

# Fifth Recitation Class

## Linear Algebra

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# Eigenvalue Problem

## Motivation

For discrete time dynamic system, if the state between two states have relation

$$\overline{x_{n+1}} = A\overline{x_n}$$

for  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . What is  $\overline{x_n}$  if we know  $\overline{x_0}$ ?

## Solution

If  $A\overline{x_0} = \lambda\overline{x_0}$  for  $\overline{x_0} \neq \overline{0}$ , then

$$\overline{x_n} = \lambda^n \overline{x_0}.$$

## Question:

Is this always possible?

# Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

## Definition

For  $\bar{v} \neq \bar{0}$  and an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ , if there exists  $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$  such that

$$A\bar{v} = \lambda\bar{v}$$

we call  $\lambda$  an *eigenvalue* and  $\bar{v}$  an *eigenvector*.

## Question

We assume  $\bar{v}$  is an eigenvector for both matrix  $A$  and  $B$ .

- (i) Can we have  $\lambda = 0$ ? **Yes.** We only need  $\bar{v} \neq \bar{0}$ .
- (ii) Is  $\bar{v}$  an eigenvector for  $A^2, A + B, AB$ ? **Yes.**
- (iii) If  $\bar{u}$  is an eigenvector of  $AB$  and  $B\bar{u} \neq \bar{0}$ , find an eigenvector for  $BA$ .

# Find Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

## Theorem

A scalar  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$  is an eigenvalue of  $A$  if and only if

$$\det(A - \lambda I_n) = 0.$$

We call  $f_A(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I_n)$  the *characteristic equation* of the matrix  $A$ .

## Comment:

If we consider  $\lambda$  as a variable,  $f_A(\lambda)$  is a polynomial

$$f_A(\lambda) = (-\lambda)^n + (\operatorname{tr} A)(-\lambda)^{n-1} + \cdots + \det A.$$

Note that  $f_A(\lambda)$  always has  $n$  roots but may be **repeated** or **complex** value.

# Find Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

We find eigenvalues for some typical matrices.

## Example

Find eigenvalues for

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}.$$

## Example

If we have  $q \in \mathbb{R}^n$ , find an eigenvalue for

$$A = qq^T.$$

# Find Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Question:

- (i) If  $P$  is projection matrix, what are eigenvalues of  $P$ ?
- (ii) If  $Q$  is an orthogonal matrix, what are eigenvalues of  $Q$ ?

Example

Find a  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $A$  such that

$$\bar{x}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 2^t - 6^t \\ 2^t + 6^t \end{bmatrix}$$

is a trajectory of the dynamical system

$$\bar{x}(t+1) = A\bar{x}(t).$$

# Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors of a Matrix

## Theorem

For an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ , the eigenvectors of different eigenvalues are **independent**.

## Proof

We use induction here. We denote eigenvalues  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  and eigenvectors  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ .

- (i) For  $n = 1$ , the statement is true.
- (ii) If we have  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  are independent, then for

$$\mu_1 v_1 + \dots + \mu_n v_n + \mu_{n+1} v_{n+1} = 0 \quad (\star)$$

we must have  $\mu_{n+1} \neq 0$ .



# Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors of a Matrix

## Proof(Contd.)

(ii) We times  $(\star)$  by  $A$  and we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mu_1 A v_1 + \cdots + \mu_n A v_n + \mu_{n+1} A v_{n+1} &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow \mu_1 \lambda_1 v_1 + \cdots + \mu_n \lambda_n v_n + \mu_{n+1} \lambda_{n+1} v_{n+1} &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

We subtract  $(\star) \times \lambda_{n+1}$

$$\mu_1(\lambda_1 - \lambda_{n+1})v_1 + \cdots + \mu_n(\lambda_n - \lambda_{n+1})v_n = 0.$$

Since  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_{n+1}$  are distinct, we have  $\mu_1 = \cdots = \mu_n = 0$ . We then also have  $\mu_{n+1} = 0$  and have  $v_1, \dots, v_{n+1}$  are independent.

(iii) By induction  $v_1, \dots, v_n$  are independent if we have  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are distinct.

# Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors of a Matrix

## Exmample

If  $A$  is a symmetric  $n \times n$  matrix, show the following results.

(i) If  $\bar{v}$  and  $\bar{w}$  are two vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then

$$(A\bar{v}, \bar{w}) = (\bar{v}, A\bar{w}).$$

(ii) If  $\bar{v}$  and  $\bar{w}$  are two eigenvectors of  $A$ , with distinct eigenvalues, then  $\bar{w}$  is orthogonal to  $\bar{v}$ .

## Comment:

The eigenvectors for distinct eigenvalues of a symmetric matrix are not only independent but also **orthogonal**.

