

Linear Algebra for Data Science



Linear Algebra for data science

Summary of Session 4 – Nov. 2025

Session 4 contents

- Gram–Schmidt process.
- Eigenvectors and Eigenvalues
- Changing to Eigen Basis
(diagonalization).

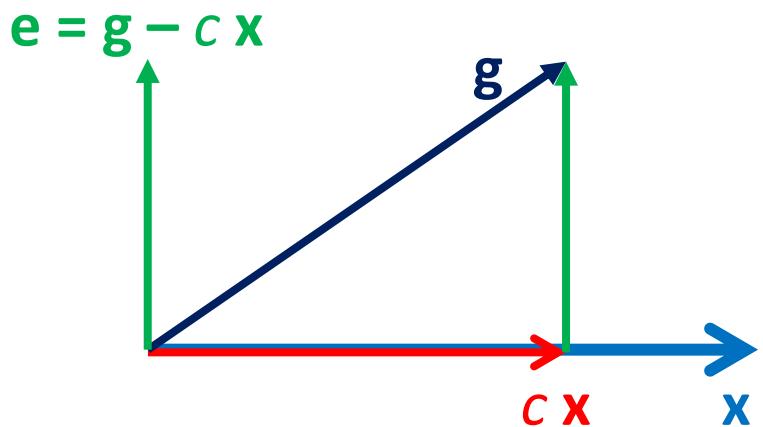
Handwritten mathematical notes and diagrams:

- Top right: $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{x^k}{k!} e^{-x} = e^{x-1}$
- Top center: $D(x) = 2 + 3 + 4.31447$
- Middle left: $\sqrt{a^2 + b^2} = x^2 + y^2$
- Middle center: $c(x, y) \begin{cases} xy = c \\ cx - cy = 35^2 \\ z\pi = c \end{cases}$
- Bottom left: $T^B, \frac{2x}{y} + \frac{2^2 3^2}{c} + \vec{x} \cdot \vec{y}$
- Bottom center: $\text{men} = 584. + n^{\alpha v} (x^2 + 35x +$
- Bottom right: $\sum_{x=1}^{u=141} N_{30} \cdot x - \frac{1}{2} [964 + xg + \dots]$
- Bottom left: $010112 \quad k=4$
- Bottom right: $\beta = 9 + 2x + y \leq$

Introduction to orthogonalization

Introduction, Vector Projection, Vector component along another vector

Projection of a Vector into another Vector



$$\text{proj}_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{g}) = c\mathbf{x} = \frac{\mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \mathbf{x}$$

- The vector $c\mathbf{x}$ is the projection of the vector \mathbf{g} into the vector \mathbf{x}

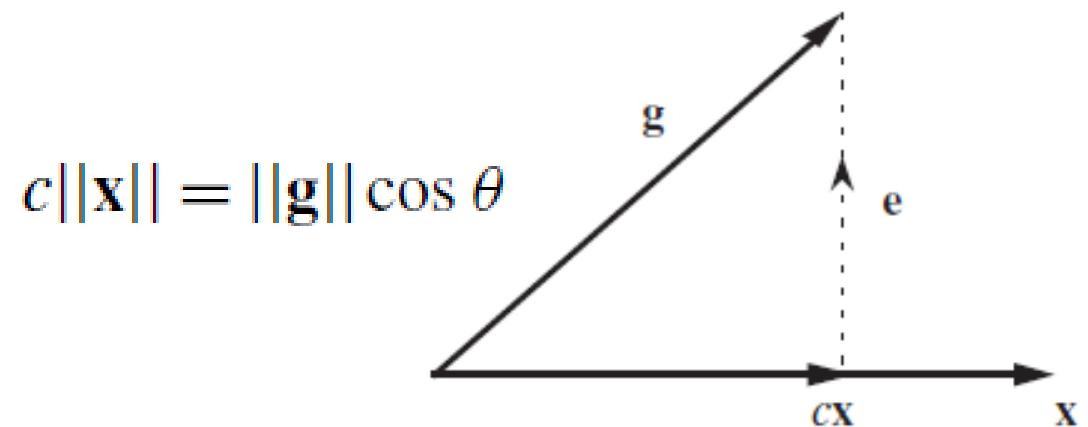
$$c\mathbf{x} = \text{proj}_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{g})$$

- c is the component of the vector \mathbf{g} along the vector \mathbf{x}

$$c = \frac{\mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x}}$$

Component of a vector along another vector and cosine similarity

- Remember ‘Cosine Similarity’?
- Two vectors \mathbf{g} and \mathbf{x} are similar if \mathbf{g} has a large component along \mathbf{x} .



$$c\mathbf{x} = \frac{\mathbf{g} \cdot \mathbf{x}}{\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \mathbf{x}$$

$$c\|\mathbf{x}\| = \|\mathbf{g}\| \cos \theta$$

$$c\|\mathbf{x}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{g}\| \|\mathbf{x}\| \cos \theta = \langle \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{x} \rangle$$

$$c = \frac{\langle \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{x} \rangle}{\langle \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x} \rangle} = \frac{1}{\|\mathbf{x}\|^2} \langle \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{x} \rangle$$

