

# Math 33B - Final Exam Review Sheet

## 1. Classification of the Equilibria of $\mathbf{y}' = A\mathbf{y}$

where  $A$  is a  $2 \times 2$  matrix with trace  $T$  and determinant  $D$

### Generic Cases:

- Real eigenvalues, one positive, one negative ( $D < 0$ ): **Saddle**
- Distinct real e-values, both negative ( $D > 0$ ,  $T^2 - 4D > 0$ ,  $T < 0$ ): **Nodal Sink**
- Distinct real e-values, both positive ( $D > 0$ ,  $T^2 - 4D > 0$ ,  $T > 0$ ): **Nodal Source**
- Complex e-values with negative real part ( $T^2 - 4D < 0$ ,  $T < 0$ ): **Spiral Sink**
- Complex e-values with positive real part ( $T^2 - 4D < 0$ ,  $T > 0$ ): **Spiral Source**

### Degenerate Cases:

- Purely imaginary eigenvalues ( $D > 0$ ,  $T = 0$ ): **Center**
- Negative e-value of multiplicity two ( $T^2 - 4D = 0$ ,  $T < 0$ ): **Degenerate Sink**  
(Like a nodal sink, but a solution may curve significantly as it approaches the origin, like it's "almost" a spiral.)
- Positive e-value of multiplicity two ( $T^2 - 4D = 0$ ,  $T > 0$ ): **Degenerate Source**  
(Like a nodal source, but a solution may curve significantly as it leaves the origin, like it's "almost" a spiral.)
- One of the eigenvalues is 0 ( $D = 0$ ): **No Catchy Name**  
In this case there are infinitely many equilibria, arranged along a line in the plane. If  $T < 0$  they are all stable. If  $T > 0$ , they are all unstable. If  $T = 0$  they are neither. All other solutions are straight lines.

## 2. Qualitative Analysis of Autonomous Nonlinear Systems: $\begin{cases} x' = f(x, y) \\ y' = g(x, y) \end{cases}$

- The  **$x$ -nullcline** is the set of points  $(x, y)$  where  $f(x, y) = 0$ , i.e. where the arrows all point straight up or down. The  **$y$ -nullcline** is the set of points  $(x, y)$  where  $g(x, y) = 0$ , i.e. where the arrows all point straight left or right.
- A point  $(x_0, y_0)$  is an **equilibrium** if  $f(x_0, y_0) = 0$  and  $g(x_0, y_0) = 0$ , i.e. if it is on *both* nullclines.
- The **Jacobian** of the system is the matrix  $J = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} & \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \end{pmatrix}$
- The **linearization** of the system at an equilibrium  $(x_0, y_0)$  is the homogeneous linear system  $\mathbf{y}' = J(x_0, y_0)\mathbf{y}$ .
- If the linearization at  $(x_0, y_0)$  is one of the five generic types (saddle, nodal sink, nodal source, spiral sink, spiral source), then the equilibrium at  $(x_0, y_0)$  is of the same type.

### 3. Fundamental Matrices

- Definition: A **fundamental matrix** for  $A(t)$  is a matrix  $Y(t)$  that is invertible and satisfies  $Y'(t) = A(t)Y(t)$ .
- To compute a fundamental matrix for  $A(t)$ , find  $n$  linearly independent solutions of the  $n \times n$  linear system  $\mathbf{y}'(t) = A(t)\mathbf{y}(t)$ , and create a matrix with those solutions as its columns.
- Given a fundamental matrix  $Y(t)$  for  $A(t)$ , if  $M$  is any invertible constant matrix, then  $Y(t)M$  is also a fundamental matrix for  $A(t)$ , and furthermore all fundamental matrices for  $A(t)$  arise in this way.

### 4. Variation of Parameters for Inhomogeneous Linear Systems

To solve  $\mathbf{y}'(t) = A(t)\mathbf{y}(t) + \mathbf{g}(t)$ , first find a fundamental matrix  $Y(t)$  for  $A(t)$ . Then a solution is given by

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = Y(t) \int Y(t)^{-1} \mathbf{g}(t) dt.$$

### 5. The Matrix Exponential $e^{At}$

- Definition:  $e^{At} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{t^n}{n!} A^n = I + At + \frac{1}{2}A^2t^2 + \frac{1}{6}A^3t^3 + \dots$
- $e^{At}$  is the unique fundamental matrix  $Y(t)$  for  $A$  satisfying  $Y(0) = I$ . Similarly,  $e^{A(t-t_0)}$  is the unique fundamental matrix  $Y(t)$  for  $A$  satisfying  $Y(t_0) = I$ .
- If  $Y(t)$  is any fundamental matrix for  $A$ , then  $e^{At} = Y(t)Y(0)^{-1}$ .
- The solution of the initial value problem  $\mathbf{y}' = A\mathbf{y}$ ,  $\mathbf{y}(t_0) = \mathbf{y}_0$  is

$$\mathbf{y} = e^{A(t-t_0)} \mathbf{y}_0.$$

### 6. Repeated Eigenvalues/Generalized Eigenvectors

If you can't find enough solutions to  $\mathbf{y}' = A\mathbf{y}$  because of a repeated eigenvalue, you must use generalized eigenvectors:

- A vector  $\mathbf{v}$  is called a **generalized eigenvector** for the eigenvalue  $\lambda$  if  $(A - \lambda I)^m \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$  for some  $m$ .
- If  $(A - \lambda I)^m \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{0}$ , then the following is a solution:

$$\mathbf{y} = \left( \mathbf{v} + t(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{v} + \frac{t^2}{2}(A - \lambda I)^2\mathbf{v} + \dots + \frac{t^{m-1}}{(m-1)!}(A - \lambda I)^{m-1}\mathbf{v} \right) e^{\lambda t}$$

- To find generalized eigenvectors and the corresponding solutions, try to solve the following equations in order:

$$(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{0} \quad \text{gives the solution} \quad \mathbf{y} = \mathbf{v}_1 e^{\lambda t}$$

$$(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{v}_1 \quad \text{gives the solution} \quad \mathbf{y} = (\mathbf{v}_2 + t\mathbf{v}_1) e^{\lambda t}$$

$$(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{v}_3 = \mathbf{v}_2 \quad \text{gives the solution} \quad \mathbf{y} = \left( \mathbf{v}_3 + t\mathbf{v}_2 + \frac{t^2}{2}\mathbf{v}_1 \right) e^{\lambda t}$$

$$(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{v}_4 = \mathbf{v}_3 \quad \text{gives the solution} \quad \mathbf{y} = \left( \mathbf{v}_4 + t\mathbf{v}_3 + \frac{t^2}{2}\mathbf{v}_2 + \frac{t^3}{6}\mathbf{v}_1 \right) e^{\lambda t}$$

etc...