

# Differential Equations with Linear Algebra (M427J)

## Some answers to practice problems # 4

Spring 2026

Prof. Hector E. Lomeli

§2.5 # 2. There are two cases:  $\alpha = -2$  and  $\alpha \neq -2$ .

**Case 1.** If  $\alpha = -2$ , then  $\Psi(t) = \frac{1}{6} t^3 e^{-2t}$ . In this case, we use  $s = 2$  and  $n = 1$ .

**Case 2.** If  $\alpha \neq -2$ , then we need to use  $s = 0$  and  $n = 1$ . We find that

$$\Psi(t) = \left( \frac{-2}{(\alpha + 2)^3} + \frac{1}{(\alpha + 2)^2} t \right) e^{\alpha t} = \frac{(\alpha t + 2t - 2) e^{\alpha t}}{(\alpha + 2)^3}.$$

§2.5 # 4.  $\Psi(t) = t^2 - t$ .

§2.5 # 6.  $\Psi(t) = \frac{(273 - 1672t + 3872t^2) e^{7t}}{340736}$ .

§2.5 # 7. The characteristic equation is  $r^2 + 4 = 0$ . We have two complex roots:  $2i$  and  $-2i$ . The right hand side of the non-homogeneous equation is of the form

$$g(t) = t \sin(2t) = P(t) e^{\alpha t} \cos(\beta t) + Q(t) e^{\alpha t} \sin(\beta t).$$

We will use  $\alpha = 0$  and  $\beta = 2$ , and we have that  $\alpha + i\beta$  is a single root, so we will use  $s = 1$ . Also,  $P(t)$  is a polynomial of degree 0 and  $Q(t)$  is a polynomial of degree 1. We will use  $n = 1$ .

The considerations above imply that the form of the function  $\Psi(t)$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi(t) &= t^s [(A_0 + A_1 t) e^{\alpha t} \cos(\beta t) + (B_0 + B_1 t) e^{\alpha t} \sin(\beta t)] \\ &= (A_0 t + A_1 t^2) \cos(2t) + (B_0 t + B_1 t^2) \sin(2t). \end{aligned}$$

Computing the linear operator, we find that

$$L[\Psi] = \Psi''(t) + 4\Psi(t) = 2(A_1 + 2B_0) \cos(2t) + (8B_1) t \cos(2t) + 2(B_1 - 2A_0) \sin(2t) + (-8A_1) t \sin(2t).$$

Matching coefficients, we get the equations

$$A_1 + 2B_0 = 0, \quad 8B_1 = 0, \quad B_1 - 2A_0 = 0, \quad -8A_1 = 1.$$

Solving these equations we find that

$$A_0 = 0, \quad A_1 = -\frac{1}{8}, \quad B_0 = \frac{1}{16}, \quad B_1 = 0.$$

We conclude that  $\Psi(t) = \frac{1}{16} t \sin(2t) - \frac{1}{8} t^2 \cos(2t)$ .

§2.5 # 14.  $\Psi(t) = \frac{1}{6} t^3 - \frac{1}{4} t^2 + \frac{3}{4} t - \frac{1}{2} t e^{-2t}$ .