

## Differentiation exercise – show differential equation

1. If  $y = x \sin 2x$ , prove that  $x \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2 \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{2y}{x} + 4xy = 0$

$$y = x \sin 2x \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = \sin 2x + 2x \cos 2x$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 2\cos 2x + (2\cos 2x - 4x \sin 2x)$$

$$x \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2 \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{2y}{x} + 4xy$$

$$= (2x \cos 2x + 2x \cos 2x - 4x^2 \sin 2x) - (2\sin 2x + 4x \cos 2x) + \frac{2x \sin 2x}{x} + 4x^2 \sin 2x = 0$$

2. Given that  $y = e^x - e^{-x}$ , show that  $\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 - y^2 - 4 = 0$

$$y = e^x - e^{-x} \Rightarrow \frac{dy}{dx} = e^x + e^{-x}$$

$$\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 - y^2 - 4 = (e^x + e^{-x})^2 - (e^x - e^{-x})^2 - 4 = (e^{2x} + 2 + e^{-2x}) - (e^{2x} - 2 + e^{-2x}) - 4 = 0$$

3. Given that  $v = \sqrt{\sin u}$ , show that  $4v^3 \frac{d^2v}{du^2} + v^4 + 1 = 0$

$$\frac{dv}{du} = \frac{\cos u}{2\sqrt{\sin u}}$$

$$\frac{d^2v}{du^2} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\sqrt{\sin u}(-\sin u) - \cos u \frac{\cos u}{2\sqrt{\sin u}}}{\sin u} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{-2\sin^2 u - \cos^2 u}{\sin u \sqrt{\sin u}} = -\frac{\sin^2 u + 1}{4 \sin u \sqrt{\sin u}} = -\frac{v^4 + 1}{4v^3}$$

$$\therefore 4v^3 \frac{d^2v}{du^2} + v^4 + 1 = 0$$

4. Given  $y = e^{-x} \cos x$ , show that  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = 0$ .

### Method 1

$$y = e^{-x} \cos x$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -e^{-x} \sin x - e^{-x} \cos x$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = (e^{-x} \sin x - e^{-x} \cos x) + (-e^{-x} \sin x + e^{-x} \cos x) = 2e^{-x} \sin x$$

$$\therefore \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = (2e^{-x} \sin x) - 2(e^{-x} \sin x + e^{-x} \cos x) + 2e^{-x} \cos x = 0$$

## Method 2

$$y = e^{-x} \cos x \Rightarrow \ln y = -x + \ln(\cos x)$$

$$\frac{1}{y} \frac{dy}{dx} = -1 - \frac{\sin x}{\cos x}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -y - y \tan x$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = y(1 - \tan x)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Differentiate, we get: } \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2 \frac{dy}{dx} &= \frac{dy}{dx} (1 - \tan x) - y \sec^2 x \\ &= (-y - y \tan x)(1 - \tan x) - y(1 + \tan^2 x) \\ &= -2y \end{aligned}$$

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

## Method 3

$$y = e^{-x} \cos x \Rightarrow y e^x = \cos x \quad \dots (1)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} e^x + y e^x = -\sin x$$

$$\left( \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} e^x + \frac{dy}{dx} e^x \right) + \left( \frac{dy}{dx} e^x + y e^x \right) = -\cos x$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} e^x + 2 \frac{dy}{dx} e^x + y e^x = -y e^x, \quad \text{by (1)}$$

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

5. Given that  $y = \frac{\sin kx}{1 + \cos kx}$ , where  $k$  is a positive integer, show that  $\sin kx \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = k^2 y^2$ .

## Method 1

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{(1 + \cos kx)(k \cos kx) - \sin kx(-k \sin kx)}{(1 + \cos kx)^2} = \frac{k \cos kx + k \cos^2 kx + k \sin^2 kx}{(1 + \cos kx)^2} = \frac{k \cos kx + k}{(1 + \cos kx)^2} = \frac{k(1 + \cos kx)}{1 + \cos kx} = \frac{k}{1 + \cos kx}$$

$$\sin kx \frac{dy}{dx} = k \frac{\sin kx}{1 + \cos kx} = ky$$

$$\sin kx \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + k \cos kx \frac{dy}{dx} = k \frac{dy}{dx}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \sin kx \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} &= k \frac{dy}{dx} (1 - \cos kx) = k \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{(1 - \cos kx)(1 + \cos kx)}{(1 + \cos kx)} = k \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{\sin^2 kx}{(1 + \cos kx)} = k \left[ \sin kx \frac{dy}{dx} \right] \frac{\sin kx}{1 + \cos kx} \\ &= k[ky]y = k^2 y^2 \end{aligned}$$

