

Sample Question Solutions (Chapter 3, Math 244)

1. State the Existence and Uniqueness theorem for linear, second order differential equations (non-homogeneous is the most general form):

SOLUTION:

Let $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t)$, with $y(t_0) = y_0$ and $y'(t_0) = v_0$. Then if p, q and g are all continuous on an open interval I containing t_0 , a unique solution exists to the IVP, valid for all t in I .

2. True or False?

- (a) The characteristic equation for $y'' + y' + y = 1$ is $r^2 + r + 1 = 1$

SOLUTION: False. The characteristic equation is for the homogeneous equation, $r^2 + r + 1 = 0$

- (b) The characteristic equation for $y'' + xy' + e^x y = 0$ is $r^2 + xr + e^x = 0$

SOLUTION: False. The characteristic equation was defined only for DEs with constant coefficients.

- (c) The function $y = 0$ is always a solution to a second order linear homogeneous differential equation.

SOLUTION: True. It is true generally- If L is a linear operator, then $L(0) = 0$.

- (d) In using the Method of Undetermined Coefficients, the ansatz $y_p = (Ax^2 + Bx + C)(D \sin(x) + E \cos(x))$ is equivalent to

$$y_p = (Ax^2 + Bx + C) \sin(x) + (Dx^2 + Ex + F) \cos(x)$$

SOLUTION: False- We have to be able to choose the coefficients for each polynomial (for the sine and cosine) independently of each other. In the form:

$$(Ax^2 + Bx + C)(D \sin(x) + E \cos(x))$$

the polynomials for the sine and cosine are constant multiples of each other, which may not necessarily hold true. That's why we need one polynomial for the sine, and one for the cosine (so the second guess is the one to use).

3. Find values of a for which **any** solution to:

$$y'' + 10y' + ay = 0$$

will tend to zero (that is, $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} y(t) = 0$).

SOLUTION: Use the characteristic equation and check the 3 cases (for the discriminant). That is,

$$r^2 + 10r + a = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad r = \frac{-10 \pm \sqrt{100 - 4a}}{2}$$

We check some special cases:

- If $100 - 4a = 0$ (or $a = 25$), we get a double root, $r = -5, -5$, or $y_h = e^{-5t}(C_1 + C_2t)$, and all solutions tend to zero.
- If the roots are complex, then we can write $r = -5 \pm \beta i$, and we get

$$y_h = e^{-5t}(C_1 \cos(\beta t) + C_2 \sin(\beta t))$$

and again, this will tend to zero for any choice of C_1, C_2 .

- In the case that $a < 25$, we have to be a bit careful. While it is true that both roots will be *real*, we also want them to both be *negative* for all solutions to tend to zero.
 - When will they both be negative? If $100 - 4a < 100$ (or $\sqrt{100 - 4a} < 10$). This happens as long as $a > 0$.
 - If $a = 0$, the roots will be $r = -10, 0$, and $y_h = C_1 e^{-10t} + C_2$. Therefore, I could choose $C_1 = 0$ and $C_2 \neq 0$, and my solution will not go to zero.
 - If $a < 0$, the roots will be mixed in sign (one positive, one negative), so the solutions will not all tend to zero.

CONCLUSION: If $a > 0$, all solutions to the homogeneous will tend to zero.

4. • Compute the Wronskian between $f(x) = \cos(x)$ and $g(x) = 1$.
 SOLUTION: $W(\cos(x), 1) = \sin(x)$
- Can these be two solutions to a second order linear homogeneous differential equation? Be specific. (Hint: Abel's Theorem)
 SOLUTION: Abel's Theorem tells us that the Wronskian between two solutions to a second order linear homogeneous DE will either be identically zero or never zero on the interval on which the solution(s) are defined.
 Therefore, as long as the interval for the solutions do not contain a multiple of π (for example, $(0, \pi)$, $(\pi, 2\pi)$, etc), then it is possible for the Wronskian for two solutions to be $\sin(x)$.
5. Construct the operator associated with the differential equation: $y' = y^2 - 4$. Is the operator linear? Show that your answer is true by using the definition of a linear operator.

