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Instructor: C. Wang  
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MATH 33B: DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS  
FINAL EXAM

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1. (12 points) Find the general solution for  $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$ , where  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

$$\text{Find eigenvalues: } p(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = \det \begin{bmatrix} 1-\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 1-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = (1-\lambda)^2 = 0$$

$$\lambda = 1$$

$$\text{Find eigenvectors: } \text{null}(A - I) = \text{null} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = x_1 \\ x_2 = x_2 \end{cases}$$

$$\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{General solution: } \vec{x}(t) = c_1 e^t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^t \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$



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2. (16 points) (a) Converting the following equation to a system of first order differential equations.  
(b) Find the corresponding characteristic polynomial and all the eigenvalues.

$$y''' - 2y'' - y' + 2y = 0.$$

(a) Let:  $x_1 = y$ ,  $x_2 = y'$ ,  $x_3 = y''$

$$\begin{cases} x_1' = x_2 \\ x_2' = x_3 \\ x_3' = -2x_1 + x_2 + 2x_3 \end{cases}$$

$$\vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -2 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (b) P(\lambda) &= \det(A - \lambda I) = -\det \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\lambda & 1 \\ -2 & 1 & 2-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = \lambda((\lambda)(\lambda-2)-1) + 2 \\ &= \lambda(\lambda^2 - 2\lambda - 1) + 2 \\ &= \lambda^3 - 2\lambda^2 - \lambda + 2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P(\lambda) = 0: \lambda^3 - 2\lambda^2 - \lambda + 2 &= \lambda(\lambda^2 - 1) - 2(\lambda^2 - 1) \\ &= (\lambda + 1)(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 2) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\lambda_1 = -1, \lambda_2 = 1, \lambda_3 = 2$$



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3. (15 points) Solve the initial value problem of the form (i)  $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$  (ii)  $\mathbf{x}(0) = \mathbf{x}_0$ , where  $A = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 \\ -3 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ .

$$\vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 \\ -3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x}$$

• Find eigenvalues:  $p(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = \det \begin{bmatrix} -1-\lambda & 3 \\ -3 & -1-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = (-1-\lambda)^2 + 9 = 0$

$$(\lambda + 1)^2 = -9, \lambda = -1 \pm 3i$$

• Find eigenvectors:  $\text{null}(A - (-1+3i)I) = \text{null} \begin{bmatrix} -3i & 3 \\ -3 & -3i \end{bmatrix}$

$$\text{rref} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} -3i & 3 & 0 \\ -3 & -3i & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = -x_2 i \\ x_2 = x_2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \text{eigenvectors are: } \vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -i \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} i \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ (because two eigenvectors are conjugate)}$$

• General solution:  $\vec{x}(t) = C_1 e^{-t} (\cos(3t) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \sin(3t) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}) + C_2 e^{-t} (\sin(3t) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \cos(3t) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix})$

• Plug in IV:  $\vec{x}(0) = C_1 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + C_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$

$$C_1 = 2, C_2 = 3$$

$$\vec{x}(t) = 2e^{-t} (\cos(3t) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - \sin(3t) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}) + 3e^{-t} (\sin(3t) \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + \cos(3t) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix})$$





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4. (10 points) Check whether the following differential form is exact.

$$(t^3 - t^2 \sin y - y)dy + (2t \cos y + 3t^2 y)dt$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}(t^3 - t^2 \sin y - y) = 3t^2 - 2t \sin y$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial y}(2t \cos y + 3t^2 y) = -2t \sin y + 3t^2 = \frac{\partial}{\partial t}(t^3 - t^2 \sin y - y)$$

So, the DF is closed.

Because the domain of both  $(t^3 - t^2 \sin y - y)$  and  $(2t \cos y + 3t^2 y)$  are  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$ , a rectangle area on  $t$ - $y$  plane, the DF is also exact.



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5. (20 points) This problem covers the "double real root interesting case". We will find the general solution to the equation:

$$\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x} \quad \text{where} \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} -3 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (a) Find the characteristic polynomial  $p(\lambda)$  of  $A$ , then use this polynomial to determine the eigenvalues of  $A$ .
- (b) In this case,  $\lambda := \lambda_1 = \lambda_2$  is an eigenvalue of multiplicity two. Since this is the interesting case, there is only one linearly independent eigenvector associated to  $\lambda$ . Find it.
- (c) Let  $\mathbf{v}_1$  be the eigenvector found in step (b). Find a second vector  $\mathbf{v}_2$  which is a solution to the matrix equation:

$$(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{v}_1.$$

- (d) Write down the general solution:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = C_1 e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{v}_1 + C_2 e^{\lambda t} (\mathbf{v}_2 + t\mathbf{v}_1)$$

- (c) Solve the initial value problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}' &= A\mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{x}(0) &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$(a) p(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = \det \begin{bmatrix} -3-\lambda & 1 \\ -1 & -1-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = (\lambda+3)(\lambda+1) + 1 = \lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 4 = (\lambda+2)^2$$

$$(\lambda+2)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = -2$$

$$(b) \text{null}(A+2I) = \text{null} \left( \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$\text{rref} \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right], \quad \begin{cases} \lambda_1 = \lambda_2 \\ \lambda_2 = \lambda_2 \end{cases}, \quad \vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(c) (A+2I)\vec{v}_2 = \vec{v}_1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{take } \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ a \end{bmatrix} \text{ to calculate, } \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(d) \vec{x}(t) = C_1 e^{-2t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + C_2 e^{-2t} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$(e) \vec{x}(0) = C_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + C_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} C_1 = 0 \\ C_2 = -3 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \vec{x}(t) = -3e^{-2t} \left( \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$



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6. (12 points) Find the general solution to the following homogeneous second-order linear differential equation:

$$y'' - 2y' + 5y = 0$$

Find

The characteristic polynomial:  $p(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 5$

$$p(\lambda) = 0 \iff \lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 5 = 0$$

$$(\lambda - 1)^2 + 4 = 0$$

$$(\lambda - 1)^2 = -4$$

$$\lambda = 1 \pm 2i$$

General solution:  $y(t) = C_1 e^t \cos 2t + C_2 e^t \sin 2t$ ,  $C_1, C_2 \in \mathbb{R}$



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7. (15 points) Solve the following initial value problem.

$$y' - \frac{3}{t}y = t^2 + \frac{3}{t}, \quad y(-1) = 0.$$

$$y' - \frac{3}{t}y = t^2 + \frac{3}{t}$$

$$u(t) = \exp\left(-\frac{3}{t}dt\right) = \exp(-3\ln|t|) = t^{-3}$$

Multiply  $u(t)$  to the equation:

$$(t^{-3}y)' = \frac{1}{t} + \frac{3}{t^4}$$

$$t^{-3}y = \int \left(\frac{1}{t} + \frac{3}{t^4}\right) dt = \ln|t| - \frac{1}{t^3} + C$$

$$y = t^3 \ln|t| - 1 + t^3 \cdot C$$

Plug in  $y(-1) = 0$ :

$$y(-1) = -1 - C = 0$$

$$C = -1$$

$$y(t) = t^3 \ln|t| - 1 - t^3$$

