## Classification of 2 dimensional first order homogeneous linear systems

To solve

$$\frac{d\mathbf{y}}{dt} = A\mathbf{y},$$

first find eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  (sometimes  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$ ), and then find the associated  $\mathbf{v}_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2$  (sometimes if  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$ , then might only be one dimension worth of them). For each of the cases below, sketch an example and classify the equilibrium solution. I've done an example for you. **Case 1: There are two distinct eigenvalues**,  $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$ .

## **Real eigenvalues**



**Complex eigenvalues**  $\lambda_1 = a + ib$  and  $\lambda_2 = a - ib$ Solve just for  $\mathbf{v}_1$ . Then use  $e^{i\theta} = \cos(\theta) + i\sin(\theta)$  to get your *real* solutions. Every time, if  $\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha + i\beta \\ \gamma + i\delta \end{pmatrix}$ , your calculation should look like:

$$e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{v}_{1} = e^{at + ibt} \mathbf{v}_{1} = e^{at} (\cos(bt) + i\sin(bt)) \begin{pmatrix} x_{0} \\ y_{0} \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= e^{at} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \cos(bt) + i\alpha \sin(bt) + i\beta \cos(bt) + i^{2}\beta \sin(bt) \\ \gamma \cos(bt) + i\gamma \sin(bt) + i\delta \cos(bt) + i^{2}\delta \sin(bt) \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= e^{at} \left( \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \cos(bt) - \beta \sin(bt) \\ \gamma \cos(bt) - \delta \sin(bt) \end{pmatrix} + i \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \sin(bt) + \beta \cos(bt) \\ \gamma \sin(bt) + \delta \cos(bt) \end{pmatrix} \right)$$

So the general solution is  $y = e^{at}(c_1\mathbf{u}_1 + c_2\mathbf{u}_2),$ 

where 
$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \underbrace{\cos(bt)\begin{pmatrix}\alpha\\\gamma\end{pmatrix} - \sin(bt)\begin{pmatrix}\beta\\\delta\end{pmatrix}}_{\text{periodic}}$$
 and  $\mathbf{u}_2 = \underbrace{\sin(bt)\begin{pmatrix}\alpha\\\gamma\end{pmatrix} + \cos(bt)\begin{pmatrix}\beta\\\delta\end{pmatrix}}_{\text{periodic}}$ 



Case 2: There is one repeated eigenvalue  $\lambda = \lambda_1 = \lambda_2$ .

If we still get two eigenvectors, then the general solution still looks like  $\mathbf{y} = c_1 e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{v}_1 + c_2 e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{v}_2$ , but since the  $e^{\lambda t}$  factors out of both terms, we get, simply



If there's only one eigenvector  $\mathbf{v}$ , though, we change out strategy, and get

 $\mathbf{y} = e^{\lambda t} (\mathbf{v}_0 + t \mathbf{v}_1),$  where  $\mathbf{v}_0$  is free and  $\mathbf{v}_1 = (A - \lambda I) \mathbf{v}_0 = c \mathbf{v}.$  $\lambda < 0$  $\lambda > 0$  $\lambda = 0$ has one linearly independent has one linearly independent has one linearly independent eigenvector  $\mathbf{v}$ eigenvector  $\mathbf{v}$ eigenvector  $\mathbf{v}$ yyy $\rightarrow x$  $\rightarrow x$  $\rightarrow x$ The equilibrium solution (0,0)The equilibrium solution (0,0)The equilibrium solutions is a \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_