

Exam on Dynamical Systems  
June 2014 - IV

1. (1.5p) Find the general solution of the difference equation

$$x_{k+2} - 6x_{k+1} + 9x_k = 12k,$$

Hint: look for a particular solution of the form  $(x_k)_p = ak + b$ , with  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$ .

2. (1p) How many solutions have each of the following problems:

- (i)  $x_{k+2} + k^2 x_k = 0, \quad x_0 = 0;$
- (ii)  $x_{k+2} + k^2 x_k = 0, \quad x_0 = 0, \quad x_1 = 0;$
- (iii)  $x_{k+2} + k^2 x_k = 0, \quad x_0 = 0, \quad x_1 = 0, \quad x_2 = 1?$

3. (1.5p) Find the general solution of each of the following differential equations and describe the long term behavior of such a solution:

- (i)  $x' = -5x;$
- (ii)  $x' = -5x + 1;$
- (iii)  $x'' + x' + x = 0.$

4. (1.5p) Find the fixed points and the 2-periodic points of the map  $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, f(x) = 1 - 2x^2$ .