

### Annihilator:

Convert a non-homogeneous DE to Homogeneous DE:

The problems that we have looked at are of the form:

$L(D)y = g(x)$ , and  $Q(D)F = 0$  Where  $Q(D)$  is a polynomial differential operator. Any polynomial differential operator  $Q(D)$  that satisfies  $Q(D)F = 0$  is said to annihilate  $F(x)$ . The **polynomial differential operator of lowest order that satisfies equation  $Q(D)F = 0$  is called the annihilator of  $F$ .**

So, if we apply  $Q(D)$  to both sides of  $L(D)y = g(x)$ , then we have  $Q(D)L(D)y = Q(D)g(x) = 0$ .

This is a constant coefficient homogeneous linear DE and therefore can be solved using the technique of the previous sections.

**Def:** A linear differential operator  $Q(D)$  is said to annihilate a function  $f(x)$  if  $Q(D)f(x) = D(f(x)) = 0$  for all  $x$ . That is,  $Q$  annihilates  $f$  if  $f$  is a solution to the homogeneous linear differential equation on  $(-\infty, \infty)$

**Ex:** For DE  $y'' - 4y' + 20y = 0 \Rightarrow Q(D) = D^2 - 4D + 20$  is an annihilator of  $e^{2x} \sin 4x$  and  $e^{2x} \cos 4x$

For  $f(x) = k \Rightarrow Q(D) = D$

For  $f(x) = x^n \Rightarrow Q(D) = D^{n+1}$

For  $f(x) = e^{ax} \Rightarrow Q(D) = (D - a)$

For  $f(x) = xe^{ax} \Rightarrow Q(D) = (D - a)^2$

For  $f(x) = \sin bx$ ; or  $\cos bx \Rightarrow Q(D) = D^2 + b^2$

For  $f(x) = x \sin bx$ , or  $x \cos bx \Rightarrow Q(D) = (D^2 + b^2)^2$

For  $f(x) = e^{ax} \sin bx$ , or  $e^{ax} \cos bx \Rightarrow Q(D) = (D - a)^2 + b^2$

**In general:**  $(D - r)^m$ , where m is a positive integer, annihilates each of the following functions:  
 $e^{rx}, xe^{rx}, x^2e^{rx}, \dots, x^{m-1}e^{rx}$

and  $[(D - \alpha)^2 + \beta^2]^m$  annihilates each of the following functions:

$$e^{\alpha x} \cos \beta x, xe^{\alpha x} \cos \beta x, \dots, x^{m-1}e^{\alpha x} \cos \beta x$$

$$e^{\alpha x} \sin \beta x, xe^{\alpha x} \sin \beta x, \dots, x^{m-1}e^{\alpha x} \sin \beta x,$$

Note: (Annihilator of a sum of functions) Let  $Q_g(D)$  and  $Q_h(D)$  be annihilator of  $g(x)$  and  $h(x)$  respectively. Then  $Q(D) = Q_g(D)Q_h(D)$  is an annihilator for  $f(x) = g(x) + h(x)$

Ex: Find an annihilator of the following functions:

a)  $g(x) = 3x^4 - 2x^3 - 4x - 1$

b)  $g(x) = 7e^{-4x}$

c)  $g(x) = 8 \sin(3x)$

d)  $g(x) = e^{3x} \cos(4x)$

e)  $g(x) = e^{-2x} \sin(5x) + 4x^3 + 5x + 2$

f)  $g(x) = x^3 e^{3x} + 2 \sin(5x)$

g)  $g(x) = x^2 e^{3x} \cos(3x)$

h)  $g(x) = 5 \cos^2(3x)$

So, how do we use Annihilator to solve  $L(D)y = g(x)$ .

Find an annihilator for the non-homogeneous  $g(x)$ , say  $Q(D)$ . Solve for homogeneous solution first then apply  $Q(D)$  to both sides of the  $L(D)y = g(x) \Rightarrow Q(D)L(D)y = Q(D)g(x) = 0$

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**Ex:** Use the annihilator method to solve the following:

a)  $(D - 3)^2 y = 7e^{3x}$

b)  $y'' + y = e^{2x} + 1$

c)  $y'' - y = e^{-2x} \sin x$

d)  $(D+1)(D^2+9)y = 4xe^{-x} + 5e^{2x} \cos 3x$

e)  $y'' + y' + \frac{1}{4}y = e^x (\sin(3x) - \cos(3x))$

f)  $y''' + 3y'' + 3y' + y = 2e^{-x} + 3e^{2x}$

g)  $(D^2 + D - 2)y = 4 \cos x - 2 \sin x; y(0) = -1, y'(0) = 4$

h)  $(D^2 + 2D - 3)y = \sin^2(x)$

f)  $y'' + 5y' - 6y = 10e^{2x}; y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 1$