

Linear Algebra

Seminar 12: Special matrices

(make sure you can write on the board)

Problem 1. Which of the two matrices below is Hermitian?

$$(a) \quad \begin{pmatrix} 2 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{-i}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{-i}{\sqrt{2}} & 2 & 0 \\ \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (b) \quad \begin{pmatrix} 2 & \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{-i}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} & 2 & 0 \\ \frac{-i}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

For a Hermitian matrix, find its eigenvalues, eigenvectors, and perform its unitary diagonalization.

Problem 2. Which of the following matrices below is skew-Hermitian (i.e., satisfies $A^* = -A$)?

$$(a) \quad \begin{pmatrix} i & 1-i & 1-i \\ -1-i & 0 & i \\ -1-i & i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (b) \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1-i & 1-i \\ 1-i & 0 & i \\ 1-i & i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

For the skew-Hermitian matrix, find eigenvalues, eigenvectors, and perform its unitary diagonalization.

Problem 3. (a) Show that the vectors

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \\ i \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1+i \\ 0 \\ 1-i \end{pmatrix}$$

are orthogonal in \mathbb{C}^3 with the standard inner product.

- (b) Normalize these vectors to get an orthonormal basis $(\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2)$ for the linear span of these vectors, $\text{ls}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\}$.
- (c) Extend this to an orthonormal basis of \mathbb{C}^3 , by finding an appropriate vector \mathbf{u}_3 (try this two ways: using a Gram–Schmidt process or solving a system of linear equations; explain also why the cross-product does not help)

Problem 4. Under the notations of Problem 3

- (a) Express the vector $\mathbf{a} = (1, 1, i)^\top$ as a linear combination of $\mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{u}_2, \mathbf{u}_3$.
- (b) Find the matrix E_1 of the orthogonal projection of \mathbb{C}^3 onto $\text{ls}(\mathbf{u}_1)$ and show that E_1 is both Hermitian and idempotent. Find $E_1\mathbf{a}$.
- (c) Find the matrices E_2 and E_3 of the orthogonal projections of \mathbb{C}^3 onto $\text{ls}(\mathbf{u}_2)$ and $\text{ls}(\mathbf{u}_3)$ respectively and verify that $I = E_1 + E_2 + E_3$.

Problem 5. Suppose that $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ are the vectors

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{w} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

- (a) Using the definition of a direct sum, show that $\mathbb{R}^2 = \text{ls}\{\mathbf{u}\} \dot{+} \text{ls}\{\mathbf{w}\}$.
- (b) Find the projection P of \mathbb{R}^2 onto $U = \text{ls}\{\mathbf{u}\}$ parallel to $W = \text{ls}\{\mathbf{w}\}$. Find the image $P(\mathbf{e}_1)$ of the vector $\mathbf{e}_1 = (1, 0)^\top$.
- (c) Find the orthogonal projection T from \mathbb{R}^2 onto $\text{ls}\{\mathbf{u}\}$. Then find the image of $\mathbf{e}_1 = (1, 0)^\top$ under this linear transformation
- (d) Find a projection of \mathbb{R}^3 onto the subspace $U = \text{ls}\{(1, 0, 1)^\top\}$ parallel to the subspace $W = \text{ls}\{(1, 1, 0)^\top, (0, 1, 1)^\top\}$
- (e) Find a projection of \mathbb{R}^3 onto the subspace $U = \text{ls}\{(1, 0, 1)^\top\}$ parallel to the subspace $W = \text{ls}\{(3, -2, 1)^\top, (0, 1, 1)^\top\}$

Problem 6. (a) Show that the matrix

$$P = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

is idempotent.

- (b) Conclude that P represents a projection in \mathbb{R}^3 . Is that projection orthogonal?
(c) Find subspaces U and W such that P projects onto U parallel to W .
(d) Is it possible to fill in the missing entries in the matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & * & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & * \\ * & * & * \end{pmatrix}$$

to get a matrix of an orthogonal projection in \mathbb{R}^3 ? If so, find the subspace U of \mathbb{R}^3 such that A is an orthogonal projection onto U .

Extra problems (to be discussed if time permits)

Problem 7. For the matrices

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & i \\ -i & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} i & 1 \\ -1 & i \end{pmatrix}$$

calculate e^{tA} and e^{tB} via the series expansion and by using the spectral decomposition.

Problem 8. Suppose that $U = \text{ls}\{(1, 0, -1, 1)^\top, (0, 0, 1, -1)^\top\}$ and $W = \text{ls}\{(0, 1, 1, 0)^\top, (1, 0, 1, -1)^\top\}$. Is the sum $U + W$ direct? If so, why, and if not, why not? Find a basis for $U + W$.

- Problem 9.** (a) Show that any matrix P satisfying the relation $P^2 = P$ is a projector onto some subspace L parallel to M , and identify these L and M .
(b) Show that the projector P is an orthogonal projector if and only if the matrix P is symmetric.
(c) Assume that two transformations P_1 and P_2 of \mathbb{R}^n satisfy the following conditions: $P_1 + P_2 = I_n$ and $P_1 P_2 = 0$. Prove that P_1 and P_2 are projectors and that $P_2 P_1 = 0$.

