

The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not “Eureka!” but “That’s funny ...”.

— Isaac Asimov (1920–1992) —

Problem 1. Let A be a 2×2 matrix such that $e^{At} = \begin{pmatrix} (1-t)e^{2t} & te^{2t} \\ -te^{2t} & (c+t)e^{rt} \end{pmatrix}$. What are the values of c and r ?

Solution. Using that $e^{At}|_{t=0} = I$, we conclude that $c = 1$. The presence of the term te^{2t} shows that 2 is a repeated eigenvalue. Since A is 2×2 and therefore has exactly 2 eigenvalues (counting with multiplicity), it follows that $r = 2$ as well. \square

Problem 2. Consider $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$ where $A = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ -6 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$.

(a) Find the general solution.

(b) Find e^{At} .

(c) Find a particular solution to $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 1/t^2 \\ 2/t^2 \end{pmatrix}$.

Solution.

(a) The eigenvalues of A are 0, 1 with eigenvectors $\mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{w} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}$. Hence the general solution is

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} e^t.$$

(b) From the first part, we know that a fundamental matrix is given by $\Phi(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & e^t \\ 2 & 3e^t \end{pmatrix}$. Then

$$e^{At} = \Phi(t)\Phi(0)^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & e^t \\ 2 & 3e^t \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 - 2e^t & -1 + e^t \\ 6 - 6e^t & -2 + 3e^t \end{pmatrix}.$$

(c) Using variation of constants,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}(t) &= e^{At} \int e^{-At} \begin{pmatrix} 1/t^2 \\ 2/t^2 \end{pmatrix} dt \\ &= e^{At} \int \begin{pmatrix} 3 - 2e^{-t} & -1 + e^{-t} \\ 6 - 6e^{-t} & -2 + 3e^{-t} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1/t^2 \\ 2/t^2 \end{pmatrix} dt \\ &= e^{At} \int \begin{pmatrix} 1/t^2 \\ 2/t^2 \end{pmatrix} dt = e^{At} \begin{pmatrix} -1/t \\ -2/t \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 3 - 2e^t & -1 + e^t \\ 6 - 6e^t & -2 + 3e^t \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -1/t \\ -2/t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1/t \\ -2/t \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

□

Problem 3. The mixtures in three tanks T_1, T_2, T_3 are kept uniform by stirring. Brine containing 2 lb of salt per gallon enters the first tank at 15 gal/min. Mixed solution from T_1 is pumped into T_2 at 10 gal/min and from T_2 into T_3 at 10 gal/min. Each tank initially contains 10 gal of pure water. Denote by $x_i(t)$ the amount (in pounds) of salt in tank T_i at time t (in minutes). Derive a system of linear differential equations for the x_i .

Solution. Note that at time t , T_1 contains $10 + 5t$ gal of solution. Likewise, T_2 contains 10 gal, and T_3 $10 + 10t$.

Consider a short interval of time $(t, t + \Delta t)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta x_1 &\approx 15 \cdot 2 \cdot \Delta t - 10 \cdot \frac{x_1}{10 + 5t} \cdot \Delta t &\implies x_1' &= 30 - \frac{2x_1}{2+t} \\ \Delta x_2 &\approx 10 \cdot \frac{x_1}{10 + 5t} \cdot \Delta t - 10 \cdot \frac{x_2}{10} \cdot \Delta t &\implies x_2' &= \frac{2x_1}{2+t} - x_2 \\ \Delta x_3 &\approx 10 \cdot \frac{x_2}{10} \cdot \Delta t &\implies x_3' &= x_2 \end{aligned}$$

We also have the initial conditions $x_1(0) = 0$, $x_2(0) = 0$, $x_3(0) = 0$. In matrix form, writing $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$, this is

$$\mathbf{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{2}{2+t} & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{2}{2+t} & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 30 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This is a system of linear inhomogeneous differential equations with non-constant coefficients (which means that we cannot apply our knowledge of eigenvectors to solve the complementary solution). □

Problem 4. Let A be a 3×3 matrix such that $e^{At} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} - te^{-t} & te^{-t} & -e^{2t} + (t+1)e^{-t} \\ e^{2t} - e^{-t} & e^{-t} & -e^{2t} + e^{-t} \\ -te^{-t} & te^{-t} & (t+1)e^{-t} \end{pmatrix}$.

- What are the eigenvalues of A ? Indicate if an eigenvalue is repeated and what its defect is.
- Solve the initial value problem $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$, $\mathbf{x}(0) = (1 \ 0 \ 1)^T$.
- Find a particular solution to $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$.
- Find A . Also, as a challenge, find A^{100} .

