

**Question 1.**

- (a) The difference equation  $y_{t+2} - y_{t+1} - 2y_t = 0$  is a linear difference equation that is homogeneous, and it has characteristic equation  $r^2 - r - 2 = 0$ . The characteristic roots are  $r_1 = 2$  and  $r_2 = -1$ , hence the general solution is

$$y_t = C_1 \cdot 2^t + C_2 \cdot (-1)^t$$

- (b) Since  $A > 0$ , the Markov chain is regular, and we compute the eigenvectors of  $A$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda = 1$ :

$$A - I = \begin{pmatrix} -0.06 & 0.14 \\ 0.06 & -0.14 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -0.06 & 0.14 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence  $y$  is free, and  $-0.06x + 0.14y = 0$ , or  $x = 0.14y/0.06 = 14y/6 = 7y/3$ , and the eigenvectors in  $E_1$  are given by  $\mathbf{w} = (x, y) = (7y/3, y) = y/3 \cdot (7, 3)$ . The equilibrium state of the Markov chain is the unique eigenvector in  $E_1$  that is a state vector, and since  $7 + 3 = 10$ , it is given by

$$\mathbf{v} = \frac{1}{10} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 7 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 7/10 \\ 3/10 \end{pmatrix}$$

- (c) We consider the vector equation  $x_1\mathbf{v}_1 + x_2\mathbf{v}_2 + x_3\mathbf{v}_3 = \mathbf{v}_4$ , and use Gaussian elimination to find out how many solutions there are:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 7 & -4 \\ 3 & 4 & 10 & -3 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -6 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -6 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 1 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -6 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

Since there is one degree of freedom and infinitely many solutions, there are **infinitely many ways** to write  $\mathbf{v}_4$  as a linear combination of  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$ .

- (d) We can write the function  $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + 2y^2 + 5z^2 - 4xz + 2x - 6z + 5$  in matrix form as  $f(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x} + B \mathbf{x} + 5$ , with

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -2 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & 5 \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = (2 \quad 0 \quad -6)$$

We see that  $A$  is positive definite since  $D_1 = 1$ ,  $D_2 = 2$ , and  $D_3 = |A| = 2(5 - 4) = 2$ . This means that  $f$  is convex and any stationary point is a minimum point. We find the stationary points using  $f'(\mathbf{x}) = 2A\mathbf{x} + B^T = \mathbf{0}$ , or  $A\mathbf{x} = -1/2 \cdot B^T$ , and solve for  $\mathbf{x}$  using Gaussian elimination:

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ -2 & 0 & 5 & 3 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{ccc|c} 1 & 0 & -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right)$$

Back substitution gives  $z = 1$ ,  $2y = 0$ , or  $y = 0$ , and  $x - 2(1) = -1$ , or  $x = 1$ . It follows that the minimum point of  $f$  is  $(1, 0, 1)$ , and the minimum value is

$$f_{\min} = f(1, 0, 1) = 3$$

**Question 2.**

- (a) We use Gaussian elimination to find the rank of  $A$ :

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 & 5 \\ 1 & 18 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & -7 & 1 \\ 0 & 14 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 & 2 \\ 0 & -7 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Since there are two pivot positions, we have that  $\text{rk}(A) = 2$ . Since there is no pivot in the third column, the determinant  $\det(A) = 0$ .

- (b) To find the null space of  $A$ , we solve the homogeneous linear system  $A\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ , and use the echelon form of  $A$  found above. We see that  $z$  is free, and back substitution gives  $-7y + z = 0$ , or  $y = z/7$ , and  $x + 4(z/7) + 2z = 0$ , or  $x = -4z/7 - 2z = -18z/7$ . Hence the solutions are given by

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} -18z/7 \\ z/7 \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \frac{z}{7} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} -18 \\ 1 \\ 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

It follows that  $\mathbf{w} = (-18, 1, 7)$  is a base of  $\text{Null}(A)$ .

- (c) The characteristic equation of  $A$  is  $-\lambda^3 + \text{tr}(A) \cdot \lambda^2 - c_2 \cdot \lambda + \det(A) = -\lambda^3 + 2\lambda^2 + 99\lambda = 0$ , since  $\text{tr}(A) = 1 + 1 + 0 = 2$ ,  $c_2 = M_{12} + M_{23} + M_{13} = -7 - 90 - 2 = -99$ , and  $\det(A) = 0$  from (a). This gives that

$$-\lambda^3 + 2\lambda^2 + 99\lambda = -\lambda(\lambda^2 - 2\lambda - 99) = -\lambda(\lambda - 11)(\lambda + 9) = 0$$

Therefore, the eigenvalue of  $A$  are  $\lambda_1 = 0$ ,  $\lambda_2 = 11$ , and  $\lambda_3 = -9$ .