Gram-Schmidt Orthonormalization

Orthonormalization → Orthogonalization + Normalization

Gram-Schmidt Orthonormalization of a Vector Set

- Remember: the dimensionality of a vector space is the number of independent vectors in the space.
- In an N -dimensional space \mathbb{R}^n , there can be no more than n independent vectors.
- It is always possible to find a set of n vectors that are linearly independent.
- Starting from any n independent vectors we can find a set of n vectors that is orthogonal.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{y}_1 &= \mathbf{x}_1 \\ \mathbf{y}_2 &= \mathbf{x}_2 - \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \rangle}{\|\mathbf{x}_1\|^2} \mathbf{x}_1 \\ &= \mathbf{x}_2 - \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \rangle}{\|\mathbf{y}_1\|^2} \mathbf{y}_1 \\ \mathbf{y}_3 &= \mathbf{x}_3 - \text{sum of projections of } \mathbf{x}_3 \text{ on } \mathbf{y}_1 \text{ and } \mathbf{y}_2 \\ &= \mathbf{x}_3 - \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{x}_3 \rangle}{\|\mathbf{y}_1\|^2} \mathbf{y}_1 - \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_2, \mathbf{x}_3 \rangle}{\|\mathbf{y}_2\|^2} \mathbf{y}_2 \\ \mathbf{y}_j &= \mathbf{x}_j - \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_k, \mathbf{x}_j \rangle}{\|\mathbf{y}_k\|^2} \mathbf{y}_k \quad j = 2, 3, \dots, N\end{aligned}$$

Gram-Schmidt Orthogonalization of a Vector Set

- Starting with three independent vectors $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3$, we intend to construct three orthogonal vectors $\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2, \mathbf{y}_3$.
- Start by choosing $\mathbf{y}_1 = \mathbf{x}_1$.
- The next vector \mathbf{y}_2 must be perpendicular to \mathbf{y}_1 . Take \mathbf{x}_2 and subtract its projection along \mathbf{y}_1 . This leaves the perpendicular part.
- Repeat for \mathbf{x}_3 .
- These results can be extended to an n -dimensional space.

$$\mathbf{y}_1 = \mathbf{x}_1$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{y}_2 &= \mathbf{x}_2 - \frac{\langle \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \rangle}{\|\mathbf{x}_1\|^2} \mathbf{x}_1 \\ &= \mathbf{x}_2 - \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \rangle}{\|\mathbf{y}_1\|^2} \mathbf{y}_1\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{y}_3 &= \mathbf{x}_3 - \text{sum of projections of } \mathbf{x}_3 \text{ on } \mathbf{y}_1 \text{ and } \mathbf{y}_2 \\ &= \mathbf{x}_3 - \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{x}_3 \rangle}{\|\mathbf{y}_1\|^2} \mathbf{y}_1 - \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_2, \mathbf{x}_3 \rangle}{\|\mathbf{y}_2\|^2} \mathbf{y}_2\end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{\mathbf{y}_j = \mathbf{x}_j - \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} \frac{\langle \mathbf{y}_k, \mathbf{x}_j \rangle}{\|\mathbf{y}_k\|^2} \mathbf{y}_k \quad j=2,3,\dots,N}$$

Normalization

- The resulting vector set $\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2, \mathbf{y}_3$, is not yet an orthonormal set.
- The orthonormal set can be obtained by normalizing the lengths of the respective vectors.

$$\hat{\mathbf{y}}_k = \frac{\mathbf{y}_k}{\|\mathbf{y}_k\|}$$

Consider the following set of vectors in \mathbf{R}^2 (with the conventional inner product)

$$S = \left\{ \mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} \right\}.$$

Example, Euclidean Space

Now, perform Gram–Schmidt, to obtain an orthogonal set of vectors:

$$\mathbf{u}_1 = \mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{u}_2 = \mathbf{v}_2 - \text{proj}_{\mathbf{u}_1}(\mathbf{v}_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} - \text{proj}_{\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}} \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix} - \frac{8}{10} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2/5 \\ 6/5 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We check that the vectors \mathbf{u}_1 and \mathbf{u}_2 are indeed orthogonal:

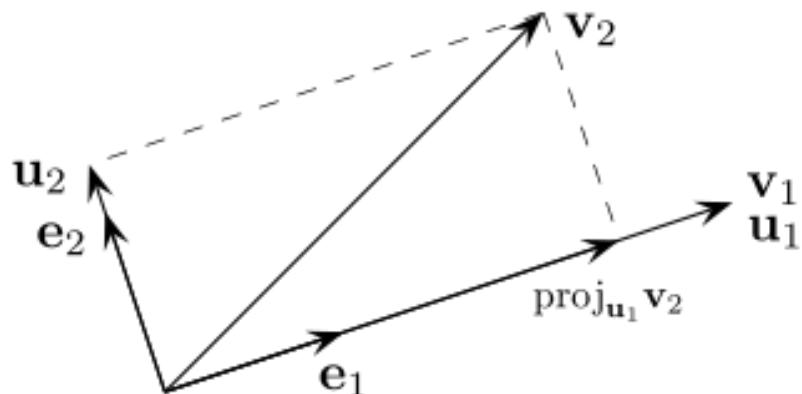
$$\langle \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2 \rangle = \left\langle \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -2/5 \\ 6/5 \end{bmatrix} \right\rangle = -\frac{6}{5} + \frac{6}{5} = 0,$$

noting that if the dot product of two vectors is 0 then they are orthogonal.

