

Ch8 Eigen Values and Vectors

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Definition 8.1

Let A be $n \times n$ matrix.

A non-zero vector \vec{x} is an **EIGENVECTOR** of A

if there is a real number scalar λ such $A\vec{x} = \lambda\vec{x}$.
 \uparrow
 eigenvalue.

Proposition 8.2

For an $n \times n$ matrix A , the set of eigenvectors of A corresponding to an eigenvalue λ is equal to the non-zero vectors in $\text{Nul}(A - \lambda I_n)$

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \vec{x} \in \text{Nul}(A - \lambda I_n) \\ (A - \lambda I_n)\vec{x} = 0 \\ A\vec{x} = \lambda\vec{x} \end{array} \right)$$

Activity 8.2

Find the λ -eigenspace of $A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 8 \end{pmatrix}$.

$$\left(\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 3 & 8 \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \right) \vec{x} = 0$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 6 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\therefore \left\{ \left(t, -\frac{1}{2}t \right) \mid t \in \mathbb{R} \right\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x + 2y &= 0 \\ \Rightarrow x &= -2y \\ -x &= y. \end{aligned}$$

Definition 8.3.

- $\text{Nul}(A - \lambda I)$ is the λ -eigenspace of A
- $E_\lambda := \text{Nul}(A - \lambda I)$

Proposition 8.4

A real number λ is an eigenvalue of A if and only if $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$

Definition 8.5

- Geometric multiplicity of λ

is defined to be the dimension of the λ -eigenspace E_λ .

8.2 The Characteristic Polynomial.

Definition 8.6

For an $n \times n$ matrix A ,

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

Strategies:

- (1) Find all eigenvalues of A by solving polynomial equation $\chi_A(\lambda) = 0$
- (2) For each eigenvalue λ , calculate the λ -Eigenspace $E_\lambda \subset \text{Nul}(A - \lambda I)$
- (3) Set of all eigenvalues is union of λ -Eigenspaces in (2)

Proposition 8.7

For any $n \times n$ matrix A

- The characteristic polynomial $\chi_A(\lambda)$ is a polynomial of degree n .

Theorem 8.8 The fundamental theorem of Algebra

Let $f(x)$ be a polynomial of degree n with coefficients in \mathbb{R} .

$$f(x) = (x - \alpha_1)^{m_1} \cdots (x - \alpha_k)^{m_k}, \quad \text{where } \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k \text{ are distinct complex numbers}$$

and $m_i \geq 1$ are integers satisfying $m_1 + \cdots + m_k = n$

DEFINITION 8.7

- (1) We call equation above the factorisation of f .
- (2) The complex numbers $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_k$ are the roots of f .
- (3) For each $i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$, the integer m_i is called the ALGEBRAIC MULTIPLICITY of α_i .