

This exam covers chapter 3, chapter 7 (sections 1-4), and part of chapter 4 of Brannon and Boyce. The exam covers some material on first order systems and second order linear ODE. A more precise outline of topics you should know is the following:

1. first order systems
  - (a) basic definitions
  - (b) linear -vs- nonlinear
  - (c) linear existence and uniqueness
  - (d) homogeneous linear systems with constant coefficients
    - i. eigenvalue/eigenvector (straight line) solutions
    - ii. basis of real eigenvectors
    - iii. complex eigenvectors
    - iv. one dimensional eigenspace
    - v. general solution (in each case)
    - vi. phase diagram (in each case)
    - vii. stability classification of equilibria (in each case)
    - viii. names (saddle, stable sink, unstable source, stable spiral, etc.)
    - ix. asymptotic stability
  - (e) nonlinear systems
    - i. nonlinear existence and uniqueness theorem
    - ii. autonomous case
      - A. equilibrium points
      - B. linearization
      - C. phase plane diagram techniques
2. linear second order ODE
  - (a) homogeneous equations with constant coefficients
  - (b) equivalence with first order systems
  - (c) finding particular solutions with forcing
  - (d) general solutions (particular plus homogeneous)
3. modeling
  - (a) populations systems (logistic, competition, etc.)
  - (b) elementary oscillators

1. (17 points) (3.2.8) Express the following system using vector/matrix notation.

$$\begin{cases} x' = 3x - 4y \\ y' = x + 3y. \end{cases}$$

**Solution:** This system can be written as

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}' = \begin{pmatrix} 3x - 4y \\ x + 3y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -4 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}.$$

or simply

$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -4 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}.$$

2. (17 points) (3.2.21) Give a first order system which is equivalent to the single ODE

$$y''' + 3y'' - y = 0.$$

**Solution:** Letting  $x_1 = y$  be one unknown in our system, we define two more unknowns by  $x_2 = x_1'$  and  $x_3 = x_2'$ . The equivalent first order system is then

$$\begin{cases} x_1' = x_2 \\ x_2' = x_3 \\ x_3' = -x_1 - 3x_3. \end{cases}$$

or simply

$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}.$$

3. (17 points) (3.3.11) Solve the linear system of ODEs

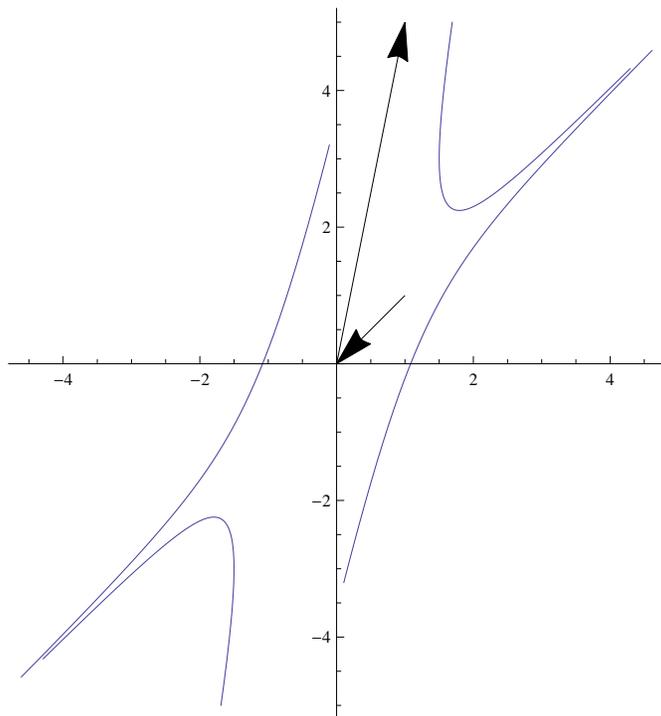
$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ -5 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x},$$

and plot the phase diagram.

**Solution:** The characteristic equation is  $\lambda^2 - 2\lambda - 3 = (\lambda - 3)(\lambda + 1) = 0$ . For the eigenvalue  $\lambda_1 = -1$ , we have an eigenvector  $\mathbf{v} = (v_1, v_2)^T$  satisfying  $-v_1 + v_2 = 0$ . One such vector is  $\mathbf{v} = (1, 1)^T$ . Similarly, for the eigenvalue  $\lambda_2 = 3$  we find an eigenvector  $\mathbf{w} = (1, 5)^T$ . Therefore, the general solution is

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = ae^{-t} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + be^{3t} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This is a saddle (unstable):



4. (3.5.6) Consider the linear system

$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -5 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x},$$

(a) (6 points) Draw the phase diagram.