SOLUTION: The operator is found by getting all terms in y to one side of the equation, everything else on the other. In this case, we have:

$$L(y) = y' - y^2$$

This is not a linear operator. We can check using the definition:

$$L(cy) = cy' - c^2y^2 \neq cL(y)$$

Furthermore,

$$L(y_1 + y_2) = (y_1' + y_2') - (y_1 + y_2)^2 \neq L(y_1) + L(y_2)$$

6. Find the solution to the initial value problem:

$$u'' + u = \begin{cases} 3t & \text{if } 0 \leq t \leq \pi \\ 3(2\pi - t) & \text{if } \pi < t < 2\pi \\ 0 & \text{if } t \geq 2\pi \end{cases} \quad u(0) = 0 \quad u'(0) = 0$$

SOLUTION: Without regards to the initial conditions, we can solve the three non-homogeneous equations. In each case, the homogeneous part of the solution is $c_1 \cos(t) + c_2 \sin(t)$.

- $u'' + u = 3t$. We would start with $y_p = At + B$. Substituting, we get: $At + B = 3t$, so $A = 3$ and $B = 0$. Therefore, the general solution in this case is:

$$u(t) = c_1 \cos(t) + c_2 \sin(t) + 3t$$

- $u'' + u = 6\pi - 3t$. From our previous analysis, the solution is:

$$u(t) = c_1 \cos(t) + c_2 \sin(t) + 6\pi - 3t$$

- The last part is just the homogeneous equation.

The only thing left is to find c_1, c_2 in each of the three cases so that the overall function u is continuous:

- $u(0) = 0, u'(0) = 0 \Rightarrow$

$$u(t) = -3 \sin(t) + 3t \quad 0 \leq t \leq \pi$$

- $u(\pi) = 3\pi$ and $u'(\pi) = 6$, so:

$$u(t) = -9 \sin(t) + 6\pi - 3t \quad \pi < t < 2\pi$$

- $u(2\pi) = 0, u'(2\pi) = -12$:

$$u(t) = -12 \sin(t) \quad t \geq 2\pi$$

7. Solve: $u'' + \omega_0^2 u = F_0 \cos(\omega t)$, $u(0) = 0 \quad u'(0) = 0$ if $\omega \neq \omega_0$ using the Method of Undetermined Coefficients.

SOLUTION: The characteristic equation is: $r^2 + \omega_0^2 = 0$, or $r = \pm \omega_0 i$. Therefore,

$$u_h = C_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + C_2 \sin(\omega_0 t)$$

Using the Method of Undetermined Coefficients, $u_p = A \cos(\omega t) + B \sin(\omega t)$, and we put that into the DE:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \omega_0^2 u & = & A\omega_0^2 \cos(\omega t) \quad + B\omega_0^2 \sin(\omega t) \\ u'' & = & -A\omega^2 \cos(\omega t) \quad - B\omega^2 \sin(\omega t) \\ \hline F_0 \cos(\omega t) & = & A(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2) \cos(\omega t) \quad + B(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2) \sin(\omega t) \end{array}$$

Therefore,

$$A = \frac{F_0}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2} \quad B = 0$$

so that the overall solution is:

$$u(t) = C_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + C_2 \sin(\omega_0 t) + \frac{F_0}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2} \cos(\omega t)$$

Put in the initial conditions $u(0) = 0$ and $u'(0) = 0$ to see that $C_1 = -\frac{F_0}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2}$ and $C_2 = 0$.

8. Compute the solution to: $u'' + \omega_0^2 u = F_0 \cos(\omega_0 t)$ $u(0) = 0$ $u'(0) = 0$ two ways:

- Start over, with Method of Undetermined Coefficients

SOLUTION: The part that changes is the particular part of the solution- We have to multiply by t : Let $u_p = At \cos(\omega_0 t) + Bt \sin(\omega_0 t)$. Then:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \omega_0^2 u_p & = & (A\omega_0^2 t) \cos(\omega_0 t) + (B\omega_0^2 t) \sin(\omega_0 t) \\ u_p'' & = & (-A\omega_0^2 t + 2B\omega_0) \cos(\omega_0 t) + (-B\omega_0^2 t - 2Aw) \sin(\omega_0 t) \\ \hline F_0 \cos(\omega_0 t) & = & \frac{2B\omega_0 \cos(\omega_0 t)}{-2A\omega_0 \sin(\omega_0 t)} \end{array}$$

Therefore, $B = \frac{F_0}{2\omega_0}$ and $A = 0$, so that

$$u(t) = C_1 \cos(\omega_0 t) + C_2 \sin(\omega_0 t) + \frac{F_0}{2\omega_0} t \sin(\omega_0 t)$$

Taking into account the initial conditions, we get $C_1 = C_2 = 0$.

