

HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
Differential Equations – Math 159  
Final Examination  
Tuesday, December 8, 2009

**Answer any 8 problems and problems 1 and 13 (Mandatory)**

Each problem is worth 20 points. To earn the full  
grade you must show your work

- (1) (20pts) (Mandatory) The roots of the characteristic equation to a certain linear differential equation with constant coefficients are:

$$10, -10, 10, -3, -2 \pm 3i, -2 \pm 3i, -2 \pm 3i, -3, 10, -2 \pm 3i.$$

Write the general solution to that differential equation.

- (2) (20pts) Solve each differential equation as specified  
(a) Find the general solution to:  $y' + (1 + \sin x)y = 0$ .  
(b) Find the general solution to:

$$(1 + ye^{xy})dx + (2y + xe^{xy})dy = 0.$$

- (3) (20pts) Choose an appropriate form for a particular solution of

$$y^{(6)} + 3y^{(5)} + 3y^{(4)} + y^{(3)} = t + 2te^{-t} + \sin t.$$

- (4) (20pts) Choose an appropriate form for a particular solution to each of the following differential equations.

(a)  $y'' + 4y = t \cos 2t$ .

(b)  $y'' + 4y = 2t^3 + 2 \cos 2t + e^{2t}$ .

- (5) (20pts) Solve the initial value problem

$$y'' - y' - 2y = -5e^{-3t}, \quad y(0) = 1, \quad y'(0) = -2.$$

- (6) (20pts) Consider the following Euler equation given by

$$x^2 \frac{d^2y}{dx^2} + 2x \frac{dy}{dx} - 12y = 0.$$

- (a) Use the change of variable  $t = \ln x$  to write this equation as a constant coefficient equation in  $y$  and  $t$ .  
(b) Solve this new equation; and  
(c) Obtain the general solution of the given Euler equation.
- (7) (20pts) The growth of a population of about 100,000 bacteria in a culture is modeled by the differential equation

$$\frac{dP}{dt} = kP,$$

Where  $k$  is the population growth rate and  $P(t)$  is the size of the population after  $t$  days. Suppose that 2 days later the population has grown to about 150,000 bacteria.

- (a) Determine the growth rate  $k$ .  
(b) Estimate the bacteria population after 7 days.  
(c) How long approximately will it take for the population to triple?
- (8) (20pts) Use the method of variation of parameters to find a particular solution of the differential equation

$$\frac{d^2y}{dx^2} - 2 \frac{dy}{dx} - 8y = 3e^{-2x}.$$

- (9) (20pts) Consider the linear system  $\frac{dY}{dt} = AY$ , where  $Y = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$ , and  $A$  is the  $2 \times 2$  matrix given by

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- (a) Compute its eigenvalues and eigenvectors.  
 (b) Determine its general solution.  
 (c) Determine the solution satisfying  $Y(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ .
- (10) (20pts) Find a power series solution to the equation

$$(x+8)y' + 4y = 0,$$

then identify the series solution in terms of familiar elementary functions.

- (11) (20pts) Solve the general solution to

$$y^{(4)} + 16y = 0.$$

- (12) (20pts) Use the Laplace transform to solve the initial value problem

$$y'' + 4y = 3 \cos t, \quad y(0) = 0, \quad y'(0) = 1.$$

- (13) (20pts) (Mandatory)

- (a) Find the solution to the initial-value problem:

$$y' + te^y = e^y \sin t, \quad y(0) = 0.$$

- (b) Find the solution to the initial-value problem:

$$y' + 3y = 6x + 4, \quad y(0) = 3.$$

- (14) (20pts) Find the inverse Laplace transform of the function:

(a)  $F(s) = \frac{1}{(s-1)^2(s^2-2s+10)}$ ; and

(b)  $F(s) = \frac{1}{(s-1)(s^2+9)}$ .

- (15) (20pts) Determine the general form of the function  $M(x,y)$  and  $N(x,y)$  that will make the given differential exact

(a)  $(M(x,y)dx + (xe^y + x + 2y)dy) = 0$

(b)  $(e^{y^2} + 2xy - 1)dx + N(x,y)dy = 0.$

