

Today: Finish Chapter 1 (well-posedness of ODEs)

A few loose ends: Looked at $y'(x) = F(x, y(x))$

- Systems of ODEs
 - Higher-order ODEs
- } § 1.7

A system of ODEs:

$$y_i'(x) = F_i(x, y_1(x), \dots, y_n(x)), \quad i=1, 2, \dots, n$$

Or, in vector notation:

$$\underline{y}'(x) = \underline{F}(x, \underline{y}(x))$$

Definition (The vector IVP): Given the ODE $\underline{y}'(x) = \underline{F}(x, \underline{y}(x))$ on an interval $x \in I$, the IVP is to find a differentiable solution $\underline{y}(x)$ on a subinterval $J \subseteq I$ such that $\underline{y}(x_0) = \underline{y}_0$ for a given $x_0 \in J$ and $\underline{y}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

We need a Lipschitz condition for $\underline{y}'(x) = \underline{F}(x, \underline{y}(x))$.

There is more than one way to extend the modulus $|\cdot|$ to higher dimensions. For example:

$$\|\underline{y}\|_p = \left(\sum_{i=1}^p |y_i|^p \right)^{1/p}.$$

If we take the limit as $p \rightarrow \infty$, we get:

$$\|\underline{y}\|_\infty = \max_i |y_i| \quad *$$

However, in finite dimensions, all norms are

However, in finite dimensions, all norms are equivalent, e.g.

$$\underline{\|y\|_2} \leq \underline{\|y\|_1} \leq \underline{\sqrt{n} \|y\|_2} \leftarrow \underline{\text{Exercises 1}}$$

So we can just pick whichever norm suits our purposes.

Defⁿ (The Vector Lipschitz Condition) $\underline{F}(x, y)$ satisfies a Lipschitz condition w.r.t. y in a region $D \subset \mathbb{R}^{n+1}$ in the p -norm if there exists a constant $K > 0$ such that

$$\|\underline{F}(x, y_1) - \underline{F}(x, y_2)\|_p \leq K \|y_1 - y_2\|_p$$

for all $(x, y_1), (x, y_2) \in D$.

Theorem 1.5 (Vector Picard's Theorem (second form))

Let $\underline{F}(x, y)$ be continuous for all $x \in [x_0 - a, x_0 + a]$ and $\|y - y_0\|_\infty < \beta$ and let $\underline{F}(x, y)$ satisfy the Lipschitz condition with respect to the ∞ norm with Lipschitz constant K , say. Further, let

$M = \sup \|\underline{F}(x, y)\|$ over the domain. Then

the vector IVP $y'(x) = \underline{F}(x, y(x))$ with $y(x_0) = y_0$

has a unique solution defined on the interval

has a unique solution defined on the interval

$$|x - x_0| \leq \min(\alpha, \beta/M)$$

§ 1.7.2 — Higher-order equations

E.g.

$$y^{(n)}(x) = F(x, y(x), y'(x), \dots, y^{(n-1)}(x))$$

Can be reduced to a system of first-order ODEs.

$$y_1(x) = y(x)$$

$$y_2(x) = y'(x)$$

$\vdots$

$$y_n(x) = y^{(n-1)}(x)$$

$$\frac{dy_n}{dx} = \frac{dy^{(n)}}{dx} \stackrel{\text{IVP}}{=} F(\dots)$$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \begin{bmatrix} y_1(x) \\ \vdots \\ y_{n-1}(x) \\ y_n(x) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} y_2(x) \\ \vdots \\ y_n(x) \\ F(x, y_1(x), \dots, y_n(x)) \end{bmatrix}$$

... n^{th} -order ODE can be reduced to a system of first-order ODEs, to which the previous version of Picard's Theorem can be applied. We will look into this more in Chapter 3.

Rest of the week: Comparison Theorems (Chapter 2)

- Help us to prove some of the results of Chapter 1 in a neater way
- Provide a very powerful tool to do a priori analysis of solutions of ODEs.

