

# Eigenvalues and Eigenvectors

Linear Algebra, Michaelmas Term 2018  
Jonathan Whiteley

## Eigenvalues and eigenvectors

Let  $A$  be a  $N \times N$  matrix

Suppose

$$A\mathbf{u} = \lambda\mathbf{u}$$

for some scalar  $\lambda$  and non-zero vector  $\mathbf{u}$

We then say that  $\lambda$  is an **eigenvalue** of  $A$ , with corresponding **eigenvector**  $\mathbf{u}$

We insist that an eigenvector must be a non-zero vector.

This is because if  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$  then  $A\mathbf{u} = \lambda\mathbf{u}$  is trivially true for all  $\lambda$

The eigenvector corresponding to an eigenvalue  $\lambda$  is not unique

Suppose  $A\mathbf{u} = \lambda\mathbf{u}$

If  $\mathbf{v} = c\mathbf{u}$  for some scalar  $c \neq 0$  then

$$\begin{aligned} A\mathbf{v} &= A(c\mathbf{u}) \\ &= cA\mathbf{u} \\ &= c\lambda\mathbf{u} \\ &= \lambda(c\mathbf{u}) \\ &= \lambda\mathbf{v} \end{aligned}$$

and so  $\mathbf{v}$  is also an eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda$

## Calculating eigenvalues and eigenvectors

We are seeking  $\lambda$  and (non-zero)  $\mathbf{u}$  such that

$$A\mathbf{u} = \lambda\mathbf{u}$$

We may write this as

$$(A - \lambda I)\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$$

where  $I$  is the identity matrix

This equation can only have non-zero solutions for  $\mathbf{u}$  if

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

This allows us to calculate the eigenvalues (if they exist)

### Example of calculating eigenvalues and eigenvectors of a matrix

Calculate the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the matrix  $A$  given by

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

The eigenvalues  $\lambda$  satisfy

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 2 - \lambda & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 - \lambda & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 - \lambda \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

Expanding the determinant gives

$$(2 - \lambda) [(2 - \lambda)(2 - \lambda) - (3)(0)] + (1) [(-1)(0) - (2 - \lambda)(1)] = 0$$

This is known as the characteristic equation of the matrix  $A$

A little manipulation gives

$$(2 - \lambda) [(2 - \lambda)(2 - \lambda) - 1] = 0$$

$$(2 - \lambda) [\lambda^2 - 4\lambda + 3] = 0$$

$$(2 - \lambda)(\lambda - 3)(\lambda - 1) = 0$$

and so the eigenvalues of  $A$  are  $\lambda = 1, 2, 3$

To find the eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda = 1$  we need to find a non-zero vector  $\mathbf{u}$  such that

$$(A - \mathcal{I})\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$$

that is,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 1 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Adding the first row to the second row, and then subtracting the first row from the third row gives

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

We then have  $\mathbf{u}$  given by

$$\mathbf{u} = r \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

To find the eigenvector corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\lambda = 2$  we need to find a non-zero vector  $\mathbf{u}$  such that

$$(A - 2I)\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$$

that is,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

We then have  $\mathbf{u}$  given by

$$\mathbf{u} = q \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Exercise: show that the eigenvector corresponding to  $\lambda = 3$  is given by

$$\mathbf{u} = p \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

We then have the following eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $A$ :

$$\lambda = 1, \quad \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda = 2, \quad \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda = 3, \quad \mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

### The number of eigenvalues of a matrix

In the previous example, the  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $A$  had 3 eigenvalues

Suppose  $A$  is a  $N \times N$  matrix

Using the properties of determinants it can be shown that the characteristic equation of  $A$  — that is,  $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$  — is a polynomial in  $\lambda$  of degree  $N$

$A$  can then have at most  $N$  eigenvalues

Outline proof:

The characteristic equation,  $\det(A - \lambda I) = 0$  may be written

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} - \lambda & A_{12} & \dots & A_{1N} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} - \lambda & \dots & A_{2N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ A_{N1} & A_{N2} & \dots & A_{NN} - \lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

The determinant is equal to a linear sum of all products containing exactly one entry from each row, and one entry from each column

The product of entries on the diagonal is a polynomial of degree  $N$  in  $\lambda$ , and no other contribution will have a higher degree

The characteristic polynomial is therefore a polynomial in  $\lambda$  of degree  $N$

