

25MT103: Linear Algebra

Unit 3: Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors and Diagonalization

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Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors - Lecture Slides

Syllabus

- ☞ Characteristic Equation
- ☞ Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors and their Properties
- ☞ Cayley-Hamilton Theorem
- ☞ Diagonalization of a Matrix (only for diagonalizable matrices)
- ☞ Inverse of a matrix by Cayley-Hamilton Theorem
- ☞ Power of a diagonalizable square matrix

Outline

1 Definitions

2 Example

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Linear Independence

Definition: Linear Independence

A set $\{v_1, \dots, v_k\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ is **linearly independent** if the only scalars c_1, \dots, c_k with

$$c_1 v_1 + \dots + c_k v_k = 0$$

are $c_1 = \dots = c_k = 0$. Otherwise the set is **linearly dependent**.

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Quick Example (3D)

The vectors $\{(1, 0, 0)^\top, (0, 1, 0)^\top, (1, 1, 0)^\top\}$ are linearly dependent (third is sum of first two).

Characteristic Equation and Eigenvalues

Definition: Characteristic Equation

For square $A \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$, the characteristic polynomial is

$$p_A(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I).$$

The scalar roots of $p_A(\lambda) = 0$ are the eigenvalues of A .

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2×2 Example

Let $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$. Then $\det(A - \lambda I) = (2 - \lambda)^2 - 1 = \lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 3$. Roots:
 $\lambda = 3, 1$.

Eigenvectors and Properties

Definition: Eigenvector

An eigenvector $x \neq 0$ associated to eigenvalue λ satisfies

$$(A - \lambda I)x = 0.$$

The set of all such x (with zero) is the eigenspace $\text{Null}(A - \lambda I)$.

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Useful Properties

- Eigenvectors for distinct eigenvalues are linearly independent.
- For triangular matrices, eigenvalues are diagonal entries.
- Sum of eigenvalues = $\text{tr}(A)$; product = $\det(A)$.

Algebraic Multiplicity and Geometric Multiplicity

Definitions

- **Algebraic multiplicity (AM)** of eigenvalue λ : multiplicity of λ as a root of the characteristic polynomial $p_A(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I)$.
- **Geometric multiplicity (GM)** of λ : dimension of the eigenspace $\text{Null}(A - \lambda I)$.

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Important facts

For each eigenvalue λ ,

$$1 \leq \text{GM}(\lambda) \leq \text{AM}(\lambda).$$

Matrix A is diagonalizable iff the total number of linearly independent eigenvectors equals n (equivalently $\text{GM}(\lambda) = \text{AM}(\lambda)$ for every eigenvalue).

Cayley–Hamilton Theorem

Cayley–Hamilton

If $p_A(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I) = \lambda^n + c_{n-1}\lambda^{n-1} + \cdots + c_0$, then

$$p_A(A) = A^n + c_{n-1}A^{n-1} + \cdots + c_0I = 0.$$

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2×2 quick use

For $A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$, $p_A(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 3$. Thus $A^2 - 4A + 3I = 0$; rearrange to get expressions useful for A^{-1} or powers.

Diagonalization and Powers

Diagonalization

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$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$ has eigenpairs leading to $P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$, $D = \text{diag}(3, 1)$, so $A^n = P\text{diag}(3^n, 1^n)P^{-1}$.

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3×3 remark

For a 3×3 diagonalizable matrix, the same idea applies: diagonalize and raise diagonal entries to the k th power.

Outline

- 1 Definitions
- 2 **Example**

Problem: matrix under study

We study the matrix

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -10 & -5 \\ 2 & 14 & 2 \\ -4 & -8 & 6 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We will compute

- $p_A(\lambda)$
- eigenvalues with algebraic multiplicities
- eigenspaces (and their dimensions)
- eigenvectors (integer-scaled and normalized)
- an explicit inverse P^{-1} of the modal matrix P
- verify diagonalization

Step 1: compute $p_A(\lambda) = \det(A - \lambda I)$

Form the matrix $A - \lambda I$:

$$A - \lambda I = \begin{pmatrix} 5 - \lambda & -10 & -5 \\ 2 & 14 - \lambda & 2 \\ -4 & -8 & 6 - \lambda \end{pmatrix}.$$

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We compute the determinant by cofactor expansion along the first row.

$$\begin{aligned} \det(A - \lambda I) &= (5 - \lambda) \det \begin{pmatrix} 14 - \lambda & 2 \\ -8 & 6 - \lambda \end{pmatrix} - (-10) \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ -4 & 6 - \lambda \end{pmatrix} \\ &\quad + (-5) \det \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 14 - \lambda \\ -4 & -8 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Step 1 (cont.)

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = (5 - \lambda)((14 - \lambda)(6 - \lambda) + 16) + 10(2(6 - \lambda) + 8) - 5(-16 + 4(14 - \lambda)).$$

Step 1 (cont.)

