

Linear differential systems

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}^*$ ,  $A \in C(I, M_n(\mathbb{R}))$  where  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$  open interval,  $F \in C(I, \mathbb{R}^n)$ . we consider the system

$$(1) \quad X' = A(t)X + F(t)$$

this is a linear non-hom. (when  $F \neq 0$ ) differential system in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

Here  $A(t)$  is the coefficients matrix,  $F(t)$  is the non-hom. part of (1), while  $X' = A(t)X$  is the homogenous part of (1).

Def 1. A solution of (1) is a function  $\varphi: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  of class  $C'$  such that

$$\varphi'(t) = A(t)\varphi(t) + F(t), \quad \forall t \in I.$$

Now we write the system by components

$$A(t) = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}(t) & a_{12}(t) & \cdots & a_{1n}(t) \\ a_{21}(t) & a_{22}(t) & \cdots & a_{2n}(t) \\ \vdots & & & \\ a_{n1}(t) & a_{n2}(t) & \cdots & a_{nn}(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$F(t) = \begin{pmatrix} f_1(t) \\ f_2(t) \\ \vdots \\ f_n(t) \end{pmatrix} \quad X = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(1) \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} x_1' = a_{11}(t)x_1 + a_{12}(t)x_2 + \cdots + a_{1n}(t)x_n + f_1(t) \\ x_2' = a_{21}(t)x_1 + a_{22}(t)x_2 + \cdots + a_{2n}(t)x_n + f_2(t) \\ \cdots \\ x_n' = a_{n1}(t)x_1 + a_{n2}(t)x_2 + \cdots + a_{nn}(t)x_n + f_n(t) \end{cases}$$

Def 2. A matrix solution of  $X' = A(t)X$  is a function  $U: I \rightarrow M_n(\mathbb{R})$  of class  $C'$  st.

$$U'(t) = A(t)U(t), \quad \forall t \in I.$$

Property A matrix function  $U: I \rightarrow M_n(\mathbb{R})$ , of class  $C'$ , is a matrix solution of  $X' = A(t)X$  if and only if each column of  $U(t)$  is a solution of  $x_i' = A(t)x_i$ .

Theorem 1. (The existence and uniqueness theorem for the IVP).

Let  $t_0 \in I$  and  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . The IVP  $\begin{cases} X' = A(t)X + F(t) \\ X(t_0) = \eta \end{cases}$  has a unique solution.

Definition The matrix function  $E: \mathbb{R} \rightarrow M_n(\mathbb{R})$  which is the unique solution of

Definition The matrix function  $E : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow M_m(\mathbb{R})$  which is the unique matrix function such that  $\begin{cases} E'(t) = A E(t) \\ E(0) = I_m \end{cases}$  is said to be the exponential of the matrix  $tA$  and is denoted by  $E(t) = e^{tA}$  or  $E(t) = \exp(tA)$ .

Here  $A \in M_m(\mathbb{R})$  and  $I_m = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  is the identity matrix.

Property Let  $A \in M_m(\mathbb{R})$ . The series

$$I_m + A + \frac{1}{2!} A^2 + \dots + \frac{1}{k!} A^k + \dots$$

is convergent to  $e^A$ .

Thus,  $\boxed{e^A = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} A^k}$

(an equivalent definition of the matrix exponential)

Example. Compute  $e^{\begin{pmatrix} d_1 & 0 \\ 0 & d_2 \end{pmatrix}}$  where  $d_1, d_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Sol  $E(t) = e^{tA}$ , where  $A = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 & 0 \\ 0 & d_2 \end{pmatrix}$   $X = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}$

First we use the definition of  $e^{tA}$ .

Step 1, we write the LHS with matrix  $A$

$$X' = AX \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} x'_1 = \lambda_1 x_1 \\ x'_2 = \lambda_2 x_2 \end{cases}$$

this is an uncoupled system, so it is easy to solve it.

$$\begin{aligned} x'_1 = \lambda_1 x_1 &\Leftrightarrow x'_1 - \lambda_1 x_1 = 0 \\ r_1 - \lambda_1 = 0 &\Leftrightarrow r_1 = \lambda_1 \mapsto e^{\lambda_1 t} \\ r_2 - \lambda_2 = 0 &\Leftrightarrow r_2 = \lambda_2 \mapsto e^{\lambda_2 t} \end{aligned} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x_1 = c_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} \\ x_2 = c_2 e^{\lambda_2 t} \end{cases}$$

Step 2, we formulate 2 IVP's

$$(2) \quad \begin{cases} x'_1 = \lambda_1 x_1 \\ x'_2 = \lambda_2 x_2 \\ x_1(0) = 1 \\ x_2(0) = 0 \end{cases} \quad \text{has the unique solution } \varphi(t) = \begin{pmatrix} e^{\lambda_1 t} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(3) \quad \begin{cases} x'_1 = \lambda_1 x_1 \\ x'_2 = \lambda_2 x_2 \\ x_1(0) = 0 \\ x_2(0) = 1 \end{cases} \quad \text{has the unique solution } \psi(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ e^{\lambda_2 t} \end{pmatrix}$$

Step 3:  $E(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \text{Solut.} & \text{M.R.} \\ (2) & (3) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi(t) & \psi(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{\lambda_1 t} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\lambda_2 t} \end{pmatrix}$

