

4 March 2025

## Solutions 3 : Bifurcations and Reminder of Linear Algebra

### 1 Laser Threshold

We model the laser dynamics with the equation  $\dot{n} = GnN - kn$ , where  $n(t) > 0$  is the number of photons in the laser field. In the laser medium the photons decay exponentially due to mirror transmission, scattering, and so on, which explains the  $-kn$  term. The photons are created by stimulated emission, when a photon interacts with an excited atom, which de-excites and emits a photon with the same phase, explaining the term  $+GnN$ . ( $N(t) > 0$  is the number of excited atoms, which depends on time, and  $G > 0$  is the gain coefficient.) We initially assume that  $N = N_0 - \alpha n$ , where  $N_0 > 0$  is the number of atoms that the pump keeps excited in the absence of photons. The parameter  $\alpha > 0$  is a proportionality constant that indicates the decrease of the number of excited atoms because of the presence of photons.

- (a) Find the differential equation for  $n$  and rescale  $n$  so that the laser dynamics depend only on one parameter.

Insert  $N(n)$  into the equation gives

$$\dot{n} = Gn(N_0 - \alpha n) - kn = (GN_0 - k)n - G\alpha n^2 \quad \text{so} \quad \frac{\dot{n}}{n} = (GN_0 - k) - G\alpha n \quad (1)$$

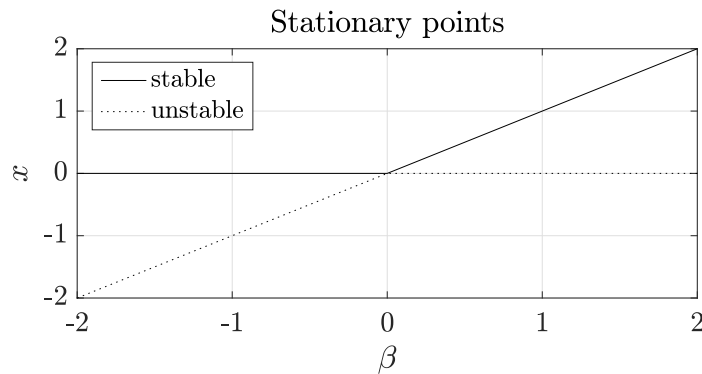
We define  $x = G\alpha n$  and  $\beta = GN_0 - k$  so that Eq (1) becomes

$$\frac{\dot{x}}{x} = \beta - x \quad \text{that is} \quad \dot{x} = \beta x - x^2 \quad (2)$$

and depends only on the parameter  $\beta$ , which can take any real value.

- (b) Find the equilibrium points of  $n$ . What are their stability properties? Identity the bifurcation type as you vary the identified parameter and draw the bifurcation diagram. When are the stationary points physically acceptable?

The stationary points are solutions to  $0 = \beta x^* - x^{*2} \Leftrightarrow x^* = 0$  or  $x^* = \beta$ . This means  $n = 0$  and  $n = (GN_0 - k)/(G\alpha)$ . The second stationary point only makes physical sense if  $\beta > 0$  since the number of photons  $n$  is positive. So  $\beta > 0 \Rightarrow GN_0 > k$ . For the stability, we evaluate  $\frac{\partial \dot{x}}{\partial x} = \beta - 2x$ . Since  $\frac{\partial \dot{x}}{\partial x}|_{x=0} = \beta$ ,  $x^* = 0$  is stable when  $\beta < 0$  and becomes unstable when  $\beta > 0$ . Also  $\frac{\partial \dot{x}}{\partial x}|_{x=\beta} = -\beta$ , so  $x^* = \beta$  is stable when  $\beta > 0$  and unstable when  $\beta < 0$ . As the graph shows, this is a transcritical bifurcation.



- (c) What is the threshold condition to emit laser light?

The pump strength controls  $N_0$ . To emit laser light, we need the number of photons  $n$  to have a stable positive value. This means  $\beta > 0$ , i.e.  $N_0 > k/G$  is the threshold condition.

