Homework for Lecture 4 of Dr. Z.'s Dynamical Models in Biology class

Email the answers (as .pdf file) to

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by 8:00pm Monday, Sept. 22, 2025.

Subject: hw4

with an attachment hw4FirstLast.pdf and/or hw4FirstLast.txt

1. Give an example of a second-order linear differential equation, with two specific functions that are solutions and verify that their sum also satisfies that same differential equation. $y''+y=0$

$y_1(t)=\sin t \quad y_2(t)=\cos t$

$y_1''+y_1=-\sin t+\sin t=0 \quad y_2''+y_2=-\cos t+\cos t=0$

by linearity the sum $y_1+y_2=\sin t+\cos t$ also satisfies $y''+y=0$

2. Verify that $y_1(t) = t^2$ satisfies the differential equation

$$y'(t)^2 - 4y(t) = 0 \quad .$$

$y_1(t)=t^2 \to y_1'(t)=2t \to (y_1')^2=4t^2 \to 4y_1=4t^2$

$y_2'(t)=4t \to (y_2')^2=16t^2 \to 4y_2=8t^2$

$(y_2')^2-4y_2=8t^2\neq 0$

y_2 is not a solution because it's non-linear

Would you expect the function $y_2(t) = 2y_1(t) = 2t^2$ to also be a solution? (after all it is a constant multiple of $y_1(t)$). Explain. Verify that indeed $y_2(t)$ is **not** a solution.

3. Give an example of a second-order linear recurrence equation, with two specific sequences that are solutions and verify that their sum also satisfies that same recurrence equation.

$a(n)=3a(n-1)-2a(n-2)$

$a_1(n)=1 \qquad a_2(n)=2^n$

$1=3\cdot 4-2\cdot 1 \qquad 2^n=3\cdot 2^{n-1}-2\cdot 2^{n-2}$

$a_3(n)=a_1(n)+a_2(n)=1+2^n$

4. Consider the non-linear recurrence

$$a(n) = a(n-1)^2 \quad , n \geq 0 \quad .$$

Check that both sequences

$$a_1(n) := 2^{2^n} \quad , \quad a_2(n) := 3^{2^n} \quad ,$$

$a_1(n-1)=2^{2^{n-1}} \to 2^{2^n}$

are solutions. Does it follow that the new sequence

$$a_3(n) := a_1(n) + a_2(n) = 2^{2^n} + 3^{2^n} \quad ,$$

$a_3(n-1)=2^{2^{n-1}}+3^{2^{n-1}}$

$(a_3(n-1))^2=\left(2^{2^{n-1}}+3^{2^{n-1}}\right)^2=2^{2^n}+3^{2^n}+2\cdot 2^{2^{n-1}}3^{2^{n-1}}$

$\neq 2^{2^n}+3^{2^n}$

is automatically yet-another-solution? Explain why or why not. By directly plugging-in into the recurrence find out whether it is true. Not a solution because the recurrence is non linear

5. Write the Maple commands to solve each of the following problems, and give the Maple output.

a. Solve the Initial Value Problem Differential Equation

$$y''(x) + y(x) = 0 \quad , \quad y(0) = 1 \quad , y'(0) = 1 \quad .$$

Input: dsolve({diff(y(x), x$2) + y(x)=0, y(0)=1, D(y)(0)=1}, y(x));

Output: $y(x)=\cos(x)+\sin(x)$

. b Solve the Initial Value Problem Difference Equation

Input: rsolve({a(n)-3·a(n-1)+a(n-2)=n, a(0)=1, a(1)=3}, a(n));

$$a(n) - 3a(n-1) + a(n-2) \;= n \quad a(0) = 1, a(1) = 3 \quad .$$

Output: $\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{3\sqrt{5}}{10}\right)\left(\frac{-\sqrt{5}}{2} + \frac{3}{2}\right)^n + \left(\frac{3\sqrt{5}}{10} + \frac{1}{2}\right)\left(\frac{3}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)^n - \frac{(\sqrt{5}+1)\sqrt{5}\left(-\frac{2}{-3-\sqrt{5}}\right)^n}{5(-3-\sqrt{5})} - \frac{(\sqrt{5}-1)\sqrt{5}\left(-\frac{2}{\sqrt{5}-3}\right)^n}{5(\sqrt{5}-3)} - n - 1$

c. Find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Input:
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> with(LinearAlgebra);
> A:= Matrix([[3,4],[2,4]]);
>Eigenvalues(A);
```

Output: $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{7}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{33}}{2} \\ \frac{7}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{33}}{2} \end{bmatrix}$

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>Eigenvectors(A);
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output: $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{7}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{33}}{2} \\ \frac{7}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{33}}{2} \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \frac{4}{\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{33}}{2}} & \frac{4}{\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{33}}{2}} \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$