



Problem:

We assume SDE $y' = Ay$, where $A_{2 \times 2}$ is a real matrix, and A has only one repeated eigenvalue λ with only one linearly independent eigenvector v and a generalized eigenvector u satisfying $(A - \lambda I)u = v$.

Show that $y = (tv + u) \cdot e^{\lambda t}$ is a solution of $y' = Ay$.



Proof:

First, on the left,

$$\begin{aligned} y' &= (1 \cdot v + 0) \cdot e^{\lambda t} + (t v + u) \cdot \lambda \cdot e^{\lambda t} \\ &= (v + \lambda v \cdot t + \lambda u) e^{\lambda t}. \end{aligned}$$

Since v is an eigenvector of A , $A v = \lambda v$.

Thus, $y' = \underline{(Av \cdot t + v + \lambda u) \cdot e^{\lambda t}}$

On the right,

$$\begin{aligned} Ay &= A(tv + u) e^{\lambda t} \\ &= (Av \cdot t + Au) e^{\lambda t} \end{aligned}$$

Since u is a generalized eigenvector of A ,

$$(A - \lambda I)u = v$$

$$\Rightarrow Au - \lambda u = v$$

$$\Rightarrow Au = v + \lambda u$$

Thus, $Ay = \underline{(Av \cdot t + v + \lambda u) \cdot e^{\lambda t}} = y'$.

Hence,

$y = (tv + u) \cdot e^{\lambda t}$ is a solution of $y' = Ay$. ■