

Instructions: Give concise answers, but clearly indicate your reasoning.

**I.** Define what it means to say that a collection of functions  $\{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n\}$  is *linearly independent*.

(3) It means that  $c_1y_1 + c_2y_2 + \dots + c_ny_n = 0$  for constants  $c_i$  only when all the  $c_i$  are 0.

**II.** Show that the set of functions  $\{1, \sin^2(x), 2 \cos^2(x)\}$  is linearly dependent.

(3) Since  $\sin^2(x) + \cos^2(x) = 1$ , we have  $1 \cdot \sin^2(x) + (1/2) \cdot 2 \cos^2(x) + (-1) \cdot 1 = 0$ . Since there is a nonzero linear combination of these functions that equals the zero function, the set is linearly dependent.

**III.** Given that

(4) 
$$\lambda^6 + 2\lambda^4 + 20\lambda^3 + \lambda^2 + 20\lambda + 100 = (\lambda + 2)^2(\lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 5)^2,$$

write a general solution of the DE

$$y^{(6)} + 2y^{(4)} + 20y^{(3)} + y'' + 20y' + 100y = 0.$$

The roots of the characteristic polynomial are  $-2, -2, 1 \pm 2i$ , and  $1 \pm 2i$ . The first two give the solutions  $e^{-2x}$  and  $xe^{-2x}$ , and the second two pairs give the solutions  $e^x \cos(2x)$ ,  $e^x \sin(2x)$ ,  $xe^x \cos(2x)$ , and  $xe^x \sin(2x)$ . These six solutions are linearly independent, so a general solution is

$$c_1e^{-2x} + c_2xe^{-2x} + c_3e^x \cos(2x) + c_4e^x \sin(2x) + c_5xe^x \cos(2x) + c_6xe^x \sin(2x).$$

**IV.** The function  $\sin(x)$  satisfies the DE  $y'' + y' + y = \cos(x)$ . Find a general solution.

(5) The associated homogeneous DE is  $y'' + y' + y = 0$ . Its characteristic polynomial is  $\lambda^2 + \lambda + 1$ , which has roots  $-1/2 \pm (\sqrt{3}/2)i$ . Therefore a general solution of the associated homogeneous DE is

$$c_1e^{-x/2} \cos(\sqrt{3}x/2) + c_2e^{-x/2} \sin(\sqrt{3}x/2),$$

and a general solution of the original nonhomogeneous DE is

$$c_1e^{-x/2} \cos(\sqrt{3}x/2) + c_2e^{-x/2} \sin(\sqrt{3}x/2) + \sin(x).$$