

Claim: If $y = \phi(t)$ is a solution of the non-homogenous 2nd order differential equation

$$y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t) \quad (1)$$

where $g(t)$ is *not* always zero, then

$$y = c\phi(t) \quad (2)$$

is not a solution.

Proof. Because (2) is a solution of (1), then

$$\phi''(t) + p(t)\phi'(t) + q(t)\phi(t) = g(t) \quad (3)$$

Deriving (2)

$$\begin{aligned} y &= c\phi(t) \\ y' &= c\phi'(t) \\ y'' &= c\phi''(t) \end{aligned}$$

Plugging it into (1)

$$\begin{aligned} c\phi''(t) + p(t)c\phi'(t) + q(t)c\phi(t) &\neq g(t) \\ c(\phi''(t) + p(t)\phi'(t) + q(t)\phi(t)) &\neq g(t) \\ c(g(t)) &\neq g(t) \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

□