- Take the limit of your answer from Question 6 as $\omega \rightarrow \omega_0$ (Typo: Should be Question 7).

SOLUTION:

$$\lim_{\omega \rightarrow \omega_0} \frac{F_0(\cos(\omega t) - \cos(\omega_0 t))}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2} = ?$$

We can use l'Hospital's Rule (differentiate with respect to ω):

$$= \lim_{\omega \rightarrow \omega_0} \frac{-F_0 t \sin(\omega t)}{-2\omega} = \frac{F_0}{2\omega_0} \sin(\omega_0 t)$$

9. For the following question, recall that the acceleration due to gravity is 32 ft/sec².

An 8 pound weight is attached to a spring from the ceiling. When the weight comes to rest at equilibrium, the spring has been stretched 2 feet. The damping constant for the system is 1-lb-sec/ft. If the weight is raised 6 inches above equilibrium and given an upward velocity of 1 ft/sec, find the equation of motion for the weight. Write the solution as $R \cos(\omega t - \delta)$, if possible.

SOLUTION: First the constants. Since $mg - kL = 0$, we find that $mg = 8$, so $2k = 8$, or $k = 4$.

We are given that $\gamma = 1$, and since $8 = mg$, then $m = 8/32 = 1/4$.

$$\frac{1}{4}y'' + y' + 4y = 0 \quad y(0) = -\frac{1}{2} \quad y'(0) = -1$$

Or we could write: $y'' + 4y' + 16y = 0$. Solving the characteristic equation, we get

$$r^2 + 4r + 16 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad r = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{4^2 - 4 \cdot 16}}{2} = \frac{-4 \pm 4\sqrt{3}i}{2} = -2 \pm 2\sqrt{3}i$$

Therefore, the general solution is:

$$y(t) = e^{-2t} (C_1 \cos(2\sqrt{3}t) + C_2 \sin(2\sqrt{3}t))$$

Solving the IVP, differentiate to get the equations for C_1, C_2 :

$$y' = -2e^{-2t} (C_1 \cos(2\sqrt{3}t) + C_2 \sin(2\sqrt{3}t)) + 2\sqrt{3}e^{-2t} (C_2 \cos(2\sqrt{3}t) - C_1 \sin(2\sqrt{3}t))$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{1}{2} &= C_1 \\ -1 &= -2C_1 + 2\sqrt{3}C_2 \end{aligned} \quad \Rightarrow \quad C_1 = -\frac{1}{2} \quad C_2 = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

Rewrite the function using the formulas given:

$$y(t) = \sqrt{\frac{7}{12}} e^{-2t} \cos(2\sqrt{3}t - \delta)$$

where $(-1/2, -1/\sqrt{3})$ is in quadrant 3, so that

$$\delta = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \right) + \pi \approx 3.9987 \text{ rad}$$

10. Given that $y_1 = \frac{1}{t}$ solves the differential equation:

$$t^2 y'' - 2y = 0$$

Find a fundamental set of solutions.

SOLUTION: I like using the Wronskian for these-

First, rewrite the differential equation in standard form:

$$y'' - \frac{2}{t^2} y = 0$$

Then $p(t) = 0$ and $W(y_1, y_2) = Ce^0 = C$. On the other hand, the Wronskian is:

$$W(y_1, y_2) = \frac{1}{t}y_2' + \frac{1}{t^2}y_2$$

Put these together:

$$\frac{1}{t}y_2' + \frac{1}{t^2}y_2 = C \quad y_2' + \frac{1}{t}y_2 = Ct$$

The integrating factor is t ,

$$(ty_2)' = Ct^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad ty_2 = C_1t^3 + C_2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad C_1t^2 + \frac{C_2}{t}$$

Notice that we have *both* parts of the homogeneous solution, $y_1 = \frac{1}{t}$ and $y_2 = t^2$.

