

Matrix Analysis (Lecture 2)

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April 12, 2018

Abstract

Eigenvalues, eigenvectors, and similarity serve as the main topic of Chapter 1 of Horn's book^[1]. In the last lecture, we introduced the origin of similar matrices, which are different basis representations of a single linear transformation, and scrutinized the existence and cardinality of eigenvalues given a matrix $A \in M_n$. At that time, computing the zeroes of its characteristic polynomial is a fundamental avenue to uncover eigenvalues and calculate their corresponding algebraic multiplicities of A . In this lecture, we are supposed to discuss the properties of similarity and diagonalizable matrices and their connections with eigenvalues and eigenvectors in detail. Meanwhile, the concept of left eigenvectors and geometric multiplicity will be unfolded and utilized to determine the diagonalizability of a matrix.

1 Similarity (Page 57-69, Page 17, Page 21)

We know that a similarity transformation of a matrix in M_n corresponds to representing its underlying linear transformation on \mathbf{C}^n in another basis. Thus, studying similarity can be thought of as studying properties that are intrinsic to one linear transformation or the properties that are common to all its basis representations. Let us first recall the definition of similar matrices.

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Definition 1.1. Let $A, B \in M_n$ be given. B is said to be similar to A if there exists a nonsingular $S \in M_n$ such that

$$B = S^{-1}AS$$

The transformation $A \rightarrow S^{-1}AS$ is called a similarity transformation by the similarity matrix S .

We say that B is permutation similar to A if there is a permutation matrix P such that $B = P^TAP$. The relation “ B is similar to A ” is sometimes abbreviated to $B \sim A$.

Remark. A square matrix P is a *permutation matrix* if exactly one entry in each row and column is equal to 1 and all other entries are 0.

Observation 1.2. Similarity is an equivalence relation on M_n ; that is, similarity is reflexive, symmetric, and transitive.

Proof. (Reflexiveness): $A = I^{-1}AI$, where I is the identity matrix in M_n .

(Symmetry): If $B \sim A$, there exists a nonsingular matrix S such that $B = S^{-1}AS$. Thus, $A = SBS^{-1} = (S^{-1})^{-1}BS^{-1}$, showing that $A \sim B$.

(Transitivity): If $B \sim A$ and $C \sim B$, then there exist nonsingular matrices S_1, S_2 such that $B = S_1^{-1}AS_1, C = S_2^{-1}BS_2$. Therefore, we find that $C = S_2^{-1}BS_2 = S_2^{-1}S_1^{-1}AS_1S_2 = (S_1S_2)^{-1}A(S_1S_2)$, where S_1S_2 is still a nonsingular matrix by computing its determinant. \square

Like any equivalence relation, similarity partitions the set M_n into disjoint equivalence classes. Within each dissimilarity equivalence class, matrices share many important properties. Here we discuss some of them in detail.

Theorem 1.3. Let $A, B \in M_n$. If B is similar to A , then A and B have the same characteristic polynomial.

Proof. Compute

$$\begin{aligned} p_B(t) &= \det(tI - B) \\ &= \det(tS^{-1}S - S^{-1}AS) = \det(S^{-1}(tI - A)S) \\ &= \det S^{-1} \det(tI - A) \det S = (\det S)^{-1}(\det S) \det(tI - A) \\ &= \det(tI - A) = p_A(t) \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

Remark. Having the same eigenvalues is a necessary but not sufficient condition for similarity. Consider $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$, which have

the same eigenvalues but are not similar. This is because $\text{rank } A = 1$ while $\text{rank } B = 0$. A necessary condition for similar matrices is that they have the same rank.

Corollary 1.4. *Let $A, B \in M_n$ and suppose that A is similar to B . Then*

- (a) *A and B have the same eigenvalues.*
- (b) *If B is a diagonal matrix, its main diagonal entries are the eigenvalues of A .*
- (c) *$B = 0$ (a diagonal matrix) if and only if $A = 0$.*
- (d) *$B = I$ (a diagonal matrix) if and only if $A = I$.*

Proof. (a) and (b) follow from Theorem 1.3. (c,d) If $A \sim B$, then $A = S^{-1}BS$, $B = SAS^{-1}$, where S is a nonsingular matrix. Then $A = 0 \Leftrightarrow B = 0$ and $A = I \Leftrightarrow B = I$. \square

Example 1.5. Suppose that $A, B \in M_n$ are similar and let $q(t)$ be a given polynomial. It turns out that $q(A)$ and $q(B)$ are similar. This is because $B = S^{-1}AS$, where S is nonsingular. Assume that $q(t) = a_n t^n + a_{n-1} t^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 t + a_0$. Then $q(A) = a_n A^n + a_{n-1} A^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 A + a_0 I$ and

$$\begin{aligned} S^{-1}q(A)S &= S^{-1}(a_n A^n + a_{n-1} A^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 A + a_0 I)S \\ &= a_n (S^{-1}AS)^n + a_{n-1} (S^{-1}AS)^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 (S^{-1}AS) + a_0 I \\ &= a_n B^n + a_{n-1} B^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1 B + a_0 I \\ &= q(B). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, we show that $A + \alpha I$ and $B + \alpha I$ are similar for any $c \in \mathbf{C}$ by choosing $q(t) = t + \alpha$.

Example 1.6. Let $A, S \in M_n$ and suppose that S is nonsingular. Then we conclude that $S_k(S^{-1}AS) = S_k(A)$ for all $k = 1, \dots, n$. (Recall that Definition (3.9) in Lecture 1) states that $S_k(A) = \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \cdots < i_k \leq n} \prod_{j=1}^k \lambda_{i_j}$, where $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ are eigenvalues of A .) This can be deduced from Theorem 1.4, which illustrates that A and $S^{-1}AS$ have the same eigenvalues. Moreover, since $E_k(A) = S_k(A)$ (Theorem (3.10) in Lecture 1), we also have $E_k(S^{-1}AS) = E_k(A)$ for all $k = 1, \dots, n$. Thus, all the principal minor sums (Definition (3.7)) are similarity invariants, not just the determinant and trace.

Since diagonal matrices are especially simple and have very nice properties, we would like to know which matrices are similar to diagonal matrices.

Definition 1.7. *If $A \in M_n$ is similar to diagonal matrix, then A is said to be diagonalizable.*

After defining diagonalizable matrices, we would like to figure out an algorithm to achieve the diagonal form for a given diagonalizable matrix, which allows for the following theorem.

Theorem 1.8. *Let $A \in M_n$ be given.*

(a) *A is similar to a block matrix of the form*

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Lambda & C \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k), \quad D \in M_{n-k}, \quad 1 \leq k < n, \quad (1)$$

where $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$ are eigenvalues of A if and only if there are k linearly independent vectors in \mathbf{C}^n , each of which is an eigenvector of A .

