

---

Instructions

1. Write your *Name* and *PID* on the front of your Blue Book.
  2. No calculators or other electronic devices are allowed during this exam.
  3. You may use a double sided page of notes.
  4. Write your solutions clearly in your Blue Book.
    - (a) Carefully indicate the number and letter of each question and question part.
    - (b) Present your answers in the same order as they appear in the exam.
    - (c) Start each numbered problem on a new side of a page.
  5. Show all of your work and justify all your claims. No credit will be given for unsupported answers, even if correct.
- 

Complete 10 out of the 11 questions

1. (10 points) Find the general solution for the system:

$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} -t \\ 4 - 3t \\ 1 - 2t \end{pmatrix} \quad (1)$$

*Solution:* The general solution  $\mathbf{x}$  to any non-homogeneous system as above is always a sum of the homogeneous solution  $\mathbf{x}_h$  and a particular solution  $\mathbf{x}_p$

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}_h + \mathbf{x}_p \quad (2)$$

The homogeneous solution  $\mathbf{x}_h$  is calculated by solving the system:

$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \quad (3)$$

To find a particular solution  $\mathbf{x}_p$  we can use the method of undetermined coefficients. Since the vector function

$$\begin{pmatrix} -t \\ 4 - 3t \\ 1 - 2t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} t$$

in (1) is linear (no powers of  $t$  greater than 1), the general form of a particular solution is given by:

$$\mathbf{x}_p = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}t$$

for some vectors  $\mathbf{a}$ ,  $\mathbf{b}$ . By substituting this into (1) we can solve for  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ .

**Finding the homogeneous solution:**

The general homogeneous solution  $\mathbf{x}_h$  is the general solution to the system (3).

To calculate the eigenvalues of  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$  we determine the characteristic equation:

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1-r & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3-r & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2-r \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

Calculating the determinant on the left hand side (by expanding along the first column) we get:

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1-r & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3-r & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2-r \end{pmatrix} = (1-r) \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} 3-r & 0 \\ 0 & 2-r \end{pmatrix} = (1-r)(3-r)(2-r) = 0$$

So we have 3 distinct eigenvalues

$$r_1 = 1$$

$$r_2 = 2$$

$$r_3 = 3$$

**Calculating eigenvalue  $\mathbf{u}_1$**  (corresponding to  $r_1 = 1$ ):

$\mathbf{u}_1$  is any non-zero solution to the matrix equation:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

(notice 1 subtracted from the leading diagonal)

Equivalently this can be rewritten as a system of equations:

$$0a + b + 0c = 0 \implies b = 0$$

$$0a + 2b + 0c = 0$$

$$0a + 0b + c = 0 \implies c = 0$$

Using the above:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = a \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Let  $a = 1$  to get

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Calculating eigenvalue  $\mathbf{u}_2$**  (corresponding to  $r_2 = 2$ ):

$\mathbf{u}_2$  is any non-zero solution to:

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

(notice 2 subtracted from the leading diagonal)

Equivalently this can be rewritten as a system of equations:

$$-a + b + 0c = 0 \implies a = b$$

$$0a + b + 0c = 0 \implies b = 0$$

$$0a + 0b + 0c = 0$$

Using the above:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ c \end{pmatrix} = c \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Let  $c = 1$  to get

$$\mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Calculating eigenvalue  $\mathbf{u}_3$**  (corresponding to  $r_3 = 3$ ):

$\mathbf{u}_3$  is any non-zero solution to (notice 3 subtracted from the leading diagonal):

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The method of row reduction can be used to solve this. **Reference**

Equivalently this can be rewritten as a system of equations:

$$\begin{aligned} -2a + b + 0c &= 0 \implies b = 2a \\ 0a + 0b + 0c &= 0 \\ 0a + 0b - c &= 0 \implies c = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Using the above:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ 2a \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = a \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Let  $a = 1$  to get

$$\mathbf{u}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The homogeneous solution is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_h(t) &= c_1 \mathbf{u}_1 e^{r_1 t} + c_2 \mathbf{u}_2 e^{r_2 t} + c_3 \mathbf{u}_3 e^{r_3 t} \\ &= c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} e^t + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{2t} + c_3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} e^{3t} \end{aligned}$$

**Finding a particular solution:**

For the particular solution we substitute the guess  $\mathbf{x}_p = \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}t$  into (1). We get:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}t) &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}t) + \begin{pmatrix} -t \\ 4 - 3t \\ 1 - 2t \end{pmatrix} \\ \mathbf{b} &= \left[ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right] + \left[ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{b} + \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \right] t \end{aligned}$$

On the right hand side of the second line I distributed the matrix products and separated the expression into two components: constants and multiples of  $t$ .

