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## SYSTEMS OF DEs

- **Constant coefficients:  
eigenvalue problem;**
- **Classification of critical point;**
  - # **Node;**
  - # **Saddle point;**
  - # **Centre;**
  - # **Focus.**
- **Nonhomogeneous equations.**

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## Systems of DEs

Every  $n$ th order DE

$$y^{(n)} = F(t, y, y', \dots, y^{(n-1)})$$

is reduced to a system of  $n$  1st order DEs by

$$y_1 = y, \quad y_2 = y', \quad y_3 = y'', \quad \dots, \quad y_n = y^{(n-1)}.$$

The system is

$$y_1' = y_2$$

$$y_2' = y_3$$

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$$y_{n-1}' = y_n$$

$$y_n' = F(t, y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n).$$

**Example.**  $y'' + \frac{c}{m}y' + \frac{k}{m}y = 0$  becomes

$$y_1' = 0 \cdot y_1 + y_2$$

$$y_2' = -\frac{k}{m}y_1 - \frac{c}{m}y_2.$$

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Let  $\mathbf{y}^T = (y_1 \ y_2)$ . In matrix form,

$$\mathbf{y}' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -\frac{k}{m} & -\frac{c}{m} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}.$$

Characteristic equation is

$$\begin{aligned} \det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) &= \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & 1 \\ -\frac{k}{m} & -\frac{c}{m} - \lambda \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \lambda^2 + \frac{c}{m}\lambda + \frac{k}{m} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

**Same as for mass on a spring DE.** For solution, try  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x}e^{\lambda t}$ . Then

$$\mathbf{y}' = \lambda\mathbf{x}e^{\lambda t}, \text{ or } \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x},$$

and  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $\mathbf{A}$ , with eigenvector  $\mathbf{x}$ . To illustrate, let  $m = 1$ ,  $c = 3$ ,  $k = 2$ . Then  $\lambda^2 + 3\lambda + 2 = 0$  has roots  $\lambda_1 = -1$ ,  $\lambda_2 = -2$  with eigenvectors  $\mathbf{x}^{(1)} = (1 \ -1)^T$  and  $\mathbf{x}^{(2)} = (1 \ -2)^T$ .

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Solution is thus

$$\mathbf{y} = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} e^{-t} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} e^{-2t},$$

or, in components,

$$\begin{aligned} y_1 &= c_1 e^{-t} + c_2 e^{-2t} \\ y_2 &= -c_1 e^{-t} - 2c_2 e^{-2t} = y_1' \end{aligned}$$

## Homogeneous, Const Coefficients

$$\mathbf{y}' = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y},$$

where the  $n \times n$  matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  is constant. Try

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{x}e^{\lambda t} \Rightarrow \mathbf{y}' = \lambda \mathbf{x}e^{\lambda t} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x}e^{\lambda t}.$$

This becomes an eigenvalue problem:

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda \mathbf{x} .$$

Solutions are  $\mathbf{x}e^{\lambda t}$ , where  $\lambda$  is an eigenvalue of  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{x}$  the corresponding eigenvector.

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Assume  $\mathbf{A}$  has

- basis of eigenvectors  $\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(n)}$
- corresponding eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ .

Solutions of DE are

$$\mathbf{y}^{(1)} = \mathbf{x}^{(1)} e^{\lambda_1 t}, \dots, \mathbf{y}^{(n)} = \mathbf{x}^{(n)} e^{\lambda_n t}$$

with Wronskian

$$W(\mathbf{y}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{y}^{(n)}) = \begin{vmatrix} x_1^{(1)} e^{\lambda_1 t} & \dots & x_1^{(n)} e^{\lambda_n t} \\ x_2^{(1)} e^{\lambda_1 t} & \dots & x_2^{(n)} e^{\lambda_n t} \\ \cdot & \dots & \cdot \\ x_n^{(1)} e^{\lambda_1 t} & \dots & x_n^{(n)} e^{\lambda_n t} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= e^{(\lambda_1 t + \dots + \lambda_n t)} \begin{vmatrix} x_1^{(1)} & \dots & x_1^{(n)} \\ x_2^{(1)} & \dots & x_2^{(n)} \\ \cdot & \dots & \cdot \\ x_n^{(1)} & \dots & x_n^{(n)} \end{vmatrix}$$