## Distinct eigenvalues

Let  $A$  be a  $N \times N$  matrix

Suppose  $A$  has  $N$  distinct eigenvalues,  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_N$ , with corresponding eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_N$

Under these conditions there are two useful properties:

1. The eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_N$  are linearly independent
2. Define the matrices  $S$  and  $D$  by

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1 & \mathbf{v}_2 & \dots & \mathbf{v}_N \end{pmatrix}, \quad D = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_N \end{pmatrix}$$

We may then write  $D = S^{-1}AS$ , and we say “ $A$  can be diagonalised”

## A couple of remarks

We know that  $S^{-1}$  exists — provided the rows of  $S$  are linearly independent it will be non-singular

If  $A, B, X$  are  $N \times N$  matrices, and

$$B = X^{-1}AX$$

then  $A$  and  $B$  are known as **similar matrices**

## Proof that the eigenvectors are linearly independent

Suppose, for scalars  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_N$ ,

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0} \tag{1}$$

We want to show that we must have  $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \dots = \alpha_N = 0$

Multiplying Eq. (1) by  $A$  gives

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i A \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0}$$

By definition of eigenvectors we may write this as

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0} \tag{2}$$

Multiplying Eq. (1) by  $\lambda_N$ , and then subtracting Eq. (2) gives

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i (\lambda_N - \lambda_i) \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0}$$

The last term in this sum is zero, and so we can write

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \alpha_i (\lambda_N - \lambda_i) \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0} \quad (3)$$

Multiplying Eq. (3) by  $A$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \alpha_i (\lambda_N - \lambda_i) A \mathbf{v}_i &= \mathbf{0} \\ \text{and so } \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \alpha_i (\lambda_N - \lambda_i) \lambda_i \mathbf{v}_i &= \mathbf{0} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Multiplying Eq. (3) by  $\lambda_{N-1}$ , and then subtracting Eq. (4) gives

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N-2} \alpha_i (\lambda_N - \lambda_i) (\lambda_{N-1} - \lambda_i) \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0} \quad (5)$$

Note that the sum is from  $i = 1$  to  $i = N - 2$

If we repeat this procedure — multiply Eq. (5) by  $A$ , use the definition of eigenvectors, etc. — we obtain

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N-3} \alpha_i (\lambda_N - \lambda_i) (\lambda_{N-1} - \lambda_i) (\lambda_{N-2} - \lambda_i) \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0}$$

If we keep going with this procedure we will eventually obtain

$$\sum_{i=1}^k \alpha_i (\lambda_N - \lambda_i) (\lambda_{N-1} - \lambda_i) \dots (\lambda_{k+1} - \lambda_i) \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0} \quad (6)$$

$\vdots$

$$\sum_{i=1}^2 \alpha_i (\lambda_N - \lambda_i) (\lambda_{N-1} - \lambda_i) \dots (\lambda_3 - \lambda_i) \mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{0} \quad (7)$$

$$\alpha_1 (\lambda_N - \lambda_1) (\lambda_{N-1} - \lambda_1) \dots (\lambda_3 - \lambda_1) (\lambda_2 - \lambda_1) \mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{0} \quad (8)$$

All the eigenvalues,  $\lambda_i$  are distinct.

None of the terms involving  $\lambda_i$  in Eq. (8) can be zero

$\mathbf{v}_1$  is an eigenvector, and so  $\mathbf{v}_1 \neq \mathbf{0}$

We must then have  $\alpha_1 = 0$

Eq. (7) then becomes

$$\alpha_2(\lambda_N - \lambda_2)(\lambda_{N-1} - \lambda_2) \dots (\lambda_3 - \lambda_2)\mathbf{v}_2 = \mathbf{0}$$

Using the same argument as above  $\alpha_2 = 0$

If we keep going we eventually find that

$$\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \dots = \alpha_N = 0$$

and so the eigenvectors are linearly independent, as required.

