

Problems: 1, 2, 3

Problem 1

Consider the inhomogeneous linear system of differential equations

$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -4 \\ 6 & -5 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{bmatrix} e^t \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that the system matrix has eigenvalues $\lambda_1 = 1$ and $\lambda_2 = -1$ with corresponding eigenvectors $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$.

- (a) Assume that the solution to this system \mathbf{x} has the form $\begin{bmatrix} a_1 e^{-t} + b_1 e^t + c_1 t e^t \\ a_2 e^{-t} + b_2 e^t + c_2 t e^t \end{bmatrix}$ for constants a, b, c, d, e and f . Use the method of undetermined coefficients to find the general solution to this system.
- (b) Why was the assumption made in part (a) reasonable given what you know about the matrix A ?
- (c) Recalculate the solution using the integrating factor formula. Reconcile your answer from this calculation with your previous calculation to show they are equivalent.

Problem 2

Solve the initial value problem

$$\mathbf{x}'(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}(t) + \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\omega t) \\ -\sin(\omega t) \end{bmatrix}$$

where ω is a nonzero constant and $\mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}$. Make sure your solution is valid for all values of $\omega \neq 0$. In particular, be careful not to divide by 0 when $\omega = -2$. Work out the solution in the case when $\omega \neq -2$, then work out the solution in the case when $\omega = -2$. You may use either the undetermined coefficients or integrating factor method. You will get extra credit if you perform both calculations and show that they are equivalent.

Hint: If you're using the undetermined coefficients method, think about what we did in Math 45 when the forcing function took on the same form as the homogeneous solution.

Problem 3

As we will discuss in class on Friday, closed-form solutions to non-constant-coefficient linear systems of differential equations are generally unavailable. However, if you are lucky enough to solve a homogeneous (unforced) non-constant-coefficient linear system, solving the inhomogeneous (forced) version is relatively easy. In this exercise, we'll walk you through how this works.

Consider the following initial value problem:

$$\mathbf{x}'(t) = A(t)\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{F}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -2e^{-t} \\ e^t & 0 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Hint: Throughout this problem, you should use the formula

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \frac{1}{ad - bc} \begin{bmatrix} d & -b \\ -c & a \end{bmatrix}$$

to calculate the inverse of a 2×2 matrix. (Unfortunately, there are no simple formulas for larger matrices.) **Note:** To learn more about fundamental matrices and the derivation of the variation of parameters formula, read Section 7.9 of Boyce and diPrima.

(a) First, verify that

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

is the general solution to the homogeneous version of the ODE (that is, the version of the ODE without the forcing term \mathbf{F}) for any c_1 and c_2 .

(b) Arrange the two linearly independent solutions from part (a) as columns in a matrix $\Psi(t)$, which is called a *fundamental matrix*. Verify that $\Psi'(t) = A(t)\Psi(t)$.

(c) The general solution to homogeneous equation is $\mathbf{x}_h(t) = \Psi(t)\mathbf{c}$ for some constant vector $\mathbf{c} = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix}$. What must \mathbf{c} be to satisfy the initial condition $\mathbf{x}_h(t_0) = \mathbf{x}_0$?

(d) The *transition matrix* for this system is defined to be $\Phi(t, s) = \Psi(t)\Psi(s)^{-1}$. Calculate it. **Note:** The reason why we call this a “transition matrix” is that the effect of multiplication by the matrix $\Phi(t, t_0)$ is to transition the homogeneous solution forward in time from t_0 to t .

(e) Armed with the transition matrix corresponding to the homogeneous ODE, we can now calculate the solution to the inhomogeneous ODE using the variation of parameters formula

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \Phi(t, 0)\mathbf{x}(0) + \int_0^t \Phi(t, s)\mathbf{F}(s) ds.$$

Use this formula to calculate the solution to the IVP.