

## 特征值 eigenvalue 和 特征向量 eigenvector

笔记本: 00 Maths Prerequisites

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## 特征值eigenvalue和特征向量eigenvector

在数学上，特别是线性代数中，对于一个给定的方阵 $A$ ，它的特征向量 (eigenvector, 也译固有向量或本征向量)  $v$  经过这个线性变换<sup>[a]</sup>之后，得到的新向量仍然与原来的 $v$  保持在同一条直线上，但其长度或方向也许会改变。即

$$Av = \lambda v,$$

$\lambda$ 为标量，即特征向量的长度在该线性变换下缩放的比例，称 $\lambda$  为其特征值 (本征值)。如果特征值为正，则表示 $v$  在经过线性变换的作用后方向也不变；如果特征值为负，说明方向会反转；如果特征值为0，则是表示缩回零点。但无论怎样，仍在同一条直线上。图1给出了一个以著名油画《蒙

“特征”一词译自德语的eigen

在一定条件下（如其矩阵形式为实对称矩阵的线性变换），一个变换可以由其特征值和特征向量完全表述，也就是说：所有的特征向量组成了这向量空间的一组基底。一个特征空间 (eigenspace) 是具有相同特征值的特征向量与一个同维数的零向量的集合。

Now consider the linear transformation of  $n$ -dimensional vectors defined by an  $n$  by  $n$  matrix  $A$ ,

$$Av = w,$$

or

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & \cdots & A_{1n} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & \cdots & A_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A_{n1} & A_{n2} & \cdots & A_{nn} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \\ \vdots \\ v_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{bmatrix}$$

where, for each row,

$$w_i = A_{i1}v_1 + A_{i2}v_2 + \cdots + A_{in}v_n = \sum_{j=1}^n A_{ij}v_j.$$

If it occurs that  $v$  and  $w$  are scalar multiples, that is if

$$Av = w = \lambda v, \tag{1}$$

then  $v$  is an **eigenvector** of the linear transformation  $A$  and the scale factor  $\lambda$  is the **eigenvalue** corresponding to that eigenvector. Equation (1) is the **eigenvalue equation** for the matrix  $A$ .

如此看来，一个矩阵，可以有多

Equation (1) can be stated equivalently as

$$(A - \lambda I)v = 0, \tag{2}$$

where  $I$  is the  $n$  by  $n$  identity matrix and  $0$  is the zero vector.

## Eigenvalues and the characteristic polynomial [\[ edit \]](#)

*Main article: [Characteristic polynomial](#)*

Equation (2) has a nonzero solution  $v$  if and only if the determinant of the matrix  $(A - \lambda I)$  is zero. Therefore, the eigenvalues of  $A$  are values of  $\lambda$  that satisfy the equation

$$|A - \lambda I| = 0 \tag{3}$$

Using [Leibniz' rule](#) for the determinant, the left-hand side of Equation (3) is a polynomial function of the variable  $\lambda$  and the degree of this polynomial is  $n$ , the order of the matrix  $A$ . Its coefficients depend on the entries of  $A$ , except that its term of degree  $n$  is always  $(-1)^n \lambda^n$ . This polynomial is called the *characteristic polynomial* of  $A$ . Equation (3) is called the *characteristic equation* or the *secular equation* of  $A$ .

The [fundamental theorem of algebra](#) implies that the characteristic polynomial of an  $n$ -by- $n$  matrix  $A$ , being a polynomial of degree  $n$ , can be factored into the product of  $n$  linear terms,

$$|A - \lambda I| = (\lambda_1 - \lambda)(\lambda_2 - \lambda) \cdots (\lambda_n - \lambda), \tag{4}$$

where each  $\lambda_i$  may be real but in general is a complex number. The numbers  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n$ , which may not all have distinct values, are roots of the polynomial and are the eigenvalues of  $A$ .

**举个例子，如何先求特征值，再求各个特征值所对应的特征向量。**

As a brief example, which is described in more detail in the examples section later, consider the matrix

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Taking the determinant of  $(A - \lambda I)$ , the characteristic polynomial of  $A$  is

$$|A - \lambda I| = \begin{vmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 1 \\ 1 & 2 - \lambda \end{vmatrix} = 3 - 4\lambda + \lambda^2.$$

Setting the characteristic polynomial equal to zero, it has roots at  $\lambda = 1$  and  $\lambda = 3$ , which are the two eigenvalues of  $A$ . The eigenvectors corresponding to each eigenvalue can be found by solving for the components of  $v$  in the equation  $Av = \lambda v$ . In this example, the eigenvectors are any nonzero scalar multiples of

$$v_{\lambda=1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad v_{\lambda=3} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

## 特征值的神奇性质

1. 原矩阵的对角线元素之和等于其所有特征值之和。
2. 原矩阵的行列式等于特征值的连乘。
3. 原矩阵的秩 (rank) 等于非零特征值的个数。
4. 对角矩阵的特征值就是其对角线上的元素。

- The **trace** of  $A$ , defined as the sum of its diagonal elements, is also the sum of all eigenvalues,

$$\text{tr}(A) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{ii} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \cdots + \lambda_n. \text{[31][32][33]}$$

- The **determinant** of  $A$  is the product of all its eigenvalues,

$$\det(A) = \prod_{i=1}^n \lambda_i = \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \cdots \lambda_n. \text{[31][34][35]}$$