

**Homework 5**  
**Numerical Matrix Analysis**  
**Math 543**  
**Stephen Giang**

**Section 12 Problem 3:** The goal of this problem is to explore some properties of random matrices. Your job is to be a laboratory scientist, performing experiments that lead to conjectures and more refined experiments. Do not try to prove anything. Do produce well-designed plots, which are worth a thousand numbers. Define a random matrix to be an  $m \times m$  matrix whose entries are independent samples from the real normal distribution with mean zero and standard deviation  $m^{-1/2}$ . (In MATLAB,  $A = \text{randn}(m,m)/\text{sqrt}(m)$ .) The factor  $\sqrt{m}$  is introduced to make the limiting behavior clean as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ .

- (a) What do the eigenvalues of a random matrix look like? What happens, say, if you take 100 random matrices and superimpose all their eigenvalues in a single plot? If you do this for  $m = 8, 16, 32, 64, \dots$ , what pattern is suggested? How does the spectral radius  $\rho(A)$  (Exercise 3.2) behave as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ ?
  - (b) What about norms? How does the 2-norm of a random matrix behave as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ ? Of course, we must have  $\rho(A) < \|A\|$  (Exercise 3.2). Does this inequality appear to approach an equality as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ ?
  - (c) What about condition numbers—or more simply, the smallest singular value  $\sigma_{\min}$ ? Even for fixed  $m$  this question is interesting. What proportions of random matrices in  $\mathbb{R}^{m \times m}$  seem to have  $\sigma_{\min} < 2^{-1}, 4^{-1}, 8^{-1}, \dots$ ? In other words, what does the tail of the probability distribution of smallest singular values look like? How does the scale of all this change with  $m$ ?
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- (a) The eigenvalues of random matrices take the shape of circles. As  $m \rightarrow \infty$ , the spectral radius,  $\rho(A)$  approaches 1.
  - (b) As  $m \rightarrow \infty$ , the 2-norm of the random matrices approach 2. The inequality  $\rho(A) < \|A\|$ , remains true as  $m \rightarrow \infty$ . The inequality does not approach an equality as  $m$  approaches infinity.
  - (c) As  $m \rightarrow \infty$ , the proportion between  $\delta_{\min} < 2^{-1}, 4^{-1}, 8^{-1}$  and the number of random matrices approach 100 %. The proportion between  $\delta_{\min} < 2^{-1}$  and the number of iterations approaches 100% the fastest as  $m$  increases.





