Math 3280 Review problem solutions

Please let me know if you think you have found an error in these solutions.

(1) Find a basis for the subspace of solutions to the linear system

$$2y + z = 0$$
$$x + 6y - z = 0$$

Solution: The main step is to row reduce the coefficient matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 6 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{Swap\ R_1,R_2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 6 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{-3R_2+R_1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -4 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\xrightarrow{R_2/2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -4 \\ 0 & 1 & 1/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Now for any solution to the system we can write the pivot variables x and y in terms of the free variable z:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 4z \\ -z/2 \\ z \end{pmatrix} = z \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1/2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

which implies that $\{ \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ -1/2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \}$ is a basis for the solution space.

(2) Find the general solution to $y^{(4)} + 6y''' + 13y'' = 0$.

Solution: The characteristic equation factors:

$$r^4 + 6r^3 + 13r^2 = r^2(r - (-3 + 2i))(r - (-3 + 2i)) = 0$$

(the complex roots could be found using the quadratic equation after factoring out the r^2).

So there is a double root at 0 and complex conjugate roots $-3 \pm 2i$. This means the general solution is

$$y = C_1 + C_2 t + C_3 e^{-3t} \cos(2t) + C_4 e^{-3t} \sin(2t).$$

(3) Solve the initial value problem $y'' + 2y' = 3 + 4\sin(2t)$, $y(0) = 0$, $y'(0) = 2$.

Solution: The characteristic equation is $r^2 + 2r = r(r + 2) = 0$, with roots 0 and -2. So the homogeneous solutions is $y_c = C_1 + C_2 e^{-2t}$.

Normally we would choose a particular solution of the form $A\sin(2t)+B\cos(2t)+C$, but since the constant C is contained in the homogeneous solution we multiply it by t to get $y_p = A\sin(2t) + B\cos(2t) + Ct$.

Next we compute

$$y_p'' + 2y_p' = (-4A - 4B)\sin(2t) + (4A - 4B)\cos(2t) + 2C = 3 + 4\sin(2t)$$

so $2C = 3$, $-4A - 4B = 4$, and $4A - 4B = 0$. These are solved (by row-reduction or substitution or inspection) to get $A = B = -1/2$, and $C = 3/2$.

So the solution is

$$y = y_c + y_p = C_1 + C_2 e^{-2t} - \sin(2t)/2 - \cos(2t)/2 + 3t/2.$$

Plugging in the initial conditions to y and y' at $t = 0$ gives us the equations

$$C_1 + C_2 - 1/2 = 0, \qquad -2C_2 + 1/2 = 2.$$

So $C_2 = -3/4$ and $C_1 = 5/4$.

The solution to the initial value problem is therefore

$$y = \frac{5}{4} - \frac{3}{4}e^{-2t} - \frac{1}{2}\sin(2t) - \frac{1}{2}\cos(2t) + \frac{3}{2}t$$