

# Computational Methods for Geological Engineers

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# First Order Systems

# Systems of ODE's

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_1(y_1, \dots, y_n) \\ f_2(y_1, \dots, y_n) \\ \vdots \\ f_n(y_1, \dots, y_n) \end{pmatrix}$$

Example: linear systems

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ a_{n1} & & & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = Ay \quad y(t=0) = y_0$$

$$y = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ & & & \\ & & & \\ a_{n1} & & & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}$$

# Solving Linear Systems

Recall - eigenvalues and eigenvectors

The pair  $\lambda, \mathbf{u}$  is an eigenvalue/eigenvector pair if

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \lambda\mathbf{u}$$

In General an  $n \times n$  matrix has  $n$  eigenvalue/eigenvector pairs.

Let  $\mathbf{U} = [\mathbf{u}_1, \dots, \mathbf{u}_n]$  and  $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$

The we write the system as

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{U} = \mathbf{U}\Lambda$$

or, known as the Schur decomposition

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{U}\Lambda\mathbf{U}^{-1}$$

# Solving Linear Systems

Computing eigenvalues

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = \lambda\mathbf{u} \implies (\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})\mathbf{u} = 0 \implies \det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) = 0$$

Example find the eigenvalues of

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Using eigenvalues to solve ODE's

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = Ay \quad y(t=0) = y_0$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = U\Lambda U^{-1}y \quad y(t=0) = y_0$$

Multiply both sides with  $U^{-1}$

$$\frac{dU^{-1}y}{dt} = \Lambda U^{-1}y \quad U^{-1}y(t=0) = U^{-1}y_0$$

define a variable  $z = U^{-1}y$

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = \Lambda z \quad z(t=0) = U^{-1}y_0 = z_0$$

## Using eigenvalues to solve ODE's

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ \vdots \\ z_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \lambda_2 & \\ & & \ddots \\ & & & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ \vdots \\ z_n \end{pmatrix}$$

The system decoupled

$$\frac{dz_i}{dt} = \lambda_i z_i$$

The solution of the system depends on the eigenvalues.



## Using eigenvalues to solve ODE's

Suppose that  $\lambda_i$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$  and  $u_i$  is an associated eigenvector. Then we have that

$$x_i(t) = \exp(\lambda_i t) u_i$$

is a solution of the system

$$\frac{dx_i}{dt} = \lambda_i \exp(\lambda_i t) u_i \quad Ax(t) = \exp(\lambda_i t) A u_i = \lambda_i \exp(\lambda_i t) u_i$$

The fundamental matrix of solutions is therefore

$$X(t) = [x_1(t), \dots, x_n(t)] = [u_1 \exp(\lambda_1 t), \dots, u_n \exp(\lambda_n t)]$$

And the general solution is

$$y(t) = X(t)c$$

where  $c$  is a vector that depends on initial conditions.

# Recipe for solving linear systems of ODE's

Given

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = Ay \quad y(0) = y_0$$

1. Find the eigenvalues/vectors of  $A$
2. Form the fundamental solution

$$X(t) = [u_1 \exp(\lambda_1 t), \dots, u_n \exp(\lambda_n t)]$$

3. Solve for  $c$  given  $y_0$

$$X(0)c = y_0$$

## Recipe for solving linear systems of ODE's

Example:  $\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad y(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Eigenvec/value pairs

$$\left(1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[-1, 1], \right), \left(3, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[1, 1], \right)$$

Fundamental solution

$$X(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -\exp(t) & \exp(3t) \\ \exp(t) & \exp(3t) \end{pmatrix}$$

To find the solution solve the system

$$X(0)c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Recipe for solving linear systems of ODE's - complex case

Recall - eigenvalues/vectors are complex conjugates of each other

Example:  $\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad y(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Eigenvec/value pairs

$$\left( 2 + i, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[1, i], \right), \left( 2 - i, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[1, -i], \right)$$

or

$$\lambda = \lambda_r \pm i\lambda_i \quad u = u_r \pm iu_i$$

Could solve complex system but can also show that the fundamental solution is

$$X(t) = [u_r \exp(\lambda_r t) \cos(\lambda_i t), u_i \exp(\lambda_r t) \sin(\lambda_i t)]$$

$$X = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \exp(2t) \cos(t) & \exp(2t) \sin(t) \\ \exp(2t) \cos(t) & -\exp(2t) \sin(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

- We will study second-order differential equations of the form:

$$y'' + ay' + by = f(t)$$

- Discuss general and particular solutions
- Solve two examples step by step
- **Physical Examples:**
  - Harmonic Oscillators
  - RLC Circuits

# Harmonic Oscillators: Derivation

## Mass-Spring System:

- Consider a mass  $m$  attached to a spring with spring constant  $k$ .
- Newton's Second Law states that the net force acting on the mass equals its mass times acceleration:

$$m \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = F$$

- Hooke's Law states that the restoring force of a spring is proportional to the displacement:

$$F = -ky$$

- Substituting into Newton's Second Law:

$$m \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = -ky$$

- Dividing by  $m$ :

$$\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + \frac{k}{m}y = 0$$

- This is a second-order homogeneous differential equation.

