COMP 7180
Quantitative Methods for Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence

Lecture 3: Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

- Matrix-Vector multiplication: **Ax**.
  - Almost all vectors change direction when they are multiplied by a matrix **A**.

- Eigenvectors (Eigen is a German word meaning "characteristic")
  - There are certain exceptional vectors **x** whose direction is the same as **Ax**.
  - Multiplied by matrix **A** does not change the direction of these vectors.
  - These vectors are "**eigenvectors**".

- Eigenvalues
  - For those eigenvectors, multiplied by matrix **A** is equal to multiplied by a number.
  - Therefore, $\mathbf{Ax} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$.
  - The number λ is an eigenvalue of **A**.

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

- Eigenvalue equation $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$

- The eigenvalue λ tells whether the eigenvector $\mathbf{x}$ is stretched or shrunk or reversed or left unchanged when it is multiplied by matrix $\mathbf{A}$.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = 5 \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 10 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix}$$
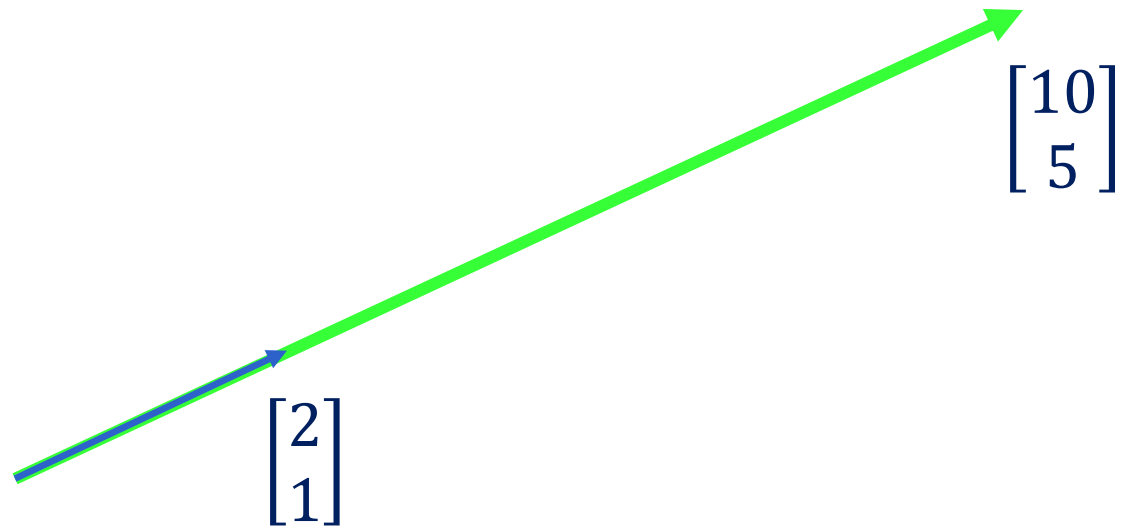
$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors – Special Matrix

- If **A** is identity matrix, every vector has **Ax** = **x**. All vectors are eigenvectors of **I**. And all eigenvalues are 1.

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Computing eigenvalues, eigenvectors

- How to compute eigenvalues, eigenvectors based on eigenvalue equation $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$

- Let rewrite $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$ as $(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})\mathbf{x} = 0$
  - The matrix $\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}$ times the eigenvector $\mathbf{x}$ is the zero vector.
  - We are **NOT** interested in the trivial solution $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$.

- Obtain eigenvalues first
  - Since $\mathbf{x} \neq \mathbf{0}$, this requires matrix $\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}$ is not invertible.
  - Therefore, $\det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) = 0$. This equation only involves λ not $\mathbf{x}$.

- For each eigenvalue λ, solve $(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})\mathbf{x}$ to find an eigenvector $\mathbf{x}$.

Example of Computing eigenvalues, eigenvectors

- Let us find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the following 2*2 matrix.