- (d) If  $\mathbf{v}$  is an eigenvector of  $A$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , then we have

$$A^2\mathbf{v} = A(A\mathbf{v}) = A(\lambda\mathbf{v}) = \lambda(A\mathbf{v}) = \lambda(\lambda\mathbf{v}) = \lambda^2\mathbf{v}$$

Hence  $\mathbf{v}$  is also an eigenvector of  $A^2$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda^2$ . This proves that the eigenvalues of  $B = A^2$  are  $\lambda_1^2 = 0^2 = 0$ ,  $\lambda_2^2 = 11^2 = 121$ , and  $\lambda_3^2 = (-9)^2 = 81$ . Since all three eigenvalues of  $B$  are distinct and therefore of multiplicity one, it follows that  $\dim \text{Null}(B) = 1$ .

### Question 3.

- (a) The function  $f$  is quadratic and can be written  $f(\mathbf{x}) = 27 + \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x}$ , where  $A$  is the symmetric matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Its leading principal minors are  $D_1 = -1$ ,  $D_2 = 2$ , and  $D_3 = -2(2 - 1) = -2$  and  $D_4 = |A|$  is given by cofactor expansion along the last row:

$$|A| = 1 \cdot \begin{vmatrix} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 & 0 \end{vmatrix} + (-6)D_3 = 1(-1)(2 - 1) - 6(-2) = 11$$

It follows that  $A$  is negative definite, and therefore  $f$  is a concave function.

- (b) We write the constraint as  $\mathbf{x}^T D \mathbf{x} = 10$ , since the function in the constraint is also a quadratic form (we use  $D$  for its symmetric matrix since we have used  $A$  for the symmetric matrix in the function  $f$ ), where

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1/2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1/2 & 0 & 0 \\ 1/2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The Lagrangian function of the problem is  $\mathcal{L} = 27 + \mathbf{x}^T A \mathbf{x} - \lambda(\mathbf{x}^T D \mathbf{x} - 10)$ , and the first order conditions are given by

$$\mathcal{L}'(\mathbf{x}) = 2A\mathbf{x} - \lambda(2D\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{0} \quad \Rightarrow \quad A\mathbf{x} - \lambda D\mathbf{x} = (A - \lambda D)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$$

We find the solutions of the FOC's with  $\lambda = -2$  by solving the linear system  $(A + 2D)\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  using Gaussian elimination:

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & -6 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & -5 \end{pmatrix} \\ \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 & -6 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

We see that  $w$  is free,  $-z + 3w = 0$ , or  $z = 3w$ ,  $y - z + w = 0$ , or  $y = 2w$ , and  $-x + z + w = 0$ , or  $x = 4w$ . The FOC's therefore give that  $(x, y, z, w; \lambda) = (4w, 2w, 3w, w; -2)$ , and the constraint  $xw + yz = 10$  gives  $(4w)w + (2w)(3w) = 10$ , or  $10w^2 = 10$ . It follows that  $w^2 = 1$ , or  $w = \pm 1$ , and we get two candidate points in the Lagrange problem with  $\lambda = -2$ :

$$(x, y, z, w; \lambda) = (4, 2, 3, 1; -2), (-4, -2, -3, -1; -2)$$

- (c) We test the candidate points in (b) using the Second Order Condition (SOC): We consider  $h(\mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{x}; -2) = 27 + \mathbf{x}^T(A + 2D)\mathbf{x}$ . Its Hessian is  $H(h) = 2(A + 2D)$ , where  $A + 2D$  is the coefficient matrix of the linear system in (b). We notice that  $|A + 2D| = 0$  since we found a free variable in (b). Moreover, the symmetric matrix

$$A + 2D = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & -6 \end{pmatrix}$$

had leading principal minors  $D_1 = -1$ ,  $D_2 = 2$ ,  $D_3 = -1(4 - 1) + 1(0 + 2) = -1$ , and  $D_4 = |A + 2D| = 0$ . Hence  $A + 2D$  is negative semidefinite by the Reduced Rank Criterion (RRC), and  $h$  is therefore a concave function. It follows from the SOC that

$$f_{\max} = f(4, 2, 3, 1) = f(-4, -2, -3, -1) = 27 - 16 - 8 - 18 - 6 + 24 + 4 = 7$$

is the maximal value and that  $\mathbf{x} = (4, 2, 3, 1)$   $(-4, -2, -3, -1)$  are maximum points in the Lagrange problem.

- (d) The set  $D = \{(x, y, z, w) : xw + yz = 10\}$  is **not compact** since it is closed but not bounded. For example, we can see this by considering the points  $(x, 1, 10, 0)$ : These points are in  $D$  for any value of  $x$  since  $x \cdot 0 + 1 \cdot 10 = 10$ . This means that there is not a smallest or largest value of  $x$  among the points in  $D$ .

