

APMA 3140, Spring 2022 Classwork 1: Characteristic Equations

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1. [4 pts] Find five solutions to the equation. Then write the general solution.

$$y''(x) - 8y'(x) + 16y(x) = 0$$

$$r^2 - 8r + 16 = 0$$

$$(r - 4)^2 = 0$$

$$r = 4, r = 4$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 &= e^{4x} & y_2 &= xe^{4x} \\ y_3 &= 3e^{4x} & y_4 &= -xe^{4x} \\ y_5 &= 10e^{4x} + 3xe^{4x} \end{aligned}$$

$$y = c_1 e^{4x} + c_2 x e^{4x}$$

2. [3 pts] Find the general solution to the equation

$$\phi''(x) + 9\phi(x) = 0.$$

$$r^2 + 9 = 0$$

$$r^2 = -9$$

$$r = \sqrt{-9} = 3i$$

$$y = \cos(3x)$$

$$y = \sin(3x)$$

$$y = c_1 \cos(3x) + c_2 \sin(3x)$$

3. [3 pts] Find the general solution to the equation

$$y''(t) + 7y'(t) = 0.$$

$$r^2 + 7r = 0$$

$$r(r + 7) = 0$$

$$r = 0 \quad r = -7$$

$$y = e^{0x} = 1$$

$$y = e^{-7x}$$

$$y = c_1 + c_2 e^{-7t}$$