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Find $\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathrm{I}$ by subtract λ from the diagonal of $\mathbf{A}$

$$\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 - \lambda & 2 \\ 1 & 3 - \lambda \end{bmatrix}$$

- Obtain eigenvalues by solving $\det(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) = 0$

$$\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 - \lambda & 2 \\ 1 & 3 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} = (4 - \lambda)(3 - \lambda) - 2 * 1 = 0$$

$$10 - 7\lambda + \lambda^2 = (2 - \lambda)(5 - \lambda) = 0 \qquad \lambda_1 = 2 \text{ and } \lambda_2 = 5$$

Example of Computing eigenvalues, eigenvectors

- Now find the eigenvectors by solving $(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})\mathbf{x} = 0$ separately for $\lambda_1 = 2$ and $\lambda_2 = 5$.

- Let denote $\mathbf{x}$ as $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$

(1) For $\lambda_1 = 2$, we obtain

$$(\mathbf{A} - 2\mathbf{I})\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0} \implies \begin{bmatrix} 4-2 & 2 \\ 1 & 3-2 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \implies \begin{matrix} 2x_1 + 2x_2 = & 0 \\ x_1 + x_2 = & 0 \end{matrix}$$

This means any vector $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$, where $x_2 = -x_1$, such as

$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$(or $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ -2 \end{bmatrix}$) is an eigenvector of $\mathbf{A}$ with eigenvalue 2.

Example of Computing eigenvalues, eigenvectors

- Now find the eigenvectors by solving $(\mathbf{A} - \lambda\mathbf{I})\mathbf{x} = 0$ separately for $\lambda_1 = 2$ and $\lambda_2 = 5$.

- Let denote $\mathbf{x}$ as $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$

(2) For $\lambda_2 = 5$, we obtain

$$(\mathbf{A} - 5\mathbf{I})\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0} \implies \begin{bmatrix} 4-5 & 2 \\ 1 & 3-5 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \implies \begin{matrix} -x_1 + 2x_2 = & 0 \\ x_1 - 2x_2 = & 0 \end{matrix}$$

This means any vector $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$, where $x_2 = \frac{x_1}{2}$, such as $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ (or $\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$) is an eigenvector of $\mathbf{A}$ with eigenvalue 5.

Non-uniqueness of eigenvectors

- In previous example, we saw both $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\begin{bmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}$ are eigenvectors of **A** with eigenvalue 5. There is a whole line of eigenvectors – any nonzero multiple of $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ is an eigenvector.

- **Non-uniqueness of eigenvectors.** If **x** is an eigenvector of **A** with eigenvalue λ, then for any nonzero number c it holds that c**x** is an eigenvector of **A** with the same eigenvalue:

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x} \qquad\qquad \mathbf{A}(c\mathbf{x}) = c\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = c\lambda\mathbf{x} = \lambda(c\mathbf{x})$$

Example of Computing eigenvalues, eigenvectors

- In previous example, we obtained the eigenvalues and eigenvectors for $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$, which are $\lambda_1 = 2$ with eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\lambda_2 = 5$ with eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

- How about the eigenvalues, eigenvectors for $\mathbf{A} + 3\mathbf{I}$, $\mathbf{A}^2$?

Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors for **A** + 3**I**

- $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$, let denote $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} + 3\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$

- Obtain eigenvalues by solving $\det(\mathbf{B} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) = 0$

$$\mathbf{B} - \lambda\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 - \lambda & 2 \\ 1 & 6 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} = (7 - \lambda)(6 - \lambda) - 2 * 1 = 0$$

$$40 - 13\lambda + \lambda^2 = (5 - \lambda)(8 - \lambda) = 0 \qquad \lambda_1 = 5 \text{ and } \lambda_2 = 8$$

- When $\lambda_1 = 5$, $\begin{bmatrix} 7 - 5 & 2 \\ 1 & 6 - 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $\quad \begin{matrix} 2x_1 + 2x_2 = & 0 \\ x_1 + x_2 = & 0 \end{matrix}$ $\quad$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

- When $\lambda_2 = 8$, $\begin{bmatrix} 7 - 8 & 2 \\ 1 & 6 - 8 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $\quad \begin{matrix} -x_1 + 2x_2 = & 0 \\ x_1 - 2x_2 = & 0 \end{matrix}$ $\quad$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors for **A + 3I**

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} + 3\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\lambda_1 = 2$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

$\lambda_2 = 5$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$\lambda_1 = 5$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

$\lambda_2 = 8$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

- The eigenvectors of **A** and **A+3I** are the same.
- The eigenvalues of **A+3I** are the eigenvalues of **A** plus 3.
- Why?
  - If $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$, then $(\mathbf{A} + c\mathbf{I})\mathbf{x} = (\lambda + c)\mathbf{x}$ for the same **x**.

Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors for $\mathbf{A}^2$

- $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$, let denote $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 18 & 14 \\ 7 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$

- Obtain eigenvalues by solving $\det(\mathbf{B} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) = 0$

$$\mathbf{B} - \lambda\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 18 - \lambda & 14 \\ 7 & 11 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} = (18 - \lambda)(11 - \lambda) - 14 * 7 = 0$$

$$100 - 29\lambda + \lambda^2 = (4 - \lambda)(25 - \lambda) = 0 \qquad \lambda_1 = 4 \text{ and } \lambda_2 = 25$$

- When $\lambda_1 = 4$, $\begin{bmatrix} 18 - 4 & 14 \\ 7 & 11 - 4 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $\Rightarrow$ $\begin{aligned} x_1 + x_2 &= 0 \\ x_1 + x_2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$ $\Rightarrow$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

- When $\lambda_2 = 25$, $\begin{bmatrix} -7 & 14 \\ 7 & -14 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ $\Rightarrow$ $\begin{aligned} -x_1 + 2x_2 &= 0 \\ x_1 - 2x_2 &= 0 \end{aligned}$ $\Rightarrow$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors for $\mathbf{A}^2$

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 18 & 14 \\ 7 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\lambda_1 = 2$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

$\lambda_2 = 5$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$\lambda_1 = 4$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$

$\lambda_2 = 25$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

- The eigenvectors of $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{A}^2$ are the same.
- The eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A}^2$ are the square of the eigenvalues of $\mathbf{A}$.
- Why?
  - If $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$, then $\mathbf{A}^2\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}\lambda\mathbf{x} = \lambda\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \lambda^2\mathbf{x}$ for the same $\mathbf{x}$.

Other Useful Facts for Eigenvalues: Sum of Eigenvalues

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} + 3\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 18 & 14 \\ 7 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\lambda_1 = 2$ $\lambda_1 = 5$ $\lambda_1 = 4$

$\lambda_2 = 5$ $\lambda_2 = 8$ $\lambda_2 = 25$

- The sum of the *n* eigenvalues equals the sum of the *n* diagonal entries.
- The sum of the entries along the main diagonal of **A** is called the *trace* of **A**.

$$A = \left(a_{ij} \right) = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$tr(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ii}$$

Other Useful Facts for Eigenvalues: Product of Eigenvalues

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} + 3\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 18 & 14 \\ 7 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\lambda_1 = 2$

$\lambda_1 = 5$

$\lambda_1 = 4$

$\lambda_2 = 5$

$\lambda_2 = 8$

$\lambda_2 = 25$

$\lambda_1 \lambda_2 = 10$
$\det(\mathbf{A}) = 10$

$\lambda_1 \lambda_2 = 40$
$\det(\mathbf{A}) = 40$

$\lambda_1 \lambda_2 = 100$
$\det(\mathbf{A}) = 100$

- The product of the *n* eigenvalues equals the **determinant**.

Eigen-Decomposition of **A**

- Suppose the *n* by *n* matrix **A** has *n* linearly independent eigenvectors $\mathbf{x}_1$, ... , $\mathbf{x}_n$. Put them into the columns of an ***eigenvector matrix X.*** Then

$$\mathbf{AX} = \mathbf{A}\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 & \cdots & \mathbf{x}_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1\mathbf{x}_1 & \cdots & \lambda_n\mathbf{x}_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 & \cdots & \mathbf{x}_n \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$$

eigenvector matrix X   ***eigenvalue matrix Λ***

Eigen-Decomposition of **A**

- $\mathbf{AX} = \mathbf{X\Lambda}$

- The matrix **X** has an inverse, because its columns (the eigenvectors of **A***)* were assumed to be linearly independent. Therefore

$$\mathbf{AX} = \mathbf{X\Lambda} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{AXX^{-1}} = \mathbf{X\Lambda X^{-1}} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{A} = \mathbf{X\Lambda X^{-1}}$$

- **X** is the eigenvector matrix and its columns are eigenvectors of **A**. $\mathbf{\Lambda}$ is the eigenvalue matrix whose diagonal entries are eigenvalues of **A**.

