

Math 119A  
Winter 2012

∃! Theorem - Wed Jan 18 2012

(1)

Every ODE can be written as a 1st order system:

$$\dot{\underline{x}}(t) = f(\underline{x}(t), t) \quad (*)$$

To solve: "find a function  $x(t)$  such that (\*) holds at every  $t$ "

Ex:  $\ddot{x}(t) + x(t) \dot{x}(t)^2 + x(t) \dot{x}(t) = \sin t$

suppress dependence of  $x$  on  $t$ :

$$\ddot{x} + x \dot{x} + x \dot{x}^2 + x \dot{x} = \sin t$$

Solve for highest order deriv:

$$\ddot{x} = -x \dot{x} - x \dot{x}^2 - x \dot{x} + \sin t = g(x, \dot{x}, t)$$

$$\begin{matrix} x_1 = x \\ x_2 = \dot{x} \end{matrix} \quad \dot{\underline{x}} = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_1 \\ \dot{x}_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ g(x, \dot{x}, t) \end{pmatrix} = f(\underline{x}, t)$$

$$\underline{x} = (x_1, x_2)$$

• Linear:  $\dot{\underline{x}}(t) = A(t) \underline{x}(t) + \underline{b}(t)$   
 $(n \times 1) \quad (n \times n) \quad (n \times 1) \quad (n \times 1)$

"coeff's of  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  are functions of  $t$ .

Linear Homog:  $\dot{\underline{x}}(t) = A(t) \underline{x}(t)$   $b=0$

Linear Homog cl.:  $\dot{\underline{x}} = A \underline{x}$   
 $(n \times 1) \quad (n \times n) \quad (n \times 1)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ \dot{x}_n(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} & & \\ & a_{ij} & \\ & & \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ x_n(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

$n \times 1$                        $n \times n$                        $n \times 1$

Nonlinear autonomous :  $\ddot{\tilde{x}}(t) = f(\tilde{x})$

Ex: Harmonic Oscillator —

$$\ddot{x} + kx = 0 \quad \ddot{x} = -kx$$

$$\begin{array}{l}
 x = x \\
 y = \dot{x}
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{pmatrix} \dot{x} \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y \\ -kx \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -k & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x} \\ y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -k & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix}$$

$2 \times 1 \qquad \qquad 2 \times 2 \qquad \qquad 2 \times 1$

"Harmonic oscillator is equivalent to a 2x2 homo c.c. eqn"

# Existence & uniqueness Theorem -

## Motivation

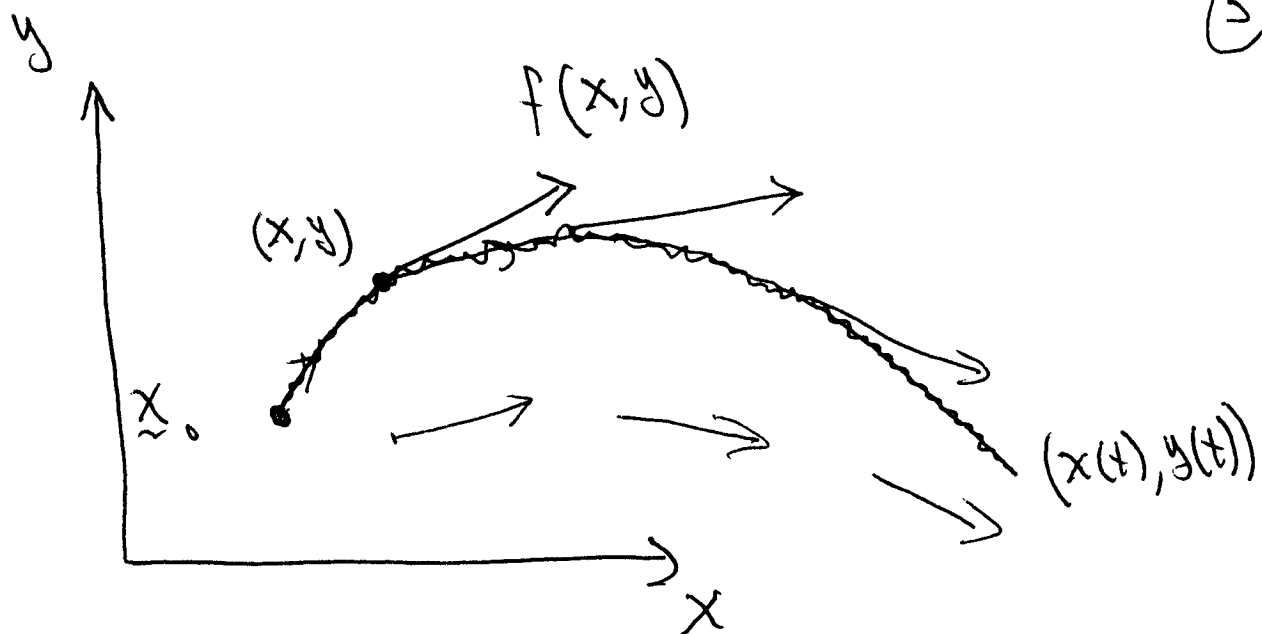
• Its best to visualize a general 1st order ODE  $\dot{\underline{x}} = f(\underline{x})$  as a 2x2 autonomous system:

$$\underline{x} = (x, y)^T :$$

$$\dot{\underline{x}}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \dot{x}(t) \\ \dot{y}(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_1(x, y) \\ f_2(x, y) \end{pmatrix} = f(\underline{x})$$

Defn:  $f(\underline{x})$  is called a vector field

It gives an arrow at each pt  $(x, y)$



•  $\dot{\underline{x}}(t) = f(\underline{x})$  : "Find a curve  $\underline{x}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix}$

whose tangent vector is  $f(x, y)$  at each point"

• If we start at  $\underline{x}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \end{pmatrix}$  at  $t=0$ , there should exist a curve whose tangent vector is  $f(\underline{x}(t))$  at each  $\underline{x}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix}$

• But: it might not exist for all  $t$  when nonlinear because  $\dot{y} = y^2 \Rightarrow y(t) \rightarrow \infty$   
 $t \rightarrow t_x$

# Existence & Uniqueness Theorem -

Stated in terms of 1st order systems

Theorem 1: Let  $\dot{\underline{x}} = f(\underline{x}, t)$  be a general  $n \times n$  system,  $\underline{x}(t) = (x_1(t) \dots x_n(t))^T$ .

Assume  $f$  is Lipschitz continuous

in  $\underline{x}$  in some interval <sup>(nbhd)</sup> containing  $\underline{x}_0$ .

Then a unique solution  $\underline{x}(t)$  exists in some interval  $t \in (t_0 - \epsilon, t_0 + \epsilon)$  satisfying

$$\dot{\underline{x}}(t) = f(\underline{x}(t), t) \tag{1}$$

$$\underline{x}(t_0) = \underline{x}_0 \tag{2}$$

Defn:  $f(\underline{x}, t)$  is Lipschitz continuous in  $\underline{x}$  if  $\exists$  constant  $K > 0$  s.t.

$$\|f(\underline{x}_2, t) - f(\underline{x}_1, t)\| \leq K \|\underline{x}_2 - \underline{x}_1\|$$

for all  $\underline{x}_1$  &  $\underline{x}_2$ .

$$\|\underline{x}\| = \sqrt{x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \dots + x_n^2}$$

Theorem 2: Suppose  $f(\underline{x}, t)$  is Lipschitz continuous in  $\underline{x}$  with the same  $K$  for all  $a \leq t \leq b$ . Then a unique soln  $\underline{x}(t)$  of (1) & (2) exists  $\forall t \in [a, b]$ .