Our first result: Gronwall's Inequality

Lemma 2.1 Let $\sigma(x)$ be a differentiable function

Satisfying the differential inequality

$$\sigma'(x) \leq c \cdot \sigma(x) \quad x_0 \leq x \leq b, \quad (1)$$

for some constant c . Then

$$\sigma(x) \leq \sigma(x_0) e^{c(x-x_0)}, \quad x_0 \leq x \leq b.$$

Remark

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dx} \leq c\sigma, \quad \int_{\sigma(x_0)}^{\sigma(x)} \frac{d\sigma}{\sigma} = \int_{x_0}^x c \, dx$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma(x) \leq \sigma(x_0) e^{c \cdot (x-x_0)}$$

Proof: Start with the differential inequality (1) and multiply by e^{-cx} and re-arrange:

$$e^{-cx} \left[\frac{d\sigma}{dx} - c\sigma(x) \right] \leq 0 \cdot e^{-cx} \quad \text{l.f.} = \underline{e^{-c \cdot x}}$$

We can do this because e^{-cx} maintains a positive sign, and hence the direction of the inequality is

sign, and hence the direction of the inequality is preserved.

$$\text{LHS} = \frac{d}{dx} [\sigma(x) \cdot e^{-cx}]$$

$$\text{RHS} = 0$$

$$\text{LHS} \leq \text{RHS}$$

$$\therefore \frac{d}{dx} [\sigma(x) e^{-cx}] \leq 0$$

Hence, $\sigma(x) e^{-cx}$ is non-increasing on $[x_0, b]$.

$$\Rightarrow \sigma(x) e^{-cx} \leq \sigma(x_0) e^{-cx_0}, \quad x \in [x_0, b]$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma(x) \leq \sigma(x_0) e^{c(x-x_0)}, \quad x \in [x_0, b]$$

First application of Gronwall's Inequality (§2.1.1)

Re-visit the IVP $y'(x) = F(x, y(x))$ with

$y(x_0) = y_0$. Gronwall's inequality gives alternative

proofs for

— Uniqueness

— Continuous dependence on initial conditions,

without having to resort to Picard iteration.

without having to resort to Picard iteration.

Method: Let $y(x)$ solve the IVP with initial condition $y(x_0) = y_0$. Also, let $y^{(\delta)}(x)$ solve the IVP with initial condition $y^{(\delta)}(x_0) = y_0 + \delta$.

Let

$$\sigma(x) = \left[y(x) - y^{(\delta)}(x) \right]^2.$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma}{dx} &= 2 \left[y(x) - y^{(\delta)}(x) \right] \left[y'(x) - y'^{(\delta)}(x) \right] \\ &\stackrel{\text{IVP}}{=} 2 \left[y(x) - y^{(\delta)}(x) \right] \left[F(x, y(x)) - F(x, y^{(\delta)}(x)) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\leq 2 \left| y(x) - y^{(\delta)}(x) \right| \left| F(x, y(x)) - F(x, y^{(\delta)}(x)) \right|$$

Lipschitz

$$\leq 2 \underbrace{|y(x) - y^{(\delta)}(x)|} \quad K \underbrace{|y(x) - y^{(\delta)}(x)|}$$

$$= 2K |y(x) - y^{(\delta)}(x)|^2$$

$$= 2K \sigma(x).$$

Hence:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dx} \leq 2K \sigma(x)$$

By Gronwall:

$$2K(x - x_0)$$

By Gronwall:

$$\sigma(x) \leq \sigma(x_0) e^{2k(x-x_0)}.$$

$$\text{But } \sigma(x_0) = |\sigma|^2 = |y(x) - y^{(\delta)}(x)|^2$$

Take square roots

$$|y(x) - y^{(\delta)}(x)| \leq |\sigma| e^{k(x-x_0)}$$

Two results for the price of one:

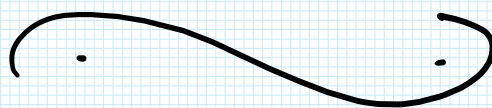
i) Continuous dependence on initial conditions:

$$\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} |y(x) - y^{(\delta)}(x)| = 0$$

ii) Uniqueness: If $\delta = 0$, then

$$|y(x) - y^{(\delta)}(x)| = 0 \quad \forall x$$

$$\Rightarrow y(x) = y^{(\delta)}(x) \quad \text{UNIQUENESS}$$



Comparison Theorems (ch. 2)

