

**SAMPLE TEST # 4**

Solve the following exercises. **Show your work.** (No credit will be given for an answer with no supporting work shown.)

**Ex. 1.** Transform the following system of equations into a single second order equation in terms of  $x_1$ . Then give the initial condition for the resulted equation that corresponds to the given initial conditions. Do not solve.

$$x_1' = -0.5x_1 + 2x_2; \quad x_2' = -2x_1 - 0.5x_2; \quad x_1(0) = -2, \quad x_2(0) = 2.$$

**Solution:** From the first equation we get  $x_2 = 0.5x_1' + 0.25x_1$ . Substituting this to the second equation gives  $(0.5x_1' + 0.25x_1)' = -2x_1 - 0.5(0.5x_1' + 0.25x_1)$ , which in turn leads to  $0.5x_1'' + 0.25x_1' = -2x_1 - 0.25x_1' - 0.125x_1$ . Multiplying this equation by 8 produces  $4x_1'' + 2x_1' = -16x_1 - 2x_1' - x_1$ , so  $4x_1'' = -4x_1' - 17x_1$ .

Clearly  $x_1(0) = -2$ . To calculate  $x_1'(0)$  we put  $t = 0$  to the first equation and use given boundary values:  $x_1'(0) = -0.5x_1(0) + 2x_2(0) = -0.5(-2) + 2 \cdot 2 = 5$ .

Answer:  $4x_1'' = -4x_1' - 17x_1; \quad x_1(0) = -2; \quad x_1'(0) = 5$ .

**Ex. 2.** Use eigenvalues and eigenvectors to find the general solution of the given systems of differential equations. The solution must be expressed in terms of real-valued functions.

(a)  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 3 & -4 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}$

**Solution:** The eigenvalues are obtained as roots of the equation

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1-r & -2 \\ 3 & -4-r \end{pmatrix} = 0, \text{ that is, } (1-r)(-4-r) + 6 = 0, \text{ or } r^2 + 3r - 4 + 6. \text{ Hence, } (r+2)(r+1) = 0, \text{ leading to the eigenvalues } -1 \text{ and } -2.$$

The eigenvalue  $r = -1$  leads to the eigenvector equation  $\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -2 \\ 3 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,

so  $2\xi_1 - 2\xi_2 = 0$ . Thus,  $\xi_2 = \xi_1$ ,  $\begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_1 \end{pmatrix} = \xi_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , and the eigenvector is  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .

The eigenvalue  $r = -2$  leads to the eigenvector equation  $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ 3 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,

so  $3\xi_1 - 2\xi_2 = 0$ . Thus,  $\xi_2 = 1.5\xi_1$ ,  $\begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ 1.5\xi_1 \end{pmatrix} = \xi_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1.5 \end{pmatrix}$ , and the eigenvector is  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1.5 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Answer:  $\mathbf{x} = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{-t} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1.5 \end{pmatrix} e^{-2t}$ .

(b)  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -5 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}$

**Solution:** The eigenvalues are obtained as roots of the equation

$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1-r & 2 \\ -5 & -1-r \end{pmatrix} = 0$ , that is,  $(1-r)(-1-r) + 10 = 0$ , or  $r^2 - 1 + 10 = 0$ . Hence, we have two complex the eigenvalues:  $\pm 3i$ .

Eigenvalue  $r = 3i$  leads to eigenvector equation  $\begin{pmatrix} 1-3i & 2 \\ -5 & -1-3i \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , so  $(1-3i)\xi_1 + 2\xi_2 = 0$ . Thus,  $\xi_2 = (1.5i - 0.5)\xi_1$ ,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ (1.5i - 0.5)\xi_1 \end{pmatrix} = \xi_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1.5i - 0.5 \end{pmatrix},$$

and the eigenvector is  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1.5i - 0.5 \end{pmatrix}$ . Since the real part of the eigenvalue is 0, this

leads to the complex solution  $\mathbf{x}^{(1)}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1.5i - 0.5 \end{pmatrix} e^{0t}(\cos 3t + i \sin 3t)$ . Therefore

$$\mathbf{x}^{(1)}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos 3t + i \sin 3t \\ (-0.5 \cos 3t - 1.5 \sin 3t) + i(1.5 \cos 3t - 0.5 \sin 3t) \end{pmatrix} \text{ and}$$

$$\mathbf{x}^{(1)}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos 3t \\ -0.5 \cos 3t - 1.5 \sin 3t \end{pmatrix} + i \begin{pmatrix} \sin 3t \\ 1.5 \cos 3t - 0.5 \sin 3t \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\text{Answer: } \mathbf{x}(t) = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} \cos 3t \\ -0.5 \cos 3t - 1.5 \sin 3t \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} \sin 3t \\ 1.5 \cos 3t - 0.5 \sin 3t \end{pmatrix}.$$

(c)  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & -3 \\ 3 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}$

**Solution:** The eigenvalues are obtained as roots of the equation

$\det \begin{pmatrix} 6-r & -3 \\ 3 & -r \end{pmatrix} = 0$ , that is,  $(6-r)(-r) + 9 = 0$ ,  $r^2 - 6r + 9 = 0$ , or  $(r-3)^2 = 0$ .

