

Solve the nonhomogeneous ODE

$$y'' - y' - 6y = 25xe^{3x}. \quad (\text{N})$$

NOTE: The input function is  $g(x) = 25xe^{3x}$ .

---

**STEP 1:**

Solve the *associated homogeneous problem*:

$$y'' - y' - 6y = 0. \quad (\text{H})$$

We did this in Example 1, so the *complementary solution* of (N) is

$$y_c = c_1 e^{3x} + c_2 e^{-2x}. \quad (\text{C})$$


---

**STEP 2:**

Construct a *particular solution*  $y_p$  of (N) by **Undetermined Coefficients**.

Input Function:	Terms
$g = 25xe^{3x}$	$xe^{3x}$
$g' = 25e^{3x} + 75xe^{3x}$	$e^{3x}, xe^{3x}$
	List: $e^{3x}, xe^{3x}$
	New List: $xe^{3x}, x^2e^{3x}$

$\mathcal{Q}$ : Do any terms in the List already appear in  $y_c$ ?

$\mathcal{A}$ : Yes, so we must modify the repeating terms:

Term  $e^{3x}$  appears in  $y_c$ , so  $e^{3x}$  repeats once in the List. So attach an  $x^1$  to it to get  $xe^{3x}$ .

But term  $xe^{3x}$  already appears in the List, so attach another  $x^1$  to it. So we get

$$\begin{aligned} e^{3x} &\rightarrow xe^{3x} \\ xe^{3x} &\rightarrow x^2e^{3x} \end{aligned}$$

So a particular solution  $y_p$  of (N) must be a linear combination of terms in the New List:

$$y_p = axe^{3x} + bx^2e^{3x}. \quad (\text{P})$$

We will substitute  $y_p$  into (N), but first

$$\begin{aligned}y_p &= axe^{3x} + bx^2e^{3x}, \\y'_p &= ae^{3x} + 3axe^{3x} + 2bx^2e^{3x} + 3bx^2e^{3x}, \\y''_p &= 6ae^{3x} + 9axe^{3x} + 2be^{3x} + 12bx^2e^{3x} + 9bx^2e^{3x}.\end{aligned}$$

Plug these into (N) to obtain

$$\begin{aligned}y''_p - y'_p - 6y_p &\equiv 25xe^{3x}, \\6ae^{3x} + 9axe^{3x} + 2be^{3x} + 12bx^2e^{3x} + 9bx^2e^{3x} \\&- (ae^{3x} + 3axe^{3x} + 2bx^2e^{3x} + 3bx^2e^{3x}) \\&- 6(axe^{3x} + bx^2e^{3x}) \quad \equiv \quad 25xe^{3x}.\end{aligned}$$

Collect like terms:

$$(9b - 3b - 6b)x^2e^{3x} + (9a + 12b - 3a - 2b - 6a)xe^{3x} + (6a + 2b - a)e^{3x} \equiv 25xe^{3x},$$

simplify:

$$10bx^2e^{3x} + (5a + 2b)xe^{3x} \equiv 0e^{3x} + 25xe^{3x}.$$

Equate like terms:

$$\begin{aligned}xe^{3x} : 10b &\equiv 25 \quad \implies \quad b = 5/2, \\e^{3x} : 5a + 2b &\equiv 0 \quad \implies \quad a = (-2/5)b = -1.\end{aligned}$$

**Litmus Test:** Note that these terms are exactly those terms that were in the "List".

So by (P), a particular solution of (N) is

$$y_p = axe^{3x} + bx^2e^{3x} = -xe^{3x} + \frac{5}{2}x^2e^{3x}.$$

---

### STEP 3:

Then the general solution of the nonhomogeneous problem (N) is

$$\begin{aligned}y &= y_c + y_p \\&= c_1e^{3x} + c_2e^{-2x} - xe^{3x} + \frac{5}{2}x^2e^{3x}.\end{aligned}$$

It is a 2-parameter family of solutions of (N).

---

### STEP 4:

Apply initial conditions to the general solution found in Step 3, **NOT** to solution (C).