Today: General comparison theorem

Let $F(x, y)$ satisfy a Lipschitz condition for x and y , for $x \in [a, b]$. Suppose that $y(x)$ satisfies $y'(x) = F(x, y(x))$. Also, suppose that $z(x)$ satisfies

$$z'(x) \leq F(x, z(x)),$$

for all $x \in [a, b]$. Suppose that $y(x)$ and $z(x)$ have the same initial condition:

$$y(x_0) = z(x_0), \quad \text{some } x_0 \in [a, b].$$

Then:

$$z(x) \leq y(x), \quad \text{for all } x \geq x_0.$$

Proof: $\sigma(x) = z(x) - y(x).$

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma'(x) &= \underbrace{z'(x)} - \underbrace{y'(x)} \\ &\leq \underbrace{F(x, z(x)) - F(x, y(x))} \end{aligned}$$

Lipschitz condition on $F(x, z(x)) - F(x, y(x))$

$$-K |z(x) - y(x)| \leq F(x, z(x)) - F(x, y(x)) \leq K \underbrace{|z(x) - y(x)|}_{\sigma(x)}$$

Put the three highlighted results together:

$$\sigma'(x) \leq K |\sigma(x)| .$$

If $\sigma(x) \leq 0$, then $z(x) \leq y(x)$ and we are done
(Case 1) . Look at Case 2, where $\sigma(x) > 0$.

Therefore, $\sigma'(x) \leq K |\sigma(x)|$ becomes $\sigma'(x) \leq K \cdot \sigma(x)$.

We apply Gronwall's Inequality :

$$\sigma(x) \leq \sigma(x_0) e^{K(x-x_0)} , \quad x \geq x_0 .$$

But $\sigma(x_0) = 0$ (same initial conditions), therefore
 $\sigma(x) \leq 0$, therefore $z(x) - y(x) \leq 0$, therefore :

$$z(x) \leq y(x) , \quad x \geq x_0 .$$

□

Corollary : Let $y'(x) = F(x, y(x))$
 $z'(x) = G(x, z(x))$

with the same initial conditions $y(x_0) = z(x_0)$.

Suppose that F and G have a Lipschitz condition on the second variable . If

$$G(x, y) \leq F(x, y) \quad \text{for all } x \text{ and } y$$

then $z(x) \leq y(x)$, for all $x \geq x_0$.

Example : We can use comparison theorems to do
solutions of ODEs.

a priori analysis of solutions of ODEs.

$$y'(x) = \cosh(x+y(x)) + (y(x))^2.$$
$$y(0) = 0 \quad \geq 1 + (y(x))^2$$

The solution blows up: $y(x) \rightarrow \infty$ as $x \rightarrow x_*$, where $0 < x_* \leq \pi/2$.

To show this, we use the comparison theorems.

We know that $\cosh(z) \geq 1$, so

$$\cosh(x+y(x)) \geq 1.$$

$$\text{Let } F(x,y) = \cosh(x+y) + y^2,$$
$$G(x,y) = 1 + y^2.$$

$$F(x,y) \geq G(x,y).$$

Introduce a second ODE:

$$z'(x) = G(x, z(x)) = 1 + (z(x))^2$$
$$z(0) = 0$$

By comparison theorems, since $G(x, \cdot) \leq F(x, \cdot)$,
 $z(x) \leq y(x)$, for all $x \geq 0$.

ODE for z :