Solution.

- The eigenvalues are 2, -1 , -1 . The eigenvalue -1 is repeated and has defect 1.

$$(b) \quad \mathbf{x}(t) = e^{At} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} - te^{-t} \\ e^{2t} - e^{-t} \\ -te^{-t} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -e^{2t} + (t+1)e^{-t} \\ -e^{2t} + e^{-t} \\ (t+1)e^{-t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{-t} \\ 0 \\ e^{-t} \end{pmatrix} = e^{-t} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$(c) \quad \mathbf{x}_p(t) = e^{At} \int e^{-At} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} dt = e^{At} \int \begin{pmatrix} e^{-2t} \\ e^{-2t} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} dt = -\frac{1}{2} e^{-2t} e^{At} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = -\frac{1}{2} e^{-2t} \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ e^{2t} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = -\frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

(d) Recall that $\frac{d}{dt}e^{At} = Ae^{At}$. Setting $t=0$ then gives $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & -2 \\ 3 & -1 & -3 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$.

Our strategy to find A^{100} is to use $\frac{d^{100}}{dt^{100}}e^{At} = A^{100}e^{At}$. Clearly, $\frac{d^{100}}{dt^{100}}e^{2t} = 2^{100}e^{2t}$ and $\frac{d^{100}}{dt^{100}}e^{-t} = e^{-t}$. Note that $\frac{d}{dt}(te^{-t}) = (-t+1)e^{-t}$, $\frac{d^2}{dt^2}(te^{-t}) = (t-2)e^{-t}$, $\frac{d^3}{dt^3}(te^{-t}) = (-t+3)e^{-t}$. Continuing, we find that $\frac{d^n}{dt^n}(te^{-t}) = (-1)^n(t-n)e^{-t}$. In particular, $\frac{d^{100}}{dt^{100}}(te^{-t}) = (t-100)e^{-t}$. Therefore,

$$\frac{d^{100}}{dt^{100}}e^{At} = \begin{pmatrix} 2^{100}e^{2t} - (t-100)e^{-t} & (t-100)e^{-t} & -2^{100}e^{2t} + e^{-t} + (t-100)e^{-t} \\ 2^{100}e^{2t} - e^{-t} & e^{-t} & -2^{100}e^{2t} + e^{-t} \\ -(t-100)e^{-t} & (t-100)e^{-t} & e^{-t} + (t-100)e^{-t} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Setting $t=0$, we find

$$A^{100} = \begin{pmatrix} 2^{100} + 100 & -100 & -2^{100} - 99 \\ 2^{100} - 1 & 1 & -2^{100} + 1 \\ 100 & -100 & -99 \end{pmatrix}.$$

You should feel rightfully proud of your new powers! As you just discovered, the matrix exponential makes it possible to easily computer any power of a matrix (ours was a hard case because of the terms $te^{\lambda t}$ due to a defective eigenvalue; usually taking derivatives requires no thinking). \square

Problem 5. The 6×6 matrix A has eigenvalues $-3, -3, 0, 1, 1, 1$.

- Which eigenvalues can be defective? Briefly describe in *all* possible scenarios what sort of (generalized) eigenvectors would arise, and what form the solutions take in each case.
- We wish to solve $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x} + (2t^2, e^{-2t}\sin(t), 0, -1, 0, t\cos(t))^T$. Write down a particular solution \mathbf{x}_p with undetermined coefficients. It should have as few terms as possible and still work for any matrix A with the stated eigenvalues.

Solution.

- The eigenvalues $\lambda = -3$ and $\lambda = 1$ might be defective. $\lambda = -3$ may have no defect or defect 1. $\lambda = 1$ may have no defect or defect 1 or defect 2. We describe the possibilities individually.

$\lambda = -3$ no defect. In this case, we find two (independent) eigenvectors for $\lambda = -3$.

$\lambda = -3$ defect 1. There is one chain $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2$ of generalized eigenvectors for $\lambda = -3$.

$\lambda = 1$ no defect. Three (independent) eigenvectors for $\lambda = 1$.

$\lambda = 1$ defect 1. There is one chain $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2$ of generalized eigenvectors for $\lambda = 1$, as well as a second (independent) eigenvector \mathbf{w} for $\lambda = 1$.

$\lambda = 1$ defect 2. One chain $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$ of generalized eigenvectors for $\lambda = 1$.

