PROBLEMS

In each of Problems 1 through 8, find the general solution of the given differential equation.

1. $y'' + 2y' - 3y = 0$
2. $y'' + 3y' + 2y = 0$
3. $6y'' - y' - y = 0$
4. $2y'' - 3y' + y = 0$
5. $y'' + 5y' = 0$
6. $4y'' - 9y = 0$
7. $y'' - 9y' + 9y = 0$
8. $y'' - 2y' - 2y = 0$

In each of Problems 9 through 16, find the solution of the given initial value problem. Sketch the graph of the solution and describe its behavior as t increases.

9. $y'' + y' - 2y = 0, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 1$
10. $y'' + 4y' + 3y = 0, \quad y(0) = 2, \quad y'(0) = -1$
11. $6y'' - 5y' + y = 0, \quad y(0) = 4, \quad y'(0) = 0$
12. $y'' + 3y' = 0, \quad y(0) = -2, \quad y'(0) = 3$
13. $y'' + 5y' + 3y = 0, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 0$
14. $2y'' + y' - 4y = 0, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y'(0) = 1$
15. $y'' + 8y' - 9y = 0, \quad y(1) = 1, \quad y'(1) = 0$
16. $4y'' - y = 0, \quad y(-2) = 1, \quad y'(-2) = -1$
17. Find a differential equation whose general solution is $y = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{-3t}$.
18. Find a differential equation whose general solution is $y = c_1 e^{-t/2} + c_2 e^{-2t}$.
19. Find the solution of the initial value problem

$$y'' - y = 0, \qquad y(0) = \tfrac{5}{4}, \quad y'(0) = -\tfrac{3}{4}.$$

Plot the solution for $0 \le t \le 2$ and determine its minimum value.

20. Find the solution of the initial value problem

$$2y'' - 3y' + y = 0, \qquad y(0) = 2, \quad y'(0) = \tfrac{1}{2}.$$

Then determine the maximum value of the solution and also find the point where the solution is zero.

21. Solve the initial value problem $y'' - y' - 2y = 0$, $y(0) = \alpha$, $y'(0) = 2$. Then find α so that the solution approaches zero as $t \to \infty$.
22. Solve the initial value problem $4y'' - y = 0$, $y(0) = 2$, $y'(0) = \beta$. Then find β so that the solution approaches zero as $t \to \infty$.

In each of Problems 23 and 24, determine the values of α, if any, for which all solutions tend to zero as $t \to \infty$; also determine the values of α, if any, for which all (nonzero) solutions become unbounded as $t \to \infty$.

23. $y'' - (2\alpha - 1)y' + \alpha(\alpha - 1)y = 0$
24. $y'' + (3 - \alpha)y' - 2(\alpha - 1)y = 0$
25. Consider the initial value problem

$$2y'' + 3y' - 2y = 0, \qquad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = -\beta,$$

where $\beta > 0$.

(a) Solve the initial value problem.

(b) Plot the solution when $\beta = 1$. Find the coordinates (t_0, y_0) of the minimum point of the solution in this case.

(c) Find the smallest value of β for which the solution has no minimum point.

without solving the differential equation. Further, since under the conditions of Theorem 3.2.7 the Wronskian W is either always zero or never zero, you can determine which case actually occurs by evaluating W at any single convenient value of t.

EXAMPLE 7

In Example 5 we verified that $y_1(t) = t^{1/2}$ and $y_2(t) = t^{-1}$ are solutions of the equation

$$2t^2y'' + 3ty' - y = 0, \qquad t > 0. \tag{29}$$

Verify that the Wronskian of y_1 and y_2 is given by Eq. (23).

From the example just cited we know that $W(y_1, y_2)(t) = -(3/2)t^{-3/2}$. To use Eq. (23), we must write the differential equation (29) in the standard form with the coefficient of y'' equal to 1. Thus we obtain

$$y'' + \frac{3}{2t}y' - \frac{1}{2t^2}y = 0,$$

so $p(t) = 3/2t$. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} W(y_1, y_2)(t) &= c\ \exp\left[-\int \frac{3}{2t}\,dt\right] = c\exp\left(-\frac{3}{2}\ln t\right) \\ &= c\,t^{-3/2}. \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

Equation (30) gives the Wronskian of any pair of solutions of Eq. (29). For the particular solutions given in this example, we must choose $c = -3/2$.