$$\frac{dz}{dx} = 1 + z^2 \quad z(0) = 0.$$

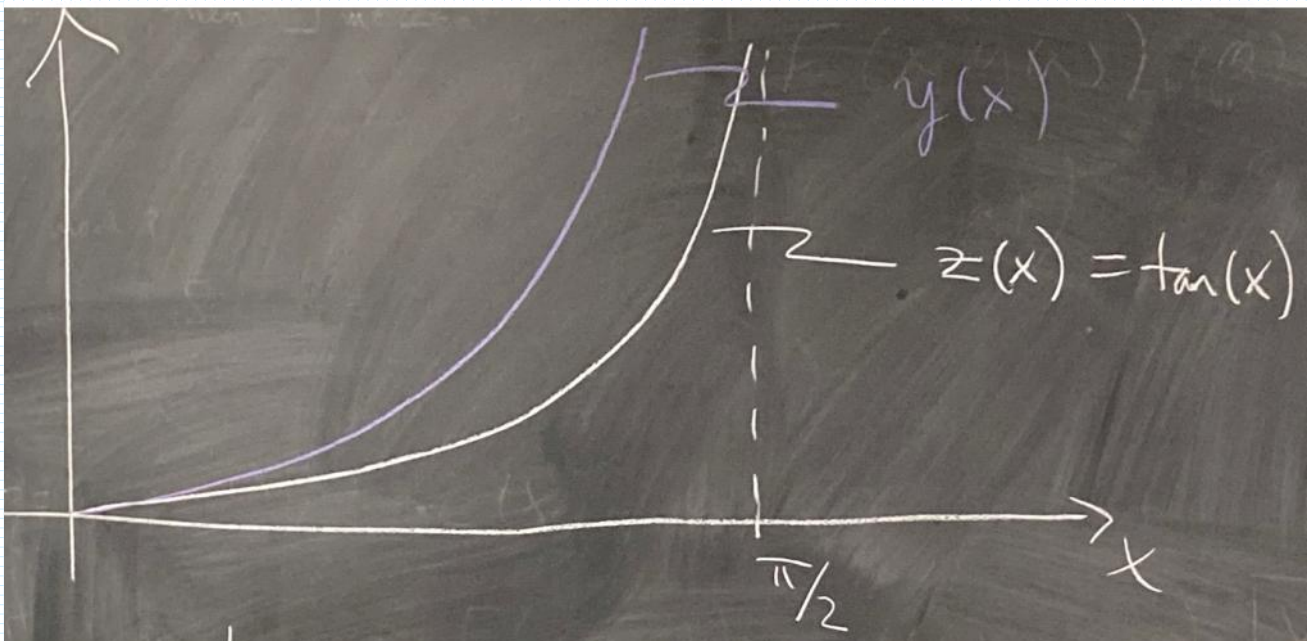
$$\frac{dz}{dx} = 1 + z^2, \quad z(0) = 0.$$

Solution: $z(x) = \tan(x)$.

Since $\tan(x) \rightarrow \infty$ as $x \uparrow \pi/2$, and

$$\underbrace{\tan(x)}_{z(x)} \leq y(x)$$

it follows that there exists $x_* \in (0, \pi/2)$ such that $y(x) \rightarrow \infty$ as $x \uparrow x_*$.



That's all about comparison theorems... for now! (Week 12)

Rest of today's lecture - Exercises #1.

Q1. Prove the statement in Chapter 1 of the lecture notes: If $F(x, y)$ is continuously differentiable

Q1. Prove the statement: ...

notes: If $F(x, y)$ is continuously differentiable

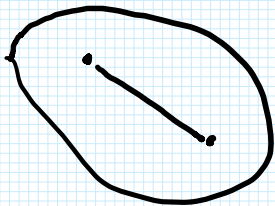
and $(x, y) \in D$ is bounded and convex, then F

satisfies a Lipschitz condition with respect to y , with

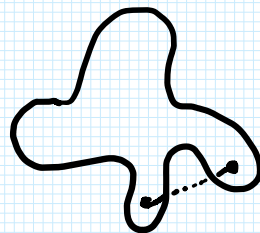
$$K = \sup_{(x, y) \in D} \left| \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \right|.$$

First, we look at the definition of a convex set. A set

D is convex if the line segment joining any two points in D is contained entirely in D .



CONVEX SET



NOT CONVEX

In symbols, a set D is convex, if, given any two points $\underline{x}$ and $\underline{y}$ in D , the line segment

$$\underline{x}(t) = \underline{x} \cdot t + \underline{y}(1-t), \quad t \in [0, 1]$$

is contained entirely in D , for all $t \in [0, 1]$.

Solution to the question: Let $\underline{x}_1 = (x_1, y_1)$ and

$\underline{x}_2 = (x_2, y_2)$ in D . Because D is convex, the

line segment

$$L: \underline{x}(t) = \underline{x}_1(1-t) + \underline{x}_2 t \quad t \in [0,1]$$

is contained entirely in D . Introduce the function $g(t)$ of a single variable:

$$g(t) = F(\underline{x}(t))$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dg}{dt} &= \underline{\nabla} F \cdot \frac{d\underline{x}}{dt} \dots \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Chain rule,} \\ F \text{ is continuously} \\ \text{differentiable} \end{array} \right. \\ &= \underline{\nabla} F \cdot (\underline{x}_2 - \underline{x}_1) \dots \frac{d\underline{x}}{dt} \text{ along } L \end{aligned}$$

