

4.5 Method of Undetermined Coefficients.

Give the smallest linear differential operator that annihilates the given function.

Method: Find the roots that correspond to each term. Then derive the appropriate characteristic equation to get these terms. This will be your annihilator once you replace the r 's with D 's.

1. $a(x) = 1 + 6x - 2x^3$
 $r=0$ multiplicity 4.

$$r^4 = 0$$

$$\text{So } D^4[a(x)] = 0.$$

2. $b(x) = 1 + 7e^{2x}$

$$1 \rightarrow r=0$$

$$7e^{2x} \rightarrow r=2.$$

So the characteristic eq to get these terms is $r(r-2)=0$

$$\Rightarrow D(D-2)[b(x)] = 0.$$

3. $c(x) = e^x \cos(2x) + 2e^{-2x} \sin(3x)$

$$e^x \cos(2x) \rightarrow r = -1 \pm 2i$$

$$(r-1)^2 = -4$$

$$(r-1)^2 + 4 = 0$$

$$2e^{-2x} \sin(3x) \rightarrow r = -2 \pm 3i$$

$$(r+2)^2 = -9$$

$$(r+2)^2 + 9 = 0$$

So the characteristic eq is $((r-1)^2 + 4)((r+2)^2 + 9) = 0$

$$\Rightarrow [(D-1)^2 + 4][(D+2)^2 + 9][c(x)] = 0$$

$$4. d(x) = 7x \cos(3x) + \cos(3x)$$

$$7x \cos(3x) \rightarrow r = \pm 3i, \pm 3i$$

$$\cos(3x) \rightarrow r = \pm 3i$$

So the characteristic eq to get these terms is

$$(r^2 + 9)^2 = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow (D^2 + 9)^2 [d(x)] = 0.$$

Note: $(D^2 + 9)^3$ will annihilate $d(x)$ since

$$\begin{aligned} (D^2 + 9)^3 [d(x)] &= (D^2 + 9)(D^2 + 9)^2 [d(x)] \\ &= (D^2 + 9)[0] \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

But we want the smallest annihilator that kills $d(x)$.

Otherwise, we'll end up with extra terms in y_p that will "zero" out on us once we plug y_p in the DE and match coefficients.

$$5. e(x) = x^2 + e^{-x} + e^{-x} \sin(4x).$$

$$x^2 \rightarrow r = 0 \text{ multiplicity of } 3.$$

$$e^{-x} \rightarrow r = -1$$

$$e^{-x} \sin(4x) \rightarrow r = -1 \pm 4i \Rightarrow (r+1)^2 + 16 = 0.$$

$$\text{Characteristic eq: } r^3(r+1)((r+1)^2 + 16) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow D^3(D+1)((D+1)^2 + 16)[e(x)] = 0.$$

When can we use Method of Undetermined Coefficients?

In the 2nd order case, we have $ay'' + by' + cy = g(x)$ st.

1. The DE is linear with constant coefficients on y 's.
2. Each term of $g(x)$ corresponds to something we can get from the characteristic eg $ar^2 + br + c = 0$.

$$r = 0 \text{ mult } n \Rightarrow c_1 + c_2 x + c_3 x^2 + \dots + c_n x^{n-1}$$

$$r = \alpha \text{ mult } n \Rightarrow c_1 e^{\alpha x} + c_2 x e^{\alpha x} + \dots + c_n x^{n-1} e^{\alpha x}$$

$$r = \alpha \pm \beta i \text{ mult } n \Rightarrow \begin{cases} a_1 e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x) + a_2 x e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x) + \dots + a_n x^{n-1} e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x) \\ b_1 e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x) + b_2 x e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x) + \dots + b_n x^{n-1} e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x). \end{cases}$$

(Incidentally, $g(x)$ will be continuous on any I since the functions above are continuous every where. Continuity of $g(x)$ will be important when we look at Variation of Parameters).

Solve the given DE using MUC.

6. $y'' - 2y' + y = x^3 + 4x$

First solve for $y'' - 2y' + y = 0$.

