

★ Multiple Eigenvalue Solutions:

Let's start with a comparison

In MA 206 we solved a 2nd order linear system like:

$$y'' - 6y' + 9y = 0$$

We can convert this into a 1st order system

$$\text{let } x_1 = y$$

$$x_2 = y'$$

$$x_1' = y' = x_2$$

$$x_2' = y'' = 6y' - 9y \\ = 6x_2 - 9x_1$$

In vector form:

$$\underline{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -9 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \underline{x}$$

These two differential equations are equivalent.

So let's compare their solutions side by side

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1D

2D

equation: $y'' - 6y' + 9y = 0$

$$\underline{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -9 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \underline{x}$$

characteristic equation: $r^2 - 6r + 9 = 0$

$$\begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & 1 \\ -9 & 6-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$\lambda^2 - 6\lambda + 9 = 0$$

roots/
eigenvalues

$r = 3$, multiplicity 2
(repeated root)

$\lambda = 3$

algebraic multiplicity = 2

fundamental
solutions

$y_1 = e^{3t}$
Need a 2nd linearly
independent solution
→ multiply by t
 $y_2 = te^{3t}$

$\lambda = 3$

$(\underline{A} - 3\underline{I})\underline{v} = 0$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 1 \\ -9 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-3v_1 + v_2 = 0$$

$$v_2 = 3v_1$$

$$\underline{v}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

But there's only 1
unique eigenvector
geometric multiplicity = 1

Need to find a 2nd
linearly independent
vector. Call it \underline{u}

Note: When geometric multiplicity < algebraic multiplicity

we say the eigenvalue is defective

We have one fundamental solution

$$\underline{x}^{(1)} = e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Need to find a generalized eigenvector \underline{u}

$$\text{Solve: } (\underline{A} - \lambda \underline{I})^2 \underline{u} = \underline{0}$$

$$\text{or: } (\underline{A} - \lambda \underline{I}) \underline{u} = \underline{v}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -3 & 1 \\ -9 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ u_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-3u_1 + u_2 = 1$$

$$u_2 = 1 + 3u_1$$

Choose $u_1 = 1$

$$\underline{u} = \begin{bmatrix} u_1 \\ 1 + 3u_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

So the second fundamental solution

will be:

$$\underline{x}^{(2)} = e^{3t} (\underline{v}t + \underline{u})$$

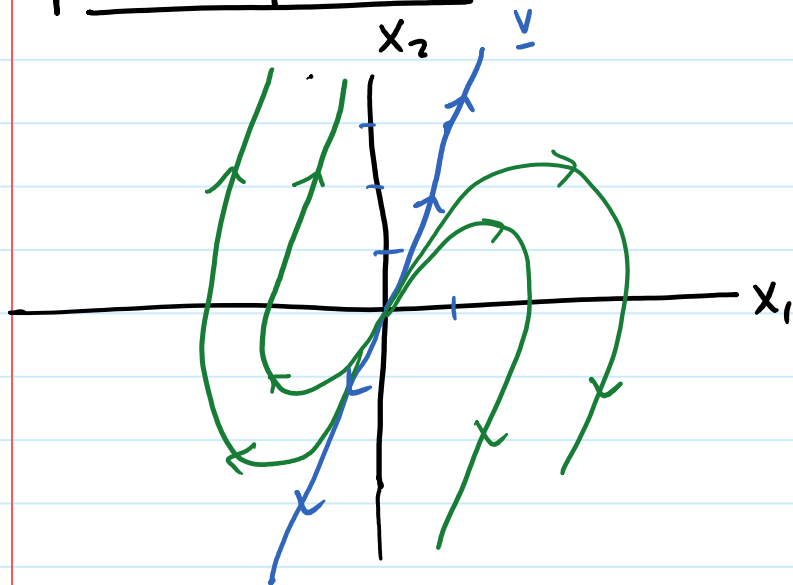
$$= e^{3t} \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} t + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

General solution:

$$\underline{x}(t) = c_1 e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^{3t} \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} t + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

Compare to: $y(t) = c_1 e^{3t} + c_2 t e^{3t}$

phase portrait:



1. Draw the eigenvector
 $\underline{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

2. $\lambda = 3 > 0$ so
arrows point out

3. $t \rightarrow \infty$
 $\underline{x} = e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} t$
goes parallel
to $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

Called an improper nodal source

Lets do a 3×3 example

$$\underline{E}x: \quad \underline{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \underline{x}$$

Characteristic eqn:

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1-\lambda & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 2-\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = (1-\lambda)(2-\lambda)^2 + 0 + 0 = 0$$

$$\lambda = 1$$

$$\lambda = 2$$

algebraic
multiplicity = 2

$$\lambda_1 = 1$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{array}{l} 3v_2 - v_1 = 0 \\ v_2 = 0 \\ v_3 = 0 \end{array}$$

So v_1 is a free variable. Choose $v_1 = 1$

$$\underline{v}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_2 = 2$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ v_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} 1 \text{ equation and} \\ 3 \text{ unknowns} \\ \rightarrow \text{there will be} \\ 2 \text{ free variables} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} -v_1 + 3v_2 - v_3 = 0 \\ 3v_2 = v_1 + v_3 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Choose } v_2 = 1 \\ v_1 = 0 \\ \rightarrow 3 = v_3 \end{array} \quad \rightarrow \quad \underline{v}^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Choose } v_2 = 1 \\ v_3 = 0 \\ \rightarrow 3 = v_1 \end{array} \quad \rightarrow \quad \underline{v}^{(3)} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Note: There are 2 linearly independent eigenvectors for $\lambda_2 = 2$
 \rightarrow geometric multiplicity = 2

The eigenvalue $\lambda = 2$ is called complete

General solution:

$$\underline{x}(t) = c_1 e^t \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^{2t} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + c_3 e^{2t} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$