

Exponential of a real (3 x 3)-matrix with repeated eigenvalues

If A is a real (3×3) -matrix with real eigenvalues $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_2)$ so the characteristic equation

$$p(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = 0$$

has a single real root λ_1 and a double real root λ_2 then the exponential of A is given by

$$e^{tA} = e^{\lambda_2 t} I + te^{\lambda_2 t}(A - \lambda_2 I) + (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^{-2}(e^{\lambda_1 t} - e^{\lambda_2 t} - (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)te^{\lambda_2 t})(A - \lambda_2 I)^2$$

If A is a real (3×3) -matrix with one real eigenvalue $(\lambda, \lambda, \lambda)$ so λ is a triple root of the characteristic equation

$$p(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = 0$$

then the exponential of A is given by

$$e^{tA} = e^{\lambda t}(I + t(A - \lambda I) + \frac{1}{2}t^2(A - \lambda I)^2).$$

