

Example

Unit mass moving along z -axis with velocity $v \geq 0$, under external force F and aerodynamic drag $-cv^2$

$$\dot{v} = F - cv^2, \quad \dot{z} = v$$

The force $F_0(t)$ gives the solutions $v_0(t)$ and $z_0(t)$. Consider $x_1 = v - v_0$, $x_2 = z - z_0$ and $u = F - F_0$ and linearize the system:

$$\dot{x}_1 = -2cv_0x_1 + u, \quad \dot{x}_2 = x_1$$

With $a(t) = 2cv_0(t)$

$$\dot{x} = \begin{pmatrix} -a(t) & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} x + \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} u$$

This is a *time-varying* linear system if v_0 is not constant.

When are time-varying linear systems used?

- Linearization around non-equilibrium
- Gain scheduling
- Transients in Kalman filters
- Hybrid systems
- Optimal control, finite horizon
- Periodic phenomena

A general differential equation

$$\dot{x} = f(t, x), \quad x(t_0) = x_0$$

is equivalent to an integral equation

$$x(t) = x_0 + \int_{t_0}^t f(\tau, x(\tau)) d\tau$$

which leads to the iteration

$$x_{j+1}(t) = x_0 + \int_{t_0}^t f(\tau, x_j(\tau)) d\tau$$

If f is Lipschitz continuous the iteration can be shown to converge to a solution for $t_0 \leq t \leq \epsilon$, provided ϵ is small enough.

The linear case

$$\dot{x}(t) = A(t)x(t), \quad x(t_0) = x_0$$

The iteration gives the solution

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}(t) &= \Phi(t, t_0)x_0 \\ \Phi(t, s) &= I + \int_s^t A(\sigma)d\sigma + \int_s^t A(\sigma_1) \int_s^{\sigma_1} A(\sigma_2)d\sigma_2 d\sigma_1 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

The *Peano-Baker series* can be shown to converge for arbitrary t and s .

Special case: $A(t) = A$ (constant)

$$\Phi(t, s) = I + (t-s)A + \frac{(t-s)^2}{2}A^2 + \dots = e^{A(t-s)}$$

Time-varying differential equations in Mathematica

Continued example with $a(t) = 1/(1+t)$ gives

$$\dot{x}_1 = -\frac{x_1}{1+t}, \quad \dot{x}_2 = x_1$$

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Dsolve[{x1'[t] == -x1[t]/(1+t), x2'[t] == x1[t]}, {x1[t], x2[t]}, t]
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$$\left\{ \left\{ x1[t] \rightarrow \frac{C[1]}{1+t}, x2[t] \rightarrow C[2] + C[1] \text{Log}[1+t] \right\} \right\}$$

Example, cont'd

$a(t) = 1/(1+t)$ thus gives

$$A(t) = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{1}{1+t} & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Phi(t,s) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1+s}{1+t} & 0 \\ (1+s) \log \frac{1+t}{1+s} & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

while $a(t) = t$ gives

$$A(t) = \begin{pmatrix} -t & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Phi(t,s) = \begin{pmatrix} e^{(s^2-t^2)/2} & 0 \\ \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} e^{s^2/2} \left(\text{erf}\left(\frac{t}{\sqrt{2}}\right) - \text{erf}\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \right) & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Properties of Φ

$$\Phi(t,t) = I$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \Phi(t,s) = A(t) \Phi(t,s)$$

$$\Phi(t,s) = \Phi(t,\sigma) \Phi(\sigma,s)$$

for all t, s, σ . In particular

$$\Phi(t,s)^{-1} = \Phi(s,t)$$

Linear system solution

$$\dot{x}(t) = A(t)x(t) + B(t)u(t), \quad x(t_0) = x_0$$

is given by

$$x(t) = \Phi(t,t_0)x_0 + \int_{t_0}^t \Phi(t,s)B(s)u(s)ds$$

If $y(t) = C(t)x(t)$, $x_0 = 0$, then

$$y(t) = \int_{t_0}^t h(t,s)u(s)ds$$

where the *impulse response* is

$$h(t,s) = C(t)\Phi(t,s)B(s)$$

Discrete time linear systems

$$x(t+1) = A(t)x(t) + B(t)u(t)$$

Forward solution trivial:

$$x(t_0+1) = A(t_0)x(t_0) + B(t_0)u(t_0)$$

$$x(t_0+2) = A(t_0+1)A(t_0)x(t_0) + A(t_0+1)B(t_0)u(t_0) + B(t_0+1)u(t_0+1)$$

and so on. Compactly written:

$$x(t) = \Phi(t, t_0)x(t_0) + \sum_{j=t_0}^{t-1} \Phi(t, j+1)B(j)u(j)$$

$$\Phi(t, s) = A(t-1) \cdots A(s+1)A(s)$$

The backward solution might not exist or might be non-unique, unless A is invertible.



Carleman linearization

$$\dot{x} = f(x)$$

has an infinite-dimensional linear representation

$$\dot{z} = Az$$

For a system affine in the input:

$$\dot{x} = f(x) + g(x)u$$

there is an infinite dimensional **Carleman bilinearization**

$$\dot{z} = Az + uDz + Bu$$