For non-zero vectors, we can then normalize the vectors by dividing out their sizes as shown above:

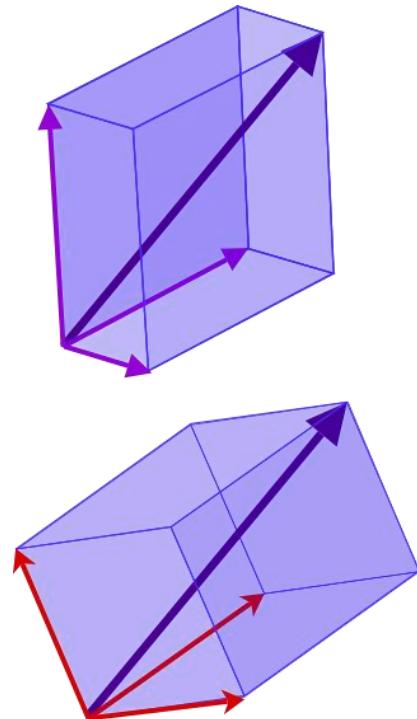
$$\mathbf{e}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{e}_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\frac{40}{25}}} \begin{bmatrix} -2/5 \\ 6/5 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{10}} \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}.$$



Change of Basis

Change of Basis Matrix



Any set of two linearly independent vectors $\{\hat{e}_1, \hat{e}_2\}$ can serve as a basis for \mathbb{R}^2 . We can write any vector $\vec{v} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ as a linear combination of these basis vectors $\vec{v} = v_1 \hat{e}_1 + v_2 \hat{e}_2$.

Note the *same* vector \vec{v} corresponds to different coordinate pairs depending on the basis used: $\vec{v} = (v_x, v_y)$ in the standard basis $B_s \equiv \{\hat{i}, \hat{j}\}$, and $\vec{v} = (v_1, v_2)$ in the basis $B_e \equiv \{\hat{e}_1, \hat{e}_2\}$. Therefore, it is important to keep in mind the basis with respect to which the coefficients are taken, and if necessary specify the basis as a subscript, e.g., $(v_x, v_y)_{B_s}$ or $(v_1, v_2)_{B_e}$.

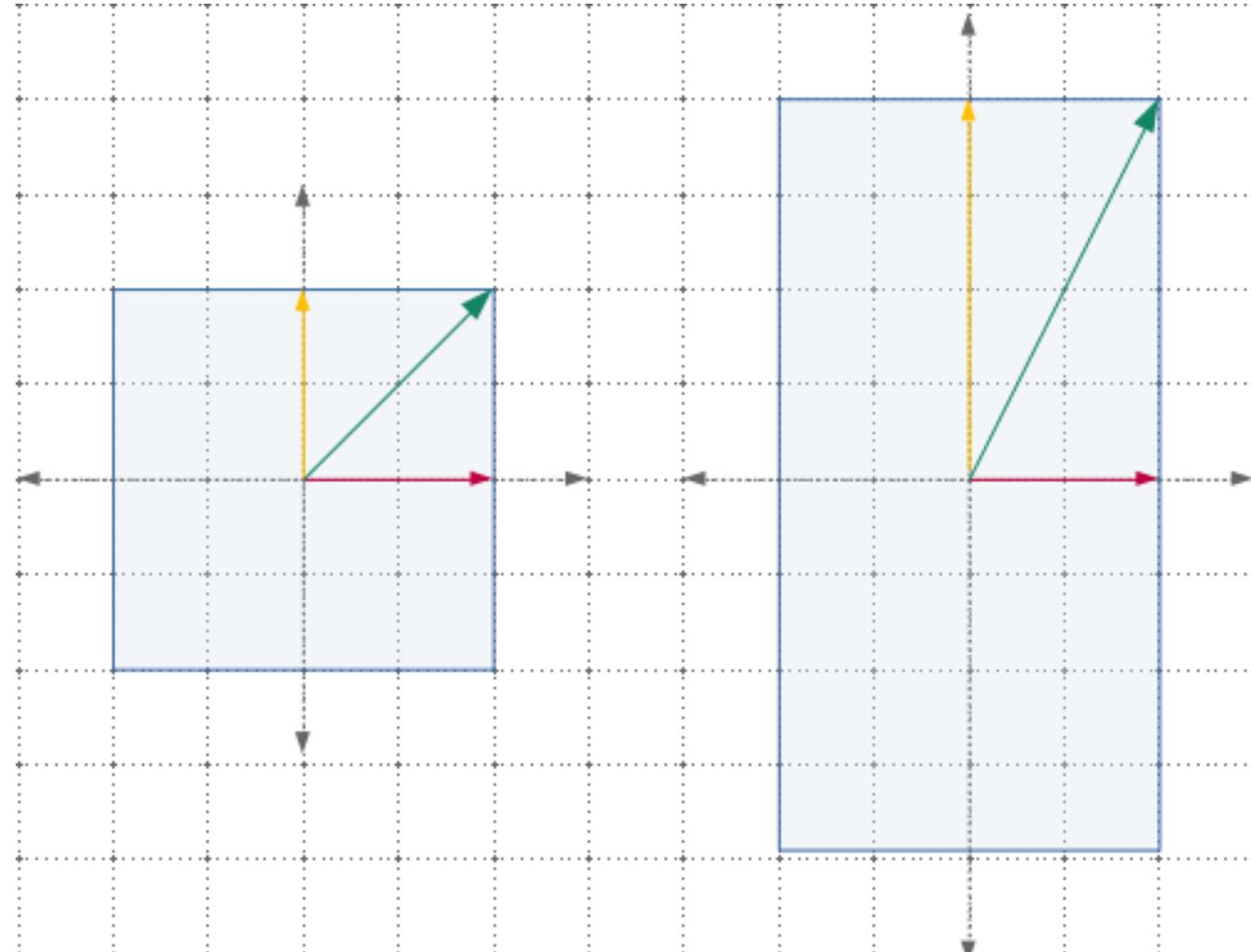
Converting a coordinate vector from the basis B_e to the basis B_s is performed as a multiplication by a *change of basis* matrix:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \vec{v} \\ \vec{v} \end{bmatrix}_{B_s} = \begin{bmatrix} & 1 \\ B_s & \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vec{v} \\ \vec{v} \end{bmatrix}_{B_e} \Leftrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} v_x \\ v_y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{i} \cdot \hat{e}_1 & \hat{i} \cdot \hat{e}_2 \\ \hat{j} \cdot \hat{e}_1 & \hat{j} \cdot \hat{e}_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