# Algebraic Multiplicity

## Definition

An eigenvalue  $\lambda_0$  of a square matrix  $A$  has *algebraic multiplicity*  $k$  if  $\lambda_0$  appears exactly  $k$  times in the roots of  $f_A(\lambda)$ , i.e.

$$f_A(\lambda) = (\lambda - \lambda_0)^k g(\lambda), \quad g(\lambda_0) \neq 0.$$

## Example

Find eigenvalues and their algebraic multiplicity of

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

# Eigenspace and Geometric Multiplicity

## Definition

The kernel of the matrix  $A - \lambda I_n$  is called the *eigenspace*  $E_\lambda$  associated with  $\lambda$

$$E_\lambda = \ker(A - \lambda I_n) = \{v \in \mathbb{R}^n : Av = \lambda v, v \neq \bar{0}\}.$$

## Comment:

If  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix and  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are distinct, then

$$E_{\lambda_1} \oplus \dots \oplus E_{\lambda_n} = \mathbb{R}^n.$$

# Eigenspace and Geometric Multiplicity

## Definition

The dimension of eigenspace  $E_\lambda$  is called the *geometric multiplicity* of the eigenvalue  $\lambda$ .

$$G.M. = \dim \ker(A - \lambda I_n) = n - \text{rank}(A - \lambda I_n).$$

## Comment:

From previous result, if  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  are distinct, then

$$\dim E_{\lambda_1} + \dots + \dim E_{\lambda_n} = n.$$

# Eigenspace and Geometric Multiplicity

## Example

For a rotation  $T(\bar{x}) = A\bar{x}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . (That is,  $A$  is an orthogonal matrix and has determinant equal to 1.) Show that  $T$  has a nonzero fixed point [i.e., a vector  $\bar{v}$  with  $T(\bar{v}) = \bar{v}$ ]. This result is known as *Euler's theorem*.

## Solution

We note that

$$\det(A - I) = \det(A^T) \det(A - I)$$

because we have  $\det(A) = 1$ , then

$$\det(A^T A - A^T) = \det(I - A^T) = (-1)^3 \det(A - I).$$

So we have  $\det(A - I) = 0$  and there is at least one nonzero eigenvector associated with eigenvalue 1.

# Eigenbasis

## Definition

We call a basis  $\overline{v}_1, \dots, \overline{v}_n$  of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  an *eigenbasis* if they are eigenvectors of an  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$ .

## Theorem

An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  has an eigenbasis iff

$$\sum_{i=1}^s \dim E_{\lambda_i} = n.$$

## Question:

Why we use eigenvectors as basis?

# Diagonalizable Matrices

## Theorem

Consider a linear transformation  $T\bar{x} = A\bar{x}$  and  $A$  is an  $n \times n$  matrix. Let  $\mathcal{D} = \{\bar{v}_1, \dots, \bar{v}_n\}$  be an eigenbasis for  $T$  :  $A\bar{v}_i = \lambda_i\bar{v}_i$ . Then the  $\mathcal{D}$ -matrix  $D$  of  $T$  is

$$D = S^{-1}AS = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & \lambda_n \end{bmatrix}.$$

## Comment:

If we find  $[\bar{x}]_{\mathcal{D}}$ , we have

$$\bar{x} = c_1\bar{v}_1 + \cdots + c_n\bar{v}_n,$$

then

$$A\bar{x} = c_1\lambda_1\bar{v}_1 + \cdots + c_n\lambda_n\bar{v}_n.$$



# Diagonalizable Matrices

## Definition

An  $n \times n$  matrix  $A$  is called **diagonalizable** if  $A$  is similar to a diagonal matrix  $D$ .

## Theorem

An  $n \times n$  matrix is diagonalizable if and only if there exists an eigenbasis for  $A$ .

## Example

Find the eigenvalue decomposition of

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

# Diagonalizable Matrices

## Solution

We have

$$\det(A - \lambda I_4) = (-\lambda)^2(1 - \lambda)^2,$$

so two eigenvalues are

$$\lambda_1 = 0, \quad \lambda_2 = 1.$$

Then for  $\lambda_1 = 0$

$$\overline{v_1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \overline{v_2} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

# Diagonalizable Matrices

## Solution(Contd.)

For  $\lambda_2 = 1$

$$\overline{v_3} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \overline{v_4} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

We have the diagonalized matrix

$$D = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad S = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Diagonalizable Matrices

## Question:

Why we want  $A = SDS^{-1}$ ?

## Solution

We want to calculate  $A^k$  for  $k \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} A^k &= SDS^{-1} \dots SDS^{-1} \\ &= SD^k S^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

## Comment:

Please note that eigenvalues may be complex. For  $k \rightarrow \infty$ ,

- (i) when will we have  $A^k$  go to 0?
- (ii) when will we have  $A^k$  go to infinity?
- (iii) when will we have  $A^k$  diverge?

# Diagonalizable Matrices

## Example

What is the limit of

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0.4 & 0.3 \\ 0.6 & 0.7 \end{bmatrix}^k \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}$$

when  $k \rightarrow \infty$ ?

## Comment:

If each column add up to 1 and each entry is greater than 0, we will have convergent result. Why? Hint: Consider  $A - I_n$ .

# Similar Matrices

## Motivation

Recall that two matrices are similar if there exist an invertible matrix  $S$  such that

$$A = SBS^{-1}.$$

We notice that

$$\det(A - \lambda I_n) = \det(SBS^{-1} - \lambda SS^{-1}) = \det(B - \lambda I_n),$$

so we have  $f_A(\lambda) = f_B(\lambda)$ .

## Theorem

Let  $B = S^{-1}AS$ , i.e.  $A, B$  be similar matrices. Then they have same

- (i)  $f_A(\lambda) = f_B(\lambda)$ ,  $AM$ ,  $GM$  for same eigenvalue,
- (ii)  $\text{rank } A = \text{rank } B$ ,  $\text{nullity } A = \text{nullity } B$ ,
- (iii)  $\det A = \det B$ ,  $\text{tr} A = \text{tr} B$ .