## Method 2

Given that  $y = \frac{\sin kx}{1+\cos kx}$ , where  $k$  is a positive integer, show that  $\sin kx \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = k^2y^2$ .

$$\text{Note that: } y = \frac{\sin kx}{1+\cos kx} = \frac{1-\cos kx}{\sin kx}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\sin kx(k \sin kx) - (1-\cos kx)(k \cos kx)}{\sin^2 kx} = \frac{k \sin^2 kx + k \cos^2 kx - k \cos kx}{\sin^2 kx} = \frac{k - k \cos kx}{\sin^2 kx} = \frac{k}{\sin kx} \frac{1-\cos kx}{\sin kx} = \frac{ky}{\sin kx}$$

$$\sin kx \frac{dy}{dx} = ky$$

$$\sin kx \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + k \cos kx \frac{dy}{dx} = k \frac{dy}{dx}$$

$$\sin kx \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = k(1 - \cos kx) \frac{dy}{dx} = k \left( \frac{1-\cos kx}{\sin kx} \right) \left( \sin kx \frac{dy}{dx} \right) = k(y)(ky) = k^2y^2$$

6. Given  $y(2-x) = 3$ , show that  $3 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$ .

## Method 1

$$\text{Differentiate, } (2-x) \frac{dy}{dx} - y = 0 \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{y}{2-x}$$

$$\text{Differentiate again, } \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = \frac{(2-x) \frac{dy}{dx} - y(-1)}{(2-x)^2} = \frac{(2-x) \frac{y}{2-x} + y}{(2-x)^2} = \frac{2y}{(2-x)^2}$$

$$3 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = 3 \frac{2y}{(2-x)^2} - 2y \frac{y}{2-x} = \frac{6y}{(2-x)^2} - \frac{2y^2}{2-x} = \frac{6y}{(2-x)^2} - \frac{2y[y(2-x)]}{(2-x)^2} = \frac{6y}{(2-x)^2} - \frac{2y[3]}{(2-x)^2} = 0$$

## Method 2

$$\text{Differentiate, } (2-x) \frac{dy}{dx} - y = 0$$

$$\text{Differentiate again, } \left[ (2-x) \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - \frac{dy}{dx} \right] - \frac{dy}{dx} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad (2-x) \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2 \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

$$\text{Multiply by } y, \quad y(2-x) \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2 \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

$$\therefore 3 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

7. Given  $y = (1+4x)e^{-2x}$ , prove that  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{dy}{dx} + 4y = 0$

## Method 1

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 2e^{-2x} - 8xe^{-2x}$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 16xe^{-2x} - 12e^{-2x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{dy}{dx} + 4y &= (16xe^{-2x} - 12e^{-2x}) + 4(2e^{-2x} - 8xe^{-2x}) + 4(1 + 4x) \\ &= (16xe^{-2x} - 12e^{-2x}) + (8e^{-2x} - 32xe^{-2x}) + 4e^{-2x} + 16xe^{-2x} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

**Method 2**

$$e^{2x}y = (1 + 4x)$$

$$e^{2x} \frac{dy}{dx} + 2ye^{2x} = 4$$

$$\left( e^{2x} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2e^{2x} \frac{dy}{dx} \right) + \left( 2e^{2x} \frac{dy}{dx} + 4e^{2x}y \right) = 0$$

$$e^{2x} \left( \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{dy}{dx} + 4y \right) = 0$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{dy}{dx} + 4y = 0$$