# Harmonic Oscillators: Damped Case

## Adding Damping:

- Suppose there is a damping force proportional to velocity:

$$F_d = -c \frac{dy}{dt}$$

- Newton's Second Law with damping:

$$m \frac{d^2y}{dt^2} = -ky - c \frac{dy}{dt}$$

- Rearranging:

$$\frac{d^2y}{dt^2} + \frac{c}{m} \frac{dy}{dt} + \frac{k}{m} y = 0$$

- This is a second-order linear differential equation with damping.

# RLC Circuits: Derivation

## Kirchhoff's Voltage Law (KVL):

- Consider a series RLC circuit with resistance  $R$ , inductance  $L$ , and capacitance  $C$ .
- Kirchhoff's Voltage Law states:

$$V_L + V_R + V_C = 0$$

- Using voltage-current relationships:
  - Inductor:  $V_L = L \frac{d^2Q}{dt^2}$
  - Resistor:  $V_R = R \frac{dQ}{dt}$
  - Capacitor:  $V_C = \frac{Q}{C}$
- Substituting into KVL:

$$L \frac{d^2Q}{dt^2} + R \frac{dQ}{dt} + \frac{Q}{C} = 0$$

- This is a second-order linear differential equation describing charge  $Q$  in the circuit.



# RLC Circuits: Current-Based Formulation

- Since current is  $I = \frac{dQ}{dt}$ , differentiating the charge equation:

$$L \frac{d^2 I}{dt^2} + R \frac{dI}{dt} + \frac{1}{C} I = 0$$

- This is a second-order ODE for the current in the RLC circuit.
- The equation structure is analogous to damped harmonic motion.

# Homogeneous Case: Characteristic Equation

Equation:

$$y'' + ay' + by = 0$$

- Assume a solution of the form  $y = e^{rt}$
- Substituting into the equation gives the characteristic equation:

$$r^2 + ar + b = 0$$

- Solve for roots  $r_1, r_2$  to determine the general solution

- Distinct real roots:  $r_1, r_2$

$$y_h = C_1 e^{r_1 t} + C_2 e^{r_2 t}$$

- Repeated root:  $r_1 = r_2 = r$

$$y_h = (C_1 + C_2 t) e^{rt}$$

- Complex roots:  $r = \alpha \pm i\beta$

$$y_h = e^{\alpha t} (C_1 \cos \beta t + C_2 \sin \beta t)$$

# Non-Homogeneous Case: Particular Solution

- General solution:

$$y = y_h + y_p$$

- Find a particular solution  $y_p$  using:
  - Method of undetermined coefficients (for polynomials, exponentials, sines/cosines)
  - Variation of parameters (more general approach)

## Example: Homogeneous Equation

- Consider the equation:

$$y'' - 3y' + 2y = 0$$

- Characteristic equation:

$$r^2 - 3r + 2 = 0$$

- Factoring:

$$(r - 1)(r - 2) = 0 \Rightarrow r = 1, 2$$

- General solution:

$$y_h = C_1 e^t + C_2 e^{2t}$$

## Example: Non-Homogeneous Equation

- Consider:

$$y'' - 3y' + 2y = e^t$$

- Solve the homogeneous part first:

$$y_h = C_1 e^t + C_2 e^{2t}$$

- Find a particular solution: Assume  $y_p = Ae^t$
- Substitute into the equation:

$$Ae^t - 3Ae^t + 2Ae^t = e^t$$

- Solve for A:

$$(1 - 3 + 2)Ae^t = e^t \Rightarrow A = 1$$

- General solution:

$$y = C_1 e^t + C_2 e^{2t} + e^t$$

## Example: RLC Circuit

- Consider  $L = 1H$ ,  $R = 2\Omega$ ,  $C = 1F$ .
- The equation for charge is:

$$Q'' + 2Q' + Q = 0$$

- Characteristic equation:

$$r^2 + 2r + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow (r + 1)^2 = 0 \Rightarrow r = -1$$

