

Section 3.4 - Complex Eigenvalues

1. Complex Numbers

- $\sqrt{-1} = i$ (Electrical engineers say $\sqrt{-1} = j$, as i stands for current)
- Complex numbers: $a + bi$, where $a, b \in \mathbb{R}$
- Any quadratic polynomial (characteristic polynomial) has either two distinct real roots, two quadratic roots (conjugates), or one repeated real root.
- Euler's Formula:

$$e^{a+bi} = e^a e^{bi} = e^a (\cos b + i \sin b) = e^a \cos b + i e^a \sin b$$

- Example:

$$e^{i\pi} = \cos \pi + i \sin \pi = -1$$

2. Example:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{Y}}{dt} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ -4 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{Y}$$

- Eigenvalues: $4 + 2i, 4 - 2i$
- No straight-line solutions
- Eigenvector for $\lambda_1 = 4 + 2i$: $\mathbf{V}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 + i \end{pmatrix}$ ($x = 1$) in first equation (redundant)
- It still follows that if λ is a complex eigenvalue for \mathbf{A} with eigenvector \mathbf{V} , then $\mathbf{Y}(t) = e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{V}$ is a solution to $\frac{d\mathbf{Y}}{dt} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{Y}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Y}(t) &= \begin{pmatrix} e^{(4+2i)t} \\ (1+i)e^{(4+2i)t} \end{pmatrix} \\ \bullet &= \begin{pmatrix} e^{4t} \cos(2t) + i e^{4t} \sin(2t) \\ (1+i)e^{4t} \cos(2t) + i(1+i)e^{4t} \sin(2t) \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{is a solution.} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} e^{4t} \cos(2t) \\ e^{4t} \cos(2t) - e^{4t} \sin(2t) \end{pmatrix} + i \begin{pmatrix} e^{4t} \sin(2t) \\ e^{4t} \cos(2t) + e^{4t} \sin(2t) \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

3. Theorem: Obtaining Real Valued Solutions from Complex Solutions

Suppose $\mathbf{Y}(t)$ is a complex-valued solution to a linear system

$$\frac{d\mathbf{Y}}{dt} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{Y},$$

with a, b, c, d real. Suppose

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

where \mathbf{Y}_{re} and $\mathbf{Y}_{\text{im}}(t)$ are real-valued functions of t . Then \mathbf{Y}_{re} and $\mathbf{Y}_{\text{im}}(t)$ are both solutions of $d\mathbf{Y}/dt = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{Y}$.

4. For the previous example, we now have two solutions:

$$\begin{aligned} \bullet \mathbf{Y}_1(t) &= \begin{pmatrix} e^{4t} \cos(2t) \\ e^{4t} \cos(2t) - e^{4t} \sin(2t) \end{pmatrix} \\ \bullet \mathbf{Y}_2(t) &= \begin{pmatrix} e^{4t} \sin(2t) \\ e^{4t} \cos(2t) + e^{4t} \sin(2t) \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

5. Qualitative Analysis

- Complex solutions have the form: $\mathbf{Y}(t) = e^{(\alpha+i\beta)t}\mathbf{V}$ (\mathbf{V} eigenvector)
- $\mathbf{Y}(t) = e^{\alpha t}(\cos \beta t + i \sin \beta t)\mathbf{V}$
- \mathbf{V} is constant
- (a) $e^{\alpha t} \rightarrow \infty$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ if $\alpha > 0$ (away from origin-amplitude increases)
(b) $e^{\alpha t} \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ if $\alpha < 0$ (toward origin-amplitude decreases)
(c) $e^{\alpha t} = 1$ if $\alpha = 0$ (amplitude constant)
- $\sin \beta t$ and $\cos \beta t$ oscillate with period $2\pi/\beta$ (create spiral)
- Look at phase portrait for example in HPGSystemSolver.

6. Linear systems with complex eigenvalues:

Give a linear system with eigenvalues $\lambda = \alpha \pm i\beta$, $\beta > 0$, the solutions 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**)

Natural frequency-number of cycles that solutions make in one unit of time.