

Given that $t^2 y'' - 2t y' - 4y = 0, t > 0$
 has solⁿ $y = t^{-1}$ find a 2nd linearly independent
 solⁿ via reduction of order

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_2(t) &= y_1(t) \int \frac{\exp(-\int P(t) dt)}{y_1(t)^2} dt && \text{reduction of order formula, see Th^m (8)} \\
 &= \frac{1}{t} \int \frac{\exp(\int \frac{2}{t} dt)}{(1/t)^2} dt && P(t) = \frac{-2t}{t^2} = \frac{-2}{t} \\
 &= \frac{1}{t} \int \frac{e^{\ln|t|^2}}{(1/t)^2} dt \\
 &= \frac{1}{t} \int t^4 dt \\
 &= \frac{1}{t} \frac{t^5}{5} \quad \therefore \quad \boxed{y_2(t) = \frac{1}{5} t^4}
 \end{aligned}$$

Remark: the $1/5$ can be left off. The general solⁿ
 $y = c_1 y_1 + c_2 y_2$ allows all the same functions since
 c_2 can be adjusted accordingly. There is always
 some ambiguity in the choice of y_1, y_2 . We can
 however say y_1, y_2 are unique up to linear independence.
 If \tilde{y}_1, \tilde{y}_2 are two other linear independent solⁿ's
 then $\exists \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in GL(2, \mathbb{R})$ such that

$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{y}_1 \\ \tilde{y}_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \left(\text{where } \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \neq 0 \text{ since } \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in GL(2, \mathbb{R}) \right)$$

this denotes
 the set of all
 2×2 invertible
 matrices with
 real entries.

§4.7#47] find 2nd linearly independent solⁿ for $tx'' - (t+1)x' + x = 0$, $t > 0$ given that $y_1(t) = e^t$ is a solⁿ.

To begin we need to put the differential eqⁿ in form

$$x'' - \left(1 + \frac{1}{t}\right)x' + \frac{1}{t}x = 0$$

We find $P(t) = -1 - 1/t$ hence

$$\begin{aligned} \exp\left(-\int P(t)dt\right) &= \exp\left[-\int\left(-1 - \frac{1}{t}\right)dt\right] \\ &= \exp\left[t + \ln|t|\right] \\ &= \exp[t] \exp[\ln(t)] \\ &= te^t \end{aligned} \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} |t| = t \\ \text{since } t > 0 \end{array}\right)$$

Now use the Reduction of Order Th^m,

$$\begin{aligned} y_2(t) &= y_1(t) \int \frac{\exp\left[-\int P(t)dt\right]}{y_1(t)^2} dt \\ &= e^t \int \frac{te^t}{(e^t)^2} dt \\ &= e^t \int te^{-t} dt \quad ; \quad \int v du = uv - \int u dv \\ &= e^t \left[-te^{-t} + \int e^{-t} dt\right] \\ &= -te^t e^{-t} - e^t e^{-t} \\ &= -t - 1 \end{aligned}$$

Thus the second linearly independent solⁿ is $y_2(t) = -t - 1$
 Or if you prefer, $y_2(t) = t + 1$ etc...

Remark: the theory of §4.7 is quite satisfying ignoring one annoying detail, how does one find the first solⁿ to a general variable coefficient DE^q? We have methods for Cauchy-Euler but that's about it. Chapter 8 will help us find yuckier solⁿs.