Summary. We can summarize the discussion in this section as follows: to find the general solution of the differential equation

$$y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0, \qquad \alpha < t < \beta,$$

we must first find two functions y_1 and y_2 that satisfy the differential equation in $\alpha < t < \beta$. Then we must make sure that there is a point in the interval where the Wronskian W of y_1 and y_2 is nonzero. Under these circumstances y_1 and y_2 form a fundamental set of solutions, and the general solution is

$$y = c_1y_1(t) + c_2y_2(t),$$

where c_1 and c_2 are arbitrary constants. If initial conditions are prescribed at a point in $\alpha < t < \beta$, then c_1 and c_2 can be chosen so as to satisfy these conditions.

PROBLEMS

In each of Problems 1 through 6, find the Wronskian of the given pair of functions.

1. $e^{2t}, \quad e^{-3t/2}$
2. $\cos t, \quad \sin t$
3. $e^{-2t}, \quad te^{-2t}$
4. $x, \quad xe^x$
5. $e^t \sin t, \quad e^t \cos t$
6. $\cos^2\theta, \quad 1 + \cos 2\theta$

In each of Problems 7 through 12, determine the longest interval in which the given initial value problem is certain to have a unique twice-differentiable solution. Do not attempt to find the solution.

7. $ty'' + 3y = t, \qquad y(1) = 1, \quad y'(1) = 2$
8. $(t-1)y'' - 3ty' + 4y = \sin t, \qquad y(-2) = 2, \quad y'(-2) = 1$
9. $t(t-4)y'' + 3ty' + 4y = 2, \qquad y(3) = 0, \quad y'(3) = -1$
10. $y'' + (\cos t)y' + 3(\ln|t|)y = 0, \qquad y(2) = 3, \quad y'(2) = 1$

11. $(x-3)y'' + xy' + (\ln|x|)y = 0, \quad y(1) = 0, \quad y'(1) = 1$
12. $(x-2)y'' + y' + (x-2)(\tan x)y = 0, \quad y(3) = 1, \quad y'(3) = 2$

13. Verify that $y_1(t) = t^2$ and $y_2(t) = t^{-1}$ are two solutions of the differential equation $t^2y'' - 2y = 0$ for $t > 0$. Then show that $y = c_1t^2 + c_2t^{-1}$ is also a solution of this equation for any c_1 and c_2.
14. Verify that $y_1(t) = 1$ and $y_2(t) = t^{1/2}$ are solutions of the differential equation $yy'' + (y')^2 = 0$ for $t > 0$. Then show that $y = c_1 + c_2t^{1/2}$ is not, in general, a solution of this equation. Explain why this result does not contradict Theorem 3.2.2.
15. Show that if $y = \phi(t)$ is a solution of the differential equation $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = g(t)$, where $g(t)$ is not always zero, then $y = c\phi(t)$, where c is any constant other than 1, is not a solution. Explain why this result does not contradict the remark following Theorem 3.2.2.
16. Can $y = \sin(t^2)$ be a solution on an interval containing $t = 0$ of an equation $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0$ with continuous coefficients? Explain your answer.
17. If the Wronskian W of f and g is $3e^{4t}$, and if $f(t) = e^{2t}$, find $g(t)$.
18. If the Wronskian W of f and g is t^2e^t, and if $f(t) = t$, find $g(t)$.
19. If $W(f, g)$ is the Wronskian of f and g, and if $u = 2f - g$, $v = f + 2g$, find the Wronskian $W(u, v)$ of u and v in terms of $W(f, g)$.
20. If the Wronskian of f and g is $t\cos t - \sin t$, and if $u = f + 3g$, $v = f - g$, find the Wronskian of u and v.
21. Assume that y_1 and y_2 are a fundamental set of solutions of $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0$ and let $y_3 = a_1y_1 + a_2y_2$ and $y_4 = b_1y_1 + b_2y_2$, where a_1, a_2, b_1, and b_2 are any constants. Show that

$$W(y_3, y_4) = (a_1b_2 - a_2b_1)W(y_1, y_2).$$

Are y_3 and y_4 also a fundamental set of solutions? Why or why not?

In each of Problems 22 and 23, find the fundamental set of solutions specified by Theorem 3.2.5 for the given differential equation and initial point.

22. $y'' + y' - 2y = 0, \quad t_0 = 0$
23. $y'' + 4y' + 3y = 0, \quad t_0 = 1$

In each of Problems 24 through 27, verify that the functions y_1 and y_2 are solutions of the given differential equation. Do they constitute a fundamental set of solutions?