Comparing components on the two sides of the equation we get:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{b} &= \left[ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right] \\ \mathbf{0} &= \left[ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{b} + \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -3 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \right]\end{aligned}\tag{4}$$

Rearranging the second equation of (4) we get:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

If we let  $\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{pmatrix}$  the above matrix equation represents the simultaneous equations:

$$\begin{aligned}b_1 + b_2 + 0b_3 &= 1 \\ 0b_1 + 3b_2 + 0b_3 &= 3 \implies b_2 = 1 \\ 0b_1 + 0b_2 + 2b_3 &= 2 \implies b_3 = 1\end{aligned}$$

Substituting  $b_2 = 1$  into the first equation we get  $b_1 = 0$ . So:

$$\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now we can substitute  $\mathbf{b}$  into the first equation of (4):

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Rearrange:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}$$

If we let  $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{pmatrix}$  the above can be rewritten as:

$$\begin{aligned}a_1 + a_2 + 0a_3 &= 0 \\ 0a_1 + 3a_2 + 0a_3 &= -3 \implies a_2 = -1 \\ 0a_1 + 0a_2 + 2a_3 &= 0 \implies a_3 = 0\end{aligned}$$

Substituting  $a_2 = -1$  into the first equation we get  $a_1 = 1$ . So:

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

This determines a particular solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_p &= \mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}t \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} t \end{aligned}$$

Putting everything together, the general solution is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}(t) &= \mathbf{x}_h + \mathbf{x}_p \\ &= c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} e^t + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{2t} + c_3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} e^{3t} + \left( \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} t \right) \end{aligned}$$

□

2. (10 points) Solve the initial value problem:

$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -2 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}, \quad \mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

*Solution:* The first part of the solution is the same as Question 1.

**Characteristic polynomial:**

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} -r & 1 \\ -2 & 3-r \end{pmatrix} = 0 \implies r^2 - 3r + 2 = 0$$

□

**Eigenvalues:**

$$r_1 = 1, r_2 = 2$$

**Calculating  $\mathbf{u}_1$**  (associated to  $r_1 = 1$ ):

Need to solve:

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

As a system of simultaneous equation this is:

$$\begin{aligned} -a + b &= 0 \\ -2a + 2b &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Rearranging the first equation gives  $b = a$  so we can rewrite  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$  as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ b \end{pmatrix} = b \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Any choice of  $b$  (except  $b = 0$ ) will give us an eigenvector, since there are no fractions to cancel let  $b = 1$  to get:

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Calculating  $\mathbf{u}_2$**  (associated to  $r_2 = 2$ ):

Need to solve:

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

As a system of simultaneous equation this is:

$$\begin{aligned} -2a + b &= 0 \\ -2a + b &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Rearranging the first equation gives  $b = 2a$  so we can rewrite  $\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$  as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ 2a \end{pmatrix} = a \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Any choice of  $a$  (except  $a = 0$ ) will give us an eigenvector, since there are no fractions to cancel let  $a = 1$  to get:

$$\mathbf{u}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The general solution is then given by:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^t + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} e^{2t}$$

Or equivalently as:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} e^t & e^{2t} \\ e^t & 2e^{2t} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{5}$$

Substituting  $t = 0$  into (5) and using the initial condition  $\mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$  we get:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Interpreting this as a system of simultaneous equations we get:

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 + c_2 &= 1 \\ c_1 + 2c_2 &= -1 \end{aligned}$$

Subtracting one equation from the other we get  $c_2 = -2$ . Substituting  $c_2 = -2$  back we get  $c_1 = 3$ .

