

**Sample Midterm Examination**  
Time Limit: 50 Minutes

October 25 2019

This examination document contains 6 pages, including this cover page, and 5 problems. You must verify whether there are any pages missing, in which case you should let the instructor know. **Fill in** all the requested information on the top of this page, and put your initials on the top of every page, in case the pages become separated.

You may *not* use your books, notes, or any calculator on this exam.

You are required to show your work on each problem on this exam. The following rules apply:

- (A) **If you use a lemma, proposition or theorem which we have seen in the class or in the book, you must indicate this** and explain why the theorem may be applied.
- (B) **Organize your work**, in a reasonably neat and coherent way, in the space provided. Work scattered all over the page without a clear ordering will receive little credit.
- (C) **Mysterious or unsupported answers will not receive full credit.** A correct answer, unsupported by calculations, explanation, or algebraic work will receive little credit; an incorrect answer supported by substantially correct calculations and explanations will receive partial credit.
- (D) If you need more space, use the back of the pages; clearly indicate when you have done this.

Problem	Points	Score
1	20	
2	20	
3	20	
4	20	
5	20	
Total:	100	

Do not write in the table to the right.

1. (20 points) Consider the following first-order differential equation:

$$y'(t) - 2y(t) = t.$$

- (a) (10 points) Find *all* solutions to the differential equation.

Solution. Let us use the method of integrating factors. For that, multiply by the integrating factor  $e^{\int -2dt} = e^{-2t}$  on both sides.

$$(e^{-2t}y(t))' = te^{-2t}$$

Take the integral on both sides.

$$e^{-2t}y = \int te^{-2t}dt = -\frac{2t+1}{4}e^{-2t} + C$$
$$y = Ce^{2t} - \frac{2t+1}{4}$$

- (b) (10 points) Solve the Initial Value Problem given by  $y(0) = 0$ .

Solution. Plug in initial value and solve for the constant.

$$0 = C - \frac{1}{4}$$

$$C = \frac{1}{4}$$

2. (20 points) Consider the first-order differential equation  $y'(t) = f(y(t))$  where  $f(y)$  is depicted in Figure 1, and  $f(y)$  decays to minus infinity away from the picture.

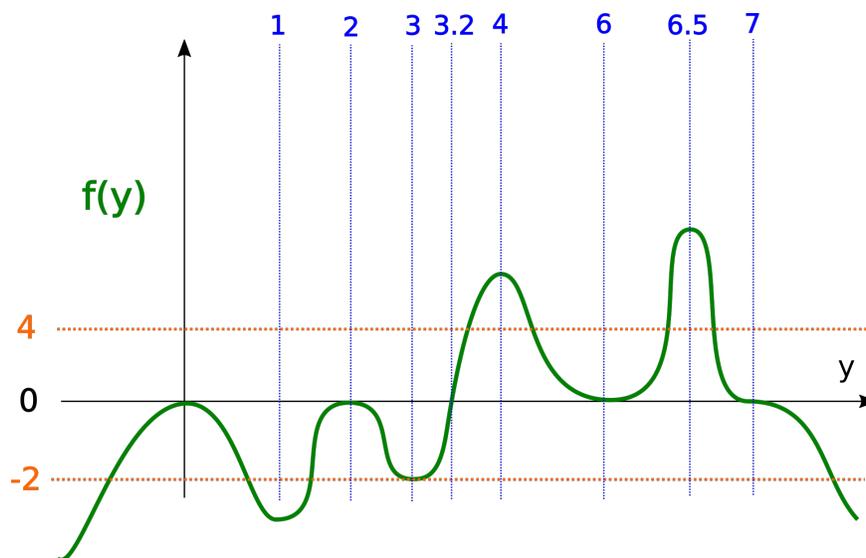


Figure 1: The function  $f(y)$  for Problem 2.

- (a) (5 points) How many constant solutions does  $y'(t) = f(y(t))$  have ?

Solution. The graph has 5 intersections with the horizontal axis. There are 5 constant solutions.

$$y = 0, 2, 3.2, 6, 7.$$

- (b) (5 points) Classify the constant solutions into *stable*, *unstable* and *semistable*.

0: semistable; 2: semistable; 3.2: unstable; 6: semistable; 7: stable.

- (c) (5 points) Describe the long term behavior of the unique solution of  $y'(t) = f(y(t))$  such that  $y(0) = 4$  ?

Since  $y(0) = 4$ , the graph of this solution will lie between the constant solutions 3.2 and 6. Since 6 is stable and 3.2 is unstable, the long term behavior of  $y$  will increase and approach 6.

- (d) (5 points) Find the number of constant solutions of  $y'(t) = f(y(t)) + 2$ .

Move the graph up by 2 units. There are 5 intersections with the horizontal axis, so still 5 constant solutions.