Since g is continuously differentiable, by the Mean Value Theorem, there exists a $t_* \in (0,1)$ such that

$$\left. \frac{dg}{dt} \right|_{t_*} = \frac{g(1) - g(0)}{1} = F(\underline{x}_2) - F(\underline{x}_1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} |F(\underline{x}_2) - F(\underline{x}_1)| &= \left| \left. \frac{dg}{dt} \right|_{t_*} \right| \quad \left(\begin{array}{l} \underline{x}_1 = (x_1, y_1) \\ \underline{x}_2 = (x_2, y_2) \end{array} \right) \\ &= \left| \underline{\nabla} F(\underline{x}(t_*)) \cdot (\underline{x}_2 - \underline{x}_1) \right| \end{aligned}$$

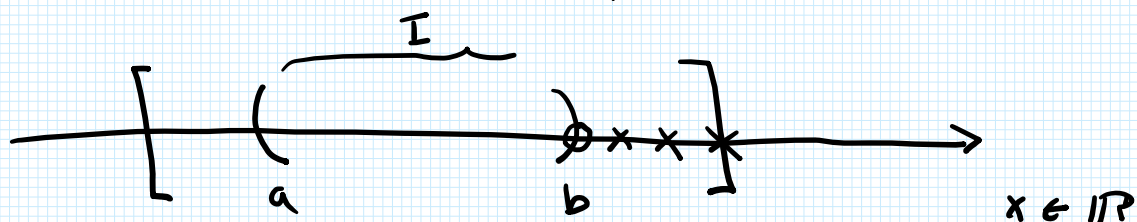
Take $x_1 = x_2 = x$. Hence, $\underline{x}_2 - \underline{x}_1 = (y_2 - y_1) \underline{j}$

$|F(\underline{x}_2) - F(\underline{x}_1)|$ becomes:

$$\begin{aligned}
 |F(x, y_2) - F(x, y_1)| &= \left| \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \Big|_{x=x_1} (y_2 - y_1) \right| \\
 &= \left| \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \Big|_{x=x_1} \right| |y_2 - y_1| \\
 &\leq \underbrace{\sup_{(x, y) \in D} \left| \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \right|}_{K} |y_2 - y_1|
 \end{aligned}$$

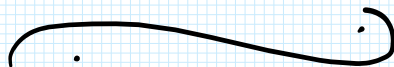
$$\therefore K = \sup_{(x, y) \in D} \left| \frac{\partial F}{\partial y} \right| \quad \square$$

where "sup" means "least upper bound".



$$\sup_{x \in I} x = b.$$

Every bounded set of real numbers has a least upper bound — Completeness Axiom.



Week 2, Lecture 3

30/01/2026

Today

- Wrap up assignment L
- Linear ODEs

Question 1: All finite-dimensional norms are equivalent. That is, if I have two norms $\|\cdot\|_p$ and $\|\cdot\|_q$, then there exist positive constants c_1 and c_2 such that

$$c_1 \|\underline{x}\|_p \leq \|\underline{x}\|_q \leq c_2 \|\underline{x}\|_p,$$

for all $\underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$.

Using the Cauchy-Schwarz inequality, show that the L^1 and L^2 norms are equivalent, such that:

$$\|\underline{x}\|_2 \leq \|\underline{x}\|_1 \leq \sqrt{n} \|\underline{x}\|_2.$$

Solution: We have

$$\|\underline{x}\|_1 = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|$$

Also, take
 $\underline{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$

Take $\underline{y} = (\underline{|x_1|}, \dots, \underline{|x_n|})$, $\underline{a} = (\underline{1}, \underline{1}, \dots, \underline{1})$.

Take

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{a} \cdot \underline{y} &= |x_1| + \dots + |x_n| \\ &\stackrel{\text{cs.}}{\leq} \|\underline{a}\|_2 \|\underline{y}\|_2 \\ &= \|\underline{a}\|_2 \|\underline{x}\|_2 \end{aligned}$$

Hence:

II

$$\|x\|_1 \leq \|a\|_2 \|x\|_2$$

$$= \sqrt{1^2 + \dots + 1^2} \|x\|_2$$

$$= \sqrt{n} \|x\|_2$$

$$\therefore \|x\|_1 \leq \sqrt{n} \|x\|_2 \quad (1)$$

Take

$$\left[|x_1| + \dots + |x_n| \right]^2$$

$$= |x_1|^2 + \dots + |x_n|^2 + 2|x_1||x_2| + \dots$$

$$\geq |x_1|^2 + \dots + |x_n|^2$$

$$= \|x\|_2^2$$

Take square roots:

$$\underbrace{|x_1| + \dots + |x_n|}_{= \|x\|_1} \geq \|x\|_2 \quad (2)$$

Combine (1) and (2):

$$\|x\|_2 \leq \|x\|_1 \leq \sqrt{n} \|x\|_2$$

Question 3 — Look at it yourselves.

