

Ordinary Differential Equations

Classification

Question

If one solution of $y'' + k^2y = 0$ is $y_1 = \cos(kx)$, guess and verify a solution y_2 that is not a multiple of y_1 .

Find a solution to satisfy $y(\pi/k) = 3$ and $y'(\pi/k) = 3$.

Answer

As $y_1 = \cos(kx)$ is a solution. A sensible guess for y_2 is $y_2 = \sin(kx)$.

Since

$$y_2'' + k^2y_2 = -k^2 \sin(kx) + k^2 \sin(kx) = 0$$

then y_2 is confirmed as a solution.

The DE is linear and homogeneous, so any function of the form

$$y = Ay_1 + By_2 = A \cos(kx) + B \sin(kx)$$

is also a solution.

To satisfy the given conditions:

$$3 = y(\pi/k) = A \cos(\pi) + B \sin(\pi) = -A$$

$$3 = y'(\pi/k) = -Ak \sin(\pi) + Bk \cos(\pi) = -Bk$$

and so

$$A = -3$$

$$B = -3/k$$

So the solution is

$$y = -3 \cos(kx) - \frac{3}{k} \sin(kx)$$