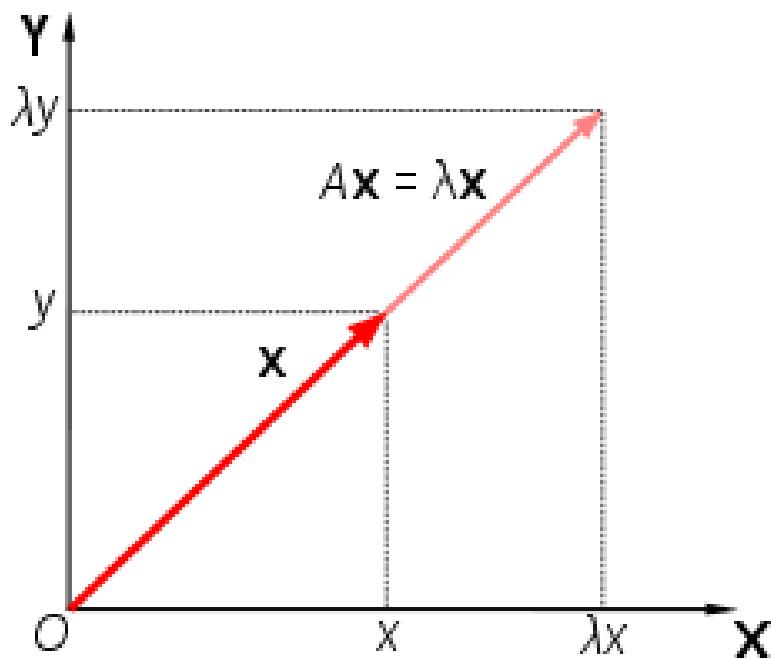
Eigenvectors and Eigenvalues

Eigenvalues and Eigen Vectors of a Matrix

- Loosely speaking, **eigenvectors** are vectors that do not change their span after transformation
- An eigenvector is considered the characteristic of transformation.
- **Eigenvalues** are the values associated with eigenvectors after transformation.

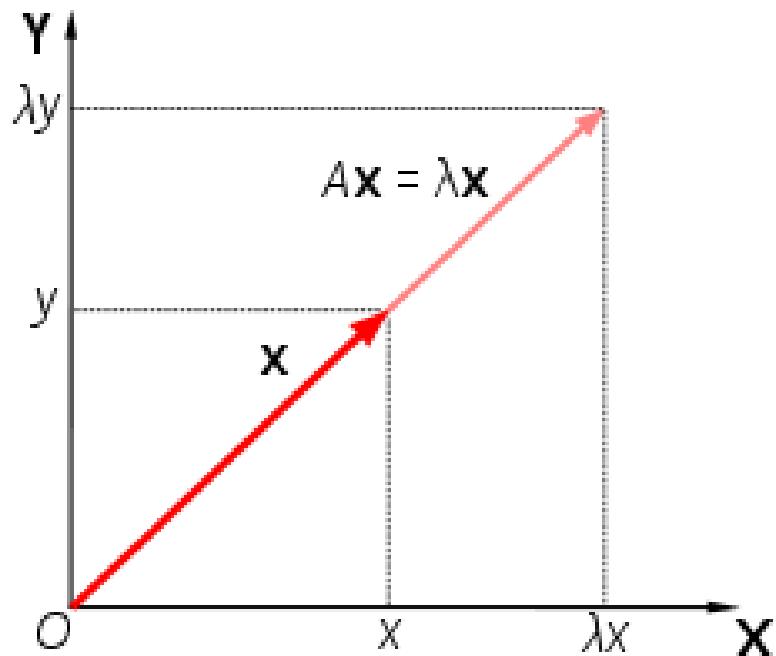


Eigenvalues and Eigen Vectors of a Matrix



- Formally, In linear algebra, an **eigenvector** or **characteristic vector** of a linear transformation is a nonzero vector that changes by a scalar factor when that linear transformation is applied to it. The corresponding **eigenvalue**, often denoted by λ is the factor by which the eigenvector is scaled.
- Geometrically, an **eigenvector**, corresponding to a real nonzero eigenvalue, points in a direction in which it is stretched by the transformation and the **eigenvalue** is the factor by which it is stretched. If the eigenvalue is negative, the direction is reversed. Loosely speaking, in a multidimensional vector space, the eigenvector is not rotated.

