

## COMPLEX EIGENVALUES

$$\vec{X}' = A\vec{X}$$

①

We now consider cases when  $A$  can have complex eigenvalues.

Ex!

$$\vec{X}' = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 1 \\ -1 & -\frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix}}_A \vec{X}$$

We again start with the same assumption for  $\vec{X}$ .

$$\text{let } \vec{X} = \vec{\xi} e^{st}$$

$$\therefore \vec{X}' = \vec{\xi} s e^{st}$$

Substituting, we have  $\vec{\xi} s e^{st} = A \vec{\xi} e^{st}$

$$\Rightarrow (A - sI) \vec{\xi} = 0$$

Eigenvalues:

$$|A - sI| = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{vmatrix} \frac{1}{2} - s & 1 \\ -1 & -\frac{1}{2} - s \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \left(-\frac{1}{2} - s\right)^2 + 1 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{4} + s^2 + s + 1 = 0 \Rightarrow 4s^2 + 4s + 5 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow s = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{16 - 4 \cdot 4 \cdot 5}}{8} = \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{16(-4)}}{8}$$

$$= \frac{-4 \pm 4(2i)}{4 \cdot 2} = -\frac{1}{2} \pm i$$

$$\therefore s_1 = -\frac{1}{2} + i \quad ; \quad s_2 = -\frac{1}{2} - i$$

NOTE that the eigenvalues are complex conjugates. This will always happen if the elements of  $A$  are real numbers.

Check for correctness of Eigenvalues:

- Sum of eigenvalues = Trace  $(A) = \left(\frac{-1}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) = -1$
- Product of Eigenvalues =  $|A| = \frac{5}{4}$

Eigenvectors:- with  $\lambda_1 = \frac{-1}{2} + i$ :

$$(A - \lambda_1 I) \vec{x}^{(1)} = 0 \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} & 1 \\ -1 & \frac{1}{2} \end{bmatrix} - \left(\frac{-1}{2} + i\right) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right\} \begin{bmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} - i & 1 \\ -1 & \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} - i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} -i & 1 \\ -1 & -i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow \left. \begin{array}{l} -i \cdot \xi_1 + \xi_2 = 0 \\ -\xi_1 - i \xi_2 = 0 \end{array} \right\} \xi_2 = i \xi_1$$

$$\text{If } \xi_1 = 1, \xi_2 = i \Rightarrow \vec{x}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix}$$

with  $\lambda_2 = \frac{-1}{2} - i$ :

$$(A - \lambda_2 I) \vec{x}^{(2)} = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} i & 1 \\ -1 & i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \xi_1 \\ \xi_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \left. \begin{array}{l} i \xi_1 + \xi_2 = 0 \\ -\xi_1 + i \xi_2 = 0 \end{array} \right\} \xi_1 = i \xi_2 \Rightarrow -i \xi_1 = \xi_2$$

If  $\xi_1 = 1$ , then  $\xi_2 = -i$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{\xi}^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix}$$

Again notice that  $\vec{\xi}^{(1)}$  &  $\vec{\xi}^{(2)}$  are complex conjugates.

In the end, you can directly write the ~~second~~ eigenvalue & eigenvector knowing that it is the complex conjugate of the first set.

Solutions:

$$\vec{X}^{(1)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} e^{(\frac{1}{2} + i)t}$$
$$\vec{X}^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{bmatrix} e^{(\frac{1}{2} - i)t}$$

Since  $\vec{X}^{(1)}$  &  $\vec{X}^{(2)}$  are complex quantities, we will try to obtain real quantities to write the general solution.

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{X}^{(1)}(t) &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} e^{(\frac{1}{2} + i)t} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} e^{-\frac{t}{2}} e^{it} \\ &= e^{-\frac{t}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{bmatrix} (\cos t + i \sin t) = e^{-\frac{t}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} \cos t + i \sin t \\ i \cos t - \sin t \end{bmatrix} \\ &= e^{-\frac{t}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix} + i e^{-\frac{t}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} \sin t \\ \cos t \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \vec{u} + i \vec{v}, \end{aligned}$$

$\vec{u}$  &  $\vec{v}$  are real functions.

Since  $\vec{X}^{(1)}(t) = \vec{u} + i\vec{v}$ ,

We should have  $\vec{X}^{(2)} = \vec{u} - i\vec{v}$ .