24. $y'' + 4y = 0; \quad y_1(t) = \cos 2t, \quad y_2(t) = \sin 2t$
25. $y'' - 2y' + y = 0; \quad y_1(t) = e^t, \quad y_2(t) = te^t$
26. $x^2y'' - x(x+2)y' + (x+2)y = 0, \quad x > 0; \quad y_1(x) = x, \quad y_2(x) = xe^x$
27. $(1 - x\cot x)y'' - xy' + y = 0, \quad 0 < x < \pi; \quad y_1(x) = x, \quad y_2(x) = \sin x$

28. Consider the equation $y'' - y' - 2y = 0$.
    (a) Show that $y_1(t) = e^{-t}$ and $y_2(t) = e^{2t}$ form a fundamental set of solutions.
    (b) Let $y_3(t) = -2e^{2t}$, $y_4(t) = y_1(t) + 2y_2(t)$, and $y_5(t) = 2y_1(t) - 2y_3(t)$. Are $y_3(t)$, $y_4(t)$, and $y_5(t)$ also solutions of the given differential equation?
    (c) Determine whether each of the following pairs forms a fundamental set of solutions: $[y_1(t), y_3(t)]$; $[y_2(t), y_3(t)]$; $[y_1(t), y_4(t)]$; $[y_4(t), y_5(t)]$.

In each of Problems 29 through 32, find the Wronskian of two solutions of the given differential equation without solving the equation.

29. $t^2y'' - t(t+2)y' + (t+2)y = 0$
30. $(\cos t)y'' + (\sin t)y' - ty = 0$
31. $x^2y'' + xy' + (x^2 - \nu^2)y = 0$, Bessel's equation
32. $(1 - x^2)y'' - 2xy' + \alpha(\alpha+1)y = 0$, Legendre's equation

33. Show that if p is differentiable and $p(t) > 0$, then the Wronskian $W(t)$ of two solutions of $[p(t)y']' + q(t)y = 0$ is $W(t) = c/p(t)$, where c is a constant.
34. If the differential equation $ty'' + 2y' + te^t y = 0$ has y_1 and y_2 as a fundamental set of solutions and if $W(y_1, y_2)(1) = 2$, find the value of $W(y_1, y_2)(5)$.
35. If the differential equation $t^2y'' - 2y' + (3 + t)y = 0$ has y_1 and y_2 as a fundamental set of solutions and if $W(y_1, y_2)(2) = 3$, find the value of $W(y_1, y_2)(4)$.
36. If the Wronskian of any two solutions of $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0$ is constant, what does this imply about the coefficients p and q?
37. If f, g, and h are differentiable functions, show that $W(fg, fh) = f^2W(g, h)$.

In Problems 38 through 40, assume that p and q are continuous and that the functions y_1 and y_2 are solutions of the differential equation $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0$ on an open interval I.

38. Prove that if y_1 and y_2 are zero at the same point in I, then they cannot be a fundamental set of solutions on that interval.
39. Prove that if y_1 and y_2 have maxima or minima at the same point in I, then they cannot be a fundamental set of solutions on that interval.
40. Prove that if y_1 and y_2 have a common point of inflection t_0 in I, then they cannot be a fundamental set of solutions on I unless both p and q are zero at t_0.

41. **Exact Equations.** The equation

$$P(x)y'' + Q(x)y' + R(x)y = 0$$

is said to be exact if it can be written in the form

$$[P(x)y']' + [f(x)y]' = 0,$$

where $f(x)$ is to be determined in terms of $P(x)$, $Q(x)$, and $R(x)$. The latter equation can be integrated once immediately, resulting in a first order linear equation for y that can be solved as in Section 2.1. By equating the coefficients of the preceding equations and then eliminating $f(x)$, show that a necessary condition for exactness is

$$P''(x) - Q'(x) + R(x) = 0.$$

It can be shown that this is also a sufficient condition.

In each of Problems 42 through 45, use the result of Problem 41 to determine whether the given equation is exact. If it is, then solve the equation.

42. $y'' + xy' + y = 0$
43. $y'' + 3x^2y' + xy = 0$
44. $xy'' - (\cos x)y' + (\sin x)y = 0, \quad x > 0$
45. $x^2y'' + xy' - y = 0, \quad x > 0$

46. **The Adjoint Equation.** If a second order linear homogeneous equation is not exact, it can be made exact by multiplying by an appropriate integrating factor $\mu(x)$. Thus we require that $\mu(x)$ be such that

$$\mu(x)P(x)y'' + \mu(x)Q(x)y' + \mu(x)R(x)y = 0$$

can be written in the form

$$[\mu(x)P(x)y']' + [f(x)y]' = 0.$$

By equating coefficients in these two equations and eliminating $f(x)$, show that the function μ must satisfy

$$P\mu'' + (2P' - Q)\mu' + (P'' - Q' + R)\mu = 0.$$

note that if the real part of the roots is zero, as in this example, then there is no exponential factor in the solution. Figure 3.3.3 shows the graph of two typical solutions of Eq. (28). In each case the solution is a pure oscillation whose amplitude is determined by the initial conditions. Since there is no exponential factor in the solution (29), the amplitude of each oscillation remains constant in time.

