



Systems of Ordinary Differential Equations > Linear Systems of Two Equations

15. $x''_{tt} = a f(t)(t y'_t - y), \quad y''_{tt} = b f(t)(t x'_t - x).$

The transformation

$$u = t x_t - x, \quad v = t y'_t - y \tag{1}$$

leads to the system of first-order equations

$$u'_t = a t f(t) v, \quad v'_t = b t f(t) u.$$

The general solution of this system has the form

$$\begin{aligned} \text{with } ab > 0: & \begin{cases} u(t) = C_1 a \exp\left(\sqrt{ab} \int t f(t) dt\right) + C_2 a \exp\left(-\sqrt{ab} \int t f(t) dt\right), \\ v(t) = C_1 \sqrt{ab} \exp\left(\sqrt{ab} \int t f(t) dt\right) - C_2 \sqrt{ab} \exp\left(-\sqrt{ab} \int t f(t) dt\right), \end{cases} \\ \text{with } ab < 0: & \begin{cases} u(t) = C_1 a \cos\left(\sqrt{|ab|} \int t f(t) dt\right) + C_2 a \sin\left(\sqrt{|ab|} \int t f(t) dt\right), \\ v(t) = -C_1 \sqrt{|ab|} \sin\left(\sqrt{|ab|} \int t f(t) dt\right) + C_2 \sqrt{|ab|} \cos\left(\sqrt{|ab|} \int t f(t) dt\right), \end{cases} \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

where C_1 and C_2 are arbitrary constants. On substituting (2) into (1) and on integrating the resulting relation, one arrives at the solution of the original system:

$$x = C_3 t + t \int \frac{u(t)}{t^2} dt, \quad y = C_4 t + t \int \frac{v(t)}{t^2} dt,$$

where C_3 and C_4 are arbitrary constants.