

Assumed Knowledge Finding the roots of quadratic equations.

Euler's formula $e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$.

Objectives

- (11a) To be able to write down the auxiliary (characteristic) equation associated with a second-order differential equation with constant coefficients.
- (11b) To be able to construct the solutions to such differential equations in terms of real exponential and trigonometric functions.

Preparatory Questions

1. Write down the auxiliary (characteristic) equations for each the following second-order linear differential equations with constant coefficients, and find their roots:

(i) $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dt} - 8y = 0$

(ii) $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dt} - 4y = 0$

(iii) $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - 9y = 0$

(iv) $\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - 2\frac{dy}{dt} + 5y = 0$

(v) $\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} + 2\frac{dx}{dt} + x = 0$

Practice Questions

2. Find the particular solution of Preparatory Question 1 (i) with $y(0) = 0$ and $y'(0) = 3$.
3. Find the general solution of Preparatory Question 1 (ii).
4. Find the particular solution of Preparatory Question 1 (iii) which satisfies the initial conditions $y = 3$ and $\frac{dy}{dt} = 3$ when $t = 0$.
5. Find the general solution of Preparatory Question 1 (iv).
Express your answer in terms of real functions.
What is the particular solution satisfying $y(0) = 1$ and $y(\pi/4) = 2$?
6. Find the particular solution of Preparatory Question 1 (v) which satisfies the initial conditions $x(0) = 1$ and $x'(0) = 2$.