To improve the model, the number of excited atoms is assumed to follow  $\dot{N} = -GnN - fN + p$ . The  $-GnN$  is the counterpart to the stimulated emission.  $f > 0$  is the decay rate for spontaneous emission.  $p$ , positive or negative, is the pump strength. We use the quasi-static approximation  $\dot{N} \approx 0$ , assuming that  $N$  relaxes much faster than  $n$ .

- (d) Derive the new differential equation for  $n$  and renormalise the time and the density so that the model depends only on one parameter.

From 
$$\dot{N} = 0 = -GnN - fN + p$$

We have 
$$N = \frac{p}{Gn + f}$$

It follows that 
$$\dot{n} = Gn \frac{p}{Gn + f} - kn$$

That is 
$$\frac{\dot{n}}{k} = n \left( \frac{Gp/k}{Gn + f} - 1 \right)$$

We introduce the dimensionless time,  $kt = \tau$ , so that  $\frac{1}{k}\dot{n} = \frac{dt}{d\tau} \frac{dn}{dt} = \frac{dn}{d\tau}$ . Also we define  $x = Gn/f$ .

$$\frac{dn}{d\tau} = n \left( \frac{Gp/k}{Gn + f} - 1 \right) \Leftrightarrow \frac{dn}{d\tau} \frac{G}{f} = \frac{G}{f} n \left( \frac{Gp/fk}{Gn/f + 1} - 1 \right) \Leftrightarrow \frac{dx}{d\tau} = x \left( \frac{\gamma}{x + 1} - 1 \right)$$

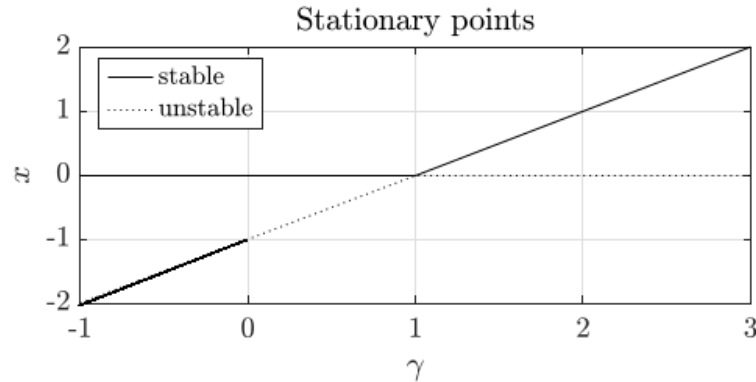
The dynamics depend on only one parameter,  $\gamma = \frac{Gp}{fk}$ , which is dimensionless and has the same sign as  $p$ .

- (e) Find the equilibrium points as well as their stability properties. What is the critical pump strength threshold?

The stationary condition  $0 = x^* \left( \frac{\gamma}{x^* + 1} - 1 \right)$  leads to  $x^* = 0$  or  $0 = \frac{\gamma}{x^* + 1} - 1$  that is  $x^* = \gamma - 1$ , which is physically acceptable when  $\gamma > 1$ . To determine the stability, we differentiate

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{dx}{d\tau} \right) = \gamma \frac{1 \cdot (x + 1) - x \cdot 1}{(x + 1)^2} - 1 = \frac{\gamma}{(x + 1)^2} - 1$$

At  $x^* = 0$ , we have  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{dx}{d\tau} \right) = \gamma - 1$ . At  $x^* = \gamma - 1$ , it is  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( \frac{dx}{d\tau} \right) = \frac{1}{\gamma} - 1$ . The bifurcation diagram is very similar to the one evaluated in question (b).



The critical pump strength is such that  $1 = \gamma = \frac{Gp}{fk} \Leftrightarrow p = \frac{fk}{G}$ .

## 2 Laser threshold with an advanced model

For a laser model considerably improved with respect to the one considered in the first exercise, we introduce the electric field  $E$ , the mean polarisation  $P$  and the population inversion  $D$ . They follow the Maxwell-Bloch equations :

$$\begin{cases} \dot{E} = \kappa(P - E) \\ \dot{P} = \gamma_1(ED - P) \\ \dot{D} = \gamma_2(\lambda + 1 - D - \lambda EP) \end{cases}$$

The constant  $\kappa > 0$  is the decay rate in the laser cavity due to beam transmission.  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2 > 0$  are the decay rates of the atomic polarization and population inversion.  $\lambda$ , positive or negative, is the pumping strength. If  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2 \gg \kappa$  then the adiabatic elimination can be used, where  $\dot{P} = 0$  and  $\dot{D} = 0$ . Using the adiabatic approximation, simplify the evolution equation of  $E$ . Then, plot the bifurcation diagram of  $E$  with respect to the parameter  $\lambda$ .

