

Problem.

Solve  $y'' + 3y' + 2y = e^{-x} + x$   
by the method of undetermined coefficients.

Solution:

$$y = y_h + y_p \quad (\text{Edwards-Penney P149})$$

$y_h =$  Solution of  $y'' + 3y' + 2y = 0$  part I  
below  
obtained from the "Recipe"  
(Edwards-Penney 5.2)

$y_p =$  trial solution via the method  
of undetermined coefficients  
with coefficients evaluated part II  
below  
(Edwards-Penney p 331)

part I Find  $y_h$

$$r^2 + 3r + 2 = 0$$

$$(r+2)(r+1) = 0$$

$$r = -2, r = -1$$

$$y_h = c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 e^{-2x}$$

The solution of the  
homogeneous DE.

Characteristic  
equation for  
 $y'' + 3y' + 2y = 0$

Recipe solution  
see p 138 E-P

part II Find  $y_p$ .

Determine Trial Solution

$$\text{Trial}_1 = k_1 + k_2 x$$

$$\text{Trial}_2 = C e^{-x}$$

A particular solution of  
the nonhomogeneous DE.

Trial solution for  
 $f_1(x) = x$ . See p 331 E-P.

trial solution for  
 $f_2(x) = e^{-x}$

undetermined coeff - 2 of 3

$$\text{Trial}_1 = k_1 + k_2 x$$

(not modified)

$$\text{Trial}_2 = c x e^{-x}$$

(modified)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Trial} &= \text{Trial}_1 + \text{Trial}_2 \\ &= k_1 + k_2 x + c x e^{-x} \end{aligned}$$

Determine coefficients  
 $k_1, k_2, c$

$$y = k_1 + k_2 x + c x e^{-x}$$

$$y' = 0 + k_2 + c e^{-x} - c x e^{-x}$$

$$y'' = 0 + 0 - 2c e^{-x} + c x e^{-x}$$

$$y'' + 3y' + 2y = e^{-x} + x$$

$$1(-2c e^{-x} + c x e^{-x})$$

$$+ 3(k_2 + c e^{-x} - c x e^{-x})$$

$$+ 2(k_1 + k_2 x + c x e^{-x})$$

$$= e^{-x} + x$$

Fixup rule 2 p 331

Trial<sub>1</sub> not of the form  
 $y_h = c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 e^{-2x}$

Fixup rule 2 p 331

Trial<sub>2</sub> =  $c e^{-x}$  was of  
the form  $c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 e^{-2x}$ ,  
so mult by  $x$ .

Sum rule (13) p 330

Let  $y =$  trial solution  
in the DE:

$$y'' + 3y' + 2y = e^{-x} + x$$

and find  $k_1, k_2, c$ .

Find  $y, y', y''$  formulas.

Given DE

substitute formulas  
into the DE

$$y'' + 3y' + 2y = e^{-x} + x$$

undetermined coeff - 3 of 3

$$(-2C + 3C)e^{-x} + (C - 3C + 2C)xe^{-x} + (3K_2 + 2K_1) + 2K_2x = e^{-x} + x$$

$$\begin{cases} -2C + 3C = 1 \\ C - 3C + 2C = 0 \\ 3K_2 + 2K_1 = 0 \\ 2K_2 = 1 \end{cases}$$

$$K_2 = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\begin{aligned} K_1 &= -\frac{3}{2}K_2 \\ &= -\frac{3}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \\ &= -\frac{3}{4} \end{aligned}$$

$$C = 1$$

Substitute answers  
into trial solution

$$\text{Trial} = K_1 + K_2x + Cxe^{-x}$$

$$y_p = -\frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{2}x + xe^{-x}$$

Apply General  
solution Theory

$$y = y_h + y_p$$

Final  
Answer

$$\longrightarrow y = c_1e^{-x} + c_2e^{-2x} - \frac{3}{4} + \frac{1}{2}x + xe^{-x}$$

Rearrange terms

Determine equations  
for  $K_1, K_2, C$  by  
matching terms on  
LHS and RHS

Solve for  $K_2$

Solve for  $K_1$

Solve for  $C$

Define  $y_p$

$$y = y_h + y_p$$

This answer was  
checked on scratch paper  
to be correct.