Alternative Solution: Use Reduction of Order, where we assume that

$$y_2 = vy_1 = \frac{v}{t} \quad \Rightarrow \quad y_2' = \frac{v't - v}{t^2} = \frac{v'}{t} - \frac{v}{t^2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad y_2'' = \frac{v''}{t} - 2\frac{v'}{t^2} + 2\frac{v}{t^3}$$

Substituting this back into the DE, we get

$$tv'' - 2v' = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{v'}{t^2} = C_1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad v = \frac{C_1}{3}t^3 + C_2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad y_2 = C_3t^2 + \frac{C_2}{t}$$

and again we see that we can take $y_2 = t^2$.

11. Suppose a mass of 0.01 kg is suspended from a spring, and the damping factor is $\gamma = 0.05$. If there is no external forcing, then what would the spring constant have to be in order for the system to *critically damped*? *underdamped*?

SOLUTION:

$$0.01u'' + 0.05u' + ku = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad u'' + 5u' + 100ku = 0$$

We don't really need to solve the differential equation- The type of damping we get depends on the discriminant of the characteristic equation:

- Underdamped: $5^2 - 4 \cdot 100k < 0$. In this case, $k > 1/16$
- Critically damped: $5^2 - 4 \cdot 100k = 0$. In this case, $k = 1/16$.
- Overdamped: $5^2 - 4 \cdot 100k > 0$. In this case, $k < 1/16$.

Notice that the type of damped solutions we get does NOT depend on the damping constant γ alone- The type of solutions we get depend on all three constants: m, γ and k .

12. Give the full solution, using any method(s). If there is an initial condition, solve the initial value problem.

(a) $y'' + 4y' + 4y = t^{-2}e^{-2t}$

NOTE: We cannot use the Method of Undetermined Coefficients here, so we're stuck with the Variation of Parameters.

Using the Variation of Parameters, $y_p = u_1y_1 + u_2y_2$, we have:

$$y_1 = e^{-2t} \quad y_2 = te^{-2t} \quad g(t) = \frac{e^{-2t}}{t^2}$$

with a Wronskian of e^{-4t} . You should find that:

$$u_1' = -\frac{1}{t} \quad u_2' = \frac{1}{t^2}$$
$$u_1 = -\ln(t) \quad u_2 = -\frac{1}{t}$$

so $y_p = -\ln(t)e^{-2t} - e^{-2t}$. This last term is part of the homogeneous solution, so this simplifies to $-\ln(t)e^{-2t}$. Now that we have all the parts,

$$y(t) = e^{-2t}(C_1 + C_2t) - \ln(t)e^{-2t}$$

(b) $y'' - 2y' + y = te^t + 4$, $y(0) = 1$, $y'(0) = 1$.

With the Method of Undetermined Coefficients, we first get the homogeneous part of the solution,

$$y_h(t) = e^t(C_1 + C_2t)$$

Now we construct our ansatz (Multiplied by t after comparing to y_h):

$$g_1 = te^t \quad \Rightarrow \quad y_{p_1} = (At + B)e^t \cdot t^2$$

Substitute this into the differential equation to solve for A, B :

$$y_{p_1} = (At^3 + Bt^2)e^t \quad y_{p_1}' = (At^3 + (3A + B)t^2 + 2Bt)e^t$$

$$y_{p_1}'' = (At^3 + (6A + B)t^2 + (6A + 4B)t + 2B)e^t$$

Forming $y_{p_1}'' - 2y_{p_1}' + y_{p_1} = te^t$, we should see that $A = \frac{1}{6}$ and $B = 0$, so that $y_{p_1} = \frac{1}{6}t^3e^t$.

The next one is a lot easier! $y_{p_2} = A$, so $A = 4$, and:

$$y(t) = e^t(C_1 + C_2t) + \frac{1}{6}t^3e^t + 4$$

with $y(0) = 1$, $C_1 = -3$. Solving for C_2 by differentiating should give $C_2 = 4$.

The full solution:

$$y(t) = e^t \left(\frac{1}{6}t^3 + 4t - 3 \right) + 4$$

(c) $y'' + 4y = 3 \sin(2t)$, $y(0) = 2$, $y'(0) = -1$.