Question 4 — ——— " ———.

We will move on to Chapter 3,
linear homogeneous ODEs.

Standard form:

$$p_n(x) y^{(n)}(x) + p_{n-1}(x) y^{(n-1)}(x) + \dots + p_0(x) y(x) = 0, \quad x \in [a, b] \quad (1)$$

Remark:

- $RHS = 0 \Rightarrow$ homogeneous case
- For the homogeneous case, $y(x) = 0$ solves (1) with zero initial conditions.
- We have to assume $p_n(x) \neq 0 \quad \forall x \in [a, b]$.

With $p_n(x)$ different from zero, we can compute the Lipschitz constant in the

∞ norm:

$$K = (n-1) + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \max_{x \in [a, b]} \left| \frac{p_i(x)}{p_n(x)} \right|.$$

(Exercise 2)

Hence, Equation (1) is well posed.

Equation (1) is a linear ODE: $y(x)$ ¹⁴
and its derivatives appear raised to the
zeroth and first powers only.

Clarify: By "solution" I mean a
 $y(x)$ that solves (1), without specifying
initial conditions. By "solution of the IVP"
I mean a $y(x)$ that solves (1) with
specified initial conditions.

Linear independence of solutions (§3.2)

Linear operator:

$$L = p_n(x) \frac{d^n}{dx^n} + p_{n-1}(x) \frac{d^{n-1}}{dx^{n-1}} + \dots + p_0(x)$$

Hence, (1) can be re-written as:

$$L[y] = 0.$$

If u and v are solutions of (1), then:

$$\begin{aligned} L[u+v] &\stackrel{\text{linearity}}{=} \cancel{L[u]} + \cancel{L[v]} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow u+v$ is a solution.

Also,

$$L[c \cdot u] \stackrel{\text{linearity}}{=} c \cdot L[u] = 0.$$

$\Rightarrow$ $C \cdot u$ is a solution, for all $\underline{C}$
 C constant in $\mathbb{R}$.

So: Solutions are closed

- under addition
- under scalar multiplication

Hence, the set of solutions of (1) is a vector space over $\mathbb{R}$ (solution space).

We should try to find the dimension of the solution space. Answer: **n** .

We have to build up to this!

We start with the definition of linear dependence:

Defⁿ The set $\{u_1(x), \dots, u_r(x)\}$ of solutions to (1) are linearly dependent if there exist constants $c_1, \dots, c_r$ not all $[a, b]$ zero such that:

$$c_1 u_1(x) + \dots + c_r u_r(x) = 0 \quad \forall x \in I$$

Conversely, the set $\{u_1(x), \dots, u_r(x)\}$ is linearly independent if it is not linearly dependent.

Proof strategy:

VI

- We show that the dimension of the solution space is at most n .
- We show that the dimension of the solution space is exactly n .

Theorem 3.1: The dimension of the solution space of (1) is at most n .

Proof: Suppose we have $(n+1)$ solutions of (1):

$$v_1(x), \dots, v_n(x), v_{n+1}(x).$$

Consider the problem of finding constants $c_1, \dots, c_n, c_{n+1}$ such that, for some $x_0 \in [a, b]$

$$\uparrow \quad c_1 v_1(x_0) + \dots + c_n v_n(x_0) + c_{n+1} v_{n+1}(x_0) = 0$$

$$n \quad c_1 v_1'(x_0) + \dots + c_n v_n'(x_0) + c_{n+1} v_{n+1}'(x_0) = 0$$

$\vdots$

$$\downarrow \quad c_1 v_1^{(n-1)}(x_0) + \dots + c_n v_n^{(n-1)}(x_0) + c_{n+1} v_{n+1}^{(n-1)}(x_0) = 0$$