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The exponential  $\neq 0$ , nor is the determinant, because the columns are the lin indept eigenvectors forming a basis. So, when the constant matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  has a linearly indept set of eigenvectors, the corresponding solutions  $\mathbf{y}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{y}^{(n)}$  are a basis of solutions for  $\mathbf{y}' = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}$ , and a general solution is

$$\mathbf{y} = c_1 \mathbf{x}^{(1)} e^{\lambda_1 t} + \dots + c_n \mathbf{x}^{(n)} e^{\lambda_n t}.$$

### Example 1: Node

$$\mathbf{y}' = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{3}{2} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{y}; \quad \begin{aligned} y_1' &= -\frac{3}{2}y_1 + \frac{1}{2}y_2 \\ y_2' &= \frac{1}{2}y_1 - \frac{3}{2}y_2 \end{aligned}$$

Characteristic equation

$$|\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I}| = \begin{vmatrix} -3/2 - \lambda & 1/2 \\ 1/2 & -3/2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 + 3\lambda + 2$$

Eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 = -1$ ,  $\lambda_2 = -2$ . Eigenvectors satisfy  $(\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I})\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$ ,

$$(-3/2 - \lambda)x_1 + x_2/2 = 0.$$

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For  $\lambda_1 = -1$ ,  $-x_1 + x_2 = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{x}^{(1)} = (1 \ 1)^T$ ;

For  $\lambda_2 = -2$ ,  $x_1 + x_2 = 0 \Rightarrow \mathbf{x}^{(2)} = (1 \ -1)^T$ ;

General solution

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} &= c_1 \mathbf{y}^{(1)} + c_2 \mathbf{y}^{(2)} \\ &= c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} e^{-t} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} e^{-2t} \end{aligned}$$

Each choice of arbitrary constants  $c_1, c_2$  gives a path in the  $y_1, y_2$ -plane. For  $c_2 = 0, c_1 > 0$  is a ray  $y_1 = y_2$  in the first quadrant;  $c_2 = 0, c_1 < 0$  is the ray  $y_1 = y_2$  in the third quadrant. For  $c_1 = 0$  and  $c_2 < 0$  or  $c_2 > 0$ , obtain the rays  $y_1 = -y_2$  in 4th and 2nd quadrants. If both  $c_1 \neq 0, c_2 \neq 0$ , there is a curve tangent to the  $\mathbf{x}^{(1)}$  direction at  $\mathbf{0}$ .

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## **Improper Node**

There are only two directions at **0**.

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## Proper Node

There are solution curves in any direction at the origin  $\mathbf{0}$ . For example,

$$\mathbf{y}' = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{y}$$

has a proper node at  $\mathbf{0}$  because the general solution is  $\mathbf{y} = c_1(1 \ 0)^T e^{2t} + c_2(0 \ 1)^T e^{2t}$ ,  
or  $c_2 y_1 = c_1 y_2$ .

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## Example 2: Saddle Point

$$y' = \mathbf{A}y = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & -8 \\ 4 & -5 \end{bmatrix} y, \quad y(0) = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Node has real eigenvalues of the **same sign**, and solution curves all travel in the same direction: either towards  $\mathbf{0}$  or away from  $\mathbf{0}$ .
- Saddle point has two real eigenvalues of **opposite** sign: so there is an **attractive direction** ( $\lambda_2 < 0$ ) and a **repelling direction** ( $\lambda_1 > 0$ ).

Characteristic eqn

$$\det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I}) = \begin{vmatrix} 7 - \lambda & -8 \\ 4 & -5 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 - 2\lambda - 3 = 0,$$

$\lambda_1 = 3$ ,  $\lambda_2 = -1$ . Eigenvectors given by  
 $(7 - \lambda)x_1 - 8x_2 = 0$ .

