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Linear constant-coefficient systems of ODEs (homogeneous)

$$\vec{y}' = \overbrace{A}^{\text{constant matrix}} \vec{y}$$

Following scalar case, consider a trial (guess) solution:

$$\vec{y} = e^{\lambda t} \cdot \vec{x}, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{C}$$

↑
vector of constants

$$\vec{y}' = \lambda e^{\lambda t} \vec{x} = \overbrace{A} e^{\lambda t} \vec{x}$$

Since $e^{\lambda t} \neq 0$ we can divide

$$\boxed{A \vec{x} = \lambda \vec{x}}$$

which is our familiar eigenvalue equation!

Every linearly independent eigenvector gives us a solution of the form $e^{\lambda t} \vec{x}$.

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If we have n linearly independent eigenvectors, then

$$\Phi = \begin{bmatrix} e^{\lambda_1 t} & e^{\lambda_2 t} & \dots & e^{\lambda_n t} \\ e^{x_1} & e^{x_2} & \dots & e^{x_n} \end{bmatrix}$$

is a fundamental matrix.

If all eigenvalues are distinct then it is always the case that ~~there~~ there are n linearly independent eigenvectors.

So if A has distinct eigenvalues we are done!

Example

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

$$|A - \lambda I| = \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & 1 \\ -1 & -\lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 + 1 = 0$$

$$\lambda = \pm i$$

$$\lambda = i : x = \begin{bmatrix} i \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda = -i : x = \begin{bmatrix} +i \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + i \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$x_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} - i \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$\phi = \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} it & i & -it & \\ -e & i & +e & i \\ \hline it & & -it & \\ e & \cdot 1 & e & \cdot 1 \end{array} \right]$$

$$= \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} -i(\cos t + i \sin t) & & +i(\cos t - i \sin t) & \\ \hline \cos t + i \sin t & & \cos t - i \sin t & \end{array} \right]$$

$$= \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} +\sin t & +\sin t & & \\ \hline \cos t & \cos t & & \end{array} \right] + i \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} -\cos t & +\cos t & & \\ \hline \sin t & -\sin t & & \end{array} \right]$$

there are only two linearly independent columns here

so $\psi_1 = \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix}$ $\psi_2 = \begin{bmatrix} +\sin t \\ \cos t \end{bmatrix}$

$$\phi = \left[\begin{array}{cc|cc} \cos t & & +\sin t & \\ \hline -\sin t & & \cos t & \end{array} \right]$$

①

Complex eigenvalues

$$y'(t) = Ay$$

$$\begin{cases} Ax = \lambda x \quad \text{and} \\ A\bar{x} = \bar{\lambda}\bar{x} \end{cases}$$

↑
complex conjugate

So λ and $\bar{\lambda}$ are eigenvalues
 x and $\bar{x}$ are eigenvectors

$$\begin{cases} \lambda = a + ib & \bar{\lambda} = a - ib \\ x = v + in & \bar{x} = v - in \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} y_1 = x e^{\lambda t} = (v + in) e^{(a+ib)t} \\ y_2 = \bar{x} e^{\bar{\lambda} t} = (v - in) e^{(a-ib)t} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} y_1 = \cancel{v e^{at}} + in e^{at} \cos bt - n e^{at} \sin bt \\ y_2 = \cancel{v e^{at}} - in e^{at} \cos bt + n e^{at} \sin bt \end{cases}$$

continued

$$\begin{cases} + v e^{at} \cos bt + i v e^{at} \sin bt \\ + v e^{at} \cos bt - i v e^{at} \sin bt \end{cases}$$

②

$$\begin{cases} y_1 = \cancel{(\varphi + i\eta)} (\varphi \cos bt - \eta \sin bt) e^{at} \\ \quad + i (\varphi \sin bt + \eta \cos bt) e^{at} \\ y_2 = (\varphi \cos bt - \eta \sin bt) e^{at} \\ \quad - i (\varphi \sin bt + \eta \cos bt) e^{at} \end{cases}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{cases} y_1 = \psi_1 + i\psi_2 \\ y_2 = \psi_1 - i\psi_2 \end{cases}$$

where

$$\begin{cases} \psi_1 = (\varphi \cos bt - \eta \sin bt) e^{at} \equiv y_1 \\ \psi_2 = (\varphi \sin bt + \eta \cos bt) e^{at} \equiv y_2 \end{cases}$$

better choice of linearly
independent solutions for
real-valued solutions

This is related to the fact
that

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

where

$$C = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} a & +b \\ \hline -b & a \end{array} \right]$$

and

$$P = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} \varphi & \eta \end{array} \right]$$

Example

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Going back to earlier example

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

$$a = 0 \quad b = 1$$

$$v = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad u = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_1 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \cos t + \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \sin t \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} +\sin t \\ \cos t \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_2 &= \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \sin t + \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \cos t = \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -\cos t \\ \sin t \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\phi = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} +\sin t & -\cos t \\ \hline \cos t & \sin t \end{array} \right] \text{ as before}$$