COMP 7180 Quantitative Methods for Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence

Lecture 3: Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

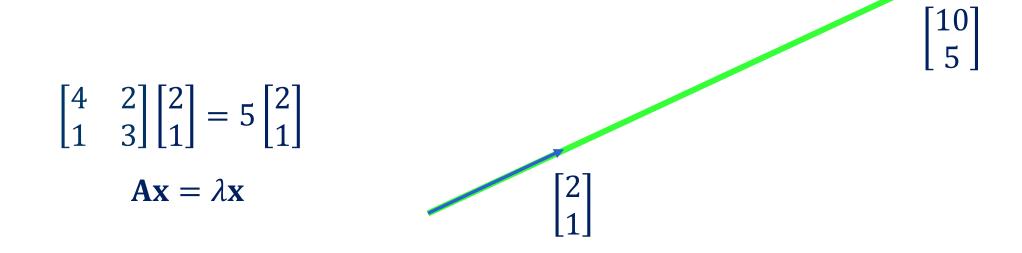
- Matrix-Vector multiplication: Ax.
 - Almost all vectors change direction when they are multiplied by a matrix A.
- Eigenvectors (Eigen is a German word meaning "characteristic")
 - There are certain exceptional vectors x whose direction is the same as Ax.
 - Multiplied by matrix A does not change the direction of these vectors.
 - These vectors are "eigenvectors".

Eigenvalues

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

Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

- Eigenvalue equation $Ax = \lambda x$
- The eigenvalue λ tells whether the eigenvector x is stretched or shrunk or reversed or left unchanged when it is multiplied by matrix A.



Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors – Special Matrix

If **A** is identity matrix, every vector has $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x}$. 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 $Ax = \lambda x$ as $(A \lambda I)x = 0$
 - 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} .

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

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

Find $A - \lambda I$ by subtract λ from the diagonal of A

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

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

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

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



$$\lambda_1 = 2$$
 and $\lambda_2 = 5$

- 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 **x** as $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$
 - (1) For $\lambda_1 = 2$, we obtain

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

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 **A** with eigenvalue 2.

- 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 **x** as $\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix}$
 - (2) For $\lambda_2 = 5$, we obtain

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

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

 $\begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}$) is an eigenvector of **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 cx is an eigenvector of A with the same eigenvalue:

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

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 + 3I

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors for A + 3I

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

$$\lambda_1 = 2$$

$$\lambda_2 = 5$$

Eigenvector
$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Eigenvector
$$\begin{bmatrix} 2\\1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$\lambda_1 = 5$$

$$\lambda_2 = 8$$

$$\lambda_1 = 2$$
 Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ $\lambda_1 = 5$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ $\lambda_2 = 5$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ $\lambda_2 = 8$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Eigenvector
$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- The eigenvectors of **A** and **A**+3**I** are the same.
- The eigenvalues of **A**+3**I** are the eigenvalues of **A** plus 3.
- Why?

Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors for A²

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

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

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

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

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

Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors for A²

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

$$\lambda_1 = 2$$

$$\lambda_2 = 5$$

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

$$\lambda_1 = 4$$

$$\lambda_2 = 25$$

$$\lambda_1 = 2$$
 Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ $\lambda_1 = 4$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ $\lambda_2 = 5$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ $\lambda_2 = 25$ Eigenvector $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

Eigenvector
$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- The eigenvectors of **A** and A^2 are the same.
- The eigenvalues of A^2 are the square of the eigenvalues of A.
- Why?

Other Useful Facts for Eigenvalues: Sum of Eigenvalues

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} + 3\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 18 & 14 \\ 7 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

$$\lambda_2 = 5 \qquad \qquad \lambda_2 = 25$$

- 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.

$$A = (a_{ij}) = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \cdots & a_{nn} \end{bmatrix} tr(A) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} a_{ii}$$

Other Useful Facts for Eigenvalues: Product of Eigenvalues

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A} + 3\mathbf{I} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 2 \\ 1 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{A}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 18 & 14 \\ 7 & 11 \end{bmatrix}$$

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

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

$$\lambda_1 \lambda_2 = 10 \qquad \qquad \lambda_1 \lambda_2 = 40 \qquad \qquad \lambda_1 \lambda_2 = 100$$

$$\det(\mathbf{A}) = 10 \qquad \qquad \det(\mathbf{A}) = 40$$

The product of the n eigenvalues equals the determinant.

Eigen-Decomposition of A

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

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{A} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{x}_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 \mathbf{x}_1 & \dots & \lambda_n \mathbf{x}_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{x}_1 & \dots & \mathbf{x}_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & \dots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}$$
eigenvector matrix \mathbf{X} eigenvalue matrix \mathbf{A}

Eigen-Decomposition of A

- $\mathbf{AX} = \mathbf{X}\mathbf{\Lambda}$
- The matrix X has an inverse, because its columns (the eigenvectors of A) were assumed to be linearly independent. Therefore

$$AX = X\Lambda \longrightarrow AXX^{-1} = X\Lambda X^{-1} \longrightarrow A = X\Lambda X^{-1}$$

- X is the eigenvector matrix and its columns are eigenvectors of A. Λ is the eigenvalue matrix whose diagonal entries are eigenvalues of A.
- $A = X\Lambda X^{-1}$ is the eigen-decomposition of **A**.

Computing A^k easily using eigen-decomposition

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

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

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

• 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} .
- $A^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 35 \\ 0 & 36 \end{bmatrix}$ 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 (i, 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 $Sx = \lambda x$ when S is symmetric?

Eigen-decomposition of a symmetric matrix S

- Eigen decomposition of a matrix $S = X\Lambda X^{-1}$.
- Transpose of S: $S^T = (X\Lambda X^{-1})^T = (X^{-1})^T \Lambda X^T$
- **S** is a symmetric matrix: $S = S^T$. To satisfied it, we can choose $X^{-1} = X^T$.
- Then $X^TX = X^{-1}X = I$. 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 $A = X\Lambda X^{-1}$ for symmetric matrices is

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

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

Example of Eigen-decomposition of a symmetric matrix S

- Eigen-decomposition of $S = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \end{bmatrix}$.
- Obtain eigenvalues of **S** by solving $\det(\mathbf{S} \lambda \mathbf{I}) = \det\left(\begin{vmatrix} 1 \lambda & 2 \\ 2 & 4 \lambda \end{vmatrix}\right) = 0.$
 - $(1 \lambda)(4 \lambda) 2 * 2 = \lambda^2 5\lambda = 0$
 - $-\lambda_1=0$ 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 S

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

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

• 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 $\vec{x}_1, \ldots, \vec{x}_n$

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

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

Exercise

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

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

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**:

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**?