

Selected Problems from Section 3.7

1. Problem 3: $y'' + 2y' + y = 3e^{-t}$

Using Variation of Parameters:

$$y_1 = e^{-t} \quad y_2 = te^{-t} \quad g(t) = 3e^{-t} \quad W = e^{-2t}$$

so

$$u_1' = \frac{-3te^{-t}e^{-t}}{e^{-2t}} = -3t \Rightarrow u_1(t) = -\frac{3}{2}t^2$$

$$u_2' = \frac{e^{-t}3e^{-t}}{e^{-2t}} = 3 \Rightarrow u_2(t) = 3t$$

Therefore, the particular solution is $y_p = u_1y_1 + u_2y_2$:

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

Using the method of undetermined coefficients, we would have initially guessed that y_p was a constant times the exponential function, but we have to multiply by t^2 . Do that, and differentiate to substitute back into the ODE:

$$y_p = At^2e^{-t} \quad y_p' = A(2t - t^2)e^{-t} \quad y_p'' = A(2 - 4t + t^2)e^{-t}$$

We end up with $A = \frac{3}{2}$, which is what we had using Variation of Parameters.

2. Problem 5: $y'' + y = \tan(t)$

$$y_1 = \cos(t) \quad y_2 = \sin(t) \quad g(t) = \tan(t) \quad W = 1$$

Therefore, we get an integral that can be a bit tricky, but we can simplify the integrand first:

$$u_1' = -\sin(t)\tan(t) = -\frac{\sin^2(t)}{\cos(t)} = \frac{-1 + \cos^2(t)}{\cos(t)} = -\sec(t) + \cos(t)$$

so that $u_1 = -\ln|\sec(t) + \tan(t)| + \sin(t)$.

$$u_2' = \cos(t)\tan(t) \Rightarrow u_2 = \int \sin(t) dt = -\cos(t)$$

Therefore,

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

$$-\cos(t)\ln|\sec(t) + \tan(t)|$$

3. Problem 15: We won't verify that y_1, y_2 are solutions, but you should. Assuming that they are (remember to put the equation in standard form by dividing by t):

$$y_1 = 1 + t \quad y_2 = e^t \quad g(t) = te^{2t} \quad W = te^t$$

$$u_1' = \frac{-e^t te^{2t}}{te^t} = -e^{2t} \quad \Rightarrow \quad u_1(t) = -\frac{1}{2}e^{2t}$$

For u_2 , we'll integrate by parts:

$$u_2' = \frac{(1+t)te^{2t}}{te^t} = (1+t)e^t \quad \Rightarrow \quad u_2(t) = te^t$$

The particular solution is $u_1 y_1 + u_2 y_2$ which simplifies to

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

4. Problem 17 comes out nicely as well- Be sure to get standard form before going too far. Use $u = \ln(x)$ for the integrals.