

EMCF03b

1. Give the solution to  $y' = 2y$ ,  $y(0) = -3$ .

a.  $2e^{-3t}$

b.  $-2e^{-3t}$

c.  $-3e^{2t}$

d.  $3e^{-2t}$

e. None of these.

$$y = Ce^{2t} \rightarrow -3 = Ce^{2 \cdot 0} = C$$

$$\Rightarrow y = -3e^{2t}$$

### Linear Second-Order Differential Equations

$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = f(x)$

*coefficients* (green) points to  $p(x)$  and  $q(x)$ .  
*forcing term* (purple) points to  $f(x)$ .  
 $y$  is unknown- (red)  
 $p(x), q(x), f(x)$  are known. (blue)

**Related Terminology:** coefficients, forcing term, homogeneous (reduced) equation, nonhomogeneous equation.

$\hookrightarrow f(x) \neq 0$

$\hookrightarrow f(x) = 0$

\* We will see that the homogeneous differential equation is the key to solving the nonhomogeneous differential equation. \*

Ex. 1.  $y'' + xy' - e^{-2x}y = 0$

is homogeneous

2.  $y'' + xy' - e^{-2x}y = \cos(x)$

is nonhomogeneous.

**Question:** Why is

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = f(x)$$

called a linear second order differential equation?

obvious

b/c it's  
a 2<sup>nd</sup>  
order ODE

Duh

??

See next page.

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = f(x)$$

ODE

Differential operator



$$L[y] = y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y$$

function that takes in functions, and spits out functions.

Properties: If  $u$  and  $v$  are twice differentiable functions and  $\alpha$  is a scalar, then

$$\begin{cases} \text{(i): } L[u+v] = L[u] + L[v] \\ \text{(ii): } L[\alpha u] = \alpha L[u] \end{cases}$$

These properties make it possible to solve these differential equations.

$L$  is a linear transformation.

why?  $L[u+v] = (u+v)'' + p(x)(u+v)' + q(x)(u+v)$

$$= \underline{u''} + \underline{v''} + \underline{p(x)u'} + \underline{p(x)v'} + \underline{q(x)u} + \underline{q(x)v}$$

$$= L[u] + L[v]$$

You should verify (ii).

Ex. Spse  $L[y] = y'' + \sin(x)y' - 3y$

Then  $L[e^{-x}] = e^{-x} + \sin(x)(-e^{-x}) - 3e^{-x}$

$$\frac{d}{dx} e^{-x} = -e^{-x}$$

$$= e^{-x} (1 - \sin(x) - 3)$$


$$\frac{d^2}{dx^2} e^{-x} = e^{-x}$$

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

**Remark:** The homogeneous and nonhomogeneous equations are linked in an important way.

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = f(x) \quad (\text{NH})$$

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \quad (\text{H})$$

 **Namely, if you can solve the homogeneous equation, then you can solve the nonhomogeneous equation.**

**Fact:** (NH) and (H) have infinitely many solutions.



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2. There is only one solution to  $y'' - 2e^{-x}y' + \frac{3}{x}y = \cos(x)$ .

a. True

b. False

No .

There are infinitely many.

### Second Order Linear Initial Value Problem

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = f(x)$$

initial  
data

$$\begin{cases} y(x_0) = b \\ y'(x_0) = m \end{cases}$$

**Fact:** A second order linear initial value problem  
has exactly one solution.



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3. There are at least two solutions to

$$y'' - 2e^{-x}y' + \frac{3}{x}y = \cos(x), y(1) = 2, y'(1) = 0.$$

a. True

b. False

NO.  
There is exactly  
one sol'n.

## General Solutions to Linear Second Order Differential Equations

$$\overbrace{y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y}^{L[y]} = \underline{f(x)} \quad (\text{NH})$$

The general solution to the nonhomogeneous differential equation is

$$y = \underbrace{c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2}_{\text{general sol'n of the reduced DE}} + \underbrace{z}_{\text{any particular sol'n of the nonhomog. DE}}$$

↗ Homogeneous  $y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \quad (\text{H})$

**Term:** Particular solution.

**Question:** Why does the solution break up this way?

b/c If  $u$  and  $v$  both solve (NH) then

$$\begin{aligned} L[u-v] &= L[u + (-1)v] \\ &= L[u] + L[(-1)v] \\ &= L[u] - L[v] \\ &= f(x) - f(x) \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

ie.  $u-v$  solves (H).

$$\therefore u = (\text{sol'n to (H)}) + v.$$

**General Solutions and Fundamental Sets of Solutions to Homogeneous Second-Order Differential Equations**

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \quad (H)$$

The set  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  is a fundamental set of solutions to (H) provided

$y_1$  and  $y_2$  both solve (H)

and

$y_1$  and  $y_2$  are not constant multiples of each other.

