

7.3 The Eigenvalue Method for Systems

$\vec{x}' = A\vec{x}$ homogeneous system, A is a constant matrix

first, a qualitative way to understand solutions

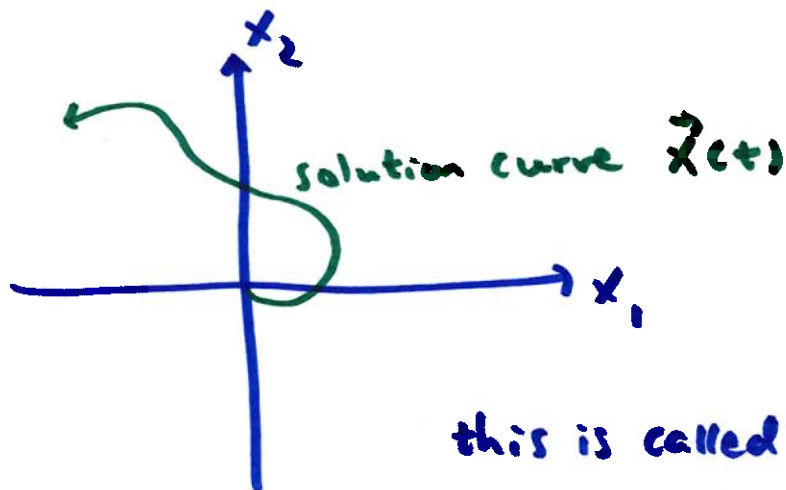
$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1' \\ x_2' \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

solution: $x_1(t) =$

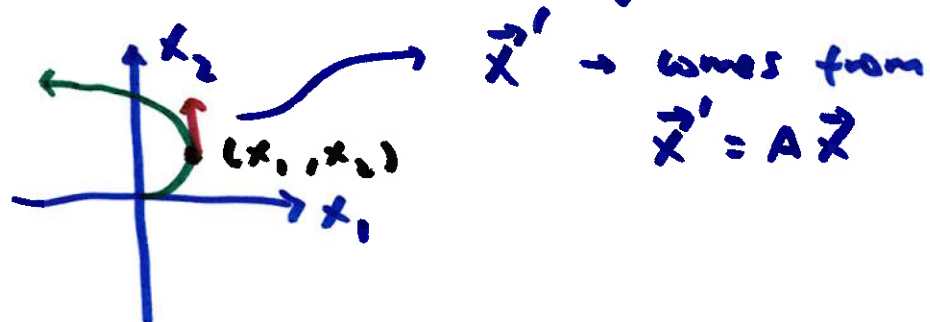
$x_2(t) =$

often we want to know $x_1(t)$ vs $x_2(t)$



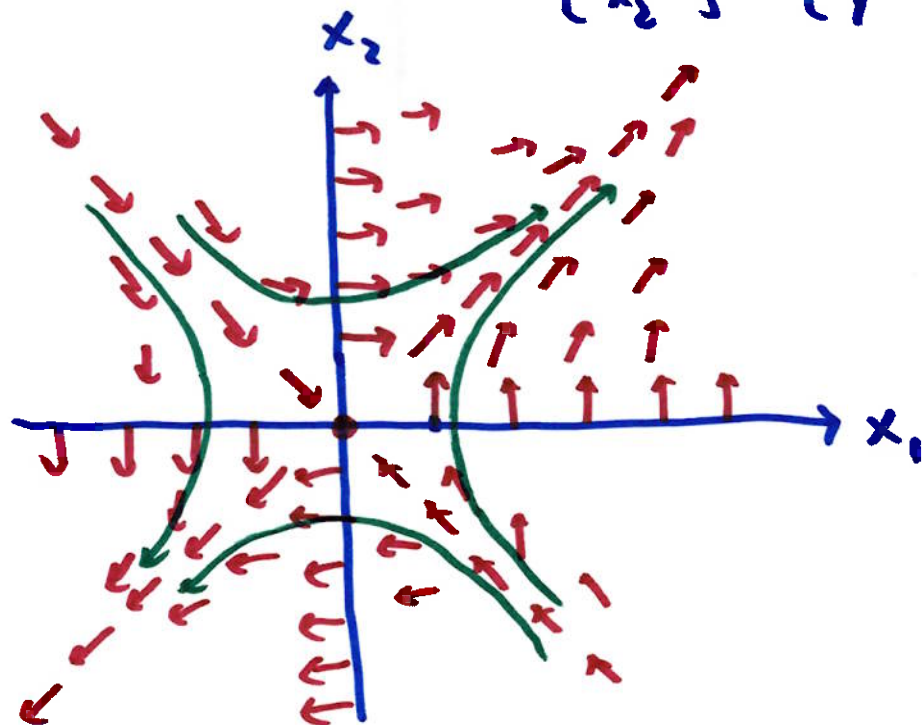
this is called
a phase diagram

the matrix A can tell us the vectors tangent to a solution curve



for example, $\vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1' \\ x_2' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$



