Chapter 5 Diagonalization

5.1 Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Definition. ***Diagonalizable*** *A linear operator T on a finite-dimensional vector space V is called diagonalizable if there is an ordered basis β for V such that $[T]_\beta$ is a diagonal matrix. A square matrix A is called diagonalizable if L_A is diagonalizable.*

Remark. Want to determine if an linear operator T is diagonalizable and if so, ways to obtain the basis $\beta = \{v_1, v_2, \cdots, v_n\}$ for V such that $[T]_\beta$ is a diagonal matrix. Note that if $D = [T]_\beta$ is a diagonal matrix, i.e. $D_{ij} = 0$ for $i \neq j$, then for each $v_j \in \beta$, we have

$$T(v_j) = \sum_i^n D_{ij} v_i = D_{jj} v_j = \lambda_j v_j$$

where $\lambda_j = D_{jj}$. Conversely, if $\beta = \{v_1, v_2, \cdots, v_n\}$ is an ordered basis for V such that $T(v_j) = \lambda_j v_j$ for some scalars $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \cdots, \lambda_n$, then

$$[T]_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Definition. ***Eigenvalue and Eigenvector (characteristic/proper value or vector)***
Let T be a linear operator on a vector space V. A nonzero vector $v \in V$ is called an eigenvector of T if there exists a scalar λ such that $T(v) = \lambda v$. The scalar λ is called the eigenvalue corresponding to the eigenvector v.
Let A be in $M_{n\times n}(F)$. A nonzero vector $v \in F^n$ is called an eigenvector of A if v is an eigenvector of L_A; that is, if $Av = \lambda v$ for some scalar λ. The scalar λ is the eigenvalue of A corresponding to the eigenvector v

Theorem. ***5.1 Sufficient Condition for Diagonalizability***
A linear operator T on a finite-dimensional vector space V is diagonalizable if and only if there exists an ordered basis β for V consisting of eigenvectors of T (i.e. $v \in V$ is eigenvector if exists λ such that $T(v) = \lambda v$). Furthermore, if T is diagonalizable, $\beta = \{v_1, v_2, \cdots, v_n\}$ is an ordered basis of eigenvectors of T, and $D = [T]_\beta$, then D is diagonal matrix and D_{jj} is the eigenvalue corresponding to v_j for $1 \leq j \leq n$

Remark. To diagonalize a matrix or linear operator is to find a basis of eigenvectors and the corresponding eigenvalues

Theorem. ***5.2 Computing Eigenvalues***
Let $A \in M_{n\times n}(F)$. Then a scalar λ is an eigenvalue of A if and only if $det(A - \lambda I_n) = 0$

Proof. A scalar is an eigenvalue if and only if exists a nonzero vector $v \in F^n$ such that $Av = \lambda v$, that is, $(A - \lambda I_n)(v) = 0$, which is true if and only if $A - \lambda$ is not invertible (invertible and one-to-one, or $N(A - \lambda) = \{0\}$ equivalent). This is equivalent to $det(A - \lambda I_n) = 0$ $\square$

Definition. ***Characteristic Polynomial of a Matrix*** *Let $A \in M_{n\times n}(F)$. The polynoimal $f(t) = det(A - tI_n)$ is called the characteristic polynomial of A*

1. *The eigenvalues of a matrix are the zeros of its characteristic polynomial*

2. *To determine the eigenvalues of a matrix or linear operator, we normally compute its characteristic polynomial.*

Definition. ***Characteristic Polynomial of a Linear Operator*** *Let T be a linear operator on an n-dimensional vector space V with ordered basis β. We define the characteristic polynomial $f(t)$ of T to be the characteristic polynomial of $A = [T]_\beta$. That is,*

$$f(t) = det(A - tI_n) \qquad\qquad P_T(t) = det([T]_\beta - tI_n) = P_{[T]_\beta}(t)$$

We denote characteristic polynomial of an operator T by $det(T - tI)$. Note the definition is independent of the choice of ordered basis β, the resulting characteristic polynomial is the same regardless the choice of basis.