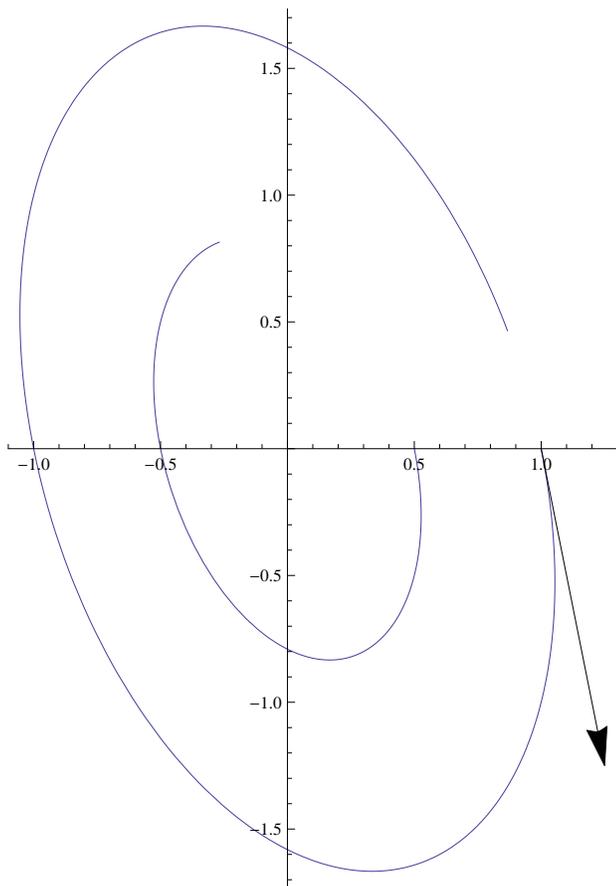
(b) (6 points) If a solution satisfies  $\mathbf{x}(0) = (3, 2)^T$ , then what can you say about

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \sqrt{x_1(t)^2 + x_2(t)^2}.$$

(c) (5 points) Classify the equilibrium point.

**Solution:**

(a) The characteristic equation is  $\lambda^2 + 9 = 0$ . Thus, the eigenvalues are  $\pm 3i$  and are purely imaginary. Inspection of the direction field indicates the trajectories/orbits are (noncircular) ellipses with major axis passing through the second and fourth quadrants and are traversed by solutions in the clockwise direction:



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- (b) The solution passing through this point will be a clockwise parameterization of an ellipse passing through  $(3, 2)^T$ . As a consequence, the quantity in question, which is the distance from  $\mathbf{x}(t)$  to the origin will oscillate periodically between some positive minimum and maximum values. Therefore, *the limit does not exist*.
- (c) The equilibrium point at the origin is called an elliptic periodic center.

5. (rabbits and foxes) Consider the system

$$\begin{cases} r' = 3r(2 - r - 4f) \\ f' = r - 2f \end{cases}$$

for two populations  $r$  and  $f$  which change over time.

- (a) (8 points) Find any equilibrium populations for the system.
- (b) (9 points) Linearize the system at each equilibrium point, and classify the local behavior there if possible. If linearization does not lead to a definitive characterization, explain why.

**Solution:**

- (a) We wish to solve the system  $3r(2 - r - 4f) = 0$  and  $r - 2f = 0$ . From the first equation  $r = 0$  or  $r + 4f = 2$ . In the first case, the second equation implies  $f = 0$ , so one equilibrium point is the origin where both populations are zero for all time. In the second case, we find  $f = 1/3$  and  $r = 2/3$ . Thus, the two equilibrium points are

$$\begin{pmatrix} r_* \\ f_* \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} r_* \\ f_* \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2/3 \\ 1/3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- (b) Denoting the vector field defining the ODE by

$$F \begin{pmatrix} r \\ f \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3r(2 - r - 4f) \\ r - 2f \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3(2r - r^2 - 4rf) \\ r - 2f \end{pmatrix},$$

we find

$$DF \begin{pmatrix} r \\ f \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3(2 - 2r - 4f) & -12r \\ 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus, for the equilibrium at the origin, the linearized system is

$$\mathbf{y}' = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & 0 \\ 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{y}.$$

The eigenvalues for the matrix  $DF(0,0)^T$  are 6 and  $-2$ . Since these have opposite signs, there is a saddle at the origin.

For the second equilibrium point, the linearized system is

$$\mathbf{y}' = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -8 \\ 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{y}.$$

The characteristic equation in this case is  $\lambda^2 + 4\lambda + 12 = 0$ . The roots are

$$\lambda = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{16 - 48}}{2} = -2 \pm 2\sqrt{3}i.$$

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This means the second equilibrium is a stable inward spiral. Checking the vector field at a point  $(2/3, 1/3 + \epsilon)$  where  $\epsilon$  is a small positive number, we find the second component of  $F$  is

$$r - 2f = -2\epsilon < 0.$$

This means we have a clockwise spiral at  $(2/3, 1/3)^T$ .

6. (17 points) (4.3.8) Find the general solution of the ODE

$$2y'' - 3y' + y = 0.$$

**Solution:** This is a second order linear ODE with constant coefficients, and it is homogeneous. Therefore, we look for solutions of the form

$$y(t) = e^{\alpha t}.$$

Plugging in, we obtain the characteristic equation

$$2\alpha^2 - 3\alpha + 1 = (2\alpha - 1)(\alpha - 1) = 0.$$

Thus, the general solution is

$$y(t) = c_1 e^{t/2} + c_2 e^t$$

where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are arbitrary constants.