Now assume $y(x) = e^{rx}$ satisfies the eq.

$$y'(x) = r e^{rx}$$

$$y''(x) = r^2 e^{rx}$$

$$r^2 e^{rx} - 2r e^{rx} + e^{rx} = 0$$

$$e^{rx} (r^2 - 2r + 1) = 0$$

$$r^2 - 2r + 1 = 0 \quad \text{since } e^{rx} \neq 0$$

$$(r-1)^2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow r = 1, 1.$$

Then $y_1(x) = e^x$

$y_2(x) = xe^x$ using Reduction of Order (4.2).

So $y_h(x) = c_1 e^x + c_2 x e^x$

Now we look at $g(x) = x^3 + 4x$

$x^3 \rightarrow r = 0$ mult 4

$4x \rightarrow r = 0$ mult 2.

$\therefore$ the characteristic eq to get terms of $g(x)$ is $r^4 = 0$

So $D^4(x^3 + 4x) = 0$

Rewriting the original DE in differential operator notation, we have.

$$(D^2 - 2D + 1)y = x^3 + 4x.$$

Now applying the annihilator of $g(x)$ to both sides

$$D^4(D^2 - 2D + 1)y = D^4(x^3 + 4x) = 0$$

we have a 6th order linear homogeneous eq with constant coefficients.

In essence, what the annihilator allows us to do is move the roots associated with $g(x)$ to the LHS of the eq.

Again, assume $y(x) = e^{rx}$

Recall that the differential operator on y will factor the same way as the characteristic eq of the DE, we have

$$r^4(r^2 - 2r + 1) = r^4(r - 1)^2 = 0.$$

So the roots of this higher order DE are $r = 0$ mult 4

$r = 1$ mult 2.

Moving right to left, we have

$$y(x) = \underbrace{c_1 e^x + c_2 x e^x}_{y_h} + \underbrace{c_3 + c_4 x + c_5 x^2 + c_6 x^3}_{y_p}$$

Recall that y_p is a particular solution when y_p satisfies the RHS of the DE (ie $y_p'' - 2y_p' + y_p = x^3 + 4x$).

$\Rightarrow y_p$ has no parameters (ie we need to find the coefficients of y_p).

To find these coefficients, we will plug y_p into the DE and match coefficients to get c_3 through c_6 .

$$y_p(x) = A + Bx + Cx^2 + Ex^3$$

$$y_p'(x) = B + 2Cx + 3Ex^2$$

$$y_p''(x) = 2C + 6Ex$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{So } y_p'' - 2y_p' + y_p &= (E)x^3 + (-6E + C)x^2 + (6E - 4C + B)x + (2C - 2B + A) \\ &= x^3 + 0x^2 + 4x + 0 \end{aligned}$$

Matching coefficients, $E = 1$

$$-6E + C = 0 \quad \Rightarrow C = 6$$

$$6E - 4C + B = 4 \quad \Rightarrow B = 22$$

$$2C - 2B + A = 0 \quad \Rightarrow A = 32$$

$$\text{So } y_p(x) = 32 + 22x + 6x^2 + x^3$$

Now the general solution is

$$y(x) = c_1 e^x + c_2 x e^x + 32 + 22x + 6x^2 + x^3$$

Note: In order to find c_1, c_2 we must first have the general solution before we can use any given initial conditions.

$$\text{ie } \begin{cases} y(x_0) = a \\ y'(x_0) = b \end{cases} \text{ means } \begin{cases} (y_h + y_p)(x_0) = a \\ (y_h + y_p)'(x_0) = b \end{cases}$$