Hence, we have one double eigenvalue:  $r = 3$ .

The first eigenvector equation is  $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & -3 \\ 3 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , so  $3\xi_1 - 3\xi_2 = 0$ . Thus,

$\xi_2 = \xi_1$ ,  $\begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_1 \end{pmatrix} = \xi_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , and the eigenvector is  $\xi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . This gives the

first fundamental solution  $\mathbf{x}^{(1)} = \xi e^{3t} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{3t}$ . Recall that the second fundamental

solution is of the form  $\mathbf{x}^{(2)} = \xi t e^{3t} + \eta e^{3t}$ , where  $\eta$  is one of the solutions of the system  $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & -3 \\ 3 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \eta_1 \\ \eta_2 \end{pmatrix} = \xi$ , that is,  $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & -3 \\ 3 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \eta_1 \\ \eta_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ . Hence,  $3\eta_1 - 3\eta_2 = 1$ ,

that is,  $\eta_1 = \eta_2 + 1/3$ . So,  $\eta = \begin{pmatrix} \eta_2 + 1/3 \\ \eta_2 \end{pmatrix} = \eta_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . One of these

solutions is when  $\eta_2 = 0$ , giving  $\eta = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Answer:  $\mathbf{x}(t) = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{3t} + c_2 \left[ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} t e^{3t} + \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} e^{3t} \right].$

**Ex. 3.** Solve the following boundary value problem or show that it does not have a solution.  $y'' + 4y = 0$ ,  $y(0) = 0$ ,  $y(\pi) = 0$ .

**Solution:** The characteristic function of our equation is  $r^2 + 4 = 0$  and has solution  $r = \pm 2i$ . Thus, the general solution of the equation is of the form  $y(t) = c_1 \cos 2t + c_2 \sin 2t$ . For  $t = 0$  this leads to the equation  $y(0) = c_1 \cos 0 + c_2 \sin 0$ , that is,  $0 = c_1 + c_2$ . Thus  $c_1 = 0$  and  $y(t) = c_2 \sin 2t$ . For  $t = \pi$  this leads to the equation  $y(\pi) = c_2 \sin 2\pi$ , that is,  $0 = c_2$ , which holds for any value of  $c_2$ . Thus, the boundary value problem has infinitely many solutions, each of the form  $y(t) = c \sin 2t$ , where  $c$  is an arbitrary constant.

**Ex. 4.** Determine whether the method of separation of variables can be used to replace the partial differential equation  $u_{xx} + u_{xt} + u_t = 0$  by a pair of ordinary differential equations. If so, find the ordinary differential equations. Do not solve them.

**Solution:** We assume that  $u$  is of the form  $u(x, t) = X(x)T(t)$ . Then we have  $u_{xx} = X''T$ ,  $u_{xt} = X'T'$ , and  $u_t = XT'$ . Substituting this to the equation gives  $X''T + X'T' + XT' = 0$ . So,  $X''T + (X' + X)T' = 0$  and  $X''T = -(X' + X)T'$ . Thus,  $\frac{X''}{X'+X} = -\frac{T'}{T}$  and this quantity is equal to a constant, which we denote by  $\lambda$ . Thus the method of separation of variables can be used to our partial differential equation and it leads to the pair of ordinary differential equations  $X'' = \lambda(X' + X)$  and  $T' = -\lambda T$ .

**Ex. 5.** Solve the heat equation:  $u_t = 9u_{xx}$ ,  $u(0, t) = u(2, t) = 0$ ,  $u(x, 0) = 13$  for  $0 < x < 2$ .

**Solution:** The general solution of the heat equation

$$u_t = \alpha^2 u_{xx}, \quad u(0, t) = u(L, t) = 0, \quad u(x, 0) = f(x) \quad \text{for } 0 < x < L$$

is given by  $u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n e^{-n^2 \pi^2 \alpha^2 t / L^2} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L}$ , where  $c_n = \frac{2}{L} \int_0^L f(x) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{L} dx$ . In our case  $L = 2$  and  $\alpha^2 = 9$ , reducing the solution to  $u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n e^{-n^2 (9\pi^2/4)t} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{2}$ , where

$$\begin{aligned} c_n &= \frac{2}{2} \int_0^2 u(x, 0) \sin \frac{n\pi x}{2} dx = \int_0^2 13 \sin \frac{n\pi x}{2} dx \\ &= -13 \frac{2}{n\pi} \cos \frac{n\pi x}{2} \Big|_0^2 \\ &= -\frac{26}{n\pi} (\cos n\pi - \cos 0) \\ &= \frac{26}{n\pi} (\cos 0 - \cos n\pi) = \begin{cases} 0 & n \text{ is even} \\ 52/(n\pi) & n \text{ is odd} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

This leads us to a final solution

$$u(x, t) = \sum_{n=1,3,5,\dots}^{\infty} \frac{52}{n\pi} e^{-n^2 (9\pi^2/4)t} \sin \frac{n\pi x}{2} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{52}{(2k+1)\pi} e^{-(2k+1)^2 (9\pi^2/4)t} \sin \frac{(2k+1)\pi x}{2},$$

where either of the two formats is acceptable as an answer.