(b) *The matrix A is diagonalizable if and only if there are n linearly independent vectors, each of which is an eigenvector of A .*

(c) *If $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n)}$ are linearly independent eigenvectors of A and if $S = [x^{(1)} \cdots x^{(n)}]$, then $S^{-1}AS$ is a diagonal matrix, whose diagonal entries are all of the corresponding eigenvalues of A .*

Proof. (a) Suppose that $k < n$, the n -vectors $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(k)}$ are linearly independent, and $Ax^{(i)} = \lambda_i x^{(i)}$ for each $i = 1, \dots, k$. Let $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k)$, let $S_1 = [x^{(1)} \cdots x^{(k)}]$, and choose any $S_2 \in M_{n, n-k}$ such that $S = [S_1 \ S_2]$ is nonsingular. Compute

$$\begin{aligned} S^{-1}AS &= S^{-1}[Ax^{(1)} \cdots Ax^{(k)} \ AS_2] = S^{-1}[\lambda_1 x^{(1)} \cdots \lambda_k x^{(k)} \ AS_2] \\ &= [\lambda_1 S^{-1}x^{(1)} \cdots \lambda_k S^{-1}x^{(k)} \ S^{-1}AS_2] = [\lambda_1 e_1 \cdots \lambda_k e_k \ S^{-1}AS_2] \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \Lambda & C \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k), \quad \begin{bmatrix} C \\ D \end{bmatrix} = S^{-1}AS_2. \end{aligned}$$

The assertion about the eigenvalues follow from an extension of the characteristic polynomials: $p_A(t) = p_\Lambda(t)p_D(t)$ if $k < n$.

Conversely, if S is nonsingular, $S^{-1}AS = \begin{bmatrix} \Lambda & C \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix}$, and we partition $S = [S_1 \ S_2]$ with $S_1 \in M_{n, k}$, then S_1 has linearly independent columns and

$$[AS_1 \ AS_2] = AS = S \begin{bmatrix} \Lambda & C \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix} = [S_1 \Lambda \ S_1 C + S_2 D].$$

Thus, $AS_1 = S_1\Lambda$, so each column of S_1 is an eigenvector of A .

(b,c) If $k = n$ and we have a basis $\{x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n)}\}$ of \mathbf{C}^n such that $Ax^{(i)} = \lambda_i x^{(i)}$ for each $i = 1, \dots, n$, let $\Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ and let $S = [x^{(1)} \cdots x^{(n)}]$, which is nonsingular. Our previous argument shows that $S^{-1}AS = \Lambda$. Conversely, if S is nonsingular and $S^{-1}AS = \Lambda$, then $AS = S\Lambda$, so each column of S is an eigenvector of A . In addition, $p_A(t) = p_\Lambda(t)$ when $k = n$ shows that all the diagonal entries of Λ are corresponding eigenvalues. \square

Remark. Theorem 1.8 furnishes us a plausible but somehow inefficient approach to diagonalize a diagonalizable matrix: align n linearly independent eigenvectors of $A \in M_n$ by columns to construct the similarity matrix S . However, except for some small matrices, this is *not* a practical computational procedure. In practice, there are miscellaneous algorithms aiming at different types of matrices. Here we introduce a numerical method to computing the greatest eigenvalue and corresponding eigenvector, *power iteration*, which is commonly used when A is sparse.

Example 1.9 (Power Iteration Algorithm^[2]). Assume that A has an eigenvalue that is strictly greater in magnitude than its other eigenvalues and the initial vector b_0 has a nonzero component in the direction of an eigenvector associated with the dominant eigenvalue. Then the recursive sequence

$$b_{k+1} = \frac{Ab_k}{\|Ab_k\|}$$

converges to an eigenvector associated with the dominant eigenvalue. To obtain the dominant eigenvalue (spectral radius), we resort to the Rayleigh quotient

$$\rho(A) = \frac{b_k^T Ab_k}{b_k^T b_k} = \frac{b_{k+1}^T b_k}{b_k^T b_k}.$$

The Matlab code for the power iterative algorithm can be found on the [course website](#). In two-dimensional case^[3], we randomly simulate $n = 200$ points within the square $\{(x, y) : |x| \leq 1, |y| \leq 1\}$ and apply a linear transformation $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$ to each of them iteratively. The eigenvalues of A are $\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 3$ and the associated eigenvectors are $(1, 1)^T, (1, -1)^T$, respectively. It turns out that the resulting points converge to the direction of the principal eigenvector $(1, -1)^T$ as the number of iterative times increases. In a similar fashion, we can determine the principal eigenvector of A^{-1} . See Figure 1 for details.

Here we briefly sketch the proof of the correctness of the algorithm.

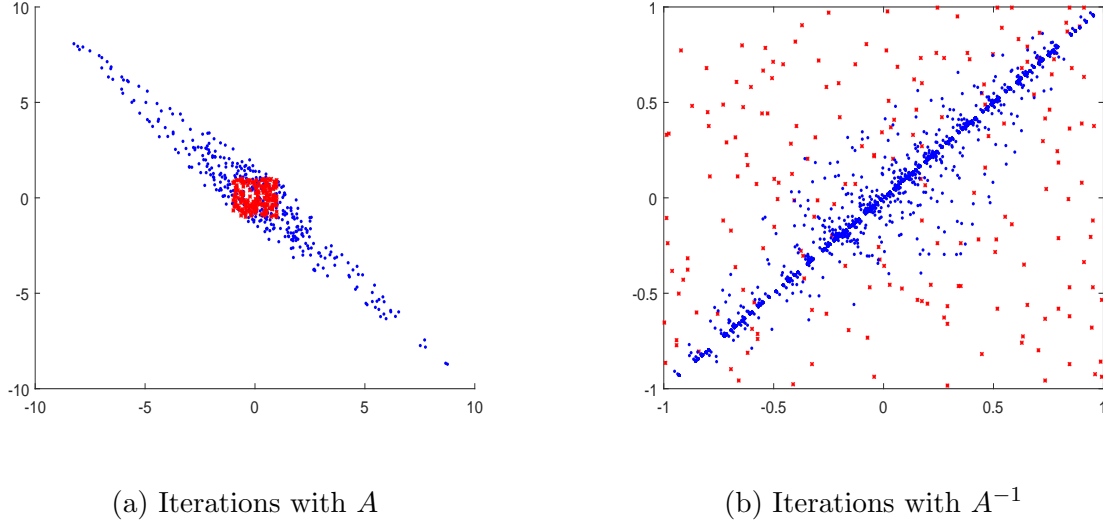


Figure 1: Visualization of Original Simulated Points (red asterisk points) and the Resulting Points Operated by A (blue dotted points).

Proof. Recall that a matrix $A \in M_n$ is similar to its *Jordan normal form*, namely, a block diagonal matrix

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} J_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & J_p \end{bmatrix}$$

where each block J_i is a square matrix of the form

$$J_i = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_i & 1 & & \\ & \lambda_i & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & 1 \\ & & & \lambda_i \end{bmatrix}$$

and $\lambda_i \in \sigma(A), i = 1, \dots, p$. Thus, A can be decomposed into $A = VJV^{-1}$, where V is nonsingular and the first column of V is an eigenvector of A corresponding to the dominant eigenvalue, says λ_1 . Since the dominant eigenvalue of A is unique, the first Jordan block of J is the 1-by-1 matrix $[\lambda_1]$. Since V

is nonsingular, we write the starting vector b_0 as a linear combination of the columns of V , i.e.,

$$b_0 = c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \cdots + c_n v_n.$$

