

Putting It Together

eigenvalues/vectors

solving a system of  
linear differential  
equations

Motivating Problem: Solving a system  
of linear, first-order differential equations.

Ex Solve

$$\frac{dv}{dt} = v(t) - w(t)$$

$$\frac{dw}{dt} = 2v(t) + 4w(t)$$

$$v(0) = 40$$

$$w(0) = 10$$

Solution:  $v(t) = 90e^{2t} - 50e^{3t}$

$$w(t) = -90e^{2t} + 100e^{3t}$$

Connection:

$$u(t) = \begin{bmatrix} v(t) \\ w(t) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$u(0) = \begin{bmatrix} 40 \\ 10 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\frac{du}{dt} = Au$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Write (formulate) the system as a matrix vector product, with some initial conditions

② Use your Calc I knowledge:

Q Find  $y=f(x)$  such that  $\frac{dy}{dx} = ay$  and  $y(0)=C$

A  $y = C e^{ax}$

check  $\frac{d}{dx} [C e^{ax}] = C e^{ax} \cdot a = a(C e^{ax}) = ay \checkmark$

and  $y(0) = C e^{a \cdot 0} = C \checkmark$

Generalize to  $u(t)$ .

Conjecture:  $u(t) = C e^{at}$

called a  
pure  
exponential  
solution

$$u(t) = \begin{bmatrix} v(t) \\ w(t) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v(0) \\ w(0) \end{bmatrix} e^{at} = \begin{bmatrix} v(0) e^{at} \\ w(0) e^{at} \end{bmatrix}$$

Consequence:

$$Au = \frac{du}{dt} = \begin{bmatrix} v(0) e^{at} \cdot a \\ w(0) e^{at} \cdot a \end{bmatrix} = a \begin{bmatrix} v(0) e^{at} \\ w(0) e^{at} \end{bmatrix} = a u$$

So, we want  $u$  so that  $Au = a u$

So,  $a = \lambda$ , an **eigenvalue** of  $A$ .

and  $u$  is an **eigenvector** of  $A$ .

Let's proceed w/ step ② and find the pure exponential solutions for our example.

Ex |  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$ . Find eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

Find eigen values

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 1-\lambda & -1 \\ 2 & 4-\lambda \end{pmatrix} = (1-\lambda)(4-\lambda) - (-1)(2) = \lambda^2 - 5\lambda + 6 \\ = (\lambda-2)(\lambda-3) = 0. \quad \boxed{\text{So } \lambda_1=2, \lambda_2=3.}$$

Find associated eigenvectors.

$$\lambda_1=2: \begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{rref}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ or } x_1+x_2=0. \text{ Pick } x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_2=3: \begin{bmatrix} -2 & -1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \xrightarrow{\text{rref}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ or } x_1 + \frac{1}{2}x_2 = 0. \text{ Pick } x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Pure Exponential Solutions

$$u_1 = C e^{2t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} C e^{2t} \\ -C e^{2t} \end{bmatrix}, \quad u_2 = D e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} D e^{3t} \\ -2D e^{3t} \end{bmatrix}$$

It's easy to check that  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  satisfy  $\frac{du}{dt} = Au$ . (See next page  $\rightarrow$ )

Check that  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  are solutions to the system  $\frac{du}{dt} = Au$ .

$$\bullet \frac{du_1}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} ce^{2t} \\ -ce^{2t} \end{pmatrix} = 2 \begin{pmatrix} ce^{2t} \\ -ce^{2t} \end{pmatrix} = 2ce^{2t} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$Au_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} ce^{2t} \\ -ce^{2t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2ce^{2t} \\ -2ce^{2t} \end{pmatrix} = 2ce^{2t} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

← equal ✓

$$\bullet \frac{du_2}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} de^{3t} \\ -2de^{3t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3de^{3t} \\ -6de^{3t} \end{pmatrix} = 3de^{3t} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$Au_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} de^{3t} \\ -2de^{3t} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3de^{3t} \\ -6de^{3t} \end{pmatrix} = 3de^{3t} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

← equal ✓

③ Use your knowledge of linear functions.

$$\text{Since } u_1 = C e^{2t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } u_2 = D e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$$

satisfy  $\frac{du}{dt} = Au$ , then any linear combination of  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  will also be a solution.

So  $u(t) = C e^{2t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + D e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$  is a solution to  $\frac{du}{dt} = Au$ .

Now find  $C$  and  $D$  to satisfy  $u(0) = \begin{bmatrix} 40 \\ 10 \end{bmatrix}$ .

At  $t=0$ ,

$$\begin{bmatrix} 40 \\ 10 \end{bmatrix} = u(0) = C \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} + D \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ or } \begin{cases} C + D = 40 \\ -C - 2D = 10. \end{cases}$$

Solve:  $D = -50, C = 90$

$$\text{Answer: } u(t) = 90 e^{2t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} - 50 e^{3t} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix} \text{ or}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} v(t) &= 90 e^{2t} - 50 e^{3t} \\ w(t) &= -90 e^{2t} + 100 e^{3t} \end{aligned} \right] \text{ We already checked that this is correct!}$$

## Nutshell

- ① Transform the system of differential equations to matrix-vector form, obtaining a matrix  $A$  of coefficients.
- ② Find the eigenvalues and associated eigenvectors of  $A$ .
- ③ Use the eigenvalues/vectors to obtain pure exponential solutions to the diffy. equ.
- ④ Solve for a solution to the system with initial conditions using a linear combination of pure exponential solutions.