The general solution to (H) is given by  $y = c_1y_1 + c_2y_2$  provided

$\{y_1, y_2\}$  is a fundamental set of sol'ns to H.

**Terms:** Linear independence, Wronskian, fundamental matrix.

**Fact:** 2 functions are linearly independent on an interval if and only if the Wronskian is nonzero on the interval.

ex.  $\cos(x)$  and  $\sin(x)$  are linearly independent

b/c  $\cos(x) \neq k\sin(x)$   
and  $\sin(x) \neq \tilde{k}\cos(x)$ .

ex.  $\cos(x)$  and  $0$  are linearly dependent

b/c  $0 = 0 \cdot \cos(x)$  -  
i.e. The zero function is a constant multiple of  $\cos(x)$ .

Fundamental matrix associated with 2 solutions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  of

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$$

is  $\begin{pmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{pmatrix}$  ←  $2 \times 2$ .

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} = 2 \cdot 3 - (-1) \cdot 1 = 7$$

If  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are any 2 functions then the Wronskian of  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  is

$$W[y_1, y_2] = y_1 y_2' - y_1' y_2$$

Note:  $W[y_1, y_2] \neq W[y_2, y_1]$

$$\begin{matrix} // & // \\ y_1 y_2' - y_1' y_2 & y_2 y_1' - y_2' y_1 \end{matrix}$$

These are negatives of each other.

i.e.  $W[y_1, y_2] = -W[y_2, y_1]$

Note: If  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  is a  
fundamental set of sol's to

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \quad (H)$$

then the general sol'n to (H)  
is

$$C_1 y_1 + C_2 y_2$$

where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are arbitrary  
constants.

$$\underline{\text{Ex.}} \quad W[e^x, \sin(x)]$$

$$= e^x \cos(x) - e^x \sin(x)$$

$$W[e^{2x}, e^{-3x}] = e^{2x} \cdot (-3e^{-3x}) - (2e^{2x})e^{-3x}$$

$$= -5e^{2x} e^{-3x}$$

$$= -5e^{-x}$$

Special Case:  $y'' + ay' + by = 0$ . constant coef. 2<sup>nd</sup> order

Illustrative Example:

Give the general solution to  $y'' - 4y = 0$ .

linear homogeneous diff. eq.  
special case  
 $a=0$   $b=-4$

1. Need 2 L.I. sol'n's.

are these L.I.?  
 $e^{2x}$  is a sol'n.  
 $e^{-2x}$  is a sol'n

yes.  
 $W[e^{2x}, e^{-2x}] = e^{2x}(-2e^{-2x}) - 2e^{2x}e^{-2x}$

$$= -4 \neq 0$$

$\Rightarrow e^{2x}$  and  $e^{-2x}$  are L.I.  
 $\therefore \{e^{2x}, e^{-2x}\}$  is a fundamental set of sol'n's.

2.  $\therefore$  the general sol'n to

$$y'' - 4y = 0$$

is  $C_1 e^{2x} + C_2 e^{-2x}$

where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are arbitrary constants.



Give the solution to  $y'' - 4y = 0$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y'(0) = 2$ .

Initial value Problem

note: The general sol'n to  $y'' - 4y = 0$   
is  $y = c_1 e^{2x} + c_2 e^{-2x}$ .

Use the initial data to "pin down"  
 $c_1$  and  $c_2$ .

$y(0) = 1$  :  $1 = c_1 e^0 + c_2 e^0$

i.e.  $1 = c_1 + c_2$

$y'(0) = 2$  :  $y' = 2c_1 e^{2x} - 2c_2 e^{-2x}$  →  $2 = 2c_1 e^0 - 2c_2 e^0$

i.e.  $1 = c_1 - c_2$

Subtract :  $0 = 2c_2 \Rightarrow c_2 = 0$

Add :  $2 = 2c_1 \Rightarrow c_1 = 1$

∴  $y = e^{2x}$

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4. Give the solution to  $y'' - 4y = 0, y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 2$   
at  $x = 1$ .

a.  $e^{-2}$

b.  $e^2$

c.  $e$

d.  $e^{-1}$

e. None of these.

$$y = e^{2x}$$



**Special Case:**  $y'' + ay' + by = 0$ .

Another Illustrative Example:

Give the solution to  $y'' + y = 0$

i.e., give the general sol'n.

We need 2 L.I. sol'ns.

Note:  $\cos(x)$  solves  
 $\sin(x)$  solves.

Q: Are these L.I.?

