

# MATH 2860 RC 2

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Presented by Yang Mo

## Matrix diagonalization

### Steps for Matrix Diagonalization

1. **Find the Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors:** For a given  $n \times n$  matrix (A), we first find its eigenvalues and eigenvectors.
2. **Construct the Diagonal Matrix and Transformation Matrix:** Use the found eigenvalues to construct a diagonal matrix (D) and the eigenvectors to create a transformation matrix (P).
3. **Verify Diagonalization:** We can verify that we obtained the correct (D) by computing  $P^{-1}AP$ .

### Example

Consider the following matrix:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Step 1:** Find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors

To find the eigenvalues, we solve the equation:

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

where

$$A - \lambda I = \begin{bmatrix} 6 - \lambda & 2 \\ 2 & 3 - \lambda \end{bmatrix}$$

Solving this gives the eigenvalues  $\lambda_1 = 7$  and  $\lambda_2 = 2$ .

Now we find the eigenvectors. For  $\lambda = 7$ , we have:

$$(A - 7I)v = 0$$

which gives an eigenvector  $v_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

For  $\lambda = 2$ , we find another eigenvector  $v_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ .

**Step 2:** Construct the diagonal matrix and transformation matrix

Using the eigenvalues and eigenvectors we found, we can construct the diagonal matrix (D) and transformation matrix (P):

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Step 3:** Verify diagonalization

Now we verify  $D = P^{-1}AP$ :

$$P^{-1}AP = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} 6 & 2 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 7 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} = D$$

Thus, we have correctly diagonalized the matrix (A).

## Conditions to Diagonalize

The condition for a transformation  $A$  in the  $n$  dimensional space  $V$  can be diagonalized is can be:

1.  $A$  has  $n$  independent eigenvectors
2.  $\dim V = \dim V_{\lambda_1} + \dim V_{\lambda_2} + \dots + \dim V_{\lambda_n}$ , where  $\lambda_i$  stands for the  $i^{th}$  eigenvalue, and  $V_{\lambda_i}$  stands for the space expanded through the eigenvectors corresponding to the  $i^{th}$  eigenvalue.
3.  $V$  can be written as the sum of direct sum of  $V_{\lambda_1}, V_{\lambda_2}, \dots, V_{\lambda_n}$

However, in some cases you cannot find enough eigen-vectors to reach the dimension of  $V$ . In this cases, you need to find some vectors that can be led to eigen-vectors through the matrix.

## Finding Generalized Eigenvectors “Top-down”

Clearly,  $v^{(m-1)}$  satisfies

$$(A - \lambda \mathbb{I})^{m-1} v^{(m-1)} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad (A - \lambda \mathbb{I})^{m-2} v^{(m-1)} \neq 0.$$

We iteratively set

$$\begin{aligned} v^{(m-1)} &:= (A - \lambda \mathbb{I}) v^{(m)}, \\ v^{(m-2)} &:= (A - \lambda \mathbb{I}) v^{(m-1)}, \\ &\vdots \\ v^{(1)} &:= (A - \lambda \mathbb{I}) v^{(2)}. \end{aligned}$$

The set of generalized eigenvectors  $\{v^{(m)}, v^{(m-1)}, \dots, v^{(1)}\}$  is called a **chain of length  $m$**  of generalized eigenvectors. Note that  $v^{(1)}$  is always an eigenvector.

## Example for the “Top-down” Method

7.5. Example. Let us return to the matrix  $A$  of Example 7.3,

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 3 & -1 \\ 4 & -1 & 3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We already know that  $A$  has a single eigenvalue  $\lambda = 2$  of algebraic multiplicity 3 and geometric multiplicity 1. Therefore, we need at most a generalized eigenvalue of rank 3 to extend  $V_\lambda$  to  $E_3$ . The top-down method requires us to first solve

$$(A - 2\mathbb{1})^3 v = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad (A - 2\mathbb{1})^2 v \neq 0.$$

We will again use Mathematica for all calculations.

## Nilpotent Operators

Suppose  $\exists l \in \mathbb{N}^*$  and linear transformation  $A$  satisfies that  $A^l = 0$ , we take the smallest  $l$  as the least nilpotent exponent. This suggests that for  $A$ ,  $A^{l-1} \neq 0$  but  $A^l = 0$ . We say  $A$  is a nilpotent transformation.

Lemma: Suppose  $A$  is a linear transformation on  $F$ , if  $A^m \alpha \neq 0$  while  $A^{m+1} \alpha = 0$ , it can be concluded that  $\alpha, A\alpha, \dots, A^{m-1}\alpha$  is independent with each other.

Consider  $A$  operate on  $\alpha$ .

Suppose  $A^m \alpha = 0$  while  $A^{m-1} \alpha \neq 0$ .

Then  $\{\alpha, A\alpha, A^2\alpha, \dots, A^{m-1}\alpha\}$  are independent

Think about what will happen if  $A$  operate on this basis.