8. Let  $y = \sqrt{\cos x}$ , show that  $4y^3 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + y^4 + 1 = 0$ .

$$y = \sqrt{\cos x} \Rightarrow y^2 = \cos x$$

$$\text{Differentiate, } 2y \frac{dy}{dx} = -\sin x \quad \dots (1)$$

$$\text{Differentiate again, } 2y \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2 \frac{dy}{dx} \frac{dy}{dx} = -\cos x = -y^2$$

$$2y \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2 \left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 = -y^2$$

$$\text{Multiply by } 2y^2, 4y^3 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + \left( 2y \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 = -2y^4$$

$$\text{By (1), } 4y^3 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + (-\sin x)^2 = -2y^4, \quad 4y^3 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 1 - \cos^2 x = -2y^4$$

$$4y^3 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 1 - y^4 = -2y^4$$

$$4y^3 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + y^4 + 1 = 0$$

9. Given  $(1 + x^2)y^2 = 1 - x^2$ , show that  $\left( \frac{dy}{dx} \right)^2 = \frac{1-y^4}{1-x^4}$ .

**Method 1**

$$(1 + x^2)y^2 = 1 - x^2 \quad \dots (1)$$

$$y^2 = \frac{1-x^2}{1+x^2}, \quad 1 - y^2 = 1 - \frac{1-x^2}{1+x^2} = \frac{2x^2}{1+x^2}, \quad 1 + y^2 = 1 + \frac{1-x^2}{1+x^2} = \frac{2}{1+x^2}$$

$$1 - y^4 = (1 - y^2)(1 + y^2) = \frac{4x^2}{(1+x^2)^2}$$

$$\text{Differentiate (1), } 2xy^2 + (1 + x^2) \left[ 2y \frac{dy}{dx} \right] = -2x$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{-2x(1+y^2)}{2y(1+x^2)}, \quad \left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 = \frac{4x^2}{(1+x^2)^2} \frac{(1+y^2)^2}{4y^2} = (1-y^4) \frac{\left(\frac{2}{1+x^2}\right)^2}{4\left(\frac{1-x^2}{1+x^2}\right)} = \frac{1-y^4}{(1+x^2)(1-x^2)} = \frac{1-y^4}{1-x^4}$$

## Method 2

Let  $x = \tan \frac{\theta}{2}$ ,  $\cos \theta = \frac{1-x^2}{1+x^2}$ ,  $\frac{dx}{d\theta} = \frac{1}{2}(1+x^2)$

$$y^2 = \frac{1-x^2}{1+x^2} = \cos \theta, \quad y = \sqrt{\cos \theta}$$

$$\frac{dy}{d\theta} = -\frac{\sin \theta}{2\sqrt{\cos \theta}}, \quad \left(\frac{dy}{d\theta}\right)^2 = \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{4 \cos \theta} = \frac{1-\cos^2 \theta}{4 \cos \theta} = \frac{1-y^4}{4\left(\frac{1-x^2}{1+x^2}\right)}$$

$$\left(\frac{dy}{dx}\right)^2 = \frac{\left(\frac{dy}{d\theta}\right)^2}{\left(\frac{dx}{d\theta}\right)^2} = \frac{\frac{1-y^4}{4\left(\frac{1-x^2}{1+x^2}\right)}}{\left[\frac{1}{2}(1+x^2)\right]^2} = \frac{1-y^4}{(1+x^2)(1-x^2)} = \frac{1-y^4}{1-x^4}$$

10. Form a differential equation from  $y = Ax^3 + \frac{B}{x^2} - 6x$ ,  $x > 0$ .

$$yx^2 = Ax^5 + B - 6x^3$$

Differentiate,  $x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 2xy = 5Ax^4 - 18x^2$

Divide by  $x$ ,  $x \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = 5Ax^3 - 18x \dots (1)$

Differentiate (1),  $\left(x \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + \frac{dy}{dx}\right) + \left(2 \frac{dy}{dx}\right) = 15Ax^2 - 18$

$$x \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 3 \frac{dy}{dx} = 15Ax^2 - 18$$

Multiply by  $x$ ,  $x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 3x \frac{dy}{dx} = 15Ax^3 - 18x$

$$x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 3x \frac{dy}{dx} = 3(5Ax^3 - 18x) + 36x = 3\left(x \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y\right) + 36x, \text{ by (1)}$$

$$x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 6xy = 36x$$

$$x \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 6y = 36$$

11. Form a differential equation from  $y = Ax^3 + \frac{B}{x^2} - 6$ ,  $x > 0$ .

$$yx^2 = Ax^5 + B - 6x^2$$

Differentiate,  $x^2 \frac{dy}{dx} + 2xy = 5Ax^4 - 12x$

Divide by x,  $x \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y = 5Ax^3 - 12 \dots (1)$