**Proof that  $A$  can be diagonalised**

Define the matrices  $S$  and  $D$  by

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1 & \mathbf{v}_2 & \dots & \mathbf{v}_N \end{pmatrix}, \quad D = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_N \end{pmatrix}$$

We have shown that the eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_N$  are linearly independent

The matrix  $S$  is therefore non-singular, and the inverse  $S^{-1}$  exists

Writing  $S^{-1}$  as

$$S^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{w}_1^\top \\ \mathbf{w}_2^\top \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{w}_N^\top \end{pmatrix}$$

As  $S^{-1}S = \mathcal{I}$ , we must have

$$\mathbf{w}_i \cdot \mathbf{v}_j = \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & i = j \\ 0, & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

Using the definition of eigenvectors we may write

$$\begin{aligned} AS &= A \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1 & \mathbf{v}_2 & \dots & \mathbf{v}_N \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} A\mathbf{v}_1 & A\mathbf{v}_2 & \dots & A\mathbf{v}_N \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1 & \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_2 & \dots & \lambda_N \mathbf{v}_N \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

We then have

$$\begin{aligned} S^{-1}AS &= \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{w}_1^\top \\ \mathbf{w}_2^\top \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{w}_N^\top \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1 & \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_2 & \dots & \lambda_N \mathbf{v}_N \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 \mathbf{w}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1 & \lambda_2 \mathbf{w}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2 & \dots & \lambda_N \mathbf{w}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_N \\ \lambda_1 \mathbf{w}_2 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1 & \lambda_2 \mathbf{w}_2 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2 & \dots & \lambda_N \mathbf{w}_2 \cdot \mathbf{v}_N \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \lambda_1 \mathbf{w}_N \cdot \mathbf{v}_1 & \lambda_2 \mathbf{w}_N \cdot \mathbf{v}_2 & \dots & \lambda_N \mathbf{w}_N \cdot \mathbf{v}_N \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$S^{-1}AS = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_N \end{pmatrix}$$

We then have  $D = S^{-1}AS$  as required

**Example: diagonalising a matrix**

Suppose the matrix  $A$  is given by

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Find matrices  $D$  and  $S$  such that  $D = S^{-1}AS$ , and  $D$  is a diagonal matrix

We calculated the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of  $A$  earlier.

The eigenvalues are distinct, and so matrices  $D$  and  $S$  will exist

We have

$$\lambda_1 = 1, \quad \lambda_2 = 2, \quad \lambda_3 = 3$$

and

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 \\ -4 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

We may then write

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1 & \mathbf{v}_2 & \mathbf{v}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -4 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

We can then verify that  $D = S^{-1}AS$  as required

What happens when the eigenvalues are not distinct?

We have shown that, if  $A$  is a  $N \times N$  matrix with  $N$  distinct eigenvalues, we can find an invertible matrix  $S$  and a diagonal matrix  $D$  such that  $D = S^{-1}AS$

What happens when  $N$  distinct eigenvalues don't exist?

Case 1: repeated eigenvalues

Suppose  $A$  is the identity matrix, so that

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

The characteristic equation for  $A$  is

$$(\lambda - 1)^2 = 0$$

and so we have the repeated roots  $\lambda = 1, 1$



The eigenvectors then satisfy

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1-\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 1-\lambda \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}, \quad \text{and so} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$$

and so every vector is an eigenvector

Choosing

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

we then set

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad D = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and then  $D = S^{-1}AS$

Our choice of eigenvectors on the previous slide was arbitrary

Any two linearly independent eigenvectors would have allowed us to diagonalise  $A$

In this case  $A$  did not have  $N$  distinct eigenvalues, but  $A$  could be diagonalised

Suppose  $B$  is the matrix given by

$$B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The characteristic equation for  $B$  is

$$(\lambda - 1)^2 = 0$$

and so we again have the repeated roots  $\lambda = 1, 1$

The eigenvectors then satisfy

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1-\lambda & 1 \\ 0 & 1-\lambda \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}, \quad \text{and so} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

We must have  $q = 0$ , and so only one linearly independent eigenvector exists,

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

In this case  $B$  does not have  $N$  distinct eigenvalues, and  $B$  can't be diagonalised

Case 2: fewer than  $N$  eigenvalues exist

Suppose  $C$  is the matrix given by

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The characteristic equation for  $C$  is

$$\lambda^2 + 1 = 0$$

and so no real eigenvalues exist

We then can't diagonalise  $C$

## Symmetric matrices

Let  $A$  be a real, symmetric matrix of size  $N \times N$ , that is  $A = A^\top$

The matrix  $A$  will then have the following properties

- $A$  will have  $N$  real eigenvalues (possibly including repeated eigenvalues)
- Eigenvectors corresponding to different eigenvalues are orthogonal
- A diagonal matrix  $D$ , and a matrix  $P$  exist such that

$$P^\top P = \mathcal{I}, \quad D = P^\top A P$$

where the columns of  $P$  are normalised eigenvectors of  $A$

A matrix  $P$  that satisfies  $P^\top P = \mathcal{I}$  is known as an **orthogonal matrix**