$$7. y''' - 3y'' + 3y' - y = e^x - x + 16.$$

First find $y_h(x)$

$$y''' - 3y'' + 3y' - y = 0$$

Assume $y(x) = e^{rx}$

$$y'(x) = re^{rx}$$

$$y''(x) = r^2 e^{rx}$$

$$y'''(x) = r^3 e^{rx}$$

$$r^3 e^{rx} - 3r^2 e^{rx} + 3r e^{rx} - e^{rx} = 0$$

$$e^{rx}(r^3 - 3r^2 + 3r - 1) = 0$$

$$r^3 - 3r^2 + 3r - 1 = 0$$

$$(r^3 - 1) - (3r^2 - 3r) = 0$$

$$(r-1)(r^2 + r + 1) - 3r(r-1) = 0$$

$$(r-1)(r^2 + r + 1 - 3r) = 0$$

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

$$(r-1)(r-1)^2 = 0$$

$$(r-1)^3 = 0$$

$$r = 1 \text{ mult } 3.$$

$$\text{So } y_h(x) = c_1 e^x + c_2 x e^x + c_3 x^2 e^x$$

Now find the annihilator the RHS $g(x) = e^x - x + 16$.

$$e^x \rightarrow r = 1$$

$$x \rightarrow r = 0 \text{ mult } 2.$$

$$16 \rightarrow r = 0$$

Characteristic Eq: $r^2(r-1) = 0$.

$$\text{So } D^2(D-1)[g(x)] = 0$$

$$(D^3 - 3D^2 + 3D - 1)y = e^x - x + 16$$

$$\Rightarrow D^2(D-1)(D^3 - 3D^2 + 3D - 1)y = D^2(D-1)[e^x - x + 16] = 0$$

$$D^2(D-1)(D-1)^3 y = 0$$

$$\text{Assume } y(x) = e^{rx}$$

$$\Rightarrow r^2(r-1)(r-1)^3 = 0$$

$$r=0 \text{ mult } 2$$

$$r=1 \text{ mult } 4$$

$$y(x) = \underbrace{c_1 e^x + c_2 x e^x + c_3 x^2 e^x}_{y_h} + \underbrace{c_4 x^3 e^x + c_5 + c_6 x}_{y_p}$$

$$y_p(x) = Ax^3 e^x + B + Cx$$

$$y_p'(x) = 3Ax^2 e^x + Ax^3 e^x + C$$

$$y_p''(x) = 6Ax e^x + 3Ax^2 e^x + 3Ax^2 e^x + Ax^3 e^x$$

$$= 6Ax e^x + 6Ax^2 e^x + Ax^3 e^x$$

$$y_p'''(x) = 6Ae^x + 6Ax e^x + 12Ax e^x + 6Ax^2 e^x + 3Ax^2 e^x + Ax^3 e^x$$

$$= 6Ae^x + 18Ax e^x + 9Ax^2 e^x + Ax^3 e^x$$

$$y_p''' - 3y_p'' + 3y_p' - y_p = (A - 3A + 3A - A)x^3 e^x + (9A - 18A + 9A)x^2 e^x$$

$$+ (18A - 18A)x e^x + (6A)e^x - Cx + (3C - B)$$

$$= 6Ae^x - Cx + (3C - B)$$

$$= e^x - x + 16.$$

$$\text{Matching coefficients: } 6A = 1 \Rightarrow A = \frac{1}{6}$$

$$-C = -1 \quad C = 1$$

$$3C - B = 16 \Rightarrow B = -13.$$

$$\text{So } y_p(x) = \frac{1}{6}x^3 e^x - 13 + x$$

$$\text{and } y(x) = y_h(x) + y_p(x)$$

$$= c_1 e^x + c_2 x e^x + c_3 x^2 e^x + \frac{1}{6}x^3 e^x + x - 13.$$

8. Solve the IVP $y'' + y = 8\cos(2x) - 4\sin(x)$ $\begin{cases} y(\frac{\pi}{2}) = -1 \\ y'(\frac{\pi}{2}) = 0 \end{cases}$

First solve $y_h(x)$.