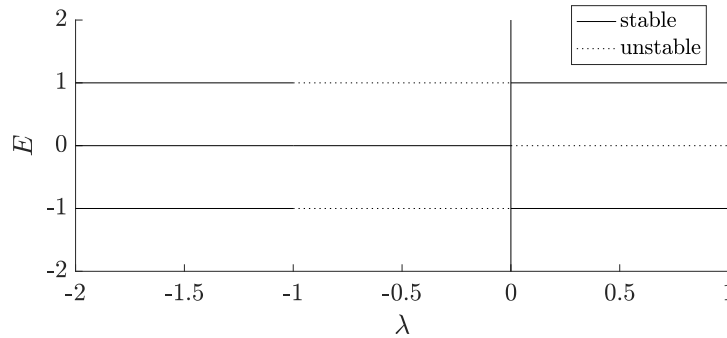
The adiabatic approximation gives  $\dot{P} = 0 = \gamma_1(ED - P)$  that is  $P = ED$ . Similarly  $\dot{D} = 0 = \gamma_2(\lambda + 1 - D - \lambda EP)$  implies  $0 = \lambda + 1 - D - \lambda E^2 D$  that is  $D = \frac{\lambda+1}{1+\lambda E^2}$ . So the important result is

$$\dot{E} = \kappa(E \frac{\lambda+1}{1+\lambda E^2} - E) = \kappa E \frac{\lambda+1-1-\lambda E^2}{1+\lambda E^2} = \kappa E \lambda \frac{1-E^2}{1+\lambda E^2}$$

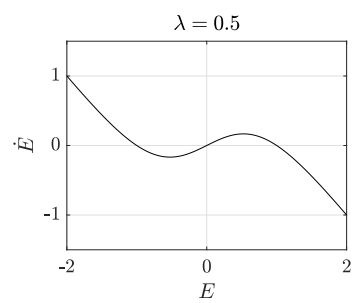
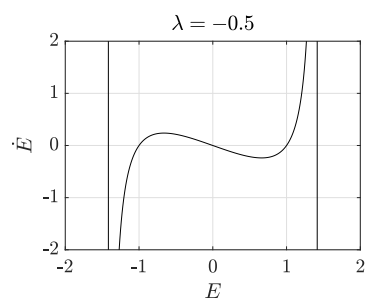
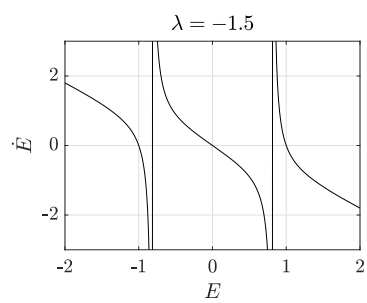
Using the dimensionless time  $\tau = \kappa t$  gives  $\frac{dE}{d\tau} = \lambda E \frac{1-E^2}{1+\lambda E^2}$ . The stationary points are  $E^* = 0$  and  $0 = 1 - E^{*2}$  that is  $E^* = \pm 1$ . Their stability depend on the sign of

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial E} \left[ \frac{dE}{d\tau} \right] &= \lambda \frac{(1-3E^2)(1+\lambda E^2) - (E-E^3)2\lambda E}{(1+\lambda E^2)^2} \\ &= \lambda \frac{1-3E^2 + \lambda E^2 - 3\lambda E^4 - 2\lambda E^2 + 2\lambda E^4}{(1+\lambda E^2)^2} \\ &= \lambda \frac{1-3E^2 - \lambda E^2 - \lambda E^4}{(1+\lambda E^2)^2} \end{aligned}$$

