

Solutions to the Practice Problems  
Math 221  
March 26, 2007

1. Find the general solution of each of the following differential equations.

(a)  $u'' - 2u' + u = 0$

We try solutions of the form  $u = e^{rx}$ , then

$$0 = r^2 - 2r + 1 = (r - 1)^2 \Rightarrow r = 1.$$

Notice in this case we have a double root, so the general solution is

$$u(x) = (c_1 + c_2x)e^x.$$

(b)  $u'' - 3u' + 2u = x$

We first find a particular solution to the inhomogeneous equation. Notice the right hand side is a first degree polynomial, so we try another first degree polynomial:

$$u_p = Ax + B \Rightarrow x = u_p'' - 3u_p' + 2u_p = -3A + 2(Ax + B).$$

Matching coefficients, we see  $2A = 1$  and  $2B - 3A = 0$ . The first equation tells us  $A = 1/2$ , and the second equation tells us  $B = 3/4$ .

Next we find the general solution to the homogeneous equation  $u'' - 3u' + 2u = 0$ . We try a solution of the form  $u = e^{rx}$ , which forces

$$0 = r^2 - 3r + 2 = (r - 2)(r - 1) \Rightarrow r = 1, 2.$$

So the general solution of the homogeneous equation is  $c_1e^x + c_2e^{2x}$ , which means the general solution to the inhomogeneous equation is

$$u = \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{3}{4} + c_1e^x + c_2e^{2x}.$$

(c)  $u'' - 3u' + 2u = e^x$

We can reuse the homogeneous solution we already found, but this time the right hand side is a solution to the homogeneous equation. So we try a particular solution of the form

$$u_p = Axe^x \Rightarrow u_p' = Axe^x + Ae^x, \quad u_p'' = Axe^x + 2Ae^x,$$

so

$$e^x = u_p'' - 3u_p' + 2u_p = e^x[(A - 3A + 2A)x + (2A - 3A)] = -Ae^x \Rightarrow A = -1.$$

Thus a particular solution is  $u_p = -xe^x$  and the general solution is

$$u = -xe^x + c_1e^x + c_2e^{2x}.$$

(d)  $u'' - 2u' + u = e^x$

We can reuse the general solution to the homogeneous equation  $(c_1 + c_2x)e^x$  we found previously, but we still have to find a particular solution to the inhomogeneous equation. We try a solution of the form

$$u_p = Ax^2e^x \Rightarrow u_p' = Ax^2e^x + 2Axe^x, \quad u_p'' = Ax^2e^x + 4Axe^x + 2Ae^x,$$

so then

$$e^x = u_p'' - 2u_p' + u_p = e^x[Ax^2 + 4Ax + 2A - 2Ax^2 - 4Ax + Ax^2] = 2Ae^x \Rightarrow A = \frac{1}{2}.$$

Thus a particular solution is  $u_p = (1/2)x^2e^x$  and the general solution is

$$u = \frac{1}{2}x^2e^x + (c_1 + c_2x)e^x.$$

(e)  $u'' - 5u' + 6u = e^x + \sin x$

We first solve the associated homogeneous problem:  $u'' - 5u' + 6u = 0$ . Looking for solutions of the form  $u = e^{rx}$  we find

$$0 = r^2 - 5r + 6 = (r - 2)(r - 3) \Rightarrow r = 2, 3,$$

and so the homogeneous equation has solutions of the form  $c_1e^{2x} + c_2e^{3x}$ . Now we find a particular solution to the homogeneous equation. Because the right hand side is a mix of trig and exponential functions, we try

$$u_p = Ae^x + B \sin x + C \cos x \Rightarrow u'_p = Ae^x + B \cos x - C \sin x, \quad u''_p = Ae^x - B \sin x - C \cos x,$$

and so

$$e^x + \sin x = u''_p - 5u'_p + 6u_p = Ae^x - B \sin x - C \cos x - 5Ae^x - 5B \cos x + 5C \sin x + 6Ae^x + 6B \sin x + 6C \cos x.$$

Matching the exponential terms, we get  $A = 1/2$ . Matching the trig terms, we get two equations

$$1 = 5B + 5C, \quad 0 = -5B + 5C \Rightarrow B = \frac{1}{10} = C.$$

Putting everything together, we have a general solution of

$$u = \frac{1}{2}e^x + \frac{1}{10} \sin x + \frac{1}{10} \cos x + c_1e^{2x} + c_2e^{3x}.$$

