

Lesson 44: Practice Problems

Repeated Roots and $t^k \text{Terms}$

ODE 1 with Prof. Adi Ditkowski

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Part A: Identifying Multiplicities (5 problems)

1. Given the characteristic polynomial $(r - 3)^2(r + 1) = 0$, identify all roots and their multiplicities.
2. Given the characteristic polynomial $r^4 - 8r^3 + 24r^2 - 32r + 16 = 0$, show that it equals $(r - 2)^4$ and identify the multiplicity.
3. The characteristic equation $(r^2 - 2r + 5)^2 = 0$ has complex roots. Find them and their multiplicities.
4. Factor completely: $r^3 + 3r^2 + 3r + 1 = 0$ and identify multiplicities.
5. Given $(r^2 + 4)^3 = 0$, identify all roots and multiplicities.

Part B: Solutions from Multiplicities (5 problems)

6. If $r = 3$ is a triple root, write all three linearly independent solutions.
7. If $r = -2$ has multiplicity 4, write the form of the general solution.
8. Complex roots $1 \pm 2i$ each have multiplicity 2. Write all four real solutions.
9. The characteristic polynomial is $(r + 1)^2(r - 2)^3$. Write the general solution.
10. If $\pm 3i$ are both double roots, write the general real solution.

Part C: Complete ODEs with Repeated Roots (5 problems)

11. Solve: $y'' - 6y' + 9y = 0$
12. Solve: $y''' + 3y'' + 3y' + y = 0$

13. Solve: $y^{(4)} - 4y''' + 6y'' - 4y' + y = 0$
14. Solve: $y'' + 4y' + 4y = 0$ with $y(0) = 2, y'(0) = -3$
15. Solve: $y^{(4)} + 4y'' + 4y = 0$

Part D: Reduction of Order Applications (5 problems)

16. Given that $y_1 = e^{-t}$ solves $(D+1)^2[y] = 0$, use reduction of order to find y_2 .
17. Verify that te^{3t} solves $y'' - 6y' + 9y = 0$ by direct substitution.
18. Show that if $y_1 = e^{rt}$ solves $L[y] = 0$ where r is a double root, then $y_2 = te^{rt}$ also solves it.
19. Given $y'' - 4y' + 4y = 0$ has solution e^{2t} , find the second solution using $y_2 = v(t)e^{2t}$.
20. For the equation with characteristic polynomial $(r-a)^3 = 0$, verify the Wronskian of $e^{at}, te^{at}, t^2e^{at}$ is nonzero.

Part E: Complex Repeated Roots (5 problems)

21. Solve: $y^{(4)} + 8y'' + 16y = 0$
22. Find the general real solution when the characteristic polynomial is $(r^2 + 2r + 2)^2 = 0$.
23. Solve: $y^{(4)} + 4y''' + 8y'' + 8y' + 4y = 0$ (Hint: $(r^2 + 2r + 2)^2$)
24. If $2 \pm 3i$ are both triple roots, how many linearly independent real solutions are there? List them.
25. Solve the IVP: $y'' + 2y' + 5y = 0$ with $y(0) = 0, y'(0) = 4$, given that $-1 \pm 2i$ are roots.

Part F: Theoretical and Exam-Style Problems (5 problems)

26. Prove that if r_0 is a root of multiplicity m of the characteristic polynomial, then $p(r_0) = p'(r_0) = \dots = p^{(m-1)}(r_0) = 0$ but $p^{(m)}(r_0) \neq 0$.
27. Show that the dimension of the solution space equals the degree of the differential equation, even with repeated roots.
28. A fourth-order equation has characteristic polynomial with roots: $r = 2$ (mult. 2), $r = -1$ (mult. 1), $r = 3$ (mult. 1). If a solution satisfies $y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 0, y''(0) = -1, y'''(0) = 2$, find it.
29. Explain why the functions $\{t^k e^{rt} : k = 0, 1, \dots, m-1\}$ span the solution space for a root of multiplicity m .

30. (Prof. Ditkowski style) Consider the family of equations $y'' - 2ay' + a^2y = 0$ parameterized by $a \in \mathbb{R}$.

- (a) Show that for all a , the characteristic equation has a repeated root.
- (b) Find the general solution in terms of a .
- (c) For which values of a do all solutions remain bounded as $t \rightarrow \infty$?
- (d) Find the solution with $y(0) = 1, y'(0) = 0$.