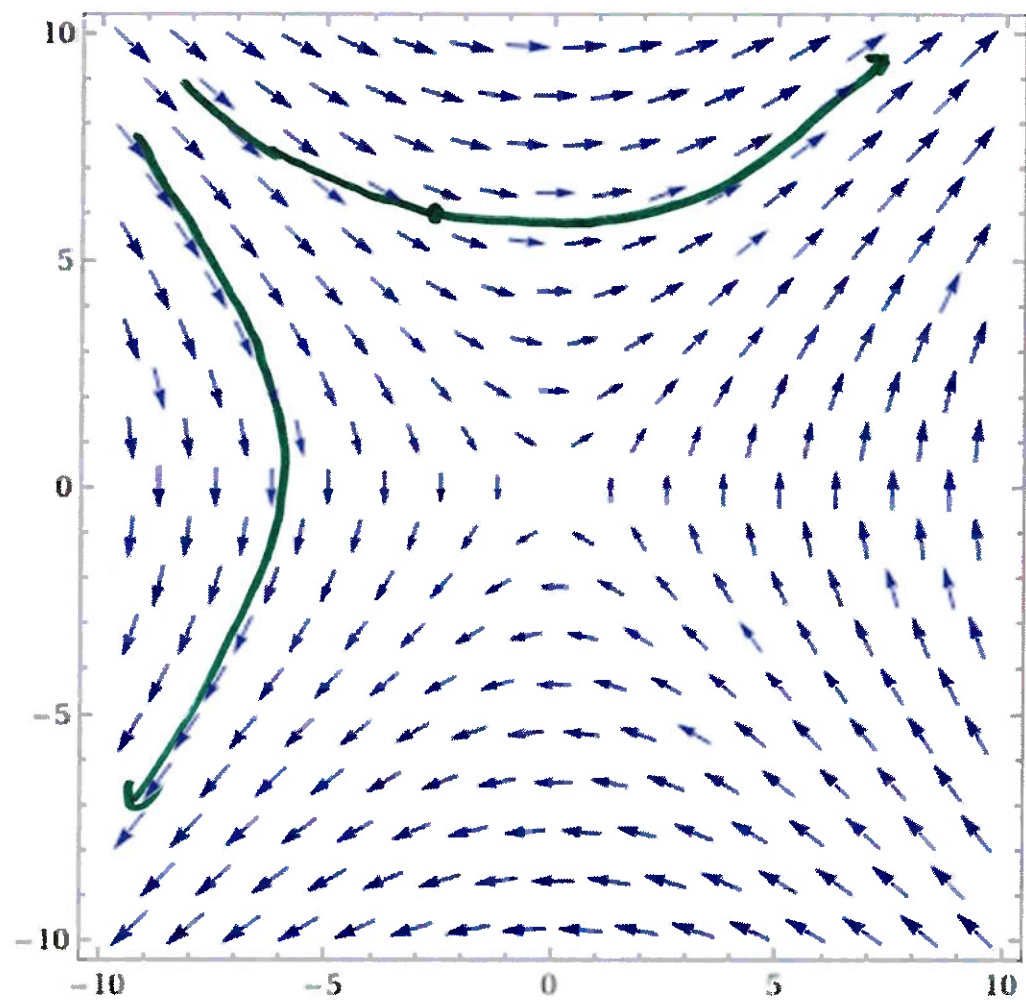
if $\vec{x} = \vec{0} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

at $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$, $\vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

at $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

at $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$



now let's find the solution quantitatively

$$\vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \begin{aligned} x_1' &= x_2 \\ x_2' &= x_1 \end{aligned} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad x_1'' - x_1 = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_1(t) &= c_1 e^t + c_2 e^{-t} \\ x_2(t) &= c_1 e^t - c_2 e^{-t} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = c_1 e^t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^{-t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} : \quad \begin{aligned} \lambda_1 &= 1, \quad \vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ \lambda_2 &= -1, \quad \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

so, solution is

$$\vec{x}(t) = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} \vec{v}_1 + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 t} \vec{v}_2$$

