

Math 201

Section F03

November 29, 2021

Systems of linear differential equations

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Initial condition:

$$x(0) = c$$

Two-dimensional system

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Rewrite:

$$x'(t) = Ax(t)$$

where

$$x'(t) := \begin{pmatrix} x_1'(t) \\ x_2'(t) \end{pmatrix}, \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}, \quad x(t) := \begin{pmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

Main theorem

Theorem. Let A be an $n \times n$ matrix over the real or complex numbers. Then the solution to $x' = Ax$ with initial condition $x(0) = p$ is

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$$\begin{aligned} e^{At} &:= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} (At)^k = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} A^k t^k \\ &= I_n + At + \frac{1}{2} A^2 t^2 + \frac{1}{6} A^3 t^3 + \frac{1}{24} A^4 t^4 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Computing e^{At}

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Example 1

$$x'_1 = x_2$$

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Solution with initial condition $x(0) = (1, 0)$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} e^t + e^{-t} & e^t - e^{-t} \\ e^t - e^{-t} & e^t + e^{-t} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} e^t + e^{-t} \\ e^t - e^{-t} \end{pmatrix}$$

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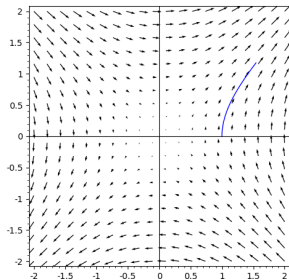
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Example 2: frogs and flies

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Diagonalizable over \mathbb{C} :

$$P^{-1}AP = D = \text{diag}(i, -i) \quad \text{where} \quad P = \begin{pmatrix} i & -i \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} e^{At} &= P e^{Dt} P^{-1} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} i & -i \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e^{it} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-it} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2}i & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2}i & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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Example 2: frogs and flies

Starting with equal populations of frogs and flies, $x(0) = (1, 1)$,

$$x(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(t) & \sin(t) \\ -\sin(t) & \cos(t) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = (\cos(t)+\sin(t), -\sin(t)+\cos(t))$$

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