

First Order Linear Homogeneous Systems

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subspace of $C((a, b), \mathbb{R}^n)$

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- Show the n solutions form a basis.
 - ◇ linearly independent
 - ◇ span whole solution space

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$\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(k)}$ are linearly dependent on (a, b) means they are linearly dependent elements in $C((a, b), \mathbb{R}^n)$.

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Remark (3) \implies (2) and (2) \implies (1)

do not require $\mathbf{x}^{(i)}$'s are solutions to system.

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By E&U Theorem, $\boldsymbol{\varphi} = \mathbf{0}$.

Definition Let $\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(n)}$ be functions from (a, b) into \mathbb{R}^n .

The *Wronskian* of $\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(n)}$, denoted by $W[\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(n)}]$ or simply W , is the function $W : (a, b) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, defined by

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the square matrix whose i th column is $\mathbf{x}^{(i)}(t)$

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Each y_i gives a solution $\mathbf{x}^{(i)}$ to the system.

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$$W(y_1, y_2)(t) = \begin{vmatrix} y_1 & y_2 \\ y_1' & y_2' \end{vmatrix}$$

- Rewrite DE as *1st order system*.

Each y_i gives a solution $\mathbf{x}^{(i)}$ to the system.

Can consider $W[\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \mathbf{x}^{(2)}]$

Corollary Let $\mathbf{x}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{x}^{(n)}$ be solutions to a homogeneous 1st order system

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$$\mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{P}(t)\mathbf{x}, \quad a < t < b$$

Suppose \mathbf{P} is continuous on (a, b) . Then

$$\dim(\text{solution space}) = n$$

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By E&U Theorem, each IVP has unique solution, denoted by $\mathbf{x}^{(i)}$.

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