• Note: Thm's 1 & 2 apply to all ODE's of any order & any size.  
(No such unifying thm exists for PDE's)   
 You only have to remember these two thms

Ex ① Prove that  $\dot{x} = kx$  has a unique (8)  
 $x(0) = x_0$   
soln for all time.

(We know  $x(t) = x_0 e^{kt}$  : are there others?)

Soln :  $f(x, t) = kx = f(x)$

$\Rightarrow$  linear, homogeneous, autonomous, CE

$$\|x\| = \sqrt{|x|^2} = |x|$$

$$|f(x_2) - f(x_1)| = |kx_2 - kx_1|$$

$$= k|x_2 - x_1|$$

So  $f$  is Lipschitz continuous with  
const  $K = k$  for all  $t$  (indep of  $t$ !)

$$t \in (-\infty, \infty)$$



By Theorem (2):  $\dot{x} = kx$  has a unique<sup>(3)</sup>  
 $x(t) = x_0$

Soln defined  $\forall t$  ✓

Ex (2): What does Thm (1) tell you  
about solutions of  $\dot{x} = x^2$  ?  
 $x(t) = x_0$

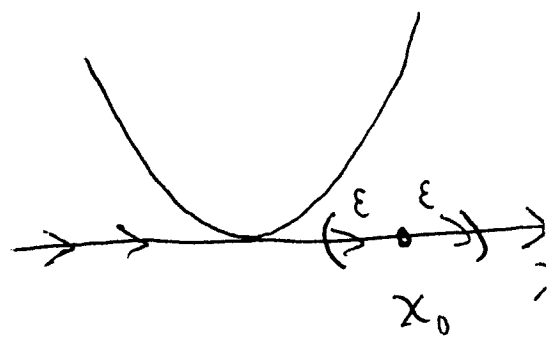
Soln:  $f(x) = x^2$

$$|f(x_2) - f(x_1)| = |x_2^2 - x_1^2| = \underbrace{|x_2 + x_1|}_{\text{Not bounded by } K} |x_2 - x_1|$$

However: in  $(x_0 - \epsilon, x_0 + \epsilon)$

$$K = 2x_0 + 2\epsilon > x_1 + x_2 \quad \forall$$

$$x_1, x_2 \in (x_0 - \epsilon, x_0 + \epsilon)$$



Conclude:  $|f(x_2) - f(x_1)| \leq K|x_2 - x_1|$  in (10)  
some interval around  $x_0$ .  $\Rightarrow$

Thm 1 implies  $\exists!$  soln  $x(t)$  of  $\begin{cases} \dot{x} = x^2 \\ x(0) = x_0 \end{cases}$   
defined in some interval

$$t \in (t_0 - \delta, t_0 + \delta)$$

We know we can't do much better

because the soln  $x(t) = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{x_0} - t}$

Solves  $\dot{x} = x^2$

$$x(0) = x_0$$

$x(t) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow \frac{1}{x_0} \ll 1$  when  $x_0 \gg 1$ !

Ex: ( $\exists!$  fails)

$$\dot{x} = \sqrt{x}$$
$$x(0) = 0$$

Q: does there exist  
a unique soln (11)

$$\int_0^x \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x}} = \int_0^t dt \Rightarrow 2x^{1/2} \Big|_0^x = t \quad 2x^{1/2} = t$$

$$x = \left(\frac{t}{2}\right)^2$$

check:  $x(0) = 0 \checkmark$

$$\dot{x} = \frac{t}{2} = \sqrt{x} \checkmark$$

But:  $x(t) = 0$  also a soln. What goes wrong?

$$|f(x_2) - f(x_1)| = |\sqrt{x_2} - \sqrt{x_1}| \stackrel{?}{\leq} k |x_2 - x_1|$$

for  $x_1, x_2$  near  $x=0$ ? NO! try  $x_1=0$

$$|\sqrt{x_2}| \leq k|x_2|$$

always  $\sqrt{x} > kx$  for  $x$  suff

small  $\Rightarrow$  not Lipschitz w/out!

