

# Linear homogeneous differential systems with constant coefficients

form: matrix  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $x' = Ax$ , where the unknown

$$x(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \\ \vdots \\ x_n(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

$e^{tA} \rightarrow$  each column is a sol. of

$$\text{Recall } e^{tA} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} A^k, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R} \quad (1)$$

ex: 1) for  $A = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$  we have  $e^{tA} = \text{diag}(e^{t\lambda_1}, e^{t\lambda_2}, \dots, e^{t\lambda_n})$ .

ex: 2) we found, using the initial def.,  $e^{\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} t} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos t & \sin t \\ -\sin t & \cos t \end{pmatrix}, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}$

def: using the equivalent of def. (1)

$$\cos t = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k t^{2k}}{(2k)!} = 1 - \frac{t^2}{2!} + \frac{t^4}{4!} - \frac{t^6}{6!} + \dots$$

$$\sin t = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^k t^{2k+1}}{(2k+1)!} = t - \frac{t^3}{3!} + \frac{t^5}{5!} - \frac{t^7}{7!} + \dots$$

$$A \stackrel{\text{not}}{=} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = -I_2$$



$$A^3 = -A$$

$$A^4 = (-A) \cdot A = -A^2 = I_2$$

$$\Rightarrow A^k = \begin{cases} (-1)^p I_2, & k=2p \\ (-1)^p A, & k=2p+1 \end{cases}$$

$$e^{tA} = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^p t^{2p}}{(2p)!} \cdot I_2 + \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^p t^{2p+1}}{(2p+1)!} \cdot A = (\cos t) \cdot I_2 + (\sin t) \cdot A$$

$$A \in \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{R}) \quad x' = AX$$

**[T1]** For any  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , the unique sol. of the IVP  $\begin{cases} x' = AX \\ x(0) = \eta \end{cases}$  is

$$p: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \quad p(t) = e^{tA} \eta.$$

! The general sol. of  $x' = AX$  can be written as  $x = e^{At} \cdot c$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$  arbitrary.

! Let  $P \in \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{R})$  be invertible. Then the general solution of  $x' = AX$  can also be written as  $x = e^{At} P \cdot c$ ,  $c \in \mathbb{R}^n$  arbitrary.  
( $c' = PC \Leftrightarrow C = P^{-1}c'$ )

### Similar matrices

Def. 1: Let  $A, B \in \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{C})$ . We say that  $A$  is similar to  $B$  when  $\exists P \in \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{C}), \exists P^{-1}$  s.t.  $A = PBP^{-1}$ .

Prop. 1: If  $\lambda_1 \in \mathbb{C}$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$  and  $u_1 \in \mathbb{C}^n$  is an eigenvector of  $A$ , then  $\lambda_1$  is an eigenvalue of  $B$  and  $P_{u_1}^{-1}$  is the corresponding eigens. of  $B$ , when  $A$  and  $B$  are similar.



Proof:  $Au_1 = \lambda_1 u_1, \quad u_1 \neq 0$

$$BP^{-1}u_1 = \lambda_1 u_1 \mid \cdot P^{-1} \Rightarrow \underbrace{BP^{-1}u_1}_{\neq 0} = \lambda_1 \underbrace{P^{-1}u_1}_{\neq 0}$$

Prop. 2: Assume that  $A$  and  $B$  are similar:

$$1) A^k = PB^kP^{-1}, \quad \forall k \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$2) e^{tA} = Pe^{tB}P^{-1}, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Proof: 1) Prove by induction

$$k=0 \quad I_n = P \cdot I_n \cdot P^{-1} \quad \checkmark$$

$$k=1 \quad A = PB P^{-1} \quad \checkmark$$

$$A^{k+1} = A^k \cdot A = (PB^kP^{-1}) \cdot A = PB^{k+1}P^{-1}$$

Def. 2: We say that  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$  is diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{R}$  when  $\exists$  a diagonal matrix  $B \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$  s.t.  $A$  and  $B$  are similar.

We say that  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$  is diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{C}$  when  $\exists$  a diagonal matrix  $B \in M_n(\mathbb{C})$  such that  $A$  and  $B$  are similar.

Prop. 3:  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$  is diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{C}$  if and only if  $\exists$   $n$  linearly independent eigenvectors of  $A$  in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ .

$A \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$  is diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{R}$  if and only if any eigenvalue of  $A$  in  $\mathbb{R}$  and  $\exists$   $n$  lin. indep. eigenvectors of  $A$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Ex: a)  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

b)  $B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

c)  $C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -2 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$

Sol: a)  $\det(A - \lambda I_2) = 0$

$$A - \lambda I_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\lambda & 1 \\ -1 & -\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\det(A - \lambda I_2) = \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & 1 \\ -1 & -\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \quad (\Leftrightarrow) \quad +\lambda^2 + 1 = 0 \quad (\Rightarrow)$$

$$(\Rightarrow) \quad \lambda^2 = -1 \quad \Rightarrow \lambda = \pm i$$



$$\lambda_1 = i, \quad \lambda_2 = -i$$

Prop. 4: If the eigenvalues of  $A$  are not repeated, (there are  $n$  distinct eigenb.) then  $\exists$   $n$  lin. indep. eigenvectors.

$$b) \det(B - \lambda I_2) = 0$$

$$B - \lambda I_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1-\lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 1-\lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\det(B - \lambda I_2) = \begin{vmatrix} 1-\lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 1-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = (1-\lambda)^2 = 0 \quad (\Rightarrow)$$

$$(\Rightarrow) 1-\lambda = 0 \quad (\Rightarrow) \lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 1$$

$$u = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} \quad Au = \lambda u \quad u \text{ an eigenvect. corresp. to the eigenvalue } \lambda.$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} a+b = a \\ b = b \end{cases} \quad \begin{pmatrix} a \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = a \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  there are ~~not~~ 2 lin. indep. eigenvectors.

$\Rightarrow$   $B$  isn't diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{R}$  or  $\mathbb{C}$ .

$$c) \lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 1$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} a = a \\ b = b \end{cases} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \text{ are 2 lin. indep. eigenvectors of } \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\Rightarrow$   $C$  is diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $\mathbb{R}$ .



The general sol. of a system  $X' = AX$  in the case that  $A$  is diagonalizable matrix over  $\mathbb{C}$  / over  $\mathbb{R}$ .

Step 1:  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$  compute its eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n \in \mathbb{C}$  (they can be repeated) and the corresp. eigenvectors  $u_1, u_2, \dots, u_n \in \mathbb{C}^n$ . Then decide whether it is diagonalizable or not.

Step 2: Write  $D = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n)$  and  $P = (u_1 \ u_2 \ \dots \ u_n)$  (its columns are the eigenvectors, where the order is important)  
 $A = PDP^{-1}$

Step 3:  $e^{tA} = P e^{tD} P^{-1} = P \text{diag}(e^{t\lambda_1} \ e^{t\lambda_2} \ \dots \ e^{t\lambda_n}) P^{-1}$   
The general solution  $X = e^{tA} \cdot C$ ,  $C \in \mathbb{R}^n$  arbitrary.

Assume that  $A$  is diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{R}$ , then we already know the gen. sol. of  $X' = AX$ .

$$\begin{aligned} X &= e^{tA} \cdot P \cdot C = P \cdot \text{diag}(e^{t\lambda_1} \ e^{t\lambda_2} \ \dots \ e^{t\lambda_n}) \cdot C = \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} e^{t\lambda_1} u_1 & e^{t\lambda_2} u_2 & \dots & e^{t\lambda_n} u_n \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \end{pmatrix} = \\ &= c_1 e^{t\lambda_1} u_1 + c_2 e^{t\lambda_2} u_2 + \dots + c_n e^{t\lambda_n} u_n \\ &\quad c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n \in \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

Proof Let  $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$  be an eigenvector of  $A$ , corresp. to the eigenvalue  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Check that  $\varphi: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  
 $\varphi(t) = e^{t\lambda} u$  is a sol. of  $X' = AX$ .



Ex:  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$  is diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{R}$ . Find the general sol. of  $X' = AX$  in two ways.

Sol:  $\det(A - \lambda I_2) = 0$

$$\begin{vmatrix} 1-\lambda & 3 \\ 1 & -1-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0 \Leftrightarrow -(1-\lambda)(1+\lambda) - 3 = 0 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow -1 + \lambda^2 - 3 = 0 \Leftrightarrow \lambda^2 = 4 \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \lambda_1 = -2, \lambda_2 = 2$$

$\Rightarrow A$  has 2 real eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2 \Rightarrow A$  is diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{R}$ .

$$u_1 \neq 0 \quad Au_1 = -2u_1 \quad u_1 = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = -2 \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} a+3b = -2a \\ a-b = -2b \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} 3(a+b) = 0 \\ a+b = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow a+b=0 \Rightarrow b=-a \Rightarrow u_1 = a \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad a=1 \Rightarrow u_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$u_2 \neq 0 \quad Au_2 = 2u_2 \quad u_2 = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} a+3b = 2a \\ a-b = 2b \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} -a+3b = 0 \\ a-3b = 0 \end{cases} \Rightarrow a-3b=0 \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow a = 3b \Rightarrow u_2 = b \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow b=1 \quad u_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

M1 1<sup>st</sup> method to write the gen. sol.

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad P^{-1} = ?$$

$$e^{tA} = P \cdot \begin{pmatrix} e^{-2t} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{2t} \end{pmatrix} \cdot P^{-1} \quad X = e^{tA} C, \quad C \in \mathbb{R}^2 \text{ arbitr.}$$

M2 2<sup>nd</sup> method to write the gen. sol.

$$X = c_1 e^{-2t} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} + c_2 e^{2t} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 e^{-2t} + 3c_2 e^{2t} \\ -c_1 e^{-2t} + c_2 e^{2t} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$