3. (20 points) Consider the following differential equation:

$$y''(t) + 4y'(t) + 4y(t) = 3t.$$

- (a) (8 points) Find a particular solution to the above differential equation.

We solve by the Method of Undetermined Coefficients, and we suppose the solution is  $y = At + B$ . Then  $y' = A$  and  $y'' = 0$ . Plug the solution into the equation.

$$0 + 4A + 4(At + B) = 3t$$

Compare the coefficients of linear term and constant term.

$$4A = 3, 4A + 4B = 0$$

Solve the equation and a particular solution is

$$y = \frac{3}{4}(t - 1)$$

- (b) (8 points) Find *all* solutions to the above differential equation.

Solve the characteristic equation  $\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 4 = 0$  and there is exactly one solution  $\lambda = -2$ . Then the two linearly independent solutions of  $y''(t) + 4y'(t) + 4y(t) = 0$  are  $e^{-2t}$  and  $te^{-2t}$ .

$$y = C_1e^{-2t} + C_2te^{-2t} + \frac{3}{4}(t - 1)$$

- (c) (4 points) Is the damped harmonic oscillator described by the differential equation *overdamped*, *critically damped* or *underdamped*?

The characteristic equation has exactly one negative solution, i.e. a repeated root, so it is critically damped.

4. (20 points) Consider the second-order differential equation:

$$t^2 y''(t) - 3ty'(t) + 4y(t) = 0, \quad t > 0$$

- (a) (5 points) Show that  $y_1(t) = t^2$  is a solution to the differential equation above.

Compute the derivatives:  $y_1'(t) = 2t$  and  $y_1''(t) = 2$ , and plug in to the ODE:

$$t^2 \cdot 2 - 3t \cdot 2t + 4 \cdot t^2 = 0.$$

- (b) (5 points) Suppose that  $v(t)y_1(t)$  is a solution to the differential equation above. Show that  $v(t)$  satisfies

$$v''(t) + t^{-1}v'(t) = 0.$$

Suppose  $y_2 = vy_1 = vt^2$  and  $y_2' = v'y_1 + vy_1' = v't^2 + 2vt$  and  $y_2'' = v''y_1 + 2v'y_1' + vy_1'' = v''t^2 + 4v't + 2v$ . Plug in to the ODE.

$$0 = t^2 y_2''(t) - 3ty_2'(t) + 4y_2(t) = t^2(v''t^2 + 4v't + 2v) - 3t(v't^2 + 2vt) + 4vt^2.$$

After simplifying, we get

$$v''t^4 + v't^3 = 0$$

Since  $t > 0$ , we can divide  $t^4$  and obtain  $v''(t) + t^{-1}v'(t) = 0$ .

- (c) (5 points) Find a solution  $y_2(t)$  which is linearly independent with  $y_1(t)$ .

Based on (b), we get  $(tv')' = 0$ . Then  $tv' = C$  and  $v' = \frac{C}{t}$ . Finally  $v = C_1 \ln t + C_2$ . For simplicity, we can choose  $C_1 = 1$  and  $C_2 = 0$ . The second solution is

$$y_2 = t^2 \ln t,$$

which has non-zero Wronskian with  $y_1(t)$ .

- (d) (5 points) Find all solutions to the differential equation above.

Use linear combination of  $y_1, y_2$ , then we can find the all solutions.

$$y = C_1 t^2 + C_2 t^2 \cdot \ln t.$$

5. (20 points) For each of the ten sentences below, circle whether they are **true** or **false**.
- (a) (2 points) The graphs of two solutions for  $y'(t) + e^{t^9}y(t) = \cos(t^2)$  cannot intersect.  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (b) (2 points) The graphs of two solutions for  $y''(t) + y'(t) + 100y(t) = 2$  cannot intersect.  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (c) (2 points) Any autonomous first-order differential equation has a constant solution.  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (d) (2 points) The functions  $y_1(t) = \sin(t)$  and  $y_2(t) = \cos(t)$  have non-zero Wronskian.  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (e) (2 points) The local error in Euler's method with step  $h$  is of order  $\mathcal{O}(h^2)$ :  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (f) (2 points) Autonomous first-order differential equations must have finitely many constant solutions.  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (g) (2 points) The function  $y(t) = e^{2t}$  solves the differential equation given by  
$$y''(t) - 4y'(t) + 4y(t) = e^{2t}.$$
  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (h) (2 points) The global error in Euler's method with step  $h$  is of order  $\mathcal{O}(h)$ .  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (i) (2 points) No solution  $y_1(t)$  of  $y'(t) = 2t$  satisfies  $y_1(0) = 0$ ,  $y_1(1) = 1$  and  $y_1(3) = 9$ .  
(1) True. (2) False.
- (j) (2 points) No solution  $y_1(t)$  of  $y'(t) = 2t$  satisfies  $y_1(0) = 0$ ,  $y_1(1) = 1$  and  $y_1(2) = 3$ .  
(1) True. (2) False.