So the solution is given by:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = 3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^t - 2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} e^{2t} = \begin{pmatrix} 3e^t - 2e^{2t} \\ 3e^t - 4e^{2t} \end{pmatrix}$$

3. (10 points) Consider the following differential equation

$$y''(t) - 3y'(t) + 2y(t) = f(t)$$

Using the method of undetermined coefficients, determine the general form of a particular solution  $y_p(t)$  in the following cases (**do not calculate the unknown constants**):

- (a)  $f(t) = t^2 + 1$
- (b)  $f(t) = te^t + t$
- (c)  $f(t) = \sin(t) + \cos(2t)$
- (d)  $f(t) = \sin(t)e^{2t}$

*Solution:* It is a good idea to start by calculating the auxiliary roots of the given differential equation, so we know when to add an extra  $t$  (or potentially  $t^2$ ) into the solution. Here the auxiliary equation is  $r^2 - 3r + 2 = 0$  with roots  $r_1 = 1$ ,  $r_2 = 2$ . This means if we  $f(t)$  includes  $p(t)e^t$  or  $p(t)e^{2t}$  where  $p(t)$  is any polynomial we will need to add an extra  $t$ .

- (a)  $f(t)$  is a quadratic polynomial so the guess for the particular solution is the general quadratic function:

$$y_p(t) = At^2 + Bt + C$$

**Note:** If 0 was one of the auxiliary roots, the correct guess would be  $y_p(t) = t(At^2 + Bt + C)$

- (b)  $f(t)$  is a sum of two functions that we handle separately.  $te^t$  is a product of a linear polynomial  $t$  and an exponential  $e^t$ . The corresponding guess would normally be given by  $(At + B)e^t$ , **however** because 1 is an auxiliary root  $e^t$  is already a homogeneous solution and so we need to include an extra  $t$ . This means  $(At + B)te^t$  is the correct guess corresponding to  $te^t$ .

The correct guess corresponding to  $t$  is just  $Ct + D$  as normal.

Combining the two guesses into one sum we get:

$$y_p(t) = (At + B)te^t + (Ct + D)$$

- (c)  $f(t)$  is a sum of two trigonometric functions with different arguments ( $2t$  and  $3t$ ) so we treat these as separate.

The correct guess associated to  $\sin(t)$  is  $A \cos(t) + B \sin(t)$  and the correct guess associated to  $\cos(2t)$  is  $C \cos(2t) + D \sin(2t)$ . Combining the two we get:

$$y_p(t) = A \cos(t) + B \sin(t) + C \cos(2t) + D \sin(2t)$$

- (d)  $f(t)$  is a product of a trigonometric function  $\sin(t)$  and an exponential  $e^{2t}$  and so the corresponding guess is the general product of the two:

$$y_p(t) = A \cos(t)e^{2t} + B \sin(t)e^{2t}$$

(Remember that you need to include both  $\sin$  and  $\cos$ )

Notice that despite the fact that 2 is an auxiliary root we do not include an extra power of  $t$  for  $e^{2t}$ . We would add an extra  $t$  into the guess here only if  $2 \pm i$  were the auxiliary roots.

□

4. (10 points) Solve the equation

$$(y^3 + 4e^x y)dx + (4e^x + 3y^2 x)dy = 0$$

*Solution:* This looks like an exact equation but we first **need to check for exactness**:

Here we have:

$$\begin{aligned} M(x, y) &= y^3 + 4e^x y \\ N(x, y) &= 4e^x + 3y^2 x \end{aligned}$$

Need to check if:

$$M_y = N_x$$

Taking partial derivatives:

$$\begin{aligned} M_y(x, y) &= 3y^2 + 4e^x \\ N_x(x, y) &= 4e^x + 3y^2 \end{aligned}$$

So this is an exact equation.

We can now look for a solution of the form

$$F(x, y) = C$$

Where  $F_x = M$  and  $F_y = N$ .

Integrating  $M$  with respect to  $x$  (and treating  $y$  as a constant) we get:

$$\int y^3 + 4e^x y \, dx = y^3 x + 4e^x y$$

Integrating  $N$  with respect to  $y$  (and treating  $x$  as a constant) we get:

$$\int 4e^x + 3y^2 x \, dy = 4e^x y + y^3 x$$

$F(x, y)$  is a sum of the unique terms in the above calculations.  $y^3 x$  and  $4e^x y$  both show up twice and so:

$$F(x, y) = y^3 x + 4e^x y$$

With solutions given by

$$y^3 x + 4e^x y = C$$

for any constant  $C$ .

□



5. (10 points) Solve the initial value problem:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} - \frac{y}{x} = xe^x, \quad y(1) = e - 1$$

*Solution:* Since this is a differential equation of the form

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

where

$$P(x) = -\frac{1}{x}$$
$$Q(x) = xe^x$$

this is a **linear equation**.

