

**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.

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

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  $B$ ).  
 $\text{span}\{(-2, 1, 1, 0), (3, -4, 0, 1)\}$  and  $\text{span}\{(-3, 1)\}$ .
- (b) Find basis for  $\text{Col}(A)$  and  $\text{Col}(B)$  (i.e., basis for the space of columns of  $A$  and  $B$ , respectively).  
 $\{(1, 1, 3), (1, 2, 2)\}$  and  $\{(2, 3)\}$ .
- (c) Find basis for  $\text{Row}(A)$  and  $\text{Row}(B)$   
 $\{(1, 0, 2, -3), (0, 1, -1, 4)\}$  and  $\{(1, 3)\}$ .

**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)

$$x' = Ax.$$

$\lambda_1 = 0, \lambda_2 = \lambda_3 = 1, u_1 = (1, 1, 0), u_2 = (-1, 0, 2), u_3 = (3, 2, 0), x_1 = (1, 1, 0), x_2 = e^t(-1, 0, 2), x_3 = e^t(3, 2, 0).$

(b)

$$x' = Bx.$$

$\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 2, \lambda_3 = 3, u_1 = (1, 1, 0), u_2 = (-1, 0, 2), u_3 = (1, 1, 1), x_1 = e^t(1, 1, 0), x_2 = e^{2t}(-1, 0, 2), x_3 = e^{3t}(1, 1, 1).$

(c)

$$x' = Cx.$$

$\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 1, \lambda_3 = \lambda_4 = 2.$  Eigenvector associated to  $\lambda_1$ :  $u_1 = (1, 0, 0, 0)$ . Eigenvector associated to  $\lambda_3$ :  $u_3 = (1, 1, 1, 0)$ .  $x_1 = e^t(1, 0, 0, 0), x_3 = e^{2t}(1, 1, 1, 0).$

$$(A - \lambda_1 I)^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Generalized eigenvector associated to  $\lambda_1$ :  $u_2 = (0, 1, 0, 0)$ .  $x_2 = e^t(t, 1, 0, 0)$ .

$$(A - \lambda_3 I)^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Generalized eigenvector associated to  $\lambda_3$ :  $u_2 = (0, 0, 0, 1)$ .  $x_4 = e^{2t}(t, t, t, 1)$ .

**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)

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

Linear first order equation.  $y = 2 + C(x^2 + 1)^{-\frac{3}{2}}$ .

(b)

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

Homogeneous equation.  $y^2 + 4x^2 = Cx^2$ .

(c)

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

$y = c_1 e^x + c_2 x e^x + c_3 e^{-x} + c_4 x e^{-x} + (A + Bx + Cx^2) \cos x + (D + Ex + Fx^2) \sin x + G + Hx^2 e^x$ .

(d)

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

$y = c_1 + c_2 \cos 3x + c_3 \sin 3x + (A + Bx) \cos x + (C + Dx) \sin x + (E + Fx + Gx^2) e^{2x}$ .

**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).

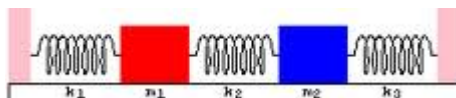


FIGURE 1. Mass-spring system of question 4.

Let  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  be the displacement of blocks 1 and 2 from their respective equilibrium positions. Then

$$\begin{cases} m_1 x_1'' = -(k_1 + k_2)x_1 + k_2 x_2, \\ m_2 x_2'' = k_2 x_1 - (k_2 + k_3)x_2. \end{cases}$$

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

(a)

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

Taking the Laplace transform, we find  $s^2X(s) - 6sX(s) + 8X(s) = \frac{2}{s}$ . Then

$$X(s) = \frac{2}{s(s^2 - 6s + 8)} = \frac{1}{4} \left( \frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{s-4} - \frac{2}{s-2} \right).$$

Then  $x(t) = \frac{1}{4}(1 + e^{4t} - 2e^{2t})$ .

(b)

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

Taking the Laplace transform, we find  $s^2X(s) - 4X(s) = \frac{3}{s^2}$ . Then

$$X(s) = \frac{3}{s^2(s^2 - 4)} = \frac{3}{4} \left( \frac{1}{s^2 - 4} - \frac{1}{s^2} \right).$$

Then  $x(t) = \frac{3}{8} \sinh 2t - \frac{3}{4}t$ .

**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  $\text{Ker}(A^T)$ .

Let  $x \in \text{Ker}(A^T)$ , so  $A^T x = 0$ . Then, for any  $y$ :

$$0 = \langle A^T x, y \rangle = \langle x, Ay \rangle.$$

Since any element in  $\text{Col}(A)$  can be written as  $Ay$  for some  $y$ , this shows the claim.



**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.

(a) F, (b) F, (c) T, (d) T.

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

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