

Translating Higher Order Equations/Systems to First Order Systems

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Intermediate Derivatives Become Dummy Variables

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Let $a_0(t), \dots, a_{n-1}(t)$ and $g(t)$ be differentiable functions. The function y is a solution of the n^{th} order linear differential equation $y^{(n)} + a_{n-1}(t)y^{(n-1)} + \dots + a_1(t)y' + a_0(t)y = g(t)$ if and only if $y_0 := y, y_1 := y', \dots, y_{n-1} := y^{(n-1)}$ is a solution of the system of linear equations

$$\begin{aligned}y_0' &= y_1 \\y_1' &= y_2 \\&\vdots \\&\vdots \\y_{n-2}' &= y_{n-1} \\y_{n-1}' &= -a_{n-1}(t)y_{n-1} - \dots - a_1(t)y_1 - a_0(t)y_0 + g(t).\end{aligned}$$

Translate the Initial Value Problem

$y'' + 4y' + 5y = 0, y(0) = 0, y'(0) = 1$ Into an IVP
for a First Order System

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$$y_1 = y_0'$$

$$y_1'$$

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$$\begin{aligned} y_1 &= y_0' \\ y_1' + 4y_1 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} y_1 &= y'_0 \\ y'_1 + 4y_1 + 5y_0 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

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$$y_0' = y_1$$

$$y_1' = -4y_1 - 5y_0$$

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$$\begin{aligned}y_0' &= y_1 \\y_1' &= -4y_1 - 5y_0 \\y_0(0) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

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$$y_1' = -4y_1 - 5y_0$$

$$y_0(0) = 0$$

$$y_1(0) = 1$$

Translate the Initial Value Problem

$y_1'' + 3y_1' - y_1 + 2y_2' = 0$, $y_2'' - 2y_2 + y_1' - 2y_1 = 0$,
 $y_1(0) = 0$, $y_1'(0) = 1$, $y_2(0) = 2$, $y_2'(0) = 3$ Into an
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$$u_2 = u_1'$$

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$$u_2 = u_1'$$

$$u_2' + 3u_2$$

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$$u_2 = u_1'$$

$$u_2' + 3u_2 - u_1$$

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$$u_2 = u_1'$$

$$u_2' + 3u_2 - u_1 + 2u_4$$

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$$u_2 = u_1'$$

$$u_2' + 3u_2 - u_1 + 2u_4 = 0$$

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$$u_2 = u_1'$$

$$u_2' + 3u_2 - u_1 + 2u_4 = 0$$

$$u_4 = u_3'$$

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$$u_2 = u_1'$$

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$$u_4' - 2u_3$$

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$$u_4 = u_3'$$

$$u_4' - 2u_3 + u_2 = 0$$

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$$u_2' = -3u_2 + u_1 - 2u_4$$

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$$u_1' = u_2$$

$$u_2' = -3u_2 + u_1 - 2u_4$$

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