#### Question 4.

- (a) The differential equation  $y' + 4ty = 8t$  is linear and can be solved using the integrating factor  $u = e^{2t^2}$  since  $\int 4t dt = 2t^2 + C$ . Multiplication with  $u = e^{2t^2}$  gives

$$(e^{2t^2} y)' = 8te^{2t^2} \Rightarrow e^{2t^2} y = \int 8te^{2t^2} dt$$

Using the substitution  $v = 2t^2$  and  $dv = 4t dt$ , we compute the integral on the right-hand side:

$$\int 8te^{2t^2} dt = \int 8te^v \frac{1}{4t} dv = \int 2e^v dv = 2e^v + C = 2e^{2t^2} + C$$

This gives the general solution

$$e^{2t^2} y = 2e^{2t^2} + C \Rightarrow y = 2 + Ce^{-2t^2}$$

Alternatively, we could write the differential equation as  $y' = 8t - 4ty = 4t \cdot (2 - y)$  and solve it as a separable differential equation.

- (b) We write the difference equation in the form  $(y^2 - 2t) + 2yt \cdot y' = 0$ , and try to find a function  $h = h(t, y)$  such that

$$h'_t = y^2 - 2t, \quad h'_y = 2yt$$

We see that  $h = y^2t - t^2 + C(y)$  is the general solution of the first condition, and when we substitute this into the second condition, we find that  $h'_y = 2yt + C'(y)$ , and therefore  $h'_y = 2yt$  when  $C'(y) = 0$ . The simplest solution for  $h$  is therefore  $h(t, y) = y^2t - t^2$  with  $C(y) = 0$ . Since the differential equation is exact of the form  $h'_t + h'_y \cdot y' = 0$ , the general solution is given by

$$h(t, y) = y^2t - t^2 = C$$

The initial condition  $y(1) = 2$  gives  $2^2 \cdot 1 - 1^2 = C$ , or  $C = 3$ . Hence the particular solution is

$$y^2t - t^2 = 3 \Rightarrow y^2 = \frac{3 + t^2}{t} \Rightarrow y = \sqrt{\frac{3 + t^2}{t}}$$

We have chosen the positive square root in order for the particular solution to satisfy  $y(1) = 2$ .

(c) The characteristic equation of  $A$  is  $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$ , which gives

$$\begin{vmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 0 \\ 1 & -1 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = (2 - \lambda)(-1 - \lambda) = 0$$

and the two eigenvalues of  $A$  are therefore  $\lambda_1 = 2$  and  $\lambda_2 = -1$ . Since each eigenvalue has multiplicity one, there is a base  $\mathbf{v}_i$  for  $E_{\lambda_i}$  which we can find using Gaussian elimination:

$$E_2 : \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -3 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad E_{-1} : \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

We may choose the base vectors  $\mathbf{v}_1 = (3, 1)$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2 = (0, 1)$ . We find the equilibrium state by solving  $A\mathbf{y} + \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}$ , which is a linear system  $A\mathbf{y} = -\mathbf{b}$  that we can solve using Gaussian elimination:

$$\left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & -1 & -1 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 2 & 0 & 2 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 4 \end{array} \right)$$

Back substitution gives  $2y = 4$ , or  $y = 2$ , and  $x - 2 = -1$ , or  $x = 1$ . The equilibrium state is therefore  $(1, 2)$ , and the general solution of the system of linear differential equations is

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

(d) We can write the differential equation  $y' + ty^2 = t$  as  $y' = t - ty^2 = t \cdot (1 - y^2)$  and solve it as a separable differential equation. This gives

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

We have multiplied the equation with 2 for convenience. To compute the integral on the left-hand side, we use partial fractions and the factorization  $1 - y^2 = (1 + y)(1 - y)$ :

$$\frac{2}{1 - y^2} = \frac{A}{1 + y} + \frac{B}{1 - y} \quad \Rightarrow \quad 2 = A(1 - y) + B(1 + y) = (A + B) + (-A + B)y$$

We have multiplied by the common denominator. We see that  $A + B = 2$  and  $B - A = 0$  by comparing coefficients, and this gives  $A = B = 1$ . This gives

$$\int \frac{1}{1 + y} dy + \int \frac{1}{1 - y} dy = \int 2t dt \quad \Rightarrow \quad \ln |1 + y| - \ln |1 - y| = t^2 + C$$

and therefore we get

$$\ln \frac{|1 + y|}{|1 - y|} = t^2 + C \quad \Rightarrow \quad \left| \frac{1 + y}{1 - y} \right| = e^{t^2 + C} = e^{t^2} e^C \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{1 + y}{1 - y} = (\pm e^C) e^{t^2} = K e^{t^2}$$

We solve for  $y$  to get an explicit solution:

$$1 + y = (1 - y)K e^{t^2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad y(1 + K e^{t^2}) = K e^{t^2} - 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad y = \frac{K e^{t^2} - 1}{K e^{t^2} + 1}$$