The homogeneous solution is $C_1 \cos(2t) + C_2 \sin(2t)$. Just for fun, you could try Variation of Parameters. We'll outline the Method of Undetermined Coefficients:

$$y_p = (A \sin(2t) + B \cos(2t))t = At \sin(2t) + Bt \cos(2t)$$

$$y_p'' = (-4At - 4B) \sin(2t) + (4A - 4Bt) \cos(2t)$$

taking $y_p'' + 4y_p = 3 \sin(2t)$, we see that $A = 0$, $B = -\frac{3}{4}$, so the solution is:

$$y = c_1 \cos(2t) + c_2 \sin(2t) - \frac{3}{4}t \cos(2t)$$

With $y(0) = 2$, $c_1 = 2$. Differentiating to solve for c_2 , we find that $c_2 = -1/8$.

(d) $y'' + 9y = \sum_{m=1}^N b_m \cos(m\pi t)$

The homogeneous part of the solution is $C_1 \cos(3t) + C_2 \sin(3t)$. We see that $3 \neq m\pi$ for $m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$

The forcing function is a sum of N functions, the m^{th} function is:

$$g_m(t) = b_m \cos(m\pi t) \quad \Rightarrow \quad y_{p_m} = A \cos(m\pi t) + B \sin(m\pi t)$$

Differentiating,

$$y_{p_m}'' = -m^2 \pi^2 A \cos(m\pi t) - m^2 \pi^2 B \sin(m\pi t)$$

so that $y_{p_m}'' + 9y_{p_m} = (9 - m^2 \pi^2)A \cos(m\pi t) + (9 - m^2 \pi^2)B \sin(m\pi t)$.

Solving for the coefficients, we see that $A = b_m / (9 - m^2 \pi^2)$ and $B = 0$. Therefore, the full solution is:

$$y(t) = C_1 \cos(3t) + C_2 \sin(3t) + \sum_{m=1}^N \frac{b_m}{9 - m^2 \pi^2} \cos(m\pi t)$$

13. Rewrite the expression in the form $a + ib$: (i) 2^{i-1} (ii) $e^{(3-2i)t}$ (iii) $e^{i\pi}$

- $2^{i-1} = e^{\ln(2^{i-1})} = e^{(i-1)\ln(2)} = e^{-\ln(2)} e^{i \ln(2)} = \frac{1}{2} (\cos(\ln(2)) + i \sin(\ln(2)))$
- $e^{(3-2i)t} = e^{3t} e^{-2ti} = e^{3t} (\cos(-2t) + i \sin(-2t)) = e^{3t} (\cos(2t) - i \sin(2t))$
(Recall that cosine is an even function, sine is an odd function).
- $e^{i\pi} = \cos(\pi) + i \sin(\pi) = -1$

14. Write $a + ib$ in polar form: (i) $-1 - \sqrt{3}i$ (ii) $3i$ (iii) -4 (iv) $\sqrt{3} - i$

SOLUTIONS:

(i) $r = \sqrt{1+3} = 2$, $\theta = -2\pi/3$ (look at its graph, use 30-60-90 triangle):

$$-1 - \sqrt{3}i = 2e^{-\frac{2\pi}{3}i}$$

(ii) $3i = 3e^{\frac{\pi}{2}i}$

(iii) $-4 = 4e^{\pi i}$

(iv) $\sqrt{3} - i = 2e^{-\frac{\pi}{6}i}$

15. Find a second order linear differential equation with constant coefficients whose general solution is given by:

$$y(t) = C_1 + C_2 e^{-t} + \frac{1}{2}t^2 - t$$

SOLUTION: Work backwards from the characteristic equation to build the homogeneous DE (then figure out the rest):

The roots to the characteristic equation are $r = 0$ and $r = -1$. The characteristic equation must be $r(r+1) = 0$ (or a constant multiple of that). Therefore, the differential equation is:

$$y'' + y' = 0$$

For $y_p = \frac{1}{2}t^2 - t$ to be the particular solution,

$$y_p'' + y_p' = (1) + (t-1) = t$$

so the full differential equation must be:

$$y'' + y' = t$$

16. Determine the longest interval for which the IVP is certain to have a unique solution (Do not solve the IVP):

$$t(t-4)y'' + 3ty' + 4y = 2 \quad y(3) = 0 \quad y'(3) = -1$$

SOLUTION: Write in standard form first-

$$y'' + \frac{3}{t-4}y' + \frac{4}{t(t-4)}y = \frac{2}{t(t-4)}$$

The coefficient functions are all continuous on each of three intervals:

$$(-\infty, 0), (0, 4) \text{ and } (4, \infty)$$

Since the initial time is 3, we choose the middle interval, $(0, 4)$.