$\lambda_1, \vec{v}_1$ and $\lambda_2, \vec{v}_2$ are the eigenvalue/eigenvector pairs

example $x_1' = x_1 + 2x_2$

$$x_2' = 2x_1 + x_2$$

↓
 $\vec{x}' = A\vec{x}$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$(1-\lambda)^2 - 4 = 0$$

$$(1-\lambda)^2 = 4$$

$$1-\lambda = \pm 2$$

$$\lambda = -1, \lambda = 3$$

$\lambda = -1$ solve $(A - \lambda I)\vec{v} = \vec{0}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \propto \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underline{\lambda=3}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -2 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & -2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

general solution: $\vec{x} = c_1 e^{-t} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

the two linearly ind.p. fundamental solutions

$$e^{-t} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

example

$$x_1' = 4x_1 + 3x_2 + 3x_3$$

$$x_2' = -8x_1 - 7x_2 - 3x_3$$

$$x_3' = 8x_1 + 8x_2 + 4x_3$$

solutions: $e^{\lambda_1 t} \vec{v}_1$
 $e^{\lambda_2 t} \vec{v}_2$
 $e^{\lambda_3 t} \vec{v}_3$

$$\vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 & 3 \\ -8 & -7 & -3 \\ 8 & 8 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x}$$

$$\vec{x}' = A \vec{x}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 4-\lambda & 3 & 3 \\ -8 & -7-\lambda & -3 \\ 8 & 8 & 4-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

⋮

$$\lambda = -4, 4, 1$$

$$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

general solution:

$$\vec{x} = c_1 e^{-4t} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^{4t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c_3 e^t \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

now let's look at complex λ 's

$$\vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x}$$

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

$$(1-\lambda)^2 + 1 = 0$$

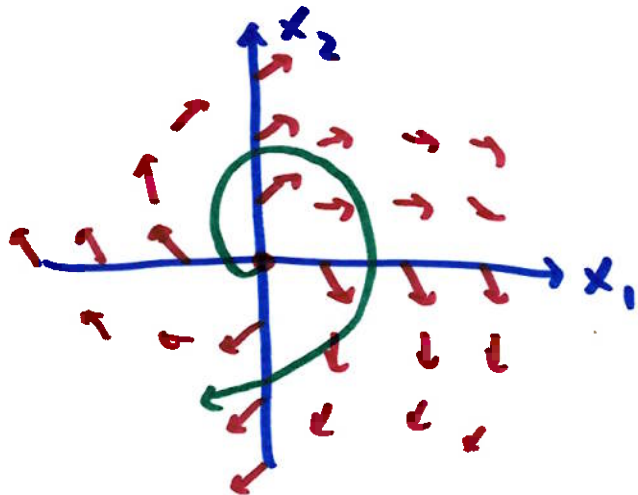
$$(1-\lambda)^2 = -1$$

$$1-\lambda = \pm i$$

$$\lambda = 1+i, \quad \lambda = 1-i$$

complex λ 's come in conjugate pairs ($a+bi, a-bi$)

