

Coupled first order systems

1. (a) Solve $3x + 2y = 0$ and $x = 0$ to find the equilibrium point is $(x, y) = (0, 0)$.
 (b) Solve $3x + 2y + 1 = 0$ and $x + 2y + 4 = 0$ to find the equilibrium point is $(x, y) = (\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{11}{4})$.
 (c) Solve $3x + 6y = 0$ and $2x + 4y = 0$ to find the equilibrium points lie along the line $x = -2y$ and are given parametrically by $(x, y) = (t, -\frac{1}{2}t)$ for all values of the parameter t .
 (d) Solve $x(1 - y) = 0$ and $x - 3y + 2xy = 0$ to find the equilibrium points are $(x, y) = (0, 0)$ and $(x, y) = (1, 1)$.
 (e) Solve $v = 0$ and $x - x^5 = 0$ to find the equilibrium points are $(x, v) = (0, 0)$ and $(x, v) = (\pm 1, 0)$.
 (f) Solve $v = 0$ and $x + x^5 = 0$ to find the equilibrium point is $(x, v) = (0, 0)$.
2. (a) The coupled equations may be written

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 6 \\ 6 & 7 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}.$$

Seek a solution of the form $\mathbf{x} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{a}e^{\lambda t}$. This requires

$$\left[\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 6 \\ 6 & 7 \end{pmatrix} - \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right] \mathbf{a} = 0.$$

A non-trivial solution is admissible if $\begin{vmatrix} -2 - \lambda & 6 \\ 6 & 7 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$. Thus $(\lambda + 2)(\lambda - 7) - 36 = 0$, which factorises to $(\lambda - 10)(\lambda + 5) = 0$. Hence there are two distinct values for λ , namely $\lambda = -5$ and $\lambda = 10$.

When $\lambda = 10$, $\begin{pmatrix} -12 & 6 \\ 6 & -3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} = 0$ and so $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$.

When $\lambda = -5$, $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 6 \\ 6 & 12 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} = 0$ and so $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

The general solution is then

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} e^{10t} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{-5t}, \quad (1)$$

where c_1 and c_2 are constants.

- (b) The phase plane is given in figure 1
- (c) At $t = 0$, $(x, y) = (1, 0)$ and so from (1),

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus $c_1 = 1/5$ and $c_2 = -2/5$ and the solution is

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{5} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} e^{10t} - \frac{2}{5} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{-5t},$$

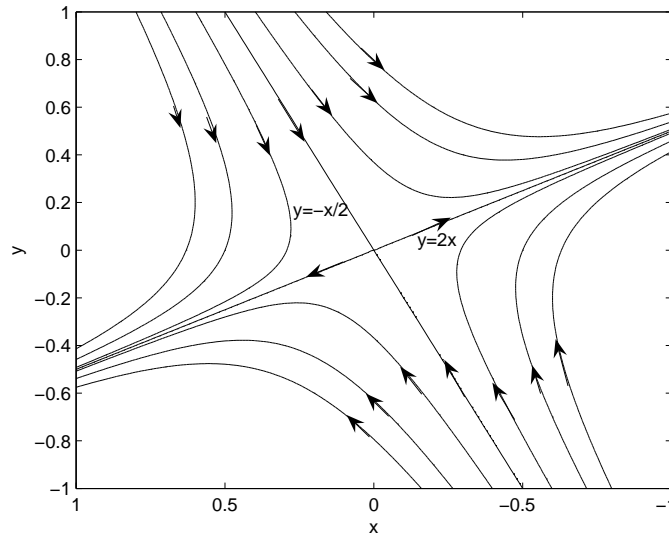


Figure 1: The phase plane for question 2(b).

