

4.6: Let \mathcal{M} be a map of an m -dimensional space into itself as in (4.6). Associated with this map is an $m \times m$ matrix $M(\mathbf{y}^i)$, called the *Jacobian matrix* of \mathcal{M} , defined by the rule

$$M_{jk}(\mathbf{y}^i) = \partial y_j^f / \partial y_k^i. \quad (1.4.43)$$

This matrix describes how small changes in the initial conditions \mathbf{y}^i produce small changes in the final conditions \mathbf{y}^f . Note that generally the Jacobian matrix depends on the initial conditions, and therefore we write $M(\mathbf{y}^i)$. In the case that \mathcal{M} is a transfer map arising from a differential equation as in (4.1), the associated Jacobian matrix can be found by integrating the *variational equations* derived from (4.1). Let \mathbf{y}^i be a set of initial conditions and let $\mathbf{y}^d(t)$ be the trajectory (sometimes called the *design trajectory*) that has these initial conditions

$$\mathbf{y}^d(t^i) = \mathbf{y}^i. \quad (1.4.44)$$

Because it is a trajectory, it satisfies the differential equation

$$\dot{\mathbf{y}}^d = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y}^d; t). \quad (1.4.45)$$

Next consider nearby trajectories of the form

$$\mathbf{y}(t) = \mathbf{y}^d(t) + \epsilon \boldsymbol{\eta}(t) \quad (1.4.46)$$

where ϵ is small. Insertion of (4.45) into (4.1) gives the equation

$$\dot{\mathbf{y}}^d + \epsilon \dot{\boldsymbol{\eta}} = \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{y}^d + \epsilon \boldsymbol{\eta}; t). \quad (1.4.47)$$

Now take components of both sides of (4.47) and expand in powers of ϵ to find the relation

$$\dot{y}_j^d + \epsilon \dot{\eta}_j = f_j(\mathbf{y}^d; t) + \sum_k [(\partial f_j / \partial y_k) |_{\mathbf{y}=\mathbf{y}^d}] \epsilon \eta_k + O(\epsilon^2). \quad (1.4.48)$$

Define the $m \times m$ matrix $A(t)$ by the rule

$$A_{jk}(t) = (\partial f_j / \partial y_k) |_{\mathbf{y}=\mathbf{y}^d}. \quad (1.4.49)$$

Use (4.45), (4.48), and (4.49) to show that $\boldsymbol{\eta}$, in the limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$, satisfies the set of equations

$$\dot{\boldsymbol{\eta}} = A(t)\boldsymbol{\eta}. \quad (1.4.50)$$

Subtracting (4.45) from (4.48) gives

$$\epsilon \dot{\eta}_j = \epsilon \sum_k \frac{\partial f_j}{\partial y_k} \eta_k + O(\epsilon^2) \quad \star$$

Using (4.49) in \star gives