By assumption, b_0 has a nonzero component in the direction of an eigenvector associated with the dominant eigenvalue, so $c_1 \neq 0$. The recurrence relation for b_{k+1} can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} b_{k+1} &= \frac{Ab_k}{\|Ab_k\|} = \frac{A^{k+1}b_0}{\|A^{k+1}b_0\|} \\ &= \frac{(VJV^{-1})^{k+1}b_0}{\|(VJV^{-1})^{k+1}b_0\|} = \frac{VJ^{k+1}V^{-1}b_0}{\|VJ^{k+1}V^{-1}b_0\|} \\ &= \frac{VJ^{k+1}V^{-1}(c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \cdots + c_n v_n)}{\|VJ^{k+1}V^{-1}(c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \cdots + c_n v_n)\|} \\ &= \frac{VJ^{k+1}(c_1 e_1 + c_2 e_2 + \cdots + c_n e_n)}{\|VJ^{k+1}(c_1 e_1 + c_2 e_2 + \cdots + c_n e_n)\|} \\ &= \left(\frac{\lambda_1}{|\lambda_1|} \right)^{k+1} \frac{c_1}{|c_1|} \cdot \frac{v_1 + \frac{1}{c_1} V \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} J \right)^{k+1} (c_2 e_2 + \cdots + c_n e_n)}{\|v_1 + \frac{1}{c_1} V \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} J \right)^{k+1} (c_2 e_2 + \cdots + c_n e_n)\|} \end{aligned}$$

The expression above simplifies as $k \rightarrow \infty$, since

$$\left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} J \right)^{k+1} = \begin{bmatrix} [1] & & & \\ & \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} J_2 \right)^{k+1} & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} J_m \right)^{k+1} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 0 & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

where we use the fact that the eigenvalues of $\frac{1}{\lambda_1} J_i$ are less than 1 in magnitude, so $\left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} J_i \right)^{k+1} \rightarrow 0, i = 1, \dots, p$, as $k \rightarrow \infty$.

It follows that as $k \rightarrow \infty$

$$\frac{1}{c_1} V \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} J \right)^{k+1} (c_2 e_2 + \cdots + c_n e_n) \rightarrow 0.$$

Therefore, b_{k+1} can be written in a form that emphasizes its relationship with v_1 when k is large, i.e.,

$$b_{k+1} = \left(\frac{\lambda_1}{|\lambda_1|} \right)^{k+1} \frac{c_1}{|c_1|} \cdot \frac{v_1 + \frac{1}{c_1} V \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} J \right)^{k+1} (c_2 e_2 + \cdots + c_n e_n)}{\|v_1 + \frac{1}{c_1} V \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} J \right)^{k+1} (c_2 e_2 + \cdots + c_n e_n)\|} = e^{i\phi_{k+1}} \frac{c_1}{|c_1|} \frac{v_1}{\|v_1\|} + r_k,$$

where $e^{i\phi_{k+1}} = \left(\frac{\lambda_1}{|\lambda_1|}\right)^{k+1}$ and $\|r_k\| \rightarrow 0$ as $k \rightarrow \infty$.

The sequence $\{b_k\}$ is bounded, so it contains a convergent subsequence. Note that the eigenvector corresponding to the dominant eigenvalue is only unique up to a scalar, so although the sequence $\{b_k\}$ may not converge, b_k is nearly an eigenvector of A for large k .

In particular, if A is diagonalizable, it can be decomposed into $A = V\Lambda V^{-1}$, where Λ is diagonal and the columns of V , v_1, \dots, v_n , are linearly independent eigenvectors of A . Suppose that λ_1 is the dominant eigenvalue. The initial vector b_0 can be written into

$$b_0 = c_1 v_1 + c_2 v_2 + \cdots + c_m v_m.$$

(If b_0 is chosen randomly with uniform probability, then $c \neq 0$ with probability 1.) Now,

$$\begin{aligned} A^k b_0 &= c_1 A^k v_1 + c_2 A^k v_2 + \cdots + c_n A^k v_n \\ &= c_1 \lambda_1^k v_1 + c_2 \lambda_2^k v_2 + \cdots + c_n \lambda_n^k v_n \\ &= c_1 \lambda_1^k \left(v_1 + \frac{c_2}{c_1} \left(\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1}\right)^k v_2 + \cdots + \frac{c_n}{c_1} \left(\frac{\lambda_n}{\lambda_1}\right)^k v_n \right) \rightarrow c_1 \lambda_1^k v_1, \end{aligned}$$

as $k \rightarrow \infty$. Hence b_k converges to (a multiple of) the eigenvector v_1 . \square

Remark. (a) The convergent rate of the algorithm is determined by the ratio $\left|\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1}\right|$, where λ_2 denotes the second dominant eigenvalue;

(b) If the set of all linearly independent eigenvectors associated with the dominant eigenvalue has the cardinality more than 1, then the resulting vector of the power iteration algorithm would be the linear combination of these eigenvectors in the list. Equivalently, if we randomly generate many points (or vectors) within the vector space, the points after iterations will spread out the space spanned by the eigenvectors corresponding to the dominant eigenvalues.

A previous Example (1.5) illuminates that the polynomial evaluation on matrices preserves similarity. Likewise, we can show that it also preserves diagonalizability.

Example 1.10. Let $q(t)$ be a given polynomial. If A is diagonalizable, then there exists a nonsingular matrix S such that $D = S^{-1}AS$ is diagonal. Assume $q(t) = a_nt^n + \cdots + a_1t + a_0$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} S^{-1}q(A)S &= S^{-1}(a_nA^n + a_{n-1}A^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1A + a_0I)S \\ &= a_n(S^{-1}AS)^n + a_{n-1}(S^{-1}AS)^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1(S^{-1}AS) + a_0I \\ &= a_nD^n + a_{n-1}D^{n-1} + \cdots + a_1D + a_0I, \end{aligned}$$

which is diagonal. However, the converse does not hold. Consider $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $q(t) = t^2 + 1$. Then $q(A) = I_2$ is diagonal, while A is not diagonalizable, since there is only one linearly independent eigenvector $(1, 0)^T$ associated with its unique eigenvalue.

Diagonalizability is assured if all the eigenvalues are distinct. The basis for this fact is the following important lemma about some of the eigenvalues.

Lemma 1.11. *Let $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$ be $k \geq 2$ distinct eigenvalues of $A \in M_n$ (that is, $\lambda_i \neq \lambda_j$ if $i \neq j$ and $1 \leq i, j \leq k$), and suppose that $x^{(i)}$ is an eigenvector associated with λ_i for each $i = 1, \dots, k$. Then the vectors $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(k)}$ are linearly independent.*

Proof. Suppose that $\alpha_1x^{(1)} + \alpha_2x^{(2)} + \cdots + \alpha_kx^{(k)} = 0$, where $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \in \mathbf{C}$. Let $B_1 = (A - \lambda_2I)(A - \lambda_3I) \cdots (A - \lambda_kI)$ (the product omits $A - \lambda_1I$). Since $x^{(i)}$ is an eigenvector associated with the eigenvalue λ_i for each $i = 1, \dots, n$, we have $B_1x^{(i)} = (\lambda_i - \lambda_2)(\lambda_i - \lambda_3) \cdots (\lambda_i - \lambda_k)x^{(i)}$, which is zero if $2 \leq i \leq k$ (one of the factors is zero) and nonzero if $i = 1$ (no factor is zero and $x^{(1)} \neq 0$). Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= B_1(\alpha_1x^{(1)} + \alpha_2x^{(2)} + \cdots + \alpha_kx^{(k)}) \\ &= \alpha_1B_1x^{(1)} + \alpha_2B_1x^{(2)} + \cdots + \alpha_kB_1x^{(k)} \\ &= \alpha_1B_1x^{(1)} + 0 + \cdots + 0 = \alpha_1B_1x^{(1)}, \end{aligned}$$

which ensures that $\alpha_1 = 0$ since $B_1x^{(1)} \neq 0$. Repeat this argument for each $j = 2, \dots, k$, defining B_j by a product like that defining B_1 , but in which the factor $A - \lambda_jI$ is omitted. For each j we find that $\alpha_j = 0$, so $\alpha_1 = \cdots = \alpha_k = 0$ and hence $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(k)}$ are linearly independent. \square

Theorem 1.12. *If $A \in M_n$ has n distinct eigenvalues, then A is diagonalizable.*

Proof. Let $x^{(i)}$ be an eigenvector associated with the eigenvalue λ_i for each $i = 1, \dots, n$. Since all the eigenvalues are distinct, Lemma 1.11 ensures that the vectors $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(n)}$ are linearly independent. Theorem 1.8 then ensures that A is diagonalizable. \square

Remark. Having distinct eigenvalues is *sufficient* for diagonalizability, but certainly, it is not *necessary*. The simplest counterexample is the identity matrix I_n . Also, in Lecture 1, Example 2.3 shows that J_n whose entries are all equal to 1 has n linearly independent eigenvectors but $\sigma(J_n) = \{n, 0\}$.