Finding the Eigenvalues and Eigen Vectors of a Matrix



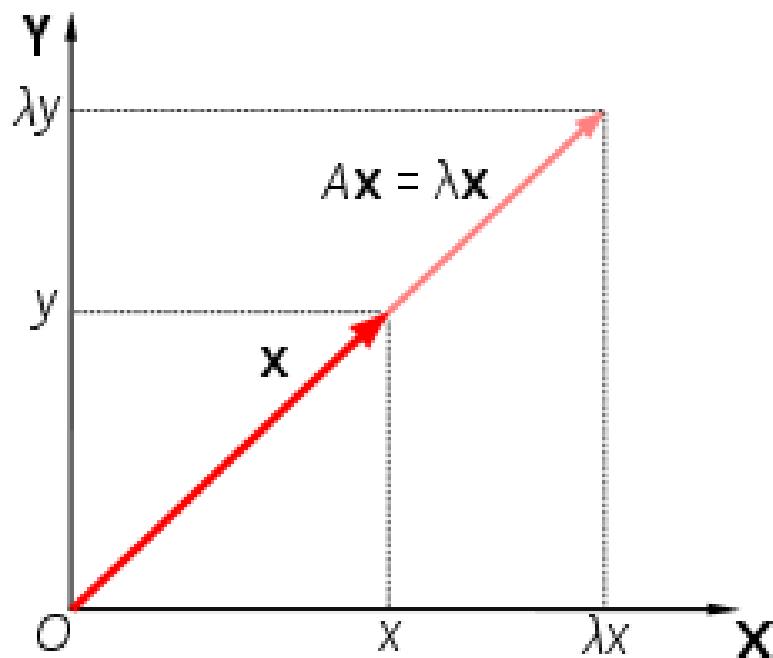
- Suppose we have a transformation matrix A and we apply this transformation to vector x . This will be equivalent to stretching (or diminishing) the vector x by a scalar factor λ (λ can be positive or negative).

$$Ax = \lambda x$$

$$(A - \lambda I)x = 0$$

- A is $n \times n$ matrix and x is n dimensional vector
- $|A - \lambda I| = 0$
- The above equation has a non-zero solution iff the determinant of the matrix $(A - \lambda I)$ is zero.

Finding the Eigenvalues and Eigen Vectors of a Matrix



- Evaluating this determinant gives the characteristic polynomial i.e.,

$$|A - \lambda I| = 0$$

if $A = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$

$$\left| \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{bmatrix} \right| = 0$$

$$\lambda^2 - (a + d)\lambda + ad - bc = 0$$

- The solution of this equation gives the eigenvalues. Put these eigenvalues in the original expression to get their corresponding eigenvectors.

Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

example

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} .8 & .3 \\ .2 & .7 \end{bmatrix} \quad \det \begin{bmatrix} .8 - \lambda & .3 \\ .2 & .7 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} = \lambda^2 - \frac{3}{2}\lambda + \frac{1}{2} = (\lambda - 1)\left(\lambda - \frac{1}{2}\right).$$

I factored the quadratic into $\lambda - 1$ times $\lambda - \frac{1}{2}$, to see the two eigenvalues $\lambda = 1$ and $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$. For those numbers, the matrix $A - \lambda I$ becomes *singular* (zero determinant). The eigenvectors x_1 and x_2 are in the nullspaces of $A - I$ and $A - \frac{1}{2}I$.

$(A - I)x_1 = 0$ is $Ax_1 = x_1$ and the first eigenvector is $(.6, .4)$.

$(A - \frac{1}{2}I)x_2 = 0$ is $Ax_2 = \frac{1}{2}x_2$ and the second eigenvector is $(1, -1)$:

$$x_1 = \begin{bmatrix} .6 \\ .4 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad Ax_1 = \begin{bmatrix} .8 & .3 \\ .2 & .7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} .6 \\ .4 \end{bmatrix} = x_1 \quad (Ax = x \text{ means that } \lambda_1 = 1)$$

$$x_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad Ax_2 = \begin{bmatrix} .8 & .3 \\ .2 & .7 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} .5 \\ -.5 \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{this is } \frac{1}{2}x_2 \text{ so } \lambda_2 = \frac{1}{2}).$$

If x_1 is multiplied again by A , we still get x_1 . Every power of A will give $A^n x_1 = x_1$. Multiplying x_2 by A gave $\frac{1}{2}x_2$, and if we multiply again we get $(\frac{1}{2})^2$ times x_2 .

