

**SPRING 20 ELEMENTARY DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS: TAKE  
HOME MIDTERM 2 SOLUTION**

1. (6 marks) Find the equilibria for the following systems of differential equations:

$$\begin{aligned}x' &= (x - 1)(2x + y - 2), \\y' &= y(x + y - 3).\end{aligned}$$

**Solution:** Set

$$\begin{aligned}(x - 1)(2x + y - 2) &= 0, \\y(x + y - 3) &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

Which implies

$$\begin{aligned}x &= 1 \text{ or } 2x + y - 2 = 0, \\y &= 0 \text{ or } x + y - 3 = 0.\end{aligned}$$

So there are four cases:

- $x = 1$  and  $y = 0 \Rightarrow (1, 0)$  is an equilibrium.
- $x = 1$  and  $x + y - 3 = 0 \Rightarrow (1, 2)$  is an equilibrium.
- $2x + y - 2 = 0$  and  $y = 0 \Rightarrow (1, 0)$  is an equilibrium.
- $2x + y - 2 = 0$  and  $x + y - 3 = 0 \Rightarrow (-1, 4)$  is an equilibrium.

Thus there are three equilibria:  $(1, 0)$ ,  $(1, 2)$  and  $(-1, 4)$ .

2. (4 marks) Transform the following second order differential equation into a systems of two differential equations:

$$y'' + y^2 y' + y' \sin t + t^2 = 0.$$

**Solution:** Set  $v = y'$ , so

$$v' = y'' = -y^2 y' - y' \sin t - t^2 = -y^2 v - v \sin t - t^2.$$

Thus the corresponding first order system is

$$\begin{aligned}y' &= v, \\v' &= -y^2 v - v \sin t - t^2.\end{aligned}$$

3. (8 marks) Find the general solution to the following system of differential equations

$$\begin{aligned}x' &= 2x, \\y' &= 4y + 2x^2.\end{aligned}$$

**Solution:** Solving the first equation gives

$$x = C_1 e^{2t}.$$

Plugging into the second equation gives

$$y' = 4y + 2C_1^2 e^{4t}.$$

We use the guessing method: write

$$y = y_h + y_p,$$

where  $y_h = C_2 e^{4t}$  and  $y_p = Ate^{4t}$ . Then

$$y_p' = Ae^{4t} + 4Ate^{4t}.$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} y_p' - 4y_p &= Ae^{4t} + 4Ate^{4t} - 4Ate^{4t} \\ &= Ae^{4t}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we choose  $A = 2C_1^2$ . Thus the general solution is

$$\begin{aligned} x &= C_1 e^{2t}, \\ y &= C_2 e^{4t} + 2C_1^2 t e^{4t}. \end{aligned}$$

4. (6 marks) Let  $Y_1(t), Y_2(t)$  be two solutions to an autonomous system  $Y' = F(Y)$ , where  $F$  and the partial derivatives of  $F$  are both continuous. If  $Y_2(0) = Y_1(2)$ , what is the relationship between  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$ . Please explain your answer.

**Solution:** Let  $Y_3(t) = Y_1(t + 2)$ . When  $Y_3(t)$  is also a solution to  $Y' = F(Y)$  since the system is autonomous. Also,

$$Y_3(0) = Y_1(0 + 2) = Y_1(2) = Y_2(0).$$

Thus  $Y_3$  and  $Y_2$  agree when  $t = 0$ . Since  $F$  and the first derivatives of  $F$  are continuous, one can apply the uniqueness theorem for system to conclude that  $Y_3(t) = Y_2(t)$  for all  $t$ . Thus

$$Y_2(t) = Y_1(t + 2).$$

5. (6 marks) Calculate  $e^A$ , where  $A$  is the matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Solution:** The characteristic polynomials is

$$p(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = \lambda^2 - 5\lambda + 5$$

thus by the quadratic formula we have

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{1}{2}(5 - \sqrt{5}), \quad \lambda_2 = \frac{1}{2}(5 + \sqrt{5}).$$