Conclusion  $e^{t \begin{pmatrix} d_1 & 0 \\ 0 & d_2 \end{pmatrix}} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{\lambda_1 t} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\lambda_2 t} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}.$

Conclusion  $e^{t \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix}} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{\lambda_1 t} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\lambda_2 t} \end{pmatrix}, \quad t \in \mathbb{R}.$

Now we use the equivalent definition with Taylor series.

$$e^{tA} = I_2 + tA + \frac{1}{2!}(tA)^2 + \dots + \frac{1}{k!}(tA)^k + \dots = I_2 + tA + \frac{t^2}{2!}A^2 + \dots + \frac{t^k}{k!}A^k + \dots$$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad A^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^2 \end{pmatrix} \dots$$

By induction one can prove that  $A^k = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^k & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^k \end{pmatrix} \quad k \in \mathbb{N}$

$$e^{tA} = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^k}{k!} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1^k & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^k \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} (\lambda_1 t)^k & 0 \\ 0 & \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} (\lambda_2 t)^k \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{\lambda_1 t} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\lambda_2 t} \end{pmatrix}$$


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Linear homogeneous systems of dimension 2 with constant coefficients  
solved using the reduction method.

$$(4) \quad \begin{cases} x' = a_{11}x + a_{12}y \\ y' = a_{21}x + a_{22}y \end{cases} \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{M}_n(\mathbb{R})$$

We assume that (4) is a coupled system, i.e. either  $a_{12} \neq 0$  or  $a_{21} \neq 0$ .

To fix, consider that  $a_{12} \neq 0$ . Our aim is to find a second order LDE for  $x$ , i.e. a relation between  $x, x'$  and  $x''$ . (Comment: if  $a_{12} = 0$  but  $a_{21} \neq 0$  we find a relation between  $y, y', y''$ )

$$x' = a_{11}x + a_{12}y \Rightarrow y = \frac{1}{a_{12}}(x' - a_{11}x) \quad (5)$$

$$x' = a_{11}x + a_{12}y \Rightarrow x'' = a_{11}x' + a_{12}y' \Rightarrow x'' = a_{11}x' + a_{12} \cdot (a_{21}x + a_{22}y) \Rightarrow$$

$$\uparrow$$

$$y' = a_{21}x + a_{22}y$$

$$\Rightarrow x'' = a_{11}x' + a_{12}a_{21}x + a_{22}(x' - a_{11}x) \Rightarrow$$

$$\Rightarrow x'' - (a_{11} + a_{22})x' + (a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21})x = 0 \quad (6) \text{ this is a second}$$

$\Rightarrow x'' - (a_{11} + a_{22})x' + (a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21})x = 0 \quad (6)$  this is a second order LDE with constant coefficients that can be solved using the characteristic equation method.

Remarks. The characteristic polynomial of (6) is  $l(r) = r^2 - \underbrace{(a_{11} + a_{22})r}_{\text{tr } A} + \underbrace{(a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21})}_{\det A}$

$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix}$ . Note that  $l(r)$  is the characteristic polynomial of  $A$ .

Recall that the roots of  $l(r)$  are the eigenvalues of  $A$ .

Recall the definition of an eigenvalue and an eigenvector of a matrix  $A \in M_n(\mathbb{R})$ : we say that  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  is an eigenvalue of the matrix  $A$  when  $\exists u \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \neq 0$  such that  $Au = \lambda u$ . This  $u$  is said to be an eigenvector of  $A$  corresp. to the eigenvalue  $\lambda$ .

Example. Compute in two ways  $e^{t \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}}$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Method I.  $A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$  the LHS having  $A$  as the coeff. matrix is

Step 1  $\begin{cases} x' = y \\ y' = -x \end{cases}$  this is a coupled system. we use the reduction method to find its general sol.

$$x'' = y' \Rightarrow x'' = -x \Rightarrow x'' + x = 0 \quad \mu^2 + 1 = 0 \quad \mu = \pm i \rightarrow \text{post. solt} \\ y = x' \quad (\alpha \pm i\beta \mapsto e^{\alpha t} \cos \beta t, e^{\alpha t} \sin \beta t)$$

$$\begin{cases} x = c_1 \cos t + c_2 \sin t \\ y = -c_1 \sin t + c_2 \cos t \end{cases}, \quad c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$

Step 2  $\begin{cases} x' = y \\ y' = -x \\ x(0) = 1 \\ y(0) = 0 \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} x = c_1 \cos t + c_2 \sin t \\ y = -c_1 \sin t + c_2 \cos t \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} x(0) = c_1 \\ y(0) = c_2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow c_1 = 1 \text{ and } c_2 = 0$

the unique sol. of this IVP is  $\varphi(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{pmatrix}$

$$\begin{cases} x' = y \\ y' = -x \end{cases} \quad c_1 = 0 \quad \text{th. unique sol. of this IVP is } \psi(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \sin t \\ -\cos t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} x' = y \\ y' = -x \\ x(0) = 0 \\ y(0) = 1 \end{cases} \quad \begin{matrix} C_1 = 0 \\ C_2 = 1 \end{matrix} \quad \text{the unique sol. of this IVP is } \Psi(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \sin t \\ \cos t \end{pmatrix}$$

Step 3

$$e^{t \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos t & \sin t \\ -\sin t & \cos t \end{pmatrix}, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}$$

Method II HW