Suppose  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are (possibly complex) eigenvalues of  $A$

We then have

$$A\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v}, \quad A\mathbf{w} = \mu\mathbf{w}$$

for eigenvectors  $\mathbf{v}$  and  $\mathbf{w}$

We may then write

$$\begin{aligned} \mu\mathbf{v}^\top\mathbf{w} &= \mathbf{v}^\top(\mu\mathbf{w}) \\ &= \mathbf{v}^\top A\mathbf{w} \\ &= \mathbf{v}^\top A^\top\mathbf{w} \quad \text{as } A \text{ is symmetric} \\ &= (A\mathbf{v})^\top\mathbf{w} \\ &= \lambda\mathbf{v}^\top\mathbf{w} \end{aligned}$$

We then have

$$(\mu - \lambda)\mathbf{v}^\top\mathbf{w} = 0$$

which may be written

$$(\mu - \lambda)\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0$$

If  $\mu \neq \lambda$  we then have

$$\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0$$

and so the eigenvectors corresponding to  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$  are orthogonal, as required

Now, suppose  $\lambda$  is complex. We then have

$$A\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v}, \quad A\bar{\mathbf{v}} = \bar{\lambda}\bar{\mathbf{v}}$$

where  $\bar{\lambda}$  denotes the complex conjugate of  $\lambda$

We can then set  $\mu = \bar{\lambda}$  and  $\mathbf{w} = \bar{\mathbf{v}}$  in the analysis on the previous two slides to give

$$(\bar{\lambda} - \lambda)\mathbf{v} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}} = 0$$

Noting that  $\|\mathbf{v}\|^2 = \mathbf{v} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{v}}$ , and that this cannot be zero as  $\mathbf{v}$  is an eigenvector, we deduce that  $\bar{\lambda} = \lambda$

In other words,  $\lambda$  must be real

We will now prove that a diagonal matrix  $D$ , and a matrix  $P$  exist such that

$$P^\top P = \mathcal{I}, \quad D = P^\top A P$$

We will prove this by induction on  $N$ , the size of the matrix

When  $N = 1$  we have  $A = (A_{11})$ , and then we may write

$$D = (A_{11}), \quad P = (1)$$

In this case we then have  $P^\top P = \mathcal{I}$  and  $D = P^\top A P$

We will now assume that the claim is true for matrices of size  $(N-1) \times (N-1)$ , and will show that this implies it is true for matrices of size  $N \times N$

Let  $A$  be a symmetric matrix of size  $N \times N$

Let  $\lambda_1$  be an eigenvalue of  $A$ , with eigenvector  $\mathbf{v}_1$ , where  $\|\mathbf{v}_1\| = 1$ .

Extend to an orthonormal basis  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_N$  for  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , so that

$$\mathbf{v}_i \cdot \mathbf{v}_j = \mathbf{v}_i^\top \mathbf{v}_j = \delta_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1, & i = j \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Define the matrix  $Q$  by

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1 & \mathbf{v}_2 & \dots & \mathbf{v}_N \end{pmatrix}$$

As  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_N$  is an orthonormal basis,

$$Q^\top Q = \mathcal{I}$$

We also have

$$\begin{aligned} Q^\top A Q &= \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1^\top \\ \mathbf{v}_2^\top \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{v}_N^\top \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A\mathbf{v}_1 & A\mathbf{v}_2 & \dots & A\mathbf{v}_N \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1^\top \\ \mathbf{v}_2^\top \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{v}_N^\top \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1 & A\mathbf{v}_2 & \dots & A\mathbf{v}_N \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

This becomes

$$Q^\top A Q = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & \mathbf{w}^\top \\ \mathbf{0} & B \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $B$  is a  $(N-1) \times (N-1)$  matrix

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} (Q^\top A Q)^\top &= Q^\top A^\top (Q^\top)^\top \\ &= Q^\top A Q \end{aligned}$$

We then deduce that  $Q^\top A Q$  is symmetric, and so  $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{0}$ , and  $B = B^\top$

As  $B$  is symmetric and of size  $(N-1) \times (N-1)$ , by the induction hypothesis there exists an orthogonal matrix  $\hat{Q}$ , of size  $(N-1) \times (N-1)$ , and such that

$$\hat{Q}^\top B \hat{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_2 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_3 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \ddots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_N \end{pmatrix}$$

