

1. (a) Find the general solution for each of the following 2nd-order linear homogeneous DEs:

$$(i) \quad \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} - \frac{dy}{dt} - 6y = 0 \quad (ii) \quad \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + 16y = 0 \quad (iii) \quad \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + 6\frac{dy}{dt} + 13y = 0.$$

- (b) For each of these DEs, find the particular solution satisfying $y(0) = \dot{y}(0) = -1$.

2. Find the general solution of the differential equation

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

expressing your answer in terms of sine and cosine functions. Find the particular solution satisfying the boundary values $y(0) = 1$ and $y(\pi/4) = 2$. Is there a solution that satisfies the boundary values $y(0) = 1$ and $y(\pi) = 1$?

3. (From 1995 exam)

- (a) Classify each of the following DEs as separable or linear, and find its general solution:

$$(i) \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{2xy^2}{1+x^2} \quad (ii) \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = x + \frac{y}{x} \quad (iii) \quad (x^2 + 1)\frac{dy}{dx} + x = xy^2$$

- (b) Find the particular solution of (iii) for which $y = 0$ when $x = 1$.

- (c) Use the substitution $v = xw$ to find the general solution of the differential equation

$$2xv\frac{dv}{dx} = 3v^2 - 4x^2.$$

4. Solve the following differential equations by making suitable substitutions:

$$(a) \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y^3}{x(x^2 + y^2)} \quad (b) \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{x + y}$$
$$(c) \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x + y}{x + y + 2} \quad (d) \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{(x + 2y)^2 + 1}$$

5. Solve the following differential equations by the methods indicated:

(a) $3x\frac{dy}{dx} + y + x^2y^4 = 0$ (a Bernoulli equation, let $w = 1/y^3$).

(b) $\frac{dy}{dx} + xy^2 + 3/(4x^3) = 0$ (a Riccati equation, let $y = 1/(2x^2) + 1/w$).

(c) $x\frac{dy}{dx} - y = \frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^4$ (a Clairaut equation, differentiate both sides).

6. A tank A contains 100 litres of water in which 5 kilograms of salt has been dissolved. Fresh water enters it at a rate of 2 litres/minute and the resulting mixture, assumed uniform, flows at the same rate into a second tank B which initially contains 50 litres of fresh water. This mixture, also kept uniform, leaves B at the rate of 2 litres/minute. Find the amount of salt in tank B after 50 minutes.

1. Solve the following equations, giving the general solution and then the particular solution $y(x)$ satisfying the given boundary or initial conditions.

(a) $y'' + 4y' + 5y = 0, \quad y(0) = 2, \quad y'(0) = 4$

(b) $y'' - 2y' + y = 0, \quad y(2) = 0, \quad y'(2) = 1$

(c) $2y'' - 7y' + 5y = 0, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 1$

(d) $y'' + 4y' + 3y = 0, \quad y(-2) = 1, \quad y(2) = 1$

(e) $2y'' - 2y' + 5y = 0, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y(2) = 2$

(f) $y'' - 4y' + 4y = 0, \quad y(0) = -2, \quad y(1) = 0$

2. Classify the following DEs as separable or linear, and in each case find the general solution for y as an explicit function of x (from 1991/2/3/4 exams):

(a) $\frac{dy}{dx} = y^2 \sin x$

(b) $x \frac{dy}{dx} + (1-x)y = e^x$

(c) $(1+x^2) \frac{dy}{dx} + 4xy = 2x + 2xy^2$

(d) $y \frac{dy}{dx} = e^{-y^2} x \sin x$

(e) $x^3 \frac{dy}{dx} = -3x^2y + \cot x$

(f) $\frac{dy}{dx} + 2xy - e^{-x^2} \cot x = 0.$

(g) $e^{-x} \frac{dy}{dx} - xy^2 + 3xy = 2x$

(h) $\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{5-2y}{1+x^2}$

3. An archaeologist discovers a clay pot full of ashes in an ancient tomb. The ashes contain a radioactive isotope of radium, Ra^{226} , which decays into an isotope of lead, Pb^{210} . This lead isotope is itself radioactive, and also decays.

(i) Let $R(t)$ and $L(t)$ respectively denote the amounts of radium Ra^{226} and lead Pb^{210} present in the ashes at a time t years after the fire in which they were formed. Explain briefly why $R(t)$ and $L(t)$ should satisfy the differential equations

(a) $\frac{dR}{dt} = -\lambda R$

(b) $\frac{dL}{dt} = \lambda R - \mu L$

where λ and μ are the decay constants of Ra^{226} and Pb^{210} respectively.

(ii) Let R_0 denote the amount of radium Ra^{226} present in the ashes initially (i.e., immediately after the fire in which they were formed) and suppose it is believed that the ashes initially contained no lead. Solve (i)(a) to obtain an expression for $R(t)$. Then solve (i)(b) to obtain an expression for $L(t)$.

(iii) The half-life of Ra^{226} is 1590 years, while that of Pb^{210} is 22 years. Use this information to determine the values of the decay constants λ and μ .

(iv) The ashes are found to contain 90 atoms of Ra^{226} for every atom of Pb^{210} . Deduce the age of the ashes (still assuming that they initially contained no Pb^{210}).