A:  $W[\cos(x), \sin(x)] = \cos(x) \cdot \cos'(x) - (-\sin(x)) \sin'(x)$   
 $= \cos^2(x) + \sin^2(x)$   
 $= 1 \neq 0$

$\therefore \cos(x), \sin(x)$  are L.I.

$\Rightarrow \{\cos(x), \sin(x)\}$  is a fundamental set of solutions to  $y'' + y = 0$ .

$\therefore$  The general sol'n is

$$C_1 \cos(x) + C_2 \sin(x).$$

Give the solution to  $y'' + y = 0$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y'(0) = 2$ .

IVP

The general sol'n to  $y'' + y = 0$  is

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

now use the initial data.

$$\underline{y(0) = 1} :$$

$$1 = c_1 \cos(0) + c_2 \sin(0) = c_1$$

i.e.  $c_1 = 1$ .

$$y'(0) = 2 :$$

$$2 = -c_1 \sin(0) + c_2 \cos(0)$$
$$= c_2$$

$$y' = -c_1 \sin(x) + c_2 \cos(x)$$

i.e.  $c_2 = 2$

$\Rightarrow$

$$y = \cos(x) + 2 \sin(x).$$

**Special Case:**  $y'' + ay' + by = 0$ .

$a$  and  $b$   
are real #s

Solution Process: In general.

1. Find the roots of  $\underline{r^2 + ar + b}$ .

the characterist polynomial

2. 3 cases

(i) 2 distinct real roots  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$

Then  $\{e^{\lambda_1 x}, e^{\lambda_2 x}\}$  is a  
fundamental set. So the  
general sol'n is

$$c_1 e^{\lambda_1 x} + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 x}$$

(ii) 1 repeated real root  $\lambda_1$ .

i.e.  $r^2 + ar + b = (r - \lambda_1)^2$

Then  $\{e^{\lambda_1 x}, x e^{\lambda_1 x}\}$  is a  
fundamental set. So the

general sol'n is

$$c_1 e^{\lambda_1 x} + c_2 x e^{\lambda_1 x}$$

(iii) We have complex roots  
 $\mu + i\omega$  and  $\mu - i\omega$   
where  $\mu$  and  $\omega$  are real  
numbers and  $\omega \neq 0$ . Then  
 $\{e^{\mu x} \cos(\omega x), e^{\mu x} \sin(\omega x)\}$  is  
a fundamental set. So the  
general sol'n is  
 $c_1 e^{\mu x} \cos(\omega x) + c_2 e^{\mu x} \sin(\omega x)$ .

Give a fundamental set of solutions to  $y''+3y'-4y=0$ ,  
and then give the general solution to this differential  
equation.

Characteristic polynomial:

$$r^2 + 3r - 4$$

Roots: solve  $r^2 + 3r - 4 = 0$

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

$$r = -4, r = 1$$

← 2 distinct  
real roots

∴  $\{e^{-4x}, e^x\}$  is a fundamental set.

Also, the general sol'n is

$$c_1 e^{-4x} + c_2 e^x.$$

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5. The solution to  $y'' + 5y' + 6y = 0$ ,  $y(0) = 1$ ,  $y'(0) = -1$  has the form  $y = c_1 e^{-2x} + c_2 e^{-3x}$ . Give the value of  $c_1$ .

- a. -2
- b. -1
- c. 0
- d. 1
- e. 2
- f. None of these.

$$r^2 + 5r + 6 = 0$$
$$(r+2)(r+3) = 0 \quad r = -2, r = -3$$

$$y = c_1 e^{-2x} + c_2 e^{-3x}$$

$$y(0) = 1$$

$$1 = c_1 + c_2$$

$$y'(0) = -1$$

$$y' = -2c_1 e^{-2x} - 3c_2 e^{-3x}$$

$$-1 = -2c_1 - 3c_2$$

3(First eq.) + (second eq.)

$$2 = c_1$$

the general sol'n to  $y'' + 5y' + 6y = 0$ .



Give the general solution to  $y'' - 2y' + 4y = 0$ .

Solve

$$r^2 - 2r + 4 = 0$$

$$r = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{4 - 16}}{2}$$

$$= \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{-12}}{2} = 1 \pm \frac{2\sqrt{-3}}{2}$$

$$= 1 \pm \sqrt{-3} = 1 \pm \sqrt{3}i$$

$$i = \sqrt{-1}$$

i.e.  $1 + \sqrt{3}i$  and  $1 - \sqrt{3}i$

Complex roots!

$$\therefore \left\{ e^x \cos(\sqrt{3}x), e^x \sin(\sqrt{3}x) \right\}$$

is a fundamental set.