17. Let $L(y) = ay'' + by' + cy$ for some value(s) of a, b, c .

If $L(3e^{2t}) = -9e^{2t}$ and $L(t^2 + 3t) = 5t^2 + 3t - 16$, what is the particular solution to:

$$L(y) = -10t^2 - 6t + 32 + e^{2t}$$

SOLUTION: This purpose of this question is to see if we can use the properties of linearity to get at the answer.

We see that: $L(3e^{2t}) = -9e^{2t}$, or $L(e^{2t}) = -3e^{2t}$ so:

$$L\left(-\frac{1}{3}e^{2t}\right) = e^{2t}$$

And for the second part,

$$L(t^2 + 3t) = 5t^2 + 3t - 16 \quad \Rightarrow \quad L((-2)(t^2 + 3t)) = -10t^2 + 6t - 32$$

The particular solution is therefore:

$$y_p(t) = -2(t^2 + 3t) - \frac{1}{3}e^{2t}$$

since we have shown that

$$L\left(-2(t^2 + 3t) - \frac{1}{3}e^{2t}\right) = -10t^2 + 6t - 32 + e^{2t}$$

18. If we use the ansatz $y = t^r$, then $y' = rt^{r-1}$ and $y'' = r(r-1)t^{r-2}$. Substituting this into the differential equation, we get:

$$t^2 r(r-1)t^{r-2} + 2t rt^{r-1} - 2t^r = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad r(r-1)t^r + 2rt^r - 2t^r = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad t^r(r^2 + r - 2) = 0$$

The polynomial in r factors, and we get $r = 1$ or $r = -2$. We then have

$$y_1 = t \quad y_2 = t^{-2}$$

(and they form a fundamental set of solutions).

19. If $x = \ln(t)$ and $\dot{y} = dy/dt$, then verify that

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = t \dot{y} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = t^2 \ddot{y} + t \dot{y}$$

NOTE: In class, we had reversed these to be

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{1}{t}$$

so it is fine if you then differentiated with respect to t to get the second derivative:

$$\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \cdot \frac{1}{t} \right)$$

Then proceed using the product rule. Below is an alternative solution, where we can solve for d^2y/dx^2 :

SOLUTION: Since $x = \ln(t)$, we have $dx = \frac{dt}{t}$, or $dt/dx = t$. We also have:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{dy}{dt} \cdot \frac{dt}{dx} = ty$$

Similarly,

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right) = \frac{d}{dt} \left(\frac{dy}{dx} \right) \cdot \frac{dt}{dx} = (y + ty) t = t^2\ddot{y} + ty$$

20. Use Variation of Parameters to find a particular solution to the following, then verify your answer using the Method of Undetermined Coefficients:

$$4y'' - 4y' + y = 16e^{t/2}$$

SOLUTION: For the Variation of Parameters, write in standard form first, then compute $y_1, y_2, W(y_1, y_2)$, and then use the formulas (they will be given to you):

$$y'' - y' + \frac{1}{4}y = 4e^{t/2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad r^2 - r + \frac{1}{4} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad r = 1/2, 1/2$$

Therefore,

$$y_1 = e^{t/2} \quad y_2 = te^{t/2} \quad W(y_1, y_2) = e^t$$

And,

$$u_1' = \frac{-4te^t}{e^t} = -4t \quad u_2' = \frac{4e^t}{e^t}$$

so that $u_1 = -2t^2$ and $u_2 = 4t$. Putting these back into our ansatz,

$$y_p = -2t^2e^{t/2} + 4t(t^2e^{t/2}) = 2t^2e^{t/2}$$

You can verify this solution using the Method of Undetermined Coefficients.

