

Jordan Normal Form and Exponential Map

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Introduction

Block Diagonal Matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} \boxed{\begin{matrix} \lambda_1 & 1 \\ & \lambda_1 & 1 \\ & & \lambda_1 \end{matrix}} & & & \\ & \boxed{\begin{matrix} \lambda_2 & 1 \\ & \lambda_2 \end{matrix}} & & \\ & & \boxed{\lambda_3} & \\ & & & \ddots \\ & & & & \boxed{\begin{matrix} \lambda_n & 1 \\ & \lambda_n \end{matrix}} \end{bmatrix}$$

Figure: Jordan Normal Form

Definition

Algebraic multiplicity (Alg m)

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Eigenvectors

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Consider a square matrix $\mathbf{A}_{n \times n}$, with eigenvalue λ . If $(\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I})\mathbf{v} = 0$, $\mathbf{v} \neq 0$ is an eigenvector from eigenvalue λ .

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Generalized eigenvector

Define $\mathbf{N} = \mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I}$. Call $\mathbf{v} \neq 0$ a generalised eigenvector with λ for \mathbf{A} if $\mathbf{N}^k \mathbf{v} = 0$, for some natural k . If $k = 1$, \mathbf{v} is called an eigenvector.

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Defective Matrix

A square matrix which is not diagonalizable. *Example;*

$$\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Where $\lambda = 3$, with algebraic multiplicity 2.

Theorem

Definition; the $n \times n$ matrix $\mathbf{J}_{\lambda,n}$ with λ 's on the diagonal, 1's on the super-diagonal and 0's elsewhere is called a Jordan block matrix.

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Every matrix over \mathbb{C} is similar to a matrix in Jordan normal form, that is, for every \mathbf{B} there is a \mathbf{P} with $\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{P}^{-1}\mathbf{B}\mathbf{P}$ in Jordan normal form.

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Since in Jordan form there is no basis of eigenvectors , it means that there is a basis of generalized eigenvectors.

Motivation for Jordan block $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{J}_{\lambda,n}$

λ is the eigenvalue, n is the order of the square matrix.

- **Example:** Simple Jordan Matrix

$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{J}_{2,3} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, \text{ with (Alg } m = 3) \text{ and (Geo } m = 1)$$

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$$\mathbf{A}_2 \mathbf{e}_1 = 0, \quad \mathbf{A}_2 \mathbf{e}_2 = \mathbf{e}_1, \quad \mathbf{A}_2 \mathbf{e}_3 = \mathbf{e}_2$$

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Since $(\mathbf{A}_2)^2 e_2 = 0$ and $(\mathbf{A}_2)^3 e_3 = 0$, and so e_2 and e_3 are called generalized eigenvectors. Thus there is a basis of generalized eigenvectors.

Jordan form with Exponential Matrices

Recall the unique solution of the initial value problem

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{x}(0) = \mathbf{x}_0 \end{cases}$$

is given by $\mathbf{x}(t) = e^{t\mathbf{A}}\mathbf{x}_0$.

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Suppose \mathbf{A} is defective. Nevertheless, it is still possible to get a solution. there is an invertible matrix \mathbf{T} such that \mathbf{A} is similar to $\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{T}^{-1}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{T}$.

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$$\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{T}\mathbf{J}\mathbf{T}^{-1}, \quad e^{t\mathbf{A}} = e^{t(\mathbf{T}\mathbf{J}\mathbf{T}^{-1})} = \mathbf{T}^{-1}e^{t\mathbf{J}}\mathbf{T}.$$

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Knowing that $\mathbf{N} = \mathbf{J} - \lambda\mathbf{I}$, is a nilpotent matrices with nilpotency n , then $e^{t\mathbf{J}} = e^{\lambda_i\mathbf{I}t + \mathbf{N}t}$, where

$$e^{\mathbf{N}t} = \mathbf{I} + t\mathbf{N} + \frac{\mathbf{N}^2t^2}{2!} + \dots + \frac{\mathbf{N}^{n-1}t^{n-1}}{(n-1)!}$$



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$$\mathbf{x}(t) = e^{t\mathbf{A}} \mathbf{x}_0 = (\mathbf{T}^{-1} e^{t\mathbf{J}} \mathbf{T}) \mathbf{x}_0$$

Where \mathbf{x}_0 is the initial value.

- **Example: system of ODE, Given**
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Conclusion

- No matter whether the matrix generated by the system of ODE is not diagonalizable we can get solution using Jordan norm form.
- Jordan form can be used as tool to generalize the solution for some ordinary differential equation.

References

-  Erik, Walhlén (ODE Spring 2011): The Jordan Normal Form
-  <http://mathworld.wolfram.com/JordanCanonicalForm.html>
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