

1 (a) A differential equation is a relationship between an independent variable ( $x$ ) and dependent variable ( $y$ ) and one or more derivative of  $y$  with respect to  $x$ .

Examples: (i)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = 2 + \frac{y}{x}$

(ii)  $\frac{dy}{dx} = y + \frac{y}{x}$

(b)  $y = Ae^{-4x} + Be^{-6x}$

(i) A second order differential equation.

(ii) A second order differential equation can be formed because it contains 2 constants in the degenerate equation.

(iii)  $y = Ae^{-4x} + Be^{-6x}$

$\frac{dy}{dx} = -4Ae^{-4x} - 6Be^{-6x}$  — (1) Solution

$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = 16Ae^{-4x} + 36Be^{-6x}$  — (2)

Solving eqn (1) and (2) simultaneously.

Multiply eqn (1) by 6

$\therefore 6\frac{dy}{dx} = -24Ae^{-4x} - 36Be^{-6x}$  — (3)

$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = +16Ae^{-4x} + 36Be^{-6x}$  — (4)

$6\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -8Ae^{-4x}$

$\therefore A = \frac{6\frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}{-8e^{-4x}}$  — (5)

Substituting eqn (5) into eqn (1)

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 4 \left( 6 \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \right) e^{-4x} - 6Be^{-6x}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = 6 \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 6Be^{-6x}$$

Multiply through by 2

$$2 \frac{dy}{dx} = 6 \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 12Be^{-6x}$$

$$2 \frac{dy}{dx} - 6 \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 12Be^{-6x}$$

$$-4 \frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = -12Be^{-6x}$$

$$-4 \frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = B \quad \therefore \quad 4 \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} = B$$

Substitute A and B into the degenerate equation

$$\therefore y = 6 \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \times e^{-4x} + 4 \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} \times e^{-6x}$$

$$y = 6 \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 4 \frac{dy}{dx} + \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$$

$$y = \frac{-72 \frac{dy}{dx} - 12 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 32 \frac{dy}{dx} + 8 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}{96}$$

$$y = \frac{-40 \frac{dy}{dx} - 4 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}}{96}$$

$$96y = -40 \frac{dy}{dx} - 4 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$$

$$24y = -10 \frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{d^2y}{dx^2}$$

$$\therefore \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 10 \frac{dy}{dx} + 24y = 0$$