$\alpha \rightarrow A\alpha \quad A\alpha \rightarrow A^2\alpha \quad \dots \quad A^{m-1}\alpha \rightarrow A^m\alpha = 0$

$A$  is similar to the following matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \ddots & \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ x_3 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{Moving Upward.}$$

## Jordan Normal Form

### Steps to Find the Jordan Normal Form of a Matrix

1. **Find the eigenvalues:** As with finding eigenvectors, we first find the matrix's eigenvalues.
2. **Find the eigenvectors and generalized eigenvectors:** In addition to the regular eigenvectors, we need to find so-called "generalized eigenvectors" which will help us form Jordan chains.
3. **Form the Jordan chains:** Using the eigenvectors and generalized eigenvectors, we form Jordan chains.
4. **Construct the Jordan blocks:** Each Jordan chain corresponds to a Jordan block. A Jordan block is a square matrix with the eigenvalue on the diagonal and ones just above the diagonal.
5. **Construct the Jordan Normal Form:** We place all the Jordan blocks into a larger diagonal matrix to form the Jordan Normal Form.

For a  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $A$ :

1. Write out the characteristic polynomial and the eigenvalues

2. If there is only one eigenvalue  $\lambda$ , calculate  $(A - \lambda I)^3$  and  $(A - \lambda I)^2$
3. Solve  $(A - \lambda I)^3 v = 0$  and choose a  $v^{(3)}$  so that  $(A - \lambda I)^2 v \neq 0$
4. Obtain  $v^{(2)}$  by  $v^{(2)} = (A - \lambda I)v^{(3)}$
5. Obtain  $v^{(1)}$  by  $v^{(1)} = (A - \lambda I)v^{(2)}$
6. Set  $U = (v^{(1)}, v^{(2)}, v^{(3)})$  and calculate  $U^{-1}AU$ .

Check whether the matrix A below is diagonalizable and find its Jordan normal form.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 3 & 4 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

```
(* Step 1: Define matrix A *)
A = {{1, 0, 3}, {0, 1, 4}, {3, 4, 1}};

(* Step 2: Find the eigenvalues and eigenvectors *)
{eigenvalues, eigenvectors} = Eigensystem[A];

(* Step 3: Construct the transformation matrix P *)
P = Transpose[eigenvectors];

(* Step 4: Construct the diagonal matrix D *)
D = DiagonalMatrix[eigenvalues];

(* Step 5: Verify the diagonalization *)
PInverse = Inverse[P];
DiagonalizedA = PInverse . A . P;

(* Output the results *)
Print["Eigenvalues: ", eigenvalues];
Print["Eigenvectors: ", eigenvectors];
Print["Transformation matrix P: ", P];
Print["Diagonal matrix D: ", D];
Print["Verification of diagonalization (should equal D): ",
DiagonalizedA];
```

Eigenvalues: {6, -4, 1}

Eigenvectors: {{3, 4, 5}, {-3, -4, 5}, {-4, 3, 0}}

Transformation matrix P: {{3, -3, -4}, {4, -4, 3}, {5, 5, 0}}

Diagonal matrix D: {{6, 0, 0}, {0, -4, 0}, {0, 0, 1}}

Verification of diagonalization (should equal D):  $\left\{ \left\{ \frac{3}{10}, \frac{7}{10}, -\frac{12}{5} \right\}, \left\{ \frac{7}{10}, \frac{3}{10}, \frac{12}{5} \right\}, \left\{ -\frac{24}{5}, \frac{24}{5}, \frac{12}{5} \right\} \right\}$

*Note:* For all self-adjoint matrix, it is diagonalizable.

###

Consider the following  $2 \times 2$  matrix:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Step 1:** Find the eigenvalues

We find the eigenvalues by solving the equation  $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$ , where  $I$  is the identity matrix, and  $\lambda$  is the eigenvalue.

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = \det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 3 - \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 3 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} \right) = (3 - \lambda)^2 = 0$$

This gives a repeated eigenvalue of  $\lambda = 3$ .

**Steps 2 and 3:** Find the eigenvectors and form the Jordan chains

We find the eigenvectors by solving  $(A - \lambda I)v = 0$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

We get an eigenvector as  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$ .

Now we need to find a vector that is not an eigenvector but satisfies  $(A - \lambda I)v =$  eigenvector. We solve the equation:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

We find another vector  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  that forms a Jordan chain with the previously found eigenvector.

**Steps 4 and 5:** Construct the Jordan blocks and Jordan Normal Form

We end up with the following Jordan block:

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

This also happens to be our Jordan Normal Form.

## Matrix for Jordan Normal Form

Multiple eigenvalues:

A  $5 \times 5$  matrix  $A$  has the eigenvalues 1, 1, 4, 4, 4 (counted with algebraic multiplicities). The eigenvalue 1 has geometric multiplicity 1 and the eigenvalue 4 has geometric multiplicity 1. Give two different matrices that constitute a Jordan normal form for  $A$ .

e.x.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

★ it makes no sense  
to separate a  
Jordan block

Let  $\lambda$  be an eigenvalue of a matrix  $A$  and denote by  $a_\lambda$  the algebraic multiplicity of  $\lambda$ . Suppose that the algebraic multiplicity is greater than its geometric multiplicity, i.e.

$$\dim V_\lambda < a_\lambda$$

For  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$  we define the **Jordan block** of size  $k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$  by

$$J_1(\lambda) := \lambda \quad J_k(\lambda) := \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \ddots & \\ & & \ddots & 1 \\ 0 & & & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \in \text{Mat}(k \times k, \mathbb{C}).$$



## References

- VV286, slide. Horst Hohberger
- RC, slides. TA-Huang YuCheng

For further questions, you can contact me through WeChat.



Fragments

芬兰



扫一扫上面的二维码图案，加我为朋友。