2. Solve the following initial value problems.

(a)  $u'' - 3u' + 2u = x$ ,  $u(0) = -1$ ,  $u'(0) = 1$

Here we're able to use the general solution we found above:

$$u = \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{3}{4} + c_1e^x + c_2e^{2x}.$$

Evaluate at the initial point  $x = 0$ :

$$-1 = u(0) = \frac{3}{4} + c_1 + c_2, \quad 1 = u'(0) = \frac{1}{2} + c_1 + 2c_2.$$

This is two equations in the two unknowns  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ , which we can solve by taking the difference of the equations. This gives us  $c_2 = 9/4$  and  $c_1 = -4$ , so the solution is

$$u = \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{3}{4} - 4e^x + \frac{9}{4}e^{2x}.$$

(b)  $u'' - 3u' + 2u = e^x$ ,  $u(0) = 0$ ,  $u'(0) = 0$

Again, we can use the general solution we found above,

$$u = -xe^x + c_1e^x + c_2e^{2x}.$$

Evaluate at the initial point  $x_0 = 0$ :

$$0 = u(0) = c_1 + c_2, \quad 0 = u'(0) = -1 + c_1 + 2c_2.$$

The solution of this  $2 \times 2$  system is  $c_2 = 1$  and  $c_1 = -1$ , so

$$u(x) = -xe^x - e^x + e^{2x}.$$

(c)  $u'' + 3u' + 2u = \sin x$ ,  $u(0) = 1$ ,  $u'(0) = -2$

This time we need to find the general solution. The associated homogeneous solution is  $u'' + 3u' + 2u = 0$ , and has the solution  $u = c_1e^{-x} + c_2e^{-2x}$ . To find a particular solution, we try

$$u_p = A \sin x + B \cos x \Rightarrow u'_p = A \cos x - B \sin x, \quad u''_p = -A \sin x - B \cos x,$$

and so

$$\sin x = u''_p + 3u'_p + 2u_p = -A \sin x - B \cos x + 3A \cos x - 3B \sin x + 2A \sin x + 2B \cos x.$$

Matching coefficients we see  $A = 1/10$  and  $B = -3/10$ , so the general solution is

$$u = \frac{1}{10} \sin x - \frac{3}{10} \cos x + c_1 e^{-x} + c_2 e^{-2x}.$$

Evaluate at the initial point  $x = 0$ :

$$1 = u(0) = -\frac{3}{10} + c_1 + c_2, \quad -2 = \frac{1}{10} - c_1 - 2c_2,$$

which has the solution  $c_1 = 1/2$  and  $c_2 = 4/5$ . Thus the solution is

$$u = \frac{1}{10} \sin x - \frac{3}{10} \cos x + \frac{1}{2} e^{-x} + \frac{4}{5} e^{-2x}.$$

3. Consider a mass-spring system with mass  $m$ , spring constant  $k$ , damping constant  $c$ , initial position  $x(0) = x_0$ , and initial velocity  $x'(0) = v_0$ . Let  $p = c/(2m)$ ,  $\omega_-^2 = k/m$ , and  $\omega_1^2 = \omega_0^2 - p^2$ . This problem will consider the critically damped (i.e.  $c^2 = 4km$ ) case.

(a) Show that

$$x(t) = (x_0 + v_0 t + p x_0 t) e^{-pt}.$$

The differential equation is

$$m x'' + c x' + k x = 0,$$

and we look for solutions of the form  $x(t) = e^{rt}$ . Plugging this in, we see

$$m r^2 + c r + k = 0 \Rightarrow r = \frac{-c \pm \sqrt{c^2 - 4km}}{2m} = -\frac{c}{2m} = -p.$$

Here we have used the fact that  $c^2 = 4km$ . Because we have a double root, the general solution is

$$x(t) = (c_1 + c_2 t) e^{-pt}.$$

Now we match the initial conditions:

$$x_0 = x(0) = c_1, \quad v_0 = x'(0) = -p c_1 + c_2 = -p x_0 + c_2 \Rightarrow c_2 = v_0 + p x_0.$$

Putting this all together we get

$$x(t) = (x_0 + t(v_0 + p x_0)) e^{-pt}$$

as claimed.

- (b) Show that  $x(T) = 0$  for some  $T > 0$  if and only if  $x_0$  and  $v_0 + x_0 p$  have opposite signs.

Now suppose  $x(T) = 0$  for some  $T > 0$ . This means

$$0 = x(T) = (x_0 + T(v_0 + p x_0)) e^{-pT} \Rightarrow x_0 = -T(v_0 + p x_0).$$

Because  $T > 0$ , this is only possible if  $x_0$  and  $v_0 + p x_0$  have opposite signs.