$\Rightarrow$  the general sol'n is

$$c_1 e^x \cos(\sqrt{3}x) + c_2 e^x \sin(\sqrt{3}x).$$

Give the general solution to  $y'' - 2y' + y = 0$ .

Solve  $r^2 - 2r + 1 = 0$ .

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

$\Rightarrow r=1$  is a repeated real root.

$\therefore \{e^x, xe^x\}$  is a

fundamental set.

$\Rightarrow$  the general sol'n is

$$\underline{\underline{c_1 e^x + c_2 x e^x}}$$



Back to the general case...

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0.$$

The Wronskian

Definition: (recall)

$$W[y_1, y_2] = y_1 y_2' - y_1' y_2$$

Special case - when  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  solve

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \quad (H)$$

$$W[y_1, y_2] = C e^{-\int p(x) dx} \quad \text{ALWAYS!!}$$
  
$$\text{AMAZING!!}$$

Why?  $(W[y_1, y_2])' = (y_1 y_2' - y_1' y_2)'$

$$= (y_1 y_2')' - (y_1' y_2)'$$

$$= y_1 y_2'' + \underline{y_1' y_2'} - (\underline{y_1' y_2'} + y_1'' y_2)$$

$$= \underline{y_1 y_2''} - \underline{y_1'' y_2}$$

Recall  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  solve

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \quad (H)$$
$$y_1'' = -p(x)y_1' - q(x)y_1$$
$$y_2'' = -p(x)y_2' - q(x)y_2$$

$$\rightarrow = \underline{y_1 (-p(x)y_2' - q(x)y_2)} - (-p(x)y_1' - q(x)y_1) \underline{y_2}$$

$$(W[y_1, y_2])' = -p(x) (y_1 y_2' - y_1' y_2)$$

$$= -p(x) W[y_1, y_2]$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{W[y_1, y_2] = C e^{-\int p(x) dx}}$$

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6.  $W[e^{-x}, e^{2x}] = e^{-x} \cdot 2e^{2x} - (-e^{-x})e^{2x}$

a.  $3e^x$

b.  $-3e^x$

c.  $2e^{-x}$

d.  $-2e^{-x}$

e. None of these.

$= 3e^{-x}e^{2x}$

$= 3e^x$

### Summarizing the Wronskian Information

#### Theorem

Suppose that  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are solutions of  $y'' + py' + qy = 0$ , and let  $W = W[y_1, y_2]$ . Then:

- i.  $W' = -pW$
- ii.  $W = Ce^{-\int p(x)dx}$
- iii.  $W(x) \neq 0$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{I}$  when  $y_1, y_2$  are linearly independent;  
 $W(x) = 0$  for all  $x \in \mathcal{I}$  when  $y_1, y_2$  are linearly dependent.

Give the general form of the Wronskian of any pair  
of solutions to  $y'' + xy' - \frac{3}{x}y = 0$ .

$$p(x) = x$$

$$-\int x dx$$

$$W[y_1, y_2] = Ce$$

$$= Ce^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2}.$$

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7. Give the general form of the Wronskian for any pair of solutions to  $y'' + 2y' - 3\cos(x)y = 0$ .

a.  $Ce^{2x}$

b.  $Ce^{-2x}$

c.  $Ce^{-3\sin(x)}$

d.  $Ce^{3\sin(x)}$

e. None of these.

$$p(x) = 2$$

$$W[y_1, y_2] = Ce^{-\int 2 dx}$$
$$= Ce^{-2x}$$

It can be very difficult to find a fundamental set of solutions to

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \quad (H)$$

when  $p$  and  $q$  are not constants.

**However, sometimes** one nontrivial solution can be found. When this is the case, a fundamental set can be obtained by using a process called

**Reduction of Order**

*i.e.  $y$  is not the zero function*

How? Spec  $y_1$  is a nontrivial sol'n

to  $y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$

We can find a second L.I. sol'n as follows:

Solve  $W[y_1, y_2] = Ce^{-\int p(x) dx}$   
 for our favorite choice of  $C$ .  
*i.e.  $C = 1$ .*

i.e. we solve  $\underline{y_1 y_2' - y_1' y_2} = \underline{e^{-\int p(x) dx}}$

Known

⇒ Solve this first order ode to get  $y_2$ .

**Reduction of Order** - Used to find a second linearly independent solution to a homogeneous linear second-order differential equation from a given nontrivial solution.

**Idea:** Suppose  $y_1$  is a nontrivial solution to

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0 \quad (\text{H})$$

and we want to find another nontrivial solution so that  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  is a fundamental set of solutions.

**Process:**

See last page.