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$$\lambda_1 = 3 \Rightarrow 4x_1 = 8x_2, \mathbf{x}^{(1)} = (2 \ 1)^T$$
$$\lambda_2 = -1 \Rightarrow 8x_1 = 8x_2, \mathbf{x}^{(2)} = (1 \ 1)^T$$

General solution

$$\mathbf{y} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} = c_1 \mathbf{y}^{(1)} + c_2 \mathbf{y}^{(2)}$$
$$= c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} e^{3t} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} e^{-t}$$

Take  $c_2 = 0$  to give two outward rays, then  $c_1 = 0$  giving the inward rays. For other  $c_1, c_2$ , the path is first attracted (when  $c_1 e^{3t}$  small) to  $\mathbf{0}$ , then repelled (when  $e^{3t}$  term grows and  $e^{-t} \rightarrow 0$ ).

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Initial conditions  $y_1(0) = 3$ ,  $y_2(0) = 0$  give

$$y(0) = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \begin{aligned} 2c_1 + c_2 &= 3 \\ c_1 + c_2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

and  $c_1 = 3$ ,  $c_2 = -3$ . Solution:

$$y = 3 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} e^{3t} - 3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} e^{-t}$$

Another saddle at  $\mathbf{0}$  given by

$$y' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} y,$$

with general solution

$$y = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} e^t + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} e^{-2t}$$

or  $y_1 = c_1 e^t$ ,  $y_2 = c_2 e^{-2t} \Rightarrow y_1^2 y_2 = \text{const.}$

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**Centre** Eigenvalues pure imaginary:

$$y' = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -6 \\ 3/2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} y.$$

$$\det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) = \begin{vmatrix} -\lambda & -6 \\ 3/2 & -\lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 + 9 = 0,$$

so, eigenvalues  $\lambda = \pm 3i$ . Eigenvector constraint  $-\lambda x_1 - 6x_2 = 0$ . For  $\lambda = 3i$ ,  $-3ix_1 - 6x_2 = 0$  and  $\mathbf{x}^{(1)} = (2 \ -i)^T$ . Similarly, for  $\lambda = -3i$ ,  $\mathbf{x}^{(2)} = (2 \ i)^T$ . general solution

$$y = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -i \end{bmatrix} e^{3it} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ i \end{bmatrix} e^{-3it}.$$

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This solution is **complex** and we obtain a **real** solution as follows. Since  $e^{i\theta} = \cos \theta + i \sin \theta$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -i \end{bmatrix} e^{3it} &= \begin{bmatrix} 2 \cos 3t \\ \sin 3t \end{bmatrix} + i \begin{bmatrix} 2 \sin 3t \\ -\cos 3t \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ i \end{bmatrix} e^{-3it} &= \begin{bmatrix} 2 \cos 3t \\ \sin 3t \end{bmatrix} - i \begin{bmatrix} 2 \sin 3t \\ -\cos 3t \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

The real and imaginary parts

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \cos 3t \\ \sin 3t \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \sin 3t \\ -\cos 3t \end{bmatrix}$$

are thus a basis of solutions because

$$W(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) = \begin{vmatrix} 2 \cos 3t & 2 \sin 3t \\ \sin 3t & -\cos 3t \end{vmatrix} = -2 \neq 0.$$

General solution

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = A \begin{bmatrix} 2 \cos 3t \\ \sin 3t \end{bmatrix} + B \begin{bmatrix} 2 \sin 3t \\ -\cos 3t \end{bmatrix}$$

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**Focus (Spiral Point)** Complex eigenvalues (nonzero real part) give a spiral of solutions around  $\mathbf{0}$ , either  $\rightarrow \mathbf{0}$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$  or being repelled from  $\mathbf{0}$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .

$$\mathbf{y}' = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ -4 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{y} .$$