In general, matrices $A, B \in M_n$ *do not* commute, but if A and B are both diagonal, they always commute. The latter assumption can be generalized to a concept called *simultaneous diagonalizability*.

Definition 1.13. Two matrices $A, B \in M_n$ are said to be simultaneously diagonalizable if there is a single nonsingular $S \in M_n$ such that $S^{-1}AS$ and $S^{-1}BS$ are both diagonal.

Proposition 1.14. If $A, B \in M_n$ are simultaneously diagonalizable, then they commute.

Proof. By definition, there exists a nonsingular matrix S such that $D_1 = S^{-1}AS$, $D_2 = S^{-1}BS$, where D_1, D_2 are diagonal. Then

$$\begin{aligned} AB &= (SD_1S^{-1})(SD_2S^{-1}) = SD_1D_2S^{-1} \\ &= SD_2D_1S^{-1} = (SD_2S^{-1})(SD_1S^{-1}) \\ &= BA, \end{aligned}$$

where we use the fact that diagonal matrices always commute. \square

Surprisingly, the converse of Proposition 1.14 is also true and the proof requires the following lemma.

Lemma 1.15. Let $B_1 \in M_{n_1}, \dots, B_d \in M_{n_d}$ be given and let B be the direct sum

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} B_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & B_d \end{bmatrix} = B_1 \oplus \dots \oplus B_d$$

Then B is diagonalizable if and only if each of B_1, \dots, B_d is diagonalizable.

Proof. (\Leftarrow) If for each $i = 1, \dots, d$ there is a nonsingular $S_i \in M_{n_i}$ such that $S_i^{-1}B_iS_i$ is diagonal, and if we define $S = S_1 \oplus \dots \oplus S_d$, then one checks that $S^{-1}BS$ is diagonal.

(\Rightarrow) We proceed by induction. There is nothing to prove for $d = 1$. Suppose that $d \geq 2$ and that the assertion has been established for direct sums with $d - 1$ or fewer direct summands. Let $C = B_1 \oplus \dots \oplus B_{d-1}$, $n = n_1 + \dots + n_{d-1}$, and $m = n_d$. Let $S \in M_{n+m}$ be nonsingular and such that

$$S^{-1}BS = S^{-1}(C \oplus B_d)S = \Lambda = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{n+m}).$$

Rewrite this identity as $BS = S\Lambda$. Partition $S = [s_1 \ s_2 \ \dots \ s_{n+m}]$ with

$$s_i = \begin{bmatrix} \xi_i \\ \eta_i \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbf{C}^{m+n}, \quad \xi_i \in \mathbf{C}^n, \eta_i \in \mathbf{C}^m, i = 1, 2, \dots, n+m$$

Then $Bs_i = \lambda_i s_i$ implies that $C\xi_i = \lambda_i \xi_i$ and $B_d\eta_i = \lambda_i \eta_i$ for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n+m$. The row rank of $[\xi_1 \ \dots \ \xi_{n+m}] \in M_{n, n+m}$ is n because this matrix comprises the first n rows of the nonsingular matrix S . Thus, its column rank is also n , so the list ξ_1, \dots, ξ_{n+m} contains a linearly independent list of n vectors, each of which is an eigenvector of C . Theorem 1.8 ensures that C is diagonalizable and the induction hypothesis ensures that its direct summands B_1, \dots, B_{d-1} are all diagonalizable. The row rank of $[\eta_1 \ \dots \ \eta_{n+m}] \in M_{m, n+m}$ is m , so the list $\eta_1, \dots, \eta_{n+m}$ contains a linearly independent list of m vectors; Theorem 1.8 enables that B_d is diagonalizable as well. \square

Now we are prepared to prove the converse of Proposition 1.14 and summarize both directions into the following theorem.

Theorem 1.16. *Let $A, B \in M_n$ be diagonalizable. Then A and B commute if and only if they are simultaneously diagonalizable.*

Proof. (\Leftarrow) It has been proved in Proposition 1.14.

(\Rightarrow) Assume that A and B commute. We perform a similarity transformation S on both A and B that diagonalizes A (but not necessarily B) and groups together any repeated eigenvalues of A . Denote $S^{-1}AS$ and $S^{-1}BS$ by \tilde{A} and \tilde{B} , respectively. If μ_1, \dots, μ_d are the distinct eigenvalues of A and n_1, \dots, n_d are their respective multiplicities, then we may assume that

$$\tilde{A} = \begin{bmatrix} \mu_1 I_{n_1} & & & 0 \\ & \mu_2 I_{n_2} & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & \mu_d I_{n_d} \end{bmatrix}, \mu_i \neq \mu_j \text{ if } i \neq j \quad (2)$$

Since $AB = BA$,

$$\tilde{A}\tilde{B} = (S^{-1}AS)(S^{-1}BS) = S^{-1}ABS = S^{-1}BAS = (S^{-1}BS)(S^{-1}AS) = \tilde{B}\tilde{A}.$$

Thus, partitioning \tilde{B} conformally to \tilde{A} , we obtain that $\mu_i B_{ij} = B_{ij} \mu_j$ for each $i, j = 1, \dots, d$. This equality holds if and only if $B_{ij} = 0$ whenever $i \neq j$, since $\mu_i \neq \mu_j$. It shows that

$$\tilde{B} = \begin{bmatrix} B_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & B_d \end{bmatrix}, \text{ each } B_i \in M_{n_i} \quad (3)$$

is a block diagonal conformal to A . Since B is diagonalizable, \tilde{B} is also diagonalizable and Lemma 1.15 ensures that each B_i is diagonalizable. Let $T_i \in M_{n_i}$ be nonsingular and such that $T_i^{-1}B_iT_i$ is diagonal for each $i = 1, \dots, d$; let

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} T_1 & & 0 \\ & T_2 & \\ & & \ddots \\ 0 & & & T_d \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

Then $T_i^{-1}\mu_i I_{n_i}T_i = \mu_i I_{n_i}$, so $T^{-1}\tilde{A}T = \tilde{A}$ and $T^{-1}\tilde{B}T$ are both diagonal. Therefore, ST is a similarity matrix that can diagonalize both A and B . \square

Remark. The two matrix partitions are said to be *conformal* if $A \in M_{m,n}(\mathbf{F})$ and $B \in M_{n,p}(\mathbf{F})$ are partitioned so that the two partitions of $\{1, \dots, n\}$ coincide.

We want to have a version of Theorem 1.16 involving arbitrarily many commuting diagonalizable matrices. Central to our investigation is the notion of an invariant subspace and the companion notion of a block triangular matrix.

