1 February 2004

1. (2) Find the general solution to

$$y' - 2y = -t \tag{1}$$

Solution: This follows from the general solution to

$$y' + ry = f(t) \tag{2}$$

which is

$$y = Ce^{-rt} + e^{-rt} \int e^{rt} f dt \tag{3}$$

so here r = -2 and f(t) = -t so, using integration by parts

$$y = Ce^{2t} - e^{2t} \int te^{-2t} dt$$
  
=  $Ce^{2t} - e^{2t} \left\{ -\frac{1}{2}te^{-2t} + \frac{1}{2} \int e^{-2t} dt \right\}$   
=  $Ce^{2t} - e^{2t} \left\{ -\frac{1}{2}te^{-2t} - \frac{1}{4}(e^{-2t}) \right\}$   
=  $Ce^{2t} + \frac{t}{2} + \frac{1}{4}$  (4)

2. (3) Find the general solution to

with  $y_1(0) = -3$  and  $y_2(0) = 5$ .

Solution: First of all rewrite the equation in matrix form

$$\mathbf{y}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 5\\ 5 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{y} + \begin{pmatrix} -23\\ 15 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{6}$$

Now, the matrix

$$A = \left(\begin{array}{cc} 0 & 5\\ 5 & 0 \end{array}\right) \tag{7}$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Conor Houghton, houghton@maths.tcd.ie and http://www.maths.tcd.ie/~houghton/ 2E2.html

has eigenvalue  $\lambda_1 = 5$  with eigenvector

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{8}$$

and eigenvalue  $\lambda_1 = -5$  with eigenvector

$$\mathbf{x}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{9}$$

so if we write

$$\mathbf{y} = f_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + f_2 \mathbf{x}_2 \tag{10}$$

and subsituting this into the differential equation gives

$$(f_1' - 5f_1)\mathbf{x}_1 + (f_2' + 5f_2)\mathbf{x}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -23\\ 15 \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (11)

Now to separate the equation lets decompose the inhomeneous part, sometimes called the forcing term, over the two eigenvectors:

$$\begin{pmatrix} -23\\15 \end{pmatrix} = g_1 \mathbf{x}_1 + g_2 \mathbf{x}_2 \tag{12}$$

or, writing it out,

$$\begin{pmatrix} -23\\15 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} g_1 + g_2\\g_1 - g_2 \end{pmatrix}$$
(13)

and, hence,  $g_1 = -4$  and  $g_2 = -19$ . Putting this back into the equation leads to

$$(f_1' - 5f_1)\mathbf{x}_1 + (f_2' + 5f_2)\mathbf{x}_2 = -4\mathbf{x}_1 - 19\mathbf{x}_2$$
(14)

Hence

$$f_1' - 5f_1 = -4. (15)$$

Thus, this is of the form y' + ry = f with r = -5, f(t) = -4 and so

$$f_1 = C_1 e^{5t} - 4e^{5t} \int e^{-5t} dt \tag{16}$$

and so

$$f_1 = C_1 e^{5t} + \frac{4}{5} \tag{17}$$

Similarly,

$$2(f_2' + 5f_2) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ & & \\$$

or

$$f_2' + 5f_2 = -19. (19)$$

Thus, r = -5, f(t) = 19 and using integrating gives above

$$f_2 = C_2 e^{-5t} - \frac{19}{5}.$$
 (20)

The general solution is therefore

$$\mathbf{y} = \left(C_1 e^{5t} + \frac{4}{5}\right) \begin{pmatrix} 1\\1 \end{pmatrix} + \left(C_2 e^{-5t} - \frac{19}{5}\right) \begin{pmatrix} 1\\-1 \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (21)

If  $y_1(0) = -3$  and  $y_2(0) = 5$  then we get

$$\begin{pmatrix} -3\\5 \end{pmatrix} = \left(C_1 + \frac{4}{5}\right) \begin{pmatrix} 1\\1 \end{pmatrix} + \left(C_2 - \frac{19}{5}\right) \begin{pmatrix} 1\\-1 \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (22)

and hence

$$\begin{array}{rcl} -3 &=& C_1 + C_2 - 3\\ 5 &=& C_1 - C_2 + \frac{23}{5} \end{array}$$
(23)

so  $C_1 = -C_2 = 1/5$  and

$$\mathbf{y} = \left(\frac{1}{5}e^{5t} + \frac{4}{5}\right) \begin{pmatrix} 1\\1 \end{pmatrix} + \left(-\frac{1}{5}e^{-5t} - \frac{19}{5}\right) \begin{pmatrix} 1\\-1 \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (24)

3. (3) Find the solution to

$$y'_{1} = y_{1} + 2y_{2} + e^{t}$$
  

$$y'_{2} = 2y_{1} + y_{2}$$
(25)

Solution: Here we have

$$\mathbf{y} = A\mathbf{y} + \begin{pmatrix} e^t \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \tag{26}$$

where

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2\\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{27}$$

this has eigenvalue  $\lambda_1 = 3$  with eigenvector

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{28}$$

and eigenvalue  $\lambda_1 = -1$  with eigenvector

$$\mathbf{x}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1\\ -1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{29}$$

Once again, we split the forcing term over the two eigenvectors:

$$\begin{pmatrix} e^t \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{e^t}{2} \mathbf{x}_1 + \frac{e^t}{2} \mathbf{x}_2 \tag{30}$$

We get

$$f_1 - 3f_1 = \frac{1}{2}e^t \tag{31}$$

 $\mathbf{SO}$ 

$$f_1 = C_1 e^{3t} + \frac{1}{2} e^{3t} \int e^{-2t} dt.$$
(32)

and so,

$$f_1 = C_1 e^{3t} - \frac{1}{4} e^t \tag{33}$$

In the same way

$$f_2 + f_2 = \frac{1}{2}e^t \tag{34}$$

and so

$$f_2 = C_2 e^{-t} + \frac{1}{2} e^{-t} \int e^{2t} dt.$$
(35)

Integrating gives

$$f_2 = C_2 e^{-t} + \frac{1}{4} e^t \tag{36}$$

This means

$$\mathbf{y} = \left(C_1 e^{3t} - \frac{1}{4} e^t\right) \begin{pmatrix} 1\\1 \end{pmatrix} + \left(C_2 e^{-t} + \frac{1}{4} e^t\right) \begin{pmatrix} 1\\-1 \end{pmatrix}$$
(37)