Eigenvalues relationship to the trace and the determinant

$$\det(A) = \prod_{i=1}^n \lambda_i$$

$$\text{Trace}(A) = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i$$

- Example:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0.8 & 0.3 \\ 0.2 & 0.7 \end{bmatrix}$$

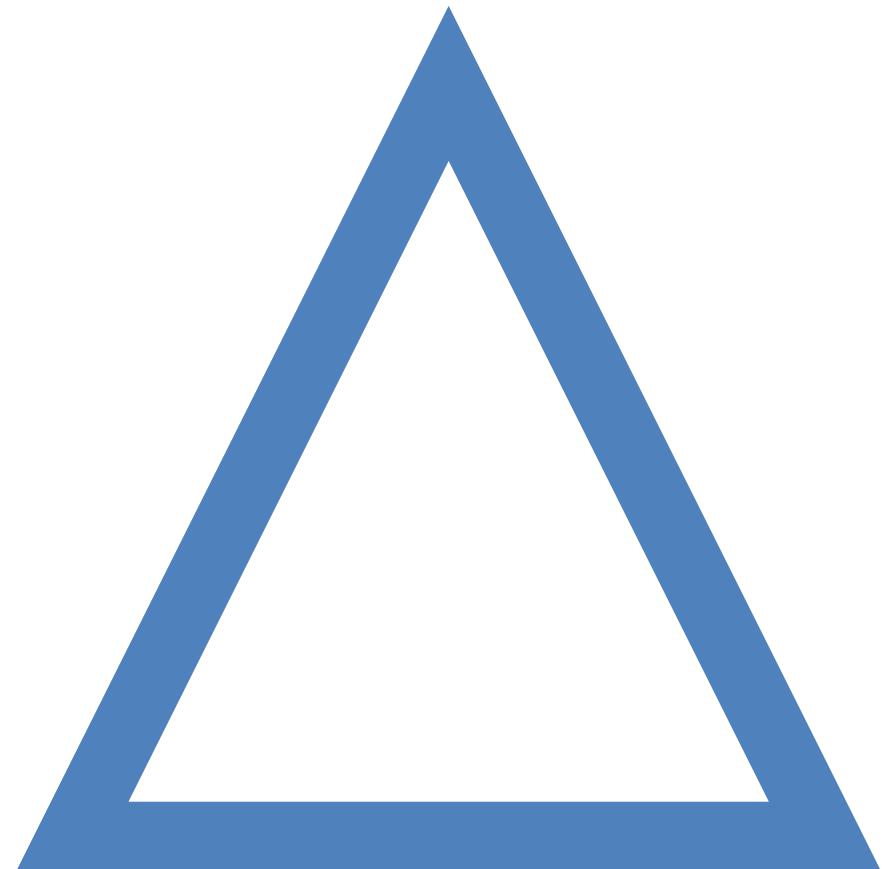
$$\lambda_1 = 1, \lambda_2 = 0.5$$

$$\text{Tr}(A) = ?$$

$$\det(A) = ?$$

Practice

- Find the eigenvalues and eigen vectors for the transformation matrices discussed in the following slides.



Rotation

Example: We want to create a matrix \mathbf{A}_α that performs a rotation by an angle α .

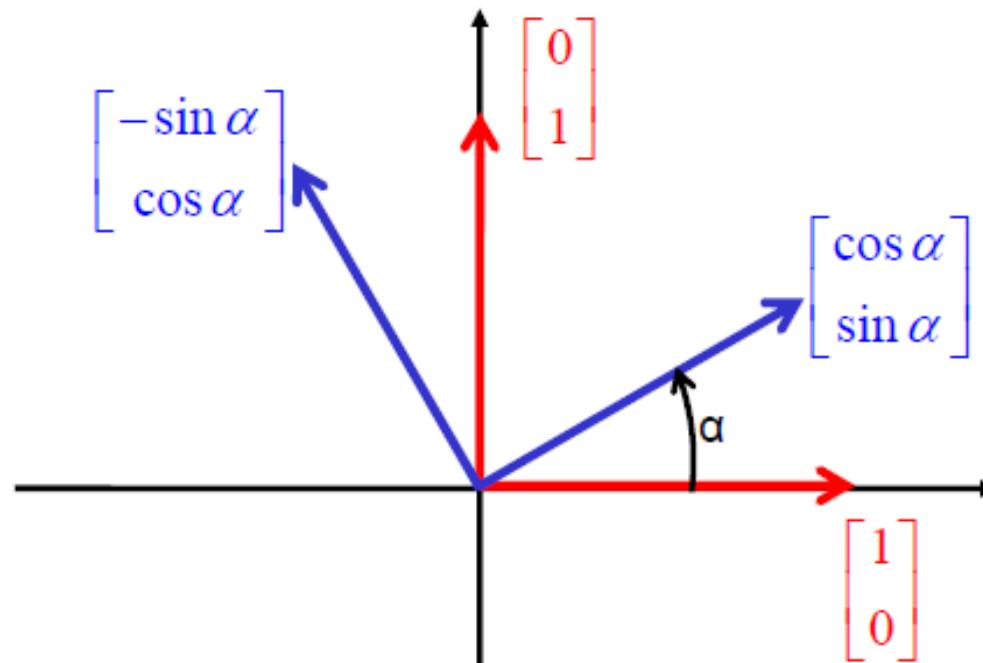
First determine what happens to the basis vectors.

$$\mathbf{A}_\alpha \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} \\ a_{2,1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha \\ \sin \alpha \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{A}_\alpha \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,2} \\ a_{2,2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\sin \alpha \\ \cos \alpha \end{bmatrix}$$

