

Abstract

DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS $\dot{x}(t) = F(x(t))$ define continuous dynamical systems. For linear differential equations $\dot{x} = Ax$ the solution is the **DISCRETE DYNAMICAL SYSTEM** $x(t+1) = Bx(t) = e^A x(t) = Bx(t)$. **LINEAR DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS** are written as $\dot{x} = Ax$ or $p(D)f = 0$. More generally, we can look at $p(D)f = g$. To solve this, factor the polynomial $p(\lambda) = \prod_i (\lambda - \lambda_i)$ to get the homogeneous solution $f(x) = \sum_i a_i e^{\lambda_i x}$ and look then for a special solution. Also systems $\dot{x} = Ax$ are solved by **DIAGONALIZATION**. Each eigenvector v_k satisfying $Av_k = \lambda_k v_k$ and evolves like $v_k(t) = e^{\lambda_k t} v_k$. A general initial condition $x = \sum_k a_k v_k$ evolves then like $x(t) = \sum_k a_k e^{\lambda_k t} v_k$. The same procedure solves **PARTIAL DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS** like the **HEAT** $u_t = D^2 u$ equation including variants like $u_t = (D^2 - D^4)u$ or **WAVE EQUATION** $u_{tt} = D^2 u$ including variants like $u_{tt} = (D^2 - 1)u$ where **FOURIER** diagonalizes D^2 or more generally $p(D^2)$.

Glossary I

COMPLEX NUMBERS $x + iy = r e^{i\theta} = r \cos(\theta) + ri \sin(\theta)$.
LINEAR DISCRETE DYNAMICAL SYSTEM Linear map $x \mapsto Ax$ defines system $\bar{x}(t+1) = A\bar{x}(t)$ with solution $x(t) = A^t x(0)$ for integer t .
ASYMPTOTIC STABILITY $A^n \bar{x} \rightarrow 0$ for all \bar{x} resp solution $x(t) \rightarrow 0$ for $t \rightarrow \infty$.
LINEAR SPACE X If x, y are in X , then $x + y, \lambda x$ are in X . Especially, 0 is in X .
LINEAR MAP $T(x + y) = T(x) + T(y), T(\lambda x) = \lambda T(x)$ and $T(0) = 0$.
DIAGONALIZATION possible if A is symmetric or if all eigenvalues are different.
TRACE $\text{tr}(A) = \text{sum of diagonal entries} = \sum_j \lambda_j$.
DETERMINANT $\det(A) = \text{product of diagonal entries} = \prod_j \lambda_j$.
TRACE AND DETERMINANT Determine stability in two dimensions.
LINEAR DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION $\dot{x} = Ax$, where A is a matrix.
DIFFERENTIAL OPERATOR polynomial $p(D)$ in D . Example $T = p(D) = D^2 + 3D, Tx = x'' + 3x'$.
HOMOGENEOUS DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION $p(D)f = 0$. Example: $f'' + 3f' = 0$.
INHOMOGENEOUS DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION $p(D)f = g$. Example: $f'' + 3f' = \sin(t)$.
1D LINEAR DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION $f' = \lambda f, f(t) = e^{\lambda t} f(0)$.
1D DAMPED HARMONIC OSCILLATOR $f'' + bf' + cf, f(t) = e^{-at}(A \cos(kt) + B \sin(kt))$ if $a \pm ik$ are roots of $\lambda^2 + b\lambda + c = 0$.
LINEAR ODE WITH CONSTANT COEFFICIENTS $p(D)f = g$ like $f''' - f' + 3f = \sin(t)$.
DEGREE OF DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION maximal number of derivatives: $f'''' + f'' = e^t$ has degree 4.
GENERALIZED INTEGRATION $((D - \lambda)^{-1}g)(t) = Ce^{\lambda t} + e^{\lambda x} \int_0^t e^{-\lambda s} g(s) ds$.
HOMOGENEOUS LINEAR ODE $p(D)f = 0$ like for example $f''(t) + f'(t) - 2f(t) = 0$.