At  $E^* = 0$  we have  $\frac{\partial}{\partial E} \left[ \frac{dE}{d\tau} \right] = \lambda \frac{1-0-0-0}{(1+0)^2} = \lambda$ , stable when  $\lambda \leq 0$  and unstable when  $\lambda > 0$ . At  $E^* = \pm 1$  we have  $\frac{\partial}{\partial E} \left[ \frac{dE}{d\tau} \right] = \lambda \frac{1-3-\lambda-\lambda}{(1+\lambda)^2} = \lambda \frac{-2-2\lambda}{(1+\lambda)^2} = \frac{-2\lambda}{1+\lambda}$ . This is stable except when  $\lambda \in ]-1, 0[$ . Note that at  $\lambda = 0$ , the differential equation becomes  $\dot{E} = 0$  so all values of  $E$  are stationary points. The bifurcation diagram is therefore



There are three regions where the function  $\dot{E}(E)$  has qualitatively different shapes and consequently different stability properties of the fixed point. These plots show these different characteristic shapes.



### 3 Exponential of a Matrix and Systems of Linear Differential Equations

As a warm up for the analysis of multi-dimensional non-linear systems, we recall how multi-dimensional linear systems can be solved and how the exponential of a matrix can be evaluated.

- (a) A square matrix  $N$  is nilpotent if there exists  $m_* \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $N^m = 0$ ,  $\forall m > m_*$ . Compute the powers of the upper shift matrix of size 4, i.e.

$$N = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Use a computer if necessary. Notice the pattern? Is this a nilpotent matrix?

We can see that it is a nilpotent matrix, as the diagonal of ones moves up and disappears.

$$N^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad N^3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad N^4 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (b) Find the exponential of the upper shift matrix  $N$ .

Reminder : For matrices,  $\exp(M) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{M^n}{n!} = I + M + \frac{1}{2}M^2 + \dots$

$$\exp(N) = I + N + \frac{1}{2}N^2 + \frac{1}{6}N^3 + 0 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1/2 & 1/6 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- (c) What is the exponential of a diagonal matrix?

$$\exp(D) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{D^n}{n!} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1^n & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2^n & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3^n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} e^{\lambda_1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{\lambda_2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{\lambda_3} \end{bmatrix}$$

- (d) Compute the exponential of a Jordan block  $J_\lambda$ , that is

$$\exp(J_\lambda) = \exp \left( \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

Hint : If two matrices,  $A$  and  $B$ , commute (i.e.  $[A, B] = AB - BA = 0$ ), then  $\exp(A + B) = \exp(A) \exp(B)$ .

Since  $J_\lambda = \lambda I + N_3$  and  $[\lambda I, N_3] = 0 \Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} \exp \left( \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} \right) &= \exp \left( \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} \right) \exp \left( \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} e^\lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^\lambda \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} e^\lambda & e^\lambda & e^\lambda/2 \\ 0 & e^\lambda & e^\lambda \\ 0 & 0 & e^\lambda \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

(e) Show that the matrix

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

can be written as a Jordan block under a basis transformation and evaluate the proper transition matrix.

Reminder : Suppose a 3 by 3 matrix  $M$  can be written as  $J_\lambda$  by changing basis, i.e. there exists a transition matrix  $P$  such that  $M = PJ_\lambda P^{-1}$ .  $P$  is the  $3 \times 3$  matrix whose columns are the three new basis vectors side by side. To find the basis vectors notice that if  $M$ , represented in the  $\{v_1, v_2, v_3\}$  basis, is written

$$\begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix}$$

then, by definition,

$$\begin{cases} Mv_1 = \lambda v_1 \\ Mv_2 = \lambda v_2 + v_1 \\ Mv_3 = \lambda v_3 + v_2 \end{cases}$$

Indeed, the basis vectors can be found by solving

$$\begin{cases} (M - \lambda I)v_1 = 0 \\ (M - \lambda I)v_2 = v_1 \\ (M - \lambda I)v_3 = v_2 \end{cases}$$

To find the eigenvector we solve  $M - 3I = 0$ .

$$(M - 3I)v_1 = 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} 2y - z = 0 \\ 0 = 0 \\ -y = 0 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} z = 0 \\ 0 = 0 \\ y = 0 \end{cases}$$