To find the corresponding eigenvectors  $v_1, v_2$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} A - \lambda_1 I &= \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2}(3 + \sqrt{5}) & 1 \\ -1 & \frac{1}{2}(3 - \sqrt{5}) \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}(3 + \sqrt{5}) \end{pmatrix}, \\ A - \lambda_2 I &= \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{2}(3 - \sqrt{5}) & 1 \\ -1 & \frac{1}{2}(3 + \sqrt{5}) \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \frac{1}{2}(3 - \sqrt{5}) \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} A &= SAS^{-1} \\ &= (v_1 \ v_2) \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2}(5 - \sqrt{5}) & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2}(5 + \sqrt{5}) \end{pmatrix} (v_1 \ v_2)^{-1} \\ \Rightarrow e^A &= (v_1 \ v_2) \begin{pmatrix} e^{\frac{1}{2}(5 - \sqrt{5})} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\frac{1}{2}(5 + \sqrt{5})} \end{pmatrix} (v_1 \ v_2)^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

6. (6 marks) Calculate  $e^{tB}$ , where

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Solution:** Write  $I$  as the identity matrix and

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

then

$$B = 2I + U.$$

Then since  $U^2 = 0$  (the zero matrix) and  $UB = 2U$  (direct calculation),

$$\begin{aligned} B^2 &= (2I + U)(2I + U) \\ &= 4I + 2IU + 2UI + U^2 \\ &= 4I + 4U = 4(I + U). \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} B^3 &= B^2B = 4(I + U)(2I + U) \\ &= 4(2I + 2UI + IU) = 8I + 4 \cdot 3U. \end{aligned}$$

and similarly

$$\begin{aligned} B^4 &= B^3B = (8I + 4 \cdot 3U)(2I + U) \\ &= 16I + 8 \cdot 4U \end{aligned}$$

in general if  $B^n = 2^n I + 2^{n-1} n U$  for some  $n$ , then .

$$\begin{aligned} B^{n+1} &= B^n B \\ &= (2^n I + 2^{n-1} n U)(2I + U) \\ &= 2^{n+1} I + 2^n I U + 2^{n-1} n U(2I) + U^2 \\ &= 2^{n+1} I + 2^n(n+1)U. \end{aligned}$$

Thus we have  $B^n = 2^n I + 2^{n-1} n U$  for all  $n$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} e^{tB} &= I + tB + \frac{t^2 B^2}{2} + \cdots + \frac{t^n B^n}{n!} + \cdots \\ &= I + t(2I + U) + \frac{t^2(4I + 4U)}{2} + \cdots + \frac{t^n(2^n I + 2^{n-1} n U)}{n!} + \cdots \\ &= \left(1 + 2t + \frac{(2t)^2}{2} + \cdots + \frac{(2t)^n}{n!} + \cdots\right) I \\ &\quad + \left(t + 2t^2 + \cdots + \frac{2^{n-1} t^n}{(n-1)!} + \cdots\right) U \\ &= e^{2t} I + t \left(1 + (2t) + \cdots + \frac{(2t)^{n-1}}{(n-1)!} + \cdots\right) U \\ &= e^{2t} I + t e^{2t} U \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} e^{2t} & t e^{2t} \\ 0 & e^{2t} \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

7. (6 marks) Let

$$Y_1(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 2e^t - e^{-2t} \\ e^t + e^{-2t} \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y_2(t) = \begin{pmatrix} -2e^t + 2e^{-2t} \\ -e^t - 2e^{-2t} \end{pmatrix}$$

be two solutions to a linear system  $Y' = AY$ . Solve the initial value problem

$$\begin{cases} Y' = AY, \\ Y(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{cases}$$

**Solution:** Let  $Y(t) = k_1 Y_1(t) + k_2 Y_2(t)$ . If we plug in the initial condition, we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = k_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + k_2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix},$$

which gives the equations

$$1 = k_1, 1 = 2k_1 - 3k_2$$

and thus  $k_1 = 1, k_2 = 1/3$ . Then

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2e^t - e^{-2t} \\ e^t + e^{-2t} \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} -2e^t + 2e^{-2t} \\ -e^t - 2e^{-2t} \end{pmatrix}$$

solves the IVP.