- $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{X\Lambda X^{-1}}$ is the eigen-decomposition of **A**.

Computing $\mathbf{A}^k$ easily using eigen-decomposition

- Eigen decomposition $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{X}^{-1}$
- The *k*-th power of **A** can be computed as

$$\mathbf{A}^k = (\mathbf{X}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{X}^{-1})\,(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{X}^{-1})(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{X}^{-1})\cdots(\mathbf{X}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{X}^{-1})$$

$$= \mathbf{X}\mathbf{\Lambda}^k\mathbf{X}^{-1}$$

$$\mathbf{X}^{-1}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{I}$$

$$\overset{\mathbf{X}\qquad\quad\mathbf{\Lambda}\qquad\quad\mathbf{X}^{-1}}{}$$

- E.g., $\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\mathbf{A}^k = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 6^k \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- With $k = 1$ we get **A**. With $k = 0$ we get $\mathbf{A}^0 = \mathbf{I}$. With $k = -1$, we get $\mathbf{A}^{-1}$.

- $\mathbf{A}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 35 \\ 0 & 36 \end{bmatrix}$ fits the formula when $k = 2$.

Eigen-decomposition of a symmetric matrix **S**

- For a symmetric matrix, transposing **S** to **S**^{T} produces no change. Then **S**^{T} equals **S**. Its (j, i) entry across the main diagonal equals its (i, j) entry.

- E.g., $\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 5 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$, $\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ are symmetric matrices.

- Symmetric matrices **S** are the most important matrices in the theory of linear algebra and also in applications (We will discuss one important application in machine learning (i.e., PCA) later).

- What is special about $\mathbf{Sx} = \lambda\mathbf{x}$ when **S** is symmetric?

Eigen-decomposition of a symmetric matrix **S**

- Eigen decomposition of a matrix $S = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{X}^{-1}$.
- Transpose of **S**: $S^{\mathrm{T}} = (\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{X}^{-1})^{T} = (\mathbf{X}^{-1})^{T}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{X}^{T}$
- **S** is a symmetric matrix: $S = S^{\mathrm{T}}$. To satisfied it, we can choose $\mathbf{X}^{-1} = \mathbf{X}^{\mathrm{T}}$.
- Then $\mathbf{X}^{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}^{-1}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{I}.$ The eigenvectors are chosen orthonormal: Each eigenvector in **X** orthogonal to other eigenvectors and the length of each eigenvector is 1.
- The special form of eigen-decomposition $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{X}^{-1}$ for symmetric matrices is

$$S = \mathbf{Q}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{Q}^{-1} = \mathbf{Q}\boldsymbol{\Lambda}\mathbf{Q}^{T} \text{ with } \mathbf{Q}^{-1} = \mathbf{Q}^{T}.$$

Columns of **Q** are orthonormal eigenvectors of **S**.

Example of Eigen-decomposition of a symmetric matrix $\mathbf{S}$

- Eigen-decomposition of $\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$.

- Obtain eigenvalues of $\mathbf{S}$ by solving $\det(\mathbf{S} - \lambda\mathbf{I}) = \det\left(\begin{bmatrix} 1-\lambda & 2 \\ 2 & 4-\lambda \end{bmatrix}\right) = 0$.

  - $(1-\lambda)(4-\lambda) - 2 * 2 = \lambda^2 - 5\lambda = 0$
  - $\lambda_1 = 0$ and $\lambda_2 = 5$

- When $\lambda_1 = 0$, $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $x_1^2 + x_2^2 = 1$ ➡ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \end{bmatrix}$

- When $\lambda_1 = 5$, $\begin{bmatrix} 1-5 & 2 \\ 2 & 4-5 \end{bmatrix}\begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $x_1^2 + x_2^2 = 1$ ➡ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \\ \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \end{bmatrix}$