This gives us the two columns of \mathbf{A}_α directly:

$$\mathbf{A}_\alpha = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha & -\sin \alpha \\ \sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{bmatrix}$$



Sanity checks:

$$\mathbf{A}_\alpha \mathbf{A}_{-\alpha} = \mathbf{I}$$

$$\mathbf{A}_\alpha \mathbf{A}_\beta = \mathbf{A}_{\alpha+\beta}$$

Reflection

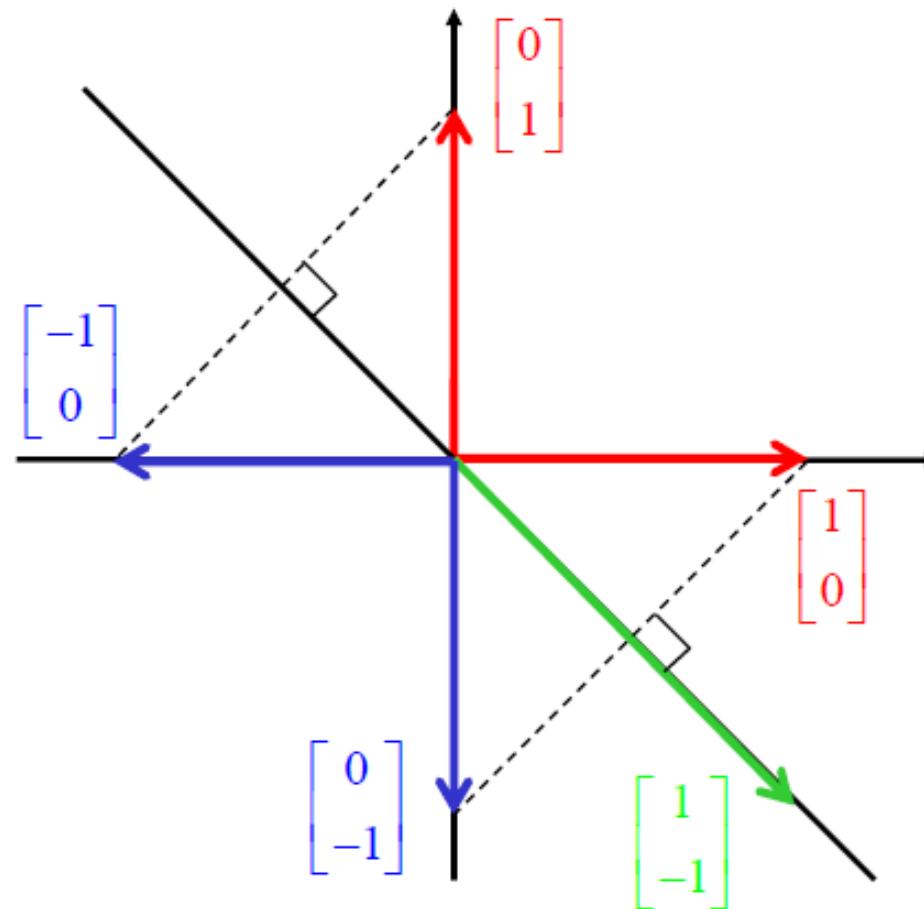
Example: We want to create a matrix A that reflects vectors onto in the space (line) spanned by the vector $[1 \ -1]^T$.

First determine what happens to the basis vectors.

This gives us the two columns of A directly:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Sanity check:
 $A^2 = I$



Projection

Example: We want to create a matrix \mathbf{A} that projects vectors onto the space (line) spanned by the vector $[1/2 \ -1]^T$.

First determine what happens to the basis vectors.

$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}^T \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -2/5 \\ 4/5 \end{bmatrix}$$