- (c) Conclude that  $x(t)$  has a local maximum or minimum at some positive  $T$  if and only if  $v_0$  and  $v_0 + x_0 p$  have the same sign.

Now let  $x$  have a critical point at some  $T > 0$ . Then

$$0 = x'(T) = -p x_0 e^{-pT} + (v_0 + p x_0) e^{-pT} - p(v_0 + p x_0) T e^{-pT} = (v_0 - pT(v_0 + p x_0)) e^{-pT},$$

which in turn implies

$$v_0 = pT(v_0 + p x_0).$$

Because  $pT > 0$  this means  $v_0$  and  $v_0 + p x_0$  have the same sign. This is what we want to show.

4. Consider a mass-spring system with mass  $m$ , spring constant  $k$ , damping constant  $c$ , initial position  $x(0) = x_0$ , and initial velocity  $x'(0) = v_0$ . Let  $p = c/(2m)$ ,  $\omega_-^2 = k/m$ , and  $\omega_1^2 = \omega_0^2 - p^2$ . This problem will consider the underdamped (i.e.  $c^2 < 4km$ ) case.

(a) Show that

$$x(t) = e^{-pt} \left( x_0 \cos(\omega_1 t) + \frac{v_0 + px_0}{\omega_1} \sin(\omega_1 t) \right).$$

The differential equation is

$$mx'' + cx' + kx = 0.$$

We try solution of the form  $x(t) = e^{rt}$ , so  $mr^2 + cr + k = 0$ , which has the solutions

$$r = \frac{-c \pm \sqrt{c^2 - 4km}}{2m} = \frac{-c}{2m} \pm i \sqrt{\frac{4km}{4m^2} - \frac{c^2}{4m^2}} = -p \pm i \sqrt{k/m - p^2} = -p \pm i \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - p^2}.$$

If we let  $\omega_1 = \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - p^2}$  then we see that the solution has the form

$$x(t) = e^{-pt} (c_1 \cos \omega_1 t + c_2 \sin \omega_1 t).$$

Now match the initial conditions:

$$x_0 = x(0) = c_1, \quad v_0 = x'(0) = -pc_1 + c_2 \omega_1 \Rightarrow c_2 = \frac{v_0 + px_0}{\omega_1}.$$

Putting this all together, we get

$$x(t) = e^{-pt} \left( x_0 \cos(\omega_1 t) + \left( \frac{v_0 + px_0}{\omega_1} \right) \sin(\omega_1 t) \right)$$

as claimed.

(b) Suppose that  $c$  is much smaller than  $\sqrt{8mk}$ . In this case, use the binomial series to show

$$\omega_1 \simeq \omega_0 \left( 1 - \frac{c^2}{8mk} \right).$$

The binomial series is

$$(a + b)^n = \sum_{j=0}^n \frac{n!}{j!(n-j)!} a^j b^{n-j}.$$

The new frequency is

$$\omega_1 = \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - p^2} = \omega_0 \sqrt{1 - \frac{p^2}{\omega_0^2}} = \omega_0 \sqrt{1 - \frac{c^2}{4m^2} \cdot \frac{k}{m}} = \omega_0 \sqrt{1 - \frac{c^2}{4km}}.$$

Now we suppose  $c^2/(4km)$  is very small, and use that fact that for  $x$  small  $\sqrt{1-x} \simeq 1 - x/2$  (this is essentially tangent line approximation):

$$\omega_1 = \omega_0 \sqrt{1 - \frac{c^2}{4km}} \simeq \omega_0 \left( 1 - \frac{c^2}{8km} \right).$$

(c) Now for a specific problem. Suppose a body weighs 100 lb (so the mass is  $m = 3.125$  slugs, in fps units) is oscillating attached to a spring and a dashpot. Its first two maximum displacements are  $x = 6.73$  in, occurring at  $t = .34$  s, and  $x = 1.46$  in, occurring at  $t = 1.17$  s. Compute the damping constant  $c$  and the spring constant  $k$ .