- There is a particular solution \mathbf{x}_p of the form

$$\mathbf{x}_p(t) = (\mathbf{a}_1t^3 + \mathbf{a}_2t^2 + \mathbf{a}_3t + \mathbf{a}_4) + \mathbf{b}_1e^{-2t}\sin(t) + \mathbf{b}_2e^{-2t}\cos(t) + (\mathbf{c}_1t + \mathbf{c}_2)\cos(t) + (\mathbf{d}_1t + \mathbf{d}_2)\sin(t).$$

Note that this is $10 \times 6 = 60$ undeterminates. Let's keep our theoretical attitude... \square

Problem 6. Consider $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$ where $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 4 & -1 \\ 7 & -1 & -5 \\ -1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$.

- (a) Find a fundamental matrix.
 (b) Solve the initial value problem with $\mathbf{x}(0) = (3 \ 0 \ 0)^T$.

Hint: The eigenvalues of A are $-3, -3, 6$.

Solution.

- (a) The eigenvalues of A are $-3, -3, 6$.

For $\lambda = 6$ we find the eigenvector $\mathbf{v} = (1 \ 1 \ 0)^T$.

For $\lambda = -3$ we find the eigenvector $\mathbf{w}_1 = (1 \ -1 \ 1)^T$ but no second one. $\lambda = -3$ thus has defect 1.

Therefore there has to be a chain of length 2.

We solve $\begin{pmatrix} 5 & 4 & -1 \\ 7 & 2 & -5 \\ -1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{w}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ and find, for instance, $\mathbf{w}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1/3 \\ 1/3 \end{pmatrix}$.

Fundamental matrix: $\Phi(t) = \begin{pmatrix} e^{6t} & e^{-3t} & te^{-3t} \\ e^{6t} & -e^{-3t} & (1/3 - t)e^{-3t} \\ 0 & e^{-3t} & (1/3 + t)e^{-3t} \end{pmatrix}$.

- (b) We need to find \mathbf{c} such that $\mathbf{x}(t) = \Phi(t)\mathbf{c}$ satisfies $\mathbf{x}(0) = (3 \ 0 \ 0)^T$.

$\mathbf{x}(0) = \Phi(0)\mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 1/3 \\ 0 & 1 & 1/3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$. We solve and find $\mathbf{c} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$.

Hence $\mathbf{x}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 2e^{6t} + (1 - 3t)e^{-3t} \\ 2e^{6t} - (2 - 3t)e^{-3t} \\ -3te^{-3t} \end{pmatrix}$. □

Problem 7. Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$.

- (a) Show that the matrix $N = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ is nilpotent.
 (b) Use the fact that N is nilpotent, to find e^{At} .
 (c) Solve the initial value problem $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$, $\mathbf{x}(0) = (1 \ 2 \ 3)^T$.
 (d) Find a particular solution of $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x} + \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ -e^t \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$.
 (e) Use a different method to solve the previous problem.

Solution.

- (a) We compute $N^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and $N^3 = 0$.

- (b) Note that $At = 2It + Nt$. Since the matrices $2It$ and Nt commute (why?!), we have

$$\begin{aligned} e^{At} &= e^{2It}e^{Nt} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} & & \\ & e^{2t} & \\ & & e^{2t} \end{pmatrix} \left[I + Nt + \frac{1}{2}(Nt)^2 \right] \\ &= e^{2t} \left[I + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -t \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & t & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -t^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right] = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -t^2/2 & -t \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & t & 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{2t}. \end{aligned}$$

(c) This is easy now! $\mathbf{x}(t) = e^{At} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1-3t-t^2 \\ 2 \\ 3+2t \end{pmatrix} e^{2t}$.

(d) Using variation of constants, a particular solution is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_p(t) &= e^{At} \int e^{-At} \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ -e^t \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} dt = e^{At} \int \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -t^2/2 & t \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -t & 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{-2t} \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} \\ -e^t \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} dt = e^{At} \int \begin{pmatrix} 1+t^2/2e^{-t} \\ -e^{-t} \\ te^{-t} \end{pmatrix} dt \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -t^2/2 & -t \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & t & 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{2t} \begin{pmatrix} t-t^2/2e^{-t}-te^{-t}-e^{-t} \\ e^{-t} \\ -te^{-t}-e^{-t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} te^{2t}-e^t \\ e^t \\ -e^t \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

(e) Let us use undetermined coefficients. From e^{At} we know that A has eigenvalues $2, 2, 2$. Let us split the problem into two parts: $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x} + e^t(0, -1, 0)^T$ and $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x} + e^{2t}(1, 0, 0)^T$.

