

Practice: 3.1-3.2, Systems of Differential Equations

1. For each second order differential equation below, write the corresponding system of first order equations. Lastly, write the system in matrix-vector form.

(a) $y'' + 2y' - 3y = 0$

(c) $y'' - 9y = 0$

(b) $y'' + 4y' + 4y = 0$

(d) $y'' - 2y' + 2y = 0$

2. For extra practice, go back and give the general solution to each second order DE (using methods from Chapter 3 of our textbook).
3. For each system of first order, convert to a corresponding second order differential equation.

(a) $\begin{aligned} x' &= 3x - 2y \\ y' &= 2x - 2y \end{aligned}$

(b) $\begin{aligned} x' &= -2x + y \\ y' &= x - 2y \end{aligned}$

(c) $\begin{aligned} x' &= x + y \\ y' &= 4x - 2y \end{aligned}$

4. For extra practice, solve each of the second order DEs from the previous exercise using techniques from Chapter 3 of our text.
5. Consider the system below:

$$\begin{aligned} x' &= -3x + y \\ y' &= -2y \end{aligned}$$

Solve this system by recognizing that we can solve for y directly, then substitute this into the DE for x and solve it as a first order linear DE.

6. Each system below is *nonlinear*. Solve each by first writing the system as dy/dx .

(a) $\begin{aligned} x' &= y(1 + x^3) \\ y' &= x^2 \end{aligned}$

(b) $\begin{aligned} x' &= 4 + y^3 \\ y' &= 4x - x^3 \end{aligned}$

(c) $\begin{aligned} x' &= 2x^2y + 2x \\ y' &= -(2xy^2 + 2y) \end{aligned}$

7. Convert the third order (nonlinear) differential equation into a system of first order equations.

$$y''' - y'' + y'y = t^2$$

SOLUTIONS

1. For each second order differential equation below, write the corresponding system of first order equations.

(a) $y'' + 2y' - 3y = 0$

SOLUTION: Let $u = y, v = y'$. Then notice that $v' = y'' = 3y - 2y' = 3u - 2v$. The full system is then:

$$\begin{aligned} u' &= v \\ v' &= 3u - 2v \end{aligned} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} u' \\ v' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 3 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

NOTE: Always write your variables in the same order. Since we started with u, v , then u' came first, then v' , etc.

(b) $y'' + 4y' + 4y = 0$

SOLUTION: Let $u = y, v = y'$. Then $v' = y'' = -4y - 4y' = -4u - 4v$, and

$$\begin{aligned} u' &= v \\ v' &= -4u - 4v \end{aligned} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} u' \\ v' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -4 & -4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

(c) $y'' + 9y = 0$

SOLUTION: Let $u = y, v = y'$. Then $v' = y'' = -9y = -9u$, and

$$\begin{aligned} u' &= v \\ v' &= -9u \end{aligned} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} u' \\ v' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -9 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

(d) $y'' - 2y' + 2y = 0$

SOLUTION: Let $u = y, v = y'$. Then $v' = y'' = 2y' - 2y$, and

$$\begin{aligned} u' &= v \\ v' &= -2u + 2v \end{aligned} \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} u' \\ v' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$$

2. For extra practice, go back and give the general solution to each second order DE (using methods from Chapter 3 of our textbook).

SOLUTIONS:

(a) $y'' + 2y' - 3y = 0$

The characteristic equation is $r^2 + 2r - 3 = 0$, or $(r + 3)(r - 1) = 0$, so $r = 1, -3$. Therefore, the general solution is

$$y(t) = C_1 e^t + C_2 e^{-3t}$$

(b) $y'' + 4y' + 4y = 0$

The characteristic equation is $r^2 + 4r + 4 = 0$, or $(r + 2)^2 = 0$, so $r = -2, -2$. Therefore, the general solution is

$$y(t) = e^{-2t}(C_1 + C_2 t)$$

(c) $y'' + 9y = 0$

The characteristic equation is $r^2 + 9 = 0$, or $r = \pm 3i$,

$$y(t) = C_1 \cos(3t) + C_2 \sin(3t)$$

(d) $y - 2y' + 2y = 0$

The characteristic equation is $r^2 - 2r + 2 = 0$, or $r = 1 \pm i$, so $r = 1, -3$. Therefore, the general solution is