Definition 1.17. (a) A family $\mathcal{F} \subseteq M_n$ of matrices is a nonempty finite or infinite set of matrices; a commuting family is a family of matrices in which every pair of matrices commutes.

(b) For a given $A \in M_n$, a subspace $W \subseteq \mathbf{C}^n$ is A -invariant if $Aw \in W$ for every $w \in W$. (A subspace $W \subseteq \mathbf{C}^n$ is trivial if either $W = \{0\}$ or $W = \mathbf{C}^n$; otherwise, it is nontrivial.)

- (c) For a given family $\mathcal{F} \subseteq M_n$, a subspace $W \subseteq \mathbf{C}^n$ is \mathcal{F} -invariant if W is A -invariant for each $A \in \mathcal{F}$.
- (d) A given family $\mathcal{F} \subseteq M_n$ is reducible if some nontrivial subspace of \mathbf{C}^n is \mathcal{F} -invariant; otherwise, \mathcal{F} is irreducible.

Example 1.18. For $A \in M_n$, each nonzero element of a one-dimensional A -invariant subspace of \mathbf{C}^n is an eigenvector of A . This is because we may assume that the subspace W is spanned by a nonzero vector x_1 , i.e., $W = \text{span}(\{x_1\})$. Then for each $x \in W, x \neq 0$, we have $x = c_1 x_1$, where $c_1 \in \mathbf{C}^*$. Since W is A -invariant, there exists an $c_2 \in \mathbf{C}$ such that $Ax = c_2 x = \frac{c_2}{c_1}(c_1 x_1) = \frac{c_2}{c_1}x$, yielding that x is indeed an eigenvector of A .

Invariant subspaces and block triangular matrices are two sides of the same valuable coin: The former is the linear algebra side, while the latter is the matrix analysis side. We now exploit the connection between invariant subspaces and triangular block matrices.

Proposition 1.19. Suppose that $n \geq 2$. A given matrix $A \in M_n$ is similar to a block matrix of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} B & C \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix}, \quad B \in M_k, 1 \leq k \leq n-1 \quad (5)$$

if and only if some nontrivial subspace of \mathbf{C}^n is A -invariant. Moreover, if $W \subseteq \mathbf{C}^n$ is a nonzero A -invariant subspace, then some vector in W is an eigenvector of A . A given family $\mathcal{F} \subseteq M_n$ is reducible if and only if there is some $k \in \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ and a nonsingular $S \in M_n$ such that $S^{-1}AS$ has the form (5) for every $A \in \mathcal{F}$.

Proof. Let $A \in M_n$ with $n \geq 2$ and suppose that $W \subseteq \mathbf{C}^n$ is a k -dimensional subspace with $1 \leq k < n$. Choose a basis s_1, \dots, s_k of W and let $S_1 = [s_1 \cdots s_k] \in M_{n,k}$. Choose any s_{k+1}, \dots, s_n such that s_1, \dots, s_n is a basis for \mathbf{C}^n , let $S_2 = [s_{k+1} \cdots s_n] \in M_{n,n-k}$, and let $S = [S_1 \ S_2]$; S has linearly independent columns, so it is nonsingular.

(\Leftarrow) If W is A -invariant, then $As_j \in W$ for each $j = 1, \dots, k$, so each As_j is a linear combination of s_1, \dots, s_k , that is, $AS_1 = S_1 B$ for some $B \in M_k$. Thus, $AS = [AS_1 \ AS_2] = [S_1 B \ AS_2]$ and hence

$$\begin{aligned} S^{-1}AS &= [S^{-1}S_1 B \ S^{-1}AS_2] = \begin{bmatrix} I_k \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} B \ S^{-1}AS_2 \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} B & C \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix}, \quad B \in M_k, 1 \leq k \leq n-1 \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

But we can say a little more: We know that $B \in M_k$ has an eigenvalue, so suppose that $B\xi = \lambda\xi$ for some scalar λ , and a nonzero $\xi \in \mathbf{C}^k$. Then $0 \neq S_1\xi \in W$ ($\text{rank } S_1 = k$ and $S_1\xi$ is a linear combination of s_1, \dots, s_k) and $A(S_1\xi) = (AS_1)\xi = S_1B\xi = \lambda(S_1\xi)$, which means that A has an eigenvector in W .

Conversely, if $S = [S_1 \ S_2] \in M_n$ is nonsingular, $S_1 \in M_{n,k}$, and $S^{-1}AS$ has the block triangular form (5), then

$$AS_1 = AS = \begin{bmatrix} I_k \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = S \begin{bmatrix} B & C \\ 0 & D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_k \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = [S_1 \ S_2] \begin{bmatrix} B \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = S_1B,$$

so the (k -dimensional) span of the columns of S_1 is A -invariant. \square

Remark. Proposition 1.19 is somehow similar to Theorem 1.8, except that now B in the block matrix form (5) is no longer diagonal in that we are only given some nontrivial A -invariant subspace of \mathbf{C}^n .

Now we digress to talk about a lemma that is at the heart of many subsequent results.

Lemma 1.20. *Let $\mathcal{F} \subset M_n$ be a commuting family. Then some nonzero vector in \mathbf{C}^n is an eigenvector of every $A \in \mathcal{F}$.*

Proof. There always exists a nonzero \mathcal{F} -invariant subspace, namely, \mathbf{C}^n . Let $m = \min\{\dim V : V \text{ is a nonzero } \mathcal{F}\text{-invariant subspace of } \mathbf{C}^n\}$ and let W be any given \mathcal{F} -invariant subspace such that $\dim W = m$. Let any $A \in \mathcal{F}$ be given.

Since W is \mathcal{F} -invariant, it is also A -invariant, so Proposition 1.19 ensures that there is some nonzero $x_0 \in W$ and some $\lambda \in \mathbf{C}^n$ such that $Ax_0 = \lambda x_0$. Consider the subspace $W_{A,\lambda} = \{x \in W : Ax = \lambda x\}$. Then $x_0 \in W_{A,\lambda}$, so $W_{A,\lambda}$ is a nonzero subspace of W . For any $B \in \mathcal{F}$ and any $x \in W_{A,\lambda}$, \mathcal{F} -invariance of W ensures that $Bx \in W$. Using commutativity of \mathcal{F} , we compute

$$A(Bx) = (AB)x = (BA)x = B(Ax) = B(\lambda x) = \lambda(Bx),$$

which shows that $Bx \in W_{A,\lambda}$. Thus, $W_{A,\lambda}$ is \mathcal{F} -invariant and nonzero, so $\dim W_{A,\lambda} \geq m$. But $W_{A,\lambda} \subseteq W$, so $\dim W_{A,\lambda} \leq m$ and hence $W = W_{A,\lambda}$.

What we have shown is that for each $A \in \mathcal{F}$, there is some scalar λ_A such that $Ax = \lambda_A x$ for all $x \in W$, so every nonzero vector in W is an eigenvector of every matrix in \mathcal{F} . \square

Remark. Indeed, the nonzero \mathcal{F} -invariant subspace W in the preceding proof has dimension 1, i.e., $m = \dim W = 1$. This is because for any $x \in W, x \neq 0$, for any $A \in \mathcal{F}$, there exists a scalar $\lambda_A \in \mathbf{C}$ such that $Ax = \lambda_A x \in \text{span}(\{x\})$. By the minimality of W , we have $W \subset \text{span}(\{x\})$. On the other hand, since $x \in W$, we also find that $\text{span}(\{x\}) \subset W$. Hence $\dim W = \dim \text{span}(\{x\}) = 1$.

