

1. Answer the following statement “true” or “false”: Let  $p_1(t)$ ,  $p_2(t)$ , and  $p_3(t)$  be continuous on  $\mathbb{R}$ . Then there is a unique solution on the interval  $(-1, 1)$  to the following initial value problem:

$$\begin{aligned} ty''' + p_1(t)y'' + p_2(t)y' + p_3(t)y &= 0 \\ y(0) &= 1 \\ y'(0) &= 0 \\ y''(0) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

False. In order to apply the existence and uniqueness theorem to this initial value problem, we would have to divide by  $t$ , and the resulting differential equation could have coefficients which are discontinuous at  $t = 0$ .

2. Convert each of the following higher-order differential equations into systems of first-order linear differential equations.

(a)  $y'' - 4y' + 3y = 0$

Let  $u = y'$ . Then

$$u' = 4y' - 3y = -3y + 4u.$$

The resulting system is

$$\begin{aligned} y' &= u \\ u' &= -3y + 4u. \end{aligned}$$

(b)  $y''' + (\sin t)y'' - 4y' + ty = e^t$

Let  $u = y'$  and  $v = u' = y''$ . Then

$$v' = e^t - (\sin t)y'' + 4y' - ty = e^t - (\sin t)v + 4u - ty.$$

The resulting system is

$$\begin{aligned} y' &= u \\ u' &= v \\ v' &= -ty + 4u - (\sin t)v + e^t. \end{aligned}$$