Differentiate (1),  $\left(x \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + \frac{dy}{dx}\right) + \left(2 \frac{dy}{dx}\right) = 15Ax^2$

$$x \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 3 \frac{dy}{dx} = 15Ax^2$$

Multiply by x,  $x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 3x \frac{dy}{dx} = 15Ax^3$

$$x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 3x \frac{dy}{dx} = 3(5Ax^3 - 12) + 36 = 3 \left(x \frac{dy}{dx} + 2y\right) + 36, \text{ by (1)}$$

$$x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 6y = 36$$

$$x^3 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 6xy = 36x$$

12.  $y \sin^{-1} 3x = \sqrt{1 - 9x^2}$ , show that  $(1 - 9x^2) \frac{dy}{dx} + 3y^2 + 9xy = 0$

$$y \sin^{-1} 3x = \sqrt{1 - 9x^2}$$

$$\sin^{-1} 3x \frac{dy}{dx} + y \frac{3}{\sqrt{1-9x^2}} = \frac{-18x}{2\sqrt{1-9x^2}}$$

$$y \sin^{-1} 3x \frac{dy}{dx} + y^2 \frac{3}{\sqrt{1-9x^2}} = \frac{-9xy}{\sqrt{1-9x^2}}$$

$$\sqrt{1 - 9x^2} \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{3y^2}{\sqrt{1-9x^2}} + \frac{9xy}{\sqrt{1-9x^2}} = 0$$

$$(1 - 9x^2) \frac{dy}{dx} + 3y^2 + 9xy = 0$$

13. Given that  $y = x^n[A \cos(\ln x) + B \sin(\ln x)]$ , where A and B are constants, show that

$$x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + (1 - 2n)x \frac{dy}{dx} + (1 + n^2)y = 0$$

$$y = x^n[A \cos(\ln x) + B \sin(\ln x)] \dots (1)$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = nx^{n-1}[A \cos(\ln x) + B \sin(\ln x)] + x^n \left\{ -\frac{A}{x} \sin(\ln x) + \frac{B}{x} \cos(\ln x) \right\}$$

Multiply by x, we have,

$$x \frac{dy}{dx} = nx^n[A \cos(\ln x) + B \sin(\ln x)] + x^n \{-A \sin(\ln x) + B \cos(\ln x)\}$$

By (1),

$$x \frac{dy}{dx} = ny + x^n \{-A \sin(\ln x) + B \cos(\ln x)\} \dots (2)$$

Differentiate again,

$$x \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + \frac{dy}{dx} = n \frac{dy}{dx} + nx^{n-1} \{-A \sin(\ln x) + B \cos(\ln x)\} - x^n \left\{ \frac{A}{x} \cos(\ln x) + \frac{B}{x} \sin(\ln x) \right\}$$

Multiply by  $x$ ,

$$x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + x \frac{dy}{dx} = nx \frac{dy}{dx} + nx^n \{-A \sin(\ln x) + B \cos(\ln x)\} - x^n \{A \cos(\ln x) + B \sin(\ln x)\}$$

$$x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + x \frac{dy}{dx} = nx \frac{dy}{dx} + n \left[ x \frac{dy}{dx} - ny \right] - y, \text{ by (1) and (2).}$$

$$x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + (1 - 2n)x \frac{dy}{dx} + (1 + n^2)y = 0$$

14. Given that  $y = \sin^{-1} x$ , show that  $(1 - x^2) \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - x \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$

$$y = \sin^{-1} x \Rightarrow \sin y = x \Rightarrow \cos y \frac{dy}{dx} = 1 \quad \dots (1)$$

$$\text{Differentiate (1), } \cos y \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - \left( \sin y \frac{dy}{dx} \right) \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

$$\text{Multiply by } \cos y, \quad \cos^2 y \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - \left( \sin y \frac{dy}{dx} \right) \left( \cos y \frac{dy}{dx} \right) = 0$$

$$(1 - x^2) \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - x \frac{dy}{dx} (1) = 0, \text{ by (1)}$$

$$(1 - x^2) \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - x \frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

15. Let  $y = 5e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x} + 3e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x}$ , show that  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{dy}{dx} + y = 0$ .