Example 1.21. Suppose that $\mathcal{F} \subset M_n$ is a commuting family. Then by Lemma 1.20, there exists a nonzero vector $x \in W$ such that it is an eigenvector of every $A \in \mathcal{F}$. If we choose any x_2, \dots, x_n such that $S = [x \ x_2 \ \cdots \ x_n] \in M_n$ is nonsingular, then for every $A \in \mathcal{F}$

$$S^{-1}AS = S^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda x & Ax_2 & \cdots & Ax_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & B \\ 0 & C \end{bmatrix},$$

which is the block triangular form (5) with $k = 1$.

Lemma 1.20 concerns commuting families of arbitrary nonzero cardinality. Our next result shows that Theorem 1.16 can be extended to arbitrary commuting families of diagonalizable matrices.

Definition 1.22. A family $\mathcal{F} \subset M_n$ is said to be simultaneously diagonalizable if there is a single nonsingular $S \in M_n$ such that $S^{-1}AS$ is diagonal for every $A \in \mathcal{F}$.

Theorem 1.23. Let $\mathcal{F} \subset M_n$ be a family of diagonalizable matrices. Then \mathcal{F} is a commuting family if and only if it is a simultaneously diagonalizable family.

In particular, for any given $A_0 \in \mathcal{F}$ and for any given ordering $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ of the eigenvalues of A_0 , there is a nonsingular $S \in M_n$ such that $S^{-1}A_0S = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ and $S^{-1}BS$ is diagonal for every $B \in \mathcal{F}$.

Proof. (\Leftarrow) If \mathcal{F} is simultaneously diagonalizable, then it is a commuting family by Proposition 1.14.

(\Rightarrow) We prove it by induction on n . If $n = 1$, there is nothing to prove, since matrices are just scalars and every family is both commuting and diagonal. Suppose that $n \geq 2$ and that, for each $k = 1, 2, \dots, n-1$, any commuting family of diagonalizable matrices in M_k is simultaneously diagonalizable. If every matrix in \mathcal{F} is a scalar matrix, namely, αI , $\alpha \in \mathbf{C}$, there is nothing to prove, since scalar matrices are already diagonal and we simply take $S = I$.

So, we may assume that $A \in \mathcal{F}$ is a given diagonalizable matrix in M_n with distinct eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$ and $k \geq 2$, that $BA = AB$ for every $B \in \mathcal{F}$, and that each $B \in \mathcal{F}$ is diagonalizable. Using the argument in Theorem 1.16, we reduce to the case in which A has the form (2)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 I_{n_1} & & & 0 \\ & \lambda_2 I_{n_2} & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ 0 & & & \lambda_k I_{n_k} \end{bmatrix}, \lambda_i \neq \lambda_j \text{ if } i \neq j$$

Since every $B \in \mathcal{F}$ commutes with A , each $B \in \mathcal{F}$ has the form (3)

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} B_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & B_k \end{bmatrix}, \text{ each } B_i \in M_{n_i}$$

as in Theorem 1.16. Let $B, \hat{B} \in \mathcal{F}$, so $B = B_1 \oplus \dots \oplus B_k$ and $\hat{B} = \hat{B}_1 \oplus \dots \oplus \hat{B}_k$, in which each of B_i, \hat{B}_i has the same size and that size is at most $n - 1$. By Lemma 1.15, commutativity and diagonalizability of B and \hat{B} imply commutativity and diagonalizability of B_i and \hat{B}_i for each $i = 1, \dots, k$. By the induction hypothesis, there are k similarity matrices T_1, T_2, \dots, T_k of appropriate size, each of which diagonalizes the corresponding block of every matrix in \mathcal{F} . Then the direct sum $T_1 \oplus T_2 \oplus \dots \oplus T_k$ diagonalizes every matrix in \mathcal{F} .

We have shown that there is a nonsingular $T \in M_n$ such that $T^{-1}BT$ is diagonal for every $B \in \mathcal{F}$. Then for any given ordering $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$, $T^{-1}A_0T = P \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)P^T$ for some permutation matrix P , $P^T(T^{-1}A_0T)P = (TP)^{-1}A_0(TP) = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$, and $(TP)^{-1}B(TP) = P^T(T^{-1}BT)P$ is diagonal for every $B \in \mathcal{F}$. \square

Although AB and BA need not be the same (and need not be the same size even when both products are defined, as $A \in M_{m,n}, B \in M_{n,m}$ and $m \neq n$), their eigenvalues are as much the same as possible. Indeed, if A and B are both square, then AB and BA have exactly the same eigenvalues.

Theorem 1.24. *Suppose that $A \in M_{m,n}$ and $B \in M_{n,m}$ with $m \leq n$. Then the n eigenvalues of BA are the m eigenvalues of AB together with $n - m$ zeroes; that is, $p_{BA}(t) = t^{n-m}p_{AB}(t)$. If $m = n$ and at least one of A or B is nonsingular, then AB and BA are similar.*

Proof. A computation reveals that

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_m & -A \\ 0 & I_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_m & A \\ 0 & I_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I_m & 0 \\ 0 & I_n \end{bmatrix} = I_{m+n},$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} I_m & -A \\ 0 & I_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} AB & 0 \\ B & 0_n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_m & A \\ 0 & I_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0_m & 0 \\ B & BA \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus, $C_1 = \begin{bmatrix} AB & 0 \\ B & 0_n \end{bmatrix}$ and $C_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0_m & 0 \\ B & BA \end{bmatrix}$ are similar. The eigenvalues of C_1 are the eigenvalues of AB together with n zeroes. The eigenvalues of C_2 are the eigenvalues of BA together with m zeroes. Since the eigenvalues of C_1 and C_2 are the same, the first assertion of the theorem follows. The final assertion follows from the observation that $AB = A(AB)A^{-1}$ if A is nonsingular and $m = n$. \square

Theorem 1.24 has many applications, several of which emerge in the following lectures. Here we discuss two of them.

Example 1.25 (Eigenvalues of a low-rank matrix). Suppose that $A \in M_n$ is factored as $A = XY^T$, where $X, Y \in M_{n,r}$ and $r < n$. Then the eigenvalues of A are the same as those of the matrix $Y^T X \in M_{r,r}$, together with $n - r$ zeroes. For example, consider the all-ones matrix $J_n = ee^T$ (Example 2.3 in Lecture 1). Its eigenvalues are the eigenvalue of the 1-by-1 matrix $e^T e = [n]$, namely, n , together with $n - 1$ zeroes. In fact, the eigenvalues of any matrix of the form $A = xy^T$ with $x, y \in \mathbf{C}^n$ (rank A is at most 1) are $y^T x$, together with $n - 1$ zeroes. The eigenvalues of any matrix of the form $A = xy^T + zw^T = [x \ z][y \ w]^T$ with $x, y, z, w \in \mathbf{C}^n$ (rank A is at most 2) are the two eigenvalues of $[y \ w]^T [x \ z] = \begin{bmatrix} y^T x & y^T z \\ w^T x & w^T z \end{bmatrix} \in M_2$, together with $n - 2$ zeroes.

In the last lecture, we apply *Schur complements* of a 2-by-2 block matrix to deduce the *Cauchy's formula for the determinant of a rank-one perturbation*, which is also called *Cauchy's determinant identity*. Here we utilize Theorem 1.24 to yield a more concise derivation.