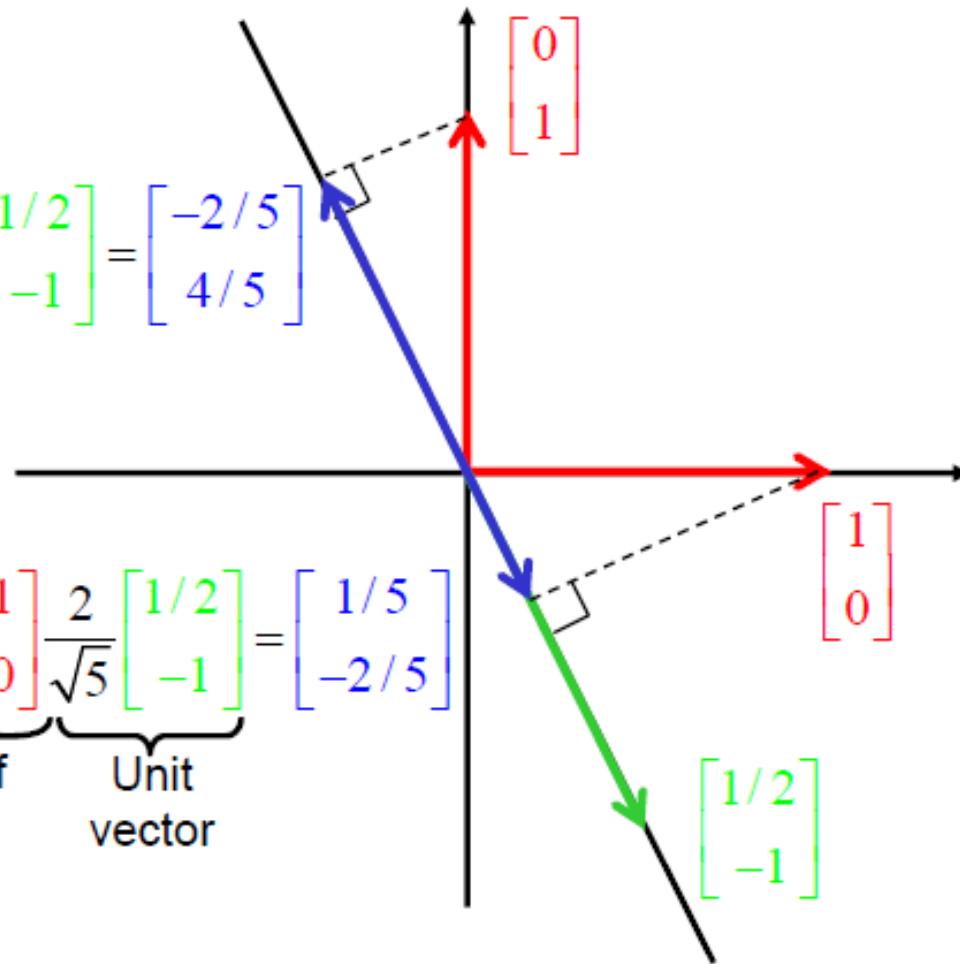
This gives us the two columns of \mathbf{A} directly:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/5 & -2/5 \\ -2/5 & 4/5 \end{bmatrix}$$

Sanity check:

$$\mathbf{A}^k = \mathbf{A}$$

$$\underbrace{\frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}^T}_{\text{"Length" of projection}} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Unit vector}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{bmatrix} 1/2 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1/5 \\ -2/5 \end{bmatrix}$$



Diagonalization

Eigendecomposition, eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

Diagonalization

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} | & & | & & | \\ \mathbf{u}_1 & \cdots & \mathbf{u}_N & & | \\ | & & | & & | \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & \lambda_n & & \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} - & \mathbf{u}_1^H & - \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ - & \mathbf{u}_N^H & - \end{bmatrix}$$

Diagonalization

An n -square matrix A is similar to a diagonal matrix D if and only if A has n linearly independent eigenvectors. In this case, the diagonal elements of D are the corresponding eigenvalues and $D = P^{-1}AP$, where P is the matrix whose columns are the eigenvectors.

Diagonalization Suppose the n by n matrix A has n linearly independent eigenvectors x_1, \dots, x_n . Put them into the columns of an *eigenvector matrix* X . Then $X^{-1}AX$ is the *eigenvalue matrix* Λ :

Eigenvector matrix X
Eigenvalue matrix Λ

$$X^{-1}AX = \Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

Diagonalizing a Matrix

- 1 The columns of $AX = X\Lambda$ are $Ax_k = \lambda_k x_k$. The eigenvalue matrix Λ is diagonal.
- 2 n independent eigenvectors in X diagonalize A
$$A = X\Lambda X^{-1} \text{ and } \Lambda = X^{-1}AX$$
- 3 The eigenvector matrix X also diagonalizes all powers A^k :
$$A^k = X\Lambda^k X^{-1}$$
- 4 Solve $u_{k+1} = Au_k$ by $u_k = A^k u_0 = X\Lambda^k X^{-1} u_0 = c_1(\lambda_1)^k x_1 + \cdots + c_n(\lambda_n)^k x_n$
- 5 No equal eigenvalues $\Rightarrow X$ is invertible and A can be diagonalized.
Equal eigenvalues $\Rightarrow A$ might have too few independent eigenvectors. Then X^{-1} fails.
- 6 Every matrix $C = B^{-1}AB$ has the **same eigenvalues** as A . These C 's are “**similar**” to A .

Diagonalizing a Matrix

Not all $N \times N$ matrices are diagonalizable, since not all possess N linearly independent eigenvectors.

Example: The matrix

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Triangular with zeros on the diagonal:
 $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 0$
(algebraic multiplicity 2)

is "defective" in the sense that it is of size 2×2 but only has "one" eigenvector.

The non-zero solutions to

$$(\mathbf{A} - \lambda \mathbf{I}) \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

are all on the form

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{bmatrix} c \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Do not match!

All eigenvectors are multiples of $[1 \ 0]^T$.
(geometric multiplicity 1)

Applications

- Powers of a Matrix
- Principal component analysis
- Markov Chains
- Power Control
- Min-Max algorithms
- Signal subspace in Random signal processing
- Whitening (decoupling) of correlated signals/noise

Example

Example 1 This A is triangular so its eigenvalues are on the diagonal: $\lambda = 1$ and $\lambda = 6$.

Eigenvectors
go into X

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$X^{-1} \quad A \quad X = \Lambda$$

In other words $A = X\Lambda X^{-1}$. Then watch $A^2 = X\Lambda X^{-1}X\Lambda X^{-1}$. So A^2 is $X\Lambda^2 X^{-1}$.

A^2 has the same eigenvectors in X and squared eigenvalues in Λ^2 .

Questions?