We can choose  $v_1 = e_1 = [1 \ 0 \ 0]^T$ , as one could have seen directly when looking at the matrix  $M$ . To find the second basis vector, solve  $(M - 3I)v_2 = v_1$ .

$$(M - 3I)v_2 = v_1 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} 2y - z = 1 \\ 0 = 0 \\ -y = 0 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} z = -1 \\ 0 = 0 \\ y = 0 \end{cases}$$

Indeed any vector of the form  $[x \ 0 \ -1]^T$  does the job. We can choose for example  $v_2 = [0 \ 0 \ -1]^T$ . Finally, we find  $v_3$ .

$$(M - 3I)v_3 = v_2 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} 2y - z = 0 \\ 0 = 0 \\ -y = -1 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} z = 2 \\ 0 = 0 \\ y = 1 \end{cases}$$

Again any vector  $[x \ 1 \ 2]^T$  does the job. Choose the simplest one  $v_3 = [0 \ 1 \ 2]^T$ . The transition matrix  $P$  is just  $[v_1, v_2, v_3]$  side by side, so :

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = PJ_3P^{-1}$$

- (f) Using the properties of the matrix exponential, explicitly compute the solution of the system  $\dot{\vec{x}} = M\vec{x}$ , with  $\vec{x}(t_0) = \vec{x}_0 = [x_{01}, x_{02}, x_{03}]^T$ .

Reminder :  $\exp(A B A^{-1}) = A \exp(B) A^{-1}$

The solution is  $\vec{x}(t) = \exp[M(t - t_0)]\vec{x}_0$ . Thus we need  $\exp[M\tau]$  (with  $\tau = t - t_0$ ). To do so, first compute  $\exp[J_3\tau]$

$$\exp\left(\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \tau\right) = \exp\left(\begin{bmatrix} 3\tau & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3\tau & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3\tau \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \tau & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right)$$

The two matrices commute, since the first one is a scalar matrix.

$$\begin{aligned} & \exp\left(\begin{bmatrix} 3\tau & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 3\tau & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3\tau \end{bmatrix}\right) \cdot \exp\left(\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \tau & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right) \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} e^{3\tau} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{3\tau} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{3\tau} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \tau & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & \tau^2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\right) \\ &= e^{3\tau} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \tau & \tau^2/2 \\ 0 & 1 & \tau \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Plugging this result in gives

$$\begin{aligned} \exp(M\tau) &= P \exp(J_3\tau) P^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} e^{3\tau} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \tau & \tau^2/2 \\ 0 & 1 & \tau \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \\ &= e^{3\tau} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2\tau + \tau^2/2 & -\tau \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -\tau & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore the solution is

$$\vec{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} [x_{01} + (2(t - t_0) + (t - t_0)^2/2)x_{02} - (t - t_0)x_{03}]e^{3(t-t_0)} \\ x_{02}e^{3(t-t_0)} \\ [-(t - t_0)x_{02} + x_{03}]e^{3(t-t_0)} \end{bmatrix}$$

### A general reminder on the exponentials of matrices :

Any matrix  $M$  can be written in the Jordan normal form  $M = PJP^{-1}$ , with  $J$  composed of Jordan blocks like equation (3) and  $P$  a transition matrix. The number of Jordan blocks associated with the eigenvalue  $\lambda_n$  is the number of eigenvectors that  $M$  has for this eigenvalue. For example, consider

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 1 & 0 & & & & \\ 0 & \lambda_1 & 1 & & & & \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_1 & & & & \\ & & & (0) & & & \\ & & & & \lambda_1 & & \\ & & & & & \lambda_2 & \\ & & & & & & (0) \\ & & & & & & & \lambda_3 & 1 \\ & & & & & & & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

For  $\lambda_1$ , there are two eigenvectors (There is a Jordan block of size 3, and a second block of size 1.) For  $\lambda_2$ , there is one eigenvector. For  $\lambda_3$ , there is also only one eigenvector (we have a Jordan block of size 2).