This means we have to find the integrating factor  $\mu$ , recall this is calculated as:

$$\mu(x) = e^{\int P \, dx}$$

So in this case:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(x) &= e^{\int -\frac{1}{x} \, dx} \\ &= e^{-\ln(x)} \\ &= e^{\ln(1/x)} \\ &= \frac{1}{x} \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying the differential equation by  $\frac{1}{x}$  and simplifying gives:

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( \frac{1}{x} \cdot y \right) = e^x \implies \frac{1}{x} \cdot y = \int e^x dx + C$$

Calculating the integral and solving for  $y$  we get:

$$y = x(e^x + C)$$

Applying the initial condition at  $t = 1$ :

$$(e - 1) = 1(e^1 + C) \implies C = -1$$

So the solution is:

$$y = x(e^x - 1)$$

□

6. (10 points) Find the general solution to the following equations:

(a)

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

(b)

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

*Solution:* We need to determine and solve characteristic polynomial in each case:

(a) Characteristic Equation:

$$r^2 + 2r + 10 = 0 \implies (r + 1)^2 + 9 = 0 \implies r = -1 \pm 3i$$

We need to use the form of the general solution corresponding to complex auxiliary roots  $\alpha \pm i\beta$ , recall that this is given by:

$$y(x) = c_1 e^{\alpha x} \cos(\beta x) + c_2 e^{\alpha x} \sin(\beta x)$$

In particular the general solution in our case corresponds to  $\alpha = -1$ ,  $\beta = 3$ :

$$y(x) = c_1 e^{-x} \cos(3x) + c_2 e^{-x} \sin(3x)$$

(b) Characteristic Equation:

$$r^2 + 2r + 1 = 0 \implies (r + 1)^2 = 0 \implies r = -1 \text{ (repeated)}$$

We need to use the form of the general solution corresponding to a repeated real root  $r$ , recall that this is given by:

$$y(x) = c_1 e^{rx} + c_2 x e^{rx}$$

In particular the general solution in our case corresponds to  $r = -1$ :

$$y(x) = c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 x e^{-x}$$

□

7. (10 points) Find the general solution to the differential equation

$$y'' = 5x^{-1}y' - 13x^{-2}y, \quad x > 0$$

How would your answer change if we wanted a solution valid for  $x < 0$ ?

*Solution:* This looks like a strange equation but is a Cauchy-Euler equation in disguise. If we multiply the equation through by  $x^2$  and rearrange we get:

$$x^2 y'' - 5x y' + 13y = 0, \quad x > 0$$

The characteristic equation corresponding to this Cauchy-Euler equation is given by:

$$r^2 + (-5 - 1)r + 13 = 0$$

Simplify and solve:

$$r^2 - 6r + 13 = 0 \implies (r - 3)^2 + 4 = 0 \implies r = 3 \pm 2i$$

The general solution to a Cauchy-Euler equation with complex roots  $\alpha \pm i\beta$  to the associated characteristic equation is given by:

$$y(x) = c_1 x^\alpha \cos(\beta \ln(x)) + c_2 x^\alpha \sin(\beta \ln(x))$$

In this question we have  $\alpha = 3$ ,  $\beta = 2$  and so the general solution (for  $x > 0$ ) is given by:

$$y(x) = c_1 x^3 \cos(2 \ln(x)) + c_2 x^3 \sin(2 \ln(x))$$

If we wanted a solution valid for  $x < 0$  we replace  $x$  with  $-x$  to get:

$$y(x) = c_1 (-x)^3 \cos(2 \ln(-x)) + c_2 (-x)^3 \sin(2 \ln(-x))$$

□

8. (10 points) Using variation of parameters, find a particular solution to the differential equation

$$y'' - 2y' + y = \frac{e^t}{t}$$

*Solution.* We can only apply variation of parameters if we already have two linearly independent homogeneous solutions. Luckily here the left hand side has an easy auxiliary equation  $r^2 - 2r + 1 = 0$  with  $r = 1$  as a repeated root. This means we have two linearly independent solutions:

$$\begin{aligned} y_1(t) &= e^t \\ y_2(t) &= te^t \end{aligned}$$

This let's us set up the particular solution as:

$$\begin{aligned} y_p(t) &= v_1(t)y_1(t) + v_2(t)y_2(t) \\ &= v_1(t)e^t + v_2(t)te^t \end{aligned}$$

where  $v_1(t)$  and  $v_2(t)$  are determined by the equations:

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 v_1' + y_2 v_2' &= 0 \\ y_1' v_1 + y_2' v_2 &= \frac{f}{a} \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

Here  $f = \frac{e^t}{t}$  is the non-homogeneous part of the differential equation and  $a = 1$  is the coefficient of  $y''$ .