Define  $R$  by

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \hat{Q} \end{pmatrix}$$

Then  $R$  is an orthogonal matrix

Set  $P = QR$

We then have

$$\begin{aligned} P^\top P &= R^\top Q^\top Q R \\ &= R^\top R \\ &= \mathcal{I} \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $P$  is an orthogonal matrix

We then have

$$\begin{aligned}
 P^\top AP &= (QR)^\top AQR = R^\top Q^\top AQR \\
 &= R^\top \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & B \end{pmatrix} R \\
 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \hat{Q}^\top \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & B \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \hat{Q} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \hat{Q}^\top B \hat{Q} \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \ddots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & \lambda_N \end{pmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

as required

### Example

The matrix  $A$  is given by

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

The eigenvalues satisfy

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} 2-\lambda & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2-\lambda & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2-\lambda \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

Some manipulation gives

$$\lambda^3 - 6\lambda^2 + 9\lambda - 4 = 0$$

By inspection  $\lambda = 1$  is an eigenvalue and so

$$(\lambda - 1)(\lambda^2 - 5\lambda + 4) = 0$$

$$(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 1)(\lambda - 4) = 0$$

Hence the eigenvalues are  $\lambda = 1, 1, 4$

When  $\lambda = 1$  the eigenvectors satisfy

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and so  $p + q + r = 0$ .

Two orthonormal eigenvectors are

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

When  $\lambda = 4$  the eigenvectors satisfy

$$\begin{pmatrix} -2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \\ r \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

A normalised eigenvector is

$$\mathbf{v}_3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

We then write

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1 & \mathbf{v}_2 & \mathbf{v}_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ 0 & -\frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then  $D = P^\top A P$ , and  $P^\top P = \mathcal{I}$  as required

Note that, as  $P^{-1} = P^\top$ , we could write this as  $D = P^{-1} A P$

## Powers of matrices

Let  $A$  be a matrix

We will see later in the course that we often want to calculate powers of a matrix, for example  $A^9$ , or the limit as  $n$  tends to infinity of  $A^n$

If  $A$  can be diagonalised — that is, we can write  $D = S^{-1} A S$  for a diagonal matrix  $D$  and known invertible matrix  $S$  — we can easily calculate any power of a matrix

Writing  $A = S D S^{-1}$  we see that

$$\begin{aligned} A^2 &= S D S^{-1} S D S^{-1} \\ &= S D^2 S^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} A^3 &= A^2 A \\ &= S D^2 S^{-1} S D S^{-1} \\ &= S D^3 S^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

Clearly

$$A^n = S D^n S^{-1}$$

This can be proved by induction

**Example:** If  $A$  is given by

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0.8 & 0.1 \\ 0.2 & 0.9 \end{pmatrix}$$

calculate  $A^n$  for  $n = 2, 3, 4, \dots$

The eigenvalues of  $A$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \det(A - \lambda I) &= 0 \\ (0.8 - \lambda)(0.9 - \lambda) - (0.1)(0.2) &= 0 \\ \lambda^2 - 1.7\lambda + 0.7 &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

and so  $\lambda = 1, 0.7$

$A$  has two distinct eigenvalues, and so it can be diagonalised

The eigenvector corresponding to  $\lambda = 1$  satisfies

$$\begin{pmatrix} -0.2 & 0.1 \\ 0.2 & -0.1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} p \\ q \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

which is satisfied for  $p = 1, q = 2$

The eigenvector corresponding to  $\lambda = 0.7$  satisfies

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0.1 & 0.1 \\ 0.2 & 0.2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} s \\ t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

which is satisfied for  $s = 1, t = -1$

We may therefore write  $D = S^{-1}AS$  where

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.7 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Note that

$$D^n = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.7^n \end{pmatrix}$$

We then have

$$\begin{aligned} A^n &= SD^nS^{-1} \\ &= S \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.7^n \end{pmatrix} S^{-1} \end{aligned}$$

In the limit that  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , the quantity  $0.7^n \rightarrow 0$ .

We then have

$$A^n \rightarrow S \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} S^{-1}$$

where

$$S^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 2/3 & -1/3 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Markov Chains

In a given year, a person may have a normal cholesterol level, or a high cholesterol level

Someone with a high cholesterol level in a given year has a 20% chance of losing high cholesterol (and, therefore, is 80% likely to remain with high cholesterol)

Someone with a normal cholesterol level in a given year has a 10% chance of gaining high cholesterol (and, therefore, is 90% likely to remain with normal cholesterol)

Suppose we know the probability that a given person has high cholesterol in a given year. We may then use linear algebra to calculate the probability that this person has high cholesterol in future years.