Characteristic equation

$$\det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I}) = \begin{vmatrix} -1 - \lambda & 1 \\ -4 & -1 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = \lambda^2 + 2\lambda + 5 = 0$$

gives eigenvalues  $\lambda = -1 \pm 2i$ . Eigenvectors determined by  $(-1 - \lambda)x_1 + x_2 = 0$ . If  $\lambda = -1 + 2i$ ,  $-2ix_1 + x_2 = 0$  and  $\mathbf{x}^{(1)} = (1 \ 2i)^T$ . If  $\lambda = -1 - 2i$ ,  $2ix_1 + x_2 = 0$  and  $\mathbf{x}^{(2)} = (1 \ -2i)^T$ . General solution

$$\mathbf{y} = c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2i \end{bmatrix} e^{(-1+2i)t} + c_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2i \end{bmatrix} e^{(-1-2i)t} .$$

A real solution is obtained as before:

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$$\begin{aligned}
 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2i \end{bmatrix} e^{(-1+2i)t} &= \begin{bmatrix} e^{-t} \cos 2t \\ -2e^{-t} \sin 2t \end{bmatrix} \\
 &+ i \begin{bmatrix} e^{-t} \sin 2t \\ 2e^{-t} \cos 2t \end{bmatrix} \\
 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2i \end{bmatrix} e^{(-1-2i)t} &= \begin{bmatrix} e^{-t} \cos 2t \\ -2e^{-t} \sin 2t \end{bmatrix} \\
 &- i \begin{bmatrix} e^{-t} \sin 2t \\ 2e^{-t} \cos 2t \end{bmatrix} .
 \end{aligned}$$

Real and imaginary parts are real solutions, and are a basis because the Wronskian

$$\begin{vmatrix} e^{-t} \cos 2t & e^{-t} \sin 2t \\ -2e^{-t} \sin 2t & 2e^{-t} \cos 2t \end{vmatrix} = 2e^{-2t} \neq 0.$$

General solution

$$\mathbf{y} = A \begin{bmatrix} e^{-t} \cos 2t \\ -2e^{-t} \sin 2t \end{bmatrix} + B \begin{bmatrix} e^{-t} \sin 2t \\ 2e^{-t} \cos 2t \end{bmatrix}$$

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In components,  $y_1 = e^{-t}(A \cos 2t + B \sin 2t)$ ,  
and  $y_2 = 2e^{-t}(B \cos 2t - A \sin 2t)$ .

Eliminate  $t$ ,  $y_1^2 + y_2^2/4 = (A^2 + B^2)e^{-2t}$ , a  
**spiral.**

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## No Basis of Eigenvectors

If  $\mathbf{A}$  does not have a basis of eigenvectors, with for example a double eigenvalue  $\mu$  for which there is only one eigenvector  $\mathbf{x}$ , we only have one solution  $\mathbf{y}^{(1)} = \mathbf{x}e^{\mu t}$ . To obtain a second lin indept soln, try

$$\mathbf{y}^{(2)} = \mathbf{x}te^{\mu t} + \mathbf{u}e^{\mu t} \quad \mathbf{u} = ?$$

in the DE  $\mathbf{y}^{(2)'} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}^{(2)}$ . That is,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt}(\mathbf{x}te^{\mu t} + \mathbf{u}e^{\mu t}) &= \mathbf{x}e^{\mu t} + \mu\mathbf{x}te^{\mu t} + \mu\mathbf{u}e^{\mu t} \\ &= \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{x}te^{\mu t} + \mathbf{u}e^{\mu t}). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mu\mathbf{x}$ , dividing by  $e^{\mu t}$ ,

$$\mathbf{x} + \mu\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} \Rightarrow (\mathbf{A} - \mu\mathbf{I})\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{x},$$

which can be solved for  $\mathbf{u}$ .