We calculate  $y_1' = e^t$ ,  $y_2' = e^t + te^t$  and substitute into (8) to get:

$$\begin{aligned} e^t v_1' + te^t v_2' &= 0 \\ e^t v_1' + (e^t + te^t)v_2' &= \frac{e^t}{t} \end{aligned}$$

Subtract one equation from another to get:

$$e^t v_2' = \frac{e^t}{t} \implies v_2' = \frac{1}{t} \implies v_2 = \ln |t|$$

Substituting  $v_2' = \frac{1}{t}$  into the first equation we get:

$$e^t v_1' + t e^t \left( \frac{1}{t} \right) = 0 \implies v_1' = -1 \implies v_1 = -t$$

So a particular solution is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} y_p(t) &= v_1(t)e^t + v_2(t)te^t \\ &= -te^t + \ln|t|te^t \\ &= te^t(\ln|t| - 1) \end{aligned}$$

**Note:** the question does not specify whether  $t > 0$  or  $t < 0$ , so we need to keep the absolute value sign in  $\ln|t|$  throughout. □

9. (10 points) Find a general solution to the system of differential equations

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt} &= x(t) - 4y(t) \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= x(t) + y(t) \end{aligned}$$

*Solution:* We can rewrite this as a system of differential equations  $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$  with:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The solution starts in the same way as in Question 1.

**Characteristic polynomial:**

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1-r & -4 \\ 1 & 1-r \end{pmatrix} = 0 \implies (1-r)^2 + 4 = 0$$

**Eigenvalues:**

$$1 + 2i, 1 - 2i \implies \alpha = 1, \beta = 2$$

**Calculating complex eigenvector:**

The complex eigenvalue  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{a} + i\mathbf{b}$  (where  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  are real vectors) associated to the eigenvalue  $1 + 2i$  is calculated by solving:

$$(A - (1 + 2i)I)\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{0}$$

for  $\mathbf{u}$ . In this case we are solving:

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2i & -4 \\ 1 & -2i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

As a system of equations this is:

$$\begin{aligned} -2ia - 4b &= 0 \\ a - 2ib &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Rearranging the first equation:

$$b = \frac{-2ia}{4} = \left(-\frac{1}{2}i\right)a$$

The solution is then given by:

$$\mathbf{z} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ (-\frac{1}{2}i)a \end{pmatrix} = a \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\frac{1}{2}i \end{pmatrix}$$

for any non-zero constant  $a$ .

Any choice of  $a$  (except 0) gives us an eigenvector, so to get rid of fractions let  $a = 2$  and get:

$$\mathbf{z} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -i \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + i \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

So:

$$\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

From this we can write down the general solution:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x} &= c_1 e^{\alpha t} (\mathbf{a} \cos(\beta t) - \mathbf{b} \sin(\beta t)) + c_2 e^{\alpha t} (\mathbf{a} \sin(\beta t) + \mathbf{b} \cos(\beta t)) \\ &= c_1 e^t \left( \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \cos(2t) - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \sin(2t) \right) + c_2 e^t \left( \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \sin(2t) + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \cos(2t) \right) \\ &= c_1 e^t \left( \begin{pmatrix} 2 \cos(2t) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -\sin(2t) \end{pmatrix} \right) + c_2 e^t \left( \begin{pmatrix} 2 \sin(2t) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -\cos(2t) \end{pmatrix} \right) \\ &= c_1 e^t \begin{pmatrix} 2 \cos(2t) \\ \sin(2t) \end{pmatrix} + c_2 e^t \begin{pmatrix} 2 \sin(2t) \\ -\cos(2t) \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

□

10. (10 points) Solve the initial value problem

$$\frac{dy}{dx} - (1 + y^2) \tan(x) = 0, \quad y(0) = \sqrt{3}$$

*Proof.* Rearranging the equation we get:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = (1 + y^2) \tan(x), \quad y(0) = \sqrt{3}$$

Notice that the right hand side function is conveniently separated into a product of the type  $f(x) \cdot g(y)$  so we can identify this as a separated equation.