Proof. Let β and β' be basis of V, let Q be change of basis matrix from β' to β, then we have $[T]_{\beta'} = Q^{-1}[T]_\beta Q$, so then characeristic polynomial of linear operator invariant of choice of basis

$$det([T]_{\beta'} - tI_V) = det(Q^{-1}([T]_\beta - tI_V)Q) = det(Q^{-1})det([T]_\beta - tI_V)det(Q) = det([T]_\beta - tI_V)$$

$\square$

Theorem. ***5.3 Properties of Characteristic Polynomial***
Let $A \in M_{n\times n}(F)$

1. *The characteristic polynomial of A is a polynomial of degree n with leading coefficients $(-1)^n$*

2. *A has at most n distinct eigenvalues.*

Theorem. ***5.4 Computing Eigenvectors***
Let T be a linear operator on a vector space T, and let λ be an eigenvalue of T. A vector $v \in V$ is an eigenvector of T corresponding to λ if and only if $v \neq 0$ and $v \in N(T - \lambda I)$

Proposition. ***Equivalent Eigenvector for Matrix and Linear Operators***
Let $T : V \to V$ be a linear operator and β be an ordered basis for V. Let $A = [T]_\beta$ and note $\phi_\beta(v) = [v]_\beta$, the cooredinate vector of v relative to β. We could show that for all $v \in V$ an eigenvector of T corresponding to an eigenvalue λ if and only if $\phi_\beta(v)$ is an eigenvector of A corresponding to λ. Now suppose v is an eigenvector of T corresponding to λ, then $T(v) = \lambda v$, then

$$A\phi_\beta(v) = L_A\phi_\beta(v) = \phi_\beta T(v) = \phi_\beta(\lambda v) = \lambda\phi_\beta(v)$$

Note $\phi_\beta(v) \neq 0$, since ϕ_β is an isomorphism, we have proved that $\phi_\beta(v)$ is an eigenvector of A. Conversely, if $\phi_\beta(v)$ is an eigenvector of A corresponding to λ. Equivalently, a *vector $y \in F^n$ is an eigenvector of $A = [T]_\beta$ corresponding to λ if and only if $\phi_\beta^{-1}(y)$ is an eigenvector of T corresponding to λ. We have reduced the problem of finding the eigenvectors of a linear operator on a finite-dimensional vector space to the problem of finding the eigenvectors of a matrix.*

Definition. ***Geometric Description of how a linear operator T acts on an eigenvector*** *in the context of a vector space V over $\mathbb{R}$. Let v be eigenvector of T and λ be corresponding eigenvalue. Let $W = span(\{v\})$, the one-dimensional subspace of V spanned by v, a line passing through 0 and v. For any $w \in W$, $w = cv$ for some $c \in \mathbb{R}$*

$$T(w) = T(cv) = cT(v) = c\lambda v = \lambda w$$

T acts on the vector in W by multiplying each such vector by λ

5.2 Diagonalizability

Theorem. ***5.5 Set of Eigenvectors is Linearly Independent***
Let T be a linear operator on a vector space V, and let $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \cdots, \lambda_k$ be ***distinct*** *eigenvalues of T. If $v_1, v_2, \cdots, v_k$ are eigenvectors of T such that λ_i corresponding to v_i where $1 \leq i \leq k$ (choose one eigenvector corresponding to each eigenvalue.), then $\{v_1, v_2, \cdots, v_k\}$ is linearly independent.*

Corollary. *Let T be a linear operator on an n-dimensional vector space V. If T has n distinct eigenvalues, then T is diagonalizable.*

Proof. Suppose T has n distinct eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \cdots, \lambda_n$. For each i choose eigenvector v_i corresponding to λ_i. By previous theorem, $\{v_1, \cdots, v_n\}$ is linearly independent, and since $dim(V) = n$. the set is a basis for V. Thus, by theorem 5.1, T is diagonalizable □

1. *Converse not true, if T is diagonalizable, then it need not have n distinct eigenvalues. For example, I_V is diagonalizable even thouigh it has only 1 eigenvalue, $\lambda = 1$*

Definition. ***Splits Over*** *A polynomial $f(t) \in P(F)$ splits over F if there are scalars $c, a_1, \cdots, a_n$ (not necessarily distinct) in F such that*

$$f(t) = c(t - a_1)(t - a_2)\cdots(t - a_n)$$

As an example $t^2 = (t+1)(t-1)$ splits over $\mathbb{R}$, but $(t^2+1)(t-2)$ does not split over $\mathbb{R}$ but splits over $\mathbb{C}$ since it factors into $(t+i)(t-i)(t-2)$.

