# Lesson 34: Practice Problems - Variation of Parameters for Systems

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### Part A: Finding Fundamental Matrices

- 1. Find the fundamental matrix for  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}$
- 2. Compute  $\Phi(t)$  and  $\Phi^{-1}(t)$  for  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}$
- 3. Find the fundamental matrix for  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -4 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}$
- 4. Given  $\Phi(t) = \begin{pmatrix} e^t & e^{2t} \\ e^t & 2e^{2t} \end{pmatrix}$ , find  $\Phi^{-1}(t)$
- 5. Verify that  $\Phi(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos t & \sin t \\ -\sin t & \cos t \end{pmatrix}$  is a fundamental matrix and find its inverse.

#### Part B: Basic Variation of Parameters

6. Solve 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} e^{3t} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- 7. Find a particular solution:  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ t \end{pmatrix}$
- 8. Solve  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$
- 9. Find  $\mathbf{x}_p for \mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} e^t \\ e^{2t} \end{pmatrix}$
- 10. Solve  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} t \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

## Part C: Systems with Trigonometric Forcing

11. Solve 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} \sin t \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

12. Find a particular solution: 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2 \\ 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} \cos(3t) \\ \sin(3t) \end{pmatrix}$$

13. Solve 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} e^t \cos t \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

14. Find the general solution: 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -4 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \sin(2t) \end{pmatrix}$$
 (resonance!)

15. Solve 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ -2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} e^{-t}\cos(2t) \\ e^{-t}\sin(2t) \end{pmatrix}$$

#### Part D: Initial Value Problems

16. Solve the IVP: 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

17. Find the solution: 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} t \\ t \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

18. Solve: 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

19. Find 
$$\mathbf{x}(1)$$
 for:  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} e^{3t} \\ e^{2t} \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ 

20. Solve the IVP: 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Part E: 3×3Systems

21. Find a particular solution: 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} e^t \\ e^{2t} \\ e^{3t} \end{pmatrix}$$

22. Solve: 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ t \end{pmatrix}$$

23. Find 
$$\mathbf{x}_p for : \mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

24. Solve: 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \cos t \\ \sin t \end{pmatrix}$$

25. Find the general solution: 
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Part F: Special Methods and Applications

- 26. Use undetermined coefficients to solve:  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} e^{3t} \\ e^{4t} \end{pmatrix}$
- 27. For the system  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\omega^2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ F\cos(\omega t) \end{pmatrix}$ , find the resonant solution.
- 28. A coupled tank system:  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 10 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$  where  $\mathbf{x}$  represents salt concentrations. Find the steady-state solution.
- 29. Verify that variation of parameters gives the correct particular solution for:  $\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$
- 30. Challenge: Show that if  $\mathbf{f}(t) = \mathbf{f}_0 is constant and A is invertible, then \mathbf{x}_p = -\mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{f}_0 is a particular solution.$

## Solutions and Hints

Problem 1:  $\Phi(t) = e^{2t} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ 

Problem 6:  $\mathbf{x}_p = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2}e^{3t} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ 

**Problem 7:** Use  $\Phi(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , get  $\mathbf{x}_p = \begin{pmatrix} t^3/6 \\ t^2/2 \end{pmatrix}$ 

**Problem 11:** Resonance occurs! Solution involves  $t \cos t$  and  $t \sin t$  terms.

**Problem 16:** Particular solution has  $te^{2t}$  terms due to repeated eigenvalue.

**Problem 26:** Try  $\mathbf{x}_p = \begin{pmatrix} ae^{3t} \\ be^{4t} \end{pmatrix}$  and solve for a, b.

**Problem 28:** Steady-state:  $\mathbf{x}_p = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$ 

**Key Strategy:** Always find the fundamental matrix first. For constant coefficient systems, this is  $e^{At}$ . Then apply the variation formula systematically.

**Verification:** Always check that  $\mathbf{x}_p' = A\mathbf{x}_p + f(t)$ .