

6.3-Higher-Order Linear Systems

#UCLA

#Y1Q3

#Math33B

Higher-Order Linear Systems

Key Definitions

Limited to homogenous, constant coefficient, linear higher order differentials

Determinant by Laplace (Cofactor) Expansion:

$$\text{DET}(A) = \sum_I^N A_{IJ} (-1)^{I+J} \text{DET}(\text{COF}(A_{IJ}))$$

Steps

1. Convert nth order to nxn matrix
 2. Solve linear system
 3. Convert to linear differential equation
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Solution

Given nth order diff. eq.

Auxiliary Functions

$$x_1(t) := y(t)$$

S.t.

$$x_1' = x_2$$

and so on.

Then, create a nxn matrix of aux. funcs.:

$$x_1'(t) = x_2(t)$$

$$x_2'(t) = x_3(t)$$

$$x_3'(t) = x_4(t)$$

What about $x_4'(t) = y^{(4)}(t)$? The original differential equation itself tells us how to relate this to the lower derivatives:

$$x_4'(t) = 13y''(t) - 36y(t) = 13x_3(t) - 36x_1(t)$$

Combining these four equations yields the system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1'(t) \\ x_2'(t) \\ x_3'(t) \\ x_4'(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -36 & 0 & 13 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \\ x_3(t) \\ x_4(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

General Solution

$$\vec{X}(T; C_I) = \sum_I^N C_I E^{A_I T} \vec{V}_I$$

Such that, we can find the original diff. eq.

$$Y(T; C_I) = X_1(T) = \sum_I^N C_I E^{A_I T} \vec{V}_{I,1}$$

E.g.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x}(t; C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4) &= e^{2t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 4 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} + C_2 e^{-2t} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 2 \\ -4 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix} + C_3 e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \\ 9 \\ 27 \end{bmatrix} + C_4 e^{-3t} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \\ -9 \\ 27 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} C_1 e^{2t} - C_2 e^{-2t} + C_3 e^{3t} - C_4 e^{-3t} \\ 2C_1 e^{2t} - 2C_2 e^{-2t} + 3C_3 e^{3t} + 3C_4 e^{-3t} \\ 4C_1 e^{2t} - 4C_2 e^{-2t} + 9C_3 e^{3t} - 9C_4 e^{-3t} \\ 8C_1 e^{2t} + 8C_2 e^{-2t} + 27C_3 e^{3t} + 27C_4 e^{-3t} \end{bmatrix}\end{aligned}$$

In particular, the general solution to $y^{(4)} - 13y'' + 36y = 0$ is

$$y(t; C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4) = x_1(t) = C_1 e^{2t} - C_2 e^{-2t} + C_3 e^{3t} - C_4 e^{-3t}$$

which we might as well instead write as

$$y(t) = C_1 e^{2t} + C_2 e^{-2t} + C_3 e^{3t} + C_4 e^{-3t} \quad \square$$

General Solution

We can find a solution of form:

$$\vec{x}' = A\vec{x}$$

where A is the **companion matrix** and if:

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} y(t) \\ y'(t) \\ y''(t) \\ \vdots \\ y^{(n-1)}(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

So we get the equation in matrix form:

We then form the linear system:

$$\begin{bmatrix} x_1'(t) \\ x_2'(t) \\ \vdots \\ x_{n-1}'(t) \\ x_n'(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 \\ -a_n & -a_{n-1} & -a_{n-2} & \vdots & -a_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \\ \vdots \\ x_{n-1}(t) \\ x_n(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

Then, if y_1, \dots, y_n are solutions to the n th order differential equation, we can get the vector valued functions:

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_1(t) \\ y_1'(t) \\ y_1''(t) \\ \vdots \\ y_1^{(n-1)}(t) \end{bmatrix}, \dots, \begin{bmatrix} y_n(t) \\ y_n'(t) \\ y_n''(t) \\ \vdots \\ y_n^{(n-1)}(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

For which, the [4.1-2nd Order Linear Differentials > Wronskian](#) $\neq 0$

$$W(t) = \det \begin{bmatrix} y_1(t) & y_2(t) & \cdots & y_n(t) \\ y_1'(t) & y_2'(t) & \cdots & y_n'(t) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ y_1^{(n-1)}(t) & y_2^{(n-1)}(t) & \cdots & y_n^{(n-1)}(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

Thus the matrix has linearly independent column vectors $\vec{y}_1, \dots, \vec{y}_n$

Then finally, we get the **general solution**:

$$y(t) = \sum_I^N C_I \vec{y}_I(t)$$