We can obtain  $\vec{X}^{(2)} = \vec{u} - i\vec{v}$  directly from  $\vec{X}^{(2)} e^{(-\frac{1}{2} - it)}$ .

General Solution:- 
$$\vec{X} = c_1 \vec{X}^{(1)} + c_2 \vec{X}^{(2)}$$
$$= c_1 (\vec{u} + i\vec{v}) + c_2 (\vec{u} - i\vec{v})$$

Combining the constants  $c_1$  &  $c_2$ , we have

$$\vec{X} = (c_1 + c_2) \vec{u} + i(c_1 - c_2) \vec{v}$$

$$\boxed{\vec{X} = c_3 \vec{u} + c_4 \vec{v}}$$

where  $c_3 = c_1 + c_2$ ,  
 $c_4 = i(c_1 - c_2)$

$$\therefore \vec{X} = c_3 e^{-t/2} \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix} + c_4 e^{-t/2} \begin{bmatrix} \sin t \\ \cos t \end{bmatrix}$$

Plotting the two solutions  $\vec{X}^{(1)}$  &  $\vec{X}^{(2)}$  :-

We first need to learn how to plot a trigonometric function in the 2D plane.

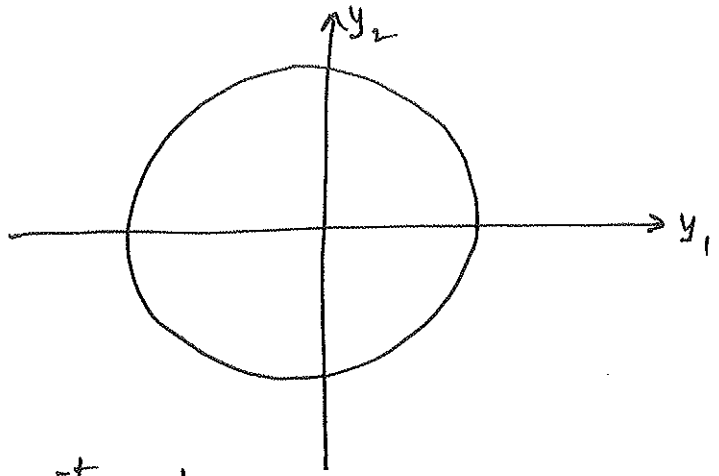
If  $\vec{y} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix}$ , then  $y_1 = \cos t$   
 $y_2 = -\sin t$

$$\Rightarrow y_1^2 + y_2^2 = \cos^2 t + \sin^2 t = 1$$

↳ Equation of a circle.

Therefore without the exponential term

$\vec{y}$  is a circle.



In the presence of the  $e^{-t}$  term,

$$\vec{u} = e^{-t/2} \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix}$$

As  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ;  $\vec{u} \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow$  the circle changes to a spiral.

How to determine direction of the spiral?

Let us transform the original equation:  $\vec{x}' = A \vec{x}$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1' \\ x_2' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1/2 & 1 \\ -1 & -1/2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

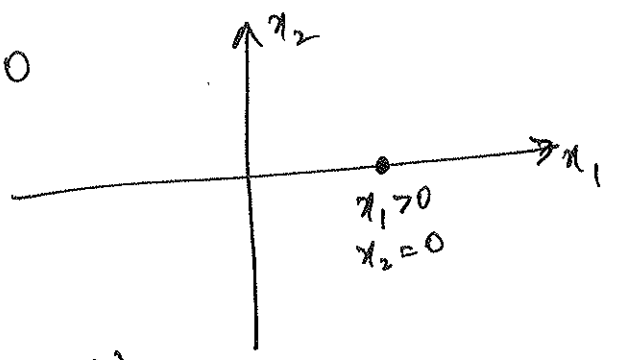
$$\Rightarrow x_1' = -\frac{x_1}{2} + x_2 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$x_2' = -x_1 - \frac{x_2}{2} \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Consider the point  $x_1 > 0$  &  $x_2 = 0$