To find the basis in which  $M$  is written as  $J$  one has to :

- Find all the eigenvalues and as many linearly independent eigenvectors as possible.
- If there is only one eigenvector  $v_\lambda$ , but the algebraic multiplicity of the eigenvalue is  $g_\lambda > 1$ , find other generalized eigenvectors by solving  $(M - \lambda I)v_\lambda^{(2)} = v_\lambda$ , then  $(M - \lambda I)v_\lambda^{(3)} = v_\lambda^{(2)}$  and so on until you have  $g_\lambda$  generalized eigenvectors.
- If there are multiple eigenvectors for the same eigenvalue  $\{v_{\lambda,1}, v_{\lambda,2}, \dots, v_{\lambda,n}\}$ , but the algebraic multiplicity of the eigenvalue is  $g_\lambda > n$ , then one has to find the eigenvectors  $v_{\lambda,*} = \sum_i a_i v_{\lambda,i}$  that are in the image of  $M - \lambda I$ . Only for these eigenvectors there exists rank 2 generalized eigenvectors satisfying  $(M - \lambda I)v_{\lambda,*}^{(2)} = v_{\lambda,*}$ . Continue similarly to find the rank 3 generalized eigenvectors until you have  $g_\lambda$  generalized eigenvectors.

As an example, let us find the Jordan normal form of matrix  $M$ , whose only eigenvalue is 2, as well as a transition matrix  $P$ .

$$M_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 4 & -2 \\ -1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

First, we find an eigenvector basis.

$$(M_2 - 2I)v = 0 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -2 \\ -1 & 2 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} 0 = 0 \\ -x + 2y - 2z = 0 \\ -x + 2y - 2z = 0 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow x = 2(y - z)$$

A possible basis is  $\{[2 \ 1 \ 0]^T, [-2 \ 0 \ 1]^T\}$ . But since the image of  $M_2 - 2I$  is  $\text{Span}([0 \ 1 \ 1]^T)$ , a proper basis to be used is  $v_1 = [2 \ 1 \ 0]^T$  and  $v_2 = [0 \ 1 \ 1]^T$ . Note that indeed  $v_2 - v_1 = [-2 \ 0 \ 1]^T$ . Now we find the generalized eigenvector that gives the Jordan normal form.

$$(M_2 - 2I)v_3 = v_2 \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -2 \\ -1 & 2 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} 0 = 0 \\ -x + 2y - 2z = 1 \\ -x + 2y - 2z = 1 \end{cases} \Leftrightarrow x = 2(y - z) - 1$$

We can take  $[-1 \ 0 \ 0]^T$ , which gives

$$M_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 4 & -2 \\ -1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = PJP^{-1}$$

Now, let us compute  $\exp(M_3)$ , with

$$M_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 & -1 & & \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & & (0) \\ 0 & -1 & 3 & & \\ & & & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ (0) & & & -1 & 4 & -2 \\ & & & -1 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$



We use Mathematica to compute the inverse matrix  $P^{-1}$  and the matrix multiplications. Blocks can be treated separately. Using the previous exercises

$$M_3 = PJP^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & (0) \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & & \\ & & & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ & (0) & & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ & & & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 & 0 & & \\ 0 & 3 & 1 & & (0) \\ 0 & 0 & 3 & & \\ & & & 2 & 0 & 0 \\ & (0) & & 0 & 2 & 1 \\ & & & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & (0) \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & & \\ & & & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ & (0) & & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ & & & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

So the exponential is

$$\exp(M_3) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & (0) \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & & \\ & & & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ & (0) & & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ & & & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} e^3 & e^3 & e^3/2 & & \\ 0 & e^3 & e^3 & & (0) \\ 0 & 0 & e^3 & & \\ & & & e^2 & 0 & 0 \\ & (0) & & 0 & e^2 & e^2 \\ & & & 0 & 0 & e^2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & (0) \\ 0 & -1 & 2 & & \\ & & & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ & (0) & & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ & & & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}^{-1}$$

That is

$$\exp(M_3) = \begin{bmatrix} e^3 & \frac{5e^3}{2} & -e^3 & & \\ 0 & e^3 & 0 & & (0) \\ 0 & -e^3 & e^3 & & \\ & & & e^2 & 0 & 0 \\ & (0) & & -e^2 & 3e^2 & -2e^2 \\ & & & -e^2 & 2e^2 & -e^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

On Mathematica this can be done very quickly using `MatrixExp`.