Define:

- $X_k$  to be the event that the person has a high cholesterol level in year  $k$
- $Y_k$  to be the event that the person has a normal cholesterol level in year  $k$

The law of total probability then tells us that

$$P(X_k) = P(X_k|A)P(A) + P(X_k|A^c)P(A^c)$$

If we let  $A$  be the event that the person has a high cholesterol level in year  $k-1$

$A^c$  is then the event that the person has a normal cholesterol level in year  $k-1$

We then have

$$P(X_k|A) = 0.8$$

$$P(A) = P(X_{k-1})$$

$$P(X_k|A^c) = 0.1$$

$$P(A^c) = P(Y_{k-1})$$

and so

$$P(X_k) = 0.8P(X_{k-1}) + 0.1P(Y_{k-1})$$

Similarly,

$$P(Y_k) = P(Y_k|A)P(A) + P(Y_k|A^c)P(A^c)$$

with

$$P(Y_k|A) = 0.2$$

$$P(A) = P(X_{k-1})$$

$$P(Y_k|A^c) = 0.9$$

$$P(A^c) = P(Y_{k-1})$$

and so

$$P(Y_k) = 0.2P(X_{k-1}) + 0.9P(Y_{k-1})$$



Writing

$$x_k = P(X_k), \quad y_k = P(Y_k)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_k &= \begin{pmatrix} x_k \\ y_k \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 0.8 & 0.1 \\ 0.2 & 0.9 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_{k-1} \\ y_{k-1} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= A\mathbf{x}_{k-1} \\ &= A^k\mathbf{x}_0 \end{aligned}$$

The matrix  $A$  is the same matrix we used earlier when looking at powers of a matrix

Using the powers of  $A$  derived earlier, we may write

$$\mathbf{x}_k = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0.7^k \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 2/3 & -1/3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_0$$

As  $k \rightarrow \infty$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_\infty &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 2/3 & -1/3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_0 \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1/3 & 1/3 \\ 2/3 & 2/3 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_0 \end{aligned}$$

Another way to view the Markov chain on previous slides is to write the initial vector  $\mathbf{x}_0$  in terms of the basis of eigenvectors:

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{v}_2$$

We then have

$$\begin{aligned} A\mathbf{x}_0 &= A(\alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{v}_2) \\ &= \alpha_1 A\mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 A\mathbf{v}_2 \\ &= \alpha_1 \lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_2 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} A^2 \mathbf{x}_0 &= \alpha_1 \lambda_1^2 \mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \lambda_2^2 \mathbf{v}_2 \\ A^3 \mathbf{x}_0 &= \alpha_1 \lambda_1^3 \mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \lambda_2^3 \mathbf{v}_2 \\ &\vdots \\ A^k \mathbf{x}_0 &= \alpha_1 \lambda_1^k \mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \lambda_2^k \mathbf{v}_2 \end{aligned}$$

For our example  $\lambda_1 = 1$  and  $\lambda_2 = 0.7$  and so, as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ , we have

$$A^k \mathbf{x}_0 \rightarrow \alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1$$

We need to calculate  $\alpha_1$  to use the result on the previous slide

Recall that

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

If

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{v}_2$$

then

$$\mathbf{x}_0 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1 = \alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{v}_2 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1$$

$$\mathbf{x}_0 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2 = \alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2 + \alpha_2 \mathbf{v}_2 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2$$

We can write this as the linear system

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1 & \mathbf{v}_2 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1 \\ \mathbf{v}_1 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2 & \mathbf{v}_2 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ \alpha_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_0 \cdot \mathbf{v}_1 \\ \mathbf{x}_0 \cdot \mathbf{v}_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

allowing us to evaluate  $\alpha_1$  (and  $\alpha_2$ )

## The power method

The ideas on the previous slides may be extended to estimate the largest eigenvalue (assumed unique) and corresponding eigenvector