PROBLEMS

In each of Problems 1 through 6, use Euler's formula to write the given expression in the form $a + ib$.

1. $\exp(1 + 2i)$
2. $\exp(2 - 3i)$
3. $e^{i\pi}$
4. $e^{2-(\pi/2)i}$
5. 2^{1-i}
6. π^{-1+2i}

In each of Problems 7 through 16, find the general solution of the given differential equation.

7. $y'' - 2y' + 2y = 0$
8. $y'' - 2y' + 6y = 0$
9. $y'' + 2y' - 8y = 0$
10. $y'' + 2y' + 2y = 0$
11. $y'' + 6y' + 13y = 0$
12. $4y'' + 9y = 0$
13. $y'' + 2y' + 1.25y = 0$
14. $9y'' + 9y' - 4y = 0$
15. $y'' + y' + 1.25y = 0$
16. $y'' + 4y' + 6.25y = 0$

In each of Problems 17 through 22, find the solution of the given initial value problem. Sketch the graph of the solution and describe its behavior for increasing t.

17. $y'' + 4y = 0, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y'(0) = 1$
18. $y'' + 4y' + 5y = 0, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 0$
19. $y'' - 2y' + 5y = 0, \quad y(\pi/2) = 0, \quad y'(\pi/2) = 2$
20. $y'' + y = 0, \quad y(\pi/3) = 2, \quad y'(\pi/3) = -4$
21. $y'' + y' + 1.25y = 0, \quad y(0) = 3, \quad y'(0) = 1$
22. $y'' + 2y' + 2y = 0, \quad y(\pi/4) = 2, \quad y'(\pi/4) = -2$
23. Consider the initial value problem

$$3u'' - u' + 2u = 0, \qquad u(0) = 2, \quad u'(0) = 0.$$

   (a) Find the solution $u(t)$ of this problem.
   (b) For $t > 0$, find the first time at which $|u(t)| = 10$.
24. Consider the initial value problem

$$5u'' + 2u' + 7u = 0, \qquad u(0) = 2, \quad u'(0) = 1.$$

   (a) Find the solution $u(t)$ of this problem.
   (b) Find the smallest T such that $|u(t)| \leq 0.1$ for all $t > T$.
25. Consider the initial value problem

$$y'' + 2y' + 6y = 0, \qquad y(0) = 2, \quad y'(0) = \alpha \geq 0.$$

   (a) Find the solution $y(t)$ of this problem.
   (b) Find α such that $y = 0$ when $t = 1$.
   (c) Find, as a function of α, the smallest positive value of t for which $y = 0$.
   (d) Determine the limit of the expression found in part (c) as $\alpha \to \infty$.

26. Consider the initial value problem

$$y'' + 2ay' + (a^2 + 1)y = 0, \qquad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = 0.$$

(a) Find the solution $y(t)$ of this problem.
(b) For $a = 1$ find the smallest T such that $|y(t)| < 0.1$ for $t > T$.
(c) Repeat part (b) for $a = 1/4, 1/2$, and 2.
(d) Using the results of parts (b) and (c), plot T versus a and describe the relation between T and a.

27. Show that $W(e^{\lambda t}\cos\mu t, e^{\lambda t}\sin\mu t) = \mu e^{2\lambda t}$.

28. In this problem we outline a different derivation of Euler's formula.
(a) Show that $y_1(t) = \cos t$ and $y_2(t) = \sin t$ are a fundamental set of solutions of $y'' + y = 0$; that is, show that they are solutions and that their Wronskian is not zero.
(b) Show (formally) that $y = e^{it}$ is also a solution of $y'' + y = 0$. Therefore,

$$e^{it} = c_1 \cos t + c_2 \sin t \qquad \text{(i)}$$

for some constants c_1 and c_2. Why is this so?
(c) Set $t = 0$ in Eq. (i) to show that $c_1 = 1$.
(d) Assuming that Eq. (14) is true, differentiate Eq. (i) and then set $t = 0$ to conclude that $c_2 = i$. Use the values of c_1 and c_2 in Eq. (i) to arrive at Euler's formula.