8. (6 marks) Let  $v$  be a nonzero vector so that  $e^{\lambda t}v$  is a solution to the system  $Y' = AY$ . Show that  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$  with eigenvector  $v$ .

**Solution:** It is given that  $e^{\lambda t}v$  satisfies  $Y' = AY$ . Thus

$$(e^{\lambda t}v)' = A(e^{\lambda t}v)$$

$$\lambda e^{\lambda t}v = e^{\lambda t}Av$$

$$e^{\lambda t}\lambda v = e^{\lambda t}Av.$$

In particular,  $Av = \lambda v$ . Since  $v$  is a non-zero eigenvector,  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$  with eigenvector  $v$ .

9. (8 marks) Solve the initial value problem

$$Y' = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ 4 & 3 \end{pmatrix} Y, \quad Y(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Solution:** First we find the eigenvalues:

$$\begin{aligned} p(\lambda) &= \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \lambda & -2 \\ 4 & 3 - \lambda \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 11 \\ &= (\lambda - 2)^2 + 7. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $A$  has complex eigenvalues  $2 \pm \sqrt{7}i$ . Let  $\lambda = 2 + \sqrt{7}i$ , then

$$A - \lambda I = \begin{pmatrix} -1 - \sqrt{7}i & -2 \\ 4 & 1 - \sqrt{7}i \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus

$$v = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 + \sqrt{7}i \end{pmatrix}$$

is an eigenvector. Then

$$\begin{aligned} e^{\lambda t}v &= e^{(2+\sqrt{7}i)t} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 + \sqrt{7}i \end{pmatrix} \\ &= e^{2t}(\cos \sqrt{7}t + i \sin \sqrt{7}t) \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 + \sqrt{7}i \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -2e^{2t} \cos \sqrt{7}t \\ e^{2t}(\cos \sqrt{7}t - \sqrt{7} \sin \sqrt{7}t) \end{pmatrix} \\ &\quad + i \begin{pmatrix} -2e^{2t} \sin \sqrt{7}t \\ e^{2t}(\sin \sqrt{7}t + \sqrt{7} \cos \sqrt{7}t) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= Y_{re}(t) + iY_{im}(t), \end{aligned}$$

and the general solution is  $k_1 Y_{re}(t) + k_2 Y_{im}(t)$ . To solve the IVP, set

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix} = k_1 \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + k_2 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \sqrt{7} \end{pmatrix}$$

which gives  $k_1 = -1$ ,  $k_2 = 4/\sqrt{7}$ .

10. (8 marks) Sketch the phase portrait of the following system:

$$Y' = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} Y.$$

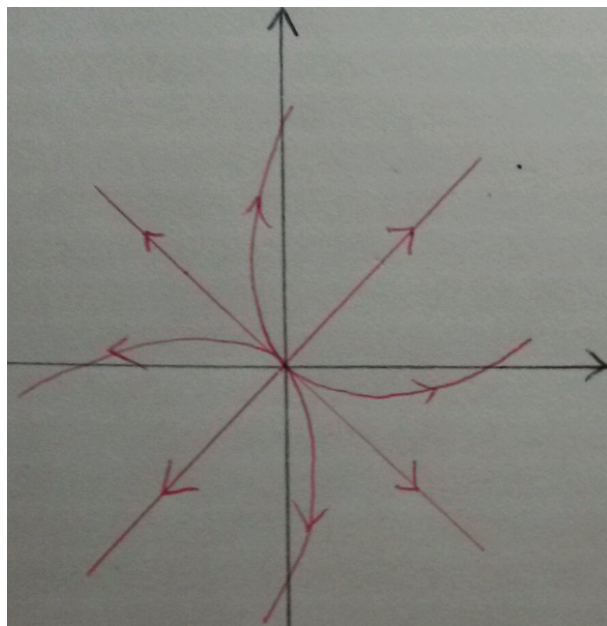
**Solution:** First we calculate the eigenvalues:

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 1 \\ 1 & 2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 3 = (\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 3).$$

