

Math 3325 Quiz #8  
FALL SEMESTER 2009

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Name SOLUTIONS.

1. Find a particular solution to the non-homogeneous differential equation

$$y'' - 3y' + 2y = (1 + e^{-x})^{-1}.$$

The characteristic equation associated with  $y'' - 3y' + 2y = 0$  is  $\alpha^2 - 3\alpha + 2 = 0$  or  $(\alpha - 2)(\alpha - 1) = 0$ .

Consequently, we take  $y_1(x) = e^{2x}$  and  $y_2(x) = e^x$ .  
Then  $W(y_1, y_2)(x) = \begin{vmatrix} e^{2x} & e^x \\ 2e^{2x} & e^x \end{vmatrix} = e^{3x} - 2e^{3x} = -e^{3x}$

Hence

$$c_1(x) = - \int \frac{e^x dx}{(1+e^{-x})(-e^{3x})} = \int \frac{e^{-2x} dx}{1+e^{-x}} = -1 - e^{-x} + \ln(1+e^{-x})$$

$$c_2(x) = \int \frac{e^{2x} dx}{(1+e^{-x})(-e^{3x})} = - \int \frac{e^{-x} dx}{1+e^{-x}} = \ln(1+e^{-x})$$

$$\begin{aligned} u &= 1+e^{-x} \\ du &= -e^{-x} dx \\ \therefore - \int \frac{e^{-x} dx}{1+e^{-x}} &= \int \frac{du}{u} = \ln u = \ln(1+e^{-x}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{let } u &= 1+e^{-x} \\ \Rightarrow du &= -e^{-x} dx \\ \frac{1}{2} e^{-x} &= u-1 \\ \therefore \int \frac{e^{-2x} dx}{1+e^{-x}} &= - \int \frac{u-1}{u} du \\ &= -u + \ln u \\ &= -1 - e^{-x} + \ln(1+e^{-x}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore y_p(x) &= c_1(x)y_1(x) + c_2(x)y_2(x) \\ &= (-1 - e^{-x} + \ln(1+e^{-x}))e^{2x} + e^x \ln(1+e^{-x}) \\ &= -e^{2x} - e^x + (e^x + e^{2x}) \ln(1+e^{-x}) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $-e^{2x} - e^x$  is a solution of  $y'' - 3y' + 2y = 0$  we can take

$$y_p(x) = (e^x + e^{2x}) \ln(1+e^{-x})$$