Theorem. ***5.6 Diagonalizability implies $f(t)$ Splits Completely***
The characteristic polynomial of any diagonalizable linear operator splits. The converse is not true, i.e. that the characteristic polynomial of T may split but need not be diagonalizable.

Proof. Let T be linear operator on n-dimensional vector space V, and let β be an ordered basis for V such that $[T]_\beta = D$ is a diagonal matrix. Suppose

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{pmatrix}$$

and let $f(t)$ be characteristic polynomial of T, then

$$f(t) = det(D - tI) = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 - t & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 - t & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n - t \end{pmatrix} = (-1)^n (t - \lambda_1)(t - \lambda_2) \cdots (t - \lambda_n)$$

□

Definition. ***Multiplicity*** *Let λ be an eigenvalue of a linear operator or matrix with characteristic polynomial $f(t)$. Then (algebraic) multiplicity of λ is the largest positive integer k for which $(t - \lambda)^k$ is a factor of $f(t)$*

Definition. ***Eigenspace*** *Let T be a linear operator on a vector space V, and let λ be an eigenvalue of T. Define $E_\lambda = \{x \in V : T(x) = \lambda x\} = N(T - \lambda I_V)$. The set $E_\lambda$is called the eigenspace of T corresponding to the eigenvalue λ. Analogously, we define the eigenspace of a square matrix A to be the eigenspace of L_A*

Theorem. ***5.7 Dimension of Eigenspace is Bounded by Multiplicity***
Let T be a linear operator on a finite-dimensional vector space V, and let λ be an eigenvalue of T having multiplicity m. Then $1 \leq dim(E_\lambda) \leq m$

Lemma. *Let T be a linear operator, and let $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \cdots, \lambda_k$ be distinct eigenvalues of T. For each $i = 1, 2, \cdots, k$, let $v_i \in E_{\lambda_i}$, the eigenspace corresponding to λ_i. If*

$$v_1 + v_2 + \cdots + v_k = 0$$

then $v_i = 0$ for all i.

Theorem. ***5.8 Union of l.i. Subsets of Eigenspaces are l.i.***
Let T be a linear operator on a vector space V, and elt $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \cdots, \lambda_k$ be distinct eigenvalues of T. for each $i = 1, 2, \cdots, k$, let S_i be a finite linearly independent subset of eigenspace E_{λ_i}. Then $S = S_1 \cup S_2 \cup \cdots \cup S_k$ is a linearly independent subset of V.

Theorem. ***5.9 Construct Bases of Eigenvectors in Eigenspace to Form a Basis for the Entire Space***
Let T be a linear operator on a finite-dimensional vector space V such that the characteristic polynomial of T splits. Let $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \cdots, \lambda_k$ be distinct eigenvalues of T. Then

1. *T is diagonalizable if and only if the multiplicit of λ_i is equal to dim(E_{λ_i}) for all i*

2. *If T is diagonalizable and β_i is an ordered basis for E_{λ_i} for each i, then $\beta = \beta_1 \cup \beta_2 \cup \cdots \cup \beta_k$ is an ordered basis for V consisting of eigenvectors of T.*

Definition. ***Test for Diagonalization*** *Let T be a linear operator on n-dimensional vector space V. Then T is diagonalizable if and only if both of conditions hold*

1. *characteristic polynomial of T splits*

2. *For each eigenvalue λ of T, the multiplicity of λ equals $n - rank(T - \lambda I) = dim(E_\lambda)$*

Same condition can be used to test a square matrix A is diagonalizable because diagonalizability of A is equivalent to diagonalizability of L_A. To test T for diagonalizability, usually pick a basis α and let $B = [T]_\alpha$. If characteristic polynomial of B splits, then use condition 2 to check if the mulitiplicity of each repeated eigenvalue of B equals $n - rank(B - \lambda I)$ (dont need to check for eigenvalues with multiplicity 1 by theorem 5.7). If so, then B, and hence T, is diagonalizable. If T is diagonalizable, we can find a basis β for V consisting of eigenvectors of T by taking the union of basis for each eigenspace of B. Furthermore, if A is $n \times n$ diagonalizable matrixd, we can find an invertible $n \times n$ matrix Q, and a diagonal matrix $n \times n$ matrix D such that $Q^{-1}AQ = D$ with Q having its columns the vectors in the basis of eigenvectors of A, and D having its jth column entry the eigenvalue of A corresponding to jth column of Q.

