

Homogeneous linear systems of differential equations with constant coefficients:

We will concentrate most of our attention on systems of homogeneous linear equations with constant coefficients - that is, system of the form

where $X' = AX \dots \dots (1)$
 where A is constant $n \times n$ matrix.

□ If $n=1$, the system reduces to a single first order eqnⁿ

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = ax$$

whose solⁿ is $x = ce^{at}$.

□ The case $n=2$ is particularly important and we will focus on it.

The homogeneous linear system of a 1st order (ODE) differential equation in two variables x & y has the normal form

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt} &= a_{11}x + a_{12}y \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= a_{21}x + a_{22}y \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ here } a_{ij}'\text{s are constant.}$$

There are several ways to find the solutions of this system, and we will discuss ~~this~~ these ways through proper examples.

Consider

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{dx}{dt} &= x + 3y \\ \frac{dy}{dt} &= x - y \end{aligned} \right\} \text{--- } (*)$$

① First way → Operator method

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = x + 3y$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = x - y$$

using notation $\frac{d}{dt} \equiv D$ we have

$$\left. \begin{aligned} Dx &= x + 3y \\ Dy &= x - y \end{aligned} \right\}$$

or,

$$(D-1)x - 3y = 0 \quad \text{--- (i)}$$

$$-x + (D+1)y = 0 \quad \text{--- (ii)}$$

apply $(D+1)$ on (i) & multiply by 3 with eqnⁿ (ii).

$$(D+1)(D-1)x - 3(D+1)y = 0$$

$$-3x + 3(D+1)y = 0$$

adding $[(D+1)(D-1) - 3]x = 0$.

$$(D^2 - 4)x = 0$$

A.E $m^2 - 4 = 0 \Rightarrow m = \pm 2$.

C.F $x = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{-2t}$

\therefore general solⁿ is $x = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{-2t}$

$$\therefore \frac{dx}{dt} = 2c_1 e^{2t} - 2c_2 e^{-2t}$$

from (i) we have $3y = \frac{dx}{dt} - x$

$$\therefore 3y = 2c_1 e^{2t} - 2c_2 e^{-2t} - c_1 e^{2t} - c_2 e^{-2t}$$

$$\therefore y = \frac{1}{3} (c_1 e^{2t} - 3c_2 e^{-2t}) = \frac{1}{3} c_1 e^{2t} - c_2 e^{-2t}$$

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Therefore the whole solution to the system is then

$$\left. \begin{aligned} x &= c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{-2t} \\ y &= \frac{1}{3} c_1 e^{2t} - c_2 e^{-2t} \end{aligned} \right\} .$$

Second way \rightarrow Eliminating variables.

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = x + 3y \quad \text{--- (i)}$$

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = x - y \quad \text{--- (ii)}$$

Differentiating (i) w.r.t 't', we get

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = \frac{dx}{dt} + 3 \frac{dy}{dt}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = \frac{dx}{dt} + 3 \left(x - \frac{dx}{dt} \right) \quad \text{(from (i))}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = 4x$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} - 4x = 0$$

$$\text{A.E } m^2 - 4 = 0 \Rightarrow m = \pm 2$$

$$\text{C.F } x = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{-2t}$$

$$\text{General soln } x = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{-2t}$$

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 2c_1 e^{2t} - 2c_2 e^{-2t}$$

from (i),

$$3y = \frac{dx}{dt} - x \quad \text{--- (iii)}$$

from (ii)

$$y = x - \frac{dy}{dt} \quad \text{--- (iv)}$$

$$\therefore \frac{dx}{dt} - x = 3 \left(x - \frac{dy}{dt} \right)$$

~~$$\frac{dx}{dt} - x = 3x - 3 \frac{dy}{dt}$$~~

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dx}{dt} - x = 3x - 3 \frac{dy}{dt}$$

$$\Rightarrow 3 \frac{dy}{dt} = 4x - \frac{dx}{dt} \quad \text{--- (v)}$$

from

(iii)

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$$y = \frac{1}{3} \left[\frac{dy}{dt} - x \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \left[2c_1 e^{2t} - 2c_2 e^{-2t} - c_1 e^{2t} - c_2 e^{-2t} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{3} \left[c_1 e^{2t} - 3c_2 e^{-2t} \right]$$

∴ The solution of the system is

$$x = c_1 e^{2t} + c_2 e^{-2t}$$

$$y = \frac{1}{3} c_1 e^{2t} - c_2 e^{-2t}$$

Systems of Linear Algebraic Equations; Linear Independence, Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors:

In this section we summarize some results from linear algebra that are important for the solution of systems of linear differential equations.

Systems of linear algebraic equations: A set of n simultaneous linear algebraic equations in n variables

$$\left. \begin{aligned} a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n &= b_1, \\ a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n &= b_2 \\ \vdots & \\ a_{n1}x_1 + a_{n2}x_2 + \dots + a_{nn}x_n &= b_n \end{aligned} \right\} \textcircled{F}$$

can be written as

$$AX = b, \dots \textcircled{2}$$

where A is $n \times n$ matrix given by

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}, \quad X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{bmatrix}, \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{bmatrix}$$

If $b=0$, the system is said to be **homogeneous**, otherwise it is **non homogeneous**.

If A is nonsingular - i.e, if $\det A \neq 0$, then there is a unique solⁿ of the system $\textcircled{2}$.

if $\det A = 0$, the solⁿ of $\textcircled{2}$ either do not exist, or do exist but not unique.

if $\det A = 0$, for the homogeneous system $AX=0$, then it has infinity many solution.

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Linear independence: A set of k vectors $\{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$ is said to be linearly dependent if there exists a set of numbers c_1, \dots, c_k , at least one of which is nonzero, such that

$$c_1 x_1 + \dots + c_k x_k = 0 \quad \dots \dots \textcircled{i}$$

On the other hand, if the only set c_1, \dots, c_k for which eqnⁿ \textcircled{i} is satisfied is $c_1 = c_2 = \dots = c_k = 0$, then $\{x_1, \dots, x_k\}$ is said to be linearly independent set of vectors.

Eigenvalue & eigenvector

The equation $Ax = y$ can be viewed as a linear transformation that maps a given vector x into a new vector y .
 now if we want $y = \lambda x$ where λ is a scalar, and seek solⁿ of the equation

$$Ax = \lambda x$$

$$\text{or } (A - \lambda I)x = 0 \quad \dots \dots \textcircled{ii}$$

This eqnⁿ \textcircled{ii} has nonzero solⁿ if and only if λ is chosen so that $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0 \quad \dots \dots \textcircled{iii}$

The value for which eqnⁿ \textcircled{ii} is satisfied is called Eigenvalue of the matrix A , and the nonzero solution of \textcircled{ii} that are obtained by using such a value of λ are called the Eigenvectors corresponding to that eigenvalue.

★ The Equation \textcircled{iii} , i.e. $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$ is called the characteristic equation of the matrix A .