

## Solving systems, eigentstuff

September 17th, 2024

Here are some key ideas from sections 8.6 and 8.7.

- We can write systems of equations in matrix notation as  $A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$ .  $A$  is a matrix, while  $\vec{x}$  and  $\vec{b}$  are both column vectors. If  $\vec{b}$  is not the 0 vector, we say the system is inhomogeneous. For the system of equations given by

$$\begin{aligned} 3x_1 - 2x_2 &= -4 \\ 7x_1 + x_2 &= 19, \end{aligned}$$

the corresponding matrix equation is

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ 7 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 19 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$A\vec{x} = \vec{b}$$

$$\cancel{A^{-1}A}\vec{x} = A^{-1}\vec{b}$$

$$\vec{x} = A^{-1}\vec{b}$$

- Fill out the following table with the number of solutions to the matrix equation.

|  | $A$ is invertible                  | $A$ is not invertible               |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Homogeneous ( $\vec{b} = \vec{0}$ )      | one! $\vec{x} = \vec{0}$ (trivial) | trivial sol'n, $\infty$ non-trivial |
| Inhomogeneous ( $\vec{b} \neq \vec{0}$ ) | one! $\vec{x} = A^{-1}\vec{b}$     | Take Math 110 ☺                     |

$$A\vec{x} = \vec{0}$$

- An eigenvector is a vector  $\vec{v}$  satisfying the equation below. and are nonzero!

$$\cancel{A\vec{x} = \lambda\vec{x}} \quad A\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v}$$

The corresponding eigenvalue is  $\lambda$ .

- We can rewrite to get

$$A\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v} \Rightarrow A\vec{v} - \lambda\vec{v} = \vec{0} \Rightarrow (A - \lambda I)\vec{v} = \vec{0} \rightarrow \text{homogeneous!}$$

which tells us that there are nonzero eigenvectors if and only if  $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$ .

**Problem 1:** (Stewart & Day 8.6) Solve the discussed system of equations using matrices. *Hint: multiply by  $A^{-1}$ .*

$$\begin{aligned} 3x_1 - 2x_2 &= -4 \\ 7x_1 + x_2 &= 19, \end{aligned} \quad A\vec{x} = \vec{b} : \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ 7 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 19 \end{bmatrix}$$

My Attempt:

Solution:

$$A\vec{x} = \vec{b} \Rightarrow A^{-1}A\vec{x} = A^{-1}\vec{b} \Rightarrow \vec{x} = A^{-1}\vec{b}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{x} &= \left( \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -2 \\ 7 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)^{-1} \vec{b} \\ &= \frac{1}{(3)(1) - (-2)(7)} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ -7 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 19 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1/13 & 2/13 \\ -7/13 & 3/13 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} -4 \\ 19 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} -4 + 38/13 \\ 28 + 57/13 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 5 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

**Problem 2:** (Stewart & Day 8.7) Which of the following scalars  $k$  are eigenvalues of their corresponding matrices?

a)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $k = 3$ ;

b)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $k = 0$ ;

c)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 5 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $k = 2$ .

My Attempt:

Solution:

(non zero) eigenvalue if  $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$ .

a)  $A - 3I = \begin{bmatrix} -2 & 2 \\ 2 & -2 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $\det(A - 3I) = 0$

so 3 is an eigenvalue.

b)  $\det(A - 0I) = \det A = 0$

so 0 is an eigenvalue.

c)  $\det(A - 2I) = \det \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 2 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} = -3 \neq 0$

so 2 is not an eigenvalue.

**Problem 3:** (Stewart & Day 8.7) Consider the following system of equations:

$$a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 = b_1$$

$$a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 = b_2.$$

Suppose that the matrix  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix}$  is nonsingular. Derive expressions for  $x_1$  and  $x_2$ .

My Attempt:

Solution:

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21}} \begin{bmatrix} a_{22} & -a_{12} \\ -a_{21} & a_{11} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{so } x_1 = \frac{a_{22}b_1 - a_{12}b_2}{a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21}}$$

$$x_2 = \frac{-a_{21}b_1 + a_{11}b_2}{a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21}}$$

**Problem 4:** (Stewart & Day 8.7) Find the eigenvalues of each matrix.

a)  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix};$

b)  $\begin{bmatrix} 5 & -4 \\ 6 & -5 \end{bmatrix};$

c)  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$

My Attempt:

Solution:

a) If  $\det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} - \lambda I \right) = 0$ , then  
 $\det \begin{bmatrix} 2-\lambda & 0 \\ 3 & -\lambda \end{bmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow (2-\lambda)(-\lambda) - 0 = 0$   
 so  $\lambda(\lambda-2) = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = 0, \lambda = 2$

b) If  $\det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 5 & -4 \\ 6 & -5 \end{bmatrix} - \lambda I \right) = 0$ , then  
 $\det \begin{bmatrix} 5-\lambda & -4 \\ 6 & -5-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow (5-\lambda)(-5-\lambda) - (-24) = 0$   
 so  $\lambda^2 - 1 = 0 \Rightarrow \lambda = 1, \lambda = -1$

c) If  $\det \left( \begin{bmatrix} 3 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix} - \lambda I \right) = 0$ , then  
 $\det \begin{bmatrix} 3-\lambda & -1 \\ 0 & 2-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = 0 \Rightarrow (3-\lambda)(2-\lambda) = 0$   
 so  $\lambda = 2, \lambda = 3$

**Problem 5:** (Stewart & Day 8.7) Find an eigenvector associated with the given eigenvalue of A.

a)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 0 \\ 2 & 3 \end{bmatrix}, \lambda = 9;$

b)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ 2 & 7 \end{bmatrix}, \lambda = 4 + \sqrt{19};$

c)  $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \lambda = \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}.$

My Attempt:

Solution: must satisfy  $A\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v} \Rightarrow (A - \lambda I)\vec{v} = \vec{0}$ .

a)  $(A - \lambda I) = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 9-9 & 0 \\ 2 & 3-9 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$   
 so  $2v_1 - 6v_2 = 0, v_1 = 3v_2$ . Pick  $v_1 = 1$  to get  $\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$

b)  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 - (4 + \sqrt{19}) & 5 \\ 2 & 7 - (4 + \sqrt{19}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$   
 so  $(-3 - \sqrt{19})v_1 + 5v_2 = 0 \Rightarrow v_2 = \frac{3 + \sqrt{19}}{5}v_1$  (multiply by conjugate)  
 Pick  $v_1 = 5$  to get  $\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ 3 + \sqrt{19} \end{bmatrix}$

c)  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 - (\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}) & 1 \\ 1 & 1 - \frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ v_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$   
 so  $-\left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)v_1 + v_2 = 0 \Rightarrow v_2 = \left(\frac{1+\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)v_1$  (multiply by conjugate)  
 $v_1 + \left(\frac{1-\sqrt{5}}{2}\right)v_2 = 0 \Rightarrow v_2 = 2$  choose  $v_2 = 2$  to get  $\begin{bmatrix} 2 \\ 1 + \sqrt{5} \end{bmatrix}$

**Challenge Problem:** (Stewart & Day 8.7) Derive a general formula for the eigenvalues of  $\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$ .

$$\det \left( \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} - \lambda I \right) = \det \begin{bmatrix} a-\lambda & b \\ c & d-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = \lambda^2 - (a+d)\lambda + (ad-bc) = 0$$

use quadratic formula to get  $\lambda = \frac{a+d + \sqrt{(a-d)^2 + 4bc}}{2}, \lambda = \frac{a+d - \sqrt{(a-d)^2 + 4bc}}{2}$