Example 1.26 (Cauchy's determinant identity). Let a nonsingular $A \in M_n$

and $x, y \in \mathbf{C}^n$ be given. Denote the i^{th} eigenvalue of A by $\lambda_i(A)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \det(A + xy^T) &= (\det A)(\det(I + A^{-1}xy^T)) \\
 &= (\det A) \prod_{i=1}^n \lambda_i(I + A^{-1}xy^T) \\
 &= (\det A) \prod_{i=1}^n (1 + \lambda_i(A^{-1}xy^T)) \quad (\text{use Observation 2.10 in Lecture 1}) \\
 &= (\det A)(1 + y^T A^{-1}x) \quad (\text{use Example 1.25}) \\
 &= \det A + y^T((\det A)A^{-1})x = \det A + y^T(\text{adj } A)x.
 \end{aligned}$$

Cauchy's identity, $\det(A + xy^T) = \det A + y^T(\text{adj } A)x$, is valid for any $A \in M_n$ by Theorem 3.11 in Lecture 1 and continuity.

If $A \in M_n$ is diagonalizable and $A = S\Lambda S^{-1}$, then aS also diagonalizes A for any $a \neq 0$. Thus, a diagonalizing similarity is *never unique*. Nevertheless, *every* similarity of A to a particular diagonal matrix can be obtained from just one given similarity.

Theorem 1.27. *Suppose that $A \in M_n$ is diagonalizable, let μ_1, \dots, μ_d be its distinct eigenvalues with respective multiplicities n_1, \dots, n_d , let $S, T \in M_n$ be nonsingular, and suppose that $A = S\Lambda S^{-1}$, where Λ is a diagonal matrix of the form (2). Then*

- (a) $A = T\Lambda T^{-1}$ if and only if $T = S(R_1 \oplus \dots \oplus R_d)$ in which each $R_i \in M_{n_i}$ is nonsingular.
- (b) If $S = [S_1 \dots S_d]$ and $T = [T_1 \dots T_d]$ are partitioned conformally to Λ , then $A = S\Lambda S^{-1} = T\Lambda T^{-1}$ if and only if for each $i = 1, \dots, d$, the column space of S_i is the same as the column space of T_i .
- (c) If A has n distinct eigenvalues and $S = [s_1 \dots s_n]$ and $T = [t_1 \dots t_n]$ are partitioned according to their columns, then $A = S\Lambda S^{-1} = T\Lambda T^{-1}$ if and only if there is a nonsingular diagonal matrix $R = \text{diag}(r_1, \dots, r_n)$ such that $T = SR$ if and only if, for each $i = 1, \dots, n$, the column s_i is a nonzero scalar multiple of the corresponding column t_i .

Proof. (a) We have $S\Lambda S^{-1} = T\Lambda T^{-1}$ if and only if $(S^{-1}T)\Lambda = \Lambda(S^{-1}T)$ if and only if $S^{-1}T$ is block diagonal conformal to Λ , that is, if and only if $S^{-1}T = R_1 \oplus \dots \oplus R_d$ and each $R_i \in M_{n_i}$ is nonsingular. (See the argument

in Theorem 1.16)

(b) Observe that $T_i = S_i R_i$, $i = 1, \dots, d$ and R_i 's are nonsingular by (a). This indicates that T_i is in the column space of S_i and alternatively, S_i is in the column space of T_i , since $S_i = T_i R_i^{-1}$ for each $i = 1, \dots, d$. The converse follows from (a).

The assertion (c) is a special case of (a) and (b). \square

Up to now, our discussions of similarity focus on matrices over the complex numbers \mathbf{C} . If, for instance, real matrices are similar via a complex matrix, are they similar via a real matrix? Is there a real version of Theorem 1.23 for commuting real matrices? The following lemma is the key to answering such questions.

Lemma 1.28. *Let $S \in M_n$ be nonsingular and let $S = C + iD$, where $C, D \in M_n(\mathbf{R})$. There is a real number τ such that $T = C + \tau D$ is nonsingular.*

Proof. If C is nonsingular, take $\tau = 0$. If C is singular, consider the polynomial $p(t) = \det(C + tD)$, which is not a constant (degree zero) polynomial, since $p(0) = \det C = 0 \neq \det S = p(i)$. Since $p(t)$ has only finitely many zeroes in the complex plane, there is a real τ such that $p(\tau) = 0$, so $C + \tau D$ is nonsingular. \square

Theorem 1.29. *Let $\mathcal{F} = \{A_\alpha : \alpha \in \mathcal{I}\} \subset M_n(\mathbf{R})$ and $\mathcal{G} = \{B_\alpha : \alpha \in \mathcal{I}\} \subset M_n(\mathbf{R})$ be given families of real matrices. If there is a nonsingular $S \in M_n$ such that $A_\alpha = S B_\alpha S^{-1}$ for every $\alpha \in \mathcal{I}$, then there is a nonsingular $T \in M_n(\mathbf{R})$ such that $A_\alpha = T B_\alpha T^{-1}$ for every $\alpha \in \mathcal{I}$. In particular, two real matrices that are similar over \mathbf{C} are similar over \mathbf{R} .*

Proof. Let $S = C + iD$ be nonsingular, where $C, D \in M_n(\mathbf{R})$. Lemma 1.28 ensures that there is a real number τ such that $T = C + \tau D$ is nonsingular. The similarity $A_\alpha = S B_\alpha S^{-1}$ is equivalent to the identity $A_\alpha(C + iD) = A_\alpha S = S B_\alpha = (C + iD) B_\alpha$. Equating the real and imaginary parts of this identity shows that $A_\alpha C = C B_\alpha$ and $A_\alpha D = D B_\alpha$, i.e., $A_\alpha(\tau D) = (\tau D) B_\alpha$, so $A_\alpha T = T B_\alpha$ and $A_\alpha = T B_\alpha T^{-1}$. \square

An immediate consequence of the preceding theorem is a real version of Theorem 1.23.

Corollary 1.30. *Let $\mathcal{F} = \{A_\alpha : \alpha \in \mathcal{I}\} \subset M_n(\mathbf{R})$ be a family of real diagonalizable matrices with real eigenvalues. Then \mathcal{F} is a commuting family*

if and only if there is a nonsingular real matrix T such that $T^{-1}A_\alpha T = \Lambda_\alpha$ is diagonal for every $A \in \mathcal{F}$. In particular, for any given $\alpha_0 \in \mathcal{I}$ and for any given ordering $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ of the eigenvalues of A_{α_0} , there is a nonsingular $T \in M_n(\mathbf{R})$ such that $T^{-1}A_{\alpha_0}T = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n)$ and $T^{-1}A_\alpha T$ is diagonal for every $\alpha \in \mathcal{I}$.

Proof. (\Rightarrow) Apply Theorem 1.29 to the families $\mathcal{F} = \{A_\alpha : \alpha \in \mathcal{I}\}$ and $\mathcal{G} = \{\Lambda_\alpha : \alpha \in \mathcal{I}\}$ and use Theorem 1.23 for simultaneous diagonalizability. (\Leftarrow) Utilize Proposition 1.16. \square

Our final theorem in this section about similarity shows that the *only* relationship between the eigenvalues and main diagonal entries of a complex matrix is that their respective sums should be equal.