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**Example.**  $y' = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} y.$

Characteristic eqn  $\lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 4 = 0$  with double root  $\lambda = 2$ . Eigenvectors satisfy  $(3 - \lambda)x_1 + x_2 = 0$  and so  $\mathbf{x}^{(1)} = (1 \ -1)^T$ . But

$$(\mathbf{A} - 2\mathbf{I})\mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{u} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix},$$

and  $\mathbf{u} = (0 \ 1)^T$  works, giving

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y} &= c_1 \mathbf{y}^{(1)} + c_2 \mathbf{y}^{(2)} \\ &= c_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} e^{2t} + c_2 \left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} t + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right) e^{2t}. \end{aligned}$$

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## Nonhomogeneous Systems

We will also solve these later with Laplace Transforms. Here are a few examples of solution by Undetermined Coefficients:

### Example 1

$$y' = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} y + \begin{bmatrix} 2t^2 + 6t \\ 4t^2 + 6t + 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} e^{-t}.$$

General solution of homog eqn

$$y_h = c_1 e^{-2t} \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Look for  $y_p = \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}t + \mathbf{w}t^2 + \mathbf{z}e^{-t}$  and determine the vectors  $\mathbf{u}$ ,  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  $\mathbf{w}$ ,  $\mathbf{z}$ . Substituting,

$$y'_p = \mathbf{v} + 2\mathbf{w}t = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 4 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} (\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{v}t + \mathbf{w}t^2) + \begin{bmatrix} 2t^2 + 6t \\ 4t^2 + 6t + 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

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Equating terms in  $t^2$ ,

$$0 = -w_1 + 4w_2 + 2, \quad 0 = w_1 + 2w_2 + 4 \\ \Rightarrow w_1 = -2, \quad w_2 = -1.$$

Using the terms in  $t$ :

$$2w_1 = -v_1 + 4v_2 + 6, \quad 2w_2 = v_1 + 2v_2 + 6 \\ \Rightarrow v_1 = -2, \quad v_2 = -3,$$

and from the constant terms

$$v_1 = -u_1 + 4u_2, \quad v_2 = u_1 + 2u_2 + 1 \\ \Rightarrow u_1 = -2, \quad u_2 = -1.$$

So, the general solution is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y} &= \mathbf{y}_h + \mathbf{y}_p \\ &= c_1 e^{-2t} \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &\quad + \begin{bmatrix} -2 - 2t - 2t^2 \\ -1 - 3t - t^2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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## Example 2: Modification Rule

$$\mathbf{y}' = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{3}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{3}{2} \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{y} + \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} e^{-t}.$$

General solution of homog eqn is a node (see Example on node):

$$\mathbf{y}_h = c_1 e^{-t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^{-2t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Since  $\lambda = -1$  is an eigenvalue of  $\mathbf{A}$ , we must modify the function  $\mathbf{y}_p$  to try as

$$\mathbf{y}_p = \mathbf{u}te^{-t} + \mathbf{v}e^{-t}.$$

$$\mathbf{y}'_p = \mathbf{u}e^{-t} - \mathbf{u}te^{-t} - \mathbf{v}e^{-t}$$

$$= \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{u}te^{-t} + \mathbf{v}e^{-t}) + \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} e^{-t}$$

Cancelling  $e^{-t}$  and equating the coefficients of  $t$  gives  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{u} = -\mathbf{u}$ , so  $\mathbf{u}$  is an eigenvector of  $\mathbf{A}$ , and must be of the form  $\mathbf{u} = \alpha(1 \ 1)^T$ .

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Equating the constant terms gives

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v} + \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = -\mathbf{v} + \alpha \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$-\frac{v_1}{2} + \frac{v_2}{2} = \alpha - 3$$

$$\frac{v_1}{2} - \frac{v_2}{2} = \alpha - 1.$$

These eqns have a solution only if

$$\alpha - 3 = -(\alpha - 1),$$

and  $\alpha = 2$ , & then  $v_1 - v_2 = 2$ . Any solution of this will do, say  $v_1 = 2$ ,  $v_2 = 0$ , so  $\mathbf{v} = (2 \ 0)^T$  and

$$\mathbf{y}_p = 2te^{-t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + e^{-t} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{y} = c_1 e^{-t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + c_2 e^{-2t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \\ + 2te^{-t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} + e^{-t} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

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