

Problem 1. Show that the eigenvalues of the matrix $M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\omega^2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ are $\pm i\omega$. (Recall that this matrix comes from the differential equation modeling the simple harmonic oscillator [SHO] in Section 1.3.) Also show that one can choose the corresponding eigenvectors to be

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i\omega \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -i\omega \end{pmatrix}.$$

Problem 2. Please show that for any choice of vector $U_0 = \begin{pmatrix} u_0 \\ v_0 \end{pmatrix}$ we can choose α and β so that

$$\alpha \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i\omega \end{pmatrix} + \beta \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -i\omega \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} u_0 \\ v_0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Problem 3. The last equation on page 12 of our course notes is a vector form general solution to the SHO equation. Use your results from Problem 2 to show that this general solution does actually provide a particular solution for any given initial condition.

Problem 4. The general solution to the SHO (at the bottom of page 12) involves complex numbers. Here we see how these nevertheless give rise to real-valued solutions.

1. Find the solution U_c to the initial value problem

$$\frac{d}{dt}U_c = MU_c \quad U(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

where M is the matrix from Problem 1 above. Use the Euler identity (??) to show that U_c is in fact real-valued.

2. Find the solution U_s to the initial value problem

$$\frac{d}{dt}U_s = MU_s \quad U_s(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Show that U_s is also fact real-valued.

3. Explain why

$$U = \beta_c U_c + \beta_s U_s$$

is another form of the general solution to the SHO differential equation written in matrix form,

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\omega^2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix},$$

and that real initial conditions give rise to real-valued solutions.