

Math 225, Fall 2024

Quiz #5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(a) [3 pts] Find the general solution of  $4y'' + 4y' + y = 0$ .(b) [7 pts] Solve the initial value problem  $4y'' + 4y' + y = 0$ ,  $y(0) = 2$ ,  $y'(0) = 0$ .*Solution:* [This is like Exercises #8 and 17 of Section 3.4](a) The characteristic equation is  $4r^2 + 4r + 1 = 0$ . This factors as  $(2r + 1)^2 = 0$ , and therefore  $r = -1/2$ . Alternatively, we may solve for  $r$  with the help of the quadratic formula:

$$r = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{4^2 - 4(4)(1)}}{8} = -\frac{4}{8} = -\frac{1}{2}.$$

We conclude that the general solution of the DE is

$$y(x) = c_1 e^{-x/2} + c_2 x e^{-x/2},$$

where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are arbitrary constants.

(b) To apply the initial conditions, we calculate the derivative

$$y'(x) = -\frac{1}{2}c_1 e^{-x/2} + c_2 \left[ e^{-x/2} - \frac{1}{2}x e^{-x/2} \right],$$

and then evaluate  $y(x)$  and  $y'(x)$  at  $x = 0$ . We see that

$$\begin{aligned} y(x) = c_1 e^{-x/2} + c_2 x e^{-x/2} & \quad \text{and } y(0) = 2 & \Rightarrow & \quad 2 = c_1, \\ y'(x) = -\frac{1}{2}c_1 e^{-x/2} + c_2 \left[ e^{-x/2} - \frac{1}{2}x e^{-x/2} \right] & \quad \text{and } y'(0) = 0 & \Rightarrow & \quad 0 = -\frac{1}{2}c_1 + c_2. \end{aligned}$$

It follows that  $c_1 = 2$  and  $c_2 = 1$ . We conclude that

$$y(x) = 2e^{-x/2} + x e^{-x/2},$$

or equivalently,

$$y(x) = (x + 2)e^{-x/2}.$$