

For $\vec{x}' = A_{2 \times 2} \vec{x}$,

(I) One can construct a slope field in $\mathbb{R}^2$ via matrix multiplication: For $\vec{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$, the tangent to the solution curve passing through $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$ is $A\vec{x}$

$$\textcircled{a} \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 6 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\textcircled{b} \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 6 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\textcircled{c} \vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 6 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

JUDE 2D calculation (or similar) is helpful here

(II) Solution curves are integral curves of the slope field:

② Given $c_1, c_2 \in \mathbb{R}$, the curve

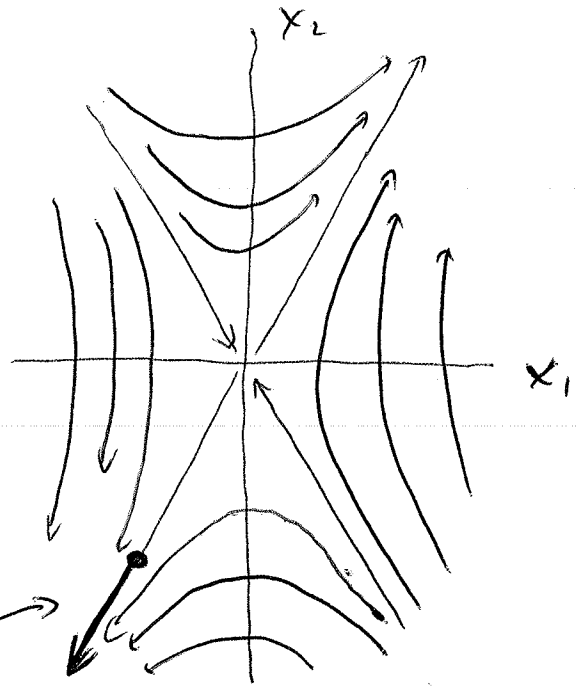
$$\vec{x}(t) = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} e^{3t} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} e^{-2t}$$

is one of these curves.

- ③ Straight-line motion only occurs when one of c_1, c_2 is 0:

Let $c_1 = -2, c_2 = 0$.

$$\Rightarrow \vec{x}(t) = -2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} e^{3t} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} -2 \\ -4 \end{bmatrix} e^{3t}$$



- ④ A copy of $\mathbb{R}^2$ with enough representative curve on it to give a good sense of solutions is called a phase portrait:

- ⑤ Solutions are called trajectories or orbits.

- ⑥ General long term behavior of trajectories can be read off easily from a phase portrait:

$$\text{Given } \vec{x}(t) = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} e^{3t} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} e^{-2t}$$

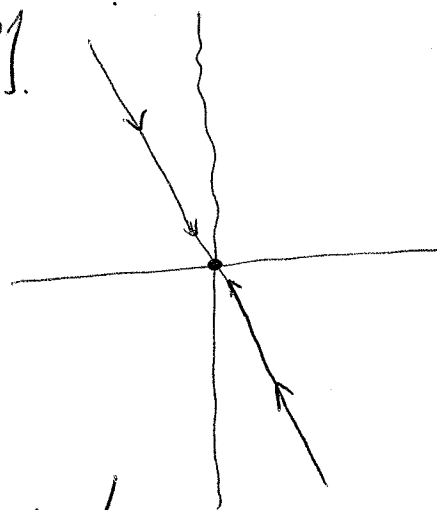
⑦ ② cont'd.

- If $c_1 = 0, c_2 \neq 0$, then $\vec{x}(t) = c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} e^{-2t}$

and $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$.

How about $\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \vec{x}(t)$?

We say it is unbounded.



Note: Solutions never touch nor cross here.

So since $\vec{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ is an ~~un~~ equilibrium soln, no other solution actually reaches $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$.

- If $c_1 \neq 0, c_2 = 0$?

$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}(t)$ DNE or traj is unbounded

$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \vec{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$.

