

1. Find the general solution of the pair of differential equations,

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 5x - 3y, \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = 2x,$$

by differentiating the first equation and then using the second to obtain a linear second-order DE for  $x(t)$ . (Your solution should have *two* arbitrary constants of integration.) Find the particular solution satisfying the initial conditions  $x = 2$ ,  $y = 1$  when  $t = 0$ .

2. The DE of the previous problem can be written in matrix-vector form as

$$\frac{d}{dt}z = Mz, \quad z = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \quad M = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -3 \\ 2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The general solution is given by  $z(t) = e^{Mt}z_0$ . Compute  $e^{Mt}$  explicitly in this example following these steps:

- (a) Find the eigenvalues of  $M$ , i.e. the roots of the characteristic polynomial  $\det(M - \lambda I)$ .
  - (b) Find the eigenvectors of  $M$ , i.e. the vectors  $v_i$  that satisfy  $Mv_i = \lambda_i v_i$ .
  - (c) Form the matrix  $T$  whose columns are  $v_i$  and verify that  $T^{-1}MT = D$  where  $D$  is diagonal with eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  as diagonal entries.
  - (d) Finally compute  $e^{Mt} = Te^{Dt}T^{-1}$  where  $e^{Dt} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{\lambda_1 t} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\lambda_2 t} \end{pmatrix}$ .
  - (e) Verify that for the initial condition  $z_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$  the solution  $e^{Mt}z_0$  is the same as found in the previous problem.
3. The following is a model for an arms race between two superpowers  $X$  and  $Y$ . Denote the level of preparation of  $X$  for war by  $x(t)$  and that of  $Y$  by  $y(t)$ , where  $t$  represents time. The model consists of the equations,

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = -ax + by, \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = cx - dy,$$

where  $a, b, c$  and  $d$  are positive constants.

- (a) Eliminate  $y$  to obtain a second-order homogeneous linear DE for  $x(t)$ .
- (b) Write down the auxiliary equation of this DE, and its general solution in terms of its roots  $m_1$  and  $m_2$ . Show that if  $ad > bc$  then both roots of the auxiliary equation must be negative. What does this suggest about the likelihood of war?
- (c) Suppose  $a = d = 1$ ,  $b = c = 3$ , and that  $x = 5$ ,  $y = 1$  at the initial time  $t = 0$ . Find the particular solution for  $x$  and  $y$ . What can you conclude about the likelihood of war in this case?
- (d) Briefly discuss the assumptions underlying the model. Do you think these assumptions are realistic?

1. Consider the system of linear first order equations

$$\dot{z} = Mz$$

where  $z$  is a vector and  $M$  a square matrix of the same dimension. The general solution is given by  $z(t) = e^{Mt}z_0$ . In order to compute  $e^{Mt}$  we need to compute powers of  $M$ . When  $M$  can be diagonalised by a matrix  $T$  then we have  $M^i = TD^iT^{-1}$  where  $D = T^{-1}MT$  is diagonal. This problem is about the case when  $M$  cannot be diagonalised. For a  $2 \times 2$  non-diagonalisable matrix  $M$  there exist an invertible matrix  $T$  such that

$$T^{-1}MT = J \quad \text{where} \quad J = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

- (a) Derive the formula  $M^i = TJ^iT^{-1}$  for powers of  $M$ .
- (b) Proof by induction that  $J^i = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda^i & i\lambda^{i-1} \\ 0 & \lambda^i \end{pmatrix}$ .
- (c) Use these two results to sum the series of  $e^{Mt}$  in this case. Thus show that

$$e^{Mt} = T \begin{pmatrix} e^{\lambda t} & te^{\lambda t} \\ 0 & e^{\lambda t} \end{pmatrix} T^{-1}.$$

- (d) Re-derive the result using the following observation:  $M = \lambda I + N$  where  $N = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ .

Because  $I$  and  $N$  commute,  $IN = NI$ , we can write  $e^{(\lambda I + N)t} = e^{\lambda It}e^{Nt}$ . Now observe that  $N$  is nilpotent, i.e.  $N^2$  is the zero-matrix, and hence  $e^{Nt}$  is very simple.

- (e) When solved via a 2nd order equation, which case does this correspond to?

2. Consider the pair of differential equations

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 7x - 2y, \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = 2x + 3y.$$

- (a) Obtain a second-order differential equation for  $x(t)$  and find its general solution.
- (b) Find the associated general solution for  $y(t)$ .
- (c) Show that, if  $x(0) > y(0)$ , then  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  increase without limit as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Conversely, if  $x(0) < y(0)$ , show that  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  decrease without limit as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ .
- (d) Find the particular solution for  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  satisfying the initial conditions  $x(0) = 2$ ,  $\dot{y}(0) = 1$ .
- (e) Confirm explicitly that the expressions you have obtained for  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  obey the first order equations given in part (a).

3. For the system of two first order equation  $\dot{z} = Mz$  with general matrix  $M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$ , find a criterion on the matrix  $M$  such that the origin is an asymptotically stable equilibrium.