

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 a linear operator T is diagonalizable and if so, ways to obtain the basis $\beta = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ 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 $\beta = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ is an ordered basis for V such that $T(v_j) = \lambda_j v_j$ for some scalars $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$, 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, $\beta = \{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n\}$ 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 polynomial $f(t) = \det(A - tI_n)$ 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,

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

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 characteristic polynomial of linear operator invariant of choice of basis

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

□

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 V , 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 $T : V \rightarrow V$ be a linear operator and β be an ordered basis for V . Let $A = [T]_\beta$ and note $\phi_\beta(v) = [v]_\beta$, the coordinate 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 $W = \text{span}(\{v\})$, 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 $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k$ be **distinct** eigenvalues of T . If v_1, v_2, \dots, 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 $\{v_1, v_2, \dots, v_k\}$ 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 $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$. For each i choose eigenvector v_i corresponding to λ_i . By previous theorem, $\{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$ is linearly independent, and since $\dim(V) = n$, the set is a basis for V . Thus, by theorem 5.1, T is diagonalizable \square

1. Converse not true, if T is diagonalizable, then it need not have n distinct eigenvalues. For example, I_V is diagonalizable even though 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, \dots, 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

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

□

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_λ 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 $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k$ be distinct eigenvalues of T . For each $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$, 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 let $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k$ be distinct eigenvalues of T . For each $i = 1, 2, \dots, k$, 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 $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_k$ be distinct eigenvalues of T . Then

1. T is diagonalizable if and only if the multiplicity of λ_i is equal to $\dim(E_{\lambda_i})$ for all i
2. If T is diagonalizable and β_i is an ordered basis for E_{λ_i} for each i , then $\beta = \beta_1 \cup \beta_2 \cup \dots \cup \beta_k$ 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 $n - \text{rank}(T - \lambda I) = \dim(E_\lambda)$

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 multiplicity of each repeated eigenvalue of B equals $n - \text{rank}(B - \lambda I)$ (don't 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 matrix, 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 j th column entry the eigenvalue of A corresponding to j th column of Q .

Definition. Application: System of Differential Equations

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

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

So e^A is the sum of infinite series

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

Note

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

5.4