Theorem 1.31 (Mirsky). *Let an integer $n \geq 2$ and complex scalars $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ and d_1, \dots, d_n be given. There is an $A \in M_n$ with eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ and main diagonal entries d_1, \dots, d_n if and only if $\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = \sum_{i=1}^n d_i$. If $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ and d_1, \dots, d_n are all real and have the same sums, there is an $A \in M_n(\mathbf{R})$ with eigenvalues $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ and main diagonal entries d_1, \dots, d_n .*

Proof. (\Rightarrow) We know that $\text{tr } A = E_1(A) = S_1(A)$ for any $A \in M_n$ (Theorem 3.10 in Lecture 1), which establishes the necessity of the stated condition. (\Leftarrow) If $k \geq 2$ and if $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k$ and d_1, \dots, d_k are any given complex scalars such that $\sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i = \sum_{i=1}^k d_i$, we claim that the upper bidiagonal matrix

$$T(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k) = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 1 & & \\ & \lambda_2 & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & 1 \\ & & & \lambda_k \end{bmatrix} \in M_k$$

is similar to a matrix with diagonal entries d_1, \dots, d_k ; that matrix has the property asserted. Let $L(s, t) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ s - t & 1 \end{bmatrix}$, so $L(s, t)^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ t - s & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Consider first the case $k = 2$, so $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = d_1 + d_2$. Compute the similarity

$$\begin{aligned} L(\lambda_1, d_1)T(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)L(\lambda_1, d_1)^{-1} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \lambda_1 - d_1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 1 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ d_1 - \lambda_1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & \star \\ \star & \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 - d_1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & \star \\ \star & d_2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

where we use the hypothesis $\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 - d_1 = d_1 + d_2 - d_1 = d_2$. This verifies our claim for $k = 2$.

We proceed by induction. In order to clarify the inductive procedures, we first work on the inductive step $k = 2 \Rightarrow k = 3$. If $\sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i = \sum_{i=1}^3 d_i$, compute the similarity

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} L(\lambda_1, d_1) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} L(d_1, \lambda_1) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & 1 & 0 \\ (d_1 - \lambda_1)(\lambda_2 - d_1) & \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 - d_1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{bmatrix} \\ = \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & \star \\ \star & D \end{bmatrix}, \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

where $D = T(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 - d_1, \lambda_3)$. By the preceding argument (induction hypothesis) on $k = 2$, we can apply the similarity transformation $S^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & L(d_3, \lambda_3) \end{bmatrix}$ on the resulting matrix (7), since

$$\begin{aligned} L(d_3, \lambda_3)DL(d_3, \lambda_3)^{-1} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ d_3 - \lambda_3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 - d_1 & 1 \\ 0 & \lambda_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \lambda_3 - d_3 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} d_2 & \star \\ \star & d_3 \end{bmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

This completes our claim from $k = 2$ to $k = 3$.

Assume that our claim has been proved for some $k \geq 2$ and that $\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \lambda_i = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} d_i$. Partition $T(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{k+1}) = [T_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^2$, where $T_{11} = T(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$, $T_{12} = E_2$, $T_{21} = 0$, and $T_{22} = T(\lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_{k+1})$, with $E_2 = [e_2 \ 0 \ \cdots \ 0] \in M_{2,k-1}$ and

$e_2 = [0 \ 1]^T \in \mathbf{C}^2$. Let $\mathcal{L} = L(\lambda_1, d_1) \oplus I_{k-1}$ and compute

$$\begin{aligned}
& \mathcal{L}T(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{k+1})\mathcal{L}^{-1} \\
&= \begin{bmatrix} L(\lambda_1, d_1) & 0 \\ 0 & I_{k-1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T(\lambda_1, \lambda_2) & E_2 \\ 0 & T(\lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_{k+1}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} L(d_1, \lambda_1) & 0 \\ 0 & I_{k-1} \end{bmatrix} \\
&= \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & \star \\ \star & \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 - d_1 \end{bmatrix} & E_2 \\ 0 & T(\lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_{k+1}) \end{bmatrix} \\
&= \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & \star \\ \star & T(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 - d_1, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_{k+1}) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & \star \\ \star & D \end{bmatrix}
\end{aligned}$$

The sum of the eigenvalues of $D = T(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 - d_1, \lambda_3, \dots, \lambda_{k+1}) \in M_k$ is $\sum_{i=1}^{k+1} \lambda_i - d_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{k+1} d_i - d_1 = \sum_{i=2}^{k+1} d_i$, so the induction hypothesis ensures that there is a nonsingular $S \in M_k$ such that the diagonal entries of SDS^{-1} are d_2, \dots, d_{k+1} . Then $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & S \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & \star \\ \star & D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & S \end{bmatrix}^{-1} = \begin{bmatrix} d_1 & \star \\ \star & SDS^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$ has diagonal entries d_1, d_2, \dots, d_{k+1} .

If $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$ and d_1, \dots, d_n are all real, all of the matrices and similarities in the preceding constructions are real by Theorem 1.29. \square

2 Left and right eigenvectors and geometric multiplicity (Page 75-80, Page 6)

The eigenvectors of a matrix are important not only for their role in diagonalization but also for their utility in a variety of applications. For example, Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is a statistical eigenvector-based method to fit an n -dimensional ellipsoid to the data, where each axis of the ellipsoid represents a principal component and all principal components are linearly correlated^[4]. However, all the eigenvectors of a matrix may not span the whole vector space in some cases. In this section we characterize these defective situations by introducing the concept of geometric multiplicity of an eigenvalue. Moreover, the connections between left and right eigenvalues of a matrix will also be investigated. We begin with an important observation about eigenvalues.

Observation 2.1. *Let $A \in M_n$. (a) The eigenvalues of A and A^T are the same. (b) The eigenvalues of A^* are the complex conjugates of the eigenvalues*

of A .

Proof. Since $\det(tI - A^T) = \det(tI - A)^T = \det(tI - A)$, we have $p_{A^T}(t) = p_A(t)$, so $p_{A^T}(\lambda) = 0$ if and only if $p_A(\lambda) = 0$. Similarly, $p_{A^*}(t) = \det(tI - A^*) = \det(tI - \bar{A})^T = \det(tI - \bar{A}) = \overline{\det(\bar{t}I - A)} = \overline{p_A(\bar{t})}$. \square

Proposition 2.2. *Let $A \in M_n$. The set of all eigenvectors associated with a particular eigenvalue $\lambda \in \sigma(A)$, together with the zero vector, is a subspace of \mathbf{C}^n .*

Proof. If $x, y \in \mathbf{C}^n$ are both eigenvectors of A associated with the eigenvalue λ and any $\alpha \in \mathbf{C}$, then $A(\alpha x + y) = \alpha Ax + Ay = \lambda(\alpha x + y)$, showing that $\alpha x + y$ is also an eigenvector of A . The set of all eigenvectors associated with λ , together with the zero vector, is closed under the operations of vector addition and scalar multiplication and is thus a subspace of \mathbf{C}^n . \square

The subspace described in the preceding proposition is the *null space* of $A - \lambda I$, that is, the solution set of the homogeneous linear system $(A - \lambda I)x = 0$. By the *rank-nullity theorem*, i.e., $\dim(\text{range } A) + \dim(\text{nullspace } A) = \text{rank } A + \text{nullity } A = n$, we conclude that the dimension of this subspace is $n - \text{rank}(A - \lambda I)$. In reality, we have a formal terminology for this subspace.

Definition 2.3 (eigenspace). *Let $A \in M_n$. For a given $\lambda \in \sigma(A)$, the set of all vectors $x \in \mathbf{C}^n$ satisfying $Ax = \lambda x$ is called the eigenspace of A associated with the eigenvalue λ . Every nonzero element of this eigenspace is an eigenvector of A associated with λ .*

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