First we take the derivative of

$$x(t) = e^{-pt} \left( x_0 \cos(\omega_1 t) + \left( \frac{v_0 + x_0 p}{\omega_1} \right) \sin(\omega_1 t) \right)$$

to find critical points:

$$0 = x'(t) = e^{-pt} \left[ v_0 \cos(\omega_1 t) - \left( \frac{v_0 p + x_0 \omega_1 p + x_0 p^2}{\omega_1} \right) \sin(\omega_1 t) \right] \Rightarrow \tan(\omega_1 t) = \frac{v_0 \omega_1}{v_0 p + x_0 \omega_1 p + x_0 p^2}.$$

Notice that  $\tan(\omega_1 t)$  is  $2\pi/\omega_1$ -periodic, and successive maxima occur every other critical point. Thus

$$\frac{2\pi}{\omega_1} = t_2 - t_1 = 1.17 - .34 = .83 \Rightarrow \omega_1 = \frac{2\pi}{.83} \simeq 7.57.$$

Now we evaluate  $x$  at successive maxima. Because the sine and cosine terms are both  $2\pi/\omega_1$ -periodic, we get

$$.217 \simeq \frac{1.46}{6.73} = \frac{x_2}{x_1} = \frac{x(t_1 + 2\pi/\omega_1)}{x(t_1)} = \frac{e^{-pt_1 - 2\pi p/\omega_1}}{e^{-pt_1}} = e^{-2\pi p/\omega_1}.$$

Now we solve for various things.

$$\frac{c}{2m} = p = -\frac{\omega_1}{2\pi} \ln(.217) \simeq 1.84 \Rightarrow c \simeq 11.5.$$

Also,

$$\frac{k}{m} = \omega_0^2 = \omega_1^2 + p^2 \simeq (7.57)^2 + (1.84)^2 \simeq 60.7 \Rightarrow \omega_0 \simeq 7.79 \Rightarrow k \simeq 24.3.$$

5. Explain why the method of undetermined coefficients will not work for the differential equation

$$u'' + 3u' + 2u = \frac{1}{1+x^2}.$$

What if the right hand side is  $xe^{x^2}$ ? Can you use the method of undetermined coefficients for that right hand side?

First consider the right hand side  $(1+x^2)^{-1}$ . Notice that when you take derivatives, of this right hand side, you get larger (negative) powers of  $x$ , so the derivatives never repeat or terminate. This means you can't guess what combination of derivatives of  $(1+x^2)^{-1}$  (and similar functions) will combine to cancel and produce the right hand side. This is why the method of undetermined coefficients will not work.

Next consider the right hand side  $xe^{x^2}$ . Notice that when you take derivatives you get a polynomial times  $e^{x^2}$ , however the degree of the polynomial gets bigger and bigger as you take more derivatives. Therefore, the same thing will happen for this right hand side as for  $(1+x^2)^{-1}$ , and the method of undetermined coefficients will not work.

6. **Without solving** the following systems of differential equations, determine whether or not the origin ( $u_1 = 0 = u_2$ ) is unstable, stable, or strictly stable.

(a)  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix}'$

We compute the eigenvalues of the coefficient matrix:  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue if and only if

$$0 = \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} - \lambda \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \det \begin{bmatrix} 3-\lambda & 2 \\ 1 & 4-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = \lambda^2 - 7\lambda + 12 - 2 = (\lambda - 5)(\lambda - 2).$$

Because both eigenvalues are positive (we have  $\lambda = 2$  and  $\lambda = 5$ ), the origin is unstable.

(b)  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix}'$

We compute the eigenvalues of the coefficient matrix:  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue if and only if

$$0 = \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix} - \lambda \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \det \begin{bmatrix} 2-\lambda & 3 \\ -1 & 1-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = \lambda^2 - 3\lambda + 2 + 3.$$

The roots of this quadratic are

$$\lambda = \frac{3 \pm i\sqrt{11}}{2}.$$

Notice that the real parts of both eigenvalues are positive, so the  $u_1 = 0 = u_2$  is unstable. The solution curves spiral away from the origin.

(c)  $\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix}'$

We compute the eigenvalues of the coefficient matrix:  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue if and only if

$$0 = \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} - \lambda \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \det \begin{bmatrix} -1-\lambda & 1 \\ -1 & -1-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = \lambda^2 + 2\lambda + 1 + 1.$$

The roots of the quadratic are

$$\lambda = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{4-8}}{2} = -1 \pm i\sqrt{2}.$$

Both eigenvalues have negative real parts, so  $u_1 = 0 = u_2$  is strictly stable. The solution curves all spiral towards the origin.

$$(d) \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix}'$$

We compute the eigenvalues of the coefficient matrix:  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue if and only if

$$0 = \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} - \lambda \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \det \begin{bmatrix} -1-\lambda & 1 \\ 1 & -1-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = \lambda^2 + 2\lambda + 1 - 1 = \lambda(\lambda - 2).$$

In this case the eigenvalues are  $\lambda = 0$  and  $\lambda = 2$ . Because there is a positive eigenvalue, the origin is unstable.