Key Points

DIAGONALIZATION is possible for symmetric matrices and if all eigenvalues are different.
STABILITY Eigenvalues determine stability.
CLOSED SOLUTIONS are obtained by using an eigenbasis both in discrete/continuous case.
BASIC DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS $f' = \lambda f, f'' + c^2 f = 0$.
FOURIER BASIS diagonalizes D^2 . Watch even and odd case. For PdE's use sin-series only.
NONHOMOGENEOUS SYSTEMS are solved by operator or cookbook method.
NONLINEAR SYSTEMS can be understood by analyzing equilibrium points.

INNER PRODUCT $(f, g) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} f(x)g(x) dx$.
LENGTH OF FUNCTION $\sqrt{(f, f)} = \|f\|$.
FOURIER SERIES $f(x) = a_0/\sqrt{2} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos(nx) + b_n \sin(nx)$.
FOURIER BASIS $1/\sqrt{2}, \cos(nx), \sin(x)$ for functions on $[-\pi, \pi]$.
FOURIER COEFFICIENTS $a_0 = \langle f, 1/\sqrt{2} \rangle, a_n = \langle f, \cos(nx) \rangle, b_n = \langle f, \sin(nx) \rangle$.
PARSEVAL $a_0^2 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^2 + b_n^2 = \|f\|^2$, if $f(x) = a_0/\sqrt{2} + \sum_{n \geq 1} a_n \cos(nx) + b_n \sin(nx)$.
HEAT EQUATION $f_t = \mu D^2 f$ with solution $f(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nx) e^{-n^2 \mu t}$.
WAVE EQUATION $\ddot{f} = c^2 D^2 f$ with solution $f(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \sin(nx) \cos(nct) + \frac{b_n}{nc} \sin(nx) \sin(nct)$.
HEAT EQUATION VARIANT $\dot{f} = \mu D^2 f - bf$ with solution $f(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \sin(nx) e^{(-n^2 \mu - b)t}$.
WAVE EQUATION VARIANT $\ddot{f} = c^2 D^2 f - bf$ with solution $f(x, t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \sin(nx) \cos(\sqrt{n^2 c^2 + bt}) + \frac{b_n}{nc} \sin(nx) \sin(\sqrt{n^2 c^2 + bt})$.
STABILITY FOR DISCRETE SYSTEMS: $|\lambda_i| < 1$.
STABILITY FOR CONTINUOUS SYSTEMS: $\text{Re}(\lambda_i) < 0$.
NONLINEAR DIFFERENTIAL EQUATION $\dot{x} = f(x, y), \dot{y} = g(x, y)$.
EQUILIBRIUM POINTS points, where $f(x, y) = g(x, y) = 0$.
NULLCLINES are curves, where $f(x, y) = 0$ (x -nullclines) or $g(x, y) = 0$ (y -nullclines).
JACOBEAN $\begin{bmatrix} f_x(x_0, y_0) & f_y(x_0, y_0) \\ g_x(x_0, y_0) & g_y(x_0, y_0) \end{bmatrix}$
 at equilibrium point (x_0, y_0) of $\dot{x} = f(x, y), \dot{y} = g(x, y)$.

Skills

UNDERSTAND LINEAR SPACES, LINEAR MAPS. Distinguish whether linear or not.
SOLVE DISCRETE DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS $x(n+1) = Ax(n)$. By diagonalization.
SOLVE CONTINUOUS DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS $\dot{x} = Ax$. By diagonalization.
SOLVE DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS $p(D)f = g$ by factoring p or using "cookbook".
ASYMPTOTIC STABILITY for continuous dynamical systems (mind discrete/continuous case).
PLOT PHASE SPACE for nonlinear systems: equilibrium points, nullclines, nature of equilibrium points.
MATCH PHASE SPACE WITH SYSTEM. Both linear and nonlinear.
MAKE FOURIER SYNTHESIS of function $f(x)$ on $[-\pi, \pi]$.
KNOW FOURIER BASIS diagonalizes D^2 or $p(D^2)$ like $D^2 - D^4 + 1$.
APPLY PARSEVAL to relate sum of series with length of function.
SOLVE HEAT EQUATION $u_t = p(D^2)$ with given initial condition by diagonalization.
SOLVE WAVE EQUATION $u_{tt} = p(D^2)$ with given initial condition by diagonalization.