

Exercises on similar matrices and Jordan form

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28.1

Suppose $M = \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} & m_{13} & m_{14} \\ & & \dots & \end{bmatrix}$.

$$JM = MK = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & m_{21} & m_{22} & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & m_{41} & m_{42} & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

From the form of the product we can tell that M is not invertible, so M^{-1} does not exist. Therefore, $J = M^{-1}KM$ does not stand and J is not similar to K .

28.2

(a) Given $M^{-1}AM = B$, it leads to:

$$M^{-1}(A^2)M = M^{-1}AMM^{-1}AM = B^2$$

(b) If A^2 and B^2 are similar and have $\lambda = 0, 0$, it leads to $S^{-1}A^2S = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = S^{-1}B^2S$. However, this does not guarantee that $S^{-1}AS = S^{-1}BS$. An example is $A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ and $B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$.

(c)

$$\begin{aligned} M^{-1}AM &= \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} 3m_{11} & 3m_{12} \\ 4m_{21} & 4m_{22} \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 3m_{11} & m_{11} + 4m_{12} \\ 3m_{21} & m_{21} + 4m_{22} \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

One of the solutions is $M = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$. Therefore, those two matrices are similar.

(d) The eigenvalues of $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ are 3, 3. The eigenvalues of $\begin{bmatrix} 3 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$ are 4, 2.

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} 3 - \lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 3 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} = (3 - \lambda)^2 - 1 = 0$$

Those two matrices are similar because they have different eigenvalues.

(e) Given the conditions, it leads to $B = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} A \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = M^{-1}AM$. Therefore, A and B are similar.