int x^2 e^{3x} dx$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{ll} u = x^2 & dv = e^{3x} dx \\ du = 2x dx & v = \frac{1}{3} e^{3x} \end{array} \right.$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} x^2 e^{3x} - \int \frac{1}{3} e^{3x} (2x) dx = \frac{1}{3} x^2 e^{3x} - \frac{2}{9} \int x e^{3x} dx$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} u = x & dv = e^{3x} dx \\ du = dx & v = \frac{1}{3} e^{3x} \end{array}$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} x^2 e^{3x} - \frac{2}{9} \left(\frac{1}{3} x e^{3x} - \int \frac{1}{3} e^{3x} dx \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} x^2 e^{3x} - \frac{2}{9} x e^{3x} + \frac{2}{9} \left(\frac{1}{3} e^{3x} \right) + C_1$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} x^2 e^{3x} - \frac{2}{9} x e^{3x} + \frac{2}{27} e^{3x} + C_1$$

Finally, we have

$$u = \int \left(\frac{1}{3} x^2 e^{3x} - \frac{2}{9} x e^{3x} + \frac{2}{27} e^{3x} + C_1 \right) dx$$
$$= \frac{1}{3} \int x^2 e^{3x} dx - \frac{2}{9} \int x e^{3x} dx + \frac{2}{27} \int e^{3x} dx + C_1 x + C_2$$

Also, we can write:

$$y_1 \cdot u = e^{-3x} \cdot u = \left(\frac{1}{3} \int s^2 e^{3s} ds - \frac{2}{9} \int s e^{3s} ds + \frac{2}{27} \int e^{3s} ds + C_1 s + C_2 \right) e^{-3x}$$

The idea is pretty clean, but this is sort of a mess.

Suppose we have:

$$ay'' + by' + cy = g$$

$$\text{Ex: } x^2 y'' - 2xy' + 2y = 3x^2 \quad x > 0$$

Assume that we have the fundamental set of solutions for the homogeneous solution. That is,

$$y(x) = y_1(x) + C_1 y_1(x) + C_2 y_2(x)$$

$$\text{Ex: } r(r-1) - 2r + 2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r^2 - 3r + 2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow (r-1)(r-2) = 0 \Rightarrow y_1 = x, y_2 = x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow y_h = C_1 x + C_2 x^2$$

So, now what? Reduction of order would work. Let's look a bit more carefully.

We could use

$$y = y_1 \cdot u = x \cdot u$$

OR

$$y = y_2 \cdot v = x^2 v$$

and this would work. However, let's try both together. So, define

$$y = y_1 u + u_2 v$$

Ex: $x^2 y'' - 7xy' + 2y = 3x^2$

$$y_1 = x, \quad y_2 = x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow y = xu + x^2 v$$

Now, plug and chug. With two functions u, v we will need 2 conditions.

1. The combination must satisfy the ODE

2. We will use

$$\boxed{xu' + x^2 v' = 0} \quad ?$$

So, here we go.

$$\begin{aligned} y' &= [xu + x^2 v]' \\ &= u + xu' + 2xv + x^2 v' \\ &= u + 2xv + \underbrace{xu' + x^2 v'}_{=0} \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow y' = u + 2xv$$

Since we need to satisfy the ODE we need y''

$$y'' = [u + 2xv]' \\ = u' + 2v + 2xv'$$

Then:

$$x^2 y'' - 2xy' + 2y = 3x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2(u' + 2v + 2xv') - 2x(u + 2xv) + 2(xu + x^2u) = 3x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 u' + 2x^3 v' + (2x^2 v - 4x^2 v + x^2 v) + (-2x + 2x)u = 3x^2$$

$$\Rightarrow x^2 u' + 2x^3 v' = 3x^2$$

So, we will have

$$u' + 2xv' = 3$$

AND by assumption

$$xu' + x^2 v' = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2x \\ x & x^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u' \\ v' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\Delta \neq 0$

$$u' + x v' = 0$$

$$u' + 2x v' = 3$$

$$\Rightarrow (2x - x) v' = 3$$

$$\Rightarrow x v' = 3 \Rightarrow v' = \frac{3}{x}$$

$$\Rightarrow v = 3 \ln|x| + C_1$$

$$\Rightarrow u' = -x v'$$

$$= -x \left(\frac{3 \ln|x|}{x} + \frac{3}{x} \right)'$$

$$= -x \cdot \frac{3}{x} = -3$$

$$\Rightarrow u = -3x + C_2$$

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$$\text{So, } y = x \cdot (-3x + C_1) + x^2 (3 \ln|x| + C_2)$$

$$= -3x^2 + C_1 x + C_2 x^2 \ln|x| + C_2 x^2$$

$$= (C_1 - 3)x^2$$

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$$= 3x^2 \ln|x| + C_1 x + C_2 x^2$$

We get a combination of the homogeneous solution with no problems.

How to do this?

For

$$ay'' + by' + cy = g$$

1. Find a $\{y_1, y_2\}$ that is a fundamental set of solutions.

2. Set

$$y = y_1 u + y_2 v$$

3. Use the solutions to define a system of equations

$$y_1 u' + y_2 v' = 0$$

$$y_1' u' + y_2' v' = g/a$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u' \\ v' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ g/a \end{bmatrix}$$

A couple of more things

Ex: $y'' + y = \tan(x)$

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$$r^2 + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow r = \pm i$$

$$\Rightarrow y_1 = \cos(x), \quad y_2 = \sin(x)$$

$$y_1' = -\sin(x), \quad y_2' = \cos(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \cos(x) & \sin(x) \\ -\sin(x) & \cos(x) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u' \\ v' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \tan(x) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} u' \\ v' \end{bmatrix} = (I) \begin{bmatrix} \cos(x) & -\sin(x) \\ \sin(x) & \cos(x) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \tan(x) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u' = \sin(x) \cdot \tan(x) = \frac{\sin^2(x)}{\cos(x)} \Rightarrow u = \int \frac{\sin^2(x)}{\cos(x)} dx$$

$$v' = \cos(x) \cdot \tan(x) = \sin(x) \Rightarrow v = \int \sin(x) dx = -\cos(x) + C$$

$$u = \sin(x) - \ln|\sec(x) + \tan(x)| + C$$

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