Application: Closed Formula for Exponential of Diagonalizable Matrix

Application: System of Differential Equations

Definition. ***Matrix Exponential*** *For $A \in M_{n\times n}(C)$, define $e^A = \lim_{m\to\infty} B_m$, where*

$$B_m = I + A + \frac{A^2}{2!} + \cdots + \frac{A^m}{m!}$$

So e^A is the sum of infinite series

$$I + A + \frac{A^2}{2!} + \cdots$$

Note

$$e = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \qquad e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!}$$

5.4 Invariant Subspaces and the Cayley-Hamilton Theorem

Definition. ***T-invariant Subspace*** *Let T be a linear operator on a vector space V. A subspace W of V is called a T-invariant subspace of V if $T(W) \subseteq W$, that is, if $T(v) \in W$ for all $v \in W$*

Definition. ***T-cyclic Subspace of V Generated by x*** *Let T be a linear operator on a vector space V, and let x be a nonzero vector in V. The subspace*

$$W = span(\{x, T(x), T^2(x), \cdots\})$$

is called the T-cyclic subspace of V generated by x, denoted by $\langle v\rangle_T$.

1. *W is a T invariant subspace*
2. *W is the smallest subspace of V containing x; any T-invariant subspace of V containing x must also contain W*

Proof on how T_W is a linear operator on W

Theorem. ***5.21 Characteristic Polynomial of T_W Divides That of T*** *Let T be a linear operator on a finite-dimensional vector space V, and let W be a T-invariant subspace of V. Let T_W be restriction of T to W. Then the characteristic polynomial of T_W divides the chracteristic polynomial of T.*

5.4:12 Proof Supplementary to theorem 5.21
4.3:12 Proof Supplementary to theorem 5.21

Theorem. ***5.22 Basis and Characteristic Polynomial For T-Invariant Subspace are Readily Computable*** *Let T be a linear operator on a finite-dimensional vector space V, and let W denote the T-cyclic subspace of V generated by a nonzero vector $v \in V$. Let $k = dim(W)$. Then*

1. *$\{v, T(v), T^2(v), \cdots, T^{k-1}(v)\}$ is a basis for W*
2. *If $a_0 v + a_1 T(v) + \cdots + a_{k-1}T^{k-1}(v) = 0$, then the characteristic polynomial of T_W is*

$$f(t) = (-1)^k(a_0 + a_1 t + \cdots + a_{k-1}t^{k-1} + t^k)$$

Idea is we can easily compute the characteristic polynomial by computing $T^k(v)$ and express it as a linear combination of the basis $\{v, T(v), \cdots, T^{k-1}(v)\}$, and use the 2nd claim of the theorem. Of course, we can derive chracteristic polynomial by computing determinants. By theorem 5.21, we can use characteristic polynomial of T_W to gain information about the characteristic polynomial of T itself

5.4:12 for theorem 5.22, proves the second claim by induction

Definition. ***Linear Operator over a Polynomial*** *Let $f(x) = a_0 + a_1 x + \cdots + a_n x^n$ be a polynomial with coefficients from a field F. If T is a linear operator on a vector space V over F, or similarly for $A \in M_{n\times n}(F)$, we define*

$$f(T) = a_0 I + a_1 T + \cdots + a_n T^n \qquad f(A) = a_0 I + a_1 A + \cdots + a_n A^n$$

Theorem. ***5.23 Cayley-Hamilton Theorem*** *Let T be a linear operator on a finite-dimensional vector space V, and let $f(t)$ be the characteristic polynomial of T. Then $f(T) = T_0$, the zero transformation. That is T satisfies its characteristic equation.*

Proof. Prove $f(T)(v) = 0$ for all $v \in W$. Idea is to consider a T-invariant subspace W for v chosen. Write down kth element as a linear combination of preivous basis vectors and compute its characteristic polynomial using method in theorem 5.22 and notice $P_{T_W}(T) = T_0$, i.e. $P_{T_W}(T)(v) = 0$ for all $v \in W$. Also P_{T_W} divides P_T, from here results follows □

Corollary. ***Cayley-Hamilton Theorem for Matrices*** *Let A be $n \times n$ matrix, and let $f(t)$ be the characteristic polynomial of A. THen $f(A) = 0$, the $n \times n$ zero matrix.*