

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**  
**MATH 196 — DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS WITH LINEAR ALGEBRA**  
**PRACTICE FINAL EXAM.**

**FORMULAS — These will be given in the final exam.**

The table below indicates the Laplace transform  $F(s)$  of the given function  $f(t)$ .

$f(t)$	$F(s)$
1	$\frac{1}{s}$
$t$	$\frac{1}{s^2}$
$t^n$	$\frac{n!}{s^{n+1}}$
$e^{at}$	$\frac{1}{s-a}$
$t^n e^{at}$	$\frac{n!}{(s-a)^{n+1}}$
$\cos(kt)$	$\frac{s}{s^2+k^2}$
$\sin(kt)$	$\frac{k}{s^2+k^2}$
$e^{at} \cos(kt)$	$\frac{s-a}{(s-a)^2+k^2}$
$e^{at} \sin(kt)$	$\frac{k}{(s-a)^2+k^2}$

The following are the main properties of the Laplace transform.

$af(t) + bg(t)$	$aF(s) + bG(s)$
$f'(t)$	$sF(s) - f(0)$
$f''$	$s^2F(s) - sf(0) - f'(0)$
$f^{(n)}(t)$	$s^n F(s) - s^{n-1}f(0) - \dots - f^{(n-1)}(0)$

The particular solution of

$$y'' + p(t)y' + q(t)y = f(t)$$

is

$$y_p(t) = -y_1(t) \int \frac{y_2(t)f(t)}{W(t)} dt + y_2(t) \int \frac{y_1(t)f(t)}{W(t)} dt,$$

where  $y_1(t)$  and  $y_2(t)$  are linearly independent solutions of the associated homogeneous problem and  $W(t)$  is the Wronskian of  $y_1(t)$  and  $y_2(t)$ .

**Question 1.** Consider the matrices

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & 5 \\ 3 & 2 & 4 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 6 \\ 3 & 9 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Their reduced row echelon forms, denoted  $\text{rref}(A)$  and  $\text{rref}(B)$ , respectively, are

$$\text{rref}(A) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \text{rref}(B) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

- (a) Find  $\text{Ker}(A)$  and  $\text{Ker}(B)$  (i.e., the kernels of  $A$  and  $B$ ).
- (b) Find basis for  $\text{Col}(A)$  and  $\text{Col}(B)$  (i.e., basis for the space of columns of  $A$  and  $B$ , respectively).
- (c) Find basis for  $\text{Row}(A)$  and  $\text{Row}(B)$

**Question 2.** Let

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -3 & 1 \\ 2 & -2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & -5 & 2 \\ 4 & -3 & 2 \\ 2 & -2 & 3 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Find the general solution of the systems of differential equations:

(a)

$$x' = Ax.$$

(b)

$$x' = Bx.$$

(c)

$$x' = Cx.$$

**Question 3.** Find the general solution of the differential equations below. In the cases involving a particular solution, you do not have to find the specific values of the constants.

(a)

$$(1 + x^2)y' + 3xy - 6x = 0.$$

(b)

$$2xyy' - 3y^2 = 4x^2.$$

(c)

$$y'''' - 2y'' + y = e^x + 1 + x^2 \cos x.$$

(d)

$$y''' + 9y' = x \sin x + x^2 e^{2x}.$$

**Question 4.** Consider the system of two blocks and three springs shown in the figure below. Notice that the outermost endpoints of springs one and three are attached to walls. Write a system of differential equations that models the dynamics of system (disregard friction).

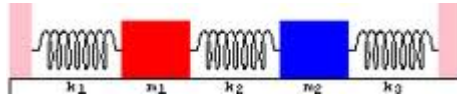


FIGURE 1. Mass-spring system of question 4.

**Question 5.** Use Laplace transforms to solve the initial value problems below.

(a)

$$\begin{cases} x'' - 6x' + 8x = 2, \\ x(0) = x'(0) = 0. \end{cases}$$

(b)

$$\begin{cases} x'' - 4x = 3t, \\ x(0) = x'(0) = 0. \end{cases}$$

**Question 6.** Let  $A$  be an  $n \times n$  matrix with real entries. Recall that the transpose of  $A$ , denoted  $A^T$ , is the matrix obtained from  $A$  by the rule:

If the  $i, j^{\text{th}}$  entries of  $A$  are denoted by  $a_{ij}$ , then the  $i, j^{\text{th}}$  entries of  $A^T$  are given by  $a_{ji}$ .

In other words,  $A^T$  is obtained by “switching the rows and columns of  $A$ ”.

Prove that the  $\text{Col}(A)$  is orthogonal to  $\text{Ker}(A^T)$ .

**Question 7.** True or false? Justify your answer.

(a) Let  $A$  be a  $n \times n$  matrix with real entries, and suppose all its eigenvalues are complex. Because for each eigenvalue  $\lambda$  there are two linearly independent real solutions, we can conclude that there exist  $2n$  linearly independent solutions of  $x' = Ax$ .

(b) If a square matrix  $A$  has an eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of multiplicity  $m$ , where  $m > 1$ , then in order to solve  $x' = Ax$  we must find vectors that are generalized eigenvectors of  $A$  but that are not eigenvectors of  $A$ .

(c) Any differential equation of order  $n$  can be written as a  $n \times n$  system of first order differential equations.

(d) A  $n \times n$  matrix that has  $n$  distinct real eigenvalues necessarily has  $n$  linearly independent eigenvectors.



**Question 8.** State the following definitions.

- (a) Eigenvalue.
- (b) Eigenvector.
- (c) Generalized eigenvector.
- (d) Defective eigenvalue.