Let  $\mathbf{x}_0$  be an arbitrary vector. For  $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$  define

$$\mathbf{y} = A\mathbf{x}_{k-1}, \quad M = \max_i |y_i|$$

$$\mathbf{x}_k = \frac{1}{M} \mathbf{y}$$

As  $k \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_k$  approaches the eigenvector corresponding to the largest eigenvalue. This eigenvalue may be estimated by the **Raleigh quotient**

$$\lambda_{\max} = \frac{\mathbf{x}_k^\top A \mathbf{x}_k}{\mathbf{x}_k^\top \mathbf{x}_k}$$

**Proof**

Assume that the eigenvectors of  $A$  form a basis  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_N$ , where  $\lambda_1$  is the eigenvalue with the largest modulus

We may write  $\mathbf{x}_0$  in terms of the basis of eigenvectors

Write

$$\mathbf{x}_0 = \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i \mathbf{v}_i$$

We then have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{x}_1 &= L_1 \lambda_1 \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i \frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_1} \mathbf{v}_i \\ \mathbf{x}_2 &= L_2 \lambda_1 \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i \left( \frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_1} \right)^2 \mathbf{v}_i \\ &\vdots \\ \mathbf{x}_k &= L_k \lambda_1 \sum_{i=1}^N \alpha_i \left( \frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_1} \right)^k \mathbf{v}_i\end{aligned}$$

Recall that, for  $i = 2, 3, \dots, N$ , we have assumed that  $\frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_1} < 1$ .

As  $k \rightarrow \infty$  the sum on the previous slide then becomes

$$\mathbf{x}_k \rightarrow L_k \lambda_1 \alpha_1 \mathbf{v}_1$$

which is a multiple of the eigenvector corresponding to  $\lambda_1$

We then have, as  $k \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\mathbf{x}_k^\top A \mathbf{x}_k}{\mathbf{x}_k^\top \mathbf{x}_k} &\rightarrow \frac{\mathbf{v}_1^\top A \mathbf{v}_1}{\mathbf{v}_1^\top \mathbf{v}_1} \\ &= \frac{\mathbf{v}_1^\top \lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1}{\mathbf{v}_1^\top \mathbf{v}_1} \\ &= \lambda_1 \frac{\mathbf{v}_1^\top \mathbf{v}_1}{\mathbf{v}_1^\top \mathbf{v}_1} \\ &= \lambda_1\end{aligned}$$

A potential flaw with this method is that the coefficient of  $\mathbf{v}_1$  in our initial vector  $\mathbf{x}_0$ , that is  $\alpha_1$  may take the value zero

Rounding errors, normally a potential source of problems, come to our aid on this occasion

The rounding errors will introduce some component of  $\mathbf{v}_1$  into  $\mathbf{x}_k$ , and this will ultimately dominate the computation

## Positive and non-negative matrices

The previous examples show that the eigenvalue with largest magnitude can play an important role

The following two theorems extend these ideas

### Perron's theorem

Let  $A$  be a  $N \times N$  matrix with all entries positive. We will refer to this as a positive matrix

The matrix  $A$  has a real eigenvalue  $\lambda_1$  satisfying

1.  $\lambda_1 > 0$
2.  $\lambda_1$  has a corresponding positive eigenvector
3. For any other eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $A$  we have  $|\lambda| \leq \lambda_1$

Recall that the Markov matrix from the last section is a positive matrix

## Reducible matrices

A matrix  $A$  is called reducible if, subject to some permutation of the rows,  $P$ , and the same permutation of the columns,  $P^\top$ ,  $A$  can be written in the block form

$$PAP^\top = \begin{bmatrix} B & C \\ O & D \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $B$  and  $D$  are square matrices. Otherwise the matrix is said to be irreducible.

### Perron-Frobenius theorem

Let  $A$  be a  $N \times N$  irreducible matrix with all entries non-negative. Then  $A$  has a unique real eigenvalue  $\lambda_1$  satisfying

1.  $\lambda_1 > 0$
2.  $\lambda_1$  has a corresponding positive eigenvector.
3. For any other eigenvalue  $\lambda$  of  $A$  we have  $|\lambda| \leq \lambda_1$ .
4. If  $|\lambda| = \lambda_1$  then  $\lambda$  is a complex root of the equation  $\lambda^n - \lambda_1^n = 0$ .