- If $c_1 \neq 0$, and $c_2 \neq 0$? These are the curved lines in the portrait. For these, what can we say about the forward trajectory ($\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \vec{x}(t)$), or the backward one ($\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} \vec{x}(t)$)?

One answer? Given $\vec{x}(t) = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} e^{3t} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} e^{-2t}$

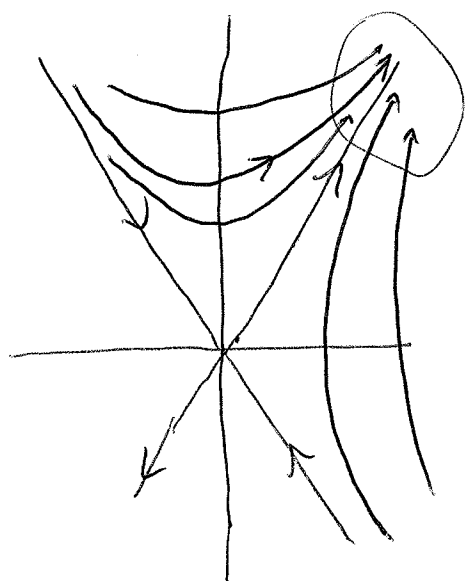
and $c_1 \neq 0, c_2 \neq 0$, then as t gets large

($t \rightarrow \infty$), $\vec{x}(t)$ looks more and more like

$c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} e^{3t}$, and less and

less like $c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} e^{-2t}$

How about in backward time?



III Back to solution building via the properties of A : For $\vec{x}' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 6 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \vec{x}$,

$$\vec{x}(t) = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} e^{3t} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix} e^{-2t}$$

the eigenvalues of A (~~$\lambda_1 = 3, \lambda_2 = -2$~~), and representative eigenvectors ($\vec{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \vec{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -3 \end{bmatrix}$) are explicitly part of the solution.

Why?

Here, the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of a matrix A satisfy $A\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v}$, or

$$(A - \lambda I)\vec{v} = \vec{0}.$$

For this to have nontrivial solutions for $\vec{v}$,

- λ must be an eigenvalue, and

- $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$.

For $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$, $\det(A - \lambda I) = \begin{vmatrix} a-\lambda & b \\ c & d-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$

$$= \lambda^2 - (a+d)\lambda + (ad-bc) = 0$$

This is called the characteristic eqn of A , and solutions can be

- ① real, distinct
- ② real and repeated
- ③ complex conjugates.

How to relate to solutions of $\dot{\vec{x}} = A\vec{x}$?

- Recall $\dot{x} = ax$ is solved by $x(t) = ce^{at}$
- Assume $\dot{\vec{x}} = A\vec{x}$ is also solved by exponentials. For $n=2$, $\vec{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$.

Assume $x_1(t) = c_1 e^{rt}$, $x_2(t) = c_2 e^{rt}$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} e^{rt}, \text{ and } \vec{x}' = r \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} e^{rt}$$

$$\text{and then } \vec{x}' = A\vec{x} \text{ is } r \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} e^{rt} = A \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} e^{rt}$$

$$\text{or } r \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix} = A \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ i.e. } r\vec{v} = A\vec{v}.$$

And what do solutions to this look like??

r is an eigenvalue

$\vec{v}$ is an eigenvector of A .

Notes ① This works equally well for $n > 2$.

② In the case where $A_{n \times n}$ is real and symmetric (i.e. when $a_{ij} = a_{ji}$)

$\Rightarrow$ all eigenvalues are real and even if repeated, there is a full set of eigenvectors.

We have the following:

For $\dot{\vec{x}} = A_{n \times n} \vec{x}$, when all eigenvalues of A are real and distinct, then

$$\vec{x}(t) = c_1 \vec{v}_1 e^{r_1 t} + \dots + c_n \vec{v}_n e^{r_n t}$$

is the general soln, where $\vec{v}_i$ is an eigenvector of r_i , for A .