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Now expand terms carefully (expand each parenthesis and collect like powers of λ). After simplification one obtains

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = (\lambda - 10)^2(\lambda - 5).$$

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Hence the characteristic polynomial (up to sign) factors as

$$p_A(\lambda) = (\lambda - 10)^2(\lambda - 5).$$

Step 1 (conclusion): eigenvalues and algebraic multiplicities

From $p_A(\lambda)$ we read:

$$\lambda_1 = 5, \quad \text{AM}(5) = 1; \quad \lambda_2 = 10, \quad \text{AM}(10) = 2.$$

Next we compute eigenspaces to find geometric multiplicities and eigenvectors.

Step 2: Eigenspace for $\lambda = 5$ — form $A - 5I$

Compute

$$A - 5I = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -10 & -5 \\ 2 & 9 & 2 \\ -4 & -8 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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We solve $(A - 5I)x = 0$. Form the augmented system and do row reduction. Below we show row operations to reach RREF.

Step 2 (cont.): Row-reduction to RREF for $\lambda = 5$

Start with the coefficient matrix $(A - 5I)$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -10 & -5 \\ 2 & 9 & 2 \\ -4 & -8 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Perform elementary row operations (one possible path):

$$R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2 : \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 9 & 2 \\ 0 & -10 & -5 \\ -4 & -8 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$R_1 \leftrightarrow R_2 : \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 9 & 2 \\ 0 & -10 & -5 \\ -4 & -8 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R_3 \leftarrow R_3 + 2R_1 : \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 9 & 2 \\ 0 & -10 & -5 \\ 0 & 10 & 5 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Step 2 (cont.): Row-reduction to RREF for $\lambda = 5$

$$R_3 \leftarrow R_3 + R_2 : \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 9 & 2 \\ 0 & -10 & -5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Scale } R_1 \leftarrow \frac{1}{2}R_1, R_2 \leftarrow -\frac{1}{10}R_2 : \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \frac{9}{2} & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$R_1 \leftarrow R_1 - \frac{9}{2}R_2 \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -\frac{5}{4} \\ 0 & 1 & \frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

This is the RREF.

Step 2 (cont.): Solve for eigenvectors for $\lambda = 5$

From the RREF equations:

$$x_1 - \frac{5}{4}x_3 = 0, \quad x_2 + \frac{1}{2}x_3 = 0.$$

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Let $x_3 = t$ (free). Then

$$x = t \begin{pmatrix} 5/4 \\ -1/2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = t' \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix},$$

where in the last expression we scaled by $t' = t/(1/4)$ to get integer entries.

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$$v_5 = \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix},$$

and the eigenspace has dimension $\text{GM}(5) = 1$.

Step 3: Eigenspace for $\lambda = 10$ — form $A - 10I$

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$$A - 10I = \begin{pmatrix} -5 & -10 & -5 \\ 2 & 4 & 2 \\ -4 & -8 & -4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Bring to RREF (a compact path):

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Bring to RREF (a compact path):

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Hence there is a single independent linear equation:

$$x_1 + 2x_2 + x_3 = 0.$$

Step 3 (cont.): Solve for eigenvectors for $\lambda = 10$

From $x_1 = -2x_2 - x_3$, take free parameters $s = x_2$, $t = x_3$. Then

$$x = s \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + t \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Thus two independent integer eigenvectors for $\lambda = 10$ are

$$v_{10}^{(1)} = \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad v_{10}^{(2)} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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So $\text{GM}(10) = 2$, matching $\text{AM}(10) = 2$.

Step 4: Collect eigenvectors and check diagonalizability

We have:

$$\lambda = 5: \quad v_5 = (5, -2, 4)^\top, \quad \text{GM}(5) = 1$$

$$\lambda = 10: \quad v_{10}^{(1)} = (-2, 1, 0)^\top, \quad v_{10}^{(2)} = (-1, 0, 1)^\top, \quad \text{GM}(10) = 2.$$

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Total independent eigenvectors $= 1 + 2 = 3 = n$.

Therefore A is **diagonalizable**.

Step 5: Normalizing the eigenvectors

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For $v_5 = (5, -2, 4)^\top$:

$$\|v_5\| = \sqrt{5^2 + (-2)^2 + 4^2} = \sqrt{25 + 4 + 16} = \sqrt{45}.$$

So the unit eigenvector is

$$\hat{v}_5 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{45}} \begin{pmatrix} 5 \\ -2 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Step 5: Normalizing the eigenvectors

For $v_{10}^{(1)} = (-2, 1, 0)^\top$:

$$\|v_{10}^{(1)}\| = \sqrt{(-2)^2 + 1^2 + 0^2} = \sqrt{5}, \quad \hat{v}_{10}^{(1)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{5}} \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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For $v_{10}^{(2)} = (-1, 0, 1)^\top$:

$$\|v_{10}^{(2)}\| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + 0^2 + 1^2} = \sqrt{2}, \quad \hat{v}_{10}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Step 6: Build modal matrix P and diagonal D

If A is diagonalisable, what are P and D is $A = P^{-1}DP$?