Solutions

Part A: Identifying Multiplicities

1. Roots: $r = 3$ (multiplicity 2), $r = -1$ (multiplicity 1)
2. Expand $(r - 2)^4 = r^4 - 8r^3 + 24r^2 - 32r + 16$ ✓
Root: $r = 2$ (multiplicity 4)
3. $(r^2 - 2r + 5)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow r^2 - 2r + 5 = 0$
 $r = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{4-20}}{2} = 1 \pm 2i$
Roots: $1 + 2i$ (mult. 2), $1 - 2i$ (mult. 2)
4. $r^3 + 3r^2 + 3r + 1 = (r + 1)^3 = 0$
Root: $r = -1$ (multiplicity 3)
5. $(r^2 + 4)^3 = 0 \Rightarrow r^2 = -4 \Rightarrow r = \pm 2i$
Roots: $2i$ (mult. 3), $-2i$ (mult. 3)

Part B: Solutions from Multiplicities

6. $e^{3t}, te^{3t}, t^2e^{3t}$
7. $y(t) = (c_1 + c_{2t} + c_{3t}^2 + c_{4t}^3)e^{-2t}$
8. Real solutions: $e^t \cos(2t), te^t \cos(2t), e^t \sin(2t), te^t \sin(2t)$
9. $y(t) = (c_1 + c_{2t})e^{-t} + (c_3 + c_{4t} + c_{5t}^2)e^{2t}$
10. $y(t) = (c_1 + c_{2t})\cos(3t) + (c_3 + c_{4t})\sin(3t)$

Part C: Complete ODEs with Repeated Roots

11. Char. eq.: $r^2 - 6r + 9 = (r - 3)^2 = 0$
Root: $r = 3$ (mult. 2)
General solution: $y(t) = (c_1 + c_{2t})e^{3t}$
12. Char. eq.: $r^3 + 3r^2 + 3r + 1 = (r + 1)^3 = 0$
Root: $r = -1$ (mult. 3)
General solution: $y(t) = (c_1 + c_{2t} + c_{3t}^2)e^{-t}$
13. Char. eq.: $(r - 1)^4 = 0$
Root: $r = 1$ (mult. 4)
General solution: $y(t) = (c_1 + c_{2t} + c_{3t}^2 + c_{4t}^3)e^t$
14. $(r + 2)^2 = 0$, so $y = (c_1 + c_{2t})e^{-2t}$
 $y(0) = c_1 = 2$
 $y'(t) = c_{2e}^{-2t} - 2(c_1 + c_{2t})e^{-2t}$
 $y'(0) = c_2 - 2c_1 = -3$

$$c_2 = 1$$

$$\text{Solution: } y(t) = (2 + t)e^{-2t}$$

$$15. \quad r^4 + 4r^2 + 4 = (r^2 + 2)^2 = 0$$

$$\text{Roots: } \pm i\sqrt{2} \text{ (each mult. 2)}$$

$$y(t) = (c_1 + c_2t)\cos(\sqrt{2}t) + (c_3 + c_4t)\sin(\sqrt{2}t)$$

Part D: Reduction of Order Applications

$$16. \quad \text{Let } y_2 = v(t)e^{-t}$$

$$\text{Substituting into } (D+1)^2[y] = y'' + 2y' + y = 0:$$

$$\text{After simplification: } v'' = 0$$

$$\text{Thus } v = c_1t + c_2$$

$$\text{Second solution: } y_2 = te^{-t}$$

$$17. \quad y = te^{3t}$$

$$y' = e^{3t} + 3te^{3t} = (1 + 3t)e^{3t}$$

$$y'' = 3e^{3t} + 3(1 + 3t)e^{3t} = (6 + 9t)e^{3t}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Substitute : } (6 + 9t)e^{3t} - 6(1 + 3t)e^{3t} + 9te^{3t} \\ = e^{3t}[6 + 9t - 6 - 18t + 9t] = 0 \checkmark \end{aligned}$$

$$18. \quad \text{For double root } r: (D - r)^2[y] = 0$$

$$\text{If } y = te^{rt}: y' = e^{rt} + rte^{rt}$$

$$y'' = 2re^{rt} + r^2te^{rt}$$

$$(D - r)^2[y] = D[(D - r)[te^{rt}]] = D[re^{rt}] = re^{rt} - re^{rt} = 0 \checkmark$$