## Ranking Sports Teams

Five squash players play each other in a round robin tournament.  
The following table of results was recorded

	<i>P1</i>	<i>P2</i>	<i>P3</i>	<i>P4</i>	<i>P5</i>
<i>P1</i>	0	1	0	1	1
<i>P2</i>	0	0	1	1	1
<i>P3</i>	1	0	0	1	0
<i>P4</i>	0	0	0	0	1
<i>P5</i>	0	0	1	0	0

You may assume that the matrix above is irreducible

We would now like to rank the players,  $r_i$ , in such a way that  $r_i > r_j$  indicates that player  $i$  is ranked higher than player  $j$

We will let the  $r_i$ 's be “probabilities”

That is  $0 \leq r_i \leq 1$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^5 r_i = 1$  and have the corresponding **ranking vector**,  $\mathbf{r} = [r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, r_5]^T$ .

We will assume that player  $i$ 's ranking be proportional, with constant of proportionality  $\alpha$ , to the sum of the rankings of the players defeated by  $i$

This allows us to write

$$r_1 = \alpha(r_2 + r_4 + r_5), \quad \text{etc}$$

We may write this in the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} r_1 \\ r_2 \\ r_3 \\ r_4 \\ r_5 \end{bmatrix} = \alpha \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} r_1 \\ r_2 \\ r_3 \\ r_4 \\ r_5 \end{bmatrix}, \quad A\mathbf{r} = \frac{1}{\alpha}\mathbf{r}$$

That is,  $\mathbf{r}$  is an eigenvector of the matrix  $A$ , with eigenvalue  $\lambda = 1/\alpha$

Using the Perron-Frobenius Theorem we have a guaranteed unique ranking vector associated with the largest eigenvalue  $\frac{1}{\alpha}$  of  $A$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0.29 \\ 0.27 \\ 0.22 \\ 0.08 \\ 0.14 \end{bmatrix}$$

We see from the results that both players 1 and 2 beat three players, but player 1 beat player 2 giving them a slightly better ranking

## Internet Search Engines

When using an internet search engine we want the search results returned in a sensible order

Suppose we have five results returned from a search and if the  $i$ -th results references the  $j$ -th then we place a 1 in the  $(i, j)$  entry of a matrix  $A$ , for example

$$\begin{array}{c} S1 \\ S2 \\ S3 \\ S4 \\ S5 \end{array} \begin{bmatrix} S1 & S2 & S3 & S4 & S5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} := A$$

You may assume that the matrix above is irreducible

In this  $S3$  refers to  $S1$ ,  $S2$  refers to  $S3$  and so on

We now want the ranking of  $i$  to be proportional to the sum of the rankings that refer to  $i$  e.g.

$$r_4 = \alpha(r_1 + r_2 + r_3).$$

This leads to the eigenvalue problem find  $\mathbf{r}$  such that

$$A^T \mathbf{r} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \mathbf{r}$$

In this case we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0.14 \\ 0.08 \\ 0.22 \\ 0.27 \\ 0.29 \end{bmatrix}.$$

The fifth result is ranked top. Like the fourth result it is referenced three times in total, but the fourth references include the fifth giving it the edge

## Differential equations

Suppose we want to find the general solution of the system of differential equations given by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dy_1}{dt} &= 2y_1 + y_3 \\ \frac{dy_2}{dt} &= -y_1 + 2y_2 + 3y_3 \\ \frac{dy_3}{dt} &= y_1 + 2y_3 \end{aligned}$$

We may write this in matrix form as

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ y_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

In an earlier lecture we saw that we could write the matrix on the previous slide as  $SDS^{-1}$  where

$$D = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -4 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

We may then write the system of differential equations as

$$\frac{d\mathbf{y}}{dt} = SDS^{-1}\mathbf{y}$$

As the entries of  $S$  are constant this may be written

$$\frac{d}{dt}(S^{-1}\mathbf{y}) = DS^{-1}\mathbf{y}$$

Setting  $\mathbf{z} = S^{-1}\mathbf{y}$ , we obtain

$$\frac{d\mathbf{z}}{dt} = D\mathbf{z}$$

which may be written

$$\frac{dz_1}{dt} = z_1, \quad \frac{dz_2}{dt} = 2z_2, \quad \frac{dz_3}{dt} = 3z_3$$

We then have, for arbitrary constants  $A, B, C$ :

$$z_1 = Ae^t, \quad z_2 = Be^{2t}, \quad z_3 = Ce^{3t}$$

Finally,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{y} &= S\mathbf{z} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \\ -4 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Ae^t \\ Be^{2t} \\ Ce^{3t} \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} -Ae^t + Ce^{3t} \\ -4Ae^t + Be^{2t} + 2Ce^{3t} \\ Ae^t + Ce^{3t} \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$