

# Math 211

Lecture #26

Solutions of a Planar System

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## Procedure to Solve $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$

- Find the eigenvalues of  $A$ 
  - ♦ the roots of  $p(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = 0$
- For each eigenvalue  $\lambda$  find the eigenspace
  - ♦  $= \text{null}(A - \lambda I)$
- If  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue and  $\mathbf{v}$  is an associated eigenvector,  $\mathbf{x}(t) = e^{\lambda t}\mathbf{v}$  is a solution.
- Hope that  $n$  of these are linearly independent.

Return

## Planar System $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{x}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x_1(t) \\ x_2(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

- The characteristic polynomial is

$$p(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - T\lambda + D.$$

where  $T = \text{tr } A$  and  $D = \det A$

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Procedure

- The eigenvalues of  $A$  are the roots of  $p(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - T\lambda + D$ ,

$$\lambda = \frac{T \pm \sqrt{T^2 - 4D}}{2}.$$

- Three cases:
  - 2 distinct real roots if  $T^2 - 4D > 0$
  - 2 complex conjugate roots if  $T^2 - 4D < 0$
  - Double real root if  $T^2 - 4D = 0$

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### Complex Eigenvalues

- If the discriminant  $T^2 - 4D < 0$  we have complex eigenvalues

$$\lambda = \frac{T + i\sqrt{4D - T^2}}{2}, \quad \bar{\lambda} = \frac{T - i\sqrt{4D - T^2}}{2}$$

- Example:  $\begin{pmatrix} -5 & 20 \\ -2 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$ .
  - Characteristic polynomial:  $p(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - 2\lambda + 5$ .
  - Eigenvalues:  $\lambda = 1 + 2i$  and  $\bar{\lambda} = 1 - 2i$
  - Eigenvector:  $\mathbf{w} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 - i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

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Procedure

### Complex Eigenpairs

$A$  a real matrix

- Suppose that  $\lambda$  is a complex eigenvalue with associated eigenvector  $\mathbf{w}$ . Then  $A\mathbf{w} = \lambda\mathbf{w}$ .
- Conjugating we get

$$\overline{A\mathbf{w}} = \overline{\lambda\mathbf{w}} = \overline{\lambda}\overline{\mathbf{w}}$$

$$\overline{A\mathbf{w}} = A\overline{\mathbf{w}}$$

- $A\mathbf{w} = \lambda\mathbf{w} \Rightarrow \overline{A\mathbf{w}} = \overline{\lambda\mathbf{w}} \Rightarrow A\overline{\mathbf{w}} = \overline{\lambda}\overline{\mathbf{w}}$
- $\Rightarrow \overline{\lambda}$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$  with associated eigenvector  $\overline{\mathbf{w}}$

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Complex Matrices

- Thus complex eigenvalues come in conjugate pairs  $\lambda$  and  $\bar{\lambda}$ .
- The associated eigenvectors also come in conjugate pairs  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{w}}$ .
- $\lambda \neq \bar{\lambda} \Rightarrow \mathbf{w}$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{w}}$  are linearly independent.
- We get complex exponential solutions

$$\mathbf{z}(t) = e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{w} \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{\mathbf{z}}(t) = e^{\bar{\lambda} t} \bar{\mathbf{w}}.$$

- $\mathbf{z}$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{z}}$  are linearly independent complex valued solutions to  $\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x}$ .

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Complex Matrices

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$$\mathbf{z}(t) = \mathbf{x}(t) + iy(t) \quad \& \quad \bar{\mathbf{z}}(t) = \mathbf{x}(t) - iy(t)$$

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \operatorname{Re}(\mathbf{z}(t)) = \frac{\mathbf{z}(t) + \bar{\mathbf{z}}(t)}{2}$$

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \operatorname{Im}(\mathbf{z}(t)) = \frac{\mathbf{z}(t) - \bar{\mathbf{z}}(t)}{2i}$$

- $\mathbf{x}(t)$  and  $\mathbf{y}(t)$  are real valued solutions.
- $\mathbf{x}(t)$  and  $\mathbf{y}(t)$  are linearly independent.

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Complex Matrices

Complex eigenpairs

Complex solutions

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## Solutions in Our Example

- Complex Solutions

$$\mathbf{z}(t) = e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{w} = e^{(1+2i)t} \begin{pmatrix} 3-i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{z}}(t) = e^{\bar{\lambda} t} \bar{\mathbf{w}} = e^{(1-2i)t} \begin{pmatrix} 3+i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Real Solutions

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \operatorname{Re}(\mathbf{z}(t)) = e^t \begin{pmatrix} 3 \cos 2t + \sin 2t \\ \cos 2t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \operatorname{Im}(\mathbf{z}(t)) = e^t \begin{pmatrix} 3 \sin 2t - \cos 2t \\ \sin 2t \end{pmatrix}$$

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Example

### Initial Value Problem

Solve

$$\mathbf{x}' = A\mathbf{x} \quad \text{where} \quad A = \begin{pmatrix} -5 & 20 \\ -2 & 7 \end{pmatrix}$$

with the initial condition

$$\mathbf{x}(0) = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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[Fundamental set of solutions](#)

### Initial Value Problem

Solution is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}(t) &= 3e^t \begin{pmatrix} 3 \cos 2t + \sin 2t \\ \cos 2t \end{pmatrix} \\ &\quad + 4e^t \begin{pmatrix} 3 \sin 2t - \cos 2t \\ \sin 2t \end{pmatrix} \\ &= e^t \begin{pmatrix} 5 \cos 2t + 15 \sin 2t \\ 3 \cos 2t + 4 \sin 2t \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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[Real solutions](#)

### Summary — Complex Eigenvalues

Suppose  $A$  is a real  $2 \times 2$  matrix with

- complex conjugate eigenvalues  $\lambda$  and  $\bar{\lambda}$ , and
- associated nonzero eigenvectors  $\mathbf{w}$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{w}}$ .

Then

- $\mathbf{z}(t) = e^{\lambda t} \mathbf{w}$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{z}}(t) = e^{\bar{\lambda} t} \bar{\mathbf{w}}$  form a complex valued fundamental set of solutions, and
- $\mathbf{x}(t) = \operatorname{Re}(\mathbf{z}(t))$  and  $\mathbf{y}(t) = \operatorname{Im}(\mathbf{z}(t))$  form a real valued fundamental set of solutions.

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## Examples

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

where

- $A = \begin{pmatrix} 7 & 30 \\ -3 & -11 \end{pmatrix}$
- $A = \begin{pmatrix} -4 & 10 \\ -2 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$

Summary

## Complex Matrices

Matrices (or vectors) with complex entries inherit many of the properties of complex numbers.

- $M = A + iB$  where  $A = \operatorname{Re}M$  and  $B = \operatorname{Im}M$  are real matrices.
- $\overline{\overline{M}} = M$ ;  $M = \overline{M} \Leftrightarrow M$  is real.
- $\operatorname{Re}M = \frac{1}{2}(M + \overline{M})$ ;  $\operatorname{Im}M = \frac{1}{2i}(M - \overline{M})$
- $\overline{M + N} = \overline{M} + \overline{N}$
- $\overline{Mz} = \overline{M}\overline{z}$

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## Eigenvectors are Linearly Independent

The problem of determining that solutions are linearly independent is eased by the following result.

**Proposition:** Suppose that  $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$  are eigenvalues of the  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ , and that  $\mathbf{v}_1 \neq 0$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2 \neq 0$  are eigenvectors associated with  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ , respectively. Then  $\mathbf{v}_1$  and  $\mathbf{v}_2$  are linearly independent.

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