In other words, we seek a vector

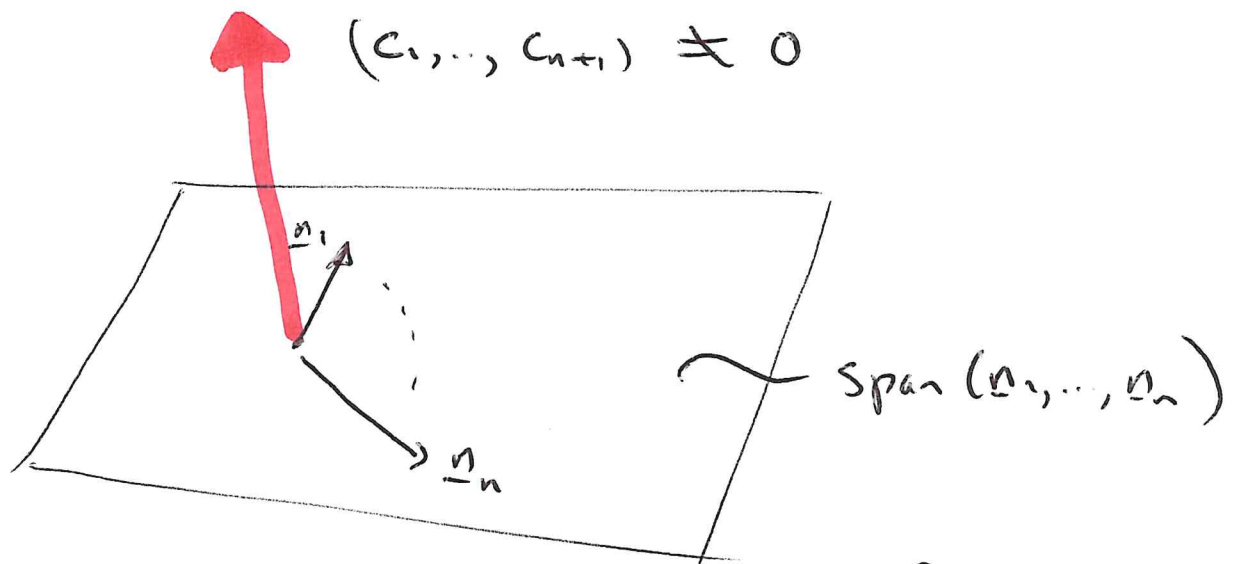
$(c_1, \dots, c_{n+1})$ such that:

$$(c_1, \dots, c_{n+1}) \cdot \underline{n}_1 = 0, \quad \underline{n}_1 = (v_1(x_0), \dots, v_{n+1}(x_0))$$

$$(c_1, \dots, c_{n+1}) \cdot \underline{n}_2 = 0, \quad \underline{n}_2 = (v_1'(x_0), \dots, v_{n+1}'(x_0))$$

$$(c_1, \dots, c_{n+1}) \cdot \underline{n}_n = 0, \quad \underline{n}_n = (v_1^{(n-1)}(x_0), \dots, v_{n+1}^{(n-1)}(x_0))$$

A non-zero vector $(c_1, \dots, c_{n+1})$ can always be found satisfying these conditions



Hence, $(c_1, \dots, c_{n+1}) \neq 0$ can be found.

Introduce

$$V(x) = c_1 V_1(x) + \dots + c_{n+1} V_{n+1}(x)$$

$$V(x_0) = 0, \text{ by definition.}$$

Also,

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} V'(x_0) = 0 \\ \vdots \\ V^{(n-1)}(x_0) = 0 \end{array} \right\} \text{by definition of the } c_i \text{'s} \quad (2)$$

Finally,

$$L[V] = 0, \text{ by linearity.}$$

Equation (2) is an IVP:

$$L[v] = 0$$

$$v(x_0) = 0, \dots, v^{(n-1)}(x_0) = 0.$$

Solution: $v(x) = 0$ (unique solution).

i.e. there exist constants $c_1, \dots, c_{n+1}$ not all zero such that

$$\underbrace{c_1 v_1(x) + \dots + c_{n+1} v_{n+1}(x)}_{v(x)} = 0 \quad \forall x \in [a, b]$$

Hence, $\{v_1(x), \dots, v_{n+1}(x)\}$ is a linearly dependent set.

$\Rightarrow$ at most n linearly independent solutions of (1). 