21. Compute the Wronskian of two solutions of the given DE without solving it:

$$x^2y'' + xy' + (x^2 - \alpha^2)y = 0$$

Using Abel's Theorem (and writing the DE in standard form first):

$$y'' + \frac{1}{x}y' + \frac{x^2 - \alpha^2}{x^2}y = 0$$

Therefore,

$$W(y_1, y_2) = Ce^{-\int \frac{1}{x} dx} = \frac{C}{x}$$

22. If $y'' - y' - 6y = 0$, with $y(0) = 1$ and $y'(0) = \alpha$, determine the value(s) of α so that the solution tends to zero as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

SOLUTION: Solving as usual gives:

$$y(t) = \left(\frac{3 - \alpha}{5}\right) e^{-2t} + \left(\frac{\alpha + 2}{5}\right) e^{3t}$$

so to make sure the solutions tend to zero, $\alpha = -2$ (to zero out the second term).

23. Show that the period of the motion of an undamped vibration of a mass hanging from a vertical spring is $2\pi\sqrt{L/g}$:

SOLUTION: Our mass-spring system, with no damping is:

$$u'' + \frac{k}{m}u = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{Period is } \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{k/m}}$$

Now, since $mg - kL = 0$, we can replace k : $k = mg/L$:

$$2\pi \cdot \sqrt{\frac{m}{k}} = 2\pi \cdot \sqrt{\frac{m}{\frac{mg}{L}}} = 2\pi\sqrt{\frac{L}{g}}$$

24. Give the general solution to $y'' + y = \frac{1}{\sin(t)} + t$

SOLUTION: If we can use any method, I would use Method of Undetermined Coefficients for $g_2(t) = t$ and Variation of Parameters for $g_1(t) = 1/\sin(t)$. Let's do the Variation of Parameters first:

$$y_1 = \cos(t) \quad y_2 = \sin(t) \quad W(y_1, y_2) = 1 \quad g(t) = \frac{1}{\sin(t)}$$

Therefore,

$$u'_1 = -1 \quad u'_2 = \frac{\cos(t)}{\sin(t)}$$

Continuing,

$$u_1 = -t \quad u_2 = \ln(\sin(t))$$

and

$$y_p = -t \cos(t) + \ln(\sin(t)) \sin(t)$$

For the other part, we take $y_p = At + B$, and find that $y_p = t$, so that

$$y(t) = C_1 \cos(t) + C_2 \sin(t) + t - t \cos(t) + \ln(\sin(t)) \sin(t)$$

25. A mass of 0.5 kg stretches a spring to 0.05 meters. (i) Find the spring constant. (ii) Does a stiff spring have a large spring constant or a small spring constant (explain).

SOLUTION: (Typo: Better to read this as stretching the spring an additional 0.05 meters- Otherwise, we wouldn't be able to compute L).

We use Hooke's Law at equilibrium: $mg - kL = 0$, or

$$k = \frac{mg}{L} = \frac{4.9}{0.05} = 98$$

For the second part, a stiff spring will not stretch, so L will be small (and k would therefore be large), and a spring that is not stiff will stretch a great deal (so that k will be smaller).

26. A mass of $\frac{1}{2}$ kg is attached to a spring with spring constant 2 (kg/sec²). The spring is pulled down an additional 1 meter then released. Find the equation of motion if the damping constant is $c = 2$ as well:

SOLUTION: Just substitute in the values

$$\frac{1}{2}u'' + 2u' + 2u = 0$$

Pulling down the spring and releasing: $u(0) = 1$, $u'(0) = 0$ (Down is positive)

27. Match the solution curve to its IVP (There is one DE with no graph, and one graph with no DE- You should not try to completely solve each DE).

(a) $5y'' + y' + 5y = 0$, $y(0) = 10$, $y'(0) = 0$ (Complex roots, solutions go to zero)
Graph C

(b) $y'' + 5y' + y = 0$, $y(0) = 10$, $y'(0) = 0$ (Exponentials, solutions go to zero) Graph D

(c) $y'' + y' + \frac{5}{4}y = 0$, $y(0) = 10$, $y'(0) = 0$ NOT USED

(d) $5y'' + 5y = 4 \cos(t)$, $y(0) = 0$, $y'(0) = 0$ (Pure Harmonic) Graph B

(e) $y'' + \frac{1}{2}y' + 2y = 10$, $y(0) = 0$, $y'(0) = 0$ (Complex roots to homogeneous solution, constant particular solution) Graph E

SOLUTION: If the graphs are labeled: Top row: A, B, second row: C, D, and last row E, then the graphs are given above.