Example of Eigen-decomposition of a symmetric matrix $\mathbf{S}$

- $\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dfrac{2}{\sqrt{5}} & \dfrac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \\ -\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{5}} & \dfrac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 5 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dfrac{2}{\sqrt{5}} & -\dfrac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \\ \dfrac{1}{\sqrt{5}} & \dfrac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \end{bmatrix}$

$$\qquad\qquad\quad \mathbf{Q} \qquad\qquad \mathbf{\Lambda} \qquad\qquad \mathbf{Q}^{-1} \text{ (or } \mathbf{Q}^{T})$$

- The eigenvectors are orthonormal: $\mathbf{Q}^{T}\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{I}$

Theorem If the matrix *A* is symmetric and the eigenvalues of *A* are $\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_n$, with corresponding eigenvectors $\vec{x}_1, \ldots, \vec{x}_n$

$$\text{i.e. } A\vec{x}_i = \lambda_i \vec{x}_i$$

If $\lambda_i \neq \lambda_j$ then $\vec{x}_i' \vec{x}_j = 0$

Theorem If the matrix A is symmetric and the eigenvalues of A are $\lambda_1, \ldots, \lambda_n$, with corresponding eigenvectors $\vec{x}_1, \ldots, \vec{x}_n$

$$\text{i.e. } A\vec{x}_i = \lambda_i \vec{x}_i$$

If $\lambda_i \neq \lambda_j$ then $\vec{x}_i' \vec{x}_j = 0$

Proof: Note $\vec{x}_j' A \vec{x}_i = \lambda_i \vec{x}_j' \vec{x}_i$

and $\vec{x}_i' A \vec{x}_j = \lambda_j \vec{x}_i' \vec{x}_j$

$$0 = \left(\lambda_i - \lambda_j \right) \vec{x}_i' \vec{x}_j$$

hence $\vec{x}_i' \vec{x}_j = 0$

Exercise

Given the $n \times k$ matrix **A** and the $k \times n$ matrix **B**:

1. Use an example to show that **AB** ≠ **BA** even if $n = k$.

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Given the $n \times k$ matrix **A** and the $k \times n$ matrix **B**:

1. Use an example to show that **AB** ≠ **BA** even if $n = k$.

Let **A** $= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and B $= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, then we have **AB** $= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$, and **BA** $= \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$. Obviously we have **AB** ≠ **BA**.

Exercise

Given the $n \times k$ matrix **A** and the $k \times n$ matrix **B**:

2. When $n \neq k$, do we have trace(**AB**) = trace(**BA**)? Prove your conclusion.

Exercise

Given the $n \times k$ matrix **A** and the $k \times n$ matrix **B**:

2. When $n \neq k$, do we have trace(**AB**) = trace(**BA**)? Prove your conclusion.

Solution: by definition

$$trace(AB) = (AB)_{11} + (AB)_{22} + \cdots + (AB)_{nn}$$
$$= a_{11}b_{11} + a_{12}b_{21} + \cdots + a_{1k}b_{k1}$$
$$+ a_{21}b_{12} + a_{22}b_{22} + \cdots + a_{2k}b_{k2}$$
$$+ \vdots$$
$$+ a_{n1}b_{1n} + a_{n2}b_{2n} + \cdots + a_{nk}b_{kn}$$

if you view the sum according to the columns, then you see that it is the $trace(BA)$.
therefore,

$$trace(AB) = trace(BA).$$

Exercise

Given the $n \times k$ matrix **A** and the $k \times n$ matrix **B**:

3. What is the relationship between eigenvalues of **AB** and eigenvalues of **BA**? What is the relationship between eigenvectors of **AB** and eigenvectors of **BA**?

Exercise

Given the $n \times k$ matrix **A** and the $k \times n$ matrix **B**:

3. What is the relationship between eigenvalues of **AB** and eigenvalues of **BA**? What is the relationship between eigenvectors of **AB** and eigenvectors of **BA**?

[Solution:](#)

Suppose that λ and x are the eigenvalue and eigenvector of matrix (**AB**), then by definition we have (**AB**)x = λx.

Then we have **B**(**AB**)x = **B**λx, which indicates that (**BA**)**B**x = λ**B**x, i.e., λ is also the eigenvalue of matrix (**BA**), and the corresponding eigenvector is **B**x.