$$y'' + y = 0$$

Assume $y(x) = e^{rx}$

$$y'(x) = re^{rx}$$

$$y''(x) = r^2 e^{rx}$$

$$r^2 + 1 = 0$$

$$r = \pm i$$

$$y_1(x) = \cos(x)$$

$$y_2(x) = \sin(x)$$

$$y_h(x) = c_1 \cos(x) + c_2 \sin(x)$$

$$g(x) = 8\cos(2x) - 4\sin(x)$$

$$8\cos(2x) \rightarrow r = \pm 2i$$

$$-4\sin(x) \rightarrow r = \pm i$$

$$\text{Characteristic Eq: } (r^2 + 1)(r^2 + 4) = 0$$

$$\text{Annihilator: } (D^2 + 1)(D^2 + 4)$$

$$(D^2 + 1)y = 8\cos(2x) - 4\sin(x)$$

$$\Rightarrow (D^2 + 1)(D^2 + 4)(D^2 + 1)y = (D^2 + 1)(D^2 + 4)[8\cos(2x) - 4\sin(x)] = 0$$

$\nearrow$ 6th order, linear, homogeneous, with constant coefficients

Assume $y(x) = e^{rx}$

$$\Rightarrow (r^2 + 1)(r^2 + 4)(r^2 + 1) = 0$$

Roots: $r = \pm i$ mult 2

$$r = \pm 2i$$

$$\text{So } y(x) = y_h + y_p \\ = \underbrace{c_1 \cos(x) + c_2 \sin(x)}_{y_h} + \underbrace{c_3 \cos(2x) + c_4 \sin(2x) + c_5 x \cos(x) + c_6 x \sin(x)}_{y_p}$$

$$\text{Now } y_p(x) = A \cos(2x) + B \sin(2x) + C x \cos(x) + E x \sin(x).$$

$$y_p'(x) = -2A \sin(2x) + 2B \cos(2x) + C \cos(x) - C x \sin(x) + E \sin(x) + E x \cos(x)$$

$$y_p''(x) = -4A \cos(2x) - 4B \sin(2x) - C \sin(x) - C \sin(x) - C x \cos(x)$$

$$+ E \cos(x) + E \cos(x) - E x \sin(x).$$

$$= -4A \cos(2x) - 4B \sin(2x) - 2C \sin(x) - C x \cos(x) + 2E \cos(x) - E x \sin(x).$$

$$y_p'' + y_p = (-C + C)x \cos(x) + (-E + E)x \sin(x) + 2E \cos(x) - 2C \sin(x)$$

$$+ (-4A + A) \cos(2x) + (-4B + B) \sin(2x)$$

$$= 2E \cos(x) - 2C \sin(x) - 3A \cos(2x) - 3B \sin(2x)$$

$$\text{Matching coefficients: } 2E = 0 \Rightarrow E = 0$$

$$-2C = -4 \Rightarrow C = 2$$

$$-3A = 8 \Rightarrow A = -\frac{8}{3}$$

$$-3B = 0 \Rightarrow B = 0$$

$$\text{So } y_p(x) = -\frac{8}{3} \cos(2x) + 2x \cos(x).$$

$$\text{Then } y(x) = y_h + y_p.$$

$$= c_1 \cos(x) + c_2 \sin(x) - \frac{8}{3} \cos(2x) + 2x \cos(x)$$

$$y\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = c_1(0) + c_2(1) - \frac{8}{3}(-1) + 2\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)(0) = -1$$

$$\Rightarrow c_2 + \frac{8}{3} = -1$$

$$\Rightarrow c_2 = -\frac{11}{3}$$

$$y(x) = c_1 \cos(x) - \frac{11}{3} \sin(x) - \frac{8}{3} \cos(2x) + 2x \cos(x)$$

$$y'(x) = -c_1 \sin(x) - \frac{11}{3} \cos(x) + \frac{16}{3} \sin(2x) + 2 \cos(x) - 2x \sin(x)$$

$$y'\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = -c_1(1) - 0 + 0 + 0 - 2\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)(1) = 0 \Rightarrow c_1 = -\pi.$$

$$\text{So } y(x) = -\pi \cos(x) - \frac{11}{3} \sin(x) - \frac{8}{3} \cos(2x) + 2x \cos(x)$$