

* Step by step solution to the example

$$y'' + ty' - 2y = 0 \quad (*)$$

knowing one solution $y_1 = t^2 + 1$.

Write $y = (t^2 + 1)v$ where v is a function of t to be determined.

Substitute this function into (*) and reduce:

$$(t^2 + 1)v'' + (t^3 + 5t)v' = 0$$

Put $u = v'$. Then

$$(t^2 + 1)u' + (t^3 + 5t)u = 0$$

$$\implies u' + \underbrace{\frac{t^3 + 5t}{t^2 + 1}}_{p(t)} u = 0 \quad (**)$$

One can find u by the integrating factor method:

$$\int p(t) dt = \int \left(t + \frac{4t}{t^2 + 1} \right) dt = \frac{t^2}{2} + 2 \ln(t^2 + 1).$$

Integrating factor:
$$\mu(t) = \exp\left(\frac{t^2}{2} + 2 \ln(t^2 + 1)\right) = e^{\frac{t^2}{2}} e^{2 \ln(t^2 + 1)} \\ = e^{\frac{t^2}{2}} (t^2 + 1)^2$$

Multiplying both sides of (**) by $\mu(t)$, we get

$$(\mu u)' = 0 \implies u = \frac{C}{\mu} = C e^{-\frac{t^2}{2}} (t^2 + 1)^{-2}.$$

To get v , we integrate u :

$$v = C \int e^{-\frac{t^2}{2}} (t^2 + 1)^{-2} dt \\ = C_1 \int_0^t e^{-\frac{s^2}{2}} (s^2 + 1)^{-2} ds + C_2$$

Therefore, all solutions to (*) are

$$y = (t^2 + 1)v = C_1 (t^2 + 1) \int_0^t e^{-\frac{s^2}{2}} (s^2 + 1)^{-2} ds + C_2 (t^2 + 1)$$