

1. (25%)

Let  $y(t)$  satisfy the third order equation  $ty''' + (t+1)y'' + y' = 0$ .

- (a) Verify that  $y(t) = e^{-t}$  is a solution of the equation.  
 (b) Find the general solution of the equation for  $t < 0$ .

2. (25%)

Find the general solution of the linear system

$$\mathbf{x}'(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 8 & -1 \\ -2 & -8 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}(t).$$

3. (25%)

Let  $\vec{p}, \vec{q}$  and  $\vec{r}$  be linearly independent vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . Consider the lines  $L_1 = \{u\vec{p} \mid u \in \mathbb{R}\}$  and  $L_2 = \{v\vec{q} + \vec{r} \mid v \in \mathbb{R}\}$ .

- (a) Show that there is a unique pair
- $(\vec{x}_0, \vec{y}_0)$
- such that
- $\vec{x}_0 \in L_1$
- ,
- $\vec{y}_0 \in L_2$
- , and

$$|\vec{x}_0 - \vec{y}_0| = \inf_{x \in L_1, y \in L_2} |\vec{x} - \vec{y}| > 0.$$

- (b) Let
- $F(u, v) = |v\vec{q} + \vec{r} - u\vec{p}|^2$
- and let
- $(u(t), v(t))$
- be a solution of the system

$$\begin{pmatrix} u'(t) \\ v'(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\partial F}{\partial u}(u(t), v(t)) \\ -\frac{\partial F}{\partial v}(u(t), v(t)) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Show that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (u(t)\vec{p}, v(t)\vec{q} + \vec{r}) = (\vec{x}_0, \vec{y}_0)$ .

4. (25%)

Let

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_n \\ y_n \\ z_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_{n-1} \\ y_{n-1} \\ z_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

- (a) Show that  $x_n = y_n + z_n$  if  $(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (1, 1, 0)$ .  
 (b) Determine  $(a, b, c)$  such that  $ax_n + by_n + cz_n = ax_0 + by_0 + cz_0$ ,  $n = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  for any given  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$ .  
 (c) Show that  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} x_n z_n y_n^{-2} = 1$  if  $x_0, y_0$  and  $z_0$  are positive.