3. (a) The coupled equations may be written

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 & 2 \\ 2 & 9 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}.$$

Seek a solution of the form $\mathbf{x} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{a}e^{\lambda t}$. This requires

$$\left[\begin{pmatrix} 6 & 2 \\ 2 & 9 \end{pmatrix} - \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right] \mathbf{a} = 0.$$

A non-trivial solution is admissible if $\begin{vmatrix} 6 - \lambda & 2 \\ 2 & 9 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$. Thus $(\lambda - 6)(\lambda - 9) - 4 = 0$, which factorises to $(\lambda - 10)(\lambda - 5) = 0$. Hence there are two distinct values for λ , namely $\lambda = 5$ and $\lambda = 10$.

When $\lambda = 10$, $\begin{pmatrix} -4 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} = 0$ and so $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$.

When $\lambda = 5$, $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{a} = 0$ and so $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$.

The general solution is then

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} e^{10t} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{5t}, \quad (2)$$

where c_1 and c_2 are constants.

- (b) The phase plane is given in figure 2

- (c) At $t = 0$, $(x, y) = (1, 0)$ and so from (2),

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} + c_2 \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus $c_1 = 1/5$ and $c_2 = -2/5$ and the solution is

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{5} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} e^{10t} - \frac{2}{5} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} e^{5t},$$

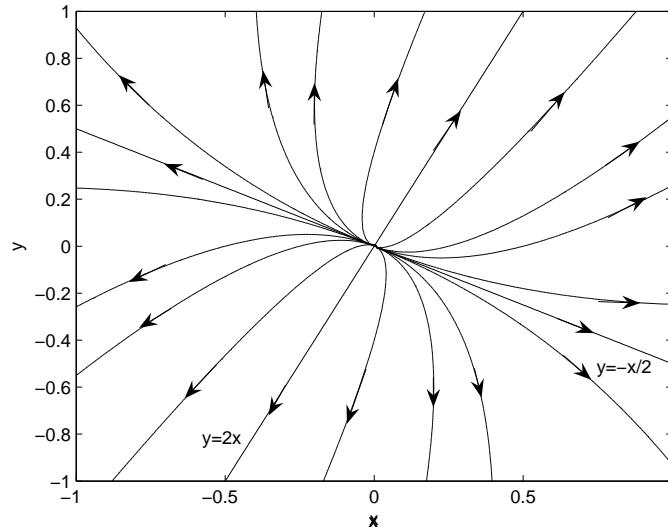


Figure 2: The phase plane for question 3(b).

4. (a) The coupled equations may be written

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}.$$

Seek a solution of the form $\mathbf{x} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{v}e^{\lambda t}$. This requires

$$\left[\begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 3 \end{pmatrix} - \lambda \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right] \mathbf{v} = 0.$$

A non-trivial solution is admissible if $\begin{vmatrix} 1-\lambda & -1 \\ 1 & 3-\lambda \end{vmatrix} = 0$. Thus $(\lambda-1)(\lambda-3)+1=0$, which factorises to $(\lambda-2)^2=0$. Hence there is one two distinct value for λ , namely $\lambda=2$.

When $\lambda=2$, $\begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{v} = 0$ and so $\mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$.

- (b) Now seek an additional solution of the form $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{w}te^{2t} + \mathbf{z}e^{2t}$. The derivative is then given by $\frac{d\mathbf{x}}{dt} \equiv \mathbf{w}(1+2t)e^{2t} + 2\mathbf{z}e^{2t}$ and the governing equation is then of the form

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

Equating the terms in e^{2t} and te^{2t} , we deduce

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{w} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{w}.$$

So we find that $\mathbf{w} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{z} = \begin{pmatrix} -1-b \\ b \end{pmatrix}$, for any b .

So the general solution can be written

$$\mathbf{x} = c_1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} e^{2t} + c_2 \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} te^{2t} + \begin{pmatrix} -1-b \\ b \end{pmatrix} e^{2t} \right),$$

where c_1 and c_2 are constants. Then by writing $c_3 = c_1 - bc_2$, we find

$$\mathbf{x} = c_3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} e^{2t} + c_2 \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} te^{2t} + \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} e^{2t} \right).$$