7. Find the general solution of each of the following systems.

$$(a) \begin{aligned} u_1 + u_2 &= u_1' \\ -u_2 &= u_2' \end{aligned}$$

We can solve this first system by substitution. The second equation is separable:

$$u_2' = -u_2 \Rightarrow -x + c_2 = \int dx = \int \frac{du_2}{u_2} = \ln u_2,$$

and so  $u_2(x) = c_2 e^{-x}$ . Now plug this into the first equation:

$$u_1 + c_2 e^{-x} = u_1' \Rightarrow u_1' - u_1 = c_2 e^{-x}.$$

This is a first order linear ODE, so we use the integrating factor  $\mu = e^{-x}$ , so the equation becomes  $(u_1 e^{-x})' = c_2 e^{-2x}$ . Integrating, we see

$$e^{-x} u_1 = -\frac{c_2}{2} e^{-2x} + c_1 \Rightarrow u_1 = c_1 e^x - \frac{c_2}{2} e^{-x}.$$

$$(b) \begin{aligned} u_1 &= u_2' \\ u_2 &= -2u_1' \end{aligned}$$

We can also solve this system by substitution. This time put the first equation into the second:

$$u_2 = -2u_1' = -2(u_2')' = -2u_2'' \Rightarrow u_2 = c_1 \cos(x/\sqrt{2}) + c_2 \sin(x/\sqrt{2}).$$

Then by the first equation

$$u_1 = u_2' = -\frac{c_1}{\sqrt{2}} \sin(x/\sqrt{2}) + \frac{c_2}{\sqrt{2}} \cos(x/\sqrt{2}).$$

$$(c) \begin{aligned} u_1 + 2u_2 &= u_1' \\ 2u_1 + u_2 &= u_2' \end{aligned}$$

We will solve this system (and the next one) by finding eigenvalues and eigenvectors. The coefficient matrix is

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

and so an eigenvalue  $\lambda$  satisfies

$$0 = \det \begin{bmatrix} 1-\lambda & 2 \\ 2 & 1-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = \lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 1 - 4 = (\lambda - 3)(\lambda + 1) \Rightarrow \lambda = 3, -1.$$

We find the  $\lambda = 3$  eigenvector:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3a \\ 3b \end{bmatrix}.$$

This forces  $3a = 2b$ , so we can choose

$$v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3/2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

For the  $\lambda = -1$  eigenvector, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -a \\ -b \end{bmatrix}.$$

This forces  $a = b$ , so we can choose

$$v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Putting all this together, we have the general solution

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_1(x) \\ u_2(x) \end{bmatrix} = c_1 e^{3x} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3/2 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^{-x} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

$$(d) \quad \begin{aligned} u_1 - u_2 &= u_1' \\ u_1 + u_2 &= u_2' \end{aligned}$$

Again we solve the system by finding eigenvalues and eigenvectors. The coefficient matrix is

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

so the eigenvalues  $\lambda$  satisfy

$$0 = \det \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \lambda & -1 \\ 1 & 1 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} = \lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 2 \Rightarrow \lambda = 1 \pm i.$$

To find the  $\lambda = 1 + i$  eigenvector:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (1+i)a \\ (1+i)b \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow b = -ia,$$

so we can choose the eigenvector to be

$$v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix}.$$

Similarly, for the  $\lambda = 1 - i$  eigenvalue we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (1-i)a \\ (1-i)b \end{bmatrix} \Rightarrow b = ia,$$

so we can choose the eigenvector to be

$$v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus we can write the general solution as

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_1(x) \\ u_2(x) \end{bmatrix} = c_1 e^{(1+i)x} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^{(1-i)x} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}.$$

In fact, we can rewrite this general solution in terms of sines and cosines, which is more convenient for real problems. First we pull out the common factor of  $e^x$  in both terms. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} u_1(x) \\ u_2(x) \end{bmatrix} &= e^x \left( c_1 (\cos x - i \sin x) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix} + c_2 (\cos x + i \sin x) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} \right) \\ &= e^x \begin{bmatrix} \cos x (c_1 + c_2) + i \sin x (-c_1 + c_2) \\ i \cos x (-c_1 + c_2) + \sin x (-c_1 - c_2) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= e^x \left( (c_1 + c_2) \begin{bmatrix} \cos x \\ -\sin x \end{bmatrix} + i(-c_1 + c_2) \begin{bmatrix} \sin x \\ \cos x \end{bmatrix} \right). \end{aligned}$$