

$$I = (a, b) \subseteq \mathbb{R}, \quad L: C^\infty(I) \rightarrow C^\infty(I), \quad L(y) = a_1(x)y^{(n)} + a_2(x)y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_n(x)y$$

$$a_j \in C(I), \quad b \in C(I)$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Homogeneous:} & L(y) = 0 \quad (H) \\ \text{Nonhomogeneous:} & L(y) = b(x) \quad (N) \end{array} \quad C^\infty(I)/F \quad \text{where } F = \mathbb{R} \text{ or } \mathbb{C}.$$

$$L(\lambda_1 y_1 + \lambda_2 y_2) = \lambda_1 L(y_1) + \lambda_2 L(y_2)$$

Strategy: 1. find general soln of H. 2. find particular soln of N.

$\Rightarrow$  the sum gives general soln of N.

find a basis of  $\text{null}(L)$  (which is finite Dim).

$L$ : differential operator.

$$L = a_0 D^n + a_1 D^{n-1} + \dots + a_{n-1} D + a_n I$$

$$C_j \in F.$$

①: soln to H:  $y_h = C_1 y_1 + \dots + C_n y_n$  where  $\{y_1, \dots, y_n\}$  is a basis of  $\text{null}(L)$ .

②: soln to N:  $y_n = u_1 y_1 + \dots + u_n y_n$  where  $u_i \in C^\infty(I)$ .

$$y = y_h + y_n.$$

Class of eqns:

Constant-coefficient:  $a_i(x) = c_i$

take  $n=1$ ,  $\mathcal{L}$ .  $\mathcal{L}(y) = y' + ay = \begin{cases} 0 \\ h(x) \end{cases}$

$$y' + ay = 0 \Rightarrow y' = -ay \Rightarrow \frac{y'}{y} = -a \Rightarrow (\ln y)' = -a \Rightarrow \ln y = -ax + c$$

$$\Rightarrow y(x) = e^{-ax+c} \\ = C e^{-ax}$$

using integrating factor

$$\rightarrow (e^{ax} y)' = 0$$

$$y' + ay = b(x) \Leftrightarrow (e^{ax} y)' = e^{ax} b(x) \Leftrightarrow e^{ax} y = \int_{x_0}^x e^{at} b(t) dt + C$$

what if  $y' + a(x)y = L(y)$ ?

$$\Rightarrow y = e^{-ax} \int_{x_0}^x b(t) e^{at} dt + C e^{-ax}$$

$$\ln y = - \int_{x_0}^x \overbrace{a(t)}^{A(x)} dt + c \Rightarrow y = C e^{-A(x)}$$

$$(e^{-A(x)} y)' = 0 \quad \checkmark$$