### Method 1

Let  $y = u + v$ , where  $u = 5e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x}$ ,  $v = 3e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x}$ .

$$\frac{du}{dx} = 5(\sqrt{3} - 2)e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x}, \quad \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} = 5(\sqrt{3} - 2)^2 e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x} = 5(7 - 4\sqrt{3})e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hence, } \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{du}{dx} + u &= 5(7 - 4\sqrt{3})e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x} + 20(\sqrt{3} - 2)e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x} + 5e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x} \\ &= 5e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x} [(7 - 4\sqrt{3}) + 4(\sqrt{3} - 2) + 1] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{dv}{dx} = -5(\sqrt{3} + 2)e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x}, \quad \frac{d^2v}{dx^2} = 5(\sqrt{3} + 2)^2 e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x} = 5(7 + 4\sqrt{3})e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hence, } \frac{d^2v}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{dv}{dx} + v &= 5(7 + 4\sqrt{3})e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x} - 20(\sqrt{3} - 2)e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x} + 5e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x} \\ &= 5e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x} [(7 + 4\sqrt{3}) - 4(\sqrt{3} + 2) + 1] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{dy}{dx} + y = \frac{d^2(u+v)}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{d(u+v)}{dx} + (u+v) = \left( \frac{d^2u}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{du}{dx} + u \right) + \left( \frac{d^2v}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{dv}{dx} + v \right) = 0$$

## Method 2

$$y = 5e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x} + 3e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x}$$
$$e^{2x}y = 5e^{\sqrt{3}x} + 3e^{-\sqrt{3}x} \quad \dots (1)$$

$$e^{2x} \frac{dy}{dx} + 2e^{2x}y = 5\sqrt{3}e^{\sqrt{3}x} - 3\sqrt{3}e^{-\sqrt{3}x}$$

$$\left( e^{2x} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2e^{2x} \frac{dy}{dx} \right) + \left( 2e^{2x} \frac{dy}{dx} + 4e^{2x}y \right) = 15e^{\sqrt{3}x} + 9\sqrt{3}e^{-\sqrt{3}x}$$

$$e^{2x} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4e^{2x} \frac{dy}{dx} + 4e^{2x}y = 3e^{2x}y, \text{ by (1)}$$

$$e^{2x} \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4e^{2x} \frac{dy}{dx} + e^{2x}y = 0$$

## Method 3

Let  $\alpha = \sqrt{3} - 2$ ,  $\beta = -(\sqrt{3} + 2)$ .  $\alpha + \beta = -4$ ,  $\alpha\beta = (-2)^2 - 3 = 1$   
 $\alpha, \beta$  are roots of  $u^2 + 4u + 1 = 0 \quad \dots (1)$

$$\text{Hence } \begin{cases} \alpha^2 + 4\alpha + 1 = 0 \\ \beta^2 + 4\beta + 1 = 0 \end{cases} \quad \dots (2)$$

$$y = 5e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x} + 3e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x} = 5e^{\alpha x} + 3e^{\beta x}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 5\alpha e^{\alpha x} + 3\beta e^{\beta x}, \quad \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 5\alpha^2 e^{\alpha x} + 3\beta^2 e^{\beta x}$$

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{dy}{dx} + y = 5e^{\alpha x}(\alpha^2 + 4\alpha + 1) + 3e^{\beta x}(\beta^2 + 4\beta + 1) = 0, \text{ by (2).}$$

## Comment

(a) The **general** solution of the differential equation:  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{dy}{dx} + y = 0$  is

$$y = c_1 e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x} + c_2 e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x}, \quad c_1, c_2 \text{ are integrating constants.}$$

So  $y = 5e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x} + 3e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x}$  is a **special** solution of the differential equation.

(b) It is interesting that solving  $\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{dy}{dx} + y = 0$  is just to find the roots of the auxiliary

equation  $u^2 + 4u + 1 = 0$ , that is  $\alpha = \sqrt{3} - 2$ ,  $\beta = -(\sqrt{3} + 2)$  and then form the **general** solution  $y = c_1 e^{(\sqrt{3}-2)x} + c_2 e^{-(\sqrt{3}+2)x}$ . Solving this kind of second order differential equation becomes solving a quadratic equation. The story is longer since quadratic equation may have equal roots or complex roots and is not discussed here.

(c) **Showing** differential equation is just learning how to dive in the sea of calculus and **solving** differential equation is to get some pearls in the sea.