

① Constant Coefficients:

General Theory

[alg > geometric multiplicity]

Assume that A is diagonalizable
(always the case if eigenvalues
are distinct)

$$A = P D P^{-1}$$

$$P = [x_1 | x_2 | \dots | x_n]$$

linearly independent eigenvectors as
columns

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \lambda_2 & \\ & & \ddots \\ & & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$$

diagonal
matrix of
eigenvalues

$$y' = A y = P D P^{-1} y$$

introduce a new set of
variables (new basis)

$$z = P^{-1} y \Rightarrow z' = P^{-1} y'$$

$$z' = P^{-1} y' = (P^{-1} P) D P^{-1} y = D z$$

② In the new basis

$$z' = Dz$$

↑ diagonal matrix

which means the linear transformation P diagonalizes the system of equations.

Each z_k is independent:

$$z'_k = \lambda_k z_k \Rightarrow z_k = c_k e^{\lambda_k t}$$

$$y = Pz = \sum_{k=1}^n z_k x_k$$

$$y = \sum_{k=1}^n c_k e^{\lambda_k t} \cdot x_k$$

which is exactly what we obtained earlier

Note: If D were lower or upper triangular then one could solve $z' = Dz$ by forward/backward substitution

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What if A is not-diagonalizable?

$$A = T J T^{-1}$$

for any matrix, where J is the Jordan canonical form

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 1 & & & \\ & \lambda_1 & & & \\ & & \lambda_2 & 1 & \\ & & & \lambda_2 & 1 \\ & & & & \lambda_2 \\ & & & & & \lambda_2 \\ & & & & & & \lambda_3 \\ & & & & & & & \lambda_4 \end{bmatrix}$$

of Jordan blocks
is geometric multiplicity
of eigenvalue
(one linearly independent
eigenvector $\forall$ per block)

Jordan form is hard to
find in general, must do by hand

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$$z = T^{-1} y$$

$$z' = \text{[scribbled out]} J z$$

Notice that each Jordan block is decoupled (independent) from the other blocks.

So consider solving one block of size 2:

$$z' = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} z = A z$$

Claim:

$$\Phi = e^{\lambda t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & t \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

is a fundamental matrix.

Check: $\psi_2 = \begin{bmatrix} t e^{\lambda t} \\ e^{\lambda t} \end{bmatrix}$

$$\psi_2' = \begin{bmatrix} e^{\lambda t} + \lambda t e^{\lambda t} \\ \lambda e^{\lambda t} \end{bmatrix} = A \psi_2 \Rightarrow \psi_2 \text{ is a solution}$$

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How could we obtain this ourselves?

$$z' = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} z$$

$$\begin{cases} z_1' = \lambda z_1 + z_2 \\ z_2' = \lambda z_2 \end{cases}$$

solve for z_2 first, $z_2 = c_1 e^{\lambda t}$

$$z_1' = \lambda z_1 + e^{\lambda t} \quad \leftarrow \text{non-homogeneous}$$

$$\begin{cases} z_1 = c_2 e^{\lambda t} + c_1 t e^{\lambda t} \\ \Rightarrow z_2 = c_1 e^{\lambda t} \end{cases}$$

which is exactly $z = \phi c$

where we already obtained ϕ

and $c = \begin{bmatrix} c_2 \\ c_1 \end{bmatrix}$ in this notation

⑦

How do we obtain T if we know J ?

$$A = T J T^{-1}$$

$AT = T J \leftarrow$ system of n^2 linear equations for

$$T_{ij}, i=1, \dots, n, j=1, \dots, n$$

There are better ways but we won't really use Jordan form to solve linear systems in practice

Note: One of the columns of T will be the eigenvector but doing the above procedure is the same and gives you the whole matrix

The full (complicated!) procedure for obtaining T & J is in the book by Miller & Michel bottom of Page 84

(8) Elimination of variables

$$\begin{cases} z_1' = a_{11}z_1 + a_{12}z_2 \\ z_2' = a_{21}z_1 + a_{22}z_2 \end{cases} \quad z = Az$$

$a_{21} \neq 0$

Define new variable

$$z_3 = z_1 + \alpha z_2 \quad \text{such that}$$

$$z_3' = z_1' + \alpha z_2' = \beta z_3$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= a_{11}z_1 + \alpha a_{21}z_1 \\ &\quad + a_{12}z_2 + \alpha a_{22}z_2 = \\ &= \beta z_1 + \alpha \beta z_2 \end{aligned}$$

Equating coefficients in front of z_1 and z_2

$$\begin{cases} a_{11} + \alpha a_{21} = \beta \\ a_{21} + \alpha a_{22} = \alpha \beta \end{cases}$$

↑
DON'T REMEMBER
BY HEART!

Eliminate β
to get a
quadratic
equation for α

There could be two solutions
for α or one

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Turns out

$$\alpha = \frac{\lambda - a_{11}}{a_{21}} ; \beta = \lambda$$

where λ is an eigenvalue of the matrix A , which shows the relation with previous methods.

Example

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solve $y' = Ay$

$$|A - \lambda I| = \lambda^2 - 6\lambda + 9 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_1 = 3 = \lambda_2$$

$$\left[A - \lambda I \mid 0 \right] \Rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \end{array} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{cc|c} -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right] \leftarrow \text{two free parameters}$$

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There is only one independent eigenvector

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and not a second one.

The Jordan form is

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



DIY: Obtain T from J

An alternative is to do the elimination and figure out

$$\begin{cases} \beta = \lambda = 3 \\ \alpha = \frac{\lambda - a_{11}}{a_{21}} = \frac{3 - 2}{-1} = -1 \end{cases}$$

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$$z_3' = \beta z_3 \Rightarrow z_3 = c e^{\beta t}$$

$$z_3 = c_1 e^{3t}$$

$$\Rightarrow z_3 = c_1 e^{3t} = z_1 + \alpha z_2 =$$

$$= z_1 - z_2$$

$$z_1 = z_2 + c_1 e^{3t}$$

Recall one of the equations, say

$$z' = A z$$

first-order ODE

$$\begin{cases} z_1' = 2z_1 + z_2 = 3z_2 + 2c_1 e^{3t} \\ z_2' = -z_1 + 4z_2 = 3z_2 - c_1 e^{3t} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} z_2 = \\ z_1 = \end{cases}$$

Try to solve the same system using the Jordan form of A (DIY) and verify you get the same solution