

## Phase portrait : Case of distinct, real eigenvalues

Consider the linear system of ODEs

$$\dot{Y} = AY \quad \text{where} \quad Y = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and  $A$  is a real  $2 \times 2$  matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

with two distinct real eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$   
and two eigenvectors

$$u_1 = \begin{pmatrix} p_1 \\ q_1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{corresponding to } \lambda_1$$

$$u_2 = \begin{pmatrix} p_2 \\ q_2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{corresponding to } \lambda_2$$

Since the eigenvectors are linearly independent there is a unique way to decompose  $Y$  into a linear combination of  $u_1$  and  $u_2$

$$Y = \tilde{y}_1 u_1 + \tilde{y}_2 u_2$$

## Proposition

The vector  $\tilde{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{y}_1 \\ \tilde{y}_2 \end{pmatrix}$  of the new coordinates

follows the dynamical system

$$\dot{\tilde{Y}} = \tilde{A} \tilde{Y}$$

where 
$$\tilde{A} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Proof Since  $Y = \tilde{y}_1 u_1 + \tilde{y}_2 u_2$  we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} = \tilde{y}_1 \begin{pmatrix} p_1 \\ q_1 \end{pmatrix} + \tilde{y}_2 \begin{pmatrix} p_2 \\ q_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{y}_1 p_1 + \tilde{y}_2 p_2 \\ \tilde{y}_1 q_1 + \tilde{y}_2 q_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

This transformation can be written in matrix form as

$$Y = U \tilde{Y} \quad \text{where} \quad U = \begin{pmatrix} p_1 & p_2 \\ q_1 & q_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Indeed

$$\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} p_1 & p_2 \\ q_1 & q_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{y}_1 \\ \tilde{y}_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} p_1 \tilde{y}_1 + p_2 \tilde{y}_2 \\ q_1 \tilde{y}_1 + q_2 \tilde{y}_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Since  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  are linearly independent,  $\det U \neq 0$  and therefore  $U$  is INVERTIBLE.

Therefore  $U^{-1} \dot{Y} = \underbrace{U^{-1} U}_{\text{Id}} \tilde{Y}$  implies  $\tilde{Y} = U^{-1} \dot{Y}$  \*

- Differentiating with respect to time Eq. (\*) we get

$$\dot{\tilde{Y}} = U^{-1} \dot{Y} = U^{-1} A Y = U^{-1} A U \tilde{Y}$$

$\uparrow$  using  $\dot{Y} = AY$                        $\uparrow$  using  $Y = U\tilde{Y}$

Putting  $U^{-1} A U = \tilde{A}$  we have shown that

$$\dot{\tilde{Y}} = \tilde{A} \tilde{Y} \quad \text{where} \quad \tilde{A} = U^{-1} A U$$

$U$  is the matrix of eigenvectors of  $A$  so it diagonalizes matrix  $A$  therefore

$$\tilde{A} = U^{-1} A U = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

□

It follows that

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{\tilde{y}}_1 \\ \dot{\tilde{y}}_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{y}_1 \\ \tilde{y}_2 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \dot{\tilde{y}}_1 = \lambda_1 \tilde{y}_1 \\ \dot{\tilde{y}}_2 = \lambda_2 \tilde{y}_2 \end{cases}$$

$\tilde{y}_1, \tilde{y}_2$  obey

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{y}_1 = D_1 e^{\lambda_1 t} \\ \tilde{y}_2 = D_2 e^{\lambda_2 t} \end{cases} \quad \text{with } Y = \tilde{y}_1 u_1 + \tilde{y}_2 u_2$$

In other words  $\tilde{y}_1(t) = c_1(t)$ ,  $\tilde{y}_2(t) = c_2(t)$  with  $c_1(t)$ ,  $c_2(t)$  indicating the notation used in week 9.

What is the phase portrait in the new coordinates  $\tilde{y}_1, \tilde{y}_2$ ?

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Example  $\dot{Y} = AY$   $A = \begin{pmatrix} -4 & 6 \\ -3 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$

having eigenvalues and eigenvectors

$$\lambda_1 = 2$$

$$u_1 = \begin{pmatrix} p_1 \\ q_1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_2 = -1$$

$$u_2 = \begin{pmatrix} p_2 \\ q_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

It follows that  $U$  is given by

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} p_1 & p_2 \\ q_1 & q_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \det U = 1 - 2 = -1$$

$$U^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det U} \begin{pmatrix} q_2 & -p_2 \\ -q_1 & p_1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\tilde{A} = U^{-1} A U = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} -4 & 6 \\ -3 & 5 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

↑  
check at home

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We have that

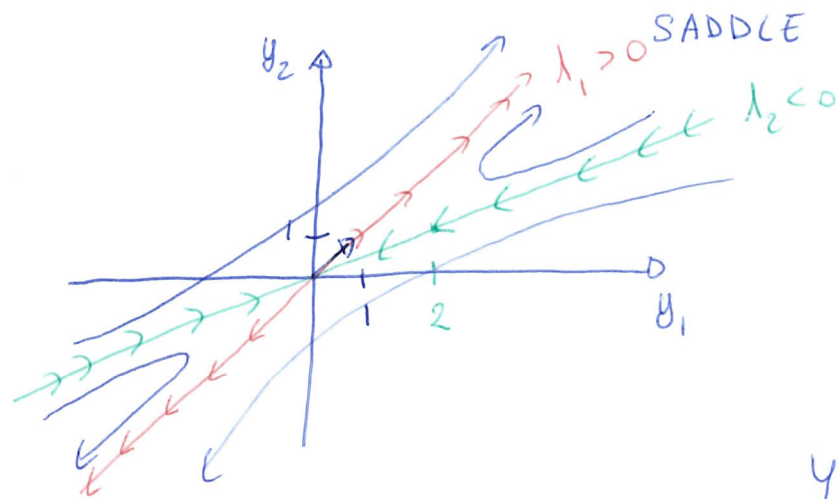
$$Y = \tilde{y}_1 u_1 + \tilde{y}_2 u_2 \quad \text{with} \quad \dot{\tilde{Y}} = \tilde{A} \tilde{Y}$$

Therefore  $\tilde{y}_1$  and  $\tilde{y}_2$  can be interpreted as new coordinates describing the trajectory on the basis of the eigenvectors  $u_1$  and  $u_2$

We can therefore not only consider the phase portrait in the original coordinates  $(y_1, y_2)$  but also in the new coordinates  $(\tilde{y}_1, \tilde{y}_2)$

[Note that only phase portraits in the original coordinates are examinable]

Original coordinates (see example week 9)



$$\lambda_1 = 2 \quad u_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_2 = -1 \quad u_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$y = \tilde{y}_1 u_1 + \tilde{y}_2 u_2$$

The phase portrait can be plotted in the new coordinates