$$y(t) = e^t(C_1 \cos(t) + C_2 \sin(t))$$

3. For each system of first order, convert to a corresponding second order differential equation.

(a)
$$\begin{aligned} x' &= 3x - 2y \\ y' &= 2x - 2y \end{aligned}$$

SOLUTION: Using the first equation to solve for y , $y = -(1/2)(x' - 3x)$. Putting this into the second equation:

$$\left(-\frac{x' - 3x}{2}\right)' = 2x - 2\left(-\frac{x' - 3x}{2}\right)$$

Clean up by multiplying both sides by -2 :

$$x'' - 3x' = -4x - 2(x' - 3x) \quad \Rightarrow \quad x'' - x' - 2x = 0$$

(b)
$$\begin{aligned} x' &= -2x + y \\ y' &= x - 2y \end{aligned}$$

SOLUTION: Using the first equation to solve for y , $y = x' + 2x$. Putting this into the second equation:

$$(x' + 2x)' = x - 2(x' + 2x) \quad \Rightarrow \quad x'' + 4x' + 3x = 0$$

(c)
$$\begin{aligned} x' &= x + y \\ y' &= 4x - 2y \end{aligned}$$

SOLUTION: Similar to the others, $y = x' - x$ from equation 1, so equation 2 becomes:

$$x'' - x' = 4x - 2(x' - x) \quad \Rightarrow \quad x'' + x' - 6x = 0$$

4. For extra practice, solve each of the second order DEs from the previous exercise using techniques from Chapter 3 of our text.

$$(a) \ x(t) = C_1 e^{2t} + C_2 e^{-t} \quad (b) \ x(t) = C_1 e^{-t} + C_2 e^{-3t} \quad (c) \ x(t) = C_1 e^{2t} + C_2 e^{-3t}$$

5. Consider the system below:

$$\begin{aligned} x' &= -3x + y \\ y' &= -2y \end{aligned}$$

Solve this system by recognizing that we can solve for y directly, then substitute this into the DE for x and solve it as a first order linear DE.

SOLUTION: Looking at $y' = -2y$, $y(t) = C_1 e^{-2t}$. Putting that into the equation for x' , we get:

$$x' + 3x = C_1 e^{-2t}$$

The integrating factor is e^{3t} , so that

$$(xe^{3t})' = C_1 e^t \Rightarrow xe^{-3t} = C_1 e^t + C_2 \Rightarrow x(t) = C_1 e^{-2t} + C_2 e^{-3t}$$

As a parametric system, we have:

$$\begin{bmatrix} C_1 e^{-2t} + C_2 e^{-3t} \\ C_1 e^{-2t} \end{bmatrix}$$

We would note that the C_1 for y is the SAME as the C_1 for the x .

6. Each system below is *nonlinear*. Solve each by first writing the system as dy/dx .

$$(a) \ \begin{aligned} x' &= y(1 + x^3) \\ y' &= x^2 \end{aligned}$$

SOLUTION: This becomes separable.

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{x^2}{y(1 + x^3)} \Rightarrow \int y \, dy = \int \frac{x^2 \, dx}{1 + x^3} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} y^2 = \frac{1}{3} \ln(1 + x^3) + C$$

At this point, we'll leave it since we won't know if we need the positive or negative root.

$$(b) \ \begin{aligned} x' &= 4 + y^3 \\ y' &= 4x - x^3 \end{aligned}$$

SOLUTION: This becomes separable:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{4x - x^3}{4 + y^3} \Rightarrow \int 4 + y^3 \, dy = \int 4x - x^3 \, dx \Rightarrow 4y + \frac{1}{4} y^4 = 2x^2 - \frac{1}{4} x^4 + C$$

We'll leave this in implicit form.

$$(c) \ \begin{aligned} x' &= 2x^2 y + 2x \\ y' &= -(2xy^2 + 2y) \end{aligned}$$

SOLUTION: This becomes exact (don't cancel anything!)

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{2xy^2 + 2y}{2x^2y + 2x} \Rightarrow (2xy^2 + 2y) + (2x^2y + 2x)\frac{dy}{dx} = 0$$

This is exact, with $M_y = N_x = 4xy + 2$. The solution is

$$x^2y^2 + 2xy = C$$

7. Convert the third order (nonlinear) differential equation into a system of first order equations.

$$y''' - y'' + y'y = t^2$$

SOLUTION: Let $x_1 = y$, $x_2 = y'$, and $x_3 = y''$. Then:

$$\begin{aligned}x_1' &= x_2 \\x_2' &= x_3 \\x_3' &= x_1x_2 + x_3 + t^2\end{aligned}$$