From equation (2),  $x_2' = -x_1 - \frac{x_2}{2}$

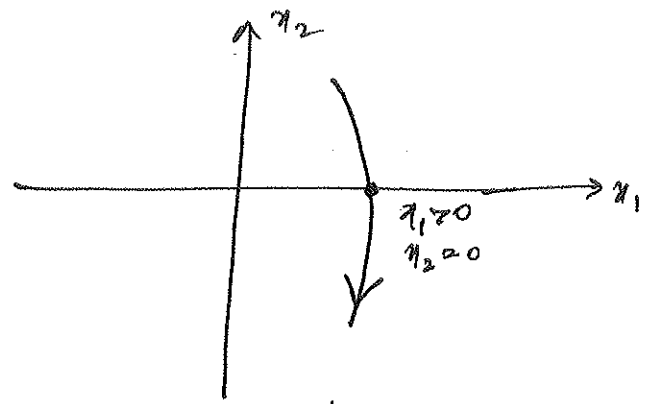
At this point,  $x_2' = -x_1 < 0$  (since  $x_1 > 0$ )



If  $x_2' < 0 \Rightarrow x_2$  decreases from this point.

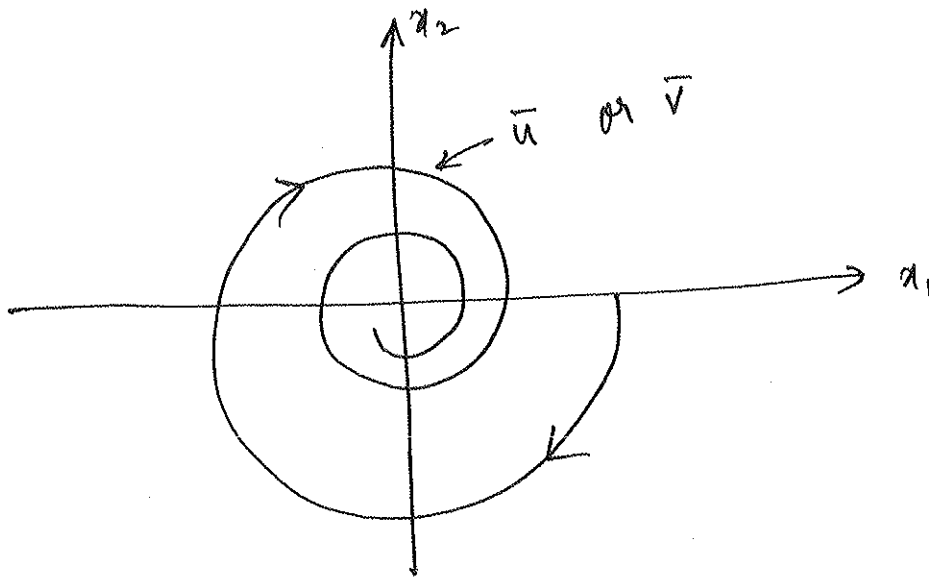
$\Rightarrow$  the curve (spiral) is in the clockwise direction.

e.



$\therefore \vec{u} = e^{+t/2} \begin{bmatrix} \cos t \\ -\sin t \end{bmatrix}$  is a clockwise spiral.

Similarly  $\vec{v}$  is also a clockwise spiral.



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~~One more example :-~~

### Solution Procedure :- for Complex Eigenvalues

- ① Put  $\vec{X} = \vec{\xi} e^{\lambda t}$  in  $\vec{X}' = A\vec{X}$
- ② Obtain Eigenvalues. These will be complex conjugates if  $A$  is a real matrix.

Eigenvalues  $\rightarrow \lambda_{\pm}$

- ③ Using  $\lambda_{+}$ , find the eigenvector. This will be a complex eigenvector.

One of the solutions will be  $\vec{X}^{(1)} = e^{\lambda_{+}t} \vec{\xi}^{(1)}$ .

- ④ Separate the real and imaginary parts of  $\vec{X}^{(1)}$ .  
 i.e;  $\vec{X}^{(1)} = \vec{X}_R + i\vec{X}_I$  ( $\vec{X}_R$  is same as  $\vec{u}$  &  $\vec{X}_I$  is same as  $\vec{v}$ )

⑤ General solution  $\boxed{\vec{X} = C_1 \vec{X}_R + C_2 \vec{X}_I}$

Plotting: Choose a point on one of the axes, say

for  $x_1 > 0$  &  $x_2 = 0$ .

From the equation  $\vec{X}' = A\vec{X}$ , obtain the equation for the second component, i.e;  $x_2' = \dots$

If  $x_2' > 0 \Rightarrow x_2$  increases  $\Rightarrow$

If  $x_2' < 0 \Rightarrow x_2$  decreases  $\Rightarrow$

