

Statement of problem

Given two solutions  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  satisfy

$$a_0(x)y''(x) + a_1(x)y'(x) + a_2(x)y(x) = 0$$

Find a solution  $y_p(x)$  satisfy

$$a_0(x)y''(x) + a_1(x)y'(x) + a_2(x)y(x) = f(x) \quad (1)$$

Review of linear algebra:

Given

$$a_1x + b_1y = c_1$$

$$a_2x + b_2y = c_2$$

The solution of  $(x, y)$  is

$$x = \frac{\Delta_1}{\Delta}$$

$$y = \frac{\Delta_2}{\Delta}$$

where

$$\Delta = a_1b_2 - a_2b_1$$

$$\Delta_1 = c_1b_2 - c_2b_1$$

$$\Delta_2 = a_1c_2 - a_2c_1$$

ODE:

$$a_0(x)y_1''(x) + a_1(x)y_1'(x) + a_2(x)y_1(x) = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$a_0(x)y_2''(x) + a_1(x)y_2'(x) + a_2(x)y_2(x) = 0 \quad (3)$$

Setting

$$y_p = u_1y_1 + u_2y_2 \quad (4)$$

$$y_p' = u_1'y_1 + u_2'y_2 + u_1y_1' + u_2y_2' \quad (5)$$

To solve  $y_p(x)$  is changed to solve  $u_1$  and  $u_2$ .

Two degrees of freedom,  $u_1$  and  $u_2$ , must be determined. By setting the first constraint,

$$u_1' y_1 + u_2' y_2 = 0 \quad (6)$$

Eq.(5) can be reduced to

$$y_p' = u_1 y_1' + u_2 y_2' \quad (7)$$

Differentiating  $x$  again, we have

$$y_p'' = u_1' y_1' + u_2' y_2' + u_1 y_1'' + u_2 y_2'' \quad (8)$$

Substituting Eq.(8) and (7) into Eq.(1), we have

$$a_0(u_1' y_1' + u_2' y_2' + u_1 y_1'' + u_2 y_2'') + a_1(u_1 y_1' + u_2 y_2') + a_2(u_1 y_1 + u_2 y_2) = f(x) \quad (9)$$

Eq.(9) can be reformulated to

$$\begin{aligned} & u_1(a_0(x)y_1''(x) + a_1(x)y_1'(x) + a_2(x)y_1(x)) \\ & + u_2(a_0(x)y_2''(x) + a_1(x)y_2'(x) + a_2(x)y_2(x)) \\ & + a_0(u_1' y_1' + u_2' y_2') = f(x) \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Since  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  are solutions of homogeneous ODE, we have

$$u_1' y_1' + u_2' y_2' = \frac{f(x)}{a_0} \quad (11)$$

Two equations are summarized

$$y_1 u_1' + y_2 u_2' = 0 \quad (12)$$

$$y_1' u_1' + y_2' u_2' = \frac{f(x)}{a_0} \quad (13)$$

Solve  $u_1'$  and  $u_2'$  first, we have

$$u_1' = \frac{W_1}{W(y_1, y_2)}$$

$$u_2' = \frac{W_2}{W(y_1, y_2)}$$

where  $W(y_1, y_2)$  is Wronskian determined by

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

$$W_1 = -y_2 f(x) / a_0(x)$$

$$W_2 = y_1 f(x) / a_0(x)$$