- General solution:

$$Q(t) = (C_1 + C_2 t)e^{-t}$$

## Example: RLC Circuit with Forcing

- Consider  $Q'' + 2Q' + Q = \cos t$
- Homogeneous solution:

$$Q_h = (C_1 + C_2 t)e^{-t}$$

- Particular solution: Assume  $Q_p = A \cos t + B \sin t$
- Compute derivatives and substitute to solve for  $A, B$
- General solution:

$$Q(t) = (C_1 + C_2 t)e^{-t} + A \cos t + B \sin t$$



## Example: Complex Roots

- Consider the equation:

$$y'' + 2y' + 5y = 0$$

- Characteristic equation:

$$r^2 + 2r + 5 = 0$$

- Solving for  $r$  using the quadratic formula:

$$r = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{2^2 - 4(5)}}{2(1)}$$

$$r = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{4 - 20}}{2} = \frac{-2 \pm \sqrt{-16}}{2}$$

$$r = \frac{-2 \pm 4i}{2} = -1 \pm 2i$$

- General solution:

$$y = e^{-t}(C_1 \cos 2t + C_2 \sin 2t)$$

- Solution form: Exponential decay with oscillation.

- Derived second-order ODEs for harmonic oscillators and RLC circuits
- Identified three cases of homogeneous solutions
- Learned how to find a particular solution

**Next steps:** Try additional exercises!

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- Many physical systems are modeled using second-order ODEs.
- Converting them into a system of first-order ODEs simplifies analysis.
- We explore stability, stationary points, and phase diagrams.

# General Form of a Second-Order ODE

A second-order differential equation:

$$y'' + ay' + by = f(t)$$

Introducing variables:

$$x_1 = y, \quad x_2 = y'$$

Leads to the system:

$$\begin{cases} x_1' = x_2 \\ x_2' = -ax_2 - bx_1 + f(t) \end{cases}$$

## Example: Simple Harmonic Oscillator

$$y'' + \omega^2 y = 0$$

Define:

$$x_1 = y, \quad x_2 = y'$$

Gives the system:

$$\begin{cases} x_1' = x_2 \\ x_2' = -\omega^2 x_1 \end{cases}$$

# Stationary Points and Classification

- Stationary points: Solutions where  $x_1' = 0$  and  $x_2' = 0$ .
- Linear system:  $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$  where  $A$  is the coefficient matrix.
- Eigenvalues of  $A$  determine system behavior:
  - Real, distinct, opposite signs  $\Rightarrow$  Saddle point.
  - Real, same sign  $\Rightarrow$  Node (Stable/Unstable).
  - Complex  $\Rightarrow$  Spiral (Stable/Unstable).

## Example: Damped Harmonic Oscillator

$$y'' + 2\zeta\omega y' + \omega^2 y = 0$$

Converting:

$$\begin{cases} x_1' = x_2 \\ x_2' = -2\zeta\omega x_2 - \omega^2 x_1 \end{cases}$$

Eigenvalues classify behavior:

- $\zeta > 1$  (Overdamped - Two real roots).
- $\zeta = 1$  (Critically damped - Repeated root).
- $0 < \zeta < 1$  (Underdamped - Complex roots).



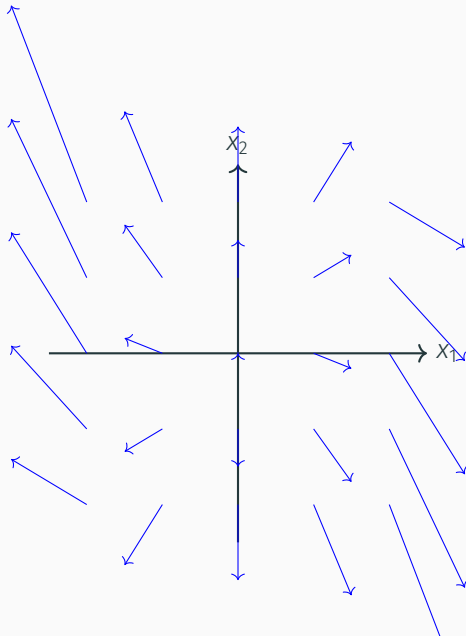
## Example: Nonlinear System

Consider the system:

$$\begin{cases} x_1' = x_2 \\ x_2' = x_1 - x_1^3 \end{cases}$$

- Nonlinear term  $-x_1^3$  makes phase portrait interesting.
- Stationary points:  $x_1 = 0, x_2 = 0$ .

# Phase Diagram Example



## Further Exercises

- Convert  $y'' + y' + y = 0$  to first-order system.
- Classify stationary points for  $\begin{cases} x_1' = x_2, \\ x_2' = -x_1 - 0.5x_2 \end{cases}$ .
- Sketch phase diagram for  $x_2' = x_1 - x_1^3$ .

# Conclusion

- Second-order ODEs can be rewritten as first-order systems.
- Stationary points classify system behavior.
- Phase diagrams provide insight into stability.