$$19. \quad y_2 = v(t)e^{2t}$$

$$y_2' = (v' + 2v)e^{2t}$$

$$y_2'' = (v'' + 4v' + 4v)e^{2t}$$

$$\text{Substituting : } e^{2t}[v'' + 4v' + 4v - 4v' - 8v + 4v] = e^{2t} \cdot v'' = 0$$

$$v'' = 0 \Rightarrow v = c_1t + c_2$$

$$\text{Second solution: } y_2 = te^{2t}$$

$$20. \quad W = \begin{vmatrix} e^{at} & te^{at} & t^2e^{at} \\ ae^{at} & (1 + at)e^{at} & (2t + at^2)e^{at} \\ a^2e^{at} & (2a + a^2t)e^{at} & (2 + 4at + a^2t^2)e^{at} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\text{After calculation: } W = 2e^{3at} \neq 0$$

Part E: Complex Repeated Roots

$$21. \quad (r^2 + 4)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow r = \pm 2i \text{ (each mult. 2)}$$

$$y(t) = (c_1 + c_2t)\cos(2t) + (c_3 + c_4t)\sin(2t)$$

$$22. \quad r^2 + 2r + 2 = 0 \Rightarrow r = -1 \pm i$$

$$\text{Each root has mult. 2}$$

$$y(t) = e^{-t}[(c_1 + c_2t)\cos(t) + (c_3 + c_4t)\sin(t)]$$

23. Roots: $-1 \pm i$ (each mult. 2)
 $y(t) = e^{-t}[(c_1 + c_{2t})\cos(t) + (c_3 + c_{4t})\sin(t)]$

24. 6 linearly independent real solutions:
 $e^{2t} \cos(3t), te^{2t} \cos(3t), t^2 e^{2t} \cos(3t)$
 $e^{2t} \sin(3t), te^{2t} \sin(3t), t^2 e^{2t} \sin(3t)$

25. Simple roots (not repeated): $r = -1 \pm 2i$
 $y(t) = e^{-t}[c_1 \cos(2t) + c_2 \sin(2t)]$
 $y(0) = c_1 = 0$
 $y'(t) = e^{-t}[-c_1 \cos(2t) - c_2 \sin(2t) - 2c_1 \sin(2t) + 2c_2 \cos(2t)]$
 $y'(0) = -c_1 + 2c_2 = 4$
 $c_2 = 2$
 Solution: $y(t) = 2e^{-t} \sin(2t)$

Part F: Theoretical and Exam-Style Problems

21. If $p(r) = (r - r_0)^m q(r)$ where $q(r_0) \neq 0$:
 $p'(r) = m(r - r_0)^{m-1} q(r) + (r - r_0)^m q'(r)$
 At $r = r_0$: $p'(r_0) = 0$ if $m > 1$
 Continue differentiating to show $p^{(k)}(r_0) = 0$ for $k < m$
 But $p^{(m)}(r_0) = m! \cdot q(r_0) \neq 0$

22. Total number of solutions = sum of all multiplicities = degree of polynomial = order of ODE

23. Char. poly: $(r - 2)^2(r + 1)(r - 3) = 0$
 $y = (c_1 + c_{2t})e^{2t} + c_3 e^{-t} + c_4 e^{3t}$
 Apply initial conditions (solve 4×4 system):
 Final solution: $y(t) = (1 - \frac{2}{3t})e^{2t} + \frac{1}{4}e^{-t} - \frac{1}{4}e^{3t}$

24. The operator $(D - r)^m$ has an m -dimensional kernel. The functions $t^k e^{rt}$ for $k = 0, \dots, m-1$ are linearly independent (nonzero Wronskian) and all satisfy $(D - r)^m[y] = 0$.

25. (a) Char. eq.: $r^2 - 2ar + a^2 = (r - a)^2 = 0$
 Always a double root at $r = a$

(b) $y(t) = (c_1 + c_{2t})e^{at}$

(c) Bounded as $t \rightarrow \infty$ only if $a \leq 0$

(d) $y(0) = c_1 = 1$
 $y'(t) = c_2 e^{at} + a(c_1 + c_{2t})e^{at}$
 $y'(0) = c_2 + ac_1 = 0$
 $c_2 = -a$
 Solution: $y(t) = (1 - at)e^{at}$