Sample Problems for Third In-Class Exam
Math 246, Spring 2009, Professor David Levermore

(1) Consider the matrices
$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} -i2 & 1+i \\ 2+i & -4 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \mathbf{B} = \begin{pmatrix} 7 & 6 \\ 8 & 7 \end{pmatrix}.$$
Compute the matrices
(a) $\mathbf{A}^T$,
(b) $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$,
(c) $\mathbf{A}^*$,
(d) $5\mathbf{A} - \mathbf{B}$,
(e) $\mathbf{AB}$,
(f) $\mathbf{B}^{-1}$.

(2) Consider the matrix
$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 3 \\ 4 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$
(a) Find all the eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A}$.
(b) For each eigenvalue of $\mathbf{A}$ find all of its eigenvectors.
(c) Diagonalize $\mathbf{A}$.

(3) Solve each of the following initial-value problems.

(a) $\dfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 5 & -1 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \begin{pmatrix} x(0) \\ y(0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}.$

(b) $\dfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \begin{pmatrix} x(0) \\ y(0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$

(4) Compute $e^{t\mathbf{A}}$ for $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

(5) Find a general solution for each of the following systems.

(a) $\dfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -4 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$

(b) $\dfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -5 \\ 4 & -2 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$

(c) $\dfrac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 4 \\ -5 & 1 \end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$

(6) Sketch the phase-plane portrait for each of the systems in the previous problem. Indicate typical trajectories. For each portrait identify its type and give a reason why the origin is either attracting, stable, unstable, or repelling.

(7) Transform the equation $\dfrac{\mathrm{d}^3u}{\mathrm{d}t^3} + t^2\dfrac{\mathrm{d}u}{\mathrm{d}t} - 3u = \sinh(2t)$ into a first-order system of ordinary differential equations.

(8) Consider the vector-valued functions $\mathbf{x}_1(t) = \begin{pmatrix} t^4+3 \\ 2t^2 \end{pmatrix}$, $\mathbf{x}_2(t) = \begin{pmatrix} t^2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$.

(a) Compute the Wronskian $W[\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2](t)$.

(b) Find $\mathbf{A}(t)$ such that $\mathbf{x}_1$, $\mathbf{x}_2$ is a fundamental set of solutions to the system

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{x}\,,$$

wherever $W[\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2](t) \neq 0$.

(c) Give a fundamental matrix $\mathbf{\Psi}(t)$ for the system found in part (b).

(d) Compute the Green matrix $\mathbf{G}(t, s)$ for the system found in part (b).

(e) For the system found in part (b), solve the initial-value problem

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{x}}{\mathrm{d}t} = \mathbf{A}(t)\mathbf{x}\,, \qquad \mathbf{x}(1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}\,.$$

(9) Consider two interconnected tanks filled with brine (salt water). The first tank contains 100 liters and the second contains 50 liters. Brine flows with a concentration of 2 grams of salt per liter flows into the first tank at a rate of 3 liters per hour. Well stirred brine flows from the first tank to the second at a rate of 5 liters per hour, from the second to the first at a rate of 2 liters per hour, and from the second into a drain at a rate of 3 liters per hour. At $t = 0$ there are 5 grams of salt in the first tank and 20 grams in the second. Give an initial-value problem that governs the amount of salt in each tank as a function of time.

(10) Given that 1 is an eigenvalue of the matrix

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}\,,$$

find all the eigenvectors of $\mathbf{A}$ associated with 1.