

Part 1★ The Eigenvalue Method for Homogeneous Systems

A homogeneous system of linear differential eqns:

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

Here \underline{A} is a constant matrix

Recall: For the 1st order linear eqn

$$x'(t) = \lambda x \quad \rightarrow \quad x(t) = x_0 e^{\lambda t}$$

For the 2nd order linear eqn:

$$ax'' + bx' + cx = 0$$

We assume solns look like $x = e^{rt}$

which leads to the characteristic eqn:

$$ar^2 + br + c = 0 \quad \rightarrow \text{roots } r_1, r_2$$

and general soln $x(t) = c_1 e^{r_1 t} + c_2 e^{r_2 t}$

We will try something similar for systems:

Assume solutions of the form:

$$\underline{x} = e^{\lambda t} \underline{v} = e^{\lambda t} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Plug into our system:

$$\underline{x}' = \lambda e^{\lambda t} \underline{v} \doteq \underline{A} \underline{x} = \underline{A} (e^{\lambda t} \underline{v})$$

$$\rightarrow \lambda \underline{v} = \underline{A} \underline{v}$$

Rewrite as: $(\underline{A} - \lambda \underline{I}) \underline{v} = \underline{0}$

solve for λ

where
 $\underline{I} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$
identity matrix

→
This is the vector equivalent of the characteristic eqn.

λ is called an eigenvalue

\underline{v} is called an eigenvector

Ex: $\underline{x}' = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \underline{x} \quad (*)$

Solns look like: $\underline{x} = e^{\lambda t} \underline{v}$

Need to solve: $(\underline{A} - \lambda \underline{I}) \underline{v} = \underline{0}$

This system has a solution when

$$\det(\underline{A} - \lambda \underline{I}) = 0$$

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 0-\lambda & 1 \\ 3 & 2-\lambda \end{pmatrix} = -\lambda(2-\lambda) - 1 \cdot 3$$
$$= \boxed{\lambda^2 - 2\lambda - 3 = 0}$$

characteristic eqn

$$\lambda^2 - 2\lambda - 3 = 0$$

$$(\lambda - 3)(\lambda + 1) = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \lambda = 3, -1$$

For each eigenvalue there is a corresponding eigenvector

$$\lambda_1 = 3 \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \underline{v}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

To find $\underline{v}^{(1)}$ plug back into char eqn.

$$(\underline{A} - \lambda_1 \underline{I}) \underline{v}^{(1)} = \underline{0}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 - \lambda_1 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 - \lambda_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$-3v_1 + v_2 = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad v_2 = 3v_1$$

$$3v_1 - v_2 = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad v_2 = 3v_1$$

So here, v_1 is a free variable

$$\underline{v}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ 3v_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Choose any value for v_1
for simplicity, take $v_1 = 1$

$$\underline{v}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \lambda_1 = 3$$

Show that $\underline{x}^{(1)} = e^{\lambda_1 t} \underline{v}^{(1)} = e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$

Solves the system (*)

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

$$3e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{?}{=} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 3 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \left(e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

$$e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix} \stackrel{?}{=} e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 0 + 1 \cdot 3 \\ 3 \cdot 1 + 2 \cdot 3 \end{bmatrix} = e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 9 \end{bmatrix}$$

so yes, $\underline{x}^{(1)}$ is a fundamental solution of (*)

The second fundamental soln is:

$$\underline{x}^{(2)} = e^{\lambda_2 t} \underline{v}^{(2)} \quad \text{where } \lambda_2 = -1, \quad \underline{v}^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Exercise: find the eigenvector $\underline{v}^{(2)}$ corresponding to $\lambda_2 = -1$

Then the general solution is:

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{x}(t) &= c_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} \underline{v}^{(1)} + c_2 e^{\lambda_2 t} \underline{v}^{(2)} \\ &= c_1 e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^{-t} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Summary:

$$\text{Given } \underline{x}' = \underline{A} \underline{x} \quad (\square)$$

1. Plug $\underline{x} = e^{\lambda t} \underline{v}$ into (\square) to obtain the eigenvalue problem: $\underline{A} \underline{v} = \lambda \underline{v}$
2. Find n eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ by solving $\det(\underline{A} - \lambda \underline{I}) = 0$
3. Find n eigenvectors $\underline{v}^{(1)}, \underline{v}^{(2)}, \dots, \underline{v}^{(n)}$ by solving $(\underline{A} - \lambda_i \underline{I}) \underline{v}^{(i)} = \underline{0}$
4. The general solution is:

$$\underline{x}(t) = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} \underline{v}^{(1)} + \dots + c_n e^{\lambda_n t} \underline{v}^{(n)}$$

Note: The first example had real, distinct eigenvalues $\lambda_1 = 3$ and $\lambda_2 = -1$

Q: What happens when the eigenvalues are complex?