For the first part, we look for a solution of the form $\mathbf{x}_p = \mathbf{a}e^t$. Plugging into the DE, we get

$$\mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{a}e^t \stackrel{!}{=} A\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{f} = A\mathbf{a}e^t + e^t \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \iff (A-I)\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \iff \mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

In the other case, severe duplication occurs. We know that, in the worst case, there is a solution \mathbf{x}_p of the form $\mathbf{x}_p = (\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}t + \mathbf{c}t^2 + \mathbf{d}t^3)e^{2t}$. For practical purposes, and when working by hand, it still makes sense to first look if there exists a simpler solution $\mathbf{x}_p = \mathbf{a}e^{2t}$ before adding a power of t each time we find no solution.

$$\mathbf{x}' = 2\mathbf{a}e^{2t} \stackrel{!}{=} A\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{f} = A\mathbf{a}e^{2t} + e^{2t} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \iff (A-2I)\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \iff \mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} c \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We are lucky and have already found a solution (we can set c to anything, for instance $c=0$)!

Combining, we have the particular solution (of the original problem) $\mathbf{x}_p = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} e^t + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{2t} = \begin{pmatrix} -e^t \\ e^t \\ e^{2t}-e^t \end{pmatrix}$.

Note that this looks rather different from the solution found in the previous problem. This is explained by

$$\begin{pmatrix} -e^t \\ e^t \\ e^{2t}-e^t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} te^{2t}-e^t \\ e^t \\ -e^t \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -te^{2t} \\ 0 \\ e^{2t} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{with } \begin{pmatrix} -te^{2t} \\ 0 \\ e^{2t} \end{pmatrix} = e^{At} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ a solution of } \mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}.$$

□

Problem 8. Find the general solution of

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

You may use that the characteristic polynomial has the repeated roots $1 \pm i$. The general solution should be given in terms of real-valued functions.

Solution. Let us find the eigenvectors for the eigenvalue $\lambda = 1 - i$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{ccc|c} i & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & i & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & i \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{r_3=r_3+ir_1} \\ \xrightarrow{r_3=r_3-r_2} \\ \xrightarrow{r_4=r_4+ir_2} \end{array} & \begin{array}{ccc|c} i & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & i & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & i \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{r_3=r_3-r_2} \\ \xrightarrow{r_4=r_4+ir_2} \end{array} & \begin{array}{ccc|c} i & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} c \\ 0 \\ ic \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

Let us choose $c = 1$. There was only one degree of freedom, so the defect of λ is 1. We have to construct a chain starting with $\mathbf{v}_1 = (1, 0, i, 0)^T$. We extend the above elimination:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{ccc|c} i & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & i & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & i \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{r_3=r_3+ir_1} \\ \xrightarrow{r_3=r_3-r_2} \\ \xrightarrow{r_4=r_4+ir_2} \end{array} & \begin{array}{ccc|c} i & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & i & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & i \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{r_3=r_3-r_2} \\ \xrightarrow{r_4=r_4+ir_2} \end{array} & \begin{array}{ccc|c} i & 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & i & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} & \Rightarrow & \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} c \\ 1 \\ ic \\ i \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

We again choose $c = 0$. Summarizingly, we found the two complex solutions

$$\mathbf{x}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ i \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} e^{(1-i)t}, \quad \mathbf{x}_2 = \left[\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ i \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} t + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ i \end{pmatrix} \right] e^{(1-i)t} = \begin{pmatrix} t \\ 1 \\ it \\ i \end{pmatrix} e^{(1-i)t}.$$

(Together with their conjugates, we actually have four independent solutions). By taking real and imaginary parts (recall that $e^{(1-i)t} = e^t(\cos(t) - i \sin(t))$), we conclude that four independent real solutions are given by

$$\operatorname{Re}(\mathbf{x}_1) = e^t \begin{pmatrix} \cos(t) \\ 0 \\ \sin(t) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \operatorname{Im}(\mathbf{x}_1) = e^t \begin{pmatrix} -\sin(t) \\ 0 \\ \cos(t) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \operatorname{Re}(\mathbf{x}_2) = e^t \begin{pmatrix} t \cos(t) \\ \cos(t) \\ t \sin(t) \\ \sin(t) \end{pmatrix}, \quad \operatorname{Im}(\mathbf{x}_2) = e^t \begin{pmatrix} -t \sin(t) \\ -\sin(t) \\ t \cos(t) \\ \cos(t) \end{pmatrix}.$$

□