

**Question 1.**

- (a) We use cofactor expansion along the first row to find the determinant of  $A$ :

$$\begin{vmatrix} 12 & 6 & -3 \\ 6 & 3 & 6 \\ -3 & 6 & -4 \end{vmatrix} = 12(-12 - 36) - 6(-24 + 18) - 3(36 + 9) = -576 + 36 - 135 = -675$$

- (b) Since  $A$  is a square matrix with determinant  $|A| \neq 0$ , it follows that  $A$  has maximal rank. Hence  $\text{rk}(A) = 3$ , and  $\dim \text{Col}(A) = \text{rk}(A) = 3$ .
- (c) We determine when  $\mathbf{v}$  is an eigenvector of  $A$  by computing  $A\mathbf{v}$  and compare it with  $\lambda\mathbf{v}$ :

$$A\mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 12 & 6 & -3 \\ 6 & 3 & 6 \\ -3 & 6 & -4 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ a \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -3a \\ 6a \\ -15 - 4a \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda\mathbf{v} = \lambda \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \\ a \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ -2\lambda \\ a\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

We see that  $A\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v}$  if and only if  $\lambda = -3a$ ,  $-2\lambda = 6a$ , and  $a\lambda = -15 - 4a$ . We substitute  $\lambda = -3a$  in the last equation, and get  $a(-3a) = -15 - 4a$ , or  $3a^2 - 4a - 15 = 0$ . This gives

$$a = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{(-4)^2 - 4(3)(-15)}}{2(3)} = \frac{4 \pm \sqrt{196}}{6} = \frac{4 \pm 14}{6}$$

We get  $a = 3$  and  $a = -10/6 = -5/3$  as solutions to the quadratic equation. Hence  $\mathbf{v}$  is in  $E_\lambda$  if and only if  $a = 3$ ,  $\lambda = -9$  or  $a = -5/3$ ,  $\lambda = 5$ .

- (d) Since  $A$  is a symmetric  $3 \times 3$  matrix, it has three eigenvalue counted with multiplicities. We know from (c) that  $\lambda_1 = -9$  and  $\lambda_2 = 5$  are eigenvalues of  $A$ . Since  $\text{tr}(A) = 12 + 3 - 4 = 11$ , it follows that

$$\text{tr}(A) = 11 = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 = -9 + 5 + \lambda_3 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lambda_3 = 11 - (-9 + 5) = 15$$

It follows that the eigenvalues of  $A$  are  $\lambda_1 = -9$ ,  $\lambda_2 = 5$ , and  $\lambda_3 = 15$ .

**Question 2.**

- (a) The characteristic equation of the homogeneous difference equation  $y_{t+2} - 2y_{t+1} - 8y_t = 0$  is  $r^2 - 2r - 8 = 0$ , which gives

$$r = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{(-2)^2 - 4(-8)}}{2} = \frac{2 \pm \sqrt{36}}{2} = \frac{2 \pm 6}{2}$$

Hence there are two distinct characteristic roots  $r_1 = 4$  and  $r_2 = -2$ , and the general homogeneous solution is

$$y_t^h = C_1 \cdot 4^t + C_2 \cdot (-2)^t$$

To find a particular solution of  $y_{t+2} - 2y_{t+1} - 8y_t = -9t$ , we use the method of undetermined coefficients with  $y_t = At + B$ , which gives  $y_{t+1} = A(t+1) + B$  and  $y_{t+2} = A(t+2) + B$ . We get  $(At + 2A + B) - 2(A(t+1) + B) - 8(At + B) = -9t$  when we substitute this into the difference equation, and this implies that  $(-9A)t + (-9B) = -9t$ , or  $A = 1$  and  $B = 1$  by comparing coefficients. Hence  $y_t^p = t$ , and the general solution of the difference equation is

$$y_t = y_t^h + y_t^p = C_1 \cdot 4^t + C_2 \cdot (-2)^t + t$$

- (b) The differential equation  $y' = 2t - 4ty$  can be written as  $y' = 2t(1 - 2y)$  and solved by separation of variables:

$$\frac{1}{1 - 2y} y' = 2t \quad \Rightarrow \quad \int \frac{1}{1 - 2y} dy = \int 2t dt \quad \Rightarrow \quad -\frac{1}{2} \ln |1 - 2y| = t^2 + C$$

This gives  $\ln |1 - 2y| = -2t^2 - 2C$ , or  $|1 - 2y| = e^{-2t^2 - 2C}$ , hence  $1 - 2y = \pm e^{-2t^2 - 2C} = Ke^{-2t^2}$ , or  $2y = 1 - Ke^{-2t^2}$ . This implies that the general solution is

$$y = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{K}{2} e^{-2t^2}$$

Alternatively, the differential equation can be solved using integrating factor by writing it in the standard form  $y' + 4ty = 2t$  of a first order linear differential equation.

