

Review of Chapter 3 Material

1. Consider an arbitrary linear system $\frac{d\mathbf{Y}}{dt} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{Y}$, where $\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$.

- The **characteristic polynomial** of the system is the polynomial

$$\det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) = \det \begin{pmatrix} a - \lambda & b \\ c & d - \lambda \end{pmatrix} = (a - \lambda)(d - \lambda) - bc = 0.$$

- We say that λ is an **eigenvalue** of a matrix \mathbf{A} with corresponding **eigenvector** \mathbf{V} if

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{V} = \lambda\mathbf{V}.$$

- We observe that if λ is an eigenvalue of \mathbf{A} with eigenvector \mathbf{V} , then

$$\mathbf{Y}(t) = e^{\lambda t}\mathbf{V}$$

is a solution to the system $\frac{d\mathbf{Y}}{dt} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{Y}$.

2. Theorem:

Suppose $\mathbf{Y}_1(t)$ and $\mathbf{Y}_2(t)$ are solutions of the linear system $d\mathbf{Y}/dt = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{Y}$. If $\mathbf{Y}_1(0)$ and $\mathbf{Y}_2(0)$ are linearly independent, then for any initial condition $\mathbf{Y}(0) = (x_0, y_0)$, we can find constants k_1 and k_2 so that $k_1\mathbf{Y}_1(t) + k_2\mathbf{Y}_2(t)$ is the solution to the initial-value problem

$$\frac{d\mathbf{Y}}{dt} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{Y}, \quad \mathbf{Y}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

It follows that $\mathbf{Y}(t) = k_1\mathbf{Y}_1(t) + k_2\mathbf{Y}_2(t)$ is the **general solution** to the system.

3. We now consider the various possibilities for eigenvalues of \mathbf{A} .

- If \mathbf{A} has two distinct, real eigenvalues, λ_1 and λ_2 , with corresponding eigenvectors \mathbf{Y}_1 and \mathbf{Y}_2 , respectively, then

$$\mathbf{Y}(t) = k_1e^{\lambda_1 t}\mathbf{V}_1 + k_2e^{\lambda_2 t}\mathbf{V}_2$$

is the general solution of the system. Furthermore

- Any linear system with one positive eigenvalue and one negative eigenvalue acts as a source in the direction of one eigenvector and as a sink in the direction of the other. An equilibrium point of this form is called a **saddle**.
- If $\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < 0$ (both eigenvalues are negative), then the origin is a sink, and most solutions $\rightarrow (0, 0)$ tangent to eigenvectors for λ_2 .
- If $0 < \lambda_2 < \lambda_1$ (both eigenvalues are positive), then the origin is a source, and most solution curves leave the origin in the direction of the λ_2 -eigenvectors.
- If one of the eigenvectors is zero (assume $\lambda_1=0$), then
 - * The general solution becomes $\mathbf{Y}(t) = k_1\mathbf{V}_1 + k_2e^{\lambda_2 t}\mathbf{V}_2$.
 - * Every point on the line of eigenvectors for $\lambda_1 = 0$ is an equilibrium point ($k_2 = 0$).
 - * If $\lambda_2 < 0$, the solution tends to an equilibrium point $k_1\mathbf{V}_1$ along a line parallel to \mathbf{V}_2 .
 - * If $\lambda_2 > 0$, the solution moves away from the line of equilibrium points as $t \rightarrow \infty$.

- If \mathbf{A} has two complex eigenvalues $\lambda_1 = \alpha + i\beta$ and $\lambda_2 = \alpha - i\beta$, with eigenvectors \mathbf{V}_1 and \mathbf{V}_2 respectively, then

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{Y}(t) &= e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{V}_1 \\ &= e^{(\alpha+i\beta)t} \mathbf{V}_1 \\ &= e^{\alpha t} e^{i\beta t} \mathbf{V}_1 \\ &= e^{\alpha t} (\cos \beta t + i \sin \beta t) \mathbf{V}_1\end{aligned}$$

is a solution. We can rewrite $\mathbf{Y}(t)$ as

$$\mathbf{Y}(t) = \mathbf{Y}_{\text{re}}(t) + i\mathbf{Y}_{\text{im}}(t).$$

Furthermore, $\mathbf{Y}_{\text{re}}(0)$ and $\mathbf{Y}_{\text{im}}(0)$ are linearly independent, and hence the general solution is

$$\mathbf{Y}(t) = k_1 \mathbf{Y}_{\text{re}}(t) + k_2 \mathbf{Y}_{\text{im}}(t).$$

Qualitatively, if $\beta > 0$, then the solution curves spiral around the origin in the phase plane with **natural period** $2\pi/\beta$.

- If $\alpha < 0$, then solutions spiral toward origin. (**spiral sink**)
 - If $\alpha > 0$, then solutions spiral away from origin. (**spiral source**)
 - If $\alpha = 0$, then solutions are periodic, same closed curve. (origin=**center**)
- If \mathbf{A} has a repeated real eigenvalue λ , then there only one line of eigenvectors, and the general solution has the form

$$\mathbf{Y}(t) = e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{V}_0 + t e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{V}_1,$$

where $\mathbf{V}_0 = (x_0, y_0)$ is an arbitrary initial condition and \mathbf{V}_1 is determined from \mathbf{V}_0 by

$$\mathbf{V}_1 = (\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I}) \mathbf{V}_0.$$

If \mathbf{V}_1 is zero, then \mathbf{V}_0 is an eigenvector and $\mathbf{Y}(t)$ is a straight-line solution. Otherwise, \mathbf{V}_1 is an eigenvector.

(Warning: This doesn't say that $e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{V}_0$ and $t e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{V}_1$ are solutions.)

Qualitatively, we can summarize this case as follows:

- If $\lambda < 0$, then as $t \rightarrow \infty$, $\mathbf{Y}(t) \rightarrow (0, 0)$ (sink) along \mathbf{V}_1 since $t\mathbf{V}_1$ dominates.
- If $\lambda > 0$, then $\mathbf{Y}(t) \rightarrow \infty$ along \mathbf{V}_1 as $t \rightarrow \infty$.
- We can think of the repeated eigenvalue case as a bifurcation between the 2 distinct, real eigenvalue case (2 straight-line solutions) and complex conjugate eigenvalue case (no straight-line solutions).

4. Constructing a Matrix with Desired Eigenvalues:

Assume that you want to construct a matrix \mathbf{A} with eigenvalues λ_1 and λ_2 . We can do so by picking λ_1 and λ_2 to be the entries on the main diagonal of \mathbf{A} and picking at least one of the other two entries to be zero. For example, consider

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & b \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

You should quickly be able to verify that the eigenvalues of this matrix are λ_1 and λ_2 .