29. Using Euler's formula, show that

$$\cos t = (e^{it} + e^{-it})/2, \qquad \sin t = (e^{it} - e^{-it})/2i.$$

30. If e^{rt} is given by Eq. (13), show that $e^{(r_1+r_2)t} = e^{r_1 t}e^{r_2 t}$ for any complex numbers r_1 and r_2.

31. If e^{rt} is given by Eq. (13), show that

$$\frac{d}{dt}e^{rt} = re^{rt}$$

for any complex number r.

32. Consider the differential equation

$$ay'' + by' + cy = 0,$$

where $b^2 - 4ac < 0$ and the characteristic equation has complex roots $\lambda \pm i\mu$. Substitute the functions

$$u(t) = e^{\lambda t}\cos\mu t \quad \text{and} \quad v(t) = e^{\lambda t}\sin\mu t$$

for y in the differential equation and thereby confirm that they are solutions.

33. If the functions y_1 and y_2 are a fundamental set of solutions of $y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0$, show that between consecutive zeros of y_1 there is one and only one zero of y_2. Note that this result is illustrated by the solutions $y_1(t) = \cos t$ and $y_2(t) = \sin t$ of the equation $y'' + y = 0$.
Hint: Suppose that t_1 and t_2 are two zeros of y_1 between which there are no zeros of y_2. Apply Rolle's theorem to y_1/y_2 to reach a contradiction.

Change of Variables. Sometimes a differential equation with variable coefficients,

$$y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = 0, \qquad \text{(i)}$$

can be put in a more suitable form for finding a solution by making a change of the independent variable. We explore these ideas in Problems 34 through 46. In particular, in Problem 34 we show that a class of equations known as Euler equations can be transformed into equations with constant coefficients by a simple change of the independent variable. Problems 35 through

42 are examples of this type of equation. Problem 43 determines conditions under which the more general Eq. (i) can be transformed into a differential equation with constant coefficients. Problems 44 through 46 give specific applications of this procedure.

34. **Euler Equations.** An equation of the form

$$t^2\frac{d^2y}{dt^2}+\alpha t\frac{dy}{dt}+\beta y=0, \qquad t>0, \tag{ii}$$

where α and β are real constants, is called an Euler equation.

(a) Let $x=\ln t$ and calculate dy/dt and d^2y/dt^2 in terms of dy/dx and d^2y/dx^2.

(b) Use the results of part (a) to transform Eq. (ii) into

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}+(\alpha-1)\frac{dy}{dx}+\beta y=0. \tag{iii}$$

Observe that Eq. (iii) has constant coefficients. If $y_1(x)$ and $y_2(x)$ form a fundamental set of solutions of Eq. (iii), then $y_1(\ln t)$ and $y_2(\ln t)$ form a fundamental set of solutions of Eq. (ii).

In each of Problems 35 through 42, use the method of Problem 34 to solve the given equation for $t>0$.

35. $t^2y''+ty'+y=0$
36. $t^2y''+4ty'+2y=0$
37. $t^2y''+3ty'+1.25y=0$
38. $t^2y''-4ty'-6y=0$
39. $t^2y''-4ty'+6y=0$
40. $t^2y''-ty'+5y=0$
41. $t^2y''+3ty'-3y=0$
42. $t^2y''+7ty'+10y=0$

43. In this problem we determine conditions on p and q that enable Eq. (i) to be transformed into an equation with constant coefficients by a change of the independent variable. Let $x=u(t)$ be the new independent variable, with the relation between x and t to be specified later.

(a) Show that

$$\frac{dy}{dt}=\frac{dx}{dt}\frac{dy}{dx}, \qquad \frac{d^2y}{dt^2}=\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}+\frac{d^2x}{dt^2}\frac{dy}{dx}.$$

(b) Show that the differential equation (i) becomes

$$\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2\frac{d^2y}{dx^2}+\left(\frac{d^2x}{dt^2}+p(t)\frac{dx}{dt}\right)\frac{dy}{dx}+q(t)y=0. \tag{iv}$$

(c) In order for Eq. (iv) to have constant coefficients, the coefficients of d^2y/dx^2 and of y must be proportional. If $q(t)>0$, then we can choose the constant of proportionality to be 1; hence

$$x=u(t)=\int[q(t)]^{1/2}\,dt. \tag{v}$$

(d) With x chosen as in part (c), show that the coefficient of dy/dx in Eq. (iv) is also a constant, provided that the expression

$$\frac{q'(t)+2p(t)q(t)}{2[q(t)]^{3/2}} \tag{vi}$$

is a constant. Thus Eq. (i) can be transformed into an equation with constant coefficients by a change of the independent variable, provided that the function $(q'+2pq)/q^{3/2}$ is a constant. How must this result be modified if $q(t)<0$?