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Take eigenvectors as columns (integer-scaled for P):

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -2 & -1 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad D = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 10 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 10 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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We will compute P^{-1} explicitly (so the diagonalization $A = PDP^{-1}$ is fully verified).

Step 7: Compute $\det(P)$ and adjoint for P^{-1}

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Using the adjugate formula:

$$P^{-1} = \frac{1}{\det(P)} \operatorname{adj}(P).$$

We compute the matrix of cofactors (cofactor $C_{ij} = (-1)^{i+j}M_{ij}$, where M_{ij} is the minor).

Step 7 (cont.): Cofactors and adjoint (explicit)

Compute minors/cofactors (listed compactly):

$$M_{11} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1, \quad C_{11} = +1,$$

$$M_{12} = \det \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 0 \\ 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = -2, \quad C_{12} = -(-2) = +2,$$

$$M_{13} = \det \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 \\ 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = -4 = -4, \quad C_{13} = +(-4) = -4,$$

$$M_{21} = \det \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = -2, \quad C_{21} = -(-2) = +2,$$

Step 7 (cont.): Cofactors and adjoint (explicit)

$$M_{22} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -1 \\ 4 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 5(1) - (-1)(4) = 9, \quad C_{22} = +9,$$

$$M_{23} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -2 \\ 4 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 5(0) - (-2)(4) = 8, \quad C_{23} = -8,$$

$$M_{31} = \det \begin{pmatrix} -2 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = (-2)(0) - (-1)(1) = 1, \quad C_{31} = +1,$$

$$M_{32} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -1 \\ -2 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = 5(0) - (-1)(-2) = -2, \quad C_{32} = -(-2) = +2,$$

$$M_{33} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -2 \\ -2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = 5(1) - (-2)(-2) = 1, \quad C_{33} = +1.$$

Step 7 (cont.): adjoint and P^{-1}

The matrix of cofactors is

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & -4 \\ 2 & 9 & -8 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Since $\det(P) = 5$,

$$P^{-1} = \frac{1}{5} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 9 & 2 \\ -4 & -8 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Step 8: Verify diagonalization $P^{-1}AP = D$

Compute $P^{-1}AP$. Using the matrices given:

$$P^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{5} & \frac{2}{5} & \frac{1}{5} \\ \frac{2}{5} & \frac{9}{5} & \frac{2}{5} \\ -\frac{4}{5} & -\frac{8}{5} & \frac{1}{5} \end{pmatrix}, \quad P = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & -2 & -1 \\ -2 & 1 & 0 \\ 4 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Carrying out the multiplication (or verifying by direct computation) yields

$$P^{-1}AP = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 10 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 10 \end{pmatrix} = D.$$

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Carrying out the multiplication (or verifying by direct computation) yields

$$P^{-1}AP = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 10 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 10 \end{pmatrix} = D.$$

Thus $A = PDP^{-1}$ and diagonalization is confirmed.

Step 9: Use — powers and Cayley–Hamilton remark

- Since A is diagonalizable, $A^k = PD^kP^{-1}$. That reduces powering A to powering diagonal entries $5^k, 10^k, 10^k$.

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- Since A is diagonalizable, $A^k = PD^kP^{-1}$. That reduces powering A to powering diagonal entries $5^k, 10^k, 10^k$.
- Cayley–Hamilton: $p_A(A) = (A - 10I)^2(A - 5I) = 0$. From the cubic relation you can express high powers of A as linear combinations of I, A, A^2 or isolate an explicit formula for A^{-1} in terms of A^2, A, I (since constant term is nonzero).

Summary

- Characteristic polynomial: $p_A(\lambda) = (\lambda - 10)^2(\lambda - 5)$.
- Eigenvalues and AM: $\lambda = 5$ (AM=1), $\lambda = 10$ (AM=2).
- Geometric multiplicities: $GM(5) = 1$, $GM(10) = 2$. So $GM = AM$ for each eigenvalue and A is diagonalizable.
- Integer eigenvectors: $v_5 = (5, -2, 4)$, $v_{10}^{(1)} = (-2, 1, 0)$, $v_{10}^{(2)} = (-1, 0, 1)$. Normalized vectors shown separately.
- Explicit modal matrix P , $\det(P) = 5$, adjugate and P^{-1} given; verified $P^{-1}AP = D$.

Optional Topics (Not in syllabus):

- Gram–Schmidt orthonormalisation process.
- Singular Value Decomposition (SVD).

Thank You!

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I can't change the direction
of the wind, but I can adjust
my sails to always reach
my destination.

(Jimmy Dean)