let's take a look at the phase diagram

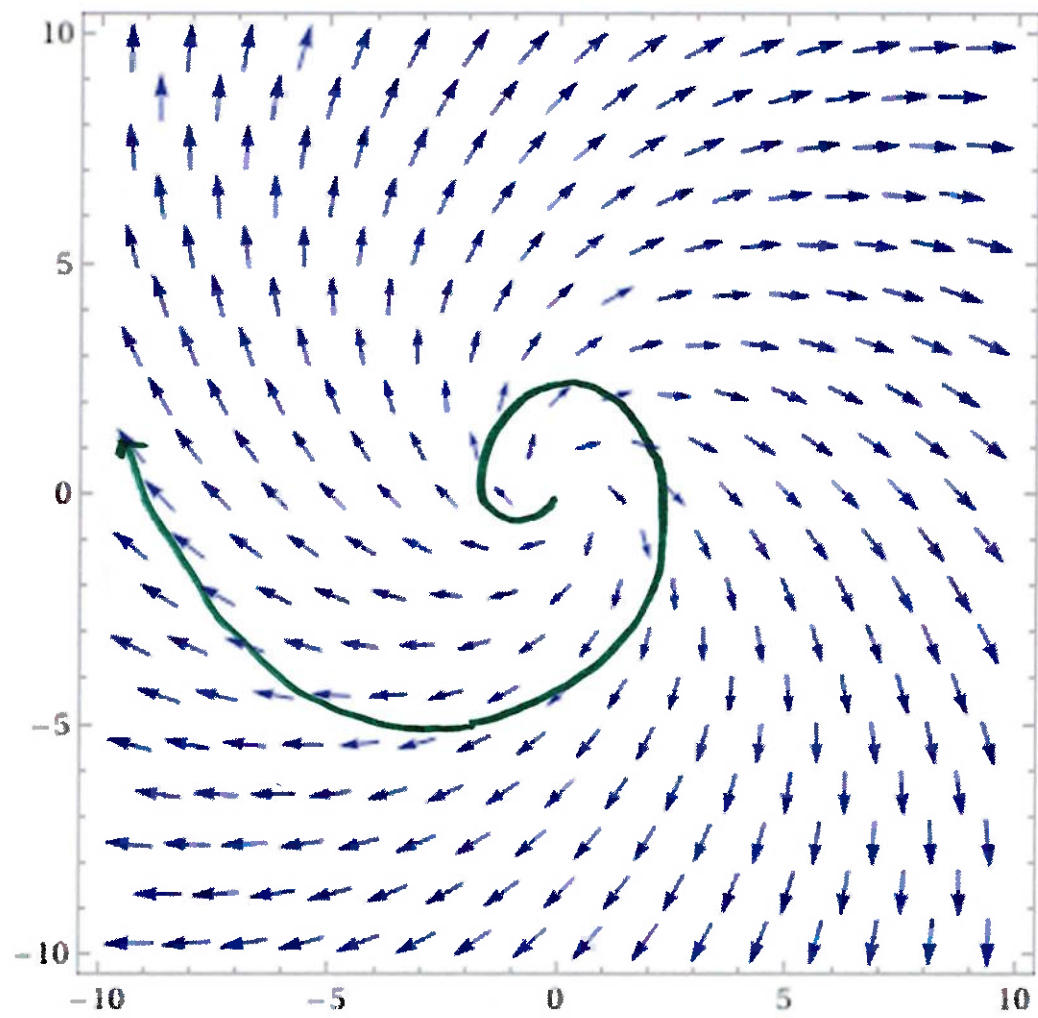


$$\vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x}$$

$$\vec{x} = \vec{0} \quad \vec{x}' = \vec{0}$$

$$\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

complex λ 's $\rightarrow$ spirals
rotations



$$\vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x}$$

$$\lambda = 1+i, 1-i$$

find eigenvectors

$$\underline{\lambda = 1+i} \quad (A - \lambda I) \vec{v} = \vec{0}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -i & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -i & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{one possible eigenvector: } \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underline{\lambda = 1-i}$$

$$(A - \lambda I) \vec{v} = \vec{0}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} i & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & i & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{one possible eigenvector: } \vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix}$$

also
conjugate
pair

solutions: $e^{\lambda t} \vec{v}$

$$\lambda_1 = 1+i, \vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} e^{\lambda_1 t} \vec{v}_1$$

$$e^{(1+i)t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} = e^t e^{it} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= e^t (\cos t + i \sin t) \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}$$

generally we don't want to have "i"

$$= e^t \begin{bmatrix} \cos t + i \sin t \\ -\sin t + i \cos t \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{e^t \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{u}} + i \underbrace{e^t \begin{bmatrix} \sin t \\ \cos t \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{v}}$$

$$\lambda_2 = 1-i, \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix}$$

same steps

$$= \underbrace{e^t \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{u}} - i \underbrace{e^t \begin{bmatrix} \sin t \\ \cos t \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{v}}$$

Euler's formula

$$e^{it} = \cos t + i \sin t$$

solutions are

$$\vec{u} + i \vec{v}, \vec{u} - i \vec{v}$$

we will use $\vec{u}$ and $\vec{v}$ to form the general solution

$$\vec{x} = c_1 \vec{u} + c_2 \vec{v}$$

general solution: $\vec{x} = c_1 e^t \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^t \begin{bmatrix} \sin t \\ \cos t \end{bmatrix}$

back up a bit : $\lambda = 1+i, 1-i$

$\lambda = 1+i$ $(A - \lambda I)\vec{v} = \vec{0}$

$\rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

last time we picked

$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}$

let's try a different $\vec{v}$

$\vec{v} = \begin{bmatrix} i \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

$e^{(1+i)t} \begin{bmatrix} i \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = e^t e^{it} \begin{bmatrix} i \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = e^t (\cos t + i \sin t) \begin{bmatrix} i \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

$= e^t \begin{bmatrix} -\sin t + i \cos t \\ -\cos t - i \sin t \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{e^t \begin{bmatrix} -\sin t \\ -\cos t \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{u}} + i \underbrace{e^t \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix}}_{\vec{v}}$

general solution: $C_1 \vec{u} + C_2 \vec{v}$

$$\vec{x} = C_1 e^t \begin{bmatrix} -\sin t \\ -\cos t \end{bmatrix} + C_2 e^t \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix}$$

same as $\vec{x}$ on previous page (different C_1, C_2)

next time: repeated eigenvalues