

Solution (#1653) Note that the general solution of $y'' + y = 0$ is $y = A \cos x + B \sin x$.

- $y'' + y = \sin^2 x$. If we write

$$\sin^2 x = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \cos 2x),$$

then it seems reasonable to seek a particular solution of the form

$$y = A \cos 2x + B \sin 2x + C.$$

Substituting this y into the given DE we obtain

$$(A - 4A) \cos 2x + (B - 4B) \sin 2x + C = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cos 2x.$$

Comparing coefficients we see that $A = 1/6$, $B = 0$ and $C = 1/2$. Hence a particular solution is

$$y = \frac{1}{6} \cos 2x + \frac{1}{2}.$$

Note that we could equally have sought a particular solution of the form

$$y = A \cos^2 x + B \sin x \cos x + C \sin^2 x.$$

- $y'' + y = \sin x$. Note that $\sin x$ is part of the complementary function. Consequently we will seek a particular solution of the form

$$y = Ax \cos x + Bx \sin x.$$

We then have

$$y' = A(\cos x - x \sin x) + B(\sin x + x \cos x); \quad y'' = A(-2 \sin x - x \cos x) + B(2 \cos x - x \sin x).$$

Substituting this y into the given DE we obtain

$$A(-2 \sin x - x \cos x) + B(2 \cos x - x \sin x) + (Ax \cos x + Bx \sin x) = \sin x,$$

which simplifies to

$$-2A \sin x + 2B \cos x = \sin x.$$

Comparing coefficients we have that $A = -1/2$ and $B = 0$ so that a particular solution is

$$y = -\frac{x}{2} \sin x.$$

- $y'' + y = x \sin 2x$. We will seek a particular solution of the form

$$y = Ax \sin 2x + Bx \cos 2x + C \sin 2x + D \cos 2x.$$

We then have

$$\begin{aligned} y' &= A(\sin 2x + 2x \cos 2x) + B(\cos 2x - 2x \sin 2x) + 2C \cos 2x - 2D \sin 2x; \\ y'' &= A(4 \cos 2x - 4x \sin 2x) + B(-4 \sin 2x - 4x \cos 2x) - 4C \sin 2x - 4D \cos 2x. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting this y into the given DE and simplifying we obtain

$$(A - 4A)x \sin 2x + (B - 4B)x \cos 2x + (C - 4B - 4C) \sin 2x + (4A + D - 4D) \cos 2x = x \sin 2x.$$

Comparing coefficients we have

$$-3A = 1; \quad -3B = 0 \quad 3C - 4B = 0; \quad 4A - 3D = 0.$$

Hence $B = C = 0$ and $A = -1/3$, $D = -4/9$, and a particular solution is

$$y = -\frac{1}{3}x \sin 2x - \frac{4}{9} \cos 2x.$$