

Eigenvalue Algorithms

Numerical Strategies Providing for the Time and Resource Efficient
Computation of Eigenvalues for Any General Square Matrix

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The Problem

How can we find the eigenvalues of
any $n \times n$ matrix A ?

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

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Section 1

Power Method

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$$\lambda_1 = \frac{\|AA^m x_0\|}{\|A^m x_0\|} = \frac{\|Ax_m\|}{\|x_m\|} = \frac{Ax_m \cdot x_m}{x_m \cdot x_m}.$$

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Reference: [Koc25].

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- Now, if $|\lambda_1| > |\lambda_2| \geq \dots \geq |\lambda_n|$, then $\lambda_i/\lambda_1 < 1$ for all $i \neq 1$.

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$$A^k v = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1^k \left(\left(\frac{\lambda_1}{\lambda_1} \right)^k v_{0_1} p_1 + \left(\frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1} \right)^k v_{0_2} p_2 + \sum_{i=3}^n \left(\frac{\lambda_i}{\lambda_1} \right)^k v_{0_i} p_i \right)$$

$$A^k v = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lambda_1^k (v_{0_1} p_1 + v_{0_2} p_2)$$

is not an eigenvector of A if $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$.

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- Cannot calculate complex eigenvalues.
- Can use shifts (calculate eigenvalues of $A - cI$), but that is complicated.
- Even worse: only calculates dominant eigenvalue.
- Speed of convergence depends on choice of starting vector.

Section 2

Basic QR Algorithm

Basic QR Algorithm

Schur form

Let A be an $n \times n$ real matrix. The **Schur form** of A is:

$$A = QUQ^T = QUQ^{-1}$$

where Q is orthogonal and U is upper triangular. A and U are similar so they share the same eigenvalues, which are the diagonal entries of U .

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Reference: [Arb16, p. 64].

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Proof is hard and complicated. We will “prove” by example.

Example of the Basic QR Algorithm (1)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 4 & 5 & 6 \\ 7 & 8 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Eigenvalues

$$\lambda_1 \approx 12.4542$$

$$\lambda_2 \approx -5.0744$$

$$\lambda_3 \approx -0.379762$$

Example of the Basic QR Algorithm (2)

$$A_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1.00 & 2.00 & 3.00 \\ 4.00 & 5.00 & 6.00 \\ 7.00 & 8.00 & 1.00 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$Q_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -0.12 & 0.90 & 0.41 \\ -0.49 & 0.30 & -0.82 \\ -0.86 & -0.30 & 0.41 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -8.12 & -9.60 & -4.19 \\ 0.00 & 0.90 & 4.22 \\ 0.00 & 0.00 & -3.27 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$A_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 9.33 & -8.98 & 2.81 \\ -4.08 & -1.00 & 0.98 \\ 2.81 & 0.98 & -1.33 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example of the Basic QR Algorithm (3)

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$$Q_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -0.88 & -0.47 & 0.02 \\ 0.39 & -0.70 & 0.60 \\ -0.27 & 0.54 & 0.80 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$R_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -10.57 & 7.28 & -1.75 \\ 0.00 & 5.44 & -2.73 \\ 0.00 & 0.00 & -0.42 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$A_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 12.61 & -1.09 & 2.74 \\ 2.83 & -5.28 & 1.08 \\ 0.11 & -0.22 & -0.33 \end{bmatrix}$$

Example of the Basic QR Algorithm (4)

$$A_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 12.15 & -4.87 & -3.01 \\ -1.07 & -4.77 & -0.65 \\ 0.00 & 0.02 & -0.38 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$A_5 = \begin{bmatrix} 12.54 & -3.34 & 2.96 \\ 0.46 & -5.16 & 0.93 \\ 0.00 & -0.00 & -0.38 \end{bmatrix}$$

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Example of the Basic QR Algorithm (5)

$$A_{11} = \begin{bmatrix} \boxed{12.45} & -3.79 & 2.98 \\ 0.00 & \boxed{-5.07} & 0.85 \\ 0.00 & -0.00 & \boxed{-0.38} \end{bmatrix}$$

Eigenvalues

$$\lambda_1 \approx 12.4542$$

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We found EVERY eigenvalue!

Is it good enough?

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- Similar convergence problems to Power Method: only guaranteed to work if $|\lambda_1| > |\lambda_2| > \dots > |\lambda_n|$
- Needs modifications to find complex eigenvalues.
- Could be faster: runs in $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$ time for $n \times n$ matrix.

Bad Example (1)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 5 \\ -1 & -3 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$|\lambda_2| = \sqrt{(-1)^2 + (-1)^2} = \sqrt{2}$$

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$$A_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -1.40 & 5.80 \\ -0.20 & -0.60 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$$A_6 = \begin{bmatrix} -3.00 & -5.00 \\ 1.00 & 1.00 \end{bmatrix}$$

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$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} A_k$ will not converge onto a triangular matrix.

Another Bad Example

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

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

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$$A_1 = A = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{Q_1} \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}}_{R_1} = A_1 I$$

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This will never converge to a triangular matrix, since $A_i = A$ for all i .

Section 3

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LAPACK Algorithm

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LAPACK Algorithm

- ① Reduce A to an *upper Hessenberg* form by calculating $A = QHQ^T$, where Q is orthogonal and H is an upper Hessenberg matrix. H and A are similar and share the same eigenvalues.

Improved QR Algorithm

Used by the Linear Algebra PACKage (LAPACK), which is used by NumPy and SciPy behind the scenes.

LAPACK Algorithm

- 1 Reduce A to an *upper Hessenberg* form by calculating $A = QHQ^T$, where Q is orthogonal and H is an upper Hessenberg matrix. H and A are similar and share the same eigenvalues.
- 2 Calculate the Schur form of H .

Reference: [Bla99].

Section 4

Conclusion

References

- [Arb16] Peter Arbenz. *Lecture Notes on Solving Large Scale Eigenvalue Problems*. 2016. URL: <https://people.inf.ethz.ch/arbenz/ewp/Lnotes/lsevp.pdf>.
- [Bla99] Susan Blackford. *Eigenvalues, Eigenvectors and Schur Factorization*. Oct. 1, 1999. URL: <https://www.netlib.org/lapack/lug/node50.html>.
- [Koc25] Gregory Koch. *Lab #9: Power Method for Approximating Eigenvalues*. Feb. 10, 2025. URL: <https://peddie.instructure.com/courses/7772/assignments/182563>.