Thus  $\lambda_1 = 3$  and  $\lambda_2 = 1$  are the eigenvalues. To find the corresponding eigenvectors,

$$A - \lambda_1 I = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$A - \lambda_2 I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow v_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$



11. (8 marks) Sketch the phase portrait of the following system:

$$Y' = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} Y.$$

**Solution:** First we calculate the eigenvalues:

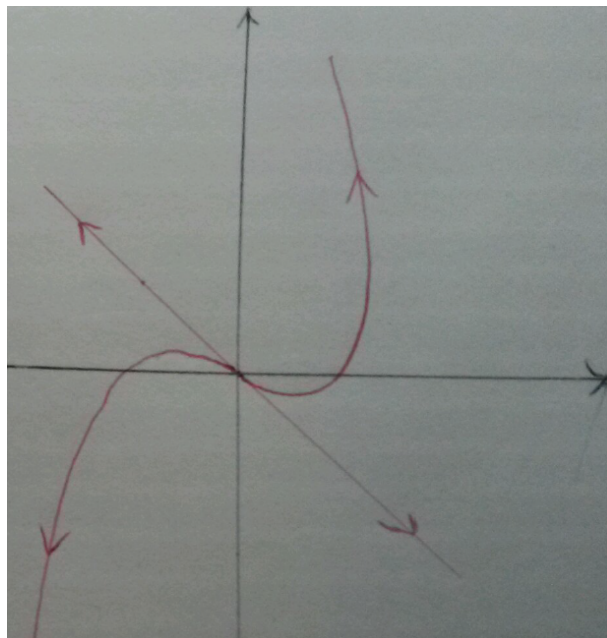
$$\det(A - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} 2 - \lambda & -1 \\ 1 & 4 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 - 6\lambda + 9 = (\lambda - 3)^2.$$

Thus  $A$  has a repeated eigenvalues  $\lambda = 3$ . To find the corresponding eigenvectors,

$$A - \lambda_1 I = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow v_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

To check the orientation, consider a point away from the straight line solution, say,  $Y = (1, 1)$ . Then

$$AY = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$



12. (8 marks) Let  $A$  be a  $2 \times 2$  matrix with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$ . What are the conditions on  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$ , so that all solutions to  $Y' = AY$  converges to  $(0, 0)$  as  $t$  goes to  $+\infty$ ? Please explain your answer.

**Solution:** First of all,  $\lambda_i$  must be nonzero: if one of  $\lambda_i$  is zero, then  $Av = 0$  for some nonzero vector  $v$ . Then  $Y(t) = v$  is a constant solutions (equilibrium) to  $Y' = AY$ , which does not converge to the origin.

When both of the eigenvalues are non-zero, we split into three cases:

- When  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  are distinct, real: then the general solution is

$$Y(t) = k_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} v_1 + k_2 e^{\lambda_2 t} v_2$$

and all such  $Y(t)$  converges to the origin  $(0, 0)$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$  if and only if both  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  are negative.

- When  $\lambda = \lambda_1 = \lambda_2$  (i.e. repeated eigenvalues), then the general solution is

$$Y(t) = e^{\lambda t}W_0 + te^{\lambda t}W_1, \quad W_1 = (A - \lambda I)W_0.$$

In this cases  $Y(t)$  converges to the origin  $(0,0)$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$  if and only if  $\lambda$  is negative, since  $te^{\lambda t}$  also converge to 0 as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$ .

- Lastly, when the eigenvalues are complex, write  $\lambda = \alpha + \beta i$  (the other eigenvalues is  $\alpha - \beta i$ ), then the general solution is

$$Y(t) = k_1 Y_{re}(t) + k_2 Y_{im}(t).$$

Where  $e^{\lambda t}v = Y_{re}(t) + iY_{im}(t)$ . Since both  $Y_{re}(t), Y_{im}(t)$  are of the form  $e^{\alpha t}Y_p(t)$ , where  $Y_p$  is some periodic functions, we see that  $Y(t)$  converges to the origin  $(0,0)$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$  if and only if  $\alpha$  is negative.

We can sum up and say that all solutions converge to  $(0,0)$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$  if and only if the real parts of the eigenvalues are negative.