The differential equation  $y'' + 2y' + y = 0$  has linearly independent solutions  $e^{-x}$  and  $xe^{-x}$ . Pretend you only know that  $e^{-x}$  is a solution, and use reduction of order to find a second linearly independent solution.

(Note: Two more examples of reduction of order are given in a posted video.)

Solve  $\rho(x) = 2$   $-\int 2 dx$

$$W[e^{-x}, y_2] = e^{-2x}$$

$$e^{-x} y_2' - (-e^{-x}) y_2 = e^{-2x}$$

$$y_2' + y_2 = e^{-x}$$

First order linear ode. Get any nontrivial sol'n.

$$h(x) = e^x$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} (e^x y_2) = e^x e^{-x} = 1$$

Integrate  $e^x y_2 = x$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{\underline{y_2 = xe^{-x}}}$$

$\therefore \{e^{-x}, xe^{-x}\}$  is a fundamental set.



- 8. B
- 9. B
- 10. B

**Solving the Nonhomogeneous Problem**  
**The Method of Variation of Parameters**

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = f(x) \quad (\text{NH})$$

General sol'n is

Idea:

$$y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2 + z$$

where  $\{y_1, y_2\}$  is a fundamental set of solutions to

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = 0$$

and  $z$  is a particular sol'n to (NH).

Then a particular solution to

$$y'' + p(x)y' + q(x)y = f(x)$$

can be written in the form

$$z = u(x)y_1 + v(x)y_2$$

The method of variation of parameters gives a mechanism for finding a particular solution from 2 linearly independent solutions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  to the associated homogeneous equation (i.e. the reduced equation).

**i.e. the homogeneous problem RULES!!**

**Theorem** Let  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  be linearly independent solutions of

$$y'' + py' + qy = 0,$$

and let  $W = W[y_1, y_2] = y_1 y_2' - y_1' y_2$ . If  $u$  and  $v$  satisfy

$$u' = -\frac{y_2}{W} f \quad \text{and} \quad v' = \frac{y_1}{W} f,$$

then

$$z = u y_1 + v y_2$$

is a solution of

$$y'' + py' + qy = f.$$

(i.e.  $z$  is a particular solution)

Give the general solution to  $y'' + y = \tan(x)$ . (NH)  $f(x)$

Process:  $\{\cos(x), \sin(x)\}$   $\leftarrow r^2 + 1 = 0$   
 $r = \pm i$

1. Get a fundamental set of solutions to  $y'' + y = 0$ .

$$\{\cos(x), \sin(x)\}$$

2. Get a particular solution of the form  $z = u y_1 + v y_2$

where  $u' = -\frac{y_2}{W} f$  and  $v' = \frac{y_1}{W} f$ .

$$W[\cos(x), \sin(x)] = \dots = 1$$

3. Write the general solution of (NH).

$$u' = \frac{-\sin(x)}{1} \cdot \tan(x) \qquad v' = \frac{\cos(x)}{1} \cdot \tan(x)$$
$$= \frac{-\sin^2(x)}{\cos(x)} \qquad v' = \sin(x)$$

$$u = \int \frac{-\sin^2(x)}{\cos(x)} dx$$

$$= \int \frac{\cos^2(x) - 1}{\cos(x)} dx$$

$$= \int (\cos(x) - \sec(x)) dx$$

$$u = \sin(x) - \ln|\sec(x) + \tan(x)|$$

$$v = -\cos(x)$$

$$u = \sin(x) - \ln|\sec(x) + \tan(x)|$$

$$v = -\cos(x)$$

$$z = uy_1 + vy_2$$

Recall:  $y_1 = \cos(x)$   
 $y_2 = \sin(x)$

$\Rightarrow$  a particular sol'n is

$$z = (\sin(x) - \ln|\sec(x) + \tan(x)|)\cos(x) + (-\cos(x))\sin(x)$$

$$= -\cos(x)\ln|\sec(x) + \tan(x)|$$

$\therefore$  the general sol'n is

$$y = c_1 \cos(x) + c_2 \sin(x) - \cos(x)\ln|\sec(x) + \tan(x)|$$

**Remark:** There is a process that can be used to solve the nonhomogeneous problem in the SPECIAL CASE

$$y'' + ay' + by = f(x)$$

where  $a$  and  $b$  are real numbers AND  $f(x)$  is made up of sums and products of

$\exp(kx)$ ,  $\sin(mx)$ ,  $\cos(nx)$ ,  $x$ ,  $1$

The method is called the method of undertermined coefficients.  
(see the text)

→ Also known as  
GUESSING.

**Read the Online Text, Watch the Embedded Videos, and Look at the Posted Videos**

3.1 - 3.5