Rearranging the equation we get:

$$\frac{dy}{1 + y^2} = \tan(x) dx$$

Integrate both sides (recall you only need  $+C$  on one side):

$$\int \frac{dy}{1+y^2} = \int \tan(x) dx + C \quad (7)$$

Both of these are standard integrals:

$$\int \frac{1}{1+y^2} dy = \arctan(y)$$
$$\int \arctan(x) dx = -\ln |\cos(x)|$$

Substituting these into (7) above we get:

$$\arctan(y) = -\ln |\cos(x)| + C \implies y = \tan(C - \ln |\cos(x)|)$$

We are given an initial condition at  $x = 0$  so we are looking for a solution near  $x = 0$  where  $\cos(x) > 0$ . This means that

$$\ln |\cos(x)| = \ln(\cos(x))$$

Applying the initial condition we can solve for  $C$ :

$$\sqrt{3} = \tan(C - \ln |\cos(0)|) = \tan(C) \implies C = \frac{\pi}{3}$$

So the solution is:

$$y = \tan\left(\frac{\pi}{3} - \ln |\cos(x)|\right)$$

□

11. (10 points) (a) Verify that  $S = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ -e^{2t} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} e^{3t} \\ -2e^{3t} \end{pmatrix} \right\}$  is a fundamental solution set to the system

$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \quad (8)$$

- (b) Solve the initial value problem

$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}, \quad \mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

*Proof.* (a) We need to check two things:

Part 1) Check that each function  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  in  $S$  is a solution to the system (8)

Part 2) Check whether these are **linearly independent** solutions

For Part 1) we check whether the functions in  $S$  are solutions by substituting them into the system (8).

For example, let  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ -e^{2t} \end{pmatrix}$  and substitute into (8):

$$\begin{aligned}\text{LHS} &= \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ -e^{2t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2e^{2t} \\ -2e^{2t} \end{pmatrix} \\ \text{RHS} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ -e^{2t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2e^{2t} \\ -2e^{2t} \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

Since LHS = RHS we know that  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ -e^{2t} \end{pmatrix}$  is a solution. Similarly we can perform the same calculation with  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{3t} \\ -2e^{3t} \end{pmatrix}$  to check whether it is a solution. Instead of showing this calculation I want to highlight a method that can check both at the same time by verifying whether

$$X' = AX$$

holds, where  $X$  is the fundamental matrix:

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} & e^{3t} \\ -e^{2t} & -2e^{3t} \end{pmatrix}$$

This calculation looks like this:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{LHS} = X' &= \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} & e^{3t} \\ -e^{2t} & -2e^{3t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2e^{2t} & 3e^{3t} \\ -2e^{2t} & -6e^{3t} \end{pmatrix} \\ \text{RHS} = AX &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} & e^{3t} \\ -e^{2t} & -2e^{3t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2e^{2t} & 3e^{3t} \\ -2e^{2t} & -6e^{3t} \end{pmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

Since LHS = RHS both of the columns of  $X$  we solutions to  $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$ .

For Part 2) we can **use the Wronskian to check for linear independence**. Recall that the Wronskian is defined as the determinant of the fundamental matrix  $X$ .

$$\det(X) = \det \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} & e^{3t} \\ -e^{2t} & -2e^{3t} \end{pmatrix} = -2e^{5t} + e^{5t} = -e^{5t}$$

Since  $-e^{5t} \neq 0$  for all  $t$  the solutions from part (a) are linearly independent.

- (b) We checked that the functions in  $S$  are two linearly independent solutions to the system (8), so any solution to (8) can be expressed as a linear combination of these two functions. We just need to determine the right coefficients to match the initial condition.

The general solution is given by:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ -e^{2t} \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} e^{3t} \\ -2e^{3t} \end{pmatrix}$$

Apply the initial condition at  $t = 0$ :

$$\mathbf{x}(0) = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} e^0 \\ -e^0 \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} e^0 \\ -2e^0 \end{pmatrix}$$

On the other hand we have:

$$\mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Combining the two:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

This can be expressed a system of simultaneous equations:

$$\begin{aligned} c_1 + c_2 &= 0 \\ -c_1 - 2c_2 &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

Add the equations to get  $-c_2 = 1 \implies c_2 = -1$

Substitute back in the first equation to get  $c_1 = 1$

The solution is then given by:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}(t) &= c_1 \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ -e^{2t} \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} e^{3t} \\ -2e^{3t} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ -e^{2t} \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} e^{3t} \\ -2e^{3t} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} - e^{3t} \\ -e^{2t} + 2e^{3t} \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

□