

* Linear Differential Equations of second-order with constant coefficients:-

(i) Homogeneous Equations:- A second-order linear differential equation with constant coefficients p and q without the right hand side (i.e. $=0$) is of the form:-

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + p \frac{dy}{dx} + qy = 0$$

$$\text{or } y'' + py' + qy = 0 \quad \text{(i)}$$

If k_1 and k_2 are roots of the characteristic equation $\psi(k) = k^2 + pk + q = 0$, then the general solution of Eqn (i) is written in one of the following:-

(i) if k_1 and k_2 are real and $k_1 \neq k_2$

$$\Rightarrow y = c_1 e^{k_1 x} + c_2 e^{k_2 x}$$

(ii) if k_1 and k_2 are real and equal $k_1 = k_2$

$$\Rightarrow y = e^{k_1 x} (c_1 + c_2 x)$$

(iii) if k_1 and k_2 are imaginary i.e.

$$k_1 = \alpha + \beta i \quad \text{and} \quad k_2 = \alpha - \beta i \quad (\beta \neq 0)$$

$$\Rightarrow y = e^{\alpha x} [c_1 \cos \beta x + c_2 \sin \beta x]$$

Exp. Solve $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2\frac{dy}{dx} + y = 0$

Sol. Given Eph compares with

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + P\frac{dy}{dx} + Qy = 0$$

$$P = 2 \text{ \& } Q = 1$$

∴ The auxiliary Equation (or characteristic

$$\Rightarrow m^2 + 2m + 1 = 0$$

$$(m+1)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow (m+1)(m+1) = 0$$

$$m_1 = -1 \text{ and } m_2 = -1$$

$m_1 = m_2 = -1$ are real and equal

The general solution is

$$y = e^{-x} (C_1 + C_2 x)$$

Exp. Solve $y'' - 4y' + 5y = 0$

Solution The auxiliary Eph (or characteristic Eph) of the given equation

$$m^2 - 4m + 5 = 0$$

The roots from quadratic Eph:

$$m = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$a = 1, b = -4 \text{ and } c = 5$$

$$m = \frac{+4 \pm \sqrt{16 - 4 \times 1 \times 5}}{2 \times 1} = \frac{+4 \pm 2i}{2} = 2 \pm i$$

$$m_1 = 2 + i \text{ and } m_2 = 2 - i$$

The general solution

$$y = e^{2x} [C_1 \cos x + C_2 \sin x]$$