

Let $Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ be an orthogonal matrix and $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ be any matrix. Show that A and QAQ^T have the same eigenvalues.

Solution:

$Q \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ orthogonal, $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$

1. Show: $\sigma(A) = \sigma(QAQ^T)$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda \in \sigma(A) &\Leftrightarrow \exists v \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\} : Av = \lambda v \\ &\Leftrightarrow \exists v \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\} : QA \underbrace{Q^T Q}_{=I} v = \lambda \underbrace{Qv}_{=\tilde{v}} \\ &\Leftrightarrow \exists \tilde{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n \setminus \{0\} : QAQ^T \tilde{v} = \lambda \tilde{v} \\ &\Leftrightarrow \lambda \in \sigma(QAQ^T) \quad (3P) \end{aligned}$$

□

2. Show: $|\det(Q)| = 1$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} 1 = \det(I) &= \det(Q^T Q) = \det(Q^T) \det(Q) = (\det(Q))^2 \\ \Rightarrow |\det(Q)| &= \sqrt{1} = 1 \quad (3P) \end{aligned}$$

□