Part 2

Complex eigenvalues

$$\underline{\text{Ex:}} \quad \underline{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \underline{x}$$

$$\text{eigenvalues: } \det(\underline{A} - \lambda \underline{I}) = 0$$

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

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

Complex eigenvalues
always show up in
conjugate pairs

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

$$\lambda = 1 \pm i$$

$$\text{Eigenvectors: } (\underline{A} - \lambda \underline{I}) \underline{v} = \underline{0}$$

$$\lambda_1 = 1+i \quad \begin{bmatrix} -i & 1 \\ -1 & -i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$-i v_1 + v_2 = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad v_2 = i v_1$$

$$v_1 - i v_2 = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad v_2 = \frac{-v_1}{i} = i v_1$$

So v_1 is a free variable, choose $v_1 = 1$

$$\underline{v}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ i v_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_2 = 1 - i \quad \begin{bmatrix} i & 1 \\ -1 & i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} i v_1 + v_2 &= 0 & \rightarrow v_2 &= -i v_1 \\ -v_1 + i v_2 &= 0 & \rightarrow v_2 &= \frac{v_1}{i} = -i v_1 \end{aligned}$$

So v_1 is a free variable, choose $v_1 = 1$

$$\underline{v}^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ -i v_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix}$$

So we have the general solution:

$$\underline{x}(t) = c_1 e^{(1+i)t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^{(1-i)t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix}$$

Note: eigenvectors are also conjugate pairs

Rewrite:

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

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

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

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

$$e^{(1-i)t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix} = e^t \{ \underline{u} - i \underline{v} \}$$

We want real-valued solutions, so:
general solution

$$\underline{x}(t) = c_1 e^{\operatorname{Re}(\lambda)} \underline{u} + c_2 e^{\operatorname{Re}(\lambda)} \underline{v}$$

$$\underline{x}(t) = c_1 e^t \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^t \begin{bmatrix} \sin t \\ \cos t \end{bmatrix}$$

★ Phase Portraits:

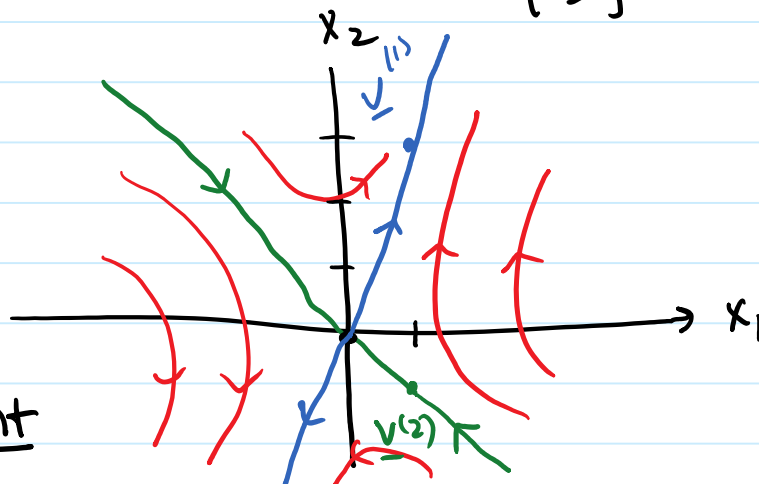
For a 2D system, we can represent the solution graphically in the phase plane.

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

has eigenvalues: $\lambda_1 = 3$ $\lambda_2 = -1$

and corresponding eigenvectors: $\underline{v}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}$ $\underline{v}^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

phase
plane



point out
since $\lambda = 3 > 0$

point in
since $\lambda_2 = -1 < 0$

This is
called a
Saddle point

Draw curves
that follow
the arrows

Ex 2: complex eigenvalues

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

$$\lambda_1 = 1+i$$

$$\lambda_2 = 1-i$$

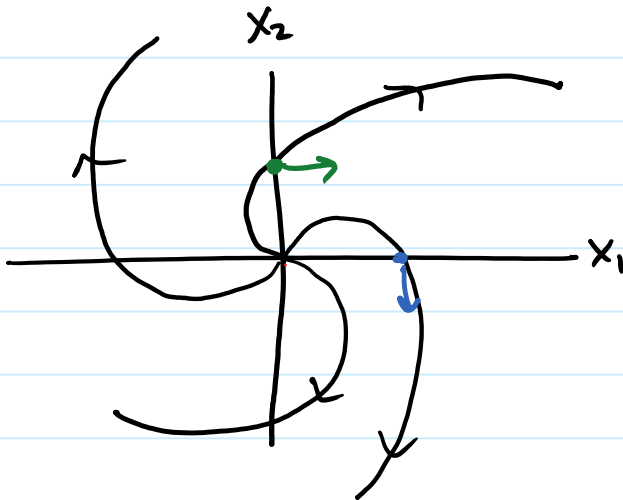
$$\underline{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underline{v} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin t \\ \cos t \end{bmatrix}$$

When the eigenvalues are complex, the resulting phase portrait is a spiral

if $\operatorname{Re}(\lambda) > 0 \rightarrow$ spiral out

$\operatorname{Re}(\lambda) < 0 \rightarrow$ spiral in



this is a
spiral

$$\underline{u} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix} \quad \underline{u}' = \begin{bmatrix} -\sin t \\ -\cos t \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underline{v} = \begin{bmatrix} \sin t \\ \cos t \end{bmatrix} \quad \underline{v}' = \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\underline{u}(0) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad \underline{u}'(0) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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