- (c) We write  $\mathbf{y} = (u, v)$  such that the system of differential equations can be written  $\mathbf{y}' = A\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{b}$  with

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 8 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 24 \end{pmatrix}$$

The equilibrium state of the system is given by  $A\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}$ , hence  $v = 0$  and  $8u + 2v + 24 = 0$ . The solution is  $v = 0$  and  $8u = -24$ , or  $u = -3$ , hence  $\mathbf{y}_e = (-3, 0)$  is the equilibrium state. The eigenvalues of  $A$  are given by the characteristic equation  $\lambda^2 - 2\lambda - 8 = 0$ , and this gives  $\lambda_1 = 4$  and  $\lambda_2 = -2$ . To find a base  $\{\mathbf{v}_i\}$  for  $E_{\lambda_i}$  in each case, we use the Gaussian processes

$$E_4 : \begin{pmatrix} -4 & 1 \\ 8 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -4 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad E_{-2} : \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 8 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and back substitution, and find base vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1 = (1, 4)$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2 = (1, -2)$  for the two eigenspaces. Hence the general solution of the system of differential equations is

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ v \end{pmatrix} = C_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} \cdot e^{4t} + C_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix} \cdot e^{-2t} + \begin{pmatrix} -3 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- (d) The differential equation  $ty' = e^{-y}$  can be written as  $y' = e^{-y} \cdot 1/t$  and solved by separation of variables:

$$e^y y' = \frac{1}{t} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \int e^y dy = \int \frac{1}{t} dt \quad \Rightarrow \quad e^y = \ln(t) + C$$

We use  $\ln|t| = \ln(t)$  since we assume that  $t > 0$ . The initial condition  $y(1) = 0$  means that  $t = 1, y = 0$  will be a solution, hence  $e^0 = \ln(1) + C$ , or  $C = 1$ . This gives  $e^y = \ln(t) + 1$ , and the particular solution with  $y(1) = 0$  is given by  $y = \ln(\ln(t) + 1)$ .

### Question 3.

- (a) To determine the definiteness of the quadratic form  $f$ , we write down its symmetric matrix  $A$ :

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 & 3 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 10 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Its leading principal minors are  $D_1 = 2, D_2 = 2 - 1 = 1, D_3 = 3(-3) + 10D_2 = 10 - 9 = 1$ , and  $D_4 = |A|$  is given by

$$D_4 = -1 \begin{vmatrix} 2 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 1 \end{vmatrix} + 1 \cdot D_3 = -1(1)(2 - 1) + 1 = 0$$

Since  $D_1, D_2, D_3 > 0$  and  $D_4 = 0$ , we have that  $\text{rk}(A) = 3$  and  $A$  is positive semidefinite by the RRC. Hence  $f$  is a positive semidefinite quadratic form.

- (b) The Lagrangian is  $\mathcal{L} = \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x} - \lambda(B\mathbf{x} - 33)$ , where  $A$  is the symmetric matrix of  $f$  and  $B = (3 \ 1 \ 8 \ -4)$ . The Lagrange conditions are the first order conditions, which can be written  $2A\mathbf{x} - \lambda B^T = \mathbf{0}$  in matrix form, and the constraint  $B\mathbf{x} = 33$ . We write the FOC's as  $A\mathbf{x} = (\lambda/2)B^T$  and write  $t = \lambda/2$  for simplicity. This gives a linear system with the following augmented matrix, and we solve it using Gaussian elimination:

$$\left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} 2 & -1 & 3 & 0 & 3t \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & t \\ 3 & 0 & 10 & 1 & 8t \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -4t \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & t \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 0 & 5t \\ 0 & 3 & 10 & 1 & 11t \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -4t \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cccc|c} -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & t \\ 0 & 1 & 3 & 0 & 5t \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & -4t \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

Hence  $w$  is a free variable,  $z = -4t - w, y = -3z + 5t = 17t + 3w$ , and  $x = y - t = 16t + 3w$  by back substitution. With  $w = -4$ , we get the solution

$$(x, y, z, w) = (16t - 12, 17t - 12, -4t + 4, -4)$$

of the FOC's. When we substitute this into the constraint, we find that

$$3(16t - 12) + (17t - 12) + 8(-4t + 4) - 4(-4) = 33t = 33$$

which gives  $t = 1$ , and this implies that  $\lambda/2 = 1$ , or  $\lambda = 2$ . We conclude that there is a unique candidate point with  $w = -4$  that satisfies the Lagrange conditions:

$$(x, y, z, w; \lambda) = (4, 5, 0, -4; 2)$$

- (c) We apply the SOC to the candidate point  $(x, y, z, w; \lambda) = (4, 5, 0, -4; 2)$  found in (b), and consider the function

$$h(x, y, z, w) = \mathcal{L}(x, y, z, w; 2) = \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x} - 2(B\mathbf{x} - 33)$$

Since the Hessian  $H(h) = 2A$  and  $A$  is positive semidefinite by (a), it follows that  $h$  is convex. Therefore, the candidate point is a minimum in the Lagrange problem by the SOC, and  $f_{\min} = f(4, 5, 0, -4) = 2(4)^2 - 2(4)(5) + (5)^2 + (-4)^2 = 33$ .

- (d) We think of  $p(x, y, z, w)$  as a composite function  $p(u) = u^2 - 4u + 7$ , with inner function or kernel  $u = f(x, y, z, w)$ . The inner function is convex with minimum value  $u_{\min} = f(0, 0, 0, 0) = 0$  since  $f$  is a positive semidefinite quadratic form. The outer function  $p(u) = u^2 - 4u + 7$  has derivative  $p'(u) = 2u - 4 = 2(u - 2)$ , hence it is decreasing for  $0 \leq u \leq 2$  and increasing for  $u \geq 2$ , with  $p(u) \rightarrow \infty$  when  $u \rightarrow \infty$ . Hence  $p$  has minimum value  $p